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| **Student Activities Fee Initial Budget Report** |

**The Finance and Appropriations Committee**

**Fiscal Year FY 21**

**March 5, 2020**

**Advisory Board for Club Sports (ABCS)**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated $238,252.30 to ABCS for FY21, which represents a 5.89% increase from the allocation given in FY20 and 12.00% cut from their requested allocation of $270,750. The Committee feels that increasing the Board’s allocation is a necessary step to fund uniform and equipment purchases, the backbone of club sports, as well as to remove entry barriers in the form of increased membership dues and travel-related expenses. Hearing stories of club sports members sleeping on the floors of hotel rooms in order to save on lodging costs, and of clubs like Ultimate who fundraise in the cost of Regionals, the Committee believes that these funds are critical to continue the mission of ABCS.

One proposal that was raised during deliberations concerned ABCS’ Dues Assistance Program, a policy that the Committee feels is necessary for socioeconomic inclusivity but that may need to be adjusted in order to promote its long-term sustainability.

***Senator Harrison Nugent***

**Campus Ministry Student Forum (CMSF)**

For Fiscal Year 2021, the Finance & Appropriations Committee has allocated Campus Ministry Student Forum $20,000, an 8% increase from Fiscal Year 2020 and, 23% less than requested. CMSF advises, supports and funds all of Georgetown University’s religiously affiliated student organizations, fostering productive interreligious dialogue and creating strong faith-based communities. CMSF reflects the Jesuit tradition of Georgetown University and plays a critical role in maintaining a tradition of community in diversity, contemplation in action, faith and justice. In the coming year, CMSF expects to graduate the Protestant Student Association and Georgetown University Christian Athletes from New Club Development, adding two subsidiary organizations. In the past year, membership and event attendance has soared for many organizations under the jurisdiction of CMSF. Specifically, the Jewish Student Association and Muslim Student Association struggled to meet the demand for refreshments at both community events and religious holiday observances. The Buddhist Student Association has experienced a doubling in membership. In part, event attendance has increased due to a greater interest in religious events from formerly disengaged or non-observing students.

In addition, the current global political and social climate fosters increasing hate crimes and religious conflicts. Increased funding helps CMSF facilitate effective interreligious dialogue to address these increasing tensions. Also, religiously affiliated student organizations offer a space for students to find solidarity, comfort and friendship during difficult times. These organizations represent much of the religious diversity of Georgetown University and provide communities and platforms for certain marginalized groups. In its communication with the Committee, CMSF demonstrated a substantial need for an increase in funding. As one of the Committee's subsidiary groups that receives no funding from Student Affairs and holds no reserves, the Committee decided to increase CMSF’s allocation to support its expansion.

***Senator Zachary Volpe***

**Center for Social Justice - Advisory Board for Student Organizations**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated $130,000 to CSJ-ABSO. This is a 16.94% cut in funding from FY20, and a 19.25% reduction from their requested allocation of $161,000. The presentation CSJ-ABSO outlined the impact that their groups have on and off campus, explaining why they needed the funding they requested. CSJ-ABSO and the organizations under it clearly advance Georgetown’s values such as being men and women for others. Therefore, the Committee strived to fulfill their funding request to the best of our abilities. Additionally, given that budget requests exceeded the Student Activities Fee total by almost $400,000, we were impressed that CSJ-ABSO did not increase their funding request from FY20.

The funding cut to CSJ-ABSO is reflective of the intense financial constraints the Committee faces. As enrollment at the University has decreased, the Student Activities Fee available to the Committee to allocate has also decreased. At the same time, the number of clubs requesting funding across advisory boards has increased. In their application, CSJ-ABSO indicated that if cut, they would primarily reduce the funds they provide to the Alternative Breaks Program as ABP has several other sources of funding that could supplement cuts. Additionally, due to frequent last-minute cancellations of ABP programing, CSJ-ABSO has been left with a positive budget balance over the last few years, leading to an increase in their reserve account. Given the restraints on the total amount of money the Committee can allocate as well as the demonstrated need of other Advisory Boards requesting funding, we deem this cut to CSJ-ABSO’s budget appropriate and are confident in CSJ-ABSO’s ability to support their organizations with $130,000.

***Senator Christopher Ziac***

**Georgetown Opportunities for Leadership Development (GOLD)**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated $5,000 to Georgetown Opportunities for Leadership Development for FY21. This is a decrease from the previous fiscal year, which was $6,500. We believe this amount to be appropriate, given that we are under budgetary constraints. Moreover, the committee was not convinced in meeting 100% of their requested amount because we did not receive a full and thorough explanation as to why the club needed this amount, given a decline in the club’s student participation and proposed expansion. GOLD argued that a decrease in student participation is due to their previous year’s budget which did not allow them to account for food. Thus, students are not participating in their programming, for which the Committee did not consider necessary to a 100% of the club’s financial request. To conclude, the Committee agreed to fund GOLD ar $5,000 for FY21 because there are currently eight students involved in the ELP program and we cannot justify giving $10,000 in funding for only eight students in their program, given our current budgetary constraints.

Nevertheless, the committee acknowledges, applauds, and supports the vital work that GOLD does in providing leadership development opportunities for all Hoyas on campus. The committee believes that to fully fund the club in the upcoming FY; First, we hope for a better FY in which we are not under tremendous budgetary constraints. Moreover, we would like to see concrete plans as to how GOLD plans to increase and retain participation in the upcoming years.

***Senator Julio Salmeron-Perla***

**Georgetown Program Board**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated $145,000 to the Georgetown Program Board, which represents a 2.88% increase in funding from Fiscal Year 2020, and a 3.28% reduction from their requested allocation. Finapp was pleased with the Georgetown Program Board’s performance over the past year as well as with their presentation to the board. The small cut in their requested budget is simply a representation of Finapp’s financial restraints. We hope that the Georgetown Program Board continues with their stellar performance into the future - they are one of the best managed organizations on this campus and contribute extensively to student life.

Since Finapp funded the Georgetown Program Board nearly in full, we hope that they will use their funding in the ways that they outlined in their budget, with a small reduction in their proposed concerts budget. They displayed strong financial discipline over the past fiscal year, which Finapp appreciated. We hope to continue to see positive performance from this organization, and have no underlying concerns.

***Senator Sam Dubke***

**Georgetown University Student Association (GUSA)**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated the Georgetown University Student Association $6,495 for FY21. This represents an 83.07% cut from their requested allocation of $38,362 and a 219.63% increase from their FY20 allocation of $2,957.

The Committee, despite the limited funds available to allocate this year, recognizes the difficulties both the 14th Senate and Francis-Olivera Administrations, along with the other agencies of GUSA, faced as a result of the minimal allocation in FY20. Senators were forced to pay out of pocket to provide food and refreshments for their required community outreach events, which put pressure on many members who find themselves with limited financial resources and threatened to make the Senate a classist institution out of reach for lower-income Georgetown students. Further, the Senate could not pay its Executive Officer, despite promising financial compensation at hiring, because of a lack of funds. This alone threatened the functionality of the Senate, as the Executive Officer fills a vital procedural and logistical role within the body and a vacancy there would prevent ease in record-keeping and transparency to constituents. Additionally, the Executive was left unable to pursue major initiatives due to this lack of funds and could not hold the trainings and outreach events it wanted to the extent they desired. At times, the Center for Student Engagement was forced to step in and provide additional funds for events, and this situation cannot continue.

Undergraduate students are at an unquestionable loss when the organization that stands as their legitimate voice with administrators is unable to advocate and operate on their behalves. However, the Committee felt that, despite the clearly-evidenced need for an increase in FY21, not all the expenses the Executive requested were justified, especially in the face of significant needs from other groups. The purchase of hammocks, stationery, and branded merchandise, which would cost just under $2,800, was felt to be unnecessary given present budgetary constraints. Similarly, the Committee felt that a request for $10,000 for a FinApp Community Access Resources fund (FINAPP CARES) served no benefit to the Georgetown community, given both the budget constraints and the implementation of the new Student Empowerment Fund, which upon its maturation, would serve a very similar purpose. For these reasons, we find ourselves unable to satisfy the majority of the GUSA Executive’s requests in FY21.

The Finance and Appropriations Committee hopes that this allocation can adequately support the Ferretti/Badger Administration, the 15th Senate, and GUSA’s agencies, and we express our wishes that with this allocational increase, the Senate and Executive can better serve the will of Georgetown students moving forward as co-equal partners and branches of government.

***Senator Eric Bazail-Eimil in representation of Senator Joshua Marin-Mora***

**Lecture Fund**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated $85,000 to Lecture Fund for FY21. This allocation represents no change from the allocation given to the Lecture Fund in FY20 and a 13.27% cut from their requested allocation of $98,000. This past year, the Lecture Fund put on a variety of speakers and collaborated with a variety of campus organization partners to bring new events to our campus. On average, the Lecture Fund negotiated honoraria (the fees that speakers charge for public appearances) to 37%, in many cases bringing down honoraria by over 50%. In addition to their internal events, the Lecture Fund provided $22,300 for co-sponsorship requests, funding 14 of the 20 unique requests they have in at least partial form. As the average request for honoraria increased from $6,071 in FY19 to $15,000 in FY20, and the organization faced an increase in co-sponsorship requests from $47,112 in FY19 to $123,616 in FY20, the Committee is appreciative and supportive of the efforts made by the advisory board. Based on Lecture Fund’s demonstrated capacity to spark critical dialogue on campus and their notable sense of financial responsibility and good financial management.

Although the Finance and Appropriations Committee was impressed by the Lecture Fund’s continued ability to negotiate down honorariums and bring high-quality speakers to campus and their continued commitment to building campus partnerships, the Committee found that the Lecture Fund’s need did not exceed that of other funding boards in this Fiscal Year, as a decline in enrollment has resulted in a decline in projected revenues from FY20 to FY21. This unfortunately means that from FY19 through FY21, the Lecture Fund has had to adapt to a changing and more expensive environment for their work with no adjustments to their allocation. Given the evident need for an eventual increase to their allocation, as the rise in honoraria and co-sponsorship requests seemingly will not dissipate anytime soon and as they had to dip into their reserves in order to finalize events for this past year, a future increase to Lecture Fund’s allocation will be needed to continue to properly support their vital work on campus. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Lecture Fund in coming years and we hope that they will continue to enhance student life as meaningfully as they have done in the past.

***Senator Eric Bazail-Eimil***

**Media Board**

The Committee has allocated $75,000 to the Media Board for FY21. This is a decrease of 16.96% from FY20 and fulfills 59.08% of the Media Board's FY21 request. For reference, the Committee provided the same allocation of $75,000 to the Board in FY19.

This decrease is due in large part to the meaningful conversation the Committee had with the representatives from the Media Board regarding print and online media. The Committee believes that some of the requested funds, particularly those that arise due to printing costs, might be more directly translated into bettering the student body if allocated elsewhere. The decrease in funding reflects that the Media Board indicated future plans to eventually “phase out” print media and rely more heavily on online and multimedia publication methods, which are significantly more cost-efficient and eco-friendly. Based on the presentation by the Media Board, we are confident that this decision is in line with its future strategy.

In the interest of promoting meaningful student engagement with the various publications under the Media Board, further investment in affordable, online publication is highly recommended by the Committee. We believe that this is the best way to achieve the Board’s goals of student engagement, a flourishing student press, and new interest with its media publications. Moreover, we are interested in the Media Board having the funds it needs to invest in developing employable skills and in the assortment of new groups, which have quickly gained readerships and are in need of increased funding. We leave the decision of allocating funds to these groups and differentiating between print and online investment to the Board and are enthused to see its ultimate budget decisions.

***Senator Leo Rassieur***

**Outdoor Education**

The Committee has allocated $6500.00 to Outdoor Education, which remains consistent with the FY20 funding. Primarily, Outdoor Education requested funding for new guide training programs in order to lower out of pocket costs for students, considering that student guides currently are unpaid volunteers. In addition to funding training, Outdoor Education demonstrated the need for new equipment, including but not limited to new water filtration systems, stove, sleeping bags, and backpacks. The Committee views both training programs and equipment purchases as essential needs to maintain student safety on trips and excursions.

Part of the demonstrated need for funding includes decreasing costs for students in order to lower the barrier to entry for low income students wishing to attend Outdoor Education trips. Outdoor Education does acknowledge the importance of providing financial aid to students, however, they fail to have a well-structured financial aid program that guarantees student’s ability to request assistance paying to attend trips and events. During the Summit, when questioned about their program, student leaders alluded to students simply asking the faculty director for funds. This does not provide evidence of an objective process in which students may request funding and, instead, could potentially limit students from reaching out for funding as their approval relies solely on the faculty director’s discretion.

While the committee recognizes Outdoor Education’s constant need for funding and has funded Outdoor Education for the past three fiscal years, the committee encourages Outdoor Education to secure a financial income separate from direct funds from the Student Activities Fee, as Outdoor Education only qualifies as a Part B applicant. Part B applicants are not guaranteed yearly funding. Considering that Outdoor Education has consistently demonstrated a need for funding, the Committee encourages Outdoor Education to find stable sources of funding, as a lack of funding from the Committee could be detrimental to the organization in future years.

***Senator Olivia Kleier***

**Performing Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC)**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated $50,000 to PAAC for FY21. This is a decrease of 0% from FY20 and fulfills 58.82% of PAAC’s FY21 request. Primarily, PAAC requested funding primarily to support student performing arts groups. The Committee was impressed with the preparation of the presenter and the clear and tangible impacts they demonstrated that PAAC has on the student body.

The Committee recognizes the important role PAAC plays on campus as one of the few institutions fully dedicated to supporting and promoting the Performing Arts. We determined that under the constraints of ever-growing budget requests, it would be best to fund PAAC at historical levels. While the Committee was not able to fully fund PAAC’s request, we recognize the important role that this Advisory Board plays on campus.

The Finance and Appropriations Committee would like to note that this is not sustainable practice. In order to fully fund the growing arts community will mean increasing funding for PAAC in the future. We believe that impetus needs to be placed on the University Administration to further financially support the Performing Arts on campus.

***Senator Peter Lee Hamilton***

**Student Activities Commission (SAC)**

The Committee has decided to allocate $253,252.30 to SAC for FY21. This is a 35.1% change from their original request of $390,000, as well as a 16.8% decrease from FY20’s allocation of $304,300.00. While we recognize SAC’s substantial increase from F19 to FY20, the Committee has decided to make these cuts based on our evaluation of their financial practices.

We understand the challenges that SAC faces as the largest advisory board. Moreover, we recognize and respect how so many SAC clubs use their funding to impact their community. Club leaders shared compelling stories of their financial circumstances with us, and we appreciated the opportunity to learn about the hardships they face. The committee takes all student input very seriously, and we use all evidence meticulously toward a fair evaluation of all advisory boards’ requests. However, the committee is strongly dedicated to a responsible allocation of the student activities fee. When we see a lack of transparency in SAC’s internal allocation, we are naturally concerned about the potential misuse of the money we appropriate. Because student interests and needs are represented across all advisory boards, the committee must base decisions largely on our evaluation of how these boards’ financial practices compare.

As an example, the Midwest Club was allocated $10,000 this past fiscal year. SAC justified this allocation with false membership numbers. At their homecoming barbecue event, a significant amount of food was left untouched, wasting many dollars from the student activities fee. We are dissatisfied with SAC’s lack of transparency in relation to membership numbers.

We understand that circumstances like this will occasionally occur. However, the fact that SAC has no mechanism to audit club spending, these circumstances will occur at an unsustainable level. Our primary concern is that they lack sound financial practices. Without such practices, we cannot be confident in their capacity to eliminate as much waste as possible. If SAC demonstrates a clear and tangible plan to mitigate this, only then would we consider a different allocation appropriate. Our committee will continue to take actions that prioritize funding toward fiscally responsible financial practices.

***Senator Henry Dai***

**Transfer Council**

The Finance and Appropriations Committee has allocated the full asking amount of $7,500 to the Transfer Council for Fiscal Year 2021. This figure is identical to last fiscal year's allocation. Our reasoning is based on the Transfer Council’s demonstrated need for funding, given that the University does not fund nor organize any transfer NSO and bonding activities. It is crucial that we empower our transfer students and provide them with the resources not only to succeed, but also to thrive alongside the rest of the student body.

The Council’s budget was specific and demonstrated an efficient and productive use of funds; the projects detailed by the Council will contribute to ensuring that all transfer students feel comfortable and welcomed to campus.

***Senator Layla Weiss***