GPB Appellate Explanatory Report

To the GUSA Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee,

First off, we want to extend our humblest gratitude to GUSA and the FinApp committee for taking time out of their lives to arbitrate the budget summit and allocate funding for clubs on Georgetown’s campus. We appreciate the trust and support that GUSA gives to GPB every year and its continued belief in our mission and presence on campus. Our financial responsibility is something we take very seriously in GPB, and we are grateful that you appreciate the hard work we put into ensuring every penny is accounted for and used in the best way possible. It has helped a lot to have the support of Samuel Dubke, our FinApp advisor, who has tirelessly and graciously answered all questions we have asked throughout this process. We could not be GPB without you, so thank you.

We are taking this opportunity to appeal for the $4,924 deficit between our ask and received amount: we asked for $149,924 and received $145,000. Our initial proposal was the most informed and thorough calculation we’ve made based on previous years as well as the continued success of our programming this past year. After weeks of planning and projections, the $149,924 is the amount that would ensure GPB can remain the most positive and effective influence on campus life as a whole. The $4,924 would go to both our Events and Concerts budget, allowing for more robust and expansive events throughout the year.

This past year, our Events team have had to scale back some events due to their limited budget and could not actualize event ideas from general body members. This was especially painful to see because our general body members are the perfect source for new, exciting programming on campus, and they are oftentimes the future of GPB. The fact that we could not entertain even a portion of their ideas led to less general member engagement and fewer new ideas coming from our organization than we wish. Having events thought of by members allows students to feel more involved on campus and have a say in what Georgetown’s culture truly is. Members blaze a path forward for the creation of a better Georgetown as their voices are heard during our general and committee meetings. With the proposed budget increase, GPB’s increased impact on the formation of a better campus community would be a reality because the Events team will not be working on a constricting budget. People expect and want consistent programming from GPB, such as Mr. Georgetown, Haunted Healy or Funniest Human, but this increase would allow us to create new Georgetown traditions and favorites. The money going to the Events budget is the easiest way to improve students’ experiences on campus, not only through the events themselves, but also allowing members of the community to spearhead the change that they want to see on campus.

Similarly, an increase in GPB’s budget will go directly into the Concerts budget. This is a no-brainer for us at GPB because we understand the impact that the Spring Concert has on Georgetown’s community. Not only is it our largest event, it’s Georgetown’s largest event; it’s a time where everyone can come together, as Georgetown students, and collectively create an unforgettable moment. Our budget is small compared to universities in our vicinity or of similar caliber, yet we successfully pull off fun concerts regardless. However, a larger budget for the Concerts committee would allow us to have more artists and more famous artists. This is in Georgetown’s best interest because we could appeal to more genres and get more popular A-list artists to campus. Higher funding will ultimately lead to increased attendance and a stronger communal atmosphere at the Spring Concert. The psychological difference between a half-empty McDonough arena and a packed McDonough are huge, and the latter would mean more people are having more fun. To get into the specifics, the most basic stage built for the Spring Concert is $20,000. An increased budget of just $3,000 would allow us to get more lighting and even a video wall. Having the budget for a more elaborate stage means we’d be able to get more popular artists because they require fanicer stages to work with. With a more popular artist comes larger capacity, meaning more GUPD officers and even higher costs; thus, the concert requiring more funding is necessary across the board if GPB were allowed to scale up the event.

Here at GPB, we relish change. It brings learning opportunities and a place for growth. With the recent cessation of in-person classes, GPB must adapt to embrace this new challenge. We are in constant communication with each other, our CSE advisor, and other members of the Georgetown community to find the best way to keep up our mission of providing high-quality, low-cost entertainment to the Georgetown population. Obviously, many events will be cancelled and/or scaled back for the remainder of the semester, but we want to be defined by what we can do on campus, not on what we have had to cancel. Therefore, we are looking into all avenues to see how we can sustain programming on campus to the students that are remaining in DC while also keeping in mind the health and safety of students. There is no reason GPB should stop its programming because of the current situation; now more than ever that incredible Georgetown spirit and identity must be sustained to work through this international crisis. There is even greater urgency to have novel programming, possibly both virtual and on campus, to help keep everyone as excited and engaged as possible, especially to those who have nowhere else to go and must remain on campus. Of course, our priority is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of campus, so we are working with our board, our members, and the administration to evaluate what role GPB can play in the coming weeks and months.

Not only does our appellate amount continue to reflect the importance of GPB for Georgetown and its student body, but it also demonstrates our willingness and ability to adapt to the new situation that we face in the coming months. Yet, despite all that, GPB is committed to our mission and will continue to work tirelessly throughout our own executive transitions (and now remote environment) to ensure that each penny allocated to GPB enhances the student experience. We again thank the GUSA Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee for their commitment to this process, both before and now during this unfortunate situation, and we are ecstatic to continue this process as the Georgetown Program Board retains crucial importance to this campus.