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Student Affairs Fee
Advisory Board
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Funding Request Form FY2026

Department:

Student Government Association

Program, Service or Operation Requested:

Graduate Assistant Salaries & Benefits

General Description:

SGA is requesting recurring funding for Graduate Assistant salaries which were removed from the budget after the budget reduction in FY21.

Request Type:

- Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:

- UAF Other

General Questions

How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?

The SGA Graduate Assistants advise numerous student organizations and facilitate several organizational processes that directly impact the student body. The SGA organizations that they advise include the following:

- The Conference on Student Government Associations (COSGA), the largest student run student government conference in the United States. COSGA attracts delegates from colleges and universities all over the world.
- SGA Development Commission, the organization that raises money for the SGA Endowment. The SGA Endowment supports programs and initiatives for all 21 SGA organizations.
- Student Senate support: the two SGA GAs attend the bi-weekly Senate meetings on a rotating schedule to provide advising and logistical support during the four-hour meetings.

The organizational processes that the Graduate Assistants facilitate are as follows:

- The Student Regent selection process, providing advisement and support to SGA leaders during the recruitment and selection of the Student Regent candidates from main campus, the Law School campus, and the Galveston Campus.
- SGA New Officer Orientation, coordination of the bi-annual training workshops for the chief student leaders and finance officers of all 21 SGA organizations.

-SGA Advisor Development, planning the bi-annual training workshops for all SGA organization advisors.

-SGA Banquet, coordinating the annual dinner and award process to celebrate the outgoing SGA leaders.

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

This request best supports the Division’s strategic plan item related to investing in Division staff and enhancing the Division’s influence in the profession. By providing Graduate Students with assistantships that allow them to gain professional experience in the field of Student Affairs, we are contributing to their individual learning as well as positively impacting the overall profession.

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

We understand the importance of having positions funded out of a recurring budget to ensure the stability and consistency of having funds available to pay our staff. We also understand that it is not ideal to pay any salaries out of reserves in the event those funds run out.

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

SGA has been able to financially support two Graduate Assistants for several years, however, with the recent increase in their hourly rate, it is vital to identify recurring funding to ensure that SGA can continue to fund these positions in the future.

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

Over the last 3 years, we have evaluated the need for GA support in the department. This evaluation led to a decrease in the number of GAs that we employ. We are continuously assessing the GA roles to ensure that we are providing them with a valuable and professional experience while remaining fiscally responsible.

Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered?

Please explain.

Currently, the two Graduate Assistant positions are being paid out of reserves. While that is feasible in FY2025, it is important to solidify recurring funding for these positions as the reserve balance will not be high enough to support them in the future.

Total Estimated Cost

Funding Description	Amount
2 Graduate Assistant Positions – wages (\$18/hour) plus benefits (total -\$16,000 each)	\$32,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$32,000