

# Student Government Association Financial Guidelines



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Amended November 3, 2009

Amended December 5, 2011

Amended March 18, 2013

Amended February 27, 2017

Amended July 1, 2017

Amended April 23, 2018

Amended July 1, 2018

Amended August 8, 2018

Amended October 28, 2019

Amended November 11, 2019

Amended March 2, 2020

Amended July 23, 2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Purpose	1
Section 2: Adherence to University Guidelines	1
Section 3: Definitions	1
Section 4: Allocations Committee	2
Section 5: Senate Discretionary Fund	5
Section 6: SGA Office Budget	11
Section 7: Oversight	12
Section 8: Funding Caps	12
Section 9: Financial Records	12
Section 10: Amendments	12

## 1. PURPOSE

### a. Rationale

The purpose of these guidelines shall be to govern the distribution of funds by the Student Government Association (SGA) of Purdue University Fort Wayne. This document shall be binding to all of SGA.

### b. Viewpoint Neutral

All financial decisions made by SGA and its members shall be viewpoint neutral, and this position shall reflect, but not be limited to, the policies included in the Non-discrimination clause as stated in the Purdue Fort Wayne Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct in Part I, Section A, Items 3 and 4.

## 2. ADHERENCE TO UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

### a. Student Activity Fee Manual

All expenditures of SGA shall be subject to the pertinent guidelines and rules of the University, first and foremost, the guidelines contained in the Student Activity Fee Manual.

### b. Business Office Procedures

No expenditure of SGA funds may be allowed unless the procedures and paperwork required by the Purdue Fort Wayne Business Office and these SGA Financial Guidelines are handled accurately in accordance with the rules and processes stipulated in this document or with any other relevant University document or policy.

### c. Supplemental Use

This document is intended solely as a supplement to other University manuals and shall not take precedence in any case where there is a conflict with other University Guidelines. This document is meant only to outline the proper procedures for funding that SGA has adopted in governing the distribution of funds.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

**a. Allocations Committee:** The committee that hears annual budget requests and presents a budget proposal to the Student Senate for consideration.

**b. Event:** A program or activity that is open to the student body.

**c. Fiscal Year:** The period from July 1 through June 30 of the following year, which is used for accounting purposes.

**d. Funding Probation:** A condition whereby a student, student organization or other University entity is prohibited from receiving funding from SGA as a result of violating an SGA funding policy.

- e. **SGA Funds:** Any and all funds available to any branch of SGA; in addition to any and all funds available to any branch of SGA, SGA funds shall include all funds allocated through the annual allocation process.
- f. **Signature Authority:** The authority to authorize expenditures from an SGA account.
- g. **Student Organization:** A student group that is currently chartered by SGA and recognized by the Purdue Fort Wayne Student Life office. Student organizations are not eligible to receive budget lines through the annual allocations process.
- h. **Ways and Means Committee:** The Student Senate committee which oversees the financial aspects of the Student Senate.
- i. **Club Sports:** Any organization that is qualified to be labeled as such by the office of Student Life and Leadership
- j. **Regular Operations:** Anything that qualifies for meeting requirements as stated in the organization's constitution, or other requirements necessary for the organization's recognition to exist or function. These meetings could be, but not limited to; official club business meetings, club sport practices, and induction ceremonies.
- k. **Off Campus Events:** Events that take place outside of Purdue Fort Wayne owned facilities that are still within the Allen County territory.

#### 4. ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

##### a. Purpose

The Allocations Committee shall conduct budget hearings and prepare and present a balanced annual budget proposal to the Student Senate for consideration. The committee shall follow the guidelines contained in these Financial Guidelines and use the best interest of the student body in making its recommendations to the Student Senate.

##### b. Membership

- i. The voting membership of the Allocations Committee shall consist of:
  - 1.) The SGA Vice President of Finance
  - 2.) The Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee; or a Senator serving on the Ways and Means Committee nominated by the Vice President of Legislation and confirmed by the Student Senate, if the Chair is unable or unwilling to serve.
  - 3.) Two additional Student Senator recommended by the Vice President of Legislation, nominated by the Student Body President, and confirmed by the Student Senate.
  - 4.) Two Purdue Fort Wayne students, and one Indiana University Fort Wayne student, who are not members or employees of the SGA, nominated by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.

5.) One Indiana University Fort Wayne student, who is not a member or employee of the SGA, nominated by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Student Senate.

- If any allocation seat cannot be filled, the seat may be filled by the discretion of the Vice President of Finance to appoint a student, and must be confirmed in Student Senate with a majority vote.

- ii. In the event a voting member of the Allocations Committee fails to serve his or her obligations, a replacement may be named and confirmed according to the procedure in Section 4.b.i.
- iii. The Student Government Advisor and the Business Manager for Student Affairs and Student Activities shall serve as non-voting ex officio members of the Allocations Committee.
- iv. The Vice President of Finance shall chair the Allocations Committee. The Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, or a member of that Committee in the absence of the Chair, shall serve as Vice Chair of the Allocations Committee and shall assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair or in the Chair's failure to perform any respective duties. If the Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee is unable or unwilling to serve as Vice Chair of the Allocations Committee, a different member of the Allocations Committee shall be appointed Vice Chair by the Vice President of Finance.

**c. Timeline**

- i. The Vice President of Finance shall establish and publish the official Allocations Committee Timeline by the end of normal business hours of the first week of the spring semester, unless circumstances beyond the control of the Vice President of Finance limit them from reasonably doing so.
- ii. The official Allocations Committee Timeline shall include the following activities and deadlines:
  - 1. Date by which all nominated voting committee members shall be approved by the Student Senate
  - 2. Week during which the first official meeting of the Allocations Committee is to occur
  - 3. Initiation of electronic budget request submissions from organizations eligible to receive funding through the annual allocations process
  - 4. Date by which all budget requests must be received by the Vice President of Finance for consideration by the Allocations Committee
  - 5. Period of time for budget presentations to occur
  - 6. Period of time for budget deliberations to occur
  - 7. Deadline for final budget recommendation to be approved by the Allocations Committee

- iii. Changes to the official Allocations Committee Timeline may be made as needed by the Vice President of Finance or a majority vote of the Allocations Committee.
- iv. The Vice President of Finance shall make every reasonable effort to present the balanced line-item budget recommendation prepared by the Allocations Committee to the Student Senate before the SGA elections are to occur.
- v. The Allocations Committee shall automatically disband one day following the Chancellor's final approval of the annual budget.

**d. Responsibilities**

- i. The Vice President of Finance shall establish rules of order for Allocations Committee meetings, hearings, and deliberations. These rules shall not violate the fundamental principles of a democratically-operated deliberative body.
- ii. The Vice President of Finance shall regularly communicate with all members of the Allocations Committee to alert them of upcoming meetings, schedule changes, deadlines, and any other information relevant to the proper functioning of the Allocations Committee.
- iii. The Vice President of Finance shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that the schedules of Allocations Committee members and presenters are taken into careful consideration when establishing meeting times, dates, and locations.
- iv. The Allocations Committee shall maintain records of all Allocations Committee hearings and meetings, except for the committee's internal deliberations of the budget requests. Records of the committee shall become part of the public record of SGA immediately upon the disbanding of the committee.

**e. Budget Requests and Presentations**

- i. The Allocations Committee shall hold public budget hearings at which petitioners for student activity fee funds will make presentations explaining their budget requests and answer questions from the committee members.
- ii. Petitioners are entitled up to ten (10) minutes of presentation time followed immediately by up to ten (10) minutes of time in which Allocations Committee members may ask questions of the presenters.
- iii. Requests by petitioners to have more than twenty minutes of presentation time may be granted by the Vice President of Finance on a case-by-case basis.

**f. SGA Budget Requests**

- i. The Student Body President and the Vice President of Finance shall determine the budget request for the SGA office and the Student Body President will present this budget request to the Allocations Committee.
- ii. The Vice President of Legislation shall determine the budget request for the Student Senate and present the budget request to the Allocations Committee.

**g. Deliberations**

- i. Deliberations shall be closed to the public.
- ii. During the deliberation process, Allocations Committee members may begin to form recommendations for each of the requested line items based on the total budget and the information provided during public budget hearings.
- iii. After deliberations have ended and the Allocations Committee has agreed on a recommended budget, the Vice President of Finance shall present the budget recommendation at the next meeting of the Student Senate.

**h. Budget Approval**

- i. The Student Senate may make any adjustments to the budget submitted by the Allocations Committee judged to be in the best interests of the student body. Upon Student Senate approval, by a majority vote, the budget shall be forwarded to the Student Body President for consideration.
- ii. If the budget is vetoed by the Student Body President, it will return to the Student Senate for reconsideration. The Senate may override the veto with a 2/3 majority vote of members present or send a revised budget to the Student Body President for consideration.
- iii. Upon approval by the Student Senate and the Student Body President or a Student Senate veto override, the budget shall be submitted to the Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience (VCEMSE) for review and approval. If the VCEMSE disagrees with the budget as presented, a meeting will be held between the VCEMSE and the SGA Executive Officers to resolve the differences, and upon agreement, the proposed budget shall be forwarded to the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs for review.

**i. Exceptions**

In special cases resulting from Purdue Fort Wayne contracts, the Allocations Committee and SGA may be required to allocate funds for certain organizations, events, or other purposes.

**5. SENATE DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**a. Funding Available**

- i. The Senate Discretionary Fund shall be allocated through the annual budgeting process in accordance with these guidelines.
- ii. Funding shall be made available to recognized student organizations for events or activities open to the entire student body, and for other purposes that seek to benefit the student body and advance the goals and interests of SGA. Only student officers

may submit a request for event funding, and all other funding only if sponsored by a recognized student organization or the student's enrolled Purdue Fort Wayne academic department. Faculty and staff advisors affiliated with a recognized student organization may not request funding on behalf of a student organization.

1. Individual student(s) shall provide proof of sponsorship in the form of a signed letter.
- iii. Requests for funding from the Senate Discretionary Fund are not guaranteed and should not be assumed to be. Payments for approved activities or events are not guaranteed to be available before the start of the activity or event.

**b. Event Funding Criteria**

- i. Requests for Student Senate event funding shall include a detailed line-item breakdown of expenses and potential income, the logistics of the event, the purpose for holding the event, the reason why SGA should be a financial partner in the event, the date, time, and location of the event, and any other information that enhances the detailed understanding of the event.
- ii. Requests for event funding must be submitted no later than 28 calendar days before the event is to occur.
- iii. Permissible activities shall include, but not be limited to: lectures, awareness events, musical performances, cultural events, formal or informal meals, fundraisers, ceremonies, carnival-style attractions, debates, public hearings, rallies, and conventions.
- iv. Student Senate funds shall not be used for the regular operations or business of student organizations or travel expenses beyond Allen County.
- v. Student Senate funds may be used for food, disposable wares, speaking fees, entertainment costs, venue fees, security, rentals, and travel costs for entertainers, lecturers, and/or other event-focused guests coming to the University, and other goods or services deemed appropriate.
- vi. Student organizations are not permitted to request funds from the Student Senate Discretionary until one month after completing Student Life's checklist to become officially recognized. During this time period, student organizations may request their Start-Up Funds.
- vii. Any event funded by the Student Senate shall be reasonably open and accessible to all current Purdue Fort Wayne students.

**c. Start-Up Fund**

- i. The Student Senate shall allocate the amount for ten (10) clubs per fiscal year, from the Senate Discretionary Fund, for the purpose of Student Organization Start-Up Funds.



- ii. Start-Up Funds shall consist of \$300 per new student organization, to be used at the discretion of the student organization.
- iii. Funds shall be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to receive Start-Up Funds, the new student organization must be in compliance with all rules of the Office of Student Life and have completed the SGA Start-Up Fund Checklist.
  - 1. New student organizations shall consist of any student organization chartered within the current fiscal year. In the event that a student organization is chartered 8 weeks prior to the end of the fiscal year, the newly chartered organization may qualify to receive funds from either the year chartered or the following fiscal year.
  - 2. The checklist shall be a separate document that will be maintained by the Vice President of Finance.
  - 3. The student organization shall submit a completed and signed checklist to the Student Government Association; both the Vice President of Finance and the Vice President of Legislation shall sign off on the completed checklist.
  - 4. Upon approval of both the Vice President of Finance and the Vice President of Legislation, the Vice President of Finance shall submit a funding request for the disbursement of Start-Up Funds. There shall be no presentation requirements for Start-Up Fund bills. Start-Up Fund bills shall be approved through unanimous consent or majority vote of the Student Senate.
    - a. In the event that a once-recognized student organization reactivates after going inactive for 3 years or more, the new officers of the organization may apply to receive Start-Up Funds, following the normal Start-Up Fund process.
  - 5. Start-Up funds may not be used as a supplement for student organization dues, travel outside of Allen County, or any other expense(s) in violation of the SGA Financial Guidelines or the Student Fee Manual.
- iv. Removal of Start-Up Funds
  - 1. All Start-Up Funds may be removed from a student organization Bursar account in the event that the organization violates the terms of funding or is no longer in good standing with the Office of Student Life.
  - 2. In the event that funds are to be withdrawn, the student organization shall be notified via email by the Vice President of Finance, and will have 2 weeks to appeal the decision to the Dean of Students. Any withdrawn Start-Up Funds shall be returned to the Discretionary Fund of the Student Senate.

**d. Off Campus Funding**

- i. Requests for Student Senate funding that are off campus events may be requested through procedures similar to those for event funding. These requests shall include detailed line-item breakdown of expenses and income, the purpose of the request, the reason why SGA should be a financial partner in the endeavor, and any other information that enhances the detailed understanding of the request.
- ii. Requests for event funding must be submitted no later than 28 calendar days before the event is to occur.
- iii. Permissible activities shall include, but not limited to, any activity listed in Section 5, Sub-section B, line item iii. As well as for the building and assemblage of projects for competitions either inside or outside the Allen County territory, as long as the building and assemblage take place within the Allen County territory.

**e. All Other Funding**

- i. Requests for Student Senate funding not designated for events may be requested through procedures similar to those for event funding. These requests shall include detailed line-item breakdown of expenses and income, the purpose of the request, the reason why SGA should be a financial partner in the endeavor, and any other information that enhances the detailed understanding of the request.
- ii. Requests for endeavors not considered events shall be submitted no later than 28 calendar days before the funds are needed.
- iii. These requests shall be subject to the funding rules outlined in the Student Activity Fee manual and the discretion of the Student Senate.

**f. Bill Process**

- i. All requests for Senate funding shall be handled in the form of a bill.
- ii. All requests for Senate funding shall be submitted electronically by the Vice President of Legislation to the Vice President of Finance.
- iii. Only requests submitted by recognized Purdue Fort Wayne student organizations or individuals sponsored by a recognized student organization or academic department shall be considered for funding by the Student Senate.
- iv. Requests must be presented using standard forms and templates provided in electronic form on the SGA website.
- v. All standard forms and templates used for funding requests shall be established, amended, and managed by the Vice President of Finance or SGA advisor(s).
- vi. After receipt of a funding request, the Vice President of Legislation shall forward the funding request to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The Senate Ways and Means Committee shall ensure that all funding rules and criteria have been followed by the requester. If the request is found to be incomplete or in violation of SGA or Purdue Fort Wayne guidelines, the Vice President of Legislation shall contact the requestor and explain the reason(s) behind the request not passing through

committee and resubmission will be necessary for consideration. Once a funding request has been reviewed and approved by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, the bill shall move through the legislative process in accordance with the Student Senate Bylaws and any other legislation pertinent to the funding request process. The Vice President of Finance shall be made aware, by the Vice President of Legislation of all matters regarding a funding request, from submission to Senate approval.

- vii. Once a bill has been approved by the Student Senate, Vice President of Legislation and the Student Body President, the Vice President of Finance shall manage the paperwork and procedures necessary for the proper payment of approved funds.

**g. Obligations of Requesters**

- i. Organizations who seek funds from the Senate Discretionary Fund shall be present and answer the questions of the Student Senate, at the Senate meeting at which their funding request is reviewed in order to receive funding from the Student Government Association.
  - 1. The Student Senate reserves the right to vote, via a 2/3 majority, on whether or not to allow a funding request without a presenter on the agenda.

**h. Obligations of Recipients**

- i. The Vice President of Finance and the SGA advisor(s) shall be responsible for establishing, amending, and managing standard forms and procedures to ensure that all obligations of Senate funding recipients are being met in a reasonable and timely manner.
- ii. Obligations of Recipients of Funds for an Event
  - 1. Any revenue generated from an SGA-sponsored event must be returned to SGA, up to the amount allocated or donated to an approved organization by the Student Senate at the time of the request.
  - 2. Once funds have been allocated, those funds can only be used for the specified items that were designated in the approved bill.
  - 3. To acknowledge SGA sponsorship, organizations that have received funding from the Student Senate shall advertise the SGA sponsorship of the event through the use of the SGA or other approved means.
  - 4. After receiving funding approval, student organizations must submit a flyer to Student Life which should include the SGA logo to highlight the sponsorship as well as other required information.
  - 5. The student organization must provide detailed receipts of income and expenses, attendance figures, and any other relevant follow-up information to SGA no later than 14 (fourteen) days after the SGA sponsored event has concluded or within 14 (fourteen) days of receipt of the funding check if not received before the event.

6. The student organization must return any unspent SGA funds to SGA no later than 14 (fourteen) days after the SGA sponsored event has concluded or within 14 (fourteen) days of receipt of the funding check if not received before the event.

#### **i. Funding Limitations**

##### **i. Funding Probation**

1. Individual students and student organizations may be placed on funding probation for misuse of SGA funds, violations of SGA or Purdue Fort Wayne policies or local, state, or federal laws, failure to comply with necessary funding processes or procedures or for any actions or behaviors that would cause significant negative impacts on SGA or the student body.
2. The Vice President of Finance and the Vice President of Legislation in consultation with the Student Government Advisor and Business Manager for Student Affairs and Student Activities, shall have the power to place individual students and student organizations on funding probation and determine the length of time and terms of the probation.
3. Individuals and organizations on funding probation shall receive no funding from any SGA accounts.
4. Funding probation shall be a minimum of two months and last no longer than two calendar years.
5. Funding probation can be appealed by starting the appeal process with a formal email to the Vice President of Legislation. Any appeal of funding probation can be made by the individual or organization to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. If the Ways and Means Committee's decision is unacceptable to the appellant or the Vice President of Finance, the case may be appealed to the SGA Judicial Court. If the Judicial Court's decision is unacceptable to either party, the case may be appealed to the Campus Appeals Board for final review and decision.
6. Any student organization on funding probation shall be officially notified via email from the Vice President of Finance or SGA advisor(s).

##### **ii. Probation Guidelines**

1. Recipients of SGA funds shall be allowed reasonable flexibility within the scope of these guidelines provided they operate in good faith when utilizing SGA funds.
2. Any student organization that fails to meet SGA requirements will be placed on funding probation. The length of the probationary period will be decided upon by the Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Legislation and the SGA advisor(s). A student organization may be

placed on probation for a number of reasons, this includes but is not limited to:

- Hosting an SGA-funded event that is not reasonably open to all current Purdue Fort Wayne students.
  - Failing to return revenue generated from an SGA-sponsored event back to SGA, up to the total amount allocated.
  - Failing to use SGA funds for the specified items designated in the approved bill.
  - Failing to acknowledge SGA sponsorship through the use of the SGA logo or any other approved means.
  - Failing to provide detailed receipts of income and expenses to SGA within ten business days after the event or return date of a trip, or within ten days upon receiving the funding check if funds are not received before the event or trip.
3. Any student or student organization that violates any University policies or applicable laws while hosting an SGA sponsored event or while on an SGA sponsored trip shall be placed on funding probation for two (2) calendar years.

## **6. SGA OFFICE BUDGET**

### **a. Budget Line Items**

- i. The Vice President of Finance and Student Government Advisor(s) shall be responsible for ensuring that the SGA office budget is balanced and as current as reasonably possible.
- ii. Money may be moved between line items in the SGA office budget to allow for the proper and reasonable operations of the SGA office.
  1. Money movements shall be conducted only after a formal vote in which all Executive Officers vote in favor of the money movement.
  2. Money shall not be moved to increase the wages or overall compensation of any member of the Executive Branch.
  3. Money movements shall not violate the overall intent of the SGA office budget.
  4. The Vice President of Finance and Student Government Advisor(s) shall keep official records of all line item movements within the SGA office budget.

**b. Signature Authority**

- i. Executive Officer signature authority is only valid internally to SGA.
- ii. Student Government Advisor signature authority shall be valid to Purdue Fort Wayne.
- iii. Misuse of this signature authority is grounds for impeachment from any SGA office.
- iv. The Student Government Advisor must sign off on all expenditures from SGA accounts.

**7. OVERSIGHT**

- a. Expenses using SGA funds in excess of \$25,000 shall be subject to approval by a simple majority vote of the Student Senate.

**8. FUNDING CAPS**

- a. Funding Caps
  - i. Student organizations may receive up to \$6,500 from SGA per fiscal year. This cap shall exclude amounts granted to individual travel awards sponsored by a recognized student organization. This cap shall exclude amounts granted to recognized student organizations if SGA is a co-sponsor.
  - ii. Requests for funding by student organizations that have already met funding caps for the fiscal year shall be automatically rejected by the Vice President of Legislation.

**9. FINANCIAL RECORDS**

**a. Record Maintenance**

The Vice President of Finance and Student Government Advisor, along with other necessary University officials, shall manage all financial records for SGA.

**b. Public Information**

Official requests for public information will be referred by SGA officials to the Vice Chancellor for Financial and Academic Affairs or the Purdue Public Records Office for further action.

**10. AMENDMENTS**

- a. This document may be amended via a 3/4 vote of the total Student Senate membership during a regularly scheduled Student Senate meeting.
- b. Amendments will take effect immediately upon approval from the Student Senate.