

# **Budget Request Form FY2015**

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department: Graduate Student Council

**Program, Service, or Operation Requested** *Grad Camp Permanent Funding* 

SAFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

## **General Description:**

The Graduate Student Council is seeking full funding for the support of Grad Camp. Grad Camp is an event that is becoming more demanding of GSC funding. Its growth is continuing to reallocate

# **General Questions:**

*How does this increase impact students, and what motivated this request (needs, strategic planning, etc.)? Grad Camp is an extended two-day orientation program for graduate students. This year it welcomed 72 students to Texas A&M, making it the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and largest Grad Camp thus far.* 

- Grad Camp has a great impact on all participants. All of the counselors and directors are current graduate students. They are responsible for the year long planning and then execution of this annual event. The director and assistant director positions assist in students learning to apply skills and knowledge from their educational backgrounds to program planning, budgeting, training, networking and logistical duties associated with the positions. All of these responsibilities and the overall experience in working with Grad Camp are examples of high impact practices. With an increase in funding, the GSC could recruit more volunteers and campers through increased marketing materials and resources.
- New graduate student attendees benefit from networking and learning about Texas A&M's traditions and core values. Graduate students have only one option to learn the traditions behind A&M, much like FISH Camp, T-Camp, and SALT Camp. In the same way that these camps are very important to undergraduate students, Grad Camp offers a similar experience to build friendships and foster the traditions within the graduate population.
- With an increase in funding we could make the signing up more affordable to the general graduate student population.
- The GSC was motivated in this budget request by the strong positive feedback from attendees. According to the assessments, campers have enjoyed their participation in Grad Camp. To them, this

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was an opportunity to not only learn about community and campus resources but also create new relationships by getting to know graduate students outside of their disciplines. For example, according to this year's assessment which was analyzed by Student Life Studies, 94% of campers strongly agreed or agreed that because of Grad Camp, they developed positive relationships that they hope to continue after camp has ended. Additionally, 89% of campers strongly agreed or agreed that now after attending Grad Camp they feel more connected to the Aggie family and 93% of campers strongly agreed or agreed that Grad Camp increased their awareness of Texas A&M traditions.

For such a significant event, it is essential that a stable source of funding be secured. The GSC is interested in making every graduate student's experience at A&M memorable and rewarding. Funding towards educating grad students about the values of Texas A&M will entice pride and help the Aggie Family grow.

*How do other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain. In the past, the GSC has conducted several fund raisers toward accruing funds for events such as Grad Camp.* 

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

Grad Camp directors and assistance are appointed each year. These individuals are responsible of record keeping and evaluating the success of the event. With the help of Student Life Studies they distribute surveys and asses the quality of the event. The past 3 years have been tremendously successful: over 90% of students have responded positively.

#### **Funding Description:**

al Estimated Cost	
Grad Camp Event Funding	\$4,000.00
ess Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)	
TOTAL UAF INCREASE REQUEST	\$4,000.00

SAFAB Comments/Notes: