

ASME-VCU Student Section

Website: <https://vcu.campusgroups.com/americansocietyofmechanicalengineers/home/>

TREASURY REPORT Dec 2021

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Other avenues of funding may include corporate sponsorships or individual donations. Family and friends of the prior treasurer's robotics team members collectively donated several thousand dollars, and this prior treasurer recommended considering this method. In that officer's experience, each club member sent a quota of ten letters to acquaintances soliciting donations. .	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Dues.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Prior executive boards collected dues for the year, which may be deemed necessary upon further consideration of the likely budget for competition, meetings, and other activities.	Error! Bookmark not defined.
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Executive Summary

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers – Virginia Commonwealth University Student Section (the Section) aims to support student learning and connection with mechanical engineering. It invests in student technical and professional skill building and networking.

Most of the income, \$2,420, this fall was provided by the generous support of the College of Engineering Dean's office through the Success Grant program, which was invested in student core competency development through material purchasing for the innovation, additive manufacturing, and 3-D printing design competition of 2022. The dean's office contributed an additional \$500 for to presenting past year's work at the Family Weekend event on Oct 22. Student membership dues totaled approximately \$1,000 for fall 2021. Much of the dean's \$500 was allocated towards incentives for winners of an original professional development competition this fall semester. The section spent \$209.27 to provide custom-printed Tee-shirts for members commemorating the prior competition. Other expenditures included refreshments and group donation to win the food drive sponsored by the VCU Engineering Career Services and the Altria company, though this was contributed by members and had no net affect on accounts.

Spring 2022 holds an exciting culmination of the additive-manufacturing design competition and likely additional professional networking and development activities such as site tours. The treasurer hopes to finish the academic year with a more stable base of liquid capital and established means for funding future endeavors.

Fall 2021

The only guaranteed capital available to the organization at the start of fall 2021 was the section's checking account with an external bank. Having no university funding from the University Student Commons and Activities for the fall, the officers pursued funding from the College of Engineering Dean's office through the Success Grant program which had provided seed funding for that year's design competition in the

spring. Semester funding was sought for fall 2021 to pursue the following year's competition.

Income

College of Engineering Dean's Success Grant

The College of Engineering dean's office awarded the full amount of \$2,420 (Table 1) through its Success Grant program. This was channeled to funding the Design, Integration, Research, and Test (DIRT) vehicle for the IAM3D competition to promote students' technical and collaborative work skills.

Family Weekend Engineering Extravaganza

During VCU Family Weekend, the College of Engineering hosted an Engineering Extravaganza on October 2nd to give members of the VCU engineering community space to enjoy socializing and seeing the interesting results of student organizations' and researchers' work at the college. The dean's office offered \$500 (Table 1) to invited organizations for volunteering and assisting with the event. ASME demonstrated the first-person-viewpoint capabilities of the drone built with dean's funding the previous year, entertaining visitors to its booth and stirring up interest. One of the recruits from that day, an electrical engineering major, successfully interviewed to become the leader of the power systems design team for the DIRT vehicle, bringing much-needed coding best-practice and electronics experience to share with mechanical engineering majors who lack exposure to software testing through curriculum.

Donations

Inspired by the advice of an outgoing treasurer, the current treasurer and president drafted and sent donation requests to alumni and professional connections in engineering companies. Hobbs and Associates, Inc., generously donated \$250 (Table 1) to support the section's professional development activities.

Food Drive

Community impact matters to the section. When the VCU Engineering Career Services announced a college-wide food drive benefiting Ram Pantry, ASME – VCU Student Section members raised \$135 (Table 1) to contribute to bulk food donations on their behalf, in addition to individual donations, together allowing the section to out-donate — with 271 non-perishable items — every other engineering student organization participating in the event. The competitiveness fostered by the section doubtlessly helped impact food insecurity on campus. Furthermore, donors to the food drive agreed to donate the funds which would have otherwise gone toward a reward for the winning organization.

Expenses

The primary areas of expense for the Section during the fall 2021 semester were the IAM3D competition and the professional development competition.

IAM3D Competition

Materials and parts were purchased for a vehicle for the IAM3D competition, amounting to over \$800 (Table 1) for the fall semester as of this report.

Professional Development Competition

This semester, the section undertook a competition amongst its members to incentivize activities which should help its members obtain jobs, co-ops, or internships. Points were awarded for submitting job applications, attending resume reviews, and conducting information interviews, for example. Although the officers discussed possibly awarding a large number of points for being offered an interview or a position, they eventually agreed that the goal of the competition was to promote input, not output from the job-seeking process, to encourage people in the section to invest time in the efforts within their power to secure an offer, not to reward the chosen few who received an offer beyond their direct control.

This practice may have helped level the playing field for underrepresented minorities like women in engineering. Female members competed on the basis of input and proved more effective than male members in such activities. In the top three, the first and second-place winners were both female, even though the majority of the club membership is male.

The top 11 (tie for 10th) winners of the professional development competition received free VCU College of Engineering merchandise and a dinner and movie night. For the dinner, \$194.03 was spent on food from the local restaurant Ginger Thai Taste and from Noodles & Company.

The top three received their choice of three tiers of prizes of significant value. The first-place prize was \$199.98, the second \$99.99, and the third \$72.98. The sum of these amounts, \$540.13, is shown in Table 1.

Tee-shirts for Members

This semester, the section elected to provide custom-printed Tee-shirts to its dues-paying members for promoting past semesters' design activities and raising awareness of the organization, plus providing a high-visibility conversatioin-starter for members when on campus and around Richmond.

The section's vice-president generously offered to print these shirts personally. This resulted in a nominal outlay for the shirts: \$209.27 in total (Table 1). This includes start-up cost which will not be necessary for a second round of shirts in the spring semester. After the shirts were ordered and printed, members were offered the chance to bring forward their own shirts to have printed at a negligible additional cost to the club.

Food Drive

As previously discussed, donations were collected by the section from its membership to purchase non-perishable food in bulk for the drive. The entire receipts of \$135 (Table 1) were expended on canned items and other non-perishables from a local retail outlet.

General Body Meetings (GBMs)

Pizza and drinks were purchased for the last General Body Meeting of the semester. The combined total of this expenditure was \$86.78 (Table 1). The section enjoyed entertaining party games and refreshment in celebration of the end of an exciting semester of competition design work and networking.

Table 1. Summary of Fall 2021 semester's cash flow.

Receipts:	Actual	Budget
Success Grant	\$ 2,420.00	\$ 2,420.00
Dues	850.00	900.00
Family Weekend	500.00	500.00
Donation	250.00	250.00
Food Drive	135.00	0.00
Total	4,155.00	4,070
Disbursements:		
IAM3D competition	814.71	1,375.00
Professional Development Competition	540.13	737.00
Tee-shirts	209.27	231.00
Food drive	135.00	0.00
GBM supplies	86.78	250.00
Total	1,785.89	2,593.00

Table 2. Summary of end-of-semester account standings of the section

Account	As of 12/13/2021
College index	\$ 1,638.30
PayPal, Inc.'s app	280.81
Cash	200.00
Wells Fargo checking account	~515
Total	~\$ 2,634

Future: spring 2022

Income

This coming semester, the section hopes to be funded by a combination of Success Grant, Student Governance Association awards, and dues.

Student Government Association Appropriations

This coming semester, SGA will be awarding funds to student organizations for conducting student engagement activities. The section plans to receive approximately \$1,000 for activities such as GBM refreshments and supplies

College of Engineering Dean's Success Grant

As in prior semesters, the section hopes to benefit from the assistance of the College of Engineering to complete final 3D-printing for the additively-manufactured DIRT vehicle. This competition has been the focal point of this past semester's meetings and has offered students the opportunity to learn CAD skills, team collaboration in design, research into engineering methods, and design selection. Team captains have demonstrated leadership and initiative organizing their members into regular meetings and setting goals. They have also presented updates at weekly GBMs, becoming more competent professional communicators. When the team starts testing its constructed prototypes in the spring, it may also draw the interest of observers at the courses selected, increasing awareness of and interest in VCU engineering in the community. For these and other reasons, the section looks forward to partnering with the dean's office again in 2022.

Dues

As was so successfully seen this semester, the society aims to collect dues for the following semester to support section activities at general body meetings and benefit such as tee-shirts celebrating another semester of ASME – VCU Student Section activity.

Other funding sources

As the treasurer and officers navigate the tax status of the section and look forward to a partnership with the college of engineering for collecting donations and supporting student organizations' abilities to raise funds, there may be additional funding sources to consider for the spring semester.

Expenses

As in the fall, the most significant expenditure this spring will likely be the purchasing of material and printing for the DIRT vehicle. There will likely be another round of Tee-shirts to print as well. Additionally, the officers have discussed the possibility of a site visit or professional tour event.

Design Competition

According to the section's budget approved this fall, \$1,375 are allotted for this activity in the spring. This may change as the cost of printing early prototypes has been reduced to the cost of material by the decision to print with personally-owned printers.

Meetings

As this past semester, meetings in person are expected to continue. These may be occasionally accompanied by refreshments or activities for which supplies such as dry-erase markers must be purchased. In addition, there may be social functions such as an end-of semester party, especially since this semester's end would correspond to the end of an academic year and spring graduations. Speaker hosting resembling a current co-op student's presentation in November will also likely be feature of spring 2022 GBMs.