

**B W2021.04**

**An Amendment to the Thirteenth Chapter of the Bylaws to Create Budget Allocations Committee Sustainability Criteria**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

January 27, 2021

Sponsored by: Cameron Rifkin, Kathryn McCaughey, Louis Orleans, Zackariah Farah, Erik Williams, Natalie Simmons

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function; and,

**Whereas**, the Budget Allocations Committee (hereafter BAC) and the Taking Responsibility for the Earth and Environment Subcommittee (hereafter TREES) recognize the importance of promoting sustainability within student organizations at the University of Michigan;<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the University of Michigan has set the goal of reducing waste sent to landfills by 40% by the year 2025, with only 3% of this reduction having thus far been achieved;<sup>3</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG should make efforts to aid in achieving this and other sustainability goals; and,

**Whereas**, BAC and TREES would like to incentivize student organizations to host low-waste, sustainable events by increasing the BAC funding cap to \$3,000 for BAC applicants that meet certain sustainability criteria.

**Be it therefore resolved**, BAC will evaluate funding applicants with the new Sustainability Criteria starting in the Winter 2021 semester; and,

**Be it further resolved**, student organizations who meet the Sustainability Criteria (as outlined in 13.02.15 of the Official LSA SG Bylaws) could receive up to \$3,000 from LSA SG; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, these changes take immediate effect.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

<sup>2</sup> The Official Bylaws of the LSA Student Government. 11.03.00

<sup>3</sup> <https://ocs.umich.edu/sustainability-goals/waste-reduction-goal/>

## Chapter 13

...

### Meetings and Operating Procedures

...

13.02.01. **Procedures.** BAC shall make recommendations to the Government regarding funding allocations to student organizations under the procedures listed in 13.02.01-13.02.156.

13.02.02. **Direct Allocations.** All SOAS registered Student Organizations may apply for funding from LSA SG BAC. The Budget Allocations Committee shall accept funding applications from recognized student organizations. Each group may submit one application per cycle for a total of four applications per semester. The maximum allocation allowed per individual event per semester is \$2,000; *however, if the event meets the Sustainability Criteria outlined in 13.02.15, then the maximum allocation allowed per individual event per semester is \$3,000.*

13.02.03. **Recommendations.** BAC shall inform all organizations of their duties as an applicant for funding from the Government on the LSA SG website and within the BAC funding application form. BAC shall report on the applications reviewed and/or appeals interviews and make recommendations to the Government at the first meeting following the completion of the reviews. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall send all allocation recommendations that the Committee has approved to the LSA SG Vice President to be placed in the Budget Allocations Committee Recommendations section of the agenda for the next General meeting of the Government.

13.02.04. **Application Form.** BAC shall prepare an application that student organizations seeking funding shall be required to complete in its entirety. This form shall include a timetable of the funding cycles for that semester, a breakdown of what expenses BAC usually does and does ~~not~~ **not** fund, and a breakdown of the applicant's duties.

13.02.05. **Applicant's Duties.** It shall be the duty of any organization applying to LSA SG for funding to complete and file the application, schedule an interview with the BAC Chair if the group desires to do so, and to check on the status of the application. If an organization receives funding from the LSA SG, it is the duty of the organization to place the LSA SG logo on all publication materials related to the event and to submit copies of receipts to the Treasurer of LSA SG. The dollar amount transferred will reflect the dollar amount of the receipts submitted up to the amount allocated by BAC. No group shall be reimbursed for any expenses that were not specified by the Budget Allocations Committee and approved by LSA SG. No funds shall be transferred until the duties of the applicant are fulfilled. If no copies of receipts are submitted by the specific date prescribed by the Budget Allocations Committee at the time of the allocation, the allocation is forfeited.

...

13.02.12 **Group Criteria.** Preference for funding will be given to groups that:

- (a) affect large numbers of LSA students
- (b) put on events with an academic, cultural or community service focus
- (c) put on events that affect the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor community
- (d) have made an effort to receive funding from other sources if the total expense of the event is over \$2,000
- (e) thoroughly complete the application for funding with detailed descriptions. Applications with missing, misleading or false information will not be reviewed and may be ineligible for an appeal.

(f) have demonstrated a history of utilizing allocated funds, should they have been allocated funds in the past

(g) demonstrate financial need

13.02.13. **Funding Item Criteria.** The Committee will usually not approve funding for the purchase or creation of the following items unless integral to the funding request:

(a) capital goods (electronic equipment, tools, sports equipment, T-shirts, etc.)

(b) food or beverage

(c) salaries for services

(d) transportation

(e) donations

(f) events to raise money or distribute scholarships/awards, unless LSA SG's name appears as part of the gift award or scholarship

(g) events that are only open to specific groups of students on campus

(h) events taking place beyond walking distance from campus

13.02.14. **Additional Criteria.** As per rules of the University and applicable state and federal laws, LSA SG will never fund the following items:

(a) Political campaign activities

(b) Staff salaries

(c) Illegal activity

(d) For-Profit activities

(e) Charitable Donations to organizations outside the University

(f) Alcohol and tobacco products

(g) Religious exercise

13.02.15. **Sustainability Criteria.** *The Committee will increase the maximum allocation to \$3,000 if the event:*

*(a) promotes environmental sustainability on campus either through advocacy, education, or organized action, or*

*(b) utilizes products that are compostable or recyclable, wherever possible and includes a collection plan for compostables, recyclables, and/or waste that has been reviewed by the Office of Campus Sustainability*

13.02.156. **Fairness of Evaluation.** Members of the Committee shall attempt to make objective decisions and remain unbiased towards all groups, regardless of their association with the group being evaluated for funding or their beliefs about the organization's missions and goals. If a voting member is a member of a group that is requesting funding, or has a conflict of interest, they must abstain from the review of that specific group's application.