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**Report I: A Supplementary Report on the Immediate Usage of Student Empowerment Fund Allocations in FY21**

*The Finance and Appropriations Committee of the Georgetown University Student Association Senate*

1. **Overview**

Following the referendum vote on 6 February 2020, whereby 68% of students voted in favor of the creation of a Student Empowerment Fund, the Finance and Appropriations Committee has been left with the task of planning and structuring this Fund’s creation. As it stands, the University has extensive limitations on what

1. **Potential Projects Using The Student Empowerment Fund**

After fifteen years, this fund is projected to quickly surpass a balance of $1 million, under the ostensible management of the Georgetown Investment Office. It is our goal to use this fund to create a tangible improvement to student life on campus. Although the members of the Committee wish that the Student Association could undertake big campus renovations immediately, the limitations of our current endowment serve as an impetus for this long-term investment strategy. It is, after all, a task about empowering Hoyas — alumni, current students, and future students. Through this endeavor, the members of this Committee recognize that we are beginning a long-term plan to improve our university. The small issues on campus add up, and we wish we could fix it overnight. However, the most practical action to take is to establish a clear plan and goal to entrust future Hoyas — our fellow Hoyas — with the resources to solve the ongoing issues they will face.

The Healey Family Student Center, now a favorite study spot for many, was funded by a similarly structured endowment fund in the past decade. This concept could be applied to far more than new facilities. In fact, it would surely be popular among both students and faculty to improve existing facilities. Students frequently complain about residential and academic spaces, but immediate solutions are rarely there. With a strong resource like the Student Endowment Fund to aim directly at these concerns, the members of the Committee find themselves confident that Hoyas fifteen years from now will be able to collaborate with the members of Georgetown’s administration to make tangible improvements for our community and envision our task as working to set the groundwork in a clear and directive way.

One potential project that has been identified by members of the Finance and Appropriations Committee as necessary and helpful to the Georgetown community, and that could be funded by the future Student Empowerment Fund, is the improvement of student study spaces in Lauinger Library and the ultimate renovation of the Lauinger Library building. The state of Lauinger Library has become a recurring joke among Georgetown students, with students repeatedly voicing dissatisfaction with the library’s dated furnishings, lack of ergonomic spaces to effectively work in groups, and the signs of interior decay in the building. Lauinger presents a largely frigid and inhospitable atmosphere no longer conducive for student needs on our campus, and this fund could serve to finance these needed renovations. Further, Lauinger as an expensive building has the ability to potentially house more innovative spaces similar to the Idea Lab — with more similar spaces, the University could further promote productive and creative group and individual projects, enhancing the ability for students to channel and develop their talents in the pursuit of higher knowledge.

Another project could entail the expansion and enhancement of present Outdoor Education resources, such as the purchase of kayaks for student recreational use on the Potomac River. Presently, students enjoy kayaking on the Potomac River during the warmer months as a fun pastime with their friends, but financial access has served as a limitation for some. Installing a facility for access by Georgetown students would serve as an investment in student health and wellness as well as an enhancement of present student recreational facilities, overall improving student life in the process.

Additional projects the Committee has identified include, but are certainly not limited to the expansion of spaces for performing arts groups (such as the creation of larger spaces for dance groups), and the upgrading of instruments and equipment, the establishment of a community garden, replacing the vans employed by the Center for Social Justice with newer, more fuel-efficient, and environmentally-friendly alternatives, and potentially even a renovation of Yates Field House.

Of course, in creating this fund, the members of the Finance and Appropriations Committee recognize that following the completion of the University’s present capital improvement plan, new needs may arise and students may identify new, presently-unimaginable, problems that will require investments from this Fund. For this reason, we have outlined that future projects could be eligible to receive financial support from the balance of the Student Empowerment Fund, should follow these certain guidelines:

1. Proposed projects should be designed to serve as an investment in the Student Body, whether that be through the creation of freely-accessible spaces and experiences that all students have the right to use and partake in, the enhancement of resources available for student organizations and other access to benefits organizations, or other palpable improvements to student life and student wellness;
2. Proposed projects should have defined, reasonable, and achievable goals in investing in the Student Body;
3. Proposed projects should never excuse the University from its paramount obligation to provide healthy and safe living spaces for all Georgetown students.

With these goals and guidelines, the Members of this Committee fully anticipate that the creation of a Student Empowerment Fund will be a great success in the fight to improve student life on campus and further anticipate that the implementation of this Fund will provide students with a greater voice in shaping the future of the Hilltop, as Georgetown remains an institution dedicated to creating people in the service of others and remains an institution devoted to the *cura personalis.*