GUSA Finance and Appropriations Training

Aysha M. Dos Director, Center for Student Engagement & Advisor to GUSA

Spring 2020

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**

**Referendum to**

**GUSA**

**An Act to Student Life**

**impose the SA**

**Accountability**

**Modify the Fee passes**

**& Reform**

**Bylaws to Referendum**

**Improve**

Calls for more

Gradual increase funding for student

**Memorandum from Student Affairs reallocating the**

activities. Previously,

**Student Activity Funding**

**tuition allocations to boards**

approximately $350K allocated from

to $100 /student over 3 years; 50% of fee designated

Student Affairs

for an endowment

**Referendum to Increase and Reallocate the SA Fee** Changes GUSA

Increases fee to Constitution to

$150+; vest plenary

Discontinues the power for all

Endowment funds, including

funding; SA Fee, with

Dissolves GUSA

endowment

**2018: Increase** Vests power to

**in the number** allocate SA Fee

**of Senators on** solely w/FinApp

**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 ✅

Creates beneficial experiences for

students ✅

Creates beneficial experiences for non-students (DC community, alumni, families, others)

Has a dedicated Reserve Account ✅

Allocates funding to BOARDS ✅

Allocates funding to GROUPS ✅

Allocates funding to EVENTS ✅

Grants Access to Benefits ✅

Has a University advisor ✅

Is accountable for over/under-spending? ✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

✅

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?