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CVUO Funding Feedback Survey

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Background and Objectives

The survey was conducted to assess the response of clubs to the club funding process and the amount allocated to club funding after two complete iterations of club funding had been completed by CVUO.

Responses were accepted from March 21st, 2021 to April 2nd, 2021 through an anonymous Google Form.

The survey found that clubs were generally satisfied with the club funding process, however CVUO still has many areas that can be improved on, such as bilingualism, accessibility, simplicity, and transparency. In reference to the amount, the respondents expressed wanting it increased if in-person events are permissible and to keep it at \$200,000 if the campus remains virtual.

Assumptions, Biases & Inaccuracies

- The survey was presented to clubs with the message that they needed to fill it out because there was a risk of club funding being reduced in the coming semesters. This creates a significant bias in the responses in favour of students who benefit from funding and want to see it continued at either the same amount or with an increase.
- The survey intended to only collect responses from club executives and members and therefore is not an accurate representation of the feedback from the general student population, only those involved in clubs.
- While the survey limited one submission per Google account, it did not verify that the submission was being made by a student at uOttawa. This causes some inaccuracies in the data.
- Most of the CVUO promotions regarding Club Funding happened early in the Fall Semester of 2020 to the clubs that were registered at that time. The near 50+ clubs that have registered since then will have a different experience when it comes to hearing about Club Funding, and the survey failed to make this separation.
- With a student population of about 40,000 the survey reports about a +/-5% margin of error. A conservative estimate of 5 unique students per club will result in a total of 1705 students in clubs, this will also result in about a +/-5% margin of error for the results.

Methodology & Demographics

The survey was only promoted to the 343 registered club emails and the emails of each of the club's signing officers. In total, the survey received 341 unique responses. The survey was not promoted to the

general student population through social media or other methods and the target audience was intended to be club executives and members. Clubs were asked through email to send the survey to their teams. There were no monetary or prize incentives presented to fill out the survey, and the survey was presented as optional.

94.7% (323) of the responses were submitted in English and 5.3% (18) in French. This shows that Francophone students were underrepresented in this survey and potentially in clubs and in CVUO's reach to students. In comparison, according to the uOttawa website, 30% (13408) of the student population enrolled with French as the primary language in Fall 2020.

98.2% (335) of the responses identified themselves to be part of a club while 1.9% (6) responses said they were not part of a club.

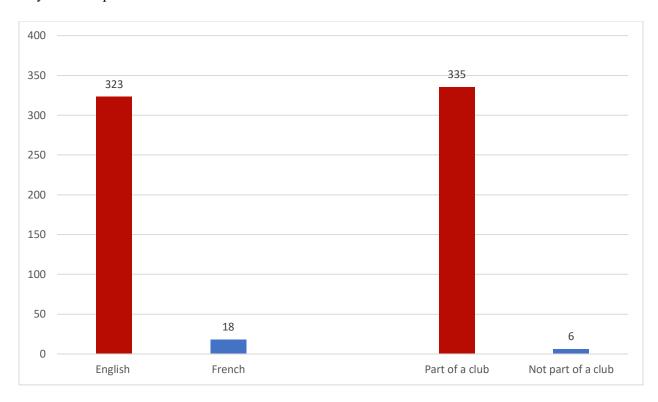


Figure 1: Demographics for the CVUO Funding Feedback Survey

Respondents were given the option to submit the survey without answering questions related to the funding process after answering questions related to the \$200,000 funding amount.

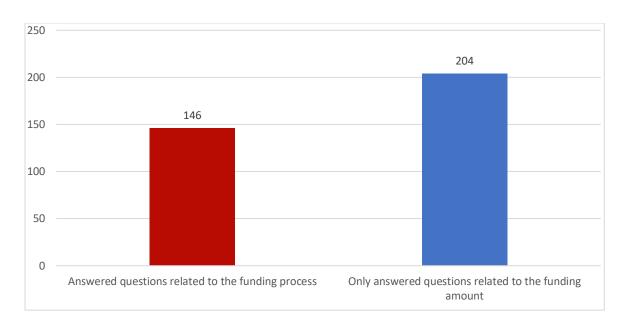


Figure 2: Comparing number of students who only answered questions related to the funding amount vs those who also answered questions related to the funding process.

It was assumed that clubs which received funding would have a different opinion on funding than the ones that never received any amount and especially those that were refused. As such it was asked on the survey, which of the respondents were part of a club that received funding, did not receive funding, or applied but got rejected. Most of the responses, 82.99% (283), were from students that were part of clubs that had received funding.

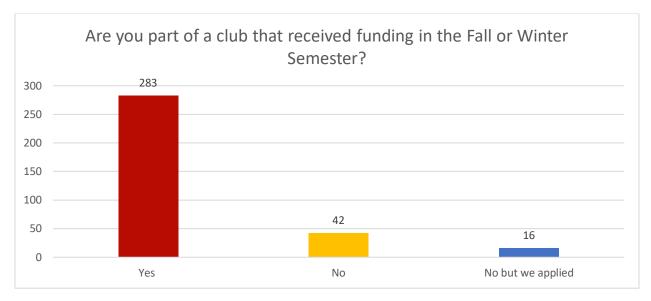


Figure 3: Responses to the "Are you part of a club that received funding in the Fall or Winter Semester?" question.

Results

The first question asked on the survey was "Have you heard about the increase in Club Funding this last year?". The options were "A lot", "A little", "Nothing at all", and "I heard about funding but didn't know it was an increase from before".

Most respondents had heard about funding at some capacity with only 14.66% (50) responding with "Nothing at all" to the question.

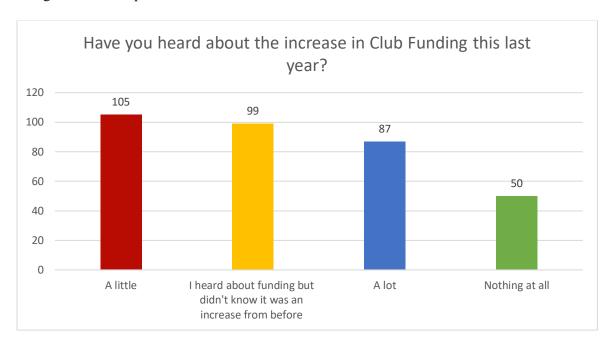


Figure 4: Responses to the "Have you heard about the increase in Club Funding this last year?" question.

To gauge the respondent's feelings regarding the \$200,000 club funding amount, the question on the survey was asked as follows; "What do you think about the amount allocated to club funding this year?", with options for students to respond with wanting it lowered, increased, maintained, or only increased if events are in-person next year. Most of the responses, 61% (208), responded with only wanting to increase it if events were in person next year and only 4.1% (14) responded with wanting the amount to be lowered.

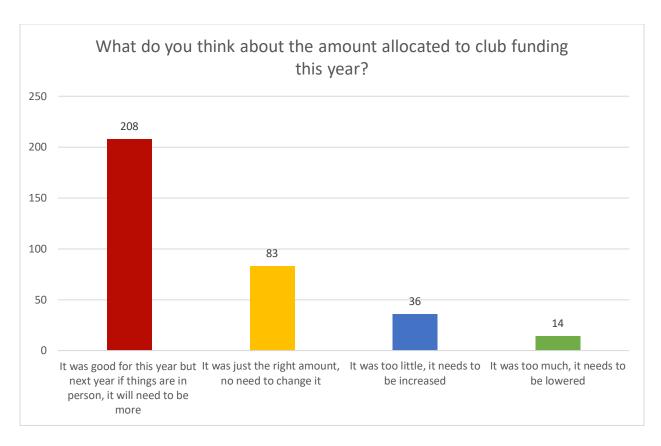


Figure 5: Responses to the "What do you think about the amount allocated to club funding this year?" question.

90 respondents chose to include additional comments, with various responses ranging from allocation suggestions, comments regarding the survey, comments regarding either the necessity of funding or the lack thereof and further context on their responses to the other questions. All the additional comments are provided in Appendix A.

Data was collected regarding the respondents' general feelings about the funding process. Respondents were able to input their own answers or choose one of the ones already included. The results from the responses that got more than 1 of the same answer are presented below.

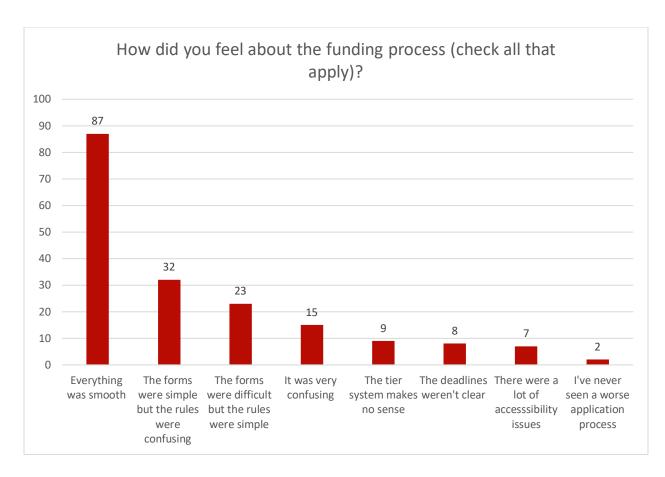


Figure 6: Top 8 Responses to the Question "How did you feel about the funding process (check all that apply)?"

Respondents were asked to rank how they felt regarding the fairness of the decision made on their club's funding application out of 5. With a total of 146 responses, the average score was **4.43/5**. A similar question was asked regarding the communication between CVUO and the club during the funding process. Also, with 146 responses, the respondents gave the communication an average score of **4.08/5**.

Respondents were asked if they knew about the funding transparency report and how they felt about it. In addition, there were also able to submit their own answers or select from the ones provided. The top 4 results are provided below:

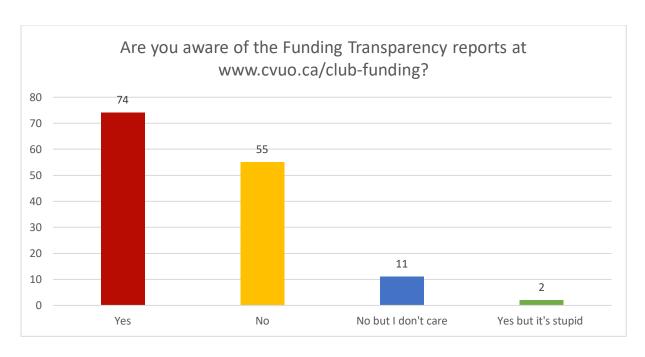


Figure 7: Responses to the "Are you aware of the Funding Transparency report?" question.

Analysis

Any matters relating to Club Funding are communicated to the clubs and club signing officers, which explains how most of the demographic had heard about funding at some capacity. Many respondents were not aware that the funding was a large increase from before, this would make sense as CVUO never made that the focus of the Club Funding promotions. Clubs that have been registered since the first launch of funding with CVUO will have heard about it a lot more than the ones who had recently signed up, as the promotions were primarily focused on the launch. Club executives will have also heard about it a lot more than general club members as CVUO only typically communicates with club executives.

Most of the respondents were in favour of the Club Funding amount and many of the comments provided show that many clubs rely on Club Funding to operate. The responses show that although the respondents think that \$200,000 is sufficient while events are online, they will require more funding when events are moved to be in-person. Online events are more cost effective in nature and while the funding this year mostly covered all the clubs that applied, it would be reasonable to extrapolate that it will be less than sufficient for when in-person activities are allowed. A percentage of clubs also did not operate during the pandemic and plan to return when they can host in-person events, many of them being large recreational clubs, and will be taking a large share of the funding.

In comparison, the Carleton University Student Association budget for 2019-2020 they gave out \$169000.00 with their Financial Assistance Committee for Clubs and Societies (FACCS) grant and then

an additional \$8475.00 through a Summer Funding grant to their clubs. The University of Ottawa has 33% more clubs than Carleton and yet only received 11.3% more in club funding in 2020-2021 than Carleton clubs did in 2019-2020. This is about \$765/club for CUSA clubs and \$586/club for CVUO & UOSU clubs [2][5].

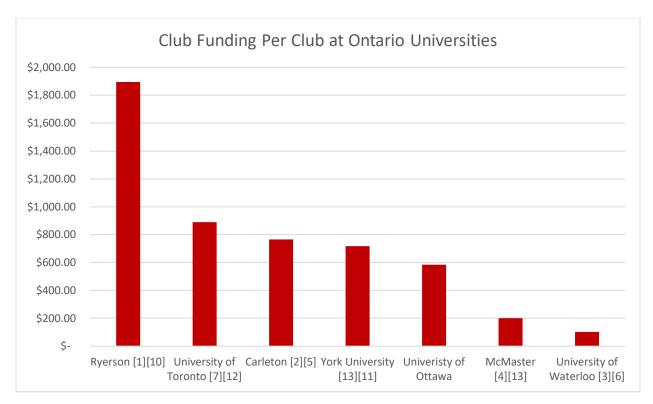


Figure 8: Comparing Club Funding Amounts per Club at Similarly Sized Ontario Universities by Their Student Union

Figure 8 shows that the University of Ottawa is amongst the lower ranked universities when it comes to providing funds to student clubs through Student Unions. While other Student Unions also provide other resources to assist clubs financially (club printing, equipment rentals etc.), apart from event collaborations, uOttawa clubs are not supported financially in any other way than club funding.

The data from figure 8 is gathered from the most recent public information available on each of the university's Student Union websites. Student Unions without related information available on their websites were not included.

The survey found that clubs were satisfied with the communication conducted with them through the funding process and with the decision made on their funding application. Most respondents found the process smooth, however a sizeable portion found either the rules or the application confusing.

Conclusions & Takeaways

1. Awareness

While the clubs were sufficiently aware of club funding, UOSU and CVUO can work to better the outreach of club-related initiatives by promoting them through UOSU's channels, such as the UOSU social media and emails.

2. The \$200,000 Club Funding Amount

The \$200,000 amount for Club Funding should be maintained in the coming school year and increased if a sizeable number of in-person events by clubs are permissible. As the number of clubs registered increases dramatically every year and with most clubs only being active for an in-person campus, \$200,000 will not suffice to meet the needs of clubs and students.

Without Club Funding students are forced to find other means of financing, which in many cases results in students paying out of pocket. This major financial accessibility concern is at the cornerstone of why the Club Funding Initiative is of utmost importance.

In the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 semesters, clubs requested for more money than what was allocated. Though less than the allocated amount was approved, as clubs become more aware of the guidelines a larger total of allocated funds is expected to be approved. Regardless, the applications show that there is a need for at least \$200,000 in funding for clubs and more if a transition to an in-person campus is underway.

3. Communication

CVUO should work on promoting Club Funding every semester, at the same capacity, as clubs gear up to apply, to avoid newer clubs being at a disadvantage. Initiatives to simplify the process and the Club Funding Code should be taken, as well as initiatives to better explain both those topics.

4. Accessibility & Bilingualism

CVUO should work with the UOSU Bilingualism Centre to plan strategies on how to get more Francophone students involved with clubs and for the creation of more clubs that focus on Francophone students.

CVUO should work with the UOSU Centre for Students with Disabilities to prepare accessibility forms for all applications that are sent out to clubs through CVUO, not just the Club Funding ones. CVUO

should also work with the centre to review their practices to remove any present accessibility issues and plan to avoid future ones.

5. Transparency

CVUO should work to make the allocation of funding more transparent and provide more information into the nature of approvals, going further than just listing the approved clubs and the amount they received. CVUO should investigate including each approved club's approved items, events, and budgets, so that students are aware of exactly how the money is being spent.

Appendix A: Raw Data from CVUO Funding Feedback Survey

Note: Comments containing personal information and those revealing the identity of the author or the club they are a part of were retracted to respect the privacy of the respondents.

Additional Comments:

Le financement des clubs est essentiel pour le fonctionnement des clubs. C'est un montant d'argent qui aide beaucoup!!

RETRACTED

Although the club I was in had some excess of money during the online year, funding might need to be increased if things are in person next year.

As a member of a competitive club, we receive little funding from the school compared to Varsity teams. We play our sport because we're passionate, despite having to pay out of our own pockets. The club funding provided by the CVUO allows to fund our training and competition opportunities that would otherwise cost thousands of dollars for each player.

As a young and growing club, we expect to get support from UOSU in order to establish ourselves and work as a good club

As president of a club, this helped us survive during the pandemic. Without it, we wouldn't have been able to do so much and grow.

Between the reduced costs of being online and the likelihood that a lot of teams with competition and travel costs simply didn't need funding, I don't think this year's club requests for money is indicative of a regular year

Club funding allocation was confusing with an initial total announced to clubs at the start of the fall semester not being accurate and a lot higher than what was later announced for actual club distribution. This created a confusing on how to properly distribute our money for events as we were unsure how much we were actually receiving.

Club funding allows clubs to host events without the worry of finances! Some clubs are non-profit and depend on this funding to help provide resources and services to uOttawa students! Would love to keep doing this for the uOttawa community!

Club funding applications depend on being able to predict needs for funds so during this time it is hard to predict event capability because of the limits with varying pandemic conditions. If there could be some allocated for later applications that would be beneficial for clubs that are able to do more than previously thought at the beginning of a semester

[RETRACTED]

[RETRACTED]

Club funding helped my club run the events that many attended. It was such a relief to have funds covered, compared to past years where there wasn't any available to clubs.

Club funding helps clubs survive and bring quality events to the student body.

Club Funding is a necessity and should continue to increase

Club funding is great! Especially for struggling small clubs like ours; please keep it:(

Club funding is important and should be given to all clubs that need it, in order to make sure that clubs are able to run their events smoothly.

Club funding is important especially if things are in person next year. A lack of club funding might prevent more people from wanting to join clubs since there may not be enough money to make fun activities for them. Clubs are an important part of university social life and they need proper funding.

Club funding is one of the few things the student union can do to clearly support students!

Club funding was great for our club this year since we had no income to support our event expenses.

[RETRACTED]

CVUO funding has been extremely beneficial to our club.

For the 1st time our university's clubs were fully funded and it mage a huge positive impact to the quality of events and services that each club was able to provide so thank you for that!

Funding for clubs is necessary.

Funding is very important to clubs to function. People are always interested in taking part in various activities but are never ready to pay from their pockets. I know this very well because i am an executive member of a club.

Funding received by our club has helped immensely with recruiting members and organizing events.

FYI- Should not be emailing these surveys on Good Friday- it is a holiday. Also fuding for digital school year is excessive. I am sure students would prefer that funding go to other uses that keep more \$ in their pocket.

great organization, keep it up!

[RETRACTED]

[RETRACTED]

I appreciate you asking for feedback:D

I believe the club funding this year was great! As a part of a club that ran many virtual events with hopes to run more in person events once the time comes, I found that the funding amount for the year was good but will probably need to be increased once in person events are allowed.

I felt that it was difficult for some clubs which needed just a small sum and did not have a bank account. Most of my club's activities are volunteer based, but we occasionally would like a sum of money to cover some minor expenses. I think that a reimbursement format can be useful.

I myself was not part of the funding process, but it definitely helped out club out a lot and we are very grateful for it (:

I think as much you can give us as possible is fantastic so that we can continue to improve upon our efforts to support not only our university community but also communities in Ottawa, in the country, and around the world as we all work to recover from the pandemic.

I think club funding is critical to the student social life at the University of Ottawa. Many clubs require funding to operate. Funding for clubs helps everyone

I think shifting around the amounts in different tiers would also be good, it looks like very few clubs really benefitted from the Emerald tier, most looked to be Ruby

[RETRACTED]

I thought the club funding this year was great, as many clubs had to change the way they interacted with students and it was difficult to have fundraisers. For next year it would be beneficial for clubs to submit for funding again and use the allocated money to interact with students no matter what the situation is.

Is funding allocation public? cause it should be!

It does seem like a lot of money but taking into account the number of clubs on campus and the opening of in person events hopefully next year, i think \$200,000 is right where it should be!

It is great that we are able to get funding, as it really helps to fund our activities and be able to host great events such as review sessions and social events for free for students. I hope this will stay and increase in the coming years to help clubs to better serve the student community.

Most clubs used their funding as prizes for giveaways and such. If a club does not have an operations/ are using their funding to carry out events, I believe the max they should get is \$50-100. Since most events were virtual, I don't think the funding we got was wholly needed (but much appreciated. this is all being said in hindsight tho so not really y'all's fault)

My club loved the funding, it really helped support us during these times when we were not able to make profit from some of our events (due to it being virtual vs in person)

My club requires a lot of art supply to run events (in person) and to keep it free for students to enjoy, we greatly rely on funding, without it we would not be able to do over half of what we currently do

N/a

N/A

our club relies heavily on club funding to rent theatres and host musicals.

Please fund cultural minority student associations, such as the Caribbean Students Association, Ukrainian Students Association, etc.

Please give extra funding to cultural minority organizations such as the Caribbean Students' Association, The African students association... etc

Priority should be given to clubs who has never received funding before

since everything was online, we didn't need much money this year, but in person, we send people to competitions in other cities, and funding is vital to ensure everyone gets a fair shot at participating

So many students were reached by our events because of club funding (ie we needed to upgrade our zoom at the last minute to ensure more students could come to an event & we had budget allocated for that! Yay!) . We were also able to afford phenomenal speakers because we could offer honorariums, and giveaways.

Thank you CVUO for always giving us opportunities to enhance student life. Club funding is essential!

The funding is what made our club able to host events. Without it I cannot see how we could replicate the same level of engagement.

The funding really helped to achieve the objectives of the club.

The funding was pretty okay, but we definitely could've used more

The funding was really important and helped to make debate accessible to a lot of people who otherwise couldn't have afforded it, please do not cut it

The maximum amount of funding we can apply to allow us to do great things that is correct. However we are much more ambitious than this! Please increase the funding so we can make our students' experiences even greater and accomplish much more!

The overall funding of \$200 000 is adequate for regular operations. Given the on-going pandemic however, it seems that other expenses should be prioritised (i.e. financial supports for students, bursaries, compensation for key student labour relating to advocacy).

My club has collaborated with some UOSU services, and one thing that has surprised me was the high budgets for certain events. Although social events are beneficial for building community among isolated students there also needs to be a balance.

[RETRACTED]

The previous survey this is addressing was poorly timed, of course in a virtual format more funding would be channeled to opportunities for student inclusion and involvement. Thank you for providing us the opportunities you have with the funding

The process of applying for CVUO funding was very nice. The allocated funding as a result of the application was reasonable. Thank you

[RETRACTED]

This year we had enough funding but in-person activities would need more funding. Thanks for considering

We did not apply for funding this year as we are a relatively new club but we are definitely hoping to apply for funding next year.

We didn't apply for this year due to online but we want to apply next year

[RETRACTED]

We would not have been able to do our COVID friendly activities without the funding we received. Thank you!

Would we be able to get a breakdown of the total club funding divided by the number of clubs (average club funding per club)? I think it would give students a better idea of how much money is allocated to any one club, as \$200,000 seems like a very large amount of money if you don't account for how many clubs are applying for funding.

I think CVUO did an excellent job with the process and I did not even know about the UOSU survey until receiving the CVUO email about it (and as such the survey by UOSU seems very unrepresentative of the whole student body).

Super easy to apply, not confusing, lots of emails to guide us in the right direction.

The forms for initially filling out for funding were alright. Then in the Winter 2021 it was a much more confusing process for making amendments to the budget. There was a lot of back and forth about interpreting what we had submitted in the form (i.e. an update of some events that had been cancelled in Fall 2020 and the use of these funds for the same events rescheduled for Winter 2021). The option of "carrying over" funding and reorganising the budget as the year goes on should be adjusted so it is a more straight forward process.

Thanks CVUO!

It was explained above but just giving a chance to redo items that will not be approved so the maximum amount of money can be utilized and clubs' plans aren't setback as much due to rejection of certain items.

Hi

I feel the transparency report should have included detailed budgets for each club (maybe make an Sheets file with links to each club's budget) as some looked like it was a large amount for what the club was. (this mainly was about how confused we were about why the Cricket club got \$3500 in funding when in-person sports have largely been banned by the government this year) Obviously this would be hard to fully implement, but I feel that in the spirit of proper transparency, it could be helpful (especially if you want to prevent what has historically happened with club funding abuse)

N/A

When we reached out for clarification the CVUO was helpful in answering our questions because it was our first time applying. In the future I think we will have an easier time doing it on our own.

I think that the process was well organized and quite transparent given the large amount of money transacted during the funding season!

We didn't submit a funding request this year, but I wanted to give a comment so please ignore the "it was fair" and "really good" response, as I can't judge it because we didn't submit.

Most of my communication was through Hassan, because initially I was not receiving answers from the CVUO email address. Ultimately all my questions got answered, but I feel like the CVUO could benefit from having a dedicated outreach team to answer questions from the clubs.

Club funding was extremely useful and gave our club an opportunity to run events that benefitted students that we would not have been able to run without the funding.

It would have been nice to be given a chance to explain parts of our funding application that did not make sense/were lacking.

pls give us money next year:)

The whole process was very clear to me; you guys tried to be as clear as possible in the application and rules process of funding and I believe you guys were fair, and wise in creating the tier process. The funding truly changed how the club was able to operate this year (in such a positive, impactful way). We were able to host our first ever virtual conference and be able to offer an honorarium to all of our speakers. It makes a huge difference for our participants and the speakers we reached out too. Thank you CVUO, so much.

I found it a little difficult to get approval for reallocation of funds this year. Since things ended up being online we had to reallocate A LOT of funds but the process was very slow

Receiving funding for graduate students club seems a bit challenging. Probably need to consider that.

To many students the allocated club funding amount may have been a lot but I believe CVUO and the Student Union has been really transparent and open about everything regarding funding. To my club specifically, funding is important because it allows us to provide as many events as we can for students on campus. A necessary step we take to ensure our events are inclusive to everyone is the accessibility. Getting funding from CVUO & UOSU allows us to pay and cover all finances without applying them to student expenses. We cover costs of art materials and supplies that not all students may have to host free paint nights, we cover costs for events with mental health professionals in providing groups sessions for students, without funding as a club we wouldn't be able to do what we are doing on campus and making an impact.

Additional Responses from the "How did you feel about the funding process (check all that apply)?" Question

Je n'ai jamais vu un processus d'application pire

Je ne suis pas responsable de ce processus

Formulaires en français manquaient de clartée.

Nous n'avons pas appliqué puisque c'était en ligne

I was not responsible for funding so I might not have the best insight

I wasn't the one in my club who applied

Feedback should be given on the items that we ask funding for before a final decision is made. It felt like some of the items were rejected based on a whim without any real explanation. This hurts the clubs planning for the semester especially when big ticket items are turned down. This could be improved by 1) providing feedback on what cannot be accepted and a chance to ammend the budget before final approval, 2) by approving maybe a certain portion of a big ticket item rather than outright rejecting the whole amount.

Two suggestions I can give is 1.) to have an always open moc process, so that successive finance coordinators can be trained in the process. And 2.) To have the deadlines in the beginning of the semester a bit extended, that time is usually busy time and there's a high chance for understaffed clubs to miss those deadlines.

I was not a part of that

Not applicable yet, but I know about the process and amount

I did not assist in the process

The deadline was too short after the application went out

I was not involved lol idk

Our VP Finance handled the funding application.

I thought the process was extensive, but felt necessary and forced clubs to evaluate the need for every penny.

i actually think the tier system is very fair and it makes sense

I wasn't really part of the application process to be honest (I am VP External); it was our President and VP Finance who submitted the application. But y'all were very kind when we messed up in signing authority issues,

im not really sure how it went

N/A

Wasnt perfect but the instructions to receive funding were clear.

They sent the transfer to the wrong account and seemed to not fully understand our funding request. The entire process could have been described in an email alot more clearly.

Appendix B: Margin of Error Calculations

Assumptions:

- Approximating University of Ottawa student population to 40000.
- Approximate students involved in clubs by conservatively estimating 5 members on average per club.
- Confidence level: 95%
 - \circ z-score = 1.96 [7]
- Use a normal distribution (50%)

Equation:

Margin of error =
$$z \times \sqrt{(p \times \frac{(p-1)}{n})} \times \sqrt{\frac{(N-n)}{(N-1)}}$$

- n = sample size, N = total population, p = sample proportion, z = z-score [6]

For Total Student Population

Margin of error =
$$1.96 \times \sqrt{(0.5 \times \frac{(0.5 - 1)}{341}} \times \sqrt{\frac{(40000 - 341)}{(40000 - 1)}} \approx 0.053 \approx 5\%$$

For Just Club Members

Margin of error =
$$1.96 \times \sqrt{(0.5 \times \frac{(0.5 - 1)}{341})} \times \sqrt{\frac{(1705 - 341)}{(1705 - 1)}} \approx 0.047 \approx 5\%$$

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