



May 28, 2010

Dear Student Governing Board,

Thank you for your presentation during Funding at Columbia (F@CU). The F@CU committee appreciated your prompt and complete submission of the F@CU allocation packet and your display of commitment to your groups.

This year, the F@CU committee has agreed to increase SGB's allocation to \$208,156 with the hopes that the addition will meet the growing needs of SGB's groups. This represents an almost 18% increase over last year's allocation.

However, this amount is less than SGB's requested \$292,014 (by nearly 40%) for a number of reasons. The committee made significant cuts in board programming as SGB's presentation indicated that the needs of its groups are prioritized over any events the board holds. For this reason, the committee allocated \$1600, the cost of 4 dinners, to SGB's Community Dinners, and \$1560, which is approximately \$5 per head, to SGB's Town Halls. The committee granted all other event requests and allocated a total of \$4712 to SGB for its board programming.

Additionally, the F@CU committee cut SGB's group allocation request significantly; we capped all increases for club allocations at 10% except for new groups. We made these cuts in response to the extremely high number of clubs allocated more than 10% of last year's allocation. Ideally, only a handful of clubs should be seeing increases of more than 10% in order to promote healthy and stable long-term growth. Overall, the committee increased SGB's group allocations by approximately 15% for a total of \$208,156.

The F@CU committee has granted this substantial increase in group allocations to reflect the growing need that was presented to us during F@CU. We recognize that last year's top cut negatively affected all groups on campus and that it is important that SGB relay those effects to the F@CU committee. However, we strongly suggest that SGB make larger cuts from group allocation requests before submitting its F@CU packet next year. While we appreciate SGB's commitment to upholding its funding guidelines as set forth by its constitution, we maintain that arbitrary cuts must be made due to a lack of infinite funding. These cuts are significantly less arbitrary if made by the governing boards (GBs) rather than by the F@CU committee, as the committee does not work in close proximity with the groups that the GBs represent. In short, we ask SGB next year to make aggressive cuts in advance of the presentation in order to make a more reasonable request at F@CU.

Again, we commend SGB on its commitment to upholding its mission and representing its groups. If there are any questions please feel free to email the F@CU committee at [facu@columbia.edu](mailto:facu@columbia.edu). Thanks and we will see you again next year.

Sincerely,  
The F@CU Committee