



Student Affairs Fee
Advisory Board
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Budget Summary

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

Department:	Graduate and Professional Student Government	UAF Account #	237118
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Department Budget History:

	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Total Operating Budget	\$173,218	\$166,045	\$165,913	\$165,913
Total Current UAF Allocation	\$89,938	\$116,187	\$125,697	
UAF Increases Requested	\$27,250	\$28,000	\$0	\$0
UAF Increases Funded	\$3,500	\$11,800	\$0	
Total End-of-Year Reserve Balance Across All Operating Accounts	\$161,762	\$40,216	\$35,000 (Projected)	\$30,000 (Projected)

Please provide a reserve spending plan if ending FY2025 reserves exceed University requirements.

Total Operating budget it made up of 2 months of required reserves or \$32,496. \$40,000.00 is held for Student Research Week Scholarship awards and the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) Travel Award Program, respectively. GPSG also has 12-15 computers/laptops which are due for replacement in FY25, \$40,000 is ear marked for this expense, as well as \$10,000 for graduate initiatives.

UAF Increase Request History & FY2026 Summary:

Program, Service, or Operation Requested	Amount Requested	SAFAB Recommended? (Y/N)	University/VPASA Funded (Y/N)
FY2024			
GPSG Advisor	\$15,000	N	N
SRW Director	\$8,750	Y	N
Grad Camp	\$,3500	Y	Y (1X)
FY2025			
N/A			
FY2026 Proposal Summary (Prioritized)			
N/A			

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

If you received additional funding in the last 2 years, please describe or explain the success or shortcomings of those new resources.

The GPSG received \$8,300 in FY24 to support the full funding of the Student Research Week (SRW) Director (GANT) salary. The Graduate and Professional School provides the other half to fully support the GANT salary. Payment for the SRW director would not have been feasible without the UAF allotment in FY24. Securing the funding has provided the appropriate staffing to ensure SRW is hosted as a well-organized university event. SRW has maintained involvement and interest of students, averaging involvement of over 800 competitors since 2018. Students have maintained interest in this event and past assessment provides that the majority of students (in 2024 over 86%) agree or strongly agree they have a positive experience with SRW. Students primarily choose to participate in SRW because it adds experience to their resume/CV and provides presentation practice experience. The GPSG intends to continue growing SRW, focusing on avenues to recruit even more graduate students and incorporating more intentional preworkshop developmental opportunities. The GPSG believes this will continue supporting the university research agenda and provide opportunities that allow students to develop their research skillsets in various ways.

What do you see as your department’s financial priorities in the next 3 – 5 years (FY2026-FY2030)?

The GPSG’s financial priorities center around the guiding pillars of Advocacy, Community, and Scholarship. The financial priorities are based on programming efforts and pushing for change in issues graduate students face around these tenets.

1. Scholarship: The GPSG provides professional development opportunities for graduate students, coordinating speakers who focus on graduate life and professional growth—a service well-received by the graduate community. The GPSG embraces the scholarship tenant by supporting opportunities to present research through Student Research Week and engage in development to help students establish themselves as innovators in their respective fields.
2. Advocacy: The GPSG grounds its purpose in advocacy. As the voice for graduate and professional students, the GPSG strives to understand constituent issues and barriers that limit the graduate and professional student experience and work toward change with university administration. The GPSG strives to be a part of the solution by cultivating space for students to work with the administration and understand the complexities of situations at hand. Further, the organization strives to lobby for change on global issues, having previously sent representatives to Washington, D.C., to engage with senators and congress. By establishing communication with national, state, and local policymakers, GPSG strives to amplify the voices of graduate students. Additionally, GPSG has formed a coalition with other SEC universities and their graduate student governments to address concerns nationwide through legislation, administrative meetings, and other initiatives. Critical issues, such as the growing need for mental health services among graduate and international students, affordable housing, and pay remain a priority for the GPSG.
3. Community: The GPSG aims to foster a sense of community for graduate and professional students at Texas A&M by strengthening collaboration across departments and disciplines. GPSG seeks to ensure that all graduate students feel welcome by partnering with various graduate organizations to promote inclusive participation in campus events. The GPSG understands the importance of fostering relationships that promote community to enhance the student experience. The GPSG also understands that through community and relationship building issues are identified and problems are solved. Thus, the GPSG is committed to using

programmatic and advocacy efforts to create spaces where graduate and professional students feel they can connect and belong to a greater group.

The GPSG plans to use its funding to continue and hopefully grow in advancing the graduate student experience through the following:

1. Student Research Week (SRW) (scholarship tenant) - offers all students engaged in research the opportunity to compete in poster and oral sessions, presenting their work to expert judges. Competitors receive valuable feedback and can win various specialty or subject area awards. SRW also provides professional development sessions designed to help students translate their research from the classroom to the job market. The GPSG is actively working to expand SRW's reach to include more graduate participants and eventually involve satellite and system partners. In 2024, SRW had 792 competitors on the main campus, including 579 undergraduates and 213 graduate students.

2. Grad Camp (community tenant) - introduces the traditions, culture, and core values of Texas A&M University and instills the Aggie spirit in the incoming graduate and professional students. We discuss the importance of character development and contribution to our fields and to the university. Most importantly, we build community by fostering interaction between graduate and professional students. Grad Camp connects students to resources across campus.

3. Stand Out and Succeed (advocacy and community tenants)– is a professional development series that helps prepare graduate students for their next steps, post academia. This event started in 2024 and the GPSG intends to continue growing this series, offering a variety of general guidance and more niche opportunities to support research and practitioner focused students.

4. Roundtables (advocacy and community tenants) – create opportunities for graduate students and leaders of graduate organizations to meet with administration to communicate about pertinent issues graduate students face and create solutions to complex issues. An example of advocacy that resulted from roundtable discussions is the graduate student stipend committee. The students communicated with administration, formed a working committee who devoted energy to understanding the complex problem and collecting data to then work with administration on change to support the overall graduate student experience.

	Total Financial Impact:
How many reclassifications did you have approved in FY2024?	0
How many equity adjustments did you have approved in FY2024?	0
How many one-time merit increases did you have approved in FY2024?	0
How many hiring adjustments did you have approved in FY2024?	0
What positions were approved to eliminate in FY2024?	0
What new positions did you create in FY2024?	0

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Additional comments, special considerations, etc.

N/A [Click to enter text](#)

SAFAB Comments/Notes: