**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. How did your organization affect student life? Can you measure it?
2. How many clubs/groups are under your organization? Please list them.
3. What were significant challenges for your organization over the past year?
4. What were significant successes for your organization over the past year?
5. Do you have any budget concerns for the next 5-10 years?
6. What level of financial risk does your organization incur?
7. Your organization received a funding increase for FY13 because of SAFE Reform. Was this a fair increase? What was the affect of SAFE Reform?
8. If you are requesting more funding for FY14 than FY13 please explain why.
9. How could the Budget Summit process be improved this year? How could relations with GUSA be improved?

1. Club sports are an ever-increasing aspect of student life at Georgetown. There are over 1100 club sport athletes; that means roughly one in every six undergraduate Hoyas is in involved in a club sport. The Advisory Board for Club sports has helped this number continue to grow. There are currently 31 different club sports, with Golf being the most recent addition just this year. With three teams in new club development, Badminton, Weightlifting and Wrestling, club sports are continuously increasing in scope and size.

Not only does a large percentage of the student body partake in club sports, but many students also spend a significant amount of time training, practicing, and competing. Field teams alone make use of about 21 hours on the Multi Sport Field each week (excluding weekends), our indoor and pool teams make regular use of Yates’ facilities, and still other teams use space in the local area. In the fall alone, teams traveled to a combined 72 tournaments or games on top of any home competitions they had in Georgetown. Last year, 8 teams attended regional tournaments with a number of teams making appearances at national level tournaments. Already this year we have received 9 nationals/regional’s requests and are expecting many more. What makes Club Sports unique is that we offer athletes who could have played at the varsity level the opportunity to compete on the nationally, as well as the opportunity for students who cannot compete at the varsity level to continue playing sports consistently at a competitive level. Participation in club sports also offers many student leadership opportunities.

Clearly, club sports have become a huge part of student life on campus, and ABCS has worked hard to promote even further participation. Moreover, our organization has taken strides to foster a greater club sports community. We have reached out to teams and individual players with a newsletter to keep all the athletes informed about their fellow club sports competitors and any updates on what ABCS has been able to do. This fall we welcomed all club sports athletes back to campus with a Welcome BBQ designed to connect interested freshman with the leaders of our teams. Last year, we hosted a semi-formal just for club sports athletes and this year plan on hosting a banquet to honor both team and individual athlete achievements. Our aim is for all club sports athletes to seem themselves as not only a part of their individual team, but as a part of a greater athletic community on campus.

2. There are 31 teams with Access to Benefits under ABCS. They are (in alphabetical order): Baseball (Men’s), Boxing, Cycling, Equestrian, Fencing, Field Hockey, Fishing, Golf, Ice Hockey (Men’s), Men’s Basketball, Men’s Lacrosse, Men’s Rugby, Men’s Soccer, Men’s Squash, Men’s Ultimate Frisbee, Men’s Volleyball, Men’s Water Polo, Rock Climbing, Running, Softball (Women’s), Swimming, Tennis, Triathlon, Women’s Basketball, Women’s Lacrosse, Women’s Rugby, Women’s Soccer, Women’s Squash, Women’s Ultimate Frisbee, Women’s Volleyball, and Women’s Water Polo. Unless otherwise noted, all teams are co-ed.

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3. This year the Advisory Board of Club Sports continued to battle with the perennial problems of managing sports teams in a city setting in addition to new challenges involving the expansion and development of our organization. As always, ABCS has struggled to deal with limited field and court space throughout the year. Whether it be MSF or Yates courts, limited space continues to be a major issue facing our organization. As of now our Board does not have the resources to find solutions to this problem i.e. renting a separate field, using courts or spaces at local schools, or properly lighting local fields so that they can be effectively used.

A newer problem facing our board is the issue of concussion testing and treatment. We have run into legal problems with Risk Management in the implementation of these tests, and are working to solve these issues and successfully begin the program. Last year GUSA graciously funded our request to implement a program for concussion testing for club sport athletes, and seeing as concussions are one of the most important and prevalent issues in the world of sports, we would like to do everything possible to ensure that we can continue this program.

Finally, ABCS has set a goal of bringing an Athletic Trainer for Club Sports to Georgetown. We have faced several challenges in this process including finding an appropriate space to work as an office for this trainer, securing funds to employ this trainer through the school, and solving any potential legal obstacles to instituting this trainer at the school.

4. While limited in resources, the Advisory Board for Clubs sports has had many successes this year. As a board we have developed many long-term and short-term goals, and this year we were able to accomplish many of them. One of our biggest goals has been to develop and foster a stronger club sports community on campus. We began this process last year with our club sports formal and club sports t-shirts, and we continued to strengthen this community this year with the creation of a biannual club sports newsletter. Along with the newsletter, we created a list-serve consisting of all club sports athletes as a way of communicating with the entire club sports community, as a opposed to just communicating with club sports leaders. We have also created a clubs sports Facebook page and twitter account in an effort to maintain communication with our athletes. Another one of our long-term goals is to hire a trainer for club sports athletes. While this is a goal we are still working towards, we have made great strides this year. Along with the athletic trainer, we have also made great progress with allowing each of our club sports athletes to receive baseline concussion tests. Lastly, we are currently in the process of developing a Campus Recreation Advisory Board, which would consists of individuals from Yates, athletics and the club sports community. This board would help to facilitate better communication between these various groups.

5. Though our budget has overall increased in the past few years, last year saw a reduction in the overall allocation to Club Sports. Because of the reduction, ABCS had to cut back on the funding that our teams receive, leaving teams to make the difficult decision of whether to limit travel or make up the difference in dues. For the next 5 – 10 years, ABCS would like to continue improving the experience of every club sport athlete on campus. However, to do so we would need to be sure that our funding would not get cut in the future.

ABCS and members of GUSA have been working together to come up with a proposal for the implementation of athletic trainers. While the necessary funds to get the program off the ground have been included in this budget proposal, we would like to make sure that there will be adequate funds for this program in addition to our normal organization activities in the future. The purpose of providing athletic training services to club sports athletes would be to enhance the experience and ensure the safety of each athlete, but if maintaining this service would drastically cut into the funds for our teams, we need to assess the added benefit for all club sports athletes as well as the feasibility.

6. ABCS incurs very little financial risk. We do not give out loans for our teams and ask that they do some amount of fundraising, whether through dues or other means, to ensure that teams are using their money wisely. We require a detailed budget from each team at the end of the year that we go through line-by-line to make sure that teams are being fiscally responsible. While we occasionally have teams that end the semester in the red, representatives of ABCS and our advisor help monitor the budgets of our teams as well as approve equipment purchases, trips, and any other spending.

7. The Advisory Board for Club Sports actually received a decrease for the latest fiscal year and it forced us to make some tough decisions. As a result of the decrease, we could rarely give teams what they requested for their seasons. We had to tell teams to either spend less when traveling, or travel less, which often meant less competition for teams. Furthermore, this forced us to put a cap on the National Tournament allocations. Nearly every team that submitted a National Tournament allocation request, requested more than the cap, meaning that in order to fund their trip to compete on the highest level, teams had to fundraise more than in the past, or ask for additional dues from their players. With increased participation and more teams, the budget cut has been a burden and has hurt one of the most unique aspects of club sports, traveling to compete at high levels.

8. This year we are requesting a large budget increase. Due to insufficient funding last year, we foresee using funds from our reserve account to cover the rest of ABCS costs and nationals requests. In our efforts to further foster camaraderie within club sports athletes, we are requesting additional funds to host such events as our Welcome BBQ, the awards banquet, and other community events. Club Sports will also now offer up to $500 to teams in New Club Development, who can use the funds to help complete new club requirements. This should lessen the cost for participants during new club development and the funds will be available based on case-by-case budget requests. In an effort to increase club team travel, the estimated allocation for each team is a 10% increase in the allocation from last year. In an effort to ensure that all resources are being utilized to the fullest, teams with large remaining balances from the previous year will receive a slightly smaller allocation from club sports as well as a decrease in the revenue expected in order to both lower dues and encourage fiscal responsibility.

ABCS also is starting up an athletic training program. After conversing with schools of similar sizes and resources, ABCS representatives and GUSA representatives have written an Athletic Training proposal in order to offer athletic trainers to our athletes. Such a program would require funds for equipment costs, trainer salary, and a fund for equipment upkeep and program growth. $41,600 per year is the median pay for 2010 Athletic Trainers nationwide. It costs approximately $15-30/hour for an Athletic Trainer with a masters in science/athletic training. After reviewing different options, we have decided to hire two part time trainers to work a total of 8 hours Monday – Thursday and on Saturdays. The hours would be split between office hours and appointments during the day and four hours during the evening peak practice times. This would come to a total of 40 hours a week. To have the trainer present from September to November and January through April, we would employ two trainers to work a total of approximately 1120 hours a year. At an hourly rate of $22.32 an hour the total for the year would come to $25,000. We would also include an extra $5000 for hours outside of the regular schedule that the trainer would work (ie. Tournament travel, Friday or Sunday games). In addition to the costs for a trainer salary, starting a training program would necessitate $11,000 in start up equipment. With $150 first aid kit replacement costs, this would bring the total cost of starting the Athletic Training Program to $41,150.

9.   The Budget Summit has made many positive changes over the past few years and could benefit from a few small adjustments. To make things logistically easier, documents on Hoyalink could be put into Microsoft Word format. In addition, an extra meeting with someone from the Finance and Appropriations committee who is familiar with ABCS procedures and funding history would be helpful in demonstrating how to best set up our budget and address any concerns GUSA may have. Sam Greco was really helpful when we were discussing our submission as a board, but it could also be helpful to meet with someone who can explain the allocation that we were given for this year as well as what GUSA would prefer to see us do with our funding. In the past, we have focused on items such as cutting dues, increasing travel, and this year on Athletic Training. By understanding GUSA’s specific focus beforehand, ABCS can come to the budget summit with numbers prepared for next year addressing those concerns. This information about particular financial concerns would be very helpful in improving our relations with GUSA. In addition, the budget process could be pushed back later in the semester to a time when organizations have a better grasp on the actual numbers for the current fiscal year.