Each year, Western Michigan University offers students a grant to fund their sustainable programs, projects, and initiatives on campus.

**What does the grant do?**

- Empowers students to make sustainable change on campus.
- Makes initial investments to spur on university funded programs and infrastructure.

**Where’s the money coming from?**

- $50,000 offered each semester.
- $100,000 from an enrollment based fee. Remaining fee funds student jobs and the Office for Sustainability operations.
- Money not awarded in the fall semester rolls over into the spring semester.
- Money not awarded at the end of spring semester rolls back to the Office for Sustainability.

**Who decides what grants are funded?**

- Project Manager screens for grants that are safe, legal, and feasible.
- New committee of eleven students decides on what grants are funded every year.

**What could go wrong?**

- Office of Student Engagement oversees finances.
- Students projects might not align with university sustainability goals.
- University fails to adopt new initiatives or infrastructure beyond initial grant investment.
- With enrollment declining the fixed dollar amount could hinder Office for Sustainability operations.
- Grants cannot provide long term funding for projects (O&M, removal, site restoration).
- New group of students every year means lack of consistency.
- Students may award money to grants that are not aligned with university sustainability goals or that lack required university pre-approval.
- Students may lack technical expertise to evaluate proposals properly.

**Where to go from here?**

- Use grant money to supplement capital projects.
- Change fixed dollar amount to a percentage of the fee.
- Allow student committee to serve on committee multiple years to retain expertise.
- Train student committee members on sustainability principles before they decide on grants.

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**Award Amounts by Academic Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Total Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017/Spring 2018</td>
<td>47,345.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2016/Spring 2017</td>
<td>16,420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2015/Spring 2016</td>
<td>28,460.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2014/Spring 2015</td>
<td>39,495.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2013/Spring 2014</td>
<td>20,349.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2012/Spring 2013</td>
<td>31,923.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2011/Spring 2012</td>
<td>10,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2011</td>
<td>19,732.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Types of Grants Proposed by Students**

- **Activities**: 14,326.64
- **Research**: 16,640.48
- **Initiatives**: 38,495.55
- **Events**: 20,349.43
- **Outreach**: 31,923.87

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