

GSO BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1998 - JUNE 30, 1999
BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

CONTENTS

Introduction	(1)
Budget Outline	(2 - 3)
Specific Changes	(4)
Income	(5)
Operational Expenses	(6 - 8)
GSO Office	(6)
Payroll	(8)
Accounting	(7)
Internal GSO Functions	(8)
Program Expenses	(9-14)
GSO Publications	(9)
Contributions and Public Service	(10)
Program Funding	(11-14)

General Service

(15)

Introduction

The GSO Budget Proposal is submitted each year by the Budget Committee to the Executive Council who then approves the budget to be brought before 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 numerous changes in both budget categories and 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. 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 people 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. 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 surrounding vouchers will be devised by the Executive Council and 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.

Budget Outline

Income

Activity Fee	\$137,500
Interest	1,000
Advertising Revenue (Survival Guide)	1,000
Graduate School RAP Grant	8,000
Research Foundation RAP Grant	8,000
Total Income	\$155,500

Expenses

Operational Expenses

GSO Office		
Office Equipment	3,500	
Rental Equipment & Supplies	1,700	
Telephone	1,100	
Insurance	1,000	7,300
Payroll		
Officer Stipends	14,000	
Office Manager	14,000	
Payroll Tax/Insurance	2,400	30,400
Accounting		
C&D Agent	4,277	
Auditor	3,400	7,677
Internal GSO Functions		
Elections	1,000	
Meetings	800	
GSO Sponsored Advertisements	500	
World Wide Web Page	500	
Travel	750	3,550
Total Operational Expenses		\$48,927

Program Expenses

GSO Publications

Survival Guide-

Printing \$1,500

Editor/Ad Solicitor 500

News & Views -

Printing 3,500

Editor/Distribution 1,500

Solicited Articles 500

7,500

Contributions and Public Service

Orientation 1,500

Faculty Staff Retreat 400

NYPIRG 12,000

WUSB 3,000

Child Care 8,500

Volunteer Ambulance Corps 1,500

NAGPS 300

27,200

Program Funding

Student Clubs and Organizations 2,000

General Cultural and Social Events 8,000

Speaker Series 4,000

Conferences 2,000

Student Publications 3,000

Departmental Allocations 4,000

Resource Access Project (RAP) 29,000

52,000

General Service

The SPOT (the Graduate Student Lounge)-

Subsidy 12,000

Interdepartmental Bash (Fall Event) 750

Oasis Subsidy (Espresso Bar) 3,000

Spring Fest 4,000

19,750

Total Program Expenses

106,450

Total Operational Expenses

48,927

Total Expenses

155,377

Total Income \$155,500

Total Expenses \$155,377

Projected Surplus \$123

Specific Changes

The categories **GSO Sponsored Advertisements-Printing** and **GSO Sponsored Advertisements-Distribution** have been consolidated into the single category **GSO Sponsored Advertisements**. "Travel" has been eliminated with **Travel** being moved under "Internal GSO Functions" and **Faculty Staff Retreat** moved under "Contributions and Public Service". Several changes have been made under "GSO Publications" and are described in the subsection GSO Publications. The categories **Legal Services**, **Alternative Careers Project**, and **Executive Council Initiatives** have been eliminated. The following new categories have been added: **Interdepartmental Bash** and **Spring Fest**. Several categories have been regrouped under a new subsection, General Service, which represents programs aimed at the general Stony Brook Community.

Officer salaries have remained the same for this year. The category **Office Manager** has been increased based on a 5% raise this year. The category **Payroll Tax/Insurance** which covers such items as Disability Insurance, Worker's Compensation, Unemployment, and FICA has been increased because of an under estimation last year. In the event that one or more officer positions are unfilled, unused funds in this category "Officer Stipend" shall be allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line item.

The category **Orientation** under "Contributions and Public Service" has been increased to \$1500 to further help the Graduate School.

The category **Faculty Staff Retreat** has been created to ensure graduate student representation at this important annual event. The category **Travel** has been increased to allow wider GSO involvement in state and national graduate student organizations.

Oasis (Espresso Bar)

The GSO is currently considering to operate an espresso bar in the new Student Activities Center. It is intended that the enterprise will be profitable and will not require a continued subsidy. The money in this category is intended to cover the cost of the first year investment provided by GSO. The Faculty Student Association (FSA) will handle the financial side of the operations while the GSO will rent the equipment from FSA until the espresso bar has paid off the cost of the equipment at which time it becomes property of the GSO. The profits from the espresso bar will be used to defray the cost of the SPOT. It is the goal of this operation to support the SPOT so the GSO can use the SPOT subsidy for other projects.

Income

The GSO receives funds from several sources, the primary being the student **Activity Fee**. The fee is collected by the university 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 and is voted on every four years by referendum. **Interest** is accumulated against the GSO savings held by the C&D Agent and is based upon that amount. Last year, the GSO solicited advertisement for the Survival Guide to help pay for this important publication. Although not much effort was placed into it, five advertisers were found. This lead to a conservative estimate for this year.

The GSO receives two donations for RAP, one from the Graduate School (**Graduate School RAP Grant**) and the other from the Research Foundation (**Research Foundation RAP Grant**). These were matching grants last year. However, the GSO has increased it's contribution to RAP to \$13,000 in hopes of receiving money from the President's Office again this year. Hopefully, the Graduate School or Research Foundation will increase their donations.

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 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 extremely visible, and the GSO office must have the means of acting quickly to meet pressing demands. It is with this in mind we have consolidated and redefined the role of the GSO office financing

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.

GSO Office

This money is for the purchase of general office equipment and supplies, postage, office rental equipment, telephone service and insurance polices 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."

Payroll

The GSO will pay its officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Speaker of the Senate) a small stipend for their services. For the fiscal year 1998-99 the officer stipend will be:

President and Treasurer	\$300/month (each)
Vice president and Secretary	\$200/month (each)
Speaker of the Senate and External Representative	\$100/month (each)

The Speaker of the Senate will **NOT** be paid for the months of June, July and August. 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 cost of office manager 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 summer (12 weeks) plus occasional overtime as necessary. The office manager base pay is \$11.55 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.

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. No additional services will be charged to this category.

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.

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 was created to allow the GSO to provide on-line services, such as a World Wide Web homepage. Our present WWW page contains on-line general information describing the GSO its role and activities as they affect the graduate student community, as well as many other services, including the following.

Our plans include first, the GSO On-line-Office which will allow information such as our budget, our current policies regarding funding for RAP, student clubs, organizations and events as well as our meeting times to be available to student at the click of a button. Second, probably the most efficient way to reach graduate students is by mass E-mail. Unfortunately, the GSO has no Internet capability at present. The GSO shall try to change this in 1997-8. Thirdly, graduate students could benefit from having a place on the Internet to advertise and read about upcoming social events. Finally, our paper News & Views is already produced electronically. We could with a minimum expense have our paper 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 in the course of performing their duties, or for travel expenses incurred during student advocacy.

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.

GSO Publications

The GSO creates several publications that are of general use to graduate students. At present time, the GSO publishes a timely newspaper, the News & Views, as well as a yearly guide to the GSO and graduate student life, the **Survival Guide**. All line items under "GSO Publications" are allocated by the Executive Council by majority vote, up to the amount specified in the line items.

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 1998 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.

News and Views

News & Views serves as the GSO's voice to the graduate community, providing timely information on issues, events, and activities. It also publishes viewpoints from a wide variety of opinion among graduate students. It serves as a paper of record for the GSO, publishing meeting times, the budget, resolutions and referendums, and other GSO functions. The staff of News & Views consists of an editor; an optional investigative reporter may be paid out of **Solicited Articles** at the discretion of the Executive Council.

Funding for News & Views comes from two categories sources. The GSO will subsidize only part of the cost, the other will come from advertisement revenue. The exact distribution of funds shall be made by the Budget Committee. The cost of publishing the paper, printing costs as well as cost for postage, is paid from the category **Printing**. The editor of the paper is paid from the category **Editor/Distribution**. The editor will receive \$150 per issue for a total of 10 issues, unless additional revenue from advertisement is obtained. The editor is responsible for the distribution of the paper to the campus community. In addition, the editor shall solicit advertisement for the paper with a finders fee. The fee will be between five and ten percent of the total advertisement depending on Executive Council approval. Finally, payment for articles submitted (as well as payment for the optional Investigative Reporter) will come from the category **Solicited Articles**. The payment of which is at the discretion of the Executive Council.

Contributions and Public Service

The GSO provides money and resources to a number of public service organization 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 provides some funds to the Graduate School to cover the cost of new graduate student orientation. Money for the 1998 Orientation is the only expenditure from the category Orientation. 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 for all members of the university to meet and discuss current topics.

NYPIRG

The GSO provides funding for the New York Public Interest Research Group (**NYPIRG**). This money is allocated by a two year referendum at present (1997-1999). Neither the GSO Senate or Executive Council can withhold these 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.

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.

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.**

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

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.
- 2) Requests for funding provided under this category are reviewed by the Treasurer after receipt of a properly completed Funding Request Proposal. A Funding Request Proposal shall consist of:
 - a) 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,
 - b) An itemized budget for the current fiscal year,
 - c) A current club roster,
 - d) 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 whether or not they recommend funding to the club or Organization 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. 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:

- a) 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.
- b) An itemized budget for the event
- c) 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 can be released before the event if the GSO office has received advertising fliers for the event. The GSO will not release any funds until it has received advertising fliers for an event. The GSO expects receipts from the event will be submitted to the GSO office within two weeks after the event. Otherwise funding will be released after the GSO receives the receipts from the event.

Speaker Series

The GSO provides support for speakers 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**.

Conferences

The GSO provides support for 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**.

Department Allocations

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 1998-9 fiscal year must be made during the 1998-9 fiscal year. A petition of over *30%* of the total graduate population of the department *or 50 students from the department, whichever is less*, a brief description on the use of the funds and a completed GSO Departmental Allocation Form must be turned into the GSO office. Funding to each department will be provided up to a **maximum** the rate of *\$3.75* per full time student plus *\$0.75* per part time student.

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 \$200 in fiscal year. The funds shall be disbursed after the program has been completed; no funds are disburse before the event.

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 with 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/Oasis 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).

In the past, the GSO has sponsored an Interdepartmental Bash in the spring semester. The goal of this was to get students from various departments together. Also, to help new graduate in socializing with other students. However, with Spring Fest now scheduled for the end of the semester, and with making the Bash meet its goal, the Bash has been moved to the Fall semester. The bash is to take place in the month of September. Funds for this event are supplied under **Interdepartmental Bash**.

Oasis Subsidy (an Espresso Bar)

Last year the GSO pursued the creation of a campus espresso bar. The location was to be the SAC main lobby. However, due to several set backs and complications these plans have been delayed. It is intended that the enterprise will be profitable and will not require a continued subsidy. The money in this line item is intended to cover the cost of the first year investment provided by the GSO. The FSA will handle the financial side of the operations while the GSO will rent the equipment from FSA (the same is true for The SPOT) until the espresso bar has paid off the cost of the equipment at which time it becomes the property of the GSO. The profits from the espresso bar will be used for RAP. The Oasis shall be run as outlined in The SPOT/Oasis Operation Statement.

Spring Fest

The GSO sponsors a huge outdoor festival during May. The Fest 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.