Treasurer Packet

Updated November 22, 2014
Letter to Club Leaders

Dear Club Leaders,

My name is Damian Gallagher, and I am the Student Government Association Appropriations Chairman. Along with the Comptroller, Alyson Guarino, and the members on the Appropriations committee, we strive to fairly allocate funds to undergraduate student clubs and organizations at Hofstra University. Bound by the policy series (enclosed within), the appropriations committee will review budgetary proposals with the intention of making the university a better place by helping clubs create a culture on Hofstra’s campus through the hosting of events, and by building a strong community through advocating for students.

The purpose of this letter is set forth some vital information for club leaders. First and foremost, while this packet is entitled *Treasurer Packet*, it is by no means something that only the treasurer should concern himself/herself with. Instead, Student Government as a whole wishes for entire EBoards to be familiar with the policies and procedures not just within appropriations, but all oriented within Student Government. Please be aware that if anyone has questions at any time about appropriations, to reach out to us at: SGA_Appropriations@pride.hofstra.edu and SGA_Comptroller@pride.hofstra.edu where we will reply as quickly as possible.

**Budget weekend is a time where clubs submit a proposal for the upcoming semester. Only budgets submitted by November 5th at 11:59pm will be seen, no exceptions. In order to be seen, budgets must be submitted in one .pdf file with the subject line “club name”, Spring 2015 budget.**

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns, and please, send me a copy of your budget/request proposal if you need assistance.

Always,

Damian Gallagher, Appropriations Chairman
Club/Organization Name: ____________________________________________

Amount Requested Breakdown:

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<th>Item #</th>
<th>Event Name/Item</th>
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Event/Item Request Form

Name of the Event/Item: _______________________________________________________

Date and Time of Event: ______________________________________________________

Location of Event (Approved Y__ N__): _________________________________________

Co-Sponsorships (with designated responsibilities): ________________________________

Description of Event/Item (required): _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

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Event/Item Breakdown

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<th>Item Name</th>
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Total Amount Requested

Do you have: (1) Three Hotel Quotes, (2) Official Speaker Quote, (3) 3 Quotes for Items Over $300, (4) Verification of Storage, (5) Conference/Event Verification (i.e. Tournament Proof, Screenshot, etc.)?
Please refer to the Appropriations Policy Series (included) for more detailed information.

**Budget Request Guidelines**

- Any item that you wish to request funding for must have a corresponding quote. Quotes can be, but are not limited to, the form of a webpage printout, receipts, or email screenshots with corresponding dates and times (great for requesting performers, speakers, or coaches).
- Any item of $300 must have a minimum of three quotes from different sources. Exceptions are possible when there is only one source or you require a specific source, contingent upon the discretion of the chair and committee. When requesting funding for a hotel, three (3) quotes must be attached and included.

**General Appropriations Policies**

- Formals, defined as any end of the semester event held at Hofstra or an off-campus location, cannot be funded for by the Student Government Association. If there is any confusion concerning whether an event is classified as a formal, please email the appropriations chair or the Comptroller for clarification.
- Food for any event must be purchased through Lackmann. In cases where they cannot provide catering, there must be an override form given for the event, provided by Lackmann, before the appropriations committee is able to allocate any funds.
- A maximum of eight (8) students can be funded to attend conferences per year, with a maximum of three conferences per year.
- Transportation is funded $0.56/mile and may only be funded for if it is within 300 miles of New York City.
- A maximum of $250 per year can be funded for apparel.
- A maximum of $200 can be funded for a table drape or banner, every 3 years.
- Decorations, DJs, and prizes or giveaways for events cannot be funded.
- The Student Government Association only funds events that go towards a club’s purpose. Any event deemed to be a party, carnival, or celebration cannot be funded, unless it directly contributes to a club’s purpose.
- Food cannot be funded for regular meeting times.
- A maximum of $150 per year may be funded for recruitment events.
III. APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

A. ADDENDUM TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMPTROLLER:

1. Financial Records: All Student Government Association funded organizations are required to maintain financial records which are subject to audit by the Internal Review and Control Board (IRCB). All organizations have a maximum of seventy-two (72) hours after receiving written or verbal notice that they will be audited to contact the IRCB or the Comptroller. Failure of the organization to produce its financial records at that time will result in that organization’s budget being frozen. The budget will be unfrozen immediately upon receipt of the financial records by the IRCB.

2. Check Requisitions and Purchase Orders:
   a. All Check Requisitions and Purchase orders (P.O.’s) will be honored only if there is sufficient money in the club or organization’s budget to accommodate that purchase. No club will be allowed to have a negative (red) balance.
   b. Check Requisitions and Purchase Orders are available in the Student Government Association office, online, or-from the Student Government Association Bookkeeper, in the Office of Student Leadership and Activities, in 260 Student Center.
   c. All forms must be completed correctly or they will not be honored.
   d. All forms must be submitted at least two (2) weeks in advance of the event. Forms submitted less than two (2) weeks in advance may result in denial or mismanagement of budget. No “walking through” or “push purchases” will be permitted.

3. Funding Form: The Student Government Association will require that all organizations, fill out a funding form to access their budget. The funding forms must contain the following information: Organization’s name, requester, description of event, date submitted, date of event, total amount requested, description of service or product, quantity, unit price as well as supporting documentation. Attached to this form must be three bids of purchasing items from a specific vendor exceeding $300 or the current University policy as directed by the purchasing department. A funding form must accompany every purchase.

4. Overspending: The Student Government Association will deduct the amount of over expenditures by each individual Student Government Association funded organization from the following year’s budget of that organization (if overspent in, 2011-2012, deduct from 2012-2013).

5. Inactive Clubs: All inactive clubs and organization’s budgets shall be returned to the Student Government Association contingency.
   a. The income of inactive clubs shall be absorbed into the Student Government Association contingency if the club does not become reactivated within two months of becoming inactive.

6. Frozen Budgets: All Student Government Association allocated budgets in the clubs or organizations’ accounts are held and no financial business is allowed.

7. Cash Advances or Reimbursements: All clubs and organizations requiring a cash advance may obtain a cash advance pending approval by the Comptroller prior to the club event. Clubs and organizations must use vendors who will accept P.O.’s and check requisitions.
   a. A club, organization, or individual student seeking reimbursement for an expenditure must submit a receipt(s) to the Student Government Association’s Bookkeeper within the Office of Student Activities and Leadership.
   b. Reimbursements will only be seen within the same semester of the expenditure.

B. APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE:

1. General Policies:
   a. The Appropriations Committee does not fund any club with a discriminatory or exclusive attitude with regards to membership, as defined in Article I, Section II of the Constitution. An exception may be made for non-SGA recognized organizations as outlined in Section E.
   b. Meetings will take place every week during the fall and spring semesters, until the money allocated for the semester has depleted. The location and time will be posted on the Student Government Association office door.
   c. An agenda of clubs will be posted for each meeting. All requests must be made in writing.
d. The Appropriations Committee reserves the right to limit a club’s appearance at weekly Appropriations meetings for failure to appear. If a club reserves a spot on the Appropriations roster and fails to appear, the club will not be able to reserve a spot on the roster for the following week.

e. A maximum of five percent (5%) of the funds that are to be allocated to Student Government Association recognized clubs and organizations each year may be allocated to undergraduate non-Student Government Association organizations if the organization meets the following criteria:
   i. The non-Student Government Association organization must follow all Appropriations policies in order to receive funding.
   ii. Funding will only be allocated for campus-wide events, not for items or programs that are specific to the organization exclusively (i.e., t-shirts, banners, conferences, fundraisers, travel, etc will not be funded).
   iii. Proposals may be submitted for review over the bi-annual budget weekends. The Appropriations Committee Chair may add a maximum of two (2) additional dates in which non-Student Government Association organizations may submit proposals throughout the semester. Each non-SGA recognized club or organization may receive funding for a maximum of two events per year.

f. The Appropriations Committee Chairperson reserves the right to limit the number of clubs on its agenda for any meeting.

g. All financial business does not become official until it passes the Senate

h. Student Government Association will not fund any club or organization that is not registered on Collegiate Link. If an organization is deemed inactive for failure to re-register on Collegiate Link or for other reasons, they would no longer have SGA status and would have to reapply through the registration committee and SGA.

i. Appropriations Committee members—The president and treasurer of any club or organization may not serve on the Appropriations Committee as a voting member. Any other full-time undergraduate senator or associate may be a member.

j. Any member of the Appropriations Committee must abstain from voting if he or she is a member of a club or organization seeking budget.

k. Contracts—when scheduling entertainment for a function, the following must be completed and signed by an Student Government Association advisor within the periods listed below:
   i. Single Engagement: 10 Business Days
   ii. Musician or Accompanist Contract: 10 Business Days
   iii. Guest Lecturer Contract: 10 Business Days
   iv. Artist Contract (with accompanied HU rider and certificate of Liability Insurance): 28 Business Days
   v. University Food Services: 10 Business Days.
   vi. If funding for these items is requested after the specified time period, funding will not be granted.

l. The Student Government Association, the Comptroller and Hofstra University cannot guarantee payment of any financial transactions where all documents are not filled out completely and correctly at least two (2) weeks in advance.

m. Student Government Association equipment, whether purchased by the Student Government Association itself or with Student Government Association budget by recognized clubs or organizations, may not be used by anyone outside the jurisdiction of the Student Government Association. Exceptions must be in writing and may only be granted by the Appropriations Committee Chairperson, the Student Government Association Comptroller, or the Student Government Association President. Exceptions will only be granted after consultation with the club or organization whose budget was used to purchase the item.

n. The Student Government Association does not fund clubs or organizations to provide scholarships.

o. All clubs and organizations seeking funds must use the appropriate documents provided by the Student Government Association.

p. The Appropriations Committee may not allocate funds for inventory exceeding the price of $100 per item unless the club has an appropriate location to store it and pending written confirmation by the program advisor.
q. If a club or organization loses or destroys an item funded by the Student Government Association, the item will not be replaced for at least one academic year.

r. All Committee Chairs are responsible for submitting a budget during the bi-annual budget meetings in order to receive funds for their respective Committee.

2. Rules and Appropriations Update Meetings:
   a. Fall semester—The Appropriations and Rules Committees will meet to update the rules and regulations and address concerns of all Student Government Association organizations during a special fall semester meeting. No other business will be conducted at this meeting (no budgets, additional allocations, or re-allocations).

3. Bi-Annual Budget:
   a. At the end of each semester, any club or organization seeking Student Government Association funds may submit a budget to the Appropriations Committee for the following semester.
   b. This shall henceforth be known as “budget weekend,” to be held in November and April respectively unless otherwise specified by the Appropriations Committee.

4. Appropriations Committee Procedures:
   a. When requesting a new budget, additional allocation, or reallocation, all requests must be presented at the Appropriations Committee meeting by an executive board member of the club. The request must be in writing with at least eight (8) copies for members of the Committee.
   b. All monies allocated by the Appropriations Committee must be spent within the academic semester, unless otherwise specified. Any unused budget will be reabsorbed by the Student Government Association on the last day of the academic semester.

5. Advertising: All Student Government Association clubs have a certain amount of free advertising in The Chronicle. All club advertisements are subject to guidelines as published in The Chronicle’s ad policy. For The Chronicle: All Student Government Association clubs are allowed any combination up to one-half (1/2) page per academic year.

6. Fundraisers: All organizations are strongly encouraged to sponsor fundraisers. All money must be deposited the day of the fundraiser to the Office of Student Leadership and Activities. Failure to do so will constitute mismanagement of funds. Any monies allocated for this purpose may be considered restricted income, as determined by the Appropriations Committee.

7. Additional Allocations: When an organization necessitates additional money from the Student Government Association, clubs or organizations must request these funds by writing a proposal and providing supporting documentation. The Appropriations Committee shall take into account the current financial status of the Club or Organization in rendering their decision on the request. Any additional allocation request may be tabled for further investigation until the next Appropriations Committee meeting.

8. Re-Allocations: Money may be allocated from a Club or Organization’s budget to a Student Government Association account with the SGA Comptroller’s consent. The process of the transaction must be communicated via email.

9. Income: Income is defined as any money that enters a Club or Organization’s budget other than Student Government Association allocations.

10. Prices: All clubs must purchase equipment at the lowest market price. Any items over $300 requires three (3) bids motion as per the University purchasing department. An organization must present documentation upon submission of a check request.

11. Formal:
   a. For our purposes, formals will include end of semester dinners held at HofstraUSA, Hofstra University Club, and any off-campus location.
   b. Student Government Association budget cannot be used for the funding of formals, or any part of formals (i.e.: buses, hotels, etc.).

12. Conferences:
   a. A maximum of eight (8) members may be funded by the Student Government Association to attend a conference per year. Any exceptions must have prior approval of the Appropriations Committee Chairperson and the Comptroller. However, income may subsidize additional people over and above the
eight (8) persons limit. The Appropriations Committee will only fund for a maximum of three (3) conferences per year for each organization.
b. Three (3) bids will be mandatory before any allocations are to be disbursed for hotel and transportation costs. An SGA recognized club or organization may be funded up to $100 per night for hotel.
c. Any spending on a conference, be it from an organization’s income or from a member’s private finances must be deposited with the Office of Student Leadership and Activities prior to the conference and prior to completing purchase orders and check requisitions (for the conference) for which the deposited money is to be used.
d. No Student Government Association budget will be allocated for food.
e. Mileage can be funded based on the IRS rate per mile. SGA will not reimburse for gas.

13. Retreats: The Student Government Association shall not provide budget for retreats.

14. Transportation: Transportation may be funded provided that the conference or event falls within a 300 mile radius of New York City, with the exception of the Colonial Athletic Association tournament bus(es) that is sponsored by Student Government Association.
   a. An SGA recognized club or organization may be funded up to four (4) cars per event, based on the organizations membership.
   b. SGA cannot fund for gas expenses
   c. SGA cannot fund for coach bus(es).

15. Competitions: In order to enable those Student Government clubs or organizations that represent Hofstra at intercollegiate competitions the Student Government shall establish separate guidelines when determining the funding for those organizations. Those guidelines shall be:
   a. When requesting funding for a competition, an organization must present the Appropriations Committee with all necessary registration materials and information regarding the competition.
   b. When requesting funds for an Intercollegiate competition the Student Government Association Appropriations Committee shall have discretion in determining funding.

16. Film: The Student Government Association shall not provide budget for the purchases of cameras, photo supplies, or developing costs unless the mission of your club and organization states the necessity of such inventory purchases.

17. Fall Festival: Clubs or organizations may be funded for float building materials up to $350 per float, so long as the appropriated monies do not exceed the limit set by the Office of Student Leadership and Activities. Additional float building materials may be purchased with income within a monetary limit to be established by the Appropriations Committee Chairperson and the Comptroller.

18. Charitable Contributions: Any club or organization may donate income collected from any event of a philanthropic nature to charity, with a monetary limit and with prior approval of the Office of Student Leadership and Activities and all other necessary administrative offices.

19. Donations: Donated money shall be considered income. However, donated money is subject to all University policies Any organization receiving donations must deposit them with the Office of Student Leadership and Activities. Money donated by a department of Hofstra University outside of the Office of Student Leadership and Activities must be used by the 30th of June. All other monetary donations will roll over.

20. Clothing:
   a. No apparel (shirts, jackets, uniforms etc.) shall be funded above $250 per academic year. If a club wishes to fund above $250, the club or organization must make up the difference with their income and a P.O. must be submitted. For all intents and purpose, padding will be considered equipment.

21. Table Drapes: A SGA Recognized club or organization may only spend up to $200 on a table drape.
   a. A request for a table drape will only be seen once every three academic years.

22. Decorations: The Student Government Association will not fund for decorations.

23. Prizes: Prizes may not be funded with Student Government Association appropriated money.

24. Subscriptions or Memberships: Subscriptions or memberships must be endorsed to the name of the club and delivered to its office.

25. Inventories:
a. The Appropriations Committee may require inventories at the beginning of each semester from all clubs or organizations to assess possessions of all Student Government Association affiliated clubs and organizations.

b. Items over the price of $100 purchased by a club or organization with Student Government Association budget must be kept in a designated place on campus that shall be reported to the Appropriations Committee annually. Any exceptions must have prior approval of the Appropriations Committee Chairperson and the Comptroller.

26. Vendors List: The vendors list is a compilation of vendors who accept Hofstra University Purchase Orders from Student Government Association funded clubs and who have agreed to comply with the stated guidelines. The purpose of the vendors list is to facilitate the transactions of clubs or organizations with outside merchants and to insure the proper procedures are followed in order to guarantee payment to the vendor and to maintain Hofstra University’s reputation in the business community.

a. Procedures for compilation
   i. The list will be compiled by the Comptroller, Purchasing Department and Student Government Association bookkeeper
   ii. Any correspondence with the vendor regarding its inclusion on this list must be cosigned by the Director of Purchasing or the Student Government Association advisor.

b. Conditions for the Inclusion on the Vendors List
   i. Vendors shall agree to accept Hofstra P.O’s from Student Government Association funded clubs.
   ii. Vendors shall agree to mail all bills for payment directly to the Student Government Association bookkeeper.
   iii. Vendors shall agree not to allow students to overspend without a properly authorized addendum.

c. Flexibility of Vendors List: The Vendors List is flexible. The Student Government Association is not committed to any supplier listed. If a club is able to get a lower price from another vendor, the vendor will be added to the list following the above procedures.

d. Procedures for Non-Compliance
   i. Non-Compliance shall be defined as the deliberate use of a vendor not included in the list without prior approval.
   ii. First offense—sole responsibility for payment of the bill without recourse to their allocated budget by the club.
   iii. Second offense—same as 24. D ii. Such club shall remain frozen for a period of time to be left to the discretion of the Appropriations Committee Chairperson and the Comptroller, but for no less than fourteen (14) days.

27. Tipping: Organizations cannot use Student Government Association allocated funds for tipping.

28. Sales Tax, Shipping and Handling Fees: Organizations cannot use Student Government Association allocated funds for sales tax or shipping and handling fees.

29. Paid in Advances: Throughout the Appropriations Committee Policy Series and By-laws, the phrase “paid in advance” means “deposited to the Student Government Association bookkeeper in advance of the event”. For publications the phrase “paid in advance of the event” is defined as “before the issue goes to print”.

30. Copying Prices:
   a. Student Government clubs and organizations will be allowed to have two hundred (200) copies of two (2) different flyers per event.
   b. If clubs or organizations exceed four hundred (400) flyers total for one event, there will be a $0.05 rate per extra page.
   c. Only Student Government Association organizations may be allowed to use copy machines.

31. Disc Jockey: Organizations must use income to pay for DJ’s should they choose not to use a campus organization which has the purpose of providing musical entertainment.

32. Coaching or Instructor Fees: The Student Government Association will fund up to $2,500 per year for coaching or instructors fees.

33. Food for General Meetings- The Student Government Association shall not fund food for the general meetings of any club or organization.
34. Speaker Fees- The Student Government Association can fund specific speaker fees, but not optional honorariums.

35. Negative (Red) Budget Lines and/or Misuse of a Budget
   a. The following procedures will be established for all Student Government Association funded organizations when a negative balance exists in a line or abuse occurs:
      i. First offense—a warning will be given to the club in question.
      ii. Second offense—the club will be levied a 20% fine of the reallocated or misused amount to be returned to Student Government Association club contingency. In some cases, a written warning may be issued prior to any fines.
      iii. Third offense—the club or organizations allocated budget will be immediately frozen and will remain frozen pending the approval of the IRCB after an official hearing is held.
      iv. Fourth offense—if the IRCB unfreezes the allocated budget any additional misusage will result in the club or organizations allocated budget being terminated and absorbed back into the Student Government Association contingency under no exceptions.
      v. The Student Government Association reserves the right to implement further penalties if the situation warrants.

36. End Notes:
   a. Misuse of Funds shall be defined as violating policies or procedures of the Appropriations Committee, the Student Government Association, or Hofstra University.
   b. It is within the power of the Student Government Association Comptroller and the Appropriations Chairperson to determine what shall be considered Mismanagement of Budget or Misuse of Budget, and he or she may take appropriate actions and levy appropriate fines after consulting the IRCB.
   c. All IRCB procedures regarding the unfreezing of budgets shall be found in the appropriate section of the Policy Series and strictly adhered to. All clubs or organizations begin a new academic year with a “clean slate” with regard to violations of the Misuse of Funds Policy. This is limited to those organizations not under any specific sanctions by the IRCB.
   d. The IRCB will also be responsible for overseeing and policing club to club transactions.

37. Internal Review and Control Board: Any club or organization that has violated the “Negative Lines or Misuse of a Budget” policy for a third time must appear before the IRCB at an official budget hearing to have the club’s or organization’s budget unfrozen if permitted by the IRCB. Below are the guidelines and procedures that the IRCB and the clubs or organizations must follow:
   a. The IRCB will notify the President or Treasurer of the organization in writing that they must schedule a hearing within ten (10) days of notification. The club or organization that must appear before the IRCB for a hearing must have forty eight (48) hours to prepare before the hearing is to commence.
   b. The club or organization must provide the IRCB with specific reasons as to why the violation of the “Negative lines or Misuse of Budget” policy occurred and offer a plan of action for ensuring that there are no future violations.
   c. The IRCB will be permitted to question the club representatives regarding the policy violation.
   d. When all evidence has been presented and all questions are asked, the IRCB will notify the club or organization within two (2) days of their decision.
   e. The IRCB can render any of the following decisions:
      i. Unfreeze the organization’s budget.
      ii. Keep the organization’s budget frozen for a specified time when another hearing can be held.
      iii. Stipulate organizational changes as a condition of the organization’s budget becoming unfrozen.
      iv. Stipulate and additional administrative procedures to the organization (ex. weekly contact with Comptroller, mandatory fundraising efforts, etc.)
      v. Revoke the organization’s budget for a specified period of time.
      vi. Terminate and absorb the club or organizations entire budget back into the contingency.

38. Budget Appeals: In the event that a club or organization finds the allocated funds unsatisfactory, it may file an appeal to be presented to the Senate.
   a. Weekly Meetings: If a club or organization wishes to appeal an allocation from a weekly meeting, the club must email the Appropriations Chair within 24 hours after the start of the Appropriations meeting
stating their reason for appeal. The Appropriations Chair must notify the Vice President that a club wishes to appeal twelve (12) hours prior to the Senate meeting. The club may present their appeal at Senate during the presentation of the weekly Appropriations report.

b. Budget Weekend: If a club or organization wishes to appeal an allocation from budget weekend, the club must email the Appropriations Chair twenty-four (24) hours prior to the budget appeals meeting requesting a time for the meeting. The Appropriations Chair must email the Vice President the list of clubs that are scheduled to appeal twelve (12) hours before the Senate meeting.

c. In regards to budget appeals only, the Vice President shall have the ability to add an item to the Senate agenda without Cabinet approval.

39. Student Government Association Club or Organization Budget: All monetary contributions donated to the Student Government Association Club or Organization Budget, a subdivision of the Student Government Association Budget, shall only be accessible to the Appropriations Committee, which shall be permitted to appropriate such additional budget to clubs and organizations in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Student Government Association By-Laws and Policy Series. In cases where donations are made to a specific Student Government Association club or organizations, these funds must be deposited through the Office of Student Leadership and Activities and designated as income.

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41. Consistency: The criteria that is set for the limits of what the Student Government Association will fund will be held objectively across all clubs on a consistent basis.