GSA Budget 101
GSA 1959-2009

- GSA established under the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) as a separate entity from the University; a not-for-profit organization with its own corporate structure

- A period of recurring wild swings and organizational instability
Old GSA

Budget

- Restricted & unrestricted fees in the same pot
- 198 individual budget lines
- No professional with a financial designation overseeing budget
- No forecasting
- Year-by-year budget
- Saving money while infrastructure crumbled
Old GSA

Operations

- Staff underpaid, negative office environment, record-high turnover in staff
- GSA/grad students on only 40 University committees; ineffective/inconsistent advocacy
- Operations were decades out of date and few records were kept
- Non-compliance and no infrastructure to carry out corporate responsibilities under PSLA
- Blurred lines between and among elected officials, management, and staff
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<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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<td>GSA Budget 2009-2010</td>
<td>Current Month</td>
<td>09/10 budget</td>
<td>Year to date</td>
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<td>REVENUE</td>
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<td>FEES REVENUE</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>1 GSA Fees Revenue</td>
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<td>a GSA Base Fee</td>
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|   | C. | FUNDRAISING REVENUE         |              |              |               |
|17 |   | 6 Awards Night Revenue      | 0.00         | 7,000.00     | 0.00          |

|   | N. | EVENT EXPENSES              |              |              |               |
|141|   | 73 Awards Night             | 0.00         | 8,000.00     | 0.00          |
|142|   | 74 Awards Night Promotion   | 0.00         | 500.00       | 0.00          |
New GSA

- Intense period of rebuilding and recovery
- New budget format and first multi-year budget/business plan created in 2011-2012 (3-year forecasts)
New GSA

- Robust policies surrounding finances and financial reporting
- Accountant has oversight for budget, reporting to President and Executive Director
- Regular Term Financial Statements submitted to GSA Council
- GSA BFC & GSA Board reorganized; GSA NoC established
- Creation of the Early Call for Talent and Training
- Clear roles and responsibilities between and among elected officials and staff
New GSA

- Human Resources (HR) structure established, staff collective agreement in place
- Complete overhaul of operations from IT, to payroll, to grants
- Over two dozen contracts and Memoranda of Understanding reviewed
- Regular review of all budget lines and creation of new ones/reduction or augmentation of existing lines as needed
- External reviews
New GSA

Apply CPI increases where appropriate to budget lines and 198 lines organized into 7 broad categories:

- Governance
- Advocacy
- Human Resources
- Office Administration
- Professional
- Services Expenses
- Operating/Contingency Fund
Fees and Other Revenue

- The GSA is fees driven; # of graduate students is key budget driver

- 2011-2012 GSA fees increased by $10 ($98.20 for full-time students); 2012-2013 GSA fees increased by $30 ($128.20 for full-time students); 2013-2014 GSA fees increased by $25 ($153.20 for full-time students), no increases since then beyond CPI, including in the current year

- Several sponsorship agreements in place

- Revenue generated (~$30,000/year) from Chopped Leaf in PAW (no risk partnership with the SU)
Governance ($208,912)

- Directly-Elected Officers stipends and benefits, directors & officers insurance
- GSA Council & GSA Board & GSA committee costs
- CRO & Speaker honoraria
- Training and development for GSA Directly-Elected Officers
- Transition/Early Call for Talent and Training
Advocacy ($47,269)

- University Relations
- Government and External Relations (including business travel for elected officials)
- ab-GPAC membership fee ($4/graduate student per year all coming from the GSA’s operating budget, removal of the dedicated fee)
Human Resources ($739,454)

Unionized Staff (represented by NASA)
- Salaries, limited benefits
- Aim to attract and retain through marketplace competition

Administrative/Professional Staff
- Salaries, limited benefits
- Executive Director hired through legal contract; others hired through appointment letters
- Aim to attract and retain through marketplace competition
Office Administration ($28,347)

- Capital budget (eg computers)
- Photocopiers
- General Liability insurance
- Office supplies

Professional ($65,000)

- Audit
- Legal
- Consulting
Services ($96,800)

- Academic workshop subsidies
- Campus Food Bank MoU (founded by the GSA)
- GSA Awards Night
- Engagement, Orientations, and Outreach Events
- External grants
- GSA Graduate Student Group Awards
- Council remuneration to departmental GSAs
A contingency fund is a fund set aside to handle unexpected expenses that are outside the range of the operating budget.
Learn More

✧ Visit the “Budget and Audit” section of the GSA website to view the current GSA annual operating and capital budget and three-year budget/business plan

✧ Visit the “Budget and Audit” section of the GSA website to view the most recent GSA audit

✧ Visit the “GSA Council” section of the GSA website to view Term Financial Reports on the GSA’s finances as reported to GSA Council
Future GSA

- Maintain stability
- Ensure prudent spending and budgeting
- Be vigilant