

GUSA Finance & Appropriations Committee

**FY18 Budget Summit**

Student Activity Fee Funding Application

(APPLICATION A - Advisory Boards, GPB, the GUSA Executive and the Lecture Fund)

Please email this application and accompanying materials to  
[gusafinanceandappropriations@gmail.com](mailto:gusafinanceandappropriations@gmail.com) by **Friday, February 17, 2017 at 11:59 pm.**

**PART A.**

Name of Organization: Campus Ministry Student Forum

Mission of Organization: The Campus Ministry Student Forum acts as an organizing body for Campus Ministry student organizations. The Forum brings student leaders together to share best practices, collaborate on programming, work collectively on issues facing Campus Ministry student organizations, and represent Campus Ministry student organizations to the rest of Georgetown University. The Forum consists of the Presidents of each student organization, while the Executive Committee is elected from among the full membership of all student organizations to oversee daily administration and operations. The Forum is intended to support student-driven programming and operate concurrently with other Campus Ministry and faith-based programming on campus. Further, the Forum serves to strive towards creating equity and transparency for its organizations, enabling them to focus on best serving their communities.

Total Amount of Funding Requested: \$19,516.85

**PART B.**

Please provide the following information:

**\*\*Microsoft Excel preferable\*\***

1. FY17 Revenues and Expenditures:
  - A. Total projected revenue detailed by source
  - B. Total revenue to date detailed by source
  - C. Total projected expenditures by group/organization
  - D. Total expenditures to date by group/organization
2. FY17 Balances:
  - A. Balance of all organization accounts (operating, reserve, gift, etc.), by type of account to date
  - B. Projected balance of all organization accounts, by type of account, carried forward to FY17
3. FY18 Budget

- A. Total projected revenue detailed by source
- B. Total projected expenditures by group
- C. Projected balance of all organization accounts carried forward to FY18

## **PART C.**

Please answer the following questions individually:

### **1. How did your organization affect student life? Can this be measured?**

From its very founding our university has been committed to fostering and supporting a community of many faiths on campus. We live out John Carroll's mission on a daily mission through our conversations, our relationships, and our programming. We play an active role in the promotion of a central tenet and mission of this University, the spiritual health of students from all faith traditions. We specialize in meeting the needs of student-led faith groups under the broader Campus Ministry mission of supporting students as they seek out meaning, belonging, and purpose. It is our goal as the Campus Ministry Student Forum, as an advisory board, to support and oversee the operation and funding of our 11 groups in order to help them better serve their own members. The recent political climate has seen several of our communities come under intense marginalization, so we have seen students from these and other communities increasingly rely on these faith groups as a place of shelter and hope amidst waves of national fear or intolerance. Now more than ever our communities have become essential in the lives of many students, where even the most standard program can provide immeasurable comfort and consolation to both individuals and large communities.

We represent, through our 11 groups, over an eighth of the student body. From the largest groups like the Jewish Student Association, Muslim Student Association, or our two Catholic groups that have several hundred members to the smaller groups like the Latter Day Saints Student Association or GU Christian Athletes, we hope to use our resources and budgetary allocation to foster meaningful experiences and programming within each of our communities. While there is a clearly a distinct spectrum of participation among the members within each of our groups, we remain steadfastly committed to being inclusive communities on campus that draw upon the Ignatian tradition of *meeting students where they are* on their own spiritual journeys. This even includes students who observe no particular tradition. For example, students in the Buddhist Meditation Sangha, whether Buddhist or not, can meditate and engage in contemplation aimed at self-improvement and self-awareness without any overt religious prescriptions. Furthermore, we have seen many students of various traditions attend worship services and other programs of groups like the Muslim Student Association and the Jewish Student Association in order to demonstrate their solidarity with these communities on our campus.

The design of the Forum, our monthly meeting with all the Presidents of the student faith groups and the CMSF Executive Board, allows us to have a space for both administrative and community-building conversations. This space, along with the Campus Ministry Leadership Retreats in the Fall and Spring, allow for organic relationships to form between the leaders of our various faith groups, these relationships in turn provide the foundation for meaningful interfaith dialogues as well as improvements to individual group efficiency and overall functionality. This

has been especially facilitated by the work of the CMSF Whip who meets regularly with the leaders of the individual groups in order to get the pulse of the community and bring back common struggles to the CMSF Executive Board. We can then use this feedback in order to structure the discussion at upcoming CMSF Forum meetings and prepare the appropriate transition documents based on consensus “best practices.” We have thus seen our role expand and evolve to better serve our individual groups through reflection and evaluation without overstepping by planning or implementing programming ourselves.

**2. How many clubs/groups compose your organization? Please list them, noting especially any clubs/groups added (or planned to be added) within FY18.**

There are currently eleven organizations that compose the CMSF. These are divided into groups with and without access to benefits, as defined by the university. The six groups with access to benefits are the Buddhist Meditation Sangha (BuMS), GU Christian Athletes (GUCA, formerly known as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes), Hindu Student Association (HSA), Jewish Student Association (JSA), Muslim Student Association (MSA), and Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). The five groups without financial access to benefits are: Catholic Women at Georgetown (formerly known as Catholic Daughters of the Americas), GU Brothers for Christ, GU Sisters for Christ, Knights of Columbus, and Latter Day Saints Student Association. CMSF has an arrangement with the latter grouping, whereby they are granted access to benefits in all respects except access to the student activities fee funding.

This past summer, Campus Ministry hired Brahmachari Vrajvihari Sharan, whom has taken on an important role in facilitating Hindu life on campus. With his encouragement, more students from eastern religious traditions have begun to come together. CMSF anticipates that Sikh students on campus will form a student organization and apply for New Club Development in the fall of 2017 or sometime soon thereafter.

**3. What were significant challenges for your organization over the past year? What were significant successes for your organization over the past year?**

Over the course of the past year, Campus Ministry Student Forum and its organizations have encountered and worked to overcome the perpetual challenges of membership retention and transportation constraints in addition to various challenges resulting from the current administration and political climate that have particularly affected the Muslim and Jewish communities.

Sustaining and retaining membership can be difficult for many of our organizations. While many of the groups have seen much interest in their communities -- as evidenced by a high volume of new sign-ups and large turnouts at events -- membership growth often presents challenges in engaging and sustaining this membership. Our student groups, however, have employed a variety of strategies to engage with their members new and old, with an eye towards promoting leadership development. In September, the Forum discussed at length various such strategies, equipping our groups' presidents with a variety of means with which to grow and sustain membership. Many of the faith groups have developed and implemented mentorship programs that have proved successful in embracing new students into their respective communities. The Muslim Students Association, for instance, pairs interested new students with

an upperclassman “buddy” and asks the couple to get together once a month, taking a selfie to mark the occasion. The Knights of Columbus have implemented a different sort of program that matches newly pledged members with upperclassmen based on an area of personal interest, such as service or spiritual development, which also allows these new members to take on certain responsibilities, thus cultivating new generations of future leaders. The Campus Ministry Student Leadership Retreat, which occurs every January and is open to the Forum as well as current and potential leaders from each of the CMSF groups, has provided a platform to cultivate leadership in younger members. Additionally, several of our faith communities -- particularly the HSA, JSA, and MSA -- serve especially varied memberships, with individuals coming from a variety of different ethnic backgrounds, geographical areas, and levels of orthodoxy or variations of faith practices and rituals. As such, the leadership of each of these groups face specific challenges to creating communities that are welcoming to all of their members. The Forum, however, takes initiative to support such groups in serving their broad communities and implementing programming that is extensive and serves the needs of all their members. Several times throughout the year, the presidents have had structured conversations about best practices in seeking to serve their communities through both in breadth and depth of their programming.

Georgetown’s location and high costs of transportation have -- as always -- presented certain obstacles to our constituent groups in seeking not only to attend worship services but also to perform service, a crucial tenet of many of our represented faiths. Some CMSF groups have to go off-campus for access to weekly worship services as well as for special services for other religious holidays. Between the location of Georgetown’s campus; inaccessibility to public transportation; insufficient University transportation, especially on weekends; and high cost of CSJ Vans, our student groups are often forced to use Uber to transport their members to worship events off-campus, which becomes very expensive, especially with frequent trips. Additionally, such high costs of transportation have hindered our groups’ capacities to perform acts of service, rendering each off-campus service event substantive in cost. GUCA, for instance, in addition to several other CMSF groups, travels to So Others Might Eat by means of Uber, which can be rather costly. MSA, JSA, and HSA also pursue multifaith acts of service at mobile soup kitchens, for instance, but the cost of transporting large tracts of their membership to different areas of the city so as to engage in service can be rather prohibitive. This difficulty, then, in executing service initiatives is especially problematic given the strong desire and religious commitment of many of our groups to participate in service projects around the area.

This election year has proved to be difficult for many members of our communities, as well as a challenging time for faith in general, thereby affecting all of our constituent groups in some form. Our groups -- both those from the faith communities explicitly targeted by political rhetoric as well as all of the others, by nature of simply being groups of faith -- have been forced to confront issues related to the election and hateful rhetoric. The MSA, of course, has been uniquely affected, given not only the Islamophobia that has become so prominent as of late but also such measures as the recent executive order regarding refugees and immigrants from Muslim-majority countries. Besides, of course, being targeted by hateful rhetoric, many members of the MSA have been personally affected by the refugee ban and immigration limits imposed by the nation’s president last month. This political climate has contributed in large part to increases in the MSA’s membership and involvement this year, as well as to the importance of MSA’s role as a space and home on campus for its members. The student group has been challenged in particular with providing a space for their membership to process and come to

terms with the last few months' events, as well as with continuing to cultivate a home for their community on campus. This year, the MSA has seen record levels of involvement and attendance -- especially at their Friday Jum'ah prayers -- especially this semester. The Jewish community on campus has also been faced with a wave of anti-semitism in light of national conversations as well, rendering the JSA especially important in creating a home for Jewish students on campus.

Although Campus Ministry Student Forum and its constituent groups have faced a variety of challenges this year, it has nonetheless enjoyed many successes, particularly in its membership and efforts to create space for interfaith dialogue and understanding.

Despite various challenges associated with membership retention, all of our constituent organizations have experienced various successes with regards to membership and involvement. Several of our groups have experienced particularly impressive growth over the last year. The Knights of Columbus, for instance, saw their largest fall recruitment ever, bringing in thirty-one new members. The JSA has seen particularly impressive attendance at their weekly Shabbats, and the HSA hosted their largest Diwali on record this fall. The Hindu Student Association, moreover, has been able to flourish in their capacity as a student group this semester. Campus Ministry added Brahmachari Vrajvihari Sharan to their staff this past summer; in assuming various responsibilities related to Hindu worship services and spiritual guidance, he has allowed the HSA to grow in their abilities to serve Hindu students through programming and community-building outside of the puja services that they previously were tasked with leading.

This year, CMSF organizations have continued to emphasize and implement programming to encourage interfaith understanding and dialogue. The Forum's Interfaith Liaison role, in particular, has been instrumental in facilitating interfaith programming. The Interfaith Liaison coordinated a meeting between the interfaith chairs (or equivalent positions) of each CMSF organization at the beginning of each the fall and spring semesters, a new initiative this year that has proved to be fruitful. Representatives of the various organizations had the opportunity to develop relationships and connect with other organizations interested in similar programming and themes. Efforts by the Orthodox Christian Fellowship as well as the close relationship between the HSA and MSA, in particular, highlight our communities' dedications to interfaith understanding. Every Tuesday, the OCF hosts Interfaith Sandwich Making, a weekly service project in which it typically partners with a particular CMSF organization to make pack lunch bags for the Georgetown Ministry Center. These events have steadily increased in popularity and attendance, attracting members every week from many of the various CMSF organizations as well as the entire Georgetown community. The flourishing relationship between the MSA and HSA, as well, illustrates a tremendous display of interfaith understanding. The two student organizations have co-sponsored a variety of interfaith events over the course of this and prior years, most recently their dialogue "Shanti & Salaam" in early February, and are collaborating on upcoming multifaith service projects for the spring. Additionally, every Forum meeting concludes with time for the presidents of each organization to update the rest of those assembled about happenings in their own communities. The presidents often utilize this time to invite other faith communities to their programs. In combination, these initiatives have fostered an invigorated dedication to interfaith understanding and programming. While our student organizations have maintained and continued to cultivate existing relationships, we have also seen fruitful collaboration between organizations that historically have not had frequent

interaction.

#### **4. Do you have any budget concerns for the next 5-10 years?**

Given the growth and development of each of our constituent student groups that we have seen over the last few years, CMSF expects that our organizations will continue to grow, thereby necessitating more funding. Most of our groups have experienced not only increased levels of interest and newcomers over even just the last year, but growth in the involvement and dedication of their members. Moreover, the current political climate -- which will continue for at least the next four years -- seems to have contributed to a reinvigorated salience of religion in America, not only for those most targeted by Islamophobia, but for all communities of faith. These trying times seem to have brought people to participate in CMSF communities in new ways. We have seen our memberships eager to interact not only with their own faith communities, but looking for opportunities to engage with other faith groups.

#### **5. What level of financial risk does your organization incur?**

The financial risk incurred by CMSF is essentially similar to that incurred by other Advisory Boards. Primarily, CMSF's risk corresponds to the collective risk of our organizations. CMSF has a thorough body of procedures in place, however, to mitigate such risks, including an event approval process to ensure availability of funding and adherence to university policies. Moreover, the Forum has a thorough sanctions process that maintains accountability and responsibility of funding.

Groups also have access to the Ad Hoc Fund, which is available to all organizations within CMSF. The Fund is separated into one for access and non-access to benefits organizations. GUSA funds the former, while the office of Campus Ministry funds the latter. The Fund offers organizations the ability to request funds for unexpected expenses without it affecting the quality of their programming plans. To ensure equity, there are limits placed on the annual utilization of this fund. The Fund is also relevant as it is the source of funding for NCD organizations as well as for any organizations undergoing restoration.

In regards to the funding process after GUSA's Budget Summit, CMSF will hold a meeting, which is open to our Fin/App liaison, for the treasurers of all organizations in order to reach an equitable distribution of allocated funds. Afterwards, the presidents of these organizations will vote upon the proposed allocation. After the vote passes, the funds are allocated to their respective cost centers and become available for usage in the next fiscal year. In terms of financial abuses, including "maintaining outside accounts, spending university funds on unapproved events or for unapproved items, inappropriately signing contracts, or any violation that may incur a financial loss to the University or others, such as damage," CMSF has the power and breadth to enact sanctions. These can range from a letter of reprimand to review and potential revocation of access to benefits. The full process is detailed in our Sanctions document, made available to all organizations during Blueprint and on the CMSF Hoyalink page.

With these measures, student groups are able to exercise their autonomy while ensuring a responsible use of their funds.

**6. How could the Budget Summit process be improved this year? How could relations with GUSA be improved?**

This year, the Campus Ministry Student Forum has developed a great working relationship with our Fin/App liaison. Our current representative has attended our CMSF meetings and been very responsive to our questions and concerns regarding GUSA and the Fin/App process; he met with us prior to the Budget Summit to support the development of this application. CMSF is greatly appreciative of our Fin/App representative for the work that he has done as a liaison between our organization and GUSA, and we also acknowledge the initiative that the Finance & Appropriations Committee has taken to improve the Budget Summit process and develop relationships with each advisory board. We appreciate, for instance, the Stakeholders meeting that took place in December.

With regards to the overall Budget Summit process, however, CMSF would appreciate a greater level of transparency and communication from GUSA, particularly with regards to the timeline of the process. CMSF would like to see the dates of the application release, application deadline, and the Budget Summit itself released earlier in the year. We also hope to be notified of the date and time of the committee's deliberations following the Summit so if open we can sit in on the discussion.

**7. If you are requesting more funding for FY18 than FY17, please explain why.**

This year, CMSF is not requesting more funding for FY18 than we did for FY17. The total sum which we are requesting is, overall, very similar to although slightly less than that of last year. While the sum of the requests of each of our constituent groups is lower than that of FY17, the request for our Ad Hoc Fund, however, represents an increase over that of last year. Because our budgeting negotiation process is so thorough, our groups are individually very diligent in requesting solely the funds that they need to execute their expected programming. This, however, leaves them each very little leeway to develop and implement new programs throughout the year and to respond to pressing issues. Given how we have already seen growth in the importance of the roles that our communities play on this campus in these trying times -- in providing comfort, resilience, and hope, for instance --, we anticipate that access to such an Ad Hoc Fund will grant our groups the ability to pursue the development of initiatives such as prayer vigils, interfaith understanding efforts, and service projects that will prove ever more relevant and necessary. Additionally, the Forum has seen much indication of student interest from individuals outside of the world religions that are already represented in our groups. Between Brahmachari's support and encouragement of students from eastern religions -- most specifically, the Sikh students on campus whom we expect to apply for New Club Development next year -- as well as the two proposed student organizations who applied for CMSF this spring, the Forum desires to engage and respond to such individuals and organizations, which the Ad Hoc Fund will enable us to do.

**CERTIFICATION:**

By signing below, I hereby certify that the information enclosed is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

**Funding Request Form Submitted By:** Jared Ison (jbi5) and Julia Greenwood (jkg50)

**Name of Group Student Chair:** Jared Ison

**Signature (type your name):** Jared Ison

**Name of Group Advisor:** Lisa Bennett, Assistant Director for Student Engagement

**Signature (type your name):** Lisa Bennett

**Date:** 2/17/17

**Contact Email:** lisa.bennett@georgetown.edu

**Contact Phone Number:** 202-687-0983