



Student Affairs Fee Advisory Board

Annual Report/Budget Increase Request Cover Sheet

To be completed annually by each department. Please attach Budget Request Forms for each proposed increase.

Department: Graduate Student Council

SSF Account #: 237118-00000

UAF Account #:

Department Budget History:

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Total Budget	\$96,459	\$97,075	\$97,075	
Total Current SSF/UAF Allocation	\$96,459	\$97,075	\$97,075	
SSF/UAF Increases Requested	\$8,500	\$0	\$23,500	
SSF/UAF Increases Funded	\$2,000	\$0		
Total End-of-Year Reserve Balance Across All Operating Accounts	\$31,000	\$31,000	(Projected)	(Projected)

Please provide a reserve spending plan if ending FY13 reserves exceed University requirements.

Graduate Student Council has intentionally accounted for the technology replacement that must occur every 5-6 years and placed a specified amount in their budget to roll the reserves in anticipation of needed equipment upgrades in the future. Any other monies in reserves that exceed the University requirements will go towards savings for this specified use also.

SSF/UAF Increase Request History & FY 2015

Summary:

Program, Service, or Operation Requested	Amount Requested	SSFAB Recommended? (y/n)	VPSA Approved? (y/n)
FY 2013			
FY 2014			
FY 2015 Proposal Summary (Prioritized)			
Student Research Week GA (Permanent Funding)	\$15,500		
Grad Camp	\$4,000		

Annual Report (cont.)

Additional Questions: *(to assist the Board when informing the student body about stewardship of the University Advancement Fee)*

Briefly, what recent programs/services have been successful? Which need work? Explain.

Student Research Week

- **Success:**

The 2013 Student Research Week held March 25-29, had 1187 people register as participants, including 607 competitors, 261 judges, and 319 volunteers. The event is a weeklong student-led, university-wide event that provides graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to showcase the research they perform at Texas A&M University. 316 graduate students and 291 undergraduate students were able to demonstrate the application of their research in a range of contexts through oral and poster presentations. They communicated to student and faculty judges their research plans, and ways in which their methods were used to collect data, which was used in analyzing and solving a problem. Through each of these encounters students are able to practice their communication skills as well as receive feedback on their research in an educational environment. Award for both poster and oral presentations totaled over \$20,000. SRW has been identified as a high impact learning practice under the QEP for both undergraduate student participation as well as graduate student planning experience.

- **Improvements:**

SRW has had a tremendous impact on the local students. In order to make this program even more successful, encouraging a partnership with other universities would be a great opportunity. As a university we should share this wonderful opportunities with others. This will require more money to be invested in advertising, however the reward in making Texas A&M a nationally Competitive University is in line with the Vision of 2020 and goals of the university. Furthermore, the benefits for networking and collaborations between students and faculty are a necessity for the growth of the university.

Grad Camp

- **Success:**

Grad Camp is an extended 2-day orientation program for graduate students. This year it welcomed 72 students to Texas A&M, making it the 5th consecutive year, and largest Grad Camp thus far. Current graduate students—all volunteers—are responsible for the yearlong planning and then execution of this annual event. For the director and assistant director position, students were able to apply skills and knowledge from their educational backgrounds to program planning, budgeting, training, networking and logistical duties associated with the positions. The camp's environment encourages interaction between graduate students from various departments and establishing social networks and support groups, items vital to the success of graduate students at Texas A&M. The camp initiated discussion about what to expect as a graduate student, focusing on community events and campus involvement. Several on and off campus support services were also welcomed at the event to provide information on their resources for graduate students. Over 90% of the students who attended Grad Camp have declared they will "still maintain the connections they built at Grad Camp throughout their years at A&M."

- **Improvements:**

Grad Cam is currently underfunded. We are exploring numerous avenues on how to expand the program and introduce new students to the cultures and traditions of Texas A&M. The volunteers, who have been a part of Grad Camp, have done tremendously well; however, their job demands are continuing to increase due to prolonged marketing and advertising efforts. The planning for the event commences two

months prior. We will require our volunteers to dedicate even more time in the future, in order to make this event more successful.

What do you see as your department's financial priorities in the next 3 – 5 years (FY15-FY19)?

The Graduate Student Council identifies three financial priorities for the next three to five years, which will help ensure financial stability, growth of our University, and successful operation of our department. These priorities are: 1) build a life cycle fund 2) Grow Grad Camp and 3) Student Research Week

A first priority of the GSC is to develop a life cycle fund. This year the GSC has allocated a proportion of our funding to a life cycle account for inevitable occurrences. Currently, the GSC has seven laptops, which are used for multiple GSC events, and two desktops used in the GSC office. These computers are five to six years old and will soon not be supported by our IT department. By developing a life cycle strategic plan and fund, the GSC will be able to replace the computers without causing a major impact to one individual GSC year. Our main goal is to develop a funding plan that will allow the GSC to purchase or provide necessary emergency funds, which may not exist in the yearly budget.

Finally, the GSC has made a financial priority to secure corporate sponsorships for the GSC Student Research Week. With the current funding climate within Texas, the GSC can no longer rely solely on the existing funding sources for SRW, as these sources may not be available in future years. The current sponsorship levels for SRW are being revamped to be more attractive to corporate sponsorship. Securing corporate sponsorship for SRW is vital as the GSC is interested in expanding the event annually. This year, SRW will include students from colleges, like the College of Liberal Arts, who traditionally have not participated in the past. Expanding SRW to a diverse source of research will not only help student achieve student learning through research but will also move the University towards reaching its Vision 2020 Goals.

How many reclassifications did you have approved in FY13? 0 **Total financial impact: 0**

How many equity adjustments did you have approved in FY13? 0 **Total financial impact: 0**

How many one-time merit increases did you have approved in FY13? 0 **Total financial impact: 0**

How many hiring adjustments did you have approved in FY13? 0 **Total financial impact: 0**

How much money in salary savings did you acquire in FY13? 0

Additional comments, special considerations, etc.

SAFAB Comments/Notes: