



## Budget Request Form FY2015

*Department should complete one form for each individual request*

**Department:** *Graduate Student Council*

**Program, Service, or Operation Requested**

*Student Research Week Graduate Assistant Position*

SAFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

**General Description:**

*The Graduate Student Council is seeking full funding for the salary of the Student Research Week Director Graduate Assistantship. Student Research Week is an event that is entirely coordinated by the director. The SRW Director is in charge and responsible for not only the success of this event but also for the overall event planning of the week-long research competition.*

**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.)?***

*Student Research Week (SRW) is an event that gives both undergraduate and graduate student the opportunity to showcase their research at Texas A&M University.*

- This year 1187 people registered to participate in SRW 2013, including 607 competitors, 261 judges, and 319 volunteers. This completion directly benefits every participant. It is a high impact experience where learning occurs through the practice of communicating efficiently, through the showcasing of subject matter knowledge in a range of contexts, and the demonstration of critical thinking through research.*
- The GSC was motivated to request permanent funding of the SRW Director’s salary because this position has not been permanently funded. This salary uncertainty has several drawbacks and impedes the process of hiring a Graduate Assistant to fill the position, as salary memorandums have to be renegotiated annually.*

*This program is a high impact practice that aligns with the mission and goals of the University as well as the expectations of faculty and senior level administrators. It has largely influenced the level at which SRW has evolved and now currently operates. This event is fully student run and provides not only graduate students but also undergraduates with many learning experiences related to program planning and execution. The huge success of SRW is attributed to the dedication of the Director. For such a significant event, it is essential that a*

stable source of funding be secured. This can help ensure that appropriate attention is given to SRW in order to sustain it at the high level of institution expectations.

**How do other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.**  
*In the past, funding sources from two different departments had been secured. When the Office of Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Research operated as one entity, they provided one half of a 50% position payment towards the SRW Director's Salary. The Offices of the Dean of Student Life agreed to match this funding at the request of the GSC. However, this funding acquisition was not successfully attained. The GSC has also asked the SAFAB (SSFAB) committee for full funding as well as partial funding for the SRW director's salary in years prior, yet this request was not granted due to budget cuts or lack of funding. As the structure of offices has changed, the split between Office of Graduate Studies and the Vice President for Research has created more difficulty in securing funding for the SRW director position. In the past, the offices have not funded the director position due to lack of funds; however, now that funds do exist, this effort should not be neglected.*

**Generally, what assessment tools will you use to evaluate this program/service?**  
*Student Research Week as an event works with Student Life Studies to assess the event. An annual report is written and published, and includes specific areas such as competitors', volunteers', and judges' attendances. Additionally, the director's position is evaluated throughout the year and a formal graduate assistant performance evaluation is completed at the end of the year.*

**Funding Description:**

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

SAFAB Comments/Notes: