



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

Account #: 215580-00000

Department Budget History:

	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Total Budget	\$49,926	\$31,926	\$43,454	
Total Current SSF Allocation	\$37,926	\$31,926	\$37,926	
SSF Increases Requested	\$12,500	\$8,000	\$64,500	
SSF Increases Funded	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	
Total End-of-Year Reserve Balance Across All Operating Accounts	\$8,321	\$5,528	(Projected)	(Projected)

Please provide a reserve spending plan if ending FY09 reserves exceed University requirements.

GSC rolled \$3000 forward as outlined and described in last year's report. The goal was to reduce the GSC Reserve to \$0. Below is a copy of how the reduction was created last year

SSF Increase Request History & FY 2011

Summary:

<i>Program, Service, or Operation Requested</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>SSFAB Recommended? (y/n)</i>	<i>VPSA Approved? (y/n)</i>
FY 2009			
SRW (one-time funding)	\$5,000	yes	yes
General Operating (permanent funding)	\$3,000	yes	yes
FY 2010			
FY 2011 Proposal Summary (Prioritized)			
Full-time Advisor - SDS II	\$42,500		
Grad Camp Expenses	\$5,000		
SRW Operating Expenses	\$5,000		
Half-funding SRW Director			
Ombudsperson Merit Increase			

Annual Report (cont.)

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

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

Student Research Week (SRW)

The 2009 Student Research Week, held Monday, March 23rd through Friday, March 27th, had student participation of 410 participants, 100 and 70 volunteers assisting in its success. The event is a week-long student-led, university-wide conference showcasing research conducted on campus both by graduate and undergraduate students. Still mostly composed of graduate students (297) an increase in undergraduate participation was noted with 113 students presenting either a poster or an oral presentation. 53 graduate student department/programs were represented in addition to 42 programs represented by undergraduate students. 168 students received awards from SRW for presentations. Each poster and oral presentation session was judged by both an in-field faculty member as well as a layman judge, faculty not affiliated with the field the material presented references.

Grad Camp

This year marked the first Grad Camp, an extended-orientation program for incoming graduate students modeled after Fish Camp. It was a two-day, one-night camp held at Messiah's Ranch in Bryan, TX and welcomed 52 incoming graduate students to the Aggie Family and culture of A&M. Current graduate students functioned as counselors throughout the camp, assisting in providing support for the new students. The camp's environment encouraged interaction between graduate students from various departments establishing social networks and support groups, items vital to the success of graduate students at Texas A&M. The camp initiated discussion about the campus climate and what to expect as a graduate student, focusing on community events and campus involvement.

Grad-to-Grad Mentoring Program

The Graduate Student Council reinitiated the Grad-to-Grad Mentoring Program after adequate demand by incoming students for a peer-mentor was reached. The program currently sees over 140 new graduate students partnered with 42 mentors. One issue experienced by this program is the overwhelming demand for mentors and the numbers volunteered. This issue is a focal point for the assessments sent out late in the semester quantifying the interactions between mentees and mentors. Advertising for mentors will be a main focus for the continuing program next year.

Mix & Mingles

The Graduate Student Council recognizes the need to balance workloads and social activities and will continue this year to offer Mix & Mingle events allowing for outside interactions between students. These activities range from Midnight Yell outings to renting a movie theater or ice skating rink to offer a release from academic stresses.

Please list actions taken in FY09 that helped reduce the pressure of increased fees, e.g., eliminated vacant positions, program cuts, increased revenues, development efforts.

The Minority Retention and Recruitment Leadership Team (MRRLT) provided \$750 to Grad Camp in the form of 10 fully paid scholarships for minority students to attend the camp free of charge. The MRRLT also provided \$2,500 funding for the Grad-to-Grad Mentoring Program.

What do you see as your department's financial priorities in the next 3 – 5 years (FY13-FY18)?

In the next 3-5 years the Graduate Student Council anticipates increases in programs and overall attendance to the current programs including Grad Camp and Grad-to-Grad Mentoring Program.

The GSC also anticipates funding the salary of a full-time advisor. The current situation is agreeable however with the increases in participation and program size, the current time allotted for GSC is minimal and well under what would be considered acceptable.

Grad Camp anticipates becoming fully self-sustaining program in this timeframe as well, raising enough money through fundraisers and entry fees to cover all operational costs.

GSC also plans to continue its outreach beyond the A&M College Station campus including working with the University of Texas on resolutions pertaining to graduate students across the state of Texas and participating in the annual Day on the Hill program allowing students to interact with legislators. Continued involvement with the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) will also be a priority as GSC aims to become a premiere graduate student organization.

Additional comments, special considerations, etc.

SSFAB Comments/Notes: