



Budget Request Form FY2016

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department: Graduate and Professional Student Council
(formerly, Graduate Student Council)

SAFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

Program, Service, or Operation Requested

Full-Time Advisor Position Adjustment (SDS-II to SDS-III)

General Description:

In FY 2011, the Graduate Student Council successfully petitioned the SSFAB for annual funds for the hiring of a full-time SDS-II position, for the purpose of specifically advising the Council. Due to the possibility of impending budgetary reallocations and in order to ensure that the position was filled in a timely manner as requested to the SSFAB, the SDS-II position was filled in August 2010. In the last four years, the Council has seen a striking increase in the number of students involved with the Council and a need to better serve those students wanting more and larger events and more advocacy and political dealings. As such, we have seen the need for an advisor position with the SDS-III designation.

Request Type: Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested UAF Other

General Questions:

Why is this important to your department? How does this increase impact students, and what motivated this request?

We currently have one full-time advisor SDS-II position supported entirely by the Council. The original request for the SDS-II position was jointly based on the needs of the organization and a strategic planning framework to ensure future success—and those needs and framework have changed. We are sponsored by the Offices of the Dean of Student Life—aided primarily through Adult, Graduate and Off-Campus Student Services staff. With the Council becoming more politically active and, socially, serving more graduate and professional students through more and larger events, we have seen the need for an advisor position with the SDS-III designation. Having such a position (and the salary that supports it) will allow for gaining candidates with greater professionalism—having greater programming and higher education administrative experience, increase retention of skilled individuals that will bond with and serve the group allowing for year-to-year continuity, and free AGOSS staff to focus on performing their jobs to serve students in their correct capacity.

Is it part of your strategic plan? What will be the impact if it is not funded?

Gaining a SDS-III designated advisor is within our strategic plan. If not funded, the current advisor SDS-II position and Offices of the Dean of Student Life and Adult/Graduate and Off-Campus Student Services staff will continue to aid the Council and its Executive Committee to provide programming and political/advocacy support and guidance, but fewer students may be served via less programming and fewer issues and topics affecting graduate and professional students being able to be threshed out, explored, and correctly addressed in the course of a year. The current position (which is still trying to be filled after the leaving of the previous individual to fill the position) should be seen as a stepping-stone for professional development within the university—not as a position that will lead to others at other institutions.

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

As this position needs to be a permanent one, fundraising and sponsorship have not been seen to be feasible based on their volatility and increasing scarcity. As we are sponsored by the Offices of the Dean of Student Life, we have been provided with office and storage space, temporary support staff for specific needs (e.g. risk management help), and on-going president officer specific advising—additional direct advisor funding has been discussed but is not possible in the current structure of the organization or office.

What sort of input did you receive (student, faculty, staff, other) to determine this need?

We have had ongoing conversations amongst the Executive Committee and AGOSS staff especially during the non-faculty administrative hiring freeze (during which we receive an exception to search for a replacement for our last advisor) as to what the advisor position needs to become to best serve this committee, as well as, the entirety of the Council and student body. We have discussed our ongoing concerns with Mr. Tom Reber, Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Michael O’Quinn, Vice President for Governmental Relations; Dr. Christine Stanley, Vice President for Diversity; Dr. Karen Butler-Purry, Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies; and Dr. Anne Reber, Dean of Student Life.

What actions have you implemented internally to address the identified need?

We have scaled back the number of many of the programs that we have in years past planned and executed and have focused on addressing only a few high-impact issues and topics that are subjects that will arise during the Texas Legislative Session and are currently being discussed nationally.

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

We will gather end of term open answer assessment data from all officers, chairs, representatives, and delegates as we have done so in the past few years making sure to add questions specifically detailing the (non-)impact of advising.

Funding Description:

	Dollar Amount
Total Estimated Cost	
Full-Time Advisor Position Adjustment (SDS-II to SDS-III)	\$15,000.00
Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)	
TOTAL UAF INCREASE REQUEST	\$15,000.00

SAFAB Comments/Notes: