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 by **Friday, February 17, 2017 at 11:59 pm.**

**PART A.**

Name of Organization: Advisory Board of Club Sports

Mission of Organization: To support the Club Sports teams of Georgetown

Total Amount of Funding Requested: **$271,484.91**

**PART C.**

Please answer the following questions individually:

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

Our community is frequently described as accepting and welcoming of all, on an ever increasingly competitive Georgetown campus. We provide a team, home, and family for 1,024 Georgetown students (approximately 1 in 7 undergrads) who play on one of our 32 teams. Georgetown University believes in developing students in concordance with the principle of cura personalis, care for the whole person, and as part of that well-rounded development many students choose to supplement their curriculum with athletic pursuits. Club Sports continues to grow every year, and we are continually working to add new teams to provide opportunities for competition for all types of athletes. Additionally, Georgetown Club Sports teams represent our community at tournaments across the country each year and uphold our school’s standards of excellence. Club Sports contributes to student life by creating opportunities for leadership in the student body. Each team is student-run, and while ABCS oversees all team spending, ABCS trained team officers take care of day-to-day operations for each team.

2. How many clubs/groups compose your organization? Please list them, noting especially any clubs/groups added (or planned to be added) within FY17.

ABCS currently oversees 32 Club Sports here on campus. They include: (in alphabetical order) Badminton, Baseball, Boxing, Equestrian, Fencing, Field Hockey, Figure Skating, Golf, Men's Basketball, Men’s Ice Hockey, Men’s Lacrosse, Men’s Rugby, Men's Soccer, Men's Squash, Men's Ultimate, Men's Volleyball, Men's Water Polo, Polo, Rock Climbing, Running, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Triathlon, Women's Basketball, Women's Lacrosse, Women's Rugby Women's Soccer, Women's Squash, Women's Ultimate, Women's Volleyball, Women's Water Polo.

Men’s Lacrosse was added during FY17, Archery was admitted to NCD in FY17 but was removed later that year due to insufficient programming.

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

Field space and the Athletic Trainer program are the two issues that have defined the Club Sports Community for the past several years. They also represent our community’s largest challenge and success from the past year. Largely due to these two areas of concern, ABCS has been forced to consistently lower its financial allocations to teams, which has lead to a much higher cost falling on our students.

As most are aware, Kehoe field has plunged the Club Sports Community into a free fall. We are quite literally working on a week to week basis to find adequate field space for times when Cooper is not available. A large portion of the problem can be addressed through our partnership with Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, however these fields come at a fee that will cost ABCS $10,000 this year. To further complicate the situation, Cooper Field will be without lights for two months next semester. As all of our allocated practice times on Cooper fall after sunset, we will not be able to utilize Cooper Field during that time. This will force us to drastically increase our use of Visitation (hence the higher request). ABCS is also continuing its own search for off campus fields that have lights. These fields can be up to two miles away. The cost of transportation to these fields would come from this budget item.

Due to the massive capital costs of off campus fields and the cost of funding an Athletic Trainer, our athletes have had to take on an unrealistic and cost prohibitive portion of their team’s budgets. The average Club Sports athlete now pays around $150 a year in Club Sports dues *on top of* their Student Activities Fee, with the lowest team dues per year at $50, and highest team dues per year at $960. ABCS hopes to address this issue via two strategies. First, we intend to allocate as much of our budget to our teams as possible, planning for over 95% of our allocation to go directly to teams. Given that we continue to have community costs, our ability to do this depends largely on our overall allocation from the Finance and Appropriations Committee. The higher this number, the lower the dues for the average student, which will allow more people to participate in one of the most welcoming communities on campus.

Our second strategy is to pilot a dues scholarship fund. Every year, we have at least 15 teams approach ABCS or our Advisor Jihye to ask what they should do about an athlete who cannot afford their team’s dues. Our current system has forced that team to move money around in their own budget, to the detriment of the entire team, to accommodate the players who cannot afford dues. This is a sacrifice our teams are happy to make, but it is not one they should have to. We intend to create a $3,000 fund that will be used solely to assist students who come to ABCS without the ability to cover dues. This fund will rollover to our next active budget rather than moving to our reserves, ensuring that the money is used only for its original purpose, which is to make our community more inclusive.

One huge success our community has enjoyed is securing our Athletic Trainer (AT) Program. As this body is aware, ABCS has been relying heavily on the Student Activities Fee and our own Reserve account to fund the program. Moving forward, Student Affairs has agreed to fund over 90% of the program progressing to 96% over three years. This year, ABCS is responsible for covering $12,000 of the AT’s salary. ABCS has determined the best way to split this will be equally between the Student Activities Fee, our reserve account, and our students who directly benefit from the program. Next year ABCS’ allocation will be reduced by $4,000 and our requests to the Student activities fee will end. This is the last time we will have to ask this body for money to fund the AT program. ABCS would like to express deep gratitude to the Finance and Appropriations Committee for its commitment to getting this program off the ground and understanding its importance.

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

ABCS’ largest budget concern moving forward is managing field space. We hope that the Administration will recognize the importance of the Club Sports program and commit to pursue a short-term solution for Kehoe Field. As we write this we know that that project has a 12-18 month construction timeline. So, even if that decision is made in the coming month, which we do not expect, we will be without a field for at least a year possibly two.

Outside of field space ABCS needs to address the cost prohibitive level of our current dues. This issue is described in detail above.

5 What level of financial risk does your organization incur?

ABCS incurs a very low level of financial risk. As a board, we are committed to using our money efficiently and effectively. We are in constant communication with the leadership of all our teams and continue to stress the importance of “spending to zero.” ABCS takes the time to educate the student leaders of each team on responsible spending practices and creates clear expectations for the utilization of all allocations.

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

ABCS feels that while restructuring was not ultimately successful, the process increased communication between and among the relevant stakeholders and significantly helped the situation. Moving forward, increasing advisory board inclusion in the decision-making process, even if only in an advisory role, would do wonders for making boards feel they are being heard.

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

As we explain in question 3, our two areas of concern are field space and dues. We understand that the Finance and Appropriations committee has a finite amount of money to allocate and that there are many vital groups that also rely on your allocations. With this in mind we acknowledge that it is unlikely you will be able to fully fund our request. What ABCS wants to communicate is that, unlike other boards, if our allocation gets cut our programming doesn’t shrink, rather the cost that falls on students increases. This practice prohibits inclusivity. Club sports require large budgets and should ask for some buy in. We respectfully submit that $50 (in addition to the student activities fee) is a reasonable buy in; $150 is prohibitive for many students.

**CERTIFICATION:**

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

**Funding Request Form Submitted By: Daniel Fain**

**Name of Group Student Chair: Daniel Fain**

**Signature (type your name): Daniel Fain**

**Name of Group Advisor: Jihye Kim**

**Signature (type your name): Jihye Kim**

**Date: February 17, 2017**

**Contact Email: Daniel Fain, dbf40@georgetown.edu**

**Contact Phone Number: Daniel Fain, (608) 669-5665**