GUSA Finance & Appropriations Committee

**FY19 Budget Summit**

Student Activity Fee Funding Application

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

Please email this application and accompanying materials to gusafinanceandappropriations@gmail.com by **Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 5:00 pm.**

**PART A.**

Name of Organization: Lecture Fund

Mission of Organization: The Georgetown University Lecture Fund is a non-partisan student-run organization that exists to enrich the academic experience of the Georgetown community. We strive to bring speakers to Georgetown's campus to enlighten, educate and, occasionally, entertain.

The Lecture Fund arranges forums on a variety of topics, ranging from nuclear energy alternatives to urban economics. Along with these discussions, the Lecture Fund hosts an active calendar of individual speakers addressing a wide range of subjects and disciplines.

Total Amount of Funding Requested: $98,000

**PART B.**

Please fill out the Application A Financial Information excel document.

**PART C.**

Please attach a copy of the budgeting guidelines used by your organization for any and all purposed.

**PART D.**

Please answer the following questions individually:

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

The Lecture Fund affects student life by bringing dialogue to campus. Dialogue can take on many forms, and our various speakers from different walks of life, viewpoints and professional arenas each bring a unique conversation, which seeks to challenge, inspire, inform and improve campus conversation. Our events are always free for Georgetown students, ensuring that every student is able to benefit and join in the conversation we seek to create. Some people may attempt to measure this effect by the attendance at our lectures and while this is important it is by no means an accurate metric of the impact. There is a quote we often look back on which says that “you might ask 10 people what lecture quality means and get 10 different answers, but people will know it when they see it.” We are at our most effective when we help them to see it.

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

Currently the only outside group that falls under the umbrella of the Lecture Fund is TEDX. Additionally, we have added our General Body membership, not as a sub group, but as a new critical part of our organization to allow more students to access to our mission in addition to our Associate Board.

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

The main successes of our group this fiscal year have been our lectures. We have brought in diverse speakers whom provided a range of thoughts, experiences and conversations for the campus. Our biggest strength has been the relevancy of these conversations. We brought Tammy Duckworth to speak about war on the Korean Peninsula shortly after she returned from a diplomatic visit there. We brought Scott Schoettes shortly after his resignation from the President’s HIV/AIDS Advisory Council. In the near future we will be bringing a New York Times reporter who broke the Harvey Weinstein story during April, which serves as sexual assault awareness month. These unique individuals are brining the most important conversations of our time to our campus.

That being said, our main struggle was finding financial funding for our events. Many of the events we put on, as a result of their nature were expensive and even after we negotiated down the price of a lot of these figures; it remained tough to fully fund high quality events. Once we reach a number that is the maximum we can provide from our budget, we then become dependent upon outside sources to provide additional funding which can be a challenge. Because it is paramount to our mission to keep our events free for Georgetown students, we cannot raise funds through fees and anything above our budget abilities becomes reliant upon other groups co-sponsorship abilities.

An additional challenge has been the implementation of our General Body. It has been a great work in progress, but we are trying to figure out how to get more engagement. This semester it seems we already have more students engaged and planning to participate and we hope this continues to grow. We hope to invest more resources in the future to make the next years’ General Bodies capable to accomplish even more.

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

Our primary budget concern for the future is that honorariums keep going up for speakers as a result of the industry and the increasing popularity of individuals as time progresses. If we are unable to increase our funding to keep up with this increase, we become less capable of bringing the highest caliber of speakers.

1. What level of financial risk does your organization incur?

Fortunately, the Lecture Fund does not incur a huge amount of finical risk when making allocations. If a speaker does not accept our offer or does not sign a contract to come, we simply do not spend the money.

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

Our relations with GUSA have always been extremely positive. Our Fin App senators have been great and understanding, and we’ve maintained a solid working relationship. For our organization specifically, the tough thing is that when considering our budget we aren’t able to provide exact numbers for the future. The Budget process could be improved if Fin App keeps in mind how tough it is for us to say we are going to be spending money on x next year, as we don’t know our speaker lineup until long after we get our budget allocation. We won’t know we have Edward Snowden costing x amount until he agrees to come meaning we have to make game time decisions.

1. If you are requesting more funding for FY19 than FY18, please explain why.

The Lecture Fund is requesting additional funding for FY19 because we have been extremely relevant in our events and want to continue to be relevant and bring the most important and compelling speakers for the times. We are requesting the amount of money we actually spent this year, which was due to a change in reserve accounts and us having to reach out to a lot of co-sponsors for money. Our Addressable FY18 Budget was $92,865 and to have the same level of programming we need to operate with at least this budget for next year otherwise we are not optimizing our full potential as an organization. We are requesting $98,000 because we initially allocated $25,500 in Co-Sponsorships and $8,000 of that fell through because of additional costs that could not be covered. Given that we are trying to do more and honorarium costs go up we need at least this money to continue doing the work we’ve been doing and to have the financial means to improve it. We will continue to reach out and find new sources for funding however we believe an increase is necessary because we can’t operate with rising costs in the speaker industry without be able to increase our ability to make offers.

**PART E.**

Please ensure your organization continues to comply with the 2010 6-Point Reform Plan by **commenting in the affirmative and detailing** how your group is compliant for each of the 6 points individually.

1. The total balance of any advisory board’s reserve account shall not be excessive (as deemed by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs), and boards with surplus funds should provide a plan for their reserves.

Yes. The Lecture Fund does not intended to have excess funds and should there ever be a surplus we would provide a plan for our reserve accounts to ensure the funds were going directly to speaker events

2. An appeals process shall be implemented and publicized, where such processes do not already exist, for clubs that are denied full funding for an activity or annual budget under its advisory board.

Yes. The Lecture Fund allows appellant groups to attend meetings and request funds for monetary allocation subject to a majority vote by the associate board. While we cannot provide an allocation for every co-sponsorship, Board members are available to provide the man-power, expertise, marketing and logistical support to put on an event.

3. Clubs shall have the option of requesting a lump sum, annual budget with an opportunity to reapply for additional funding from its advisory board.

Yes. The Lecture Fund allows clubs under our umbrella, outside clubs and individual students to attend meetings and request funds for monetary allocation subject to a majority vote by the associate board.

4. All meetings and recorded minutes of all meetings of an advisory board shall be open to the public, including any and all votes, and that all records are posted online in a timely fashion.

Yes. The Lecture Fund allows public attendance of meetings in order to pitch potential co-sponsorship events. Due to the confidential nature of some speaking arrangements, the Lecture Fund complies with GUSA and the Universities policies for when this informational shall be made public

5. Members of the advisory board are, in some way, directly accountable to their constituents or to the student body in general, such as having GUSA Senate confirmation or being elected by the leaders of the clubs they represent.\*

Yes. The interview committee of the Lecture Fund selects members of the Lecture Fund associate board. Executive Board members are elected by the Associate Board and serve as the leaders of the club holding others accountable and are in turn held accountable by the remainder of the board.

6. Clubs have reasonable control over all funds that they fundraise outside of the  normal allocations process.

Yes. Any funds gained through co-sponsorship requests with outside groups are managed and controlled by the Treasurer, advisor and executives of the board.

\*The committee is aware that the structure of boards has changed in the past eight years; please note ‘such as’ merely indicates examples of how accountability is manifested and focus on the spirit of the Point.

**CERTIFICATION:**

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

**Funding Request Form Submitted By: Isabelle Hupez**

**Name of Group Student Chair: Aiden Johnson**

**Signature of Group Student Chair (type your name): Aiden Johnson**

**Name of Group Advisor: Ali Stowe**

**Signature of Group Advisor (type your name): Ali Stowe**

**Date: 2/12/2018**

**Contact Email: Isabelle Hupez**

**Contact Phone Number: 202 765 4252**