INTRODUCTION

“All Chartered Student Organizations (CSOs) and committees of the Association proven to be fiscally responsible are eligible to petition the Senate for annual funding.”

-Student Government Association bylaws.

Every year, the Student Government Association (SGA) Finance Committee is tasked with overseeing the allocation of the Student Activity Fee (SAF) to the over 170 CSOs on campus. Every SLU undergraduate student pays $65/semester into the Student Activity Fee. Graduate students pay $30/semester, with 15% of those funds going towards the general SAF. The allocations are recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the full SGA Senate under the notion that all undergraduate students pay into this fee and therefore all students should benefit from it.

The Finance Committee has defined the Student Activity Fee as, “A fee paid by students and allocated by the Student Government Association for the betterment of the Saint Louis University
student body.” From this definition, the following three principles guide the Finance Committee’s decision making process:

1. **Betterment**: How is the Student Activity Fee being used to improve the quality of the SLU student experience and provide for an overall more enjoyable and holistic education?

2. **Reach**: How can the Student Activity Fee be distributed in order to make the greatest possible impact on the largest number of students, keeping in mind the limited resources available?

3. **Equity**: How can the Student Activity Fee be distributed in a way that respects and empowers each and every Chartered Student Organization in good standing with the Association?

It is with these three principles in mind that the Finance Committee creates the Annual Funding Directives and makes recommendations for funding to the Senate. These recommendations preference requests that have a direct impact on the day-to-day life of the average SLU student and avoid off-campus events, internal events, and those based out of a University department. The Finance Committee does not prioritize personal advancement nor the improvement of the perceived standing of any University department or activity as a justifiable intention in the case of funding. However, it is the responsibility of SGA to provide for the CSOs charted underneath it, and resources should be aligned as effectively as possible so that every CSO performs to the best of its capabilities.

Funding should never be seen as an entitlement, and as such, will always be freely given and taken away based on a group’s overall operations and contribution to the SLU student experience. However, the SGA Finance Committee, and Senate, groups consisting of students, are obligated by commonality to consider the human element when approving and denying all legislation. This is especially true when considering the Directives presented below. Objective decision making is the key to a fair process, but a hardline approach to “Betterment” or “Reach” would go against the core mission of the Association. The interests and efforts of every SLU student are to be respected and encouraged.
DEFINITIONS

- **Competitive Build CSOs**: Any group that must design and build a physical object that will be entered into a competition/tournament to be judged.
- **Competitive CSOs**: Any CSO with a mission to compete in regional and national competitions
- **Competition/Tournament**: An inter-collegiate opportunity for groups to compete against others of a similar nature.
- **Conference**: A formal event in which schools, organizations, and/or independent parties meet to discuss a particular topic. Fundable conferences provide a unique experience and unique information to an attending party that brings something back to benefit the leadership operations of the attending CSO as well as the Saint Louis University student experience as a whole.
  - Leadership conferences are defined as conferences that serve to further operations of a CSO and its influence on Saint Louis University’s campus.
- **Conference Evaluation**: A reflective form required to be filled out by all CSOs that receive Conference Funding. Evaluation is sent by the Vice President of Finance and is to be filled out by the stated date for future funding consideration.
- **Co-Sponsorships**: When multiple CSOs would like to collaborate and financially co-sponsor an event.
  - Collaborations with DSOs should not be listed under Co-Sponsorships.
- **Durable Item**: Items that last for more than one fiscal year and will stay within the organization. The Committee refrains from allocating funding to non-durable items that are not associated with a specific event (i.e. decorations for an event may be funded, but capital purchases that do not last several years will not be funded)
- **Event Evaluation**: A reflective evaluation required for all events allocated $1000 or more from the Student Activity Fee.
  - Must be completed within the same semester that the event takes place in.
- **Financial Repercussions**: Repercussions that may take place for not abiding by the requirements for CSO funding as per the past fiscal year’s funding directives, information presented at Leaders of the Pack by the Vice President of Finance, and information presented at the Annual Funding Kickoff.
  - Repercussions may include, but are not limited to reductions in funding or freezing of funds.
- **Flagged Events**: Events that were funded the past fiscal year but did not occur, or resulted in an
undue burden on the student body by a lack of attendance, or an event evaluation was not submitted on time.
  ○ If an event is subject to be flagged for a subsequent fiscal year, the event will be cut.

- **Fundraiser**: Any event/item funded partially or completely through the Student Activity Fee that is charging students with the intent to make a profit.
  ○ Only Primarily Charitable/Service CSOs may request for fundraisers.

- **Internal Event**: Any event or trip that is open only to group members, not the entire student body, or an event or trip in which a CSO does not make a sufficient effort to include the entire student body.
  ○ Competitions and tournaments shall not be considered forms of Internal Events for the purpose of Student Activity Fee funding
  ○ Internal event designations are based on a presentation to the Finance Committee by the CSO at the time of the request.

- **Permissions**: The Finance Committee may use permissions to allow a lump sum use of funds for specific items.
  ○ This designation is most commonly given for large amounts of supplies or equipment, and allows the CSO in question to reallocate funds for those specific line items as long as the physical items purchased using the funds are integral to the function of the CSO and are in line with the Annual Funding Directives.

- **Primarily Charitable/Service CSOs**: Any CSO with a mission dedicated to fundraising or service.
  ○ Only one fundraising event per Primarily Charitable/Service CSO will be funded each fiscal year.

- **Programming Event**: Any type of activity (i.e. speaker, showcase, concert) hosted by a CSO that is in line with its constitutional mission and purpose.

- **Recruitment Funding**: All CSOs are eligible for up to $100 of recruitment funding per Fiscal Year.

- **Undue Burden**: This designation is given to any item that is deemed to be an unjustifiable expense on the Student Activity Fee in relation to the perceived benefit to the student body, as well as events and items that are deemed fundable but that the Student Activity Fee cannot currently afford. The designation will be used objectively for cases where the Finance committee deems the expense non-fundable given the current state of the Student Activity Fee.

- **Zero-Dollar Allocation**: If a CSO is unable to specify a line item of a funding request (i.e. travel costs or registration fees) due to factors outside of its control (i.e. the announcement of a tournament’s location), then it may request a “Zero-Dollar Allocation” in the “Funding Requested” column of the line item.
  ○ An explanation must be provided as to the unforeseeable nature of the line item.
  ○ If an approval of the Zero-Dollar Allocation is given, the CSO is able to apply for Spot
Funding when they are able to specify the costs of that line item. However, despite the approval of a Zero-Dollar Allocation, the CSO in question cannot be guaranteed Student Activity Fee funding for that line item, as the decision to allot funds is ultimately up to the Student Government Association Senate.

2019-2020 ANNUAL FUNDING TIMELINE:

- **Leaders of the Pack**: September 14, 2019
  - Annual Funding Timeline released
- **Kickoff**: February 1, 2020
  - Overview of Annual Funding Process
- **Budgets Due**: March 6, 2020 (11:59PM)
  - Friday before Spring Break
- **Hearing Sign-Ups**: March 16-18, 2020
  - In SGA Commons or online, TBD
- **Funding Hearings**: March 20-22; March 27-29
  - 15 minute hearings where committee will ask questions about budget
- **1st Appeals**: April 18, 2020
  - Opportunity to appeal budget
- **2nd Appeals**: April 22, 2020
  - Second opportunity to appeal budget in front of Senate

ANNUAL FUNDING KICKOFF:

Every year, the Student Government Association (SGA) Finance Committee will host the Annual Funding Kickoff, a day where each CSO is tasked with attending an 50-minute-long session for their specific funding cabinet to hear and ask questions about the Annual Funding Process. **Attendance at the Annual Funding Kickoff is mandatory** and if CSOs are unable to attend the session for their specific funding cabinet (i.e. a club sport is unable to attend the session for club sports), it is expected that groups will either attend a different funding cabinet session or schedule a meeting with the VP of Finance to go over the information discussed during the meeting. **Both the President and Treasurer of a CSO must attend Kickoff in order to be marked as present. Failure of either the President or Treasurer to attend the Annual Funding Kickoff will result in CSOs forfeiting their opportunity to Appeal at the end of the Annual Funding Process.**
ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING:

1. CSOs should follow the CSO Financial Requirements as determined by the Vice President of Finance and presented during Leaders of the Pack.
2. CSOs should critically reflect about the items that they are requesting and when evaluating their own events, as a significant amount of faith is entrusted when funding is allotted.
3. CSOs should spend allotted funds in a responsible manner and be truthful when relating costs and expenses.
4. CSOs should continually pursue growth, in order to offer as much as they possibly can to the student body.
5. Executive board members for CSOs should do their best to empower the members of the organization and work with them to improve the financial operations of the group in question.
6. All financial information and experience obtained and collected by executive board members should be passed onto their successors, and as such, failure to do so cannot be compensated for by a more lenient financial policy.
7. Line items requested must be relevant to a CSO’s mission, as determined by its Constitution CSOs are required to keep an Internal Budget to track all incurred expenses throughout the course of the fiscal year
   a. Failure to submit an Internal Budget will result in a 20% full budget allocation cut.
8. CSOs are required to maintain an Equipment Inventory of all durable goods in possession of the CSO that were funded by the Student Activity Fee for the current year or past years.
   a. Failure to submit an Equipment Inventory will result in a 20% equipment and durable goods allocation cut.
9. If funds for a given line item are used for any purpose other than the purpose for which funding was approved, the Finance Committee reserves the power to cut funding for that line item in the future as per the Financial Repercussions
   a. If a reallocation was approved by the Vice President of Finance prior to usage of funds for a different purpose, the CSO in question will be exempt from this clause.
10. Failure to meet any of the directives below shall constitute a violation privy to financial repercussions by the Finance Committee.
11. If funded for a fundable conference, CSOs are expected to complete a Conference Evaluation within the semester that the conference took place for future funding consideration.
12. Any event that was funded $1000 or more is required to have an accompanying Event Evaluation completed within the semester that the event took place for future funding consideration.

GENERAL DIRECTIVES:

1. **Recruitment Funding**
   1.1. All CSOs are eligible for up to $100 of recruitment funding per Fiscal Year.
      1.1.1. This money is to be used to encourage students to attend general informational meetings about the group and encourage involvement.
      1.1.2. The funds for recruitment may be used during involvement fairs, one general body meeting per semester, or a combination of the two.
   1.2. Recruitment funding will not be eligible for Reallocation Requests in FY21.
1.3. Recruitment funding may not be listed as more than one line item on an organization’s budget.

2. **Transportation**
   2.1. The Student Activity Fee will fund domestic travel limited to national travel 350 miles or more from Saint Louis University - North Campus. National travel will be funded at a maximum of $180 round-trip, per person.
   2.2. The Student Activity Fee will fund regional travel over 50 miles but fewer than 350 miles from Saint Louis University - North Campus. Regional travel is funded at a maximum of $30 round-trip, per person.
   2.3. Local travel (within a 50 mile radius of Saint Louis University and any travel costs at the location of any regional or national event) will not be funded by the Student Activity Fee, this includes public transportation costs at conferences and tournaments.
      2.3.1. The Student Activity can fund local travel (fewer than 50 mile radius from Saint Louis University - North Campus) only for CSOs whose primary mission is local, off-campus service.
   2.4. Non-fundable transportation items include but are not limited to parking expenses, international travel, and airline baggage fees.

3. **Lodging:**
   3.1. All lodging will now be funded at 60% of requested lodging at a maximum rate of $23 per person per night with a maximum stay of three nights.

4. **Registration:**
   4.1. The Student Activity Fee may fund up to 60% of registration costs for conferences, competitions, and tournaments. CSOs are expected to fund the remaining 40% using their own resources and reallocations cannot be made to fully fund registration fees.
   4.2. For all conferences, tournaments, and competitions: CSOs must provide most current websites for events so that the Finance Committee can cross-check transportation, lodging, and registration fees.

5. **Printing, Advertising, Banners**
   5.1. CSOs are eligible to request for a maximum printing and advertising budget of 10% of the group’s total request or operating budget.
      5.1.1. The only exception is for CSOs whose primary mission and purpose involves a printed publication.
   5.2. Each CSO may request one professionally-printed banner or tablecloth with a maximum price of $100.
      5.2.1. Requests will be funded once every third fiscal year.
      5.2.1.1. i.e. An organization requested for and was funded for a banner for FY19, that CSO will not be able to request for a banner until FY22.

6. **Equipment and Uniforms**
   6.1. Any capital and uniform requests must be for items that will stay with the organization for several fiscal years.
      6.1.1. All items must be recorded in the CSO’s Equipment Inventory
      6.1.2. Club T-shirts that are not uniforms used for competition and will not stay within the organization for several years will not be funded.
      6.1.2.1. Requests will be funded once every third fiscal year.
      6.1.2.2. i.e. An organization requested for and was funded for new uniforms for FY19, that CSO will not be able to request for new uniforms until FY22.

7. **Food and Beverage**
   7.1. Food costs can be funded for up to $7 per person for any given event.
7.2. CSOs must follow the University’s catering guidelines.
    7.2.1. Ex. Events held in the BSC must use CaterSLU.
7.3. Food and beverage items can be funded by the Student Activity Fee only when linked to a particular, non-internal event.
7.4. Food expenses related to travel cannot be covered (i.e. food on the way to, or at a conference, competition, or tournament).
7.5. Anything alcohol-related is non-fundable, including events held at a venue that makes more than 50% of its revenue from the sale of alcohol.

8. Cost of Attendance
8.1. If an event is fully funded by the Student Activity Fee, and the CSO hosting the event is not primarily charitable in nature, students may NOT be charged for attendance.
    8.1.1. Primarily charitable/Service organizations can be funded for one fundraising event or one type of fundraising event per fiscal year.
8.2. If an event is only partially funded by the Student Activity Fee, funds generated from an additional charge to students may only be used to break even.
    8.2.1. If the Finance Committee is within reason to believe that students were charged at a rate intended to generate a profit in the previous fiscal year, then the committee reserves the power to cut the amount of funding for the event in the following fiscal year.
    8.2.2. If excess funds are generated, beyond breaking even, the excess must be credited into the Student Activity Fee Fund.
8.3. It is expected that any events open to the public should charge non-SLU students for attendance at said event.
8.4. If the majority of an event is funded via the Student Activity Fee, the majority of attendees should be from the SLU student body.

9. Reimbursements
9.1. Can only be requested for line-items that have been allocated funding through the SAF.
9.2. Reimbursements will not be completed for expenses that have already been incurred prior to approval of budget by the Finance Committee
    9.2.1. i.e. Items that were purchased before the funding request was approved.
9.3. Students must submit their own reimbursement requests.

10. Sales Tax
10.1. Given that Saint Louis University is a tax-exempt institution and that CSOs are an extension of the University, all purchases made by CSOs should be tax-exempt using the tax exemption form that can be obtained from the Student Involvement Center.
    10.1.1. This excludes lodging fees

11. Conferences
11.1. Fundable conferences must provide a unique experience and unique information to an attending party that brings something back to benefit the leadership operations of the attending CSO as well as the Saint Louis University student experience as a whole.
    11.1.1. A conference that is necessary for a CSO to maintain its national charter status is not enough to warrant its funding.
11.2. Conferences can be funded for up to $200 per student, including the associated registration, hotel, and transportation expenses, with a maximum, total amount of $1200 per CSO (6 people funded per CSO).
    11.2.1. Leadership Conferences are fundable every other fiscal year per directives. FY21 Allocations will be determined using Conference Evaluations and Annual Funding Hearings.
11.3. All funded conferences must have a Conference Evaluation submitted after the conference to be eligible for funding in the future.

11.4. CSOs may request funds for any new conference that was not requested for over the past 3 fiscal years, however, allocations will be contingent upon the explanation given during an Annual Funding Hearing and will be funded at 60% for four people.

11.5. If the CSO has not yet attended the conference for the current fiscal year and wishes to request funds, then the CSO must request for a Zero-Dollar Allocation
11.5.1. Spot Funding will be contingent upon completion of a Conference Evaluation.

11.6. Travel, registration, and hotel costs will be funded with a maximum of $200 per person for 6 people.

11.7. Conference attendees must include members from both a CSOs executive board and general body.

12. **Co-Sponsorships:**
12.1. These events must be listed in the “Co-Sponsorships” section of the Annual Funding Request.
12.1.1. All Co-Sponsoring CSOs must have the same event name listed as a line item in their Annual Funding Request with all collaborating CSOs listed in the name of the event.
12.2. The total cost should be distributed among the collaborating CSOs according to how much they are wanting to contribute and assist with the event.
12.3. The Finance Committee looks highly upon groups that want to showcase their mission and purpose in conjunction with other CSOs to promote greater student interactions and sharing of ideas.

13. **Competitions/Tournaments**
13.1. The Student Activity Fee may fund a maximum of 3 away competitions or tournaments for Club Sports and other, non-competitive build CSOs, whose mission and purpose involved competitions and/or tournaments.
13.2. Qualifying CSOs may also receive Zero-Dollar Allocations for Regional and National Tournaments that require groups to qualify first in order to attend.
13.3. Transportation, registration, and hotel costs will be funded according to the General Directives for transportation, lodging, and registration.
13.4. The SAF will not fund national dues or outside coach, referee, trainer, or instructor fees for any Competitive CSOs.

14. **Lighting, Stage, Sound, Speakers etc.**
14.1. Requests for these items and services will be assumed to be based upon a current Service Request quotes for the specific provider, and as such, will not be spot funding eligible.
SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECTIVES:

1. Club Sports
   a. The Student Activity Fee may fund a maximum of 3 competitions or tournaments for Club Sports whose mission and purpose involves competitions and/or tournaments.
      i. Qualifying CSOs may also receive Zero-Dollar Allocations for Regional and National Tournaments that require groups to qualify first in order to attend.
   b. Club Sports will be funded for transportation, lodging, and registration costs according to the General Directives.
   c. The SAF will not fund national dues or outside coach, referee, trainer, or instructor fees for any club sports.

2. Media and Performance Groups
   a. The Student Activity Fee may fund a maximum of 3 competitions or tournaments for Media and Performance groups whose mission and purpose involves competitions and/or tournaments.
      i. Qualifying CSOs may also receive Zero-Dollar Allocations for Regional and National Tournaments that require groups to qualify first in order to attend.
   b. Media and Performance groups will be funded for travel, lodging, and registration costs according to the General Directives.

3. Primarily Charitable/Service Groups
   a. Primarily Charitable/Service CSOs will be funded for only one fundraising event per fiscal year
   b. If an event is fully funded by the Student Activity Fee, and the CSO hosting the event is primarily charitable in nature, students may be charged for attendance.
   c. If an event is only partially funded by the Student Activity Fee, and the CSO hosting the event is primarily charitable in nature, funds generated from an additional charge to students may be used as a form of fundraising and as a way for the CSO to break even.

4. Parks Groups
   a. For Parks groups that must design and build a physical object that will be entered into a competition/tournament to be judged (Competitive Build CSOs), the Student Activity Fee is able to fund one competition per fiscal year with its associated travel, lodging, and tournament fee costs.
   b. Materials for build competitions will be given a Parks Permission to allow groups to use a lump sum of money in order to purchase their most necessary equipment.
      i. These parts will not be considered nondurable goods and will be awarded through a Permission in the budget recommendation.
   c. All materials for the design have to be approved by the CSO’s advisor before any purchases are made.
   d. Travel, registration, and hotel costs will be funded according to the General Directives.
NON-FUNDABLE ITEMS

1. Line items that are not in line with the overall mission and purpose of the CSO.
2. Anything in violation of University policy
3. Any University department-based activity
4. Any academic or religious texts
5. Sales Tax
6. Office Supplies that are unrelated to specific programming events
7. Payments to CSOs or students at Saint Louis University
8. Line items that would primarily only benefit members of the organization, including but not limited to:
   8.1. Photographers/Videographers
   8.2. Maintenance of a website
   8.3. Digital or physical subscriptions of any type
   8.4. Parking for day of the event
   8.5. Gifts and Giveaways
   8.6. Internal Events
   8.7. National dues paid to affiliated or oversight organizations
   8.8. Finance and banking charges
   8.9. Speakers, presenters, or food for general body meetings

ANNUAL FUNDING HEARINGS

I. Annual Funding Hearings are required for the FY21 Annual Funding Cycle.
II. During an Annual Funding Hearing, the required executive board members of a CSO will meet with the Finance Committee and go through their requested budget, line item by line item, before answering questions from the Committee members about their budget.
III. Minutes from each Annual Funding Hearing will be documented by members of the Finance Committee. At the conclusion of the Hearing, the minutes will be approved and signed by at least one member of both the current and future executive boards of the CSO.
   A. If there is a perceived discrepancy by the involved parties, this issue must be resolved prior to the Finance Committee beginning another hearing or adjourning from hearings for that day.
IV. After a CSO’s Annual Funding Hearing, the Committee will discuss each CSO’s budget and recommend an allocation amount to the CSO given the state of the Student Activity Fee.
V. CSO Required Attendees to Annual Funding Hearings:
   A. If a CSO requests for $4000 or more in Student Activity Fee Funding, two members from the current executive board and two members from the next executive board must attend the Annual Funding Hearing.
      1. There must be four distinct individuals
         a) i.e. One current executive board member who will continue to be on the
executive board may not count as two individuals.

B. If a CSO requests less than $4,000 in Student Activity Fee Funding, one member from the current executive board and one member from the next executive board must attend the Annual Funding Hearing.
   1. There must be two distinct individuals

C. If a CSO does not meet this directive, the CSO in question will lose eligibility to appeal the Finance Committee’s recommendation for funding.

D. Exceptions will only be made in the case of elections not occurring prior to the beginning date of Annual Funding Hearings.
   1. Proper documentation from the Vice President of Student Organizations will be required in this case.
   2. In this case, current members may attend the Annual Funding Hearing based on the previous guidelines.

VI. If a CSO does not attend an Annual Funding Hearing:
   A. The CSO must provide reasoning to the VP of Finance before Annual Funding Hearings begin as to why they cannot attend the hearing.
   B. If no reasoning is provided, the CSO is question will receive a 20% cut to the recommended allocation decided upon by the committee.
   C. The CSO will also lose eligibility for appeals.

FINANCIAL REPERCUSSIONS

I. Groups that fail to fulfill any or all of the above mentioned Financial Requirements may be eligible for financial repercussions per the discretion of the VP of Finance and the Finance Committee.

II. Outlined below are the repercussions that may occur followed by actions that would lead to these repercussions. This is not an exhaustive list and the Finance Committee reserves the right to enact any further repercussions in the event that the financial requirements were not followed in any other way and will remain consistent across groups in this act.
   A. No budget allocation
   B. Full budget allocation cut by 20%
      1. Group failed to submit an internal budget for FY20.
      2. Group failed to attend an Annual Funding Hearing without providing reasoning.
   C. Equipment and Durable Goods allocation cut by 20%
      1. Group failed to submit an equipment inventory for FY20.
   D. Event allocation cut by 15%
      1. Group failed to submit Event Evaluation before Annual Funding Hearing.
   E. Event flagged red to possibly be cut in the following year.
      1. Group failed to host event or follow through on a line item.
      2. If line item is not followed through in the following year, the line item will be cut from the budget.
   F. Conference cut
      2. Conference did not fall within fundable conference directives in FY21.
   G. No Appeals
      1. Group did not attend Leaders of the Pack or any form of make-up session.
2. Group did not attend Annual Funding Kickoff.
3. Group did not present budget during Annual Funding Hearing.
4. Group presented a budget during Annual Funding Hearing with incorrect number of old and new executive board members.

H. SIC Repercussions
   1. Warning
   2. Schedule a meeting and go through training
   3. Ban from requesting P-cards

APPEALS PROCESS

I. Appeals are granted upon the basis of one of the Annual Funding Directives inaccurately being applied to a Line Item in a Finance Committee Recommendation.

II. Organizations that meet the following qualifications are eligible to apply for an Annual Funding Appeal
   A. The CSO attended Leaders of The Pack or a make-up session for it
   B. The CSO attended the Annual Funding Kickoff
   C. The CSO attended an Annual Funding Hearing with the correct number of old and new executive board members

“Funding should never be seen as an entitlement, and as such, will always be freely given and taken away based on a group’s overall operations and contribution to the SLU student experience.” FY21 Annual Funding Directives