

MEMORANDUM

To: Zoila Alvarez, GPSA Legislative Council Chair

From: Travis Scholten, GPSA Finance Committee Vice-Chair

Subject: Summary of 2015-2016 GPSA Appropriations Requests

Date: 2016 September 18

In beginning its activities for this year's Legislative Session, the Finance Committee examined appropriations requests from the 2015-2016 Legislative Session. This was done, in part, to help guide the Committee in determining its Standing Rules for the Session. This memo outlines some of the important and noteworthy features of GPSA spending over the past year.

Data in the form of appropriation request summaries were analyzed. Summaries for the months of 2015 September, 2015 October, 2015 November, 2016 February, 2016 March, and 2016 April were available.

A total of 51 requests were heard. Of those, 10 were from entities which resided in the GPSA itself¹, either as Standing Committees, Ad-Hoc Committees, or as the GPSA General Government. In the table below, the amounts requested and recommended by the Finance Committee are computed based on whether the group requesting the funds was within the GPSA or not.

GPSA Request?	Amount Requested (\$)	Amount Recommended (\$)
No	63622.59	23788.32
Yes	48097.80	46596.00

Table 1: Amounts requested and recommended, based on whether the group requesting the money was from the GPSA or not.

It is clear that, although the GPSA *requested less* money in aggregate, it *received more*. (This was, in part, due to the creation of a Grants Project Assistant position in Spring 2016.)

The Finance Committee's Standing Rules provide for spending on certain line items. The limits for spending on these line items are determined as part of the process of adopting the Standing Rules. In Table 2, the individual line items, the number of times that it was requested, the total amount requested for it, and the total amount recommended for it are given. Rows are sorted in descending order of the amount requested.

One item of note in Table 2 is that the "Other" line item is never explicitly declared in the Finance Committee's Standing Rules, and yet accounted for roughly 42% of the total amount recommended (see Figure 1). However, in terms which group(s) were doing the requesting, it is clear that it makes a difference whether the request originated from the GPSA or not. As shown in Figure 2, of requests that came from the GPSA, approximately 57% are within the "Other" category. In contrast, non-GPSA requests (a) used more line items, and (b) had a more even spread in the proportion of line items used.

¹The specific entities were the GPSA Grants Committee, GPSA Ad-Hoc Committee, GPSA Elections Committee, GPSA Finance Committee, GPSA General Government, GPSA Grants, GPSA Lobby Committee, GPSA Programs Committee, GPSA Student Support and Advocacy Committee, and the GPSA General Fund

Line Item	Number of Requests	Requested (\$)	Recommended (\$)
Other	35	34504.56	29576.50
Food and Refreshments	55	29652.97	19448.94
Professional Services	26	14410.92	3650.00
Travel	19	12914.92	5506.88
Per Diem	10	5660.00	3820.00
Advertising	19	4130.00	3675.00
Honorarium	15	3390.00	1375.00
Conference Fees	8	2420.00	1215.00
Educational Supplies	7	2022.86	932.00
Office Supplies	7	1005.20	600.00
Computer (Costs/Supplies)	4	743.96	100.00
Copying Services	7	585.00	485.00
Dues and Fees	1	280.00	0.00

Table 2: Four categories make up the bulk of the money requested in appropriations.

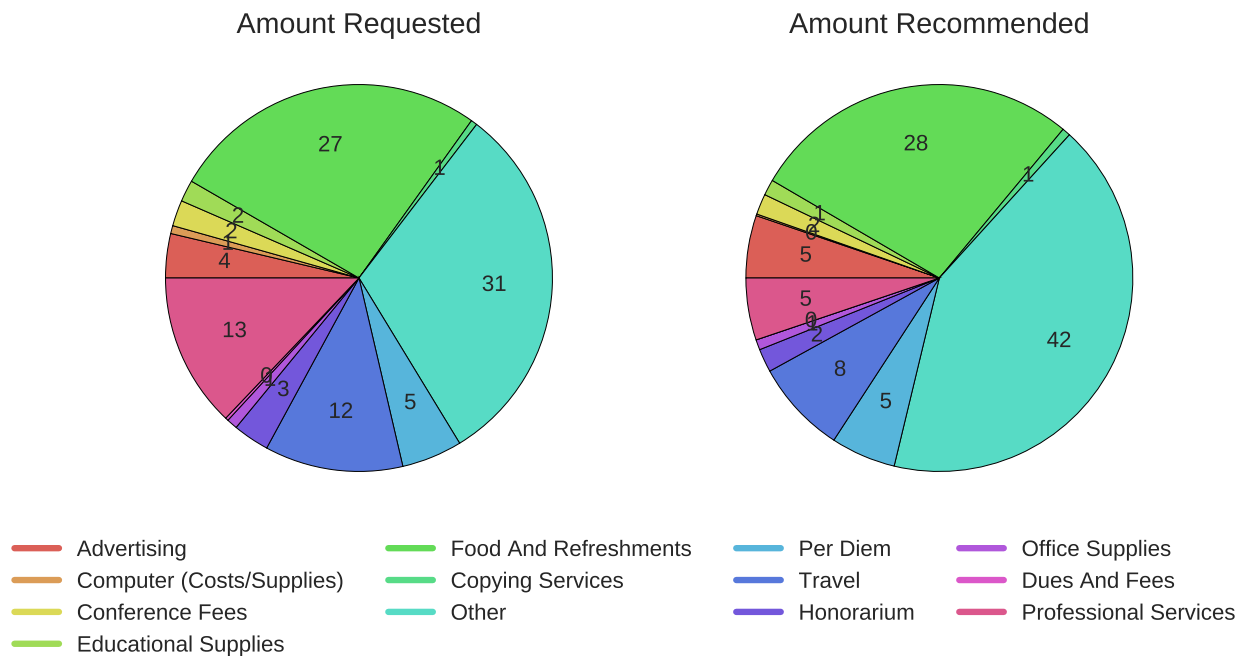


Figure 1: **Left:** Percentage of total requested amount, by line item. **Right:** Percentage of total recommended amount, by line item. If a particular line item was not requested, its percentage is plotted as 0. Percentages rounded to the nearest 1%.

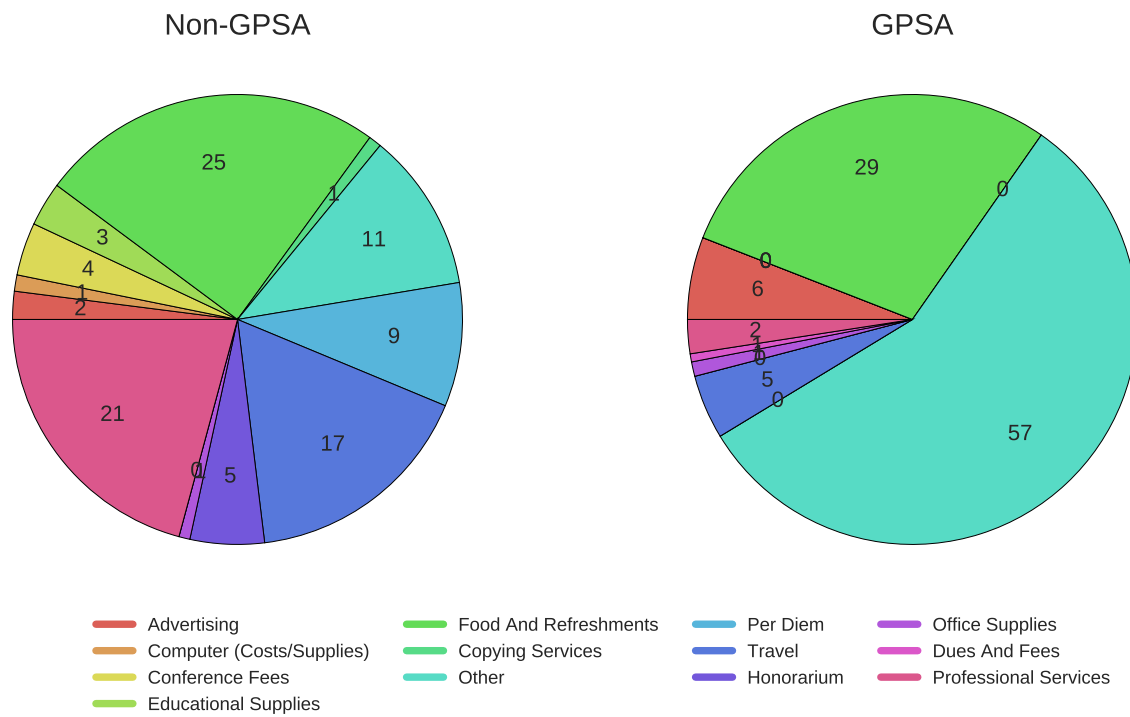


Figure 2: **Left:** The percentage of the amount requested, by line item, for requests not from the GPSA. **Right:** The percentage of the amount requested, by line item, for requests from the GPSA. If a particular line item was not requested, its percentage is plotted as 0. Percentages rounded to the nearest 1%