

GUSA Finance and Appropriations Training

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Today's Goals:

1. Prepare you for a year of **thoughtful analysis** of student activity fee funding
2. Establish a baseline **understanding** of University finances
3. Clarify the **role of FinApp** relative to Advisory Boards and others
4. Identify **common questions** and issues facing student activity funding

Agenda:

1. Student Life Funding Structures (where \$\$ comes from)
2. Basics of University finances (how \$\$ is spent)
3. GUSA Finances
4. Timeline
5. Role of Senate/FinApp

Who gets funding?

How much funding is there?

How is student life at Georgetown funded?



1. Tuition contribution from Student Affairs
2. Small contribution from Coke contract (\$7448 per board)
3. Student Activity Fees

Helpful things to know about funding:

Estimated based on 6500
undergraduate, fee-paying
students

GUSA required to set aside
3% in Reserve account

Groups cannot get funds
both directly from FinApp
AND from Advisory Board

Here are some numbers

	2017		2018		2019		2020		FY21-Draft		
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Projected	Budget	
Amount (\$)	\$998,202	\$994,863	\$1,000,640	\$1,009,842	\$1,081,744	\$1,028,284	\$1,092,000	\$538,188	\$1,076,376	\$1,079,247	
Students Charged	6,278	6,257	6,254	6,312	6,596	6,270	6,500	6,407	6,407	6,311	Average of prior years
Fee	\$159	\$159	\$160	\$160	\$164	\$164	\$168	\$84	\$168	\$171	Based on inflation

History of Student Activity Funding

A History of the Georgetown Student Activity Fee

1999	2001	2006	2010	2011	2014
Report on Student Life Calls for more funding for student activities. Previously, approximately \$350K allocated from Student Affairs	Referendum to impose the SA Fee passes Gradual increase to \$100 /student over 3 years; 50% of fee designated for an endowment	GUSA Accountability & Reform Referendum Changes GUSA Constitution to vest plenary power for all funds, including SA Fee, with GUSA	An Act to Modify the Bylaws to Improve Student Activity Funding Vests power to allocate SA Fee solely w/FinApp	Referendum to Increase and Reallocate the SA Fee Increases fee to \$150+; Discontinues the Endowment funding; Dissolves endowment	Memorandum from Student Affairs reallocating the tuition allocations to boards 2018: Increase in the number of Senators on FinApp



FinApp: Then (2009) and Now (2018)

Original Funding Board Priorities

The original funding board identified seven goals for increased funding in *priority order*:

1. Benefit to on-campus community
2. Benefit to off-campus community
3. Record of efficient use of funds
4. Funding need to meet current programming
5. Use of capital improvement funds
6. Availability of alternative sources of revenue
7. Possibility for new/expanded programming

Georgetown Financial Basics



Georgetown Funding: A (Brief) Overview

What is an Advisory Board?

- Grant Access to Benefits including recognition of group mission
- Grants/approves funding from start to finish
- Responsible for ensuring broader “student life” priorities

What is a Student Organization?

- Constituted to fulfill a specific mission
- Uses resources (\$\$\$) in support of that mission
- May be under an Advisory Board OR may be an Administrative Group (under a department)

What's the difference
between GUSA, Advisory
Boards, and Student Orgs?

Put a check mark next to the statement if it is true for ...	GUSA	Advisory Board	Admin Group	Student Organization
Has a University financial account	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grants Access to Benefits		✓		
Has a University advisor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Has a dedicated Reserve Account	✓	✓	✓	
Allocates funding to BOARDS	✓			
Allocates funding to GROUPS		✓		
Allocates funding to EVENTS			✓	✓
Is accountable for over/under-spending?	✓	✓	✓	✓
Creates beneficial experiences for students	✓	✓	✓	✓
Creates beneficial experiences for non-students (DC community, alumni, families, others)			✓	✓

Access to Benefits

- The way that Georgetown University creates relationships with student organizations/entities
- Granted through Advisory Boards (SAC, PAAC, etc.) or from Departments (GPB, MSB student orgs, GUSVA, etc.)
- Benefits including **funding**, use of **campus spaces**, use of GU **name/marks**, use of other **resources**
- Specific benefits interpreted at Board level, under ***funding guidelines***

Access to Benefits (continued)

Relevant Policies:

- Access to Benefits
- Student Org Standards
(Eligibility for University Benefits)
- Speech and Expression
- Found at:
studentaffairs.georgetown.edu/policies.html

What makes a group ineligible?

- Profit-seeking
- Exclusionary
- Duplicative
- Core mission advocating against Catholic social teaching
- Etc.

Georgetown Finances: A (Brief) Overview

Types of Accounts:

- Operating Accounts - current year use, rolls back each year
- Reserve Accounts - designated for rollback funds, and for covering shortages
- Gift Accounts - External funds, must be spent *per donor specifications*, **in year received**

Funding & Event Approvals:

- Organizational **budgets, programs and initiatives** are approved by Advisory Boards, while **expenditures** are approved/facilitated by advisors
- Each Advisory Board has different **funding guidelines** that determine spending priorities and principles

GUSA Finances

Executive:

- Proposes GUSA Budget through the Executive election process & timeline
- Budget includes lines for Executive priorities in next year
- Historically designates some \$\$ to GUSA Fund for collaborative efforts
- GUSA Fund bound to University financial policies

Senate:

- Oversees the balance of GUSA budget, after GUSA Executive priorities are funded and GUSA Fund line is accounted for
- Approves expenditures over \$500
- Main priority is SA Fee allocation/approval

Student Activity Fee Funding Process

Sequence and Timeline:

- Fee Funding Application released in January
 - Application A (Standard) vs. Application B (Periodic)
- Timed to coincide with the Executive Election
- Budget Summit in late February
- Proposed allocation legislation
- Public Comment Period
- Passed out of FinApp Committee to whole Senate
- Approved by Senate
- Distributed to AMD and SA Business Officer
- Allocation transfers made in July/January

What makes Georgetown
student life _____?

Imagine that you
have to make a very
important decision.

What questions do you ask?

What information do you
need?

Who do you consult?

How do you evaluate
consequences?

How do you know if you are
“right?”

Role of FinApp

Responsibilities of the FinApp Committee:

- Be KNOWLEDGEABLE about the Student Activity Funding process
- Think “Big Picture” about funding needs
- Educate others - your constituents, your fellow Hoyas - about the Student Activity Fee

Responsibilities as a LIAISON to an Advisory Board

- Know the board’s purpose and function
- Understand the board’s priorities
- Represent GUSA and the funding process to the board
- Share information in both directions (Board//FinApp)
- Ask how you can support your board
- Use your vantage point to seek alignments or efficiencies

Final Reflections?
Questions?