Dear Georgetown University Community,

I am pleased to announce the official FY21 Student Activity Fee (SAF) Allocation [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CEM3HTtHGWooFW664H_pGhrEdcl3ISXGSyaenr0RAqY/edit?usp=sharing). You may also find the voting record of the FY21 Budget Summit and the FY21 Appeals [here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14GR09atb_lIJIFuHlyM5hFXcIKcS-Vm8HMSMXUsTVvs/edit?usp=sharing).

The SAF is an annual fee of $168 that every Georgetown undergraduate student pays. The SAF fund for FY21 is predicted to be $1,072,000.00, which was redistributed across six Advisory Boards and diverse access-to-benefits organizations on campus by the GUSA Finance and Appropriations Committee (“the Committee”).

Every fiscal year, the Committee has the opportunity to allocate the SAF across Part A and Part B applicants. The Committee, per the GUSA Bylaws, give priority to Part A applicants, meaning those who have historically been supported by the University and which are considered essential to the enrichment of campus life. Part B Applicants do not have a guaranteed representation by the Committee, and may be declined due to limitations in funding and representatives.

The Committee is a board of thirteen students, of which nine of them are liaisons, and three are adjuncts. The role of the liaisons and adjuncts is that of being the eyes of the Committee on campus as they are in constant communication with their respective boards and organizations. The Committee’s commissioners also play an essential role in the distribution of the SAF during Budget Summit and Appeals as they hold the debate and the votes that shape the SAF allocation for the fiscal year in question.

Once a year, the Committee holds the Budget Summit, which is a one-day event in which applicants are allowed to present their funding requests. The Budget Summit is then followed by a period of deliberations, in which all members of the Committee maintain debate on the potential Allocation of the applicants. After the discussion ends, the Committee publishes a [report](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iZh8kI94bMopEin29aaOvHTzaolDLDnJKDENdJ_HlwQ/edit?usp=sharing) with the specific distributions of the recipients and their corresponding justifications. This process is then continued with Appeals and further deliberations.

The GUSA Bylaws require the Committee to follow a specific timeline in the completion of the SAF allocation. This academic year, the Committee held the Budget Summit on February 29, 2020, and received the GUSA Senate approval for the FY21 Final Report on March 29, 2020. Due to the particularity of this time, the initial timeline for the completion of the FY21 Final Report was extended from March 22, 2020, to March 29, 2020, as the Committee was forced to spread Appeals over three days.

The FY21 Allocation has come with particular challenges. Not only did the Committee receive an excess request of $164,650.99, but it was also involved in support of a Part A applicant in financial distress. Based on the limitations of funding and the interruption to student life on campus, the Committee made tough decisions on the distribution of the SAF for which it voted to postpone the installation of the Student Empowerment Fund (SEF).

As I hope you are aware, the Committee has been working on the creation of the SEF throughout this academic year. The SEF is intended to be a long-term investment fund that may complement the SAF by funding projects of undergraduate students that have the potential to improve life-quality on campus. The SEF is also proposed to expand and upgrade student spaces on campus that may facilitate experiences for different student organizations on campus. If you would like to learn more about this initiative, you may join us on Thursday, April 2, 2020, at 8 PM EST with this [link](https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/682537342).

Moving forward, the Committee will prioritize Bylaws changes that accommodate for the launching of the SEF on FY22. The Committee is committed to fulfilling its promises with the SEF, and it looks forward to working along the Georgetown University Investment Office to make this reality happen. If you have any concerns with relation to the SEF, please do not hesitate to reach out at [gusafinapp@georgetown.edu](mailto:gusafinapp@georgetown.edu).

Finally, the Committee is thankful for all the dedication and energy put forward by the FY21 SAF recipients. We strongly appreciate their transparency, hard work, and cooperation. The Committee wishes them success in their endeavors and awaits for their implementation of our various recommendations.

Honestly,

Juliana Arias

*Chair, GUSA Finance and Appropriations Committee*