



Budget Request Form FY2011

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department: Graduate Student Council

Program, Service, or Operation Requested

\$5,000 funding for Grad Camp

SSFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

General Description:

Grad Camp is a program hosted by the Texas A&M University Graduate Student Council to integrate new graduate students into the Texas A&M community, graduate school, and the Bryan/College Station area. Grad Camp is an overnight event allowing students to interact with other graduate students before the start of the fall academic semester. Each camp will host a number of sessions that will provide graduate students resources to assist in adjusting to life in graduate school at Texas A&M and in the Bryan/College Station community.

It is the mission of Grad Camp and every participating member to create a welcoming atmosphere for new graduate students to Texas A&M University by introducing them to the values, traditions, and campus community, thereby ameliorating the transition into graduate school at Texas A&M and providing a support network to aid in student retention.

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.)?

August 13 – 14, 2009 marked the first Grad Camp held at Messiah’s Ranch welcoming and introducing 52 incoming graduate students to the Aggie Family and A&M Traditions. The disconnect between graduate students from A&M’s campus climate and undergraduate students is clear and apparent. To remedy this, the 2008-2009 GSC Executive Council began preparations to host an extended orientation camp similar to the undergraduate Fish Camp yet geared towards the needs of graduate students. The camp provided an environment conducive for graduate students from various departments and programs to interact before the school year began, allowing for social and support networks to become established increasing retention of the graduate student population and improving quality of life for those participating.

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

The 2009 Grad Camp secured \$750 from the Minority Retention and Recruitment Leadership Team to provide scholarships covering the camp fees for 10 minority campers. Students are charged a \$75.00 fee to participate in Grad Camp. It is the GSC’s intent to have Grad Camp move to a self-supporting program by 2012.

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

Following the camp, a survey assessing the camp’s relevance and impact on the campers and counselors was sent out. Feedback will be compiled by Student Life Studies. An additional survey will be passed on to the participants at the conclusion of the semester in order to assess the impact the camp had on their first semester. This survey is to evaluate the camp’s material and relevance to the everyday life of the graduate students who participated. Also to better understand graduate students’ needs to support institutional integration and retention.

Funding Description:

	Dollar Amount
Total Estimated Cost	
Grad Camp Expenses - one-time payment	\$5,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)</i>	
TOTAL SSFAB INCREASE REQUEST	\$5,000.00

SSFAB Comments/Notes:

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