

The Annual Budget of The Graduate Student Organization, State University at Stony Brook

FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2000 - JUNE 30, 2001

Approved by the GSO Senate on May 11, 2000

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1. Introduction

The GSO Budget Proposal is submitted each year by the Budget Committee to the Executive Council who then approves it to be presented to the Senate. The Budget Committee, along with the C&D Agent have reviewed each of the budget areas and made changes as necessary based upon a review of the previous year's actual expenditures. This proposal will be given to the Senate and voted upon at the next scheduled meeting. The budget shall require a two-thirds vote of the Senate to be passed. The budget is then sent to Dr. Lawrence Martin, the SUNY Board of Trustees designee to oversee the student activity fee collected by the GSO, for final approval. Any changes in the budget proposal, after the final approval, of greater than \$1,000 requires additional approval from Dr. Lawrence Martin.

This year's budget closely follows the format of last year. However, there have been several changes in amounts allocated. We are including in this document a detailed description of the purpose and intent of each item in the budget, as well as the procedure for disbursing the money (the Guidelines). We have tried to continue last year's policy of keeping operating expenses to a minimum while still maintaining the important functions that the GSO performs on behalf of graduate students, and at the same time returning as much as possible of student activity fees directly to the students who pay them. For convenience we write budget line items in **boldface**. Changes to this budget need to follow the procedures outlined in the "GSO Budget Committee Guidelines." However, the guidelines established in the approved Budget supercede the same or relevant guidelines outlined in said "GSO Budget Committee Guidelines." The Senate can override any item or guideline in this budget with a two-thirds vote. Line items which are not defined as Executive Council items require Senate approval.

Disbursement of GSO Funds

Disbursement of GSO funds is made by check written by the C&D agent upon receipt of a properly endorsed GSO financial voucher drawn from an operating account maintained by the C&D agent, with the exception of payroll expenses, which are drawn from a payroll account. Policies regarding vouchers will be devised by the Executive Council and will be stipulated in Executive Council minutes and the C&D agent's contract. All vouchers will require the signature of the treasurer, an officer other than the treasurer, and the C&D agent. In the situation that the Executive Council or the Treasurer fails to approve an expenditure, the matter can be brought to the attention of the full Senate, who shall have the final authority to approve these expenditures. In such a situation, the Speaker of the Senate will sign the voucher and attach a copy of the minutes of the Senate meeting where the allocation was approved, certified by the secretary. This will then be presented to the C&D agent after which time a check will be drawn. In the situation that the C&D agent fails to

make a check, the procedure outlined in the C&D agent's contract and the budget committee bylaws will be followed.

2. Budget Outline

Income

Activity Fee \$141,500 (-3,500)

Interest 1,400

Graduate School RAP Grant 8,000

Research Foundation RAP Grant 8,000

Presidents Office RAP Grant 8,000 (+3,000)

Total Income \$166,900

Expenses

Operational Expenses

GSO Office 6,100

Office Equipment 3,000

Rental Equipment & Supplies 1,000 (-700)

Telephone 1,100

Insurance 1,000

Payroll 34,900

Officer Stipends 18,500 (+4,500)

Office Manager 14,000

Payroll Tax/Insurance 2,400

Accounting 12,445

C&D Agent 8,345 (+180)

Auditor 4,100 (+210)

Internal GSO Functions 6,250

Elections 1,000

Meetings 1,500 (+700)

Committee Meetings Honorarium 2,000 (+2000)

GSO Sponsored Advertisements 500

World Wide Web Page 500

Travel 750

Total Operational Expenses \$59,695

(The numbers within brackets represent changes relative to the 1999-2000 budget)

Program Expenses

GSO Publications 9,000

Editorial staff 3,000

Survival Guide 2,000

Newspaper 4,000

Contributions and Public Service 25,200

Orientation 1,500

Faculty Staff Retreat 400

NYPIRG 10,000

WUSB 3,000

Child Care 8,500

Volunteer Ambulance Corps 1,500

NAGPS 300

Program Funding 52,000

Student Clubs and Organizations 3,000 (+1,000)

General Cultural and Social Events 7,000

Speaker Series and Conferences 5,000 (-1,000)

Student Publications 1,000 (-2,000)

Departmental Allocations 4,000

Resource Access Project (RAP) 32,000 (+3,000)

General Service 20,800

The SPOT (the Graduate Student Lounge)-

Subsidy 15,000 (+1,000)

Monthly Graduate Bash 2,800

Spring Fest 3,000 (-1,000)

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Total Program Expenses 107,000

Total Operational Expenses 59,695

Total Expenses \$166,695

Total Income \$166,900

Total Expenses \$166,695

Projected Surplus \$205

(The numbers within brackets represent changes relative to the 1999-2000 budget)

3.

4. Specific Changes

There have been several changes to the budget this year. The nature and the purpose of those changes are summarized here in this section:

Changes in Income:

1. Activity Fee: This is an estimate based on the activity fee income in the last two years.
2. Advertising Revenue (Survival Guide): There was no income from this source last year and so it was not included in the projected income for this budget. Any money gained from advertising will be applied towards GSO publications.
3. Presidents Office RAP Grant: This was increased to \$8,000 in 1999-2000 fiscal year.

Changes in Operational Expenses:

4. Rental Equipment & Supplies: From our expenditures this year, it has been estimated that \$1,000 would be enough to obtain office supplies for the GSO office for one year.
5. Officer Stipends: This reflects the increase in stipend of the Executive council as follows:

President and Treasurer: \$400 per month (each)

Vice President and Secretary: \$300 per month (each)

Speaker: \$150 per month

These salaries are paid over a 12-month period. The position of the External Representative has been eliminated since it was vacant for extended periods in recent years and the job of representing the GSO in an external environment can be performed by other Executive Council and Senate members.

6. Accounting: The minor changes reflects the 3% annual increase for the Auditor and 5% of projected income for the C&D agent.
7. Meetings: The increase reflects the need to allow for greater attendance at meetings ever since the RAP funding was made conditional on Senate representation of departments.
8. Committee Meetings Honorarium: This is a new line item created to pay graduate students a small honorarium for representing the GSO on external committees which affect graduate student life. This is meant as an incentive and a token of appreciation for time invested in attending the meetings and reporting to the graduate community through the GSO.

Changes in Program Expenses:

9. GSO Publications: The increase in this category reflects the need to have a regular newspaper for graduate students which we at the GSO intend to start in the next fiscal year. Part of the money is for a dedicated editorial staff who will be in charge of all GSO publications, including the Survival Guide.
10. Student Clubs and Organizations: There has been a lot of interest in the campus community to start new clubs. The increase in this category is to be able to provide start-up funds for newly formed clubs and be able to support pre-existing ones.
11. Speaker Series and Conferences: The two separate categories have been combined into one since their purpose is similar. The overall decrease of \$1,000 is due to lack of demand for these funds in the 1999-2000 fiscal year.
12. Student Publications: The decrease is due to lack of demand in the 1999-2000 fiscal year.
13. RAP: The increase is due to an additional \$3,000 expected from the President's office.
14. Oasis: This line item has been dropped since the project ran into serious hurdles. The project may be revived at a later date.
15. Spot Subsidy: The increase is based on the increase in operational costs in 1999-2000.
16. Monthly Graduate Bash: This category has been introduced to replace and extend the inter-departmental bash; the money is for a monthly graduate party/get-together at the SPOT.

17. Spring-Fest: The decrease is based on actual expenses for the event this year (April, 2000).

4. Income

The GSO receives funds from several sources, the primary being the student **Activity Fee**. The university collects the and it is the job of the C&D Agent to retrieve the fee into an account maintained by the C&D Agent. The fee at present is \$18.50 per semester for full time students, \$5.00 per semester for part-time students, and is voted on every four years by referendum. The amount expected this year is \$141,500. **Interest** is accumulated against the GSO savings held by the C&D Agent and is based upon that amount.

The GSO receives three donations for RAP, one from the President's office (**President's office RAP Grant**) one from the Graduate School (**Graduate School RAP Grant**) and a third from the Research Foundation (**Research Foundation RAP Grant**). These match the GSO contribution of \$8,000. There are potential increases of the RAP grant contributions this year as well as some additional contributions from the offices of the academic Deans. Due to their tentative nature those potential increases have not been included in this budget. A combination of all additional funds will enable GSO to increase the current RAP allowance maximum of \$150 to its previous maximum of \$200.

Along with the direct income of cash, the GSO, as mentioned above, has accumulated savings. The net worth of the GSO is outlined in Exhibit A of the June 30, 1999 Audit report, which is included at the end of the budget. Briefly, the GSO has cash in some CDs for a total of \$30,000, a checking account (cash) with \$22,803, and owns office equipment, which is considered net assets, at an amount of \$7,942. The total net assets of the GSO were \$52,377 for the year ending June 30, 1998. These funds are under control of the Senate. The budget committee along with the C&D agent shall review these funds biyearly and recommend any changes in investments or reserves to the Executive Council and Senate

5. Operational Expenses

The GSO maintains an office for three main reasons. Through the GSO office the GSO's services become available to the graduate student body. The office facilitates necessary communications between the GSO, its constituents and the campus administration and the outside world. Also, the office serves as the instrument for

the execution of the policies of the GSO. This tri-fold purpose must be accounted for in any planning of the GSO office finances. Consideration must be given to allow the GSO to properly staff the office with responsible people. The GSO must have the means of quickly dispersing information to a large audience, the GSO must be able to make itself and its positions visible, and the GSO office must have the means of acting quickly to meet pressing demands.

While a properly running office is of vital importance to the operation of the GSO, it is important that we maintain a proper degree of efficiency at the lowest possible cost to the organization. In the past office expenses have been a sizable fraction of the total GSO budget. In this budget we have brought these expenses to a much more reasonable fraction, while at the same time identifying office expenditures that were not clear in previous budgets.

The money allocated for GSO operations is broken down into the following categories: **GSO Office, Payroll, Accounting, Internal GSO Functions** and **Travel**. All of the budget lines under these categories are Executive Council items and do not require Senate approval. Senate approval is still necessary for reallocation of funds unless noted.

5.1 GSO Office

This money is for the purchase of general office equipment and supplies, postage, office rental equipment, telephone service and insurance policies including necessary employee liability and dishonesty insurance in addition to fire and theft insurance for the GSO office. While a proposed breakdown is given in the GSO budget, experience has shown that such predictions are hard to make, and they inevitably are limiting to the operation of the GSO and lead to an overall sluggishness in the execution of GSO activities. For these reasons, the GSO Executive Council will have the authority to reallocate money in the subcategories as is necessary to perform GSO business, up to the total amount specified under the heading "GSO Office."

5.2 Payroll

The GSO will pay its officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Speaker of the Senate) stipend for their services. For the fiscal year 2000-2001 the officer stipend will be:

President and Treasurer \$400/month (each)

Vice president and Secretary \$300/month (each)

Speaker of the Senate \$150/month

The category **Officer Stipends** is designed for the purpose of paying the officers stipends. No other category should be used for this purpose.

The category **Office Manager** is to pay the GSO administrative personnel. The \$14,000 in this category is intended to cover the costs of the office manager's salary and fringe benefits for 25 hours of work per week during the academic year (36 weeks), 15 hours of work per week during intercession and vacations (4 weeks) and 12 hours per week during the summer (12 weeks). The office manager base pay is \$12.00 per hour.

The last category under Payroll is **Payroll Tax/Insurance**. This is designed to pay FICA, Social Security, Disability, Workers Compensation and Unemployment for any GSO office or executive personnel.

5.3 Accounting

As mandated in the GSO constitution, the GSO employs a **Custodial and Disbursing Agent** (C&D Agent) to manage the GSO bank accounts and disperse funds for payment in accordance with the GSO constitution, Budget Committee Bylaws and the current GSO budget. The C&D agent also maintains financial records for the GSO. The allocation is based on the contract between the FSA and GSO.

As is mandated by the Chancellor's Guidelines, New York Corporate law and both Federal and State tax law, the GSO will contract an **Accountant** to provide a year end audit. The Accountant will also prepare the GSO tax return. Our Accountant services for 1999-2000 will be provide by Loeb & Troper. The fees for these services for last year were: \$3,465 for the year-end audit and \$525 for the preparation of the tax return. The budgeted amount for the next year are based on an estimated 3% increase

5.4 Internal GSO Functions

Elections

The GSO holds elections every April to choose new officers as well as voting on any referenda. Money to print ballots, distribute and post ballots, and food for ballot counters, as well as any incidental expenses incurred in holding the annual GSO is expenditures from the category **Elections**. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

Meetings

The GSO provides food for various functions necessary to the normal course of running the GSO. Money for this is taken from the category **Meetings**. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

Committee Meetings Honorarium

This item will provide funds to pay graduate students who represent the GSO on various external committees that are relevant to graduate students. The honorarium will be a maximum of \$20 per person per meeting. The GSO executive council members will not be eligible for the honorarium. The list of committee for which this honorarium will be given has to be approved by the GSO senate. The maximum number of attending students that will be paid per meeting for any of the listed committees will be determined by the Executive Council. The payment of the honorarium is conditional upon the GSO office receiving typed minutes of the meeting along with comments on the features relevant to graduate students. Those features will be reviewed by the Executive Council and the GSO Senate ; a summary will be posted on the GSO web page and presented in the proposed newspaper once it is launched

GSO Sponsored Advertisements

The GSO also, from time to time, produces informational mailings, poster campaigns, and newspaper inserts, as well as supporting letter-writing campaigns to advance the interests of graduate students. *Money from this category may also be used for advertisements for the Spot.* While this category is subdivided in the GSO budget, money for these categories will be allocated from **GSO Sponsored Advertisements**; the GSO Executive Council has the authority to reallocate money in the subcategories as is necessary to perform GSO business up to the total amount in the line item.

World Wide Web Page

This category allows the GSO to provide on-line services, such as the GSO World Wide Web homepage. Our present WWW page (<http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso>) contains on-line general information describing the GSO and its activities as they affect the graduate student community. It also offers other services and information, including the following: the GSO budget, our current policies regarding funding for RAP, student clubs, organizations and events as well as our meeting times.

Future plans include the creation of the GSO On-line-Office to allow on line voting for the GSO yearly elections. This will hopefully increase the number of Students who vote. Also, graduate students could benefit from having a place on the Internet to advertise and read about upcoming social events. Our proposed newspaper will also be produced electronically and with a minimum expense made available on-line. We could even allow for interactive discussion forums and student postings of viewpoint articles. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

Travel

This money is for the travel expenses of the members of the Executive Council and the GSO senate in the course of performing their duties, or for travel expenses incurred during student advocacy.

6.

7. Program Expenses

The remaining expenses are defined as Program Expenses. These are expenses which are directed at the student population, campus community, or general welfare of graduate students.

6.1 GSO Publications

As a student organization, among the most essential functions GSO is to be able to communicate and reach out to the student population efficiently and regularly. This can be primarily achieved through the means of regular publications. In the past, the GSO published a newspaper/newsletter, the News & Views, as well as a yearly guide to the GSO and graduate student life, the **Survival Guide**. However, the newspaper has not been very successful due to a variety of reasons. This year, the budget committee has increased the overall budget for this category to \$9,000 to be able to hire a editor with a long term commitment and to create a monthly newspaper which would be dedicated to the interests of the graduate student population at this university.

Editorial Staff

The editorial staff will consist of at least one primary editor who will be responsible for all GSO publications and their distribution, including the Survival Guide and the monthly newspapers. Additional personnel may be hired in response to any future changes in the demands of the job as determined by the Executive Council. The exact stipend of the editorial staff will be also be determined by the Executive Council.

Survival Guide

The GSO **Survival Guide** attempts to give new incoming graduate students information about the services available on campus and the surrounding area. This is the first glimpse most graduate students have of the GSO. Money for producing the 1999 guide is the only expenditure from the category **Survival Guide**. A new line, **Editor/Advertisement Solicitor**, has been added to pay for an editor to update the Survival Guide and to solicit advertisers. The Survival Guide is expected to generate \$1000 in advertising revenue. It is the job of the editor to meet this expected revenue. The editor is also expected to help distribute the guide.

Newspaper

The GSO will publish a regular newspaper of at least 10 issues: 4 issues per semester and at least 2 during vacations. Its purpose will be to be the voice of the graduate community and to be a source of timely information on relevant issues, events, meetings and activities on campus. It will serve as a public forum for discussions among graduate students and other members of the campus community with an interest in graduate life. It will also serve as a record for the GSO, publishing meeting times, the budget, resolutions and referenda, and other GSO functions.

Funding for the newspaper will come from two sources. The GSO will subsidize only part of the cost, the other will come from advertisement revenue. The exact distribution of funds will be monitored by the Budget Committee. This category entitled **Newspaper** will cover the cost of publishing the paper, the printing costs, distribution costs and the fee for invited articles. In addition, the editorial staff may solicit advertisement for the paper with a finder's fee of 20% of the solicited amount. They must create an advertising rate structure detailing the costs per advertisement before soliciting advertisements. The final decision for the amount and payment of the finder's fee will be with the Executive Council.

6.2 Contributions and Public Service

The GSO provides money and resources to a number of public service organizations and also provides several services specifically for graduate students. These funds are allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line items. However, the Senate will be notified before the funds are disbursed, when possible, so that they can be contested.

Orientation

The GSO may contribute funds to the Graduate School for new graduate student orientation. Also, the GSO may organize orientation events for new graduate students. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

Faculty Staff Retreat

The GSO provides some funds to the University to cover the cost of the annual retreat. At this retreat undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and university officials (the President) meet and talk. This is an important opportunity and occasion for discussing general University issues.

NYPIRG

The GSO provides funding for the New York Public Interest Research Group (**NYPIRG**). This money is allocated by a yearly referendum voted on at the time of the general GSO elections. Neither the GSO Senate nor Executive Council can withhold these funds if the referendum leads to an approval for the release of the funds, unless there is a breach in contract.

WUSB

The GSO subsidizes the USB campus radio station **WUSB** for the subscription to Pacifica News. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item. In return WUSB will provide free advertisement of GSO sponsored events and programs at the SPOT; also, WUSB will acknowledge GSO support during their broadcasts.

Child Care

The Stony Brook Child Care Services, Inc. provides child-care services for thirty-four graduate students at this time. The GSO provides money to Stony Brook Child Care Services' general fund; without this subsidy, Stony Brook Child Care Services would not be able to provide care on a sliding scale, charging less to lower income students. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

Volunteer Ambulance Corps

The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. provides free ambulance service to all persons needing medical transport on all state lands, including the University and the residence halls. The GSO provides a direct subsidy to the Ambulance Corps to help defray the cost of insurance and equipment. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

NAGPS

The National Association for Graduate-Professional Students (**NAGPS**) provides all graduate students with an alternative to the University health insurance, a resume service, as well as various leadership training seminars. It also acts as a clearinghouse for information on various resources available to graduate students. This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

6.3 Program Funding

The GSO provides money and support for a wide variety of social organizations and events for the purpose of enhancing graduate students' social interaction and development. In particular, the GSO provides for **Student Clubs and Organizations, General Cultural and Social Events, Speaker Series & Conferences** and **Student Publications**. Any allocation from these lines must be voted upon by the GSO Senate, and requires a two-thirds majority. Any group may petition the GSO Senate if they want to contest the Budget Committee ruling.

In an effort to increase awareness of the **GSO Program Funding**, the GSO will undertake in a small way to provide advertising for the groups and event that they fund. Current plans include the creation of printed fliers to be dispersed by office staff, ads in News and Views and mentioning the group or event along with a brief description on our WWW homepage. In the case of large events, the GSO may choose to provide mailings or to stuff graduate student mailboxes. Any additional advertising expenses, for advertising provided by the GSO office will be requested by the GSO executive council at the time the funding proposal is made, and will be included in the funding proposal to the Senate. Upon approval of the senate, the GSO executive council will then have the sole authority over the disbursement of additional advertising allocations, provided that the disbursements are made in the proper manner as detailed in the request as approved by the GSO Senate.

Program funding is designed to increase social, educational and on-campus directed activities. These funds will be available to groups of graduate students who wish to provide events that are well planned, well advertised and of general interest to the entire graduate student community. Money from these categories will not be allocated for the following:

- a) Events not widely advertised (in American English),
- b) Request for funding after the event,
- c) Non-graduate politically oriented activities,
- d) Department-oriented events, unless clearly interdisciplinary and of wide interest to graduate students,
- e) Transportation for small groups of people,
- f) In fairness to other groups, funds must be requested during the **fiscal year** that the event will be held to the current GSO Treasurer.

Events **MUST** be advertised in American English, this means that the date, time, location, sponsoring group (including the GSO), and title of the event must be in English. Other information maybe included on the advertisement in any other

language. The idea is that ALL graduate students can understand English (this is assumed as being a requirement to be a graduate student of the Graduate School).

In each request for funding there must be a single individual, designated by the group requesting the funds, who will be responsible for dispersing the funds. This person shall be responsible to see that the funds are dispersed in the proper manner as detailed in the request, and that the conditions listed below are carried out as stated.

Student Clubs and Organizations Funding

Administrative and meeting expenses for student clubs and organizations are provided from the category **Student Clubs and Organizations Funding**. Funding will be provided as follows:

1. Money from this category is available only to graduate student clubs and organizations recognized by the USB Student Union and Activities Department.
1. Requests for funding provided in this category are reviewed by the Treasurer after receipt of a properly completed Funding Request Proposal. A Funding Request Proposal shall consist of:
 - i. A signed memo from the club's or organization's president to the GSO Treasurer expressing a brief description of the activity and purpose of the club and a statement of its benefits to the graduate student community. Included in this memo must be the names of all the officers of the club or the organization as well as a means of contacting these officers,
 - ii. An itemized budget for the current fiscal year,
 - iii. A current club roster,
 - iv. The club's constitution, with a meaningful equal opportunity clause.
3. The Treasurer shall report all such requests to the Budget Committee and the Senate, The Budget Committee will advise the senate regarding funding to the club or Organization. The Senate will vote to accept or reject the request as well as the amount of the request. The Senate may modify the amount of the request and impose any additional restrictions. This money is allocated up to the amount specified in the line item. The maximum amount that can be allocated to any Club or

Organization from this category shall not exceed a total of \$250 for the fiscal year.

General Cultural and Social Events

The GSO provides funding for events of interest to graduate students. In the interest of fairness these events must be open to all graduate students and widely publicized. This money is available to graduate student clubs and organizations, and graduate student event committees. Money from this category is *available only to graduate student clubs and organizations recognized by the USB Student Union and Activities Department and committees of greater than three graduate students formed for the purpose of planning and organizing an event.* Each event must have a chairperson who is responsible for coordinating and running the event. The chairperson must be the person designated to be responsible for the event. Advertising fliers must be submitted to the GSO office *at least two weeks* before the event.

Requests for funding provided under this category are reviewed by the Treasurer after receipt of completed funding request proposal. The proposal shall consist of:

1. A signed memo from the event's chairperson to the GSO Treasurer expressing a brief description of the event and a statement of its benefits to the graduate student community. Included in this memo must be the names of all the committee members, as well as a means of contacting these members
2. An itemized budget for the event
3. The club's constitution, with a meaningful equal opportunity clause, if the event is sponsored by a club.

The Treasurer shall report all such requests to the Budget Committee and the Senate. In order to maximize the number of events funded by the GSO under this category, funding for catered food, other than snacks and beverages (generally less than \$100), will not be funded. The Budget Committee will advise the Senate whether or not they recommend funding for the event and to what level. The Senate will vote to accept or reject the request as well as the amount of the request. The Senate may modify the amount of the request and impose any additional restrictions. This money is allocated up to the amount specified in the line item. If approved by the Senate, the money allocated for an event will be released only *after* the GSO office receives the *original receipts* for the expenses for the event.

Speaker Series/Conferences

The GSO provides support for speakers and conferences of general interest to the entire graduate student community. The rules and procedures for obtaining funds from this category are the same as **General Cultural and Social Events**.

Student Publications

The GSO provides support for graduate student run literary or general interest publications. The rules and procedures for obtaining funds from this category are the same as General Cultural and Social Events.

Departmental Allocation

The GSO encourages departmental activities and programming. Each graduate department may use their allocation for whatever purpose their graduate students as a whole may decide, provided that benefits of these funds are available to all members of the department.

If the requesting party represents an organized departmental club, then that club must adhere to the equal opportunity and non-discriminatory policies of the Chancellor's Guidelines and the GSO Constitution. Otherwise, it is assumed that the entire graduate student body in the department has been given the opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of the proposed funded project.

Applications for events and programs in the 1999-2000 fiscal year must be made during the 1999-2000 fiscal year. An application has to include:

1. A completed *GSO Departmental Allocation Form*,
2. A petition of *the lesser* of (i) 30% of the total graduate population of the department or (ii) 50 students from the department,
3. A brief description on the intended use of the funds,
1. Verification of the number of full-time and part-time graduate students in the department from the Graduate Program Director or the Graduate Secretary.

Funding to each department will be provided up to a *maximum* rate of \$3.75 per full time student plus \$0.75 per part time student with a "CAP" of a \$1,000 per department.

RAP (Resource Access Project)

One of the most important and most accessible sources of funding from the GSO is provided through the Resource Access Project (**RAP**). The GSO **RAP** program is meant to provide small support to allow graduate students attend conferences or workshops that will help them advance their careers.

RAP funds are intended for those graduate students who are actively participating at the conference or workshop. Examples of active participation include presenting a paper, performance of music or visual arts piece, involvement in discussion panels and active participation in new work.

This money is allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item. Each graduate student may receive up to a maximum of **\$150** in fiscal year. The funds shall be disbursed after the program has been completed; no funds are disbursed before the event. Disbursement of the funds will require *original receipts* of the expenses incurred along with some proof of active participation, such as abstracts, concert/exhibition listing.

6.4 General Service

The GSO, along with other groups, directly sponsors various activities and services for the benefit of the graduate population. These items are now grouped together under the new heading "General Service". Unless otherwise noted, these funds are allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line items.

The SPOT (the Graduate Student Lounge)

The GSO and the FSA jointly operate a bar in the Fanny Brice Building on campus. The SPOT provides a wide selection of beers and other drinks at lower prices than regional establishments. Because of the lower prices, the SPOT is subsidized every year, which comes from the line item **Subsidy**. No other use of these funds are allowed. The SPOT shall be run as outlined in The SPOT Operation Statement. Briefly, the SPOT is run by a management committee comprised of two FSA members and two graduate students (one of which must be the Treasurer or another executive officer).

Monthly Graduate Bash

The GSO will sponsor a monthly interdepartmental graduate student bash during the spring and the fall semesters. The purpose of these will be to provide a regular event/occasion when students from different departments can come together and socialize. The goal is to fill in the gap in social life and alleviate departmental isolation often experienced by the graduate community in this campus.

Spring Fest

The GSO sponsors a huge outdoor festival during May. This is organized by the Spring Fest committee. The goal of this is to give all graduate students something to look forward to next year and for those students graduating something to remember Stony Brook and the GSO. This event has food, beer and other beverages, and live music. It is held on campus (usually in front of the Earth and Space Science building). Once the committee is formed they will form a budget and request funding from the GSO Treasurer. The Treasurer will report all the request to the Budget Committee and the Senate. The Budget Committee will advise the Senate whether or not they recommend funding for the event and to what level. The Senate will vote to accept or reject the request as well as the amount of the request. The Senate may modify the amount of the request and impose any additional restrictions. This money is allocated up to the amount specified in the line item.