Bill to amend the GSC By-Laws Policy in Appendix II on Funding Policies.

GSC-2013-9

Authors: Wendy Ni (Funding Committee Chair), Sam Bydlon (Funding Committee Deputy Chair), Meredith Townsend (Internal Auditor)
Parliamentarian: Paul Harold
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Action Requested: Consensus of the GSC or majority approval of the voting members of the GSC

WHEREAS by Article 1, section 3, C: “The GSC policies shall be included as an appendix to these By-Laws.”

WHEREAS by Article 1, section 3, D: “The GSC Policies may be modified by a consensus of the members if the GSC. In the event that that consensus cannot be reached, a majority of GSC’s voting members is required to modify GSC policy.

WHEREAS by Article III, section 1, E1: it is provided that “the Funding Committee shall review funding and Special Fee requests from all Graduate Student Organizations, and present a recommendation on each to the GSC.”

WHEREAS by Article III, section 1, E5: it is provided that “the procedure for formulation and review of requests shall be specified in the GSC Funding Policies.”

WHEREAS it would be nice if the GSC By-Laws are consistent and complete.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

That the following replaces Appendix II of the GSC By-Laws starting fiscal year of 2013-2014.
Appendix II: Funding Policies  
(starting fiscal year of 2013-2014)

Section 1: General

A. The Usual Method for Approving Allocations
1. Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, the Association By-Laws, or these By-Laws, all allocations of funds shall be made by consensus of the GSC members.
2. All meetings at which consensus funding allocations are made must have at least 1/3 of the voting members of the GSC present.
3. Officers and/or representatives of a VSO present at a GSC meeting shall not be included in the consensus required to approve funding allocations for that organization.
4. Decisions involving funds must be made publicly available within one week of the GSC meeting at which they were made.
5. Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, the Association By-Laws, or these By-Laws, the voting members of the GSC may, by a majority vote, override any allocation of funds made by consensus. This may only take place at the first GSC meeting after the minutes of the meeting at which the initial consensus allocation occurred are made publicly available.
6. The allocated funds shall not be drawn upon until the override period has elapsed. During this period, the organization receiving the allocation spends money at its own risk.

B. All allocations of funds over $250 shall require explicit approval in the minutes of the GSC.

C. Transfers of funds from a group's reserve account to its operating account shall be done by the Usual Method for Approving Allocations.

D. Schedule
1. The fractions of the base amount of the GSGF and Special Fees collected in each quarter shall be specified in the Funding Policies of the GSC.
2. Allocations shall be made on a rolling basis. Funds may be made available for the remainder of the current quarter, for subsequent quarters, or for the remainder of a fiscal year.

E. Funding Committee
1. The Funding Committee shall review funding and Special Fee requests from all Graduate Student Organizations, and present a recommendation on each to the GSC.
2. The Funding Committee shall consist of a subset of the members of the GSC, chosen by consensus.
3. A member of the Funding Committee may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the GSC.
4. No member of the Funding Committee shall formulate a recommendation for a request from a VSO of which s/he is a member.
5. The procedure for formulation and review of requests shall be specified in the GSC Funding Policies.
6. The Chair of the Funding Committee shall be chosen by the Funding Committee.

Section 2: Review Procedure

A. The review of a funding application for VSO partition funds will be conducted by, at a
The entire preparation including graduate funds is the target on the No petition.

To be fair and equitable to all those who put money into the fund:

1. What is the target population, including dues-paying membership where applicable and membership makeup, of the organization and its activities?
2. How will the activities be advertised?
3. How realistic and specific are the activities and budget figures?
4. Is the allocation a fair and efficient use of the VSO partition?
5. If applicable, have the organization’s previous funded and non-funded events been successful and within budget?
6. Does the organization’s activities provide sufficient value for the amount of money allocated?
7. Does the organization’s activities make a unique contribution to the community?

The Committee shall prepare a brief recommendation to the GSC regarding each funding petition. At the first GSC meeting after preparation of the recommendation, the Committee shall summarize the application and present its recommendation.

Section 3: Recommendation Guideline

The responsibility of the GSC Funding Committee is to provide a recommendation to the GSC on funds to be distributed to student groups (VSOs) by SSE. The guidelines they recommend by are to establish a provide fair and equitable distribution of funds to the entire graduate community. Groups shall organize events to benefit the entire graduate community. For the FC to issue a recommendation regarding specific types of funding, the GSC has set the following guidelines.

A. General Guidelines
1. To be fair and equitable to all those who put money into the fund:
a. The maximum funding per fiscal year is soft capped\textsuperscript{b,c} per student at $30/student/year. (This is based on the fact that grad students pay a student activities fee of \textasciitilde$30 each quarter).

b. The soft cap\textsuperscript{b} may be waived if VSOs provide proof that their event(s) are highly attended by students beyond their regular attendance.

c. Groups with highly overlapping populations or purpose will be treated as a single group to avoid double-funding.

d. The hard cap\textsuperscript{c} for funding per fiscal year\textsuperscript{a} is $6000 per VSO. No VSO will receive approval for funds in excess of this from the GSC.

2. To encourage VSOs to organize joint events in collaboration, the soft cap for jointly organized events may be relaxed on a case-by-case basis. It should be noted that this it not to encourage multiple events by the same group of VSOs but to encourage different VSOs to try events with a variety of VSOs. Therefore only one collaboration between two VSOs per year will lead to a soft cap relax.

3. Each fiscal year turns over on June 30th. All events must be submitted in the appropriate fiscal year category on myGroups2.

4. All residual decisions regarding funding recommendations are subject to the discretion of the Funding Committee, and all funding approval is at the discretion of the GSC.

5. The GSC Funding Committee cannot and will not make unilateral decisions about events for which groups do or do not receive funding. Group funding is not secured until the GSC has provided approval.

6. Any VSO has the right to get themselves on the GSC meeting agenda by emailing the Co-chairs at chair@gsc.stanford.edu. This is highly encouraged in cases including, but not limited to:

   a. The Funding Committee rejects a funding application, but the VSO would like to seek approval from the GSC regardless.

   b. The VSO would like to apply for funding that comes in direct conflict with one of the funding bylaws.

7. Every VSO must apply for funds through myGroups2 and attend the Monday funding meeting to be eligible for GSC approval. No approval will be given if the VSO gets put on the GSC agenda without first applying for funds and receiving a committee recommendation.

B. What the Funding Committee Will and Will-Not Recommend

1. No retroactive funding\textsuperscript{d}.

2. No funding for political events that may jeopardize the 501(c)(3) status\textsuperscript{h} of the GSC. This includes, but is not limited to, events that demonstrate particular partisan support.

3. Funds may be provided for purchasing capital equipment (this is anything that is non-consumable item) if it can be shown that:

   a. The equipment is essential for the VSO.

   b. The purchasing of the equipment will be cheaper than renting it for the events for the year. The equipment will belong to the GSC and be managed by the equipment master.

4. No funds for off-campus recreational activities (rare exceptions may be made): this comprise funding buses or funding for gas. However, event locations within half a mile from Marguerite
stop will be considered on campus.

5. On and Off campus Conferences/ Registration Events:
   a. No funding will be provided for a student to attend a conference.
   b. No funding will be provided to pay for event or conference registration fees.
   c. No funding will be provided for student travel expenses.

6. Courses offered for credit:
Courses offered for credit in a department should, in general, be funded by that department. The GSC realizes, however, that departments are sometimes reluctant to fund a new course. Because of this, the GSC may partially fund a new course up to two (2) academic years. After that time, it is expected that the department will take over funding the course.

7. Academic Seminars:
   a. Only academic talks of broad interest will be funded.
   b. No funding will be provided for departmental seminars. The department specified should fund this type of seminar.
   c. No funding can be applied toward honoraria for on campus scholars including, but not limited to faculty, visiting scholars (for example, a professor on sabbatical), post-doctoral scholars, students, etc.

8. Departmental Information sessions (such as a Town hall meeting):
   a. Approval for these types of events will not be given via the GSC Funding Committee, but might be funded by the GSC through other means such as through the GSC advocacy byline.

9. Events which are social gathering that don't have any cultural component, and do not serve the goals of the VSO (ex. Welcome and Farewell BBQ are ok, Happy hours are not).

6. Seed funding:
In recognition of the need to encourage more graduate student involvement in VSOs, the GSC may provide seed funding to cover a significant portion of a group’s expenses in its first year of operation. After that, the group should attempt to diversity their funding sources, as the GSC is likely to reduce its level of support, depending on budgetary considerations and the availability of alternative funding.

7. Community service events:
Community services, for the purpose of GSC funding, is defined as an activity or event in which Stanford students work together to promote community, learning, health, or social well being for themselves and for others. The GSC will consider funding community service events and activities of VSOs through regular funding process provided that:
   a. The service work takes place on campus or in the San Francisco Bay Area.
   b. Funds are used in a way that encourages the involvement and enrichment of the participating Stanford graduate students.

8. Inclusiveness:
In funding VSO events or activities—including, but not limited to those that may have religious or political overtones—the GSC seeks to promote cultural understanding and the free exchange of diverse viewpoints. With this in mind, VSOs seeking event funding should demonstrate a concerted effort to welcome and promote the participation of diverse segments of the graduate student community. Events and activities involving politically charged issues should focus on the
education of the general community regarding the history and relevance of the issue. The GSC will not fund events or activities that:
   a. Have any appearance or tone of exclusivity.
   b. Create an environment where a given segment of the graduate student population are made to feel unwelcome at the event due to religious, political, or other conviction.
   c. Require prayer or involve campaigning.

9. Political events:
The GSC does not fund political events that may jeopardize the 501(c)(3) status of the GSC. This includes, but is not limited to, events that demonstrate particular partisan support.

10. Capital equipment:
The GSC does not fund the purchase of capital equipment and other non-consumable items, including food preparation equipment.

C. The 70/30 Membership Rule
1. If the VSO is 70% graduate or more, the GSC will fund 100% of the funding request (pending application review, of course).
2. If the VSO is 70% undergraduate or more, the Undergrad Senate will fund 100% of the funding request. If this is the case, do NOT apply for GSC funding.
3. If the VSO is less than 70% graduate, but more than 30% graduate, the GSC will fund proportional to the graduate percentage of the group. (Example: The VSO experiences 65% graduate involvement, the GSC will be responsible for 65% of the total fund request and the Undergrad Senate will be responsible for 35% of the total fund request.)

D. Community Service Groups
1. No soft caps will be applied.
2. Fundraisers:
   a. Fundraisers are considered normal events, not community service.
   b. Soft caps will be applied.

E. Ticketed events (or those with limited spots)
1. At least 20% of the tickets/spots must still be open the Tuesday after the event is advertised in the Grad Events email.
2. For any event where the total budget is over N x $30 (N: estimated number of attending grad students), VSOs must charge tickets. (This is based on the fact that grad students pay a student activities fee of ~$30 each quarter.)

F. Recurring Events
1. Tight restriction will be held on funds for regular, consistent meetings including space rental, food, and other meeting costs.
   a. The GSC will NOT approve funds for officer’s meetings, VSO information update meetings, or anything that is deemed to be solely in the interest of the particular VSO.
   b. VSOs can be pre-approved for 2 events-Parties (for example, January and February happy hour in a series of monthly happy hours), in which time the VSO in question will be audited.
      i. The auditor will be looking to make sure the event(s) show broad appeal to grad students from a variety of academic backgrounds, as well as other qualities to assure the Funding Committee that the event is worth funding on a regular basis.
This approval must be re-obtained every fiscal year.

2. The GSC provides limited seed funding for new groups. Groups are encouraged to keep records of numbers of attendees (grad and undergrad) to aid in future funding approval.

G. Advertising Rules
1. Only limited targeted advertising or marketing is allowed, no newspaper ads.
2. Groups who do not advertise on Grad Events have their funding revoked.
3. All advertising materials must feature the GSC logo and/or state either “Sponsored by the GSC” or “Co-sponsored by the GSC” as appropriate. This includes submissions to Grad Events!

H. Line Item 6310: Honorarium and Travel Fares
1. Maximum $1000, includes fees, transportation and accommodations per performing group, presentation or entity.
2. Anything over $100 must have matching funds from other sources.
3. Honorarium can only be delivered in the form of a check payment. No gifts.

I. Line Item 6560: Event Food, and Line Item 6570: Alcohol

Combined Food and Alcohol Caps (one meal type per event, including catering)
1. For events including 50 graduate students or less, the following food caps will apply:
   a. Snacks/parties without alcohol: $4/person
   b. Snacks/parties with alcohol: $8/person
   c. BBQ with or without alcohol: $10/person
   d. Lunch with or without alcohol: Graduate Meal Plan Single Meal Purchase for Lunch
   e. Dinner with or without alcohol: Graduate Meal Plan Single Meal Purchase for Dinner

2. For events including over 50 graduate students, the first 50 will receive the above specified caps and the following will be applied to the number of students over the first 50:
   a. Snacks/parties without alcohol: $4/person
   b. Snacks/parties with alcohol: $8/person
   c. BBQ with or without alcohol: $8/person
   d. Lunch with or without alcohol: Graduate Meal Plan Single Meal Purchase for Lunch -$2
   e. Dinner with or without alcohol: Graduate Meal Plan Single Meal Purchase for Dinner - $2

3. An example of maximum funding for 60 students for BBQ is as follows:
   a. $8 for lunch x 50 grad students = $400
   b. $6 for lunch x 10 grad students = $60
   c. Thus, a 60 grad student BBQ event can receive $460 maximum.

4. Groups are encouraged to spend under the caps.
5. Event Food line item cannot be used to fund alcoholic drinks. Alcohol line item cannot be used to fund food or non-alcoholic drinks.
6. With the exception of the “snacks/parties without alcohol” meal type, combined food and alcohol caps apply to the sum of requests in Event Food and Alcohol line items. Distribution of the funding request between the two line items is subject to GSC approval on a case-by-case
basis.
7. For events where food is funded by non-GSC sources, and where VSOs wish to request GSC funding for alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks only, the cap for “snacks/parties with alcohol” applies.

J. Line Item 5760: Event Services
Event Services include the following categories of expenses:

1. Programming expenses
   a. These are single-use items that are essential for the event, such as paper plates, napkins, cups or decorations.
   b. Programming expenses are soft capped at $0.50 per attendee for a standard event.
   c. Requests in excess of $0.50 per attendee will need to be itemized, with quotes if possible, and justified.

2. Equipment rental and Event and Labor Services (ELS)
   a. Quotes from vendors and ELS must be presented at the Funding Committee meeting.
   b. Requests for delivery funds are strongly discouraged, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and will be highly restricted unless need is sufficiently demonstrated.
   c. VSOs are strongly encouraged to utilize GSC equipment services and other free or low-cost on-campus equipment services.
   d. VSOs can borrow a sound system and a projector from the GSC. Case-by-case exceptions may be made if the GSC sound system proves inadequate for the event venue.
   e. Video equipment can be borrowed from Meyer library for free. Case-by-case exceptions may be made if the Meyer library equipment proves inadequate for the event in question.

3. Facilities rental
   a. VSOs must try to book free venues first, unless all suitable free venues are booked. Rare exceptions may be made.
   b. For large venue bookings, VSOs must ensure that venue size is appropriate for the size of the event.
   c. Quotes must be presented at the Funding Committee meeting.

4. Facilities janitorial
   a. Funding for janitorial services is highly restricted. Unless building administrators insist otherwise, VSOs should do setup and cleanup.
   b. Quotes must be presented at the Funding Committee meeting.

K. Line Item 7220: Print Marketing Expenses
Funding for paper marketing (flyers, brochures, posters, etc.) is recommended at the discretion of the Funding Committee only if the VSO proves necessity.

Notes:
1. Glossary of Terms
   a. Fiscal Year 20XX-20YY: July 1, 20XX to June 30, 20YY.
b. Soft Cap: A yearly limit on the amount any VSO can be approved for GSC funding, which is based on the average attendance\(^e\) \(N\) (Soft Cap = \(N\times \$30\)), or the dues-paying membership\(^1\) \(M\) (Soft Cap = \(M\times \$30\)). This limit may be raised only on a case-by-case basis.

c. Hard Cap: The maximum fixed yearly limit for each VSO on the amount that can be approved for by the GSC ($6000).

d. RETROACTIVE FUNDING: Requesting funding for events after they are held.

e. Attendance: The number of people who \textit{regularly} attend the VSO's GSC-funded events. This is calculated by taking the average attendance of the VSO's events on a yearly basis.

f. Seed Funding: An initial approval of funds for the first (or first few) in a series of recurring or new events organized by a VSO. These events will be audited by the Internal Auditor, and full funding for the series would only be granted after his/her approval.

g. Parties: An event that does not require elaborate lunch/dinner preparations (subject to Funding Committee's discretion)

h. 501(c)(3) status: The tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code that makes the GSC a not-for-profit entity.

i. Dues-paying Membership: The number of members who pay $10/yr or more in membership dues. When used to calculate the VSO's Soft Cap, this number must be supported by documentation (such as a full list of member names and email addresses) and is subject to auditing by the Internal Auditor.

2. The GSC is not a bank! Please contact SSE regarding any and all reimbursements or myGroups questions.

3. Fiscal Year Turnover:
   a. Please be aware that the fiscal year turns over before the school year ends/begins. All reimbursements should be negotiated with SSE.
   b. SSE has deadlines regarding reimbursements for the current fiscal year. For more information, contact SSE sse.stanford.edu.

2. Internal Auditing (see also section 4):
   a. The Funding Committee has hired an internal auditor. This is part of the GSC internal control system to make sure funds dispensed go toward the expenses purported. If selected for audit, please help the internal auditor do his/her job, and be aware that the decision for who is audited is random. Selection for audit does not suggest any wrongdoing on the VSO's part.

3. Other funding sources:
   b. For international events, please also apply for funds from the Bechtel Center.
   c. For graduate student social events which cannot be funded through the GSC Funding Committee, please also check the Graduate Student Programming Board (GSPB, gspb.stanford.edu). (Be advised: the GSPB CAN fund individuals, but cannot fund VSOs.)

4. VSOs are encouraged to raise group funds with such simple fundraisers as car washes, bake sales, and the like. Group funds are not subject to GSC restrictions and guidelines.
Section 4: Verification
The Funding Committee includes an Internal Auditor who may be present at meetings with VSOs and perform audits of events and VSO reimbursements.
1. The Internal Auditor may audit events in person on a random basis, in order to gather information including but not limited to event attendance, type and quantity of food served, ticket charges and event duration.
2. The Internal Auditor may audit some or all reimbursements involving VSO partition funds for some or all VSOs. Results of the audit will be made available to the Funding Committee. The Chair may decide to arrange meetings with the Financial Officer of the VSO to discuss audit results, and options for dealing with irregularities.
3. The Internal Auditor may audit some or all dues-paying membership lists provided by VSOs by contacting some or all of the members listed to verify their membership. Results of the audit will be made available to the Funding Committee. The Chair may decide to arrange meetings with the Financial Officer of the VSO to discuss audit results, and options for dealing with irregularities.

Section 5: Terms and Conditions for Use of Funds
A. The Financial Manager shall notify an organization when funds become available to it.
B. The Financial Manager may, at his/her discretion, grant extensions to the ending date of an allocation to ensure that all transactions are cleared. No extension may be granted beyond the end of the fiscal year to which the allocation applies.
C. Unless otherwise specified by the GSC, title to all tangible property purchased, in whole or in part, through the use of funds from the GSGF shall vest with the ASSU, and possession shall devolve upon the ASSU in the event of the dissolution of the VSO possessing the property.
D. A VSO shall be considered to be dissolved upon the receipt of a declaration of dissolution by its membership, failure to register with the Office of Student Activities for 15 months, or after a declaration of dissolution by the GSC following reasonable efforts to contact the last known officers of the VSO. All allocations to a VSO shall end upon dissolution of that VSO.
E. Advertisements for events funded by the GSGF shall cite the GSC as a sponsor or cosponsor.

Section 6: Collection Schedule
Equal fractions of all fees shall be collected in the Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters. No fee shall be collected in the Summer Quarter.