

To the Senators of the Finance and Appropriations Committee,

The Student Activities Commission is tasked by the University to support the growth and development of student groups and activities at Georgetown University, and accordingly we intend to advocate on behalf of the wide variety of organizations that SAC oversees. We fear the level of funding that GUSA has provided SAC in its FY19 draft budget will not adequately allow the Commission to fulfill this purpose. While we recognize that budget constraints prevent FinApp from awarding SAC its full ask for FY19, we implore the Committee to consider funding SAC at \$275,000 for FY19 to meet the growing demands of student entrepreneurship while continuing to support Georgetown University's signature organizations and events.

SAC's initial budget proposal to the Committee was designed to increase our ad hoc and travel funds by 50 and 18 percent respectively. SAC understands the hesitation that individual senators may feel about authorizing an increase in these funds when we can not exactly say what that funding will be used for right now. However, the Commission is certain that FinApp can appreciate our efforts to move toward an allocation system that fine tunes funding to better serve and minimize costs on individual events. A greater emphasis on ad hoc and travel funds allows SAC to more accurately allocate funds where they are most needed, and, importantly, avoid over-funding events; additionally, it provides more room for sizeable groups to enter "Restoration" and become better acquainted with SAC policies.

A large portion of our ad hoc funding has recently been dedicated to more high-profile groups in the non-budgeted "Restoration" status. For example, the International Relations Club failed to submit a budget by SAC's Fall deadline, and, per SAC policy, the group entered Restoration. SAC has realized the benefits of closely reviewing clubs in Restoration, as ad hoc approval of allocations provides a fuller understanding of individual event costs. However, this increase in oversight requires budgetary apportionment as described in the FY19 ask. Rather than thinking of ad hoc funding as purely an unpredictable expense pool, it should be thought of as a method for SAC to tighten control over its groups and ultimately provide a more efficient budgetary ask.

Over the past fiscal year, SAC has experimented with hard per-person spending caps on travel funding. In the Fall, SAC enforced a \$150 per person cap which resulted in stringent cuts to many presented events. In the Spring, SAC loosened this policy to allow groups to avoid the cap on their first travel event. Moving forward, SAC is requesting additional funds for travel so as to maintain financial flexibility for groups with restricting financial positions. With the current draft budget, the hard cap will likely need to be reinstated across all events. While SAC has no problem doing so, FinApp should know that it will prevent a significant number of students from participating in travel events, as so many already must pay out of pocket.

Additionally, funding for events often manifests itself in GUPD and space costs--factors that vary substantially up until the event actually occurs. SAC strictly abides by its decision to fund these two costs in full through ad hoc, as we do not believe student organizations should bear the brunt of this unjust University policy in the first place. FinApp has seen how much of a burden this places on SAC funds, but greater emphasis should be placed on what exactly this conscious choice to fund in full empowers students to do. \$3,500 went to the South Asian Society for the space costs alone of Rangila, one of Georgetown's most beloved cultural events that more than 500 students participate in every year. Right to Life was arbitrarily quoted at \$4,340 in GUPD costs for its annual Cardinal O'Connor Conference, an incredible event that embodies our Catholic and Jesuit heritage here at Georgetown. Finally, when many of our organizations partner with Lecture Fund for high-profile speaker events, SAC consistently covers significant portions of the total cost, such as those of the College Republicans for hosting Ben Shapiro, which was originally quoted at over \$10,000 in GUPD costs alone.

All of these examples suffice to show that SAC's influence is vast, and that our organization's programming affects the entirety of the undergraduate community. SAC views our diversity as a strength, reflective of the wealth of identities, cultures, and ideas that Georgetown has to offer. We also recognize that this commitment to diversity makes SAC a primary candidate for new clubs; while we support each and every club that is awarded to us, it is important to visualize the relative economic impact on our board. As such, we estimate that the **twenty** new organizations in SAC's NCD process will put an additional strain of \$24,614.28 with the potential to reach \$32,571.42 in budget proposals over the next two semesters, which is a significant increase not even fully covered by the allocation proposed by FinApp.¹ Traditionally, we see half of our NCD groups receive full access to benefits each semester, so it is quite possible that all 20 of our current NCD groups will need full funding from SAC by the close of FY19.

Furthermore, it is important to note that even while these groups are in NCD, they still have full access to the ad hoc fund as they program throughout the semester. This means that before they are even fully recognized by the Commission, NCD groups place a significant strain on our resources. Thus, SAC hopes to receive additional funding to bear the many strains on our ad-hoc fund, which include NCD groups, groups in restoration, and GUPD and space costs. Moreover, SAC looks to provide students with equal opportunity to participate in club travel events. We recognize that FinApp cannot fulfill our full ask, but it is our hope that this additional \$12,000 will get the Commission closer to appropriately funding the wonderful programming of our student-led organizations.

¹ Figures were reached by averaging Spring budget allocations awarded to the six organizations SAC admitted through NCD in FY18, then scaling upwards to represent twenty new groups for a full fiscal year.