

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

**ENGINEERING  
STUDENTS'  
SOCIETY**

Est. 1920

# 2020 ESS FAMF Renewal

Students' Council - December 15, 2020

# Agenda

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# Summary

The Faculty Association Membership Fee (FAMF) is used to fund on-campus and online (engineering) initiatives such as:

- Discipline Clubs
- Engineering Student Groups
- Engineering student activities, conferences, seminars
- University of Alberta Engineering Competition
- Health and Wellness Initiatives
- Professional Development events and services
- GEER Week
- Engineering Carnival

Much of this funding is vital to the aforementioned groups and activities and will allow for the long term continuance of on-campus initiatives.

# Purpose

As the Engineering Students' Society, and the Faculty Association for engineering, our mission is:

*“to promote professional awareness among engineering students by encouraging a sense of unity and integrity through the combined efforts of all engineers working together in both social and technical activities.”*

The Faculty Association Membership Fee (FAMF) allows the Engineering Students' Society (ESS) to offer a wide range of events and services that aim to fulfil this mission.

# Amount

Each full-time and on-campus student in the Faculty of Engineering shall be required to pay **\$10.00 per term** as a FAMF. Part-time students and off-campus students pay \$0.00 per term. Visiting and Special students as defined by the University of Alberta are exempt from payment under the Bylaws.

# Scope

Replace the current FAMF with a new FAMF model that is similar in amount (\$10 per term per student) and differs in funding allocation. The proposed FAMF has a three year period beginning in Fall Term 2021.

# Fee Lifetime

The engineering will be collected **starting Fall Term 2021 and will be collected until Winter Term 2024, inclusive.** The expiry will occur on August 31, 2024.

The three year term was decided upon based on the ever-changing needs of the engineering students, and the clubs for which many are a part of.

# Opt-out Mechanism

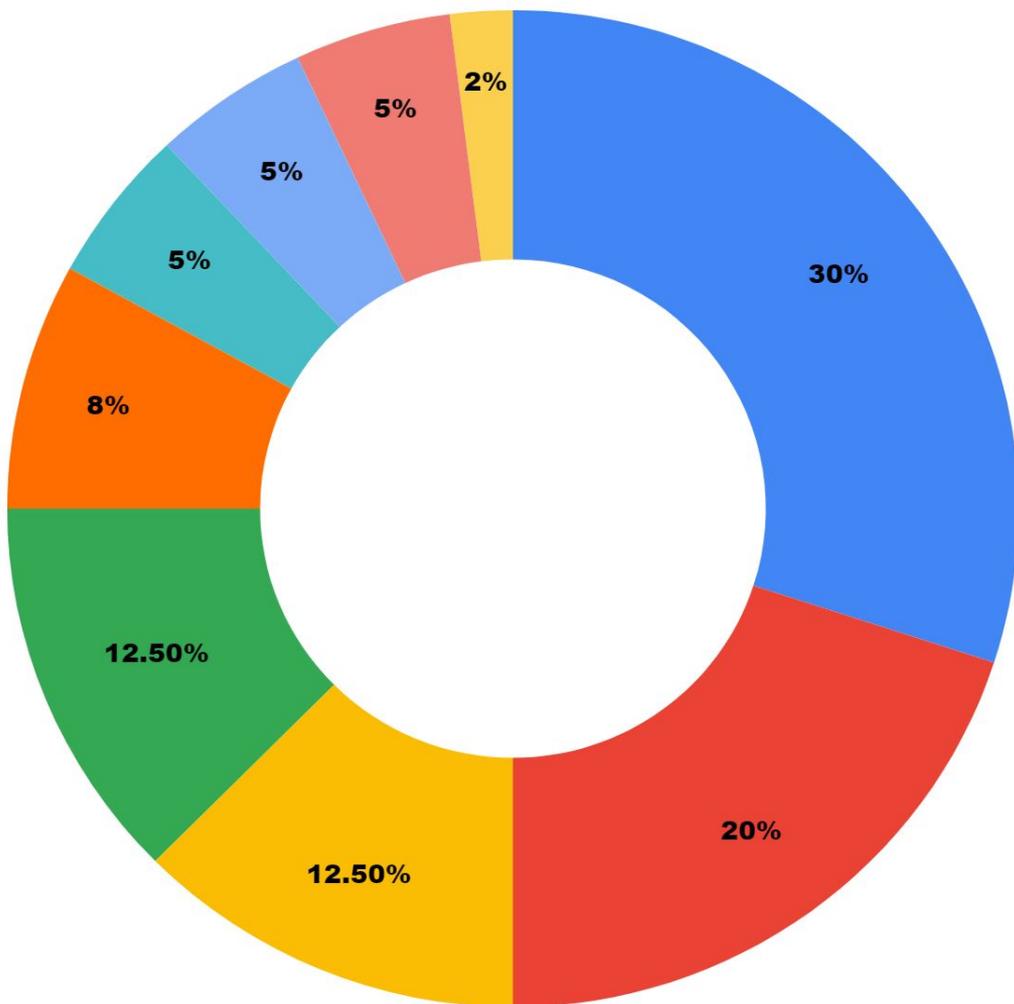
The **ESS** will be responsible for administering the opt-out mechanism for the FAMF. **Engineering students must provide written notification of their intent to opt-out** of the FAMF during the term they have paid. The **ESS shall release reimbursements within one month of receiving the funds** from the Registrar's Office (via the Students' Union). A reimbursement form will be provided on the ESS website.

# Allocation

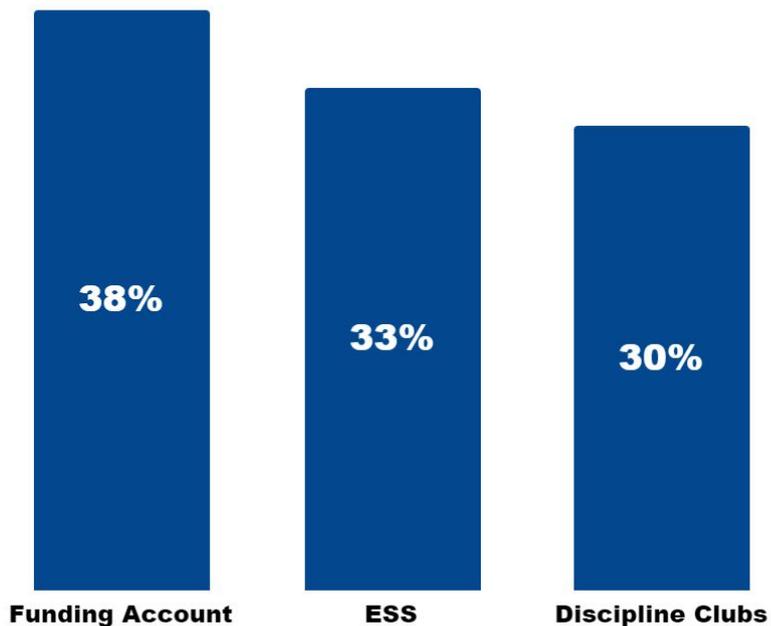
<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Discipline Clubs	To be allocated to the Discipline Clubs*	30%
Engineering Student Group Fund	To be allocated to Engineering Student Groups through the funding committee	20%
Engineering Student Activities Fund	To be allocated to engineering students through the funding committee	12.5%
GEER Week	To the ESS to cover the costs of GEER Week	12.5%
Health and Wellness	To the ESS to cover the costs of health and wellness services provided	8%
Engineering Public Good Fund	To be allocated to engineering students through the funding committee	5%
Professional Development	To the ESS to cover the costs of professional development services provided	5%
Conferences and Competitions	To the ESS to cover the costs of sending students to engineering conferences and competitions, as well as to cover the costs of hosting the University of Alberta Engineering Competition	5%
Engineering Carnival	To the ESS to cover the costs of the Engineering Carnival	2%

\*Half (15%) of the allocated funds for discipline clubs will be distributed on a per capita basis and the remaining half (15%) will be distributed equally.

# Allocation



- Discipline Clubs
- Engineering Student Group Fund
- Engineering Student Activities Fund
- GEER Week
- Health and Wellness
- Engineering Public Good Fund
- Professional Development
- Conferences and Competitions
- Engineering Carnival



# Financial Oversight

The ESS will require proposals from the recipients of the FAMF monies who are not the ESS or Discipline Clubs. These proposals will outline the anticipated expenditures to be made with the allocated funds, further requirements for the proposals are dictated by the [ESS Policy Manual](#). These proposals will be evaluated and approved by the Engineering Students' Society's Undergraduate Funding Committee as per the ESS Policy Manual sections B.2.4, C.2.2, C.2.3 and C.2.4, which can be found in *Appendix I: ESS Policy*. The ESS will also require annual reports indicating how funds received have been spent from each of the recipients (excluding the ESS). The Board of Directors of the ESS is delegated the authority to require each of the recipients to provide the Board a satisfactory accounting of their spending of the fee money and may withhold allocated funds if no such accounting is provided. Additionally, the annual budget of the society, which accounts for the use of FAMF monies, must be ratified by the Board of Directors as per the ESS Policy Manual section B.2.1. The ESS will be accountable to the Students' Council with respect to financial oversight as required by Students' Union Bylaw 8200.

- Recipients of FAMF monies who are not the ESS or Discipline clubs are required to present proposals to the funding committee
- The ESS Board of Directors will oversee distributed funds, as well as ratify the annual budget of the society
- The ESS will be accountable to the Students' Council with respect to financial oversight as required by Students' Union Bylaw 8200

**What does FAMF provide for?**

## **Discipline Clubs - 30%**

Oftentimes, discipline clubs are the first point of contact for students and are a provider of many services and events to their respective student populations. The following is a list of some of the services and events provided by discipline clubs.

- Student Competitions
- Merchandise Sales
- Hackathons and Workshops
- Technical and Guest Speaker Events

## **Engineering Student Group Fund (ESGF) - 20%**

Similar to the discipline clubs allocation, the ESGF will provide funding to non-discipline club engineering student groups. The following is a list of some of the eligible student groups

- Diversity in Engineering (DivE)
- EcoCar
- Future Creators
- Engineers in Action

## **Engineering Student Activities Fund - 12.5%**

ESAF is purposed to help engineering students attend seminars, conferences or sessions related to their engineering education. These activities help enrich the educational experience and also allow for networking opportunities for students.

## **GEER Week - 10%**

Dating back to 1942, GEER Week has been a staple in engineering life at the university for generations. The events within GEER Week provide students with relief from academics, through the opportunity to participate in activities unrelated to their degree.

## **Health and Wellness - 8%**

Health and wellness initiatives allow for engineering students to destress and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, while also being informed on supporting others in distress. The following are a list of some of the ESS health and wellness initiatives:

- Mental health workshops and training
- Online workout challenges
- Take a break events
- 

## **Engineering Public Good Fund - 5%**

EPGF is purposed to help improve the quality of life of engineering students by allowing any student to pursue a project which is to improve the day to day experience of all undergraduate engineering students.

## **Professional Development - 5%**

Funding for professional development initiatives will provide members with career building skills and professional awareness. The following are a list of some of the services and events provided by professional development initiatives:

- ESS Public Speaking Program
- Excel and VBA workshops
- Other software workshops
- ESS Career Fair

## **Conferences and Competitions - 5%**

Funding for conferences and competitions will mainly provide for hosting the University of Alberta Engineering Competition (UAEC). Surplus funds are used to subsidize the cost of sending student delegates to conferences, as well as regional and national engineering competitions.

## **Engineering Carnival - 2%**

The Engineering Carnival is a traditional event held by the ESS to welcome students to campus and expose them to a variety of opportunities in our community. The event includes outreach and recruitment by Engineering Student Groups, as well as philanthropic elements such as charity dunk tanks.

# Consultation

The data and feedback in this report was collected in two primary methods:

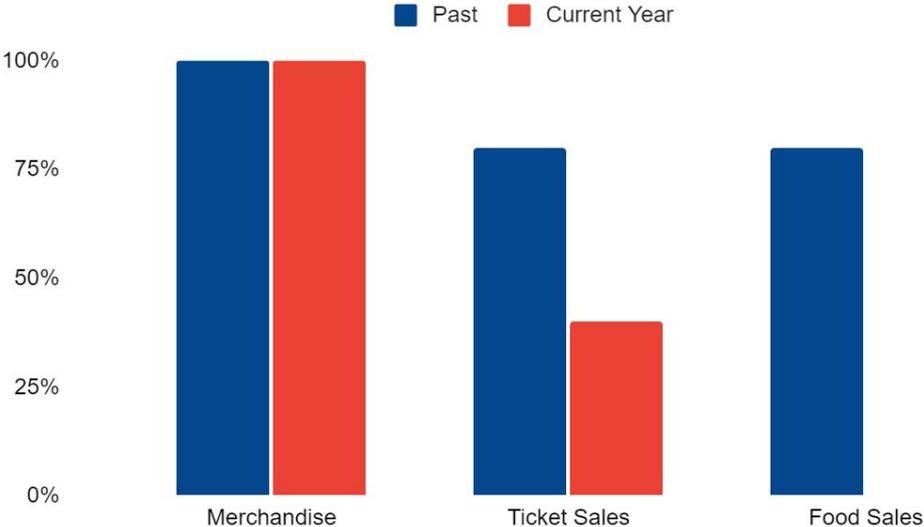
1. Discipline Club feedback via one-on-one consultation
2. Direct student feedback via survey

Consultation impacted the decision to propose a FAMF renewal, the amount, and the allocations for funding.

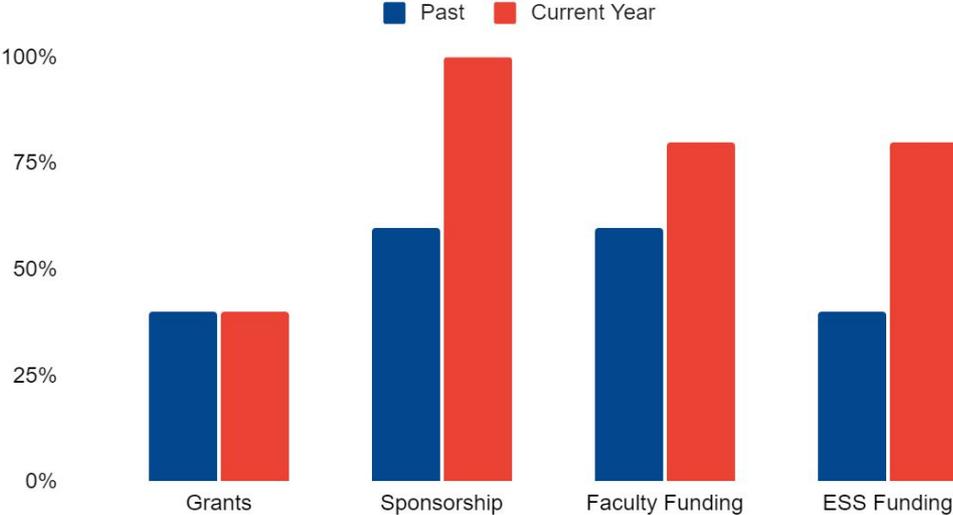
# Discipline Club Consultation

Discipline clubs were invited to a consultation meeting in August. Out of 9 clubs, 5 attended consultation meetings. The following is a summary of the feedback and implementation.

### Revenue Sources in Past vs. Expected Revenue Sources in 2020/21



### Funding Sources in Past vs. Expected Funding Sources in 2020/21



**100% of Discipline Clubs were aware of FAMF and the amount of funding received**

**100% of Discipline Clubs were in support of accessing additional funding from the Engineering Student Group Fund due to the current pandemic**

**60% of Discipline Clubs were in favour of receiving the largest allocation of funding**

**80% of Discipline Clubs were in favour of a distribution model in which they received a flat percentage of funds, and the remainder being distributed on a per capita basis**

**“Either the ESS needs to provide students more direct support, or discipline clubs need to receive more support in funding to provide for their students”**

**“Discipline clubs could distribute funds to project groups if the ESS funds were replaced with a larger allocation for discipline clubs”**

**“Mental health services need more funding; dogs are great - but that doesn't really cut it.”**

# Discipline Feedback Implementation

It was clear that discipline clubs would receive a large reduction in revenue and funding due to the ongoing pandemic. Additionally, it was clear that discipline clubs were in need of additional financial support prior to the pandemic. Thus, the discipline club allocation increased significantly.

Most clubs were in favour of a distribution model that provided a flat rate, as well as a per capita rate and this model has been implemented in the proposal.

Finally, the suggestion of an increase to funding for health and wellness has been implemented.

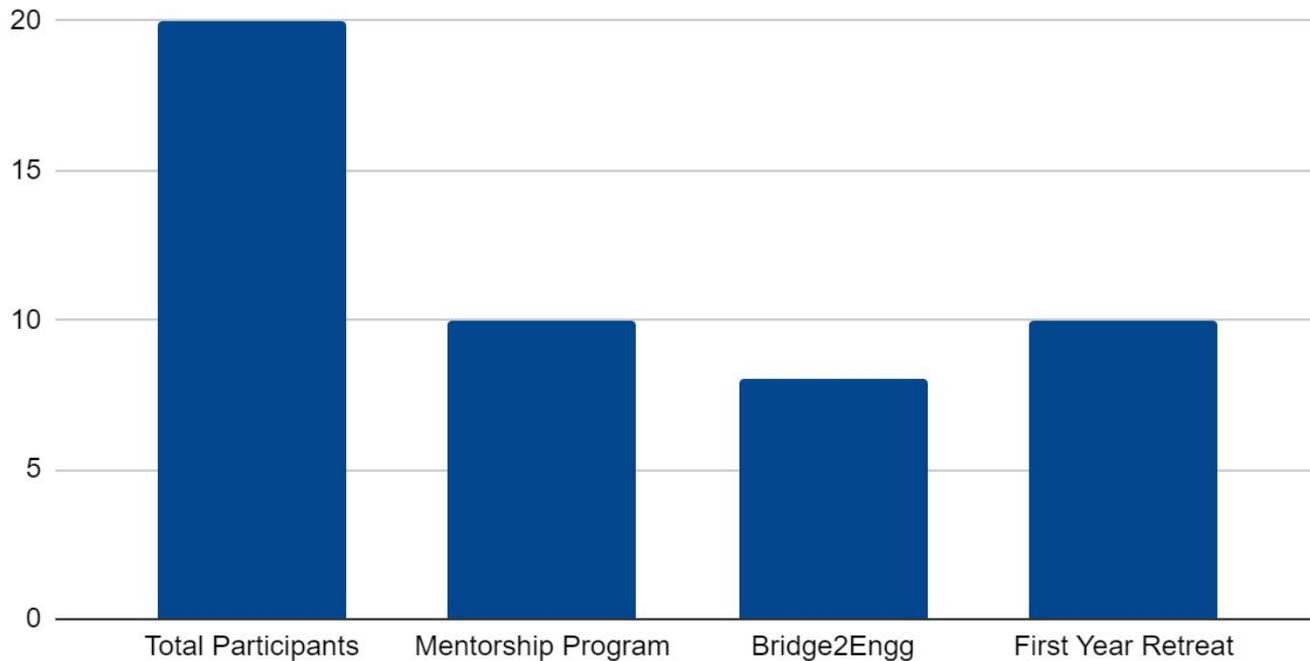
# Student Consultation

A survey was sent to students via *EnggLink*, the engineering student newsletter, as well as shared on the ESS Instagram and Facebook pages. A video with a brief overview of FAMF was included with the survey.

The survey first asked participants for their year of study. If they indicated they were a first year student, they were prompted with a question regarding the online services provided for first year students. If they indicated they were a second year or higher student, they were prompted with questions regarding past on-campus events and services.

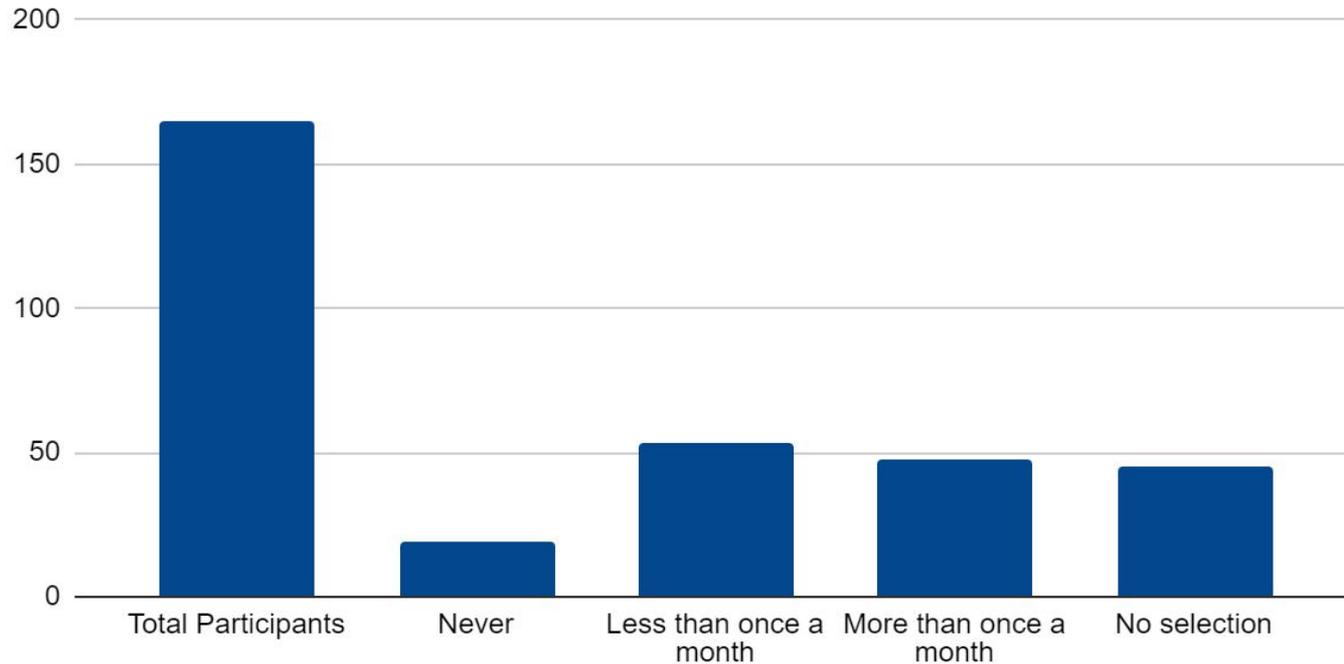
**The survey received 185 responses**, in which 20 participants were first year students and 160 participants were upper year students.

Have you participated in any of the following initiatives? Check all that apply.



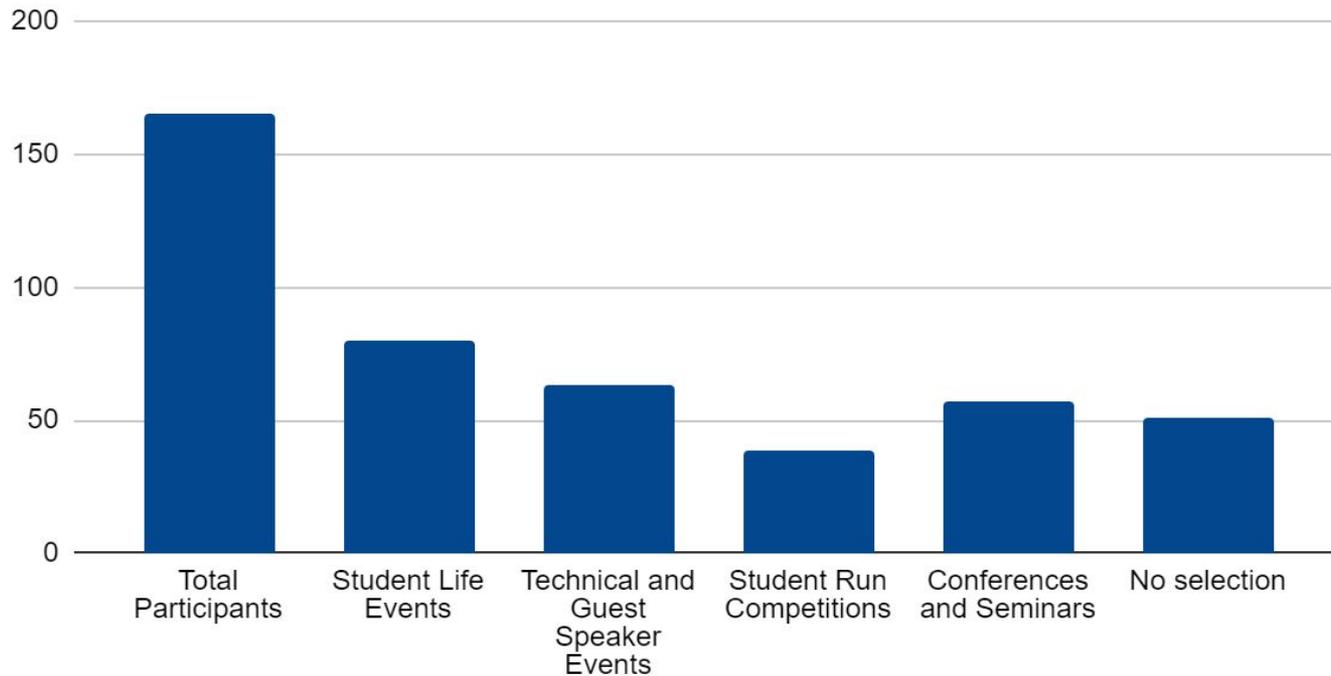
It was found that incoming students were still inclined to participate in community events and services provided in an online format. Additionally, it was found that both the ESS initiatives surveyed were utilized by 50% of students, while the Faculty of Engineering service surveyed was only utilized by 40% of students.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how often did you participate in events held on engineering campus?



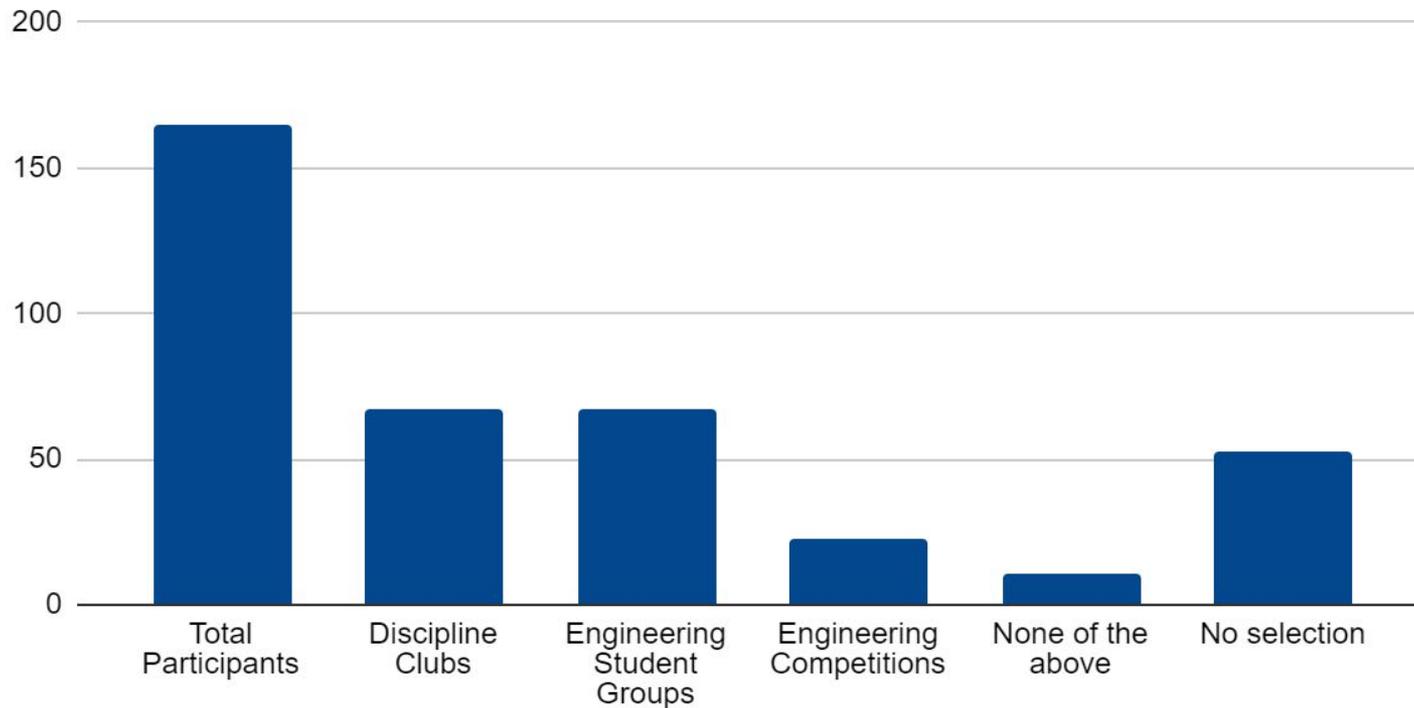
It was found that only 15.8% of upper year survey participants had never participated in community events, while 40% participated more than once a month and 44.2% participated less than once a month.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, have you attended any of the following events held on engineering campus? Check all that may apply.



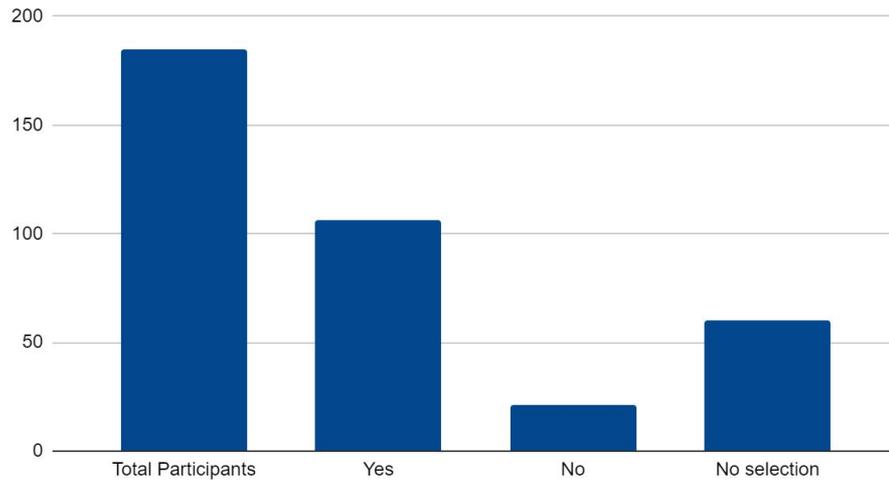
It was found that 70.2% of upper year survey participants have attended student life events, 55.3% have attended technical and guest speaker events, 50% have attended conferences and seminars and 34.2% have attended student run competitions.

Have you been involved with the following volunteer opportunities in engineering? Check all that may apply.

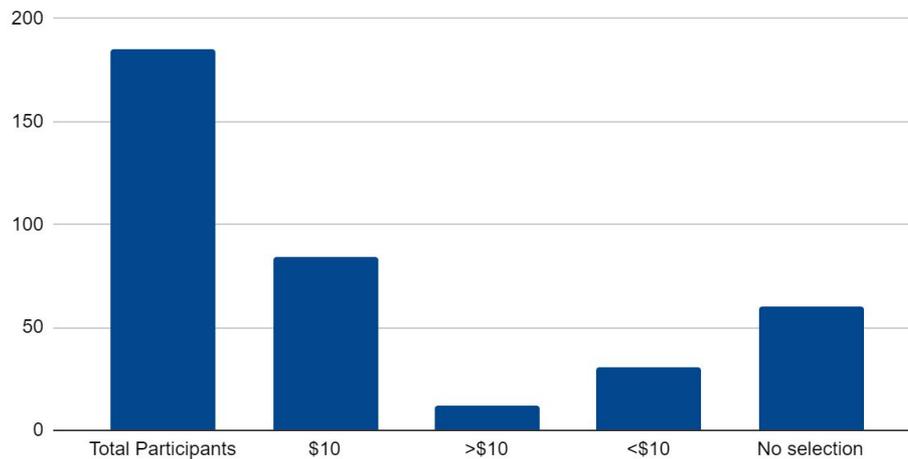


It was found that at least 61.2% of upper survey participants have been involved in extracurricular activities. Both Discipline Clubs and Engineering Student Groups have seen engagement from 59.8% of upper year participants and 20.5% of participants have been involved in engineering competitions.

## Do you support the idea of renewing FAMF?



## How much do you think engineering undergraduate students should pay per on campus semester?



It was found that 83.5% of participants support the idea of renewing FAMF and only 24.4% of participants believe that FAMF should be less than \$10 per term per student.

# Survey Key Takeaways

1. Every initiative surveyed on, with the exception of engineering competitions, was utilized by a minimum of 50% of survey participants.
2. 84.1% of upper year participants attend events, where 40% attend events more than once a month.
3. At least 61.2% of upper year participants are involved in extracurricular activities
4. Both Discipline Clubs and Engineering Student Groups engage 59.8% of upper year participants
5. 83.5% of survey participants support the idea of renewing FAMF and only 24.4% of participants believed FAMF should be less than \$10 per term per student

# Student Feedback Implementation

1. Due to the large demand for community initiatives and overwhelming support of a FAMF renewal, a renewal is being proposed.
2. Due to overwhelming support of FAMF being at least \$10 per term per student, the amount remains at \$10 per term per student.
3. Due to the large engagement with Discipline Clubs and Engineering Student Groups, a majority of the FAMF allocations are assigned to Discipline Clubs (30%), the Engineering Student Group Fund (20%), and the Engineering Carnival (2%)

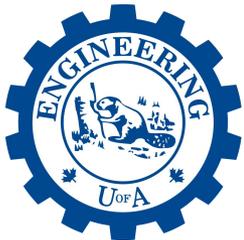
# Student Feedback Implementation

4. Due to the demand for Conferences and Seminars, the allocation for the Engineering Activities Fund has slightly decreased from previous years, but still remains large (15%)
5. Due to the lack of demand for competitions, the allocation for Conferences and Competitions is significantly decreased from previous years.

# Endorsement

The FAMF proposal has been endorsed by the Engineering Students' Society Board of Directors, which includes the Faculty Association Executive Team, as well as all Discipline Club Presidents (Departmental Associations).

Additionally, 58 students signed in endorsement of the FAMF proposal.



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# Thank you

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