



Obtaining Funding through the Student Association

This packet will serve as a guide through the Student Association-funding process.

Student Association Financial Policy

In compliance with SUNY Board of Trustees, Student Association Financial Policy states that the Student Association *may not* fund the following groups:

- religious organizations or activities
- partisan political organizations or activities (partisan political organizations are those organizations which are directly affiliated by name, by activity, or by endorsement with a national, state, or local political party [SA Financial Policy Part II Section B-2])

Media Organizations

SA-funded media organizations shall enjoy the legally-protected status of “public forum” for the free expression of ideas and opinions. See SA Financial Policy Part II Section B-3 for more information on funding and restrictions on media organizations.

Issue-Oriented Organizations

The Student Association may fund issue-oriented student organizations and activities. Issue-oriented student organizations and activities are those which are *primarily educational in nature, and which have as their primary purpose and result, the increase of the free-flow of information about a particular topic or set of issues among the members of the college community, providing information to the college community about a certain set of issues, and/or initiating and facilitating debate and dialogue among the members of the college community regarding a certain issue or set of issues.*

It is also important to point out that the Student Association will make **every effort** to ensure that funds are made available for student organizations to support issue-oriented activities representing all sides of any issue.

Procedure to Obtain an Operating Budget

Organizations that desire a budget for the following year must submit a proposed itemized line budget complete with justification and rationale to the Director of Business Affairs or Director of SA Programs, Personnel, and Finances no later than the date announced. See SA Financial Policy, Part III for more information.

Budget hearings are held each spring to determine how much funding each organization shall receive for the following year. Organization representatives must be present at these meetings. **New organizations being recognized after spring budget hearings may request a budget not to exceed \$150.00 for the fiscal year in which they are recognized.** Organizations may apply at other points during the year, as well. Central Council, if petitioned by an organization through a written rationale and request, may opt to increase the initial budget amount later in the fiscal year.

Organizations that fail to follow SA policies and procedures may not receive an operating budget for the following fiscal year.

Other Important Points

- Contracts for SA-funded organizations are signed by the SA President (or designee) ONLY. No verbal commitments are to be made by any organization to anyone for anything.
- Alcohol may not be served or consumed at any SA-funded event or official function of any SA-funded organization.
- The Student Association funds programs of *cultural and educational enrichment, recreational and social activities, tutorial programs, athletic programs (both intramural and intercollegiate), student publications and other media, insurance related to the conducting of these programs, administration of these programs, transportation in support of these programs, and student services to supplement or add to those provided by the college.* [SA Financial Policy Part II Section C]
- All SA-funded organizations are expected to do a reasonable amount of fundraising to supplement budgets provided by SA.
- All SA-funded organizations are expected to send a representative to every weekly meeting of the Student Association at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays in the Hunt Room (lower level, College Union). Failure to send a representative to two (2) meetings will result in the organization's budget being frozen. To read more about SA attendance policy philosophy, please refer to SA Financial Policy Part XV.
- Organizations must be recognized by the College through the Department of College Union & Activities before the Student Association will recognize them for funding purposes.
- Check the SA website frequently for news and events and to check policies and procedures. <<http://sa.geneseo.edu>>

So... after reading SA Financial Policy and the SA Constitution and asking any questions along the way of expectations of funded organizations, you are still interested in receiving funding...

- submit a rationale and overview of your organization to the Director of Business Affairs or Director of SA Programs, Personnel, and Finances;
- submit a proposed line-itemized budget (not to exceed the initial possible allocation of \$150.00); for more information on this, please stop in the office and we are more than willing to help you;
- submit a list of officers and meeting times/dates;
- submit copies of official college recognition documents.

At that point, Central Council will consider each organization's request by placing new organization proposals on a business meeting agenda to be voted on through a two-reading process. Additionally, we would look well upon prospective organizations that make an effort to attend a few SA business meetings prior to requesting funding.

Any questions? Feel free to stop in the SA office and introduce yourself and we would be more than willing to assist you.