



Budget Request Form FY2014

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department: *Graduate Student Council*

Program, Service, or Operation Requested

Student Research Week Graduate Assistant Position

SSFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

General Description:

Graduate Student Council is seeking full funding for wages of the Student Research Week Director Graduate Assistantship. Student Research Week is an event that is coordinated the director who is responsible for the overall event planning for the week long research competition program including budget maintenance, distribution of awards to students, marketing/advertising, recruitment, training, and outreach.

Request Type: Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

General Questions:

How does this increase impact students, and what motivated this request (needs, strategic planning, etc.)?

The SRW competition is an event that gives both undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to showcase their research at Texas A&M University. This competition attracts over 800 students filling the roles of competitors, volunteers and judges. Students are able to participate in a high impact experience where learning occurs through the practice of communicating effectively, the application and showcasing of subject matter knowledge in a range of contexts, and the demonstration of critical thinking through research. The funding of the SRW Director that coordinates this event is uncertain and salary memorandums have to be renegotiated annually. This uncertainty in funding greatly impacts the process of obtaining a GA. The acknowledgement of this program as a high impact practice that aligns with the mission and goals of the University as well as expectations from faculty and senior level administrators has largely influenced the level at which the SRW event has evolved and now currently operates. This event, as a completely student run event, provides graduate students with many learning experiences related to program planning and execution and requires a large amount of time to coordinate. For such a significant event it is essential that a stable source of funding be secured. This can help to ensure the appropriate attention is given to the event in order to sustain it at the high level of institutional expectations while yet allowing the graduate assistant to balance the demands of academics and other obligations.

How do other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.

As mentioned above funding sources from two different departments have been secured in the past. The Office of Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Research, when the two operated as one entity, provided ½ of a 50% position payment towards the position and the Offices of the Dean of Student Life agreed to match that funding if GSC sought out other funding but was not successful in attaining the payment. Graduate Student Council has asked the SSFAB committee for full funding as well as partial funding of the SRW director in prior years and has been not been granted the request. As the structure of offices has changed and the split

between Offices of Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Research occurred it has been more difficult to secure funding for the SRW director position. GSC anticipates this becoming more difficult as more of a commitment towards the operations and awards structure of SRW is made from the two offices in lieu of funding for the director position. The GSC has additionally researched the possibility of creating an endowment to aid in funding the position but has not yet been able to implement this endeavor.

Generally, what assessment tools will you use to evaluate this program/service?

Student Research Week as an event works with Student Life Studies to gain assessment information about the overall competition and the specific areas of judges, volunteers, and competitors. The director position is evaluated throughout the year and a formal graduate assistant performance evaluation is completed at the end of the year.

Funding Description:

	Dollar Amount
Total Estimated Cost	
Student Research Week Director (full permanent funding)	\$15,500.00
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)</i>	
TOTAL UAF INCREASE REQUEST	\$15,500.00

SSFAB Comments/Notes:

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