

MEMORANDUM

To: Zoila Alvarez-Hernández, GPSA Legislative Council Chair

From: Travis Scholten, GPSA Finance Committee Vice-Chair

Subject: Update on Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Process

Date: 2017 February 18

As the Finance Committee is in the middle of building a budget for Fiscal Year 2018, I wanted to provide Council with a brief update.

The deadline for submitting a budget request passed on the 17th. We received a total of 35 applications from student groups across campus, and one application from the GPSA itself¹. Of the student groups submitting a budget, 22 have participated in a budget process within the past two years (referred to as “Active” groups), and 12 are new to the process or haven’t participated in the past two cycles (“Inactive” groups). There is one group we are unsure of, and we are looking into the matter. (This is not unusual, as turnover in leadership in student groups can lead to the new leaders being unsure of their group’s participation in past cycles, or having otherwise inaccurate documentation on the subject.)

Collectively, these groups have requested approximately \$71000 in funding. However, our Bylaws (VIII.2.H, 1 and 2) cap the amount which may be awarded at \$1000 for “Active” student groups, and \$500 for “Inactive” ones. Applying this cap² means these groups could receive at most, approximately, \$25900.

For the GPSA itself, approximately \$127900 is being requested. In examining such a figure, one must keep in mind that there are several mandatory spending items in the request, including salary, tuition, and insurance for the President, Chief of Staff, and Council Chair, among others.

In addition, our budget process also allocates the money which is distributed through the Grants Committee, as well as through the Pro-Rated Benefits funds. There are mandatory minimum distributions for both of those categories, which are outlined in our Constitution.

The Finance Committee will be hearing budget requests on the 27th and 28th of this month, and will then meet for deliberations on March 6th. I am optimistic we will be able to present to Council at its March 25th meeting a balanced and comprehensive budget, one which mindfully manages our members’ money.

¹This application provides budget information for all branches of the GPSA, including any committees.

²Under the assumption the one we are unsure of is actually “Active”.