



MEMO

From the office of the...

AVP Finance

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Chen Liu, AVP Finance
SUBJECT: Bylaw 5; Non-MSU Groups – OPIRG McMaster
DATE: October 14, 2020

Dear SRA,

After viewing and discussing OPIRG's budget, presentation and answers to our questions, the Finance Committee does not feel comfortable in recommending approval of OPIRG's budget for the 2020-2021 school year. While we do not recommend a referendum, our position is dependent on their ability to answer our additional questions.

Specifically, we have the following concerns:

- 1) OPIRG collective agreement: Currently, OPIRG McMaster is engaged in a collective agreement with the main organization that has certain requirements for staffing, pay and benefits. When asked about these staffing costs, OPIRG said that it ensures fair labor practices are adhered to. The Finance Committee is confused as to how the collective agreement furthers OPIRG's mission at McMaster.
- 2) The community garden: OPIRG has budgeted \$15K for a community garden to address food insecurity. Specifically, they have budgeted \$7,425 for part-time staff at a rate of \$16.50 x 25 hrs x 18 weeks. The Finance Committee is curious as to why the part-time pay is so high, especially if they are hiring students. Further, the committee is curious as to the feasibility of renting space from McMaster for the garden.
- 3) \$3.5K on their book club: The Finance Committee is confused as to how the book club furthers OPIRG's mission at McMaster.
- 4) Audited financials: The Finance Committee would like to see audited financials from OPIRG.

The Finance Committee has done its preliminary questioning and the answers to our questions are in the ZIP file. Additionally, please review the attached ZIP file for their budget and presentation. I look forward to hearing your questions.

Thank you,
Chen Liu

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