



University at Buffalo Student Association Inc.

350 Student Union, Buffalo, NY 14260

www.sa.buffalo.edu

Resolution - 2023-2024 - 23

Subject: Club Budget Resolution

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

WHEREAS, when the SA Club Budget Policy was revised earlier this semester, the formula for allocating club budgets takes into account the amount of active members of the club for the purpose of determining the level of undergraduate UB student participation and attendance at the club's events and activities and the consequent objective financial needs of that club; and

WHEREAS, the SA Club Budget Policy states, "The term 'active members' refers to the number of voting members a club has in accordance with their approved constitution"; and

WHEREAS, the SA bylaws permit clubs to set their own minimum activity participation requirements for a club member before such person has a right to vote or hold office in the club, and the template SA club constitution has blanks that a club can fill in to set minimum numbers of club meetings, events, and community service events a student must complete in order to become a voting member of the club; and

WHEREAS, a club can set such numbers as the club chooses, including zero; SA does not set any minimum number for any such requirements; and

WHEREAS, numerous SA clubs have struggled with low numbers of students meeting their own requirements for voting membership that the clubs set for themselves, especially with respect to community service; and

WHEREAS, SA does not require clubs to complete community service as part of the budget process; and

WHEREAS, some clubs have expressed a desire to lower their own requirements for voting membership and have submitted amended club constitutions to do so; however, the SA club constitutions provide that any amendments thereto shall not take effect until the following semester; and

WHEREAS, many clubs have struggled to attain even the 20 voting members necessary to move beyond the minimum \$250 club budget; and

WHEREAS, voting membership was so low for many clubs, that, during the current budget process, the calculation of club budgets according to the Club Budget Policy without making the modification set forth in this Resolution would have resulted in many of the SA clubs receiving only \$250 each for the year, and leaving undistributed hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be used for clubs, which would have been an unreasonable and unjust result for the UB undergraduate student body as a whole; and

WHEREAS, SA intends to remedy this current issue with a temporary resolution;

WHEREAS, this resolution is intended to ensure that the amount spent on clubs in total during the 2024-2025 fiscal year will be significantly larger than would otherwise be the case, by allowing many clubs to be eligible for larger budgets; and

WHEREAS, this resolution also provides clubs an opportunity to learn about the relevant SA policies for the future, and to reconsider their voting membership requirements prior to the budget process next year, to avoid a repeat of the current issue; and

WHEREAS, this resolution applies to all SA clubs; and

WHEREAS, club budgets shall be determined as set forth in the Club Budget Policy, except as set forth below.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The amount of “active members” shall not be considered when determining club budgets.
2. This resolution shall apply only to the 2024 budget process with respect to club starting budgets for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.