



Suite 350 Student Union Amherst, New York 14260
(716) 645-2950 fax: (716) 645-2112 www.sa.buffalo.edu

Student Association Senate Meeting

April 10, 2024 - 5:00 PM

Student Union room 378, University at Buffalo North Campus
Amherst, NY 14260

Present

Becky Paul Odionhin, SA President; **Grace McDowell**, SA Vice President; **Unnati Agarwal**, SA Treasurer; **Gavin Krauciunas**, Senate Chairperson; **Veronica Faltisco**, Academic Council Coordinator; **Joe McCusker***, Engineering Council Coordinator; **Jacob Murphy***, Hobby Council Coordinator; **Joan Liu***, International Council Coordinator; **Aidan Sumrall***, Special Interest Council Coordinator; **Laibah Ahmed***, Senator; **Nicholas Bausch**, Senator; **Riya Gaikwad**, Senator; **Benjamin Lau***, Senator; **Krithik Madisetty***, Senator; **Kayla Yan**, Senator.

Asterisk (*) indicates member arrived late or left prior to adjournment.

Absent

Cole Fredericks, SA Student Affairs Director; **Malik Thompson**, P.O.C. Council Coordinator; **Ashrith Rao**, Sports Council Coordinator; **Amadou Dieng**, Senator; **Aryan Mudgal**, Senator; **Morgan Ross**, Senator; **Dilasha Thapa**, Senator; **Jamel Usen**, Senator.

Guests

Jack Walsh; **Leah Bargnesi**, Students for Justice in Palestine; **Samin Bhuya**, SA Production Director; **Sarah Brown**, Students for Justice in Palestine; **Will Eaton**, SA Contract Assistant; **Killian Hannigan**, SA Chief of Staff; **Sol Hauser**, UB Spectrum; **Zanaya Hussain**, Students for Justice in Palestine; **Salam Lobad**, Students for Justice in Palestine; **Maureen Milligan**, Students for Justice in Palestine; **Louis Poon**, SA Bookkeeper; **Ian Roma**, SA Elections & Credentials Chair.

Call to Order

Gavin Krauciunas, Senate Chairperson, calls meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Gavin Krauciunas, Senate Chairperson, proceeds to call the roll.

Becky Paul Odionhin	Present
Grace McDowell	Present
Unnati Agarwal	Present

Gavin Krauciunas	Present
Cole Fredericks	Absent
Veronica Faltisco	Present
Joe McCusker	Present
Jacob Murphy	Present
Joan Liu	Present
Malik Thompson	Absent
Aidan Sumrall	Present
Ashrith Rao	Absent
Laibah Ahmed	Present
Nicholas Bausch	Present
Amadou Dieng	Absent
Riya Gaikwad	Present
Benjamin Lau	Present
Krithik Madisetty	Absent
Aryan Mudgal	Absent
Morgan Ross	Absent
Dilasha Thapa	Absent
Jamel Usen	Absent
Kayla Yan	Present

14 Present, 9 Absent

Finding a quorum is present, the Senate proceeds with the order of business.

Approval of Minutes

Krithik Madisetty, Senator, enters at 5:06 PM.

Gavin Krauciunas, Senate Chairperson, introduces March 27, 2024 Senate Meeting Minutes for consideration.

Motion to approve March 27, 2024 Senate Meeting Minutes by Becky Paul Odionhin; second Grace McDowell.

Without objection, motion passes with unanimous consent.

Result: March 27, 2024 Senate Meeting Minutes are approved.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Gavin Krauciunas, Senate Chairperson, introduces Resolution - 2023-2024 - 17 (“Resolution to Amend Election Rules”) for consideration.

Motion to approve Resolution - 2023-2024 - 17 by Becky Paul Odionhin; second Aidan Sumrall.

Becky Paul Odionhin	Yes
Grace McDowell	Yes
Unnati Agarwal	Yes
Gavin Krauciunas	Yes
Veronica Faltisco	Yes
Joe McCusker	Yes
Jacob Murphy	Yes
Joan Liu	Yes
Aidan Sumrall	Yes
Laibah Ahmed	Yes
Nicholas Bausch	Yes
Riya Gaikwad	Yes
Benjamin Lau	Yes
Krithik Madisetty	Yes
Kayla Yan	Yes

15 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

Motion to approve Resolution - 2023-2024 - 17 passes 15-0-0.

Result: Resolution - 2023-2024 - 17 is approved.

Gavin Krauciunas, Senate Chairperson, introduces Resolution - 2023-2024 - 18 (“Resolution to Approve Supplemental Funding Policy”) for consideration.

Laibah Ahmed, Senator, leaves at 5:52 PM.

Aidan Sumrall, Special Interest Council Coordinator, leaves at 5:56 PM.

Aidan Sumrall, Special Interest Council Coordinator, enters at 5:57 PM.

Jacob Murphy, Hobby Council Coordinator, leaves at 6:01 PM.

Jacob Murphy, Hobby Council Coordinator, enters at 6:03 PM.

Benjamin Lau, Senator, leaves at 6:18 PM.

Benjamin Lau, Senator, enters at 6:20 PM.

Krithik Madisetty, Senator, leaves at 6:33 PM.

Joan Liu, International Council Coordinator, leaves at 6:33 PM.

Joan Liu, International Council Coordinator, enters at 6:34 PM.

Motion to table Resolution 2023-2024 - 18 until the following Senate meeting by Aidan Sumrall; second Grace McDowell.

Becky Paul Odionhin	Yes
Grace McDowell	Yes
Unnati Agarwal	Yes
Gavin Krauciunas	Yes
Veronica Faltisco	Yes
Joe McCusker	Yes
Jacob Murphy	Yes
Joan Liu	Yes
Aidan Sumrall	Yes
Nicholas Bausch	Yes
Riya Gaikwad	Yes
Benjamin Lau	Yes
Kayla Yan	Yes

13 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

Motion to table Resolution 2023-2024 - 18 until the following Senate meeting passes 13-0-0.

Result: Resolution 2023-2024 - 18 is tabled until the following Senate meeting.

Joe McCusker, Engineering Council Coordinator, leaves at 6:53 PM.

Gavin Krauciunas, Senate Chairperson, introduces Resolution - 2023-2024 - #19 (“Resolution Calling for University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences (“CAS”) Transparency in Decision-Making”) for consideration.

Motion to approve Resolution - 2023-2024 - #19 by Aidan Sumrall; second Veronica Faltisco.

Becky Paul Odionhin	Yes
Grace McDowell	Yes
Unnati Agarwal	Yes
Gavin Krauciunas	Yes
Veronica Faltisco	Yes
Jacob Murphy	Yes
Joan Liu	Yes
Aidan Sumrall	Yes
Nicholas Bausch	Yes
Riya Gaikwad	Yes
Benjamin Lau	Yes
Kayla Yan	Yes

12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

Motion to approve Resolution - 2023-2024 - #19 passes 12-0-0.

Result: Resolution - 2023-2024 - #19 is approved.

Gavin Krauciunas, Senate Chairperson, introduces an open discussion period.

Students for Justice in Palestine representative speaks to the Senate.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Senate meeting by Unnati Agarwal; second Veronica Faltisco.

Without objection, motion passes with unanimous consent.

Result: Meeting is adjourned at 7:19 PM.



University at Buffalo Student Association Inc.

350 Student Union, Buffalo, NY 14260

www.sa.buffalo.edu

Resolution - 2023-2024 - 17

Subject: Resolution to Amend Election Rules

Submitted by: President Becky Paul Odionhin, Elections and Credentials Chairperson Ian Roma

BE IT RESOLVED that the amended and restated Election Rules attached hereto shall be the Election Rules of University at Buffalo Student Association Inc. ("SA"), amending and replacing the previous SA Election Rules effective immediately.



Election Rules

Policy Information

Date Established: May 17, 2019

Date Last Updated:

Category: Student Association

Section 1: General Rules; Authority and Applicability

- (a) The Elections and Credentials Chairperson (“E&C Chair”) shall have the authority to enforce these Rules.
- (b) The E&C Chair may create and enforce additional rules so long as they are not inconsistent with these Rules or the Bylaws, in order to ensure a fair and impartial election. Notice of any new rules shall be promptly given to all candidates.
- (c) The E&C Chair shall, at their discretion, have the authority to extend any deadline in these Rules in the interest of justice.
- (d) These Rules shall govern elections for University at Buffalo Student Association Inc. (“SA”) Officer and Senator positions only.

Section 2: Responsibilities and Qualifications

- (a) All candidates shall be responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with these Rules, and ensuring their staff and supporters read, understand, and comply with these Rules.
- (b) Members of SA must be in academic good standing as determined by the University to: run for elected office; serve in elected or appointed office; serve through one’s elected or appointed term; or do any or all of the foregoing. Officers must be full-time students.

Section 3: Petitioning

- (a) The SA President shall determine when petitions shall become available and the deadline when petitions are due.
- (b) To appear on the ballot in an election, an otherwise-qualified Member of SA must:
 - (1) Obtain a petition from SA, in the manner determined by the E&C Chair;
 - (2) Obtain the name, UBIT name, University person number, and valid signature of at least the following number of Members of SA, in the manner determined by the E&C Chair:
 - (A) In an election for SA Officer positions: 100 signatures;
 - (B) In an election for SA Senator positions: As stated in the SA By-Laws;
 - (3) Return the petition to SA, in the manner determined by the E&C Chair; and
 - (4) Attend the SA mandatory candidate meeting, at the time and in the manner determined by the E&C Chair. The E&C Chair may approve alternative arrangements to meet this requirement, at their convenience and discretion.
- (c) The E&C Chair may declare duplicate or illegible names, UBIT names, University person numbers, signatures, or any or all of the foregoing invalid.

Section 4: Campaigning

- (a) Any candidate or their supporter who holds a position in a student government, club, or other organization at the University at Buffalo shall not use such position to benefit their or the candidate's campaign.
- (b) No University or mandatory student activity fee funds or resources (including but not limited to SA club, SA, or University email listservs or social media) shall be used in campaigning for or against any specific candidate. The preceding sentence shall not prohibit SA from advertising the election itself or prohibit the E&C Chair from providing presentation opportunities that are available to all SA election candidates. SA Officers, Senators, Clubs Council Coordinators, and employees found to have violated Section 5(b) of these Rules may face consequences under Sections 8.01, 4.01(a)(vi), 6.02(b), and 5.02(e)(iii), respectively, of the SA By-Laws, as well as any other applicable provision.
- (c) The E&C Chair may (but is not required to) organize one or more forums for SA election candidates to present their platform publicly, at the E&C Chair's convenience and discretion. Such forum(s) must be open to all candidates.
- (d) SA Clubs shall neither host independent forums for nor endorse candidates.
- (e) Candidates are reminded that they and their supporters must comply with all applicable rules and regulations imposed by the University or any other body and may face penalties from said body for violations of those rules.
- (f) If an SA club is found by the E&C Chair, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have violated any of these Rules, the E&C Chair may impose a fine of \$100.00-\$750.00 per violation of these Rules, either out of the current fiscal year's club budget or the next fiscal year's club budget if the current year's club budget does not have sufficient funds.

Section 5: Voting

- (a) A candidate may choose to run in a party with other candidates.
 - (1) A candidate running in a party shall have their party name appear next to their name on the ballot, subject to these Rules.
 - (2) A candidate shall declare their intent to run in a party at the time and in the manner determined by the E&C Chair.
- (b) A candidate who does not choose to run in a party with other candidates may choose a series of characters to appear next to their name on the ballot, which shall be declared at the time and in the manner determined by the E&C Chair.
- (c) The characters that appear next to a candidate's name, whether a party name or series of characters:
 - (1) Shall not violate the law;
 - (2) Shall comply with any character limitations as determined by the E&C Chair; and
 - (3) Shall not be the same as any previous party's name used within the preceding year, unless proof of permission of over 50% of the party members who previously used the party's name is provided to the E&C Chair by the time by which candidates must declare their intent to run in a party.
- (d) The order in which candidate names shall appear on the ballot shall be determined by random drawing, at the time and in the manner determined by the E&C Chair.
- (e) Each Member of SA may vote once per election during the voting period. SA Member status may be verified according to methods established by the E&C Chair or the University.
- (f) Voting in an election shall occur by:
 - (1) Online voting, through a website administered by the University; or

- (2) Paper ballot, if the foregoing is impracticable or impossible.
- (g) If voting occurs by online voting, the results of the election shall be the results provided to SA by the University.
- (h) If voting does not occur by online voting:
 - (1) There shall be no campaigning within fifty feet of any polling area, as determined by the E&C Chair; and
 - (2) The E&C Chair, SA Administrative Director or their designee, and any others chosen by the E&C Chair shall tabulate all ballots, to be verified by SA's attorney.
- (i) The results of an election shall be announced publicly within seven calendar days of the conclusion of voting, unless doing so is impracticable or impossible.



University at Buffalo Student Association Inc.

350 Student Union, Buffalo, NY 14260

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Resolution - 2023-2024 - 18

Subject: Resolution to Approve Supplemental Funding Policy

Submitted by: President Becky Paul Odionhin, Vice President Grace McDowell, Treasurer Unnati Agarwal

BE IT RESOLVED that the Supplemental Funding Policy attached hereto is hereby adopted, effective 8/1/2024.



Supplemental Funding Policy

Date Established:

Date Last Updated:

Category: Finance

Each academic year clubs have an opportunity to apply for Supplemental Funding. Applications for supplemental funding become available each September at a date determined by the Treasurer and are accepted through April 30th annually. Supplemental funding will be awarded on a first come first serve basis to those clubs that meet the stated criteria described throughout this policy until the relevant supplemental funding budget line(s) have been exhausted. To be eligible for supplemental funding the clubs must:

1. Be recognized by the Student Association, and
2. Submit a fully completed Supplemental Funding Request Form through SA's webpage.

Request forms are reviewed and approved by the SA Treasurer as per SA's By-Laws.

Use of Supplemental Funding

Any funds allocated to a club through supplemental funding must be used only for the purpose outlined on the application submitted, and proof of this may be requested by SA from time to time. SA reserves the right to take back any funds that the club did not use on the stated purpose if:

1. The event was cancelled;
2. The club did not spend the entire amount; or
3. The club used the money on something that was not listed in the application.

Fines and other penalties may be applied to a club that uses supplemental funding money for anything other than the event that they applied for. Penalties may include de-recognition.

Supplemental Funding money does not count as fundraising and is NOT eligible for rollover.

Types of Supplemental Funding

Supplemental Funding is broken into three different types of requests by SA: Travel/Conferences, Events, and Equipment. Clubs may only be awarded 4 supplemental fundings each academic year and may not receive more than \$8,000 in supplemental funding per academic year total. Each type of request follows the rules as outlined below.

Travel/Conferences

The purpose of Travel/Conferences supplemental funding is to aid SA clubs travel and/or attend conferences or competitions where the trip is related to the purpose of the club. To be approved all travel and conferences must be concluded by June 15th annually. Travel/Conference supplemental funding may be used for the following:

1. Registration Fees for UB undergraduate students associated with the conference or competition the club is traveling to. No individual membership dues to outside organizations will be paid for by SA or through supplemental funding.
2. Lodging for undergraduate UB student travelers.

3. Transportation costs such as airfare, bus costs, train costs, vehicle rentals (must use SA's vehicle rental vendor), gas and tolls for rented or SA owned vehicles for undergraduate UB students.

The maximum amount for any Travel/Conference is up to \$1,000 per person. This can include transportation, lodging, and conference or competition entry fees. Travel/Conference Supplemental Funding will not be approved for:

1. Sending less than 2 club members.
2. Travel that is prohibited by UB, SA, local, state, or federal policy.
3. Additional travel costs not associated with traveling to and from airports, transit stations, hotels, or official event venues.
4. Any portion of travel, conference, or competition that has not gotten the required additional insurance if any portion of the travel is excluded from SA's already standing insurance policies.
5. Items already purchased or committed to prior to the funding being approved.
6. Food and related items where prohibited by SA's Travel policy.
7. Gifts, awards, or donations.

Events

The purpose of this supplemental funding is to financially aid SA clubs in putting on events in line with the purpose of the club. Event requirements are:

1. The event is on campus or within 50 miles of UB's north campus.
2. All components of the event must primarily be planned by the SA club.
3. The event is primarily intended to be attended by UB students.
4. For on campus events that require a food permit, the food permit must be applied for before the supplemental funding is applied for.

Event supplemental funding may be approved for the following:

1. Space and Equipment Rental where reasonably adequate space or equipment is not available for free through UB or SA.
2. Program Supplies if all supplies are disposable and used solely for the event.
3. Other Expenses not listed above that are not otherwise prohibited in this supplemental funding policy or applicable SUNY policy.

Supplemental funding for events will not be approved for:

1. Payments associated with bringing a speaker or performer, which includes but is not limited to their fee, travel costs and accommodations.
2. Items already purchased or committed to prior to the funding being approved.
3. Gifts, Awards, and Donations.
4. Any portion of the event that has not gotten the required additional insurance if any portion of the event is excluded from SA's already standing insurance policies.

Equipment

The purpose of this supplemental funding is to financially aid SA clubs with purchasing equipment that is needed to help the club fulfill its purpose or for safety reasons to perform their purpose. This supplemental funding can also aid clubs who have worn out equipment that should be retired and replaced. No equipment supplemental funding will be approved if the club does not have or cannot afford the safety equipment that needs to be purchased to use it safely or the club has not met with SA Finance staff to discuss inventory storage or the capital equipment process and gained the necessary approvals. The supplemental funding request can be used to purchase such safety equipment.

Applications

The Student Association has set up an application to help clubs provide as much detail and documentation concerning their request for supplemental funding as is needed for consideration for approval. It is highly suggested that clubs use the ability to upload additional documents to add quotes and estimates that support their application's requested dollar amount. SA also suggests that clubs put in their applications as early as possible to allow for appropriate review and approval time, time for approved monies to be transferred into the club's budget and time for the fund requests in SAFE to become PO Ready.

Supplemental funding requests will be reviewed and considered in the order they are received. Additional information may be requested from the club depending on what is being requested if necessary to determine whether the proposed request is permitted under this policy, whether the amount requested is reasonable for the proposed expenditure, whether the expenditure is reasonably safe, and/or whether the proposed activity is covered by SA's insurance. Clubs will be given a maximum of 5 business days to prepare and submit the requested additional information. Any clubs who are requested for additional information will be pulled out of the order and will not be considered until additional information has been received. If a club is asked to submit additional information, the date upon which the club submits that additional information shall be considered the date upon which the club submitted the request when determining the order of club submissions.

All funding decisions of clubs are made in a viewpoint neutral manner. Consistent with the mandates of SA's By-Laws, SA is strictly prohibited from considering the viewpoint(s) held and/or expressed by any club, its officers, or its members when making supplemental funding determinations.

The relevant portion of an application will not be approved if:

1. The application is not complete;
2. The club did not submit the requested additional documentation within the deadline for submission;
3. The relevant goods, items, activities, events, travel or supplemental funding would violate any SA, SUNY or UB policy, or violate any applicable law, or cause the club to violate any policy(ies) or laws if granted;
4. The request is not for the current academic year (Please see Travel/Conference on how this will affect summer conferences and travel);
5. The event, activity, meeting, or equipment is or is needed within four weeks of the application submission;
6. It is for late fees or for events, activities, or meetings that have already happened;
7. The club has violated SA financial policies while using supplemental funding or have been found to have committed 2 or more policy violations within the current academic year;
8. The request is for multiple events, conferences, or travel dates on one request;
9. The proposed use of funds is not reasonably safe or not covered by SA's existing insurance policies; or
10. Reasonably equivalent goods or services can be provided by another vendor at a lower price.

Clubs whose application for supplemental funding will receive an email informing them of the decision.

Access to Approved Supplemental Funding Monies

Once approved it may take up to three weeks for a club to receive into their budget any supplemental funding monies that have been approved. Approved clubs will receive an email detailing what has been approved in their application with an estimated time frame on when they can expect the money to be available in their budget line. All SA policies must also be followed while using supplemental

funding monies including gaining approval through the SAFE system before money is spent or committed to.

Appeals

Clubs may appeal funding determinations within 10 days of when the club is informed of the determination by email. SA shall provide notice of the determination to the President and/or Treasurer of the club (as listed on SA's records). During the UB spring and fall semesters, any appeals related to club funding shall be handled by the Senate. During winter and summer sessions, appeals related to club funding shall be handled by the Executive Committee. Any appeals made by clubs may only be based on procedural error, inaccurate application of the criteria set forth under applicable policy or math pertaining to the relevant club, or violation of law. A club may only appeal its own budget, not that of any other club. Appeals shall be decided within 45 days of when they are submitted. The Executive Committee may decide any such appeal following the last day of classes of the spring semester, if the Senate has not rendered a decision on it. If a club is successful in its appeal, that shall not result in a reduction in the funding of any other club.



University at Buffalo Student Association Inc.

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Resolution - 2023-2024 - #19

Subject: Resolution Calling for University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences (“CAS”) Transparency in Decision-Making

Submitted by: Jacob Murphy, Hobby Council Coordinator

WHEREAS the undergraduate students of the University at Buffalo (“UB”) have made their serious concerns regarding ongoing decisions by the CAS, as well as their uncertainty about how such decisions are being made, known to the SA Senate; and

WHEREAS undergraduate students desire to know more about the deliberative processes in which such decisions are being made; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the SA Senate respectfully calls upon both the CAS and the UB generally for greater transparency regarding ongoing decision-making processes.