Governing Document for Funding at Columbia University

Mission Statement
Funding at Columbia University (hereafter known as “F@CU”) was created to facilitate, support and enrich student development in the form of student activities on campus. F@CU strives to support student development on campus, through fair and transparent allocation of student activities fee, based upon the needs of each student group.

First Principles
F@CU is committed to the process of allocating resources fairly and adequately. To accomplish this task, F@CU roots decisions in three (3) primary principles:

1. Historical Precedence
2. Governing Board Growth
3. Trusting our Governing Boards

Historical precedence is important and will be considered provided data and information exists. No member of F@CU will let personal impressions of past issues influence their decisions on allocating resources; all decisions will have a foundation in available data. To facilitate the collection of information, the Office of Student Development and Activities will maintain duplicates of all documents presented to F@CU.

Governing board growth will be based upon two criteria: demonstrated need and predicted need. Demonstrated need is rooted in the performance of groups over the past year and can also be hinged to historical data. Predicted need is based on governing board desired growth. F@CU makes no promises regarding the fulfillment of desired growth for each governing board.

Most importantly, F@CU places an immense amount of trust in each of the governing boards to succeed in their mission to foster student group activities across campus. The board trusts that each governing board properly manages its groups. As a result, F@CU will not engage in the micromanaging of a governing board’s groups. This tenet is the most important – without trust in each governing board F@CU cannot function appropriately.

F@CU COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
CCSC – ccsc@columbia.edu
ESC – esc@columbia.edu
SGA – sga@barnard.edu

GSSC – gsidea@columbia.edu
What F@CU Expects from Each Governing Board

F@CU has put together a list of items expected from each governing board to facilitate the board in the allocation procedure. The board believes that each item is necessary to help fairly and transparently allocate resources.

- Explanation of big changes in student group allocations.
  - A big change is defined as a shift of greater than 10% in either direction of a student group’s allocation
- A copy of the governing board’s constitution and guidelines, both internal and external.
  - Specifically, a sheet which highlights all changes made to the constitution and guidelines since the previous F@CU process
- Inclusion of the past three years of historical data, minimally including F@CU Form II.A.
  - Data must be included in the packet and may be included in the presentation by each governing board to F@CU as well.

What Each Governing Board Can Expect from F@CU

F@CU is committed to providing each governing board with as much information regarding the process of allocating resources. This will be accomplished through two routes:

1. F@CU will provide each governing board with a detailed description of reasoning for the allocation given. This will include, but is not limited to, the primary reasons for each individual cut as well as any historical perspective taken into account.
2. F@CU will fully disclose the allocations to all governing boards on a web portal to be setup solely for F@CU.

The governing boards have the right to demand both #1 and #2 from the F@CU board at any time after the finalization of all allocations.

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