

The Student Activity Fee (SAF)

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Overview of the SAF

What is the SAF?

- The SAF is a mandatory student fee that is allocated from Georgia Tech to SGA
- Currently, students pay **\$40** each semester
- At the beginning of FY23, the Prior Year Reserves were **\$2,866,184.00**
 - This amount is broken down into SAF Allocatable Funds and RSO Funding Reserves
- The SAF Allocatable Funds are split up into the four accounts listed below:
 - Allocatable Accounts – Includes funds allocated to Registered Student Orgs (RSOs)
 - Fund Accounts – Includes funds for SGA initiatives
 - Legislative Accounts – Includes funds for SGA's Legislative branch to function
 - Reserve Accounts – Includes funds used to safeguard the budget
- RSO Funding Reserves are obtainable through Bill Requests

What is the SAF used for?

- SGA uses the SAF Allocatable Funds to complete initiatives and serve the student body and community
- Mental Health Initiatives JAC - **\$305,064**
- Career Advancement Fund - **\$75,000** for research opportunities
- Career Development Fund - **\$20,000** for career development opportunities
- Grad Conference Fund - **\$100,000** for conference travel
- UHR/GSS - **\$30,000** for the Legislative Branch to operate and support initiatives
- Reserves - **\$240,000** for Institute and IRS reserves
- RSO Funding - **\$2,096,120** for the RSOs on campus
- RSO Budget - **\$1,161,000** for pre-approved funding requests (prior fiscal year)
- Department Budget - **\$639,000** for pre-approved Department funding
 - Services ORGT, Center of Student Engagement, SOFO, and many others

Supporting RSOs

- For Fiscal Year 2023, SGA's RSO Funding Reserves for Bills is **\$2,096,120.00**
- There are various categories for RSOs, from Competitive Engineering and Sports to Social and Cultural-based organizations.
- There are currently over **500** RSOs on campus, though roughly **140** of them regularly access SGA funding.
- RSOs come to SGA to receive funding for events, competitions, supplies, food, and various other things to help operate their respective organization.
- Without SGA funding, many RSOs will cease to exist as many college students cannot afford to cover the costs of running an organization.

Some RSOs that SGA Provides Funding for



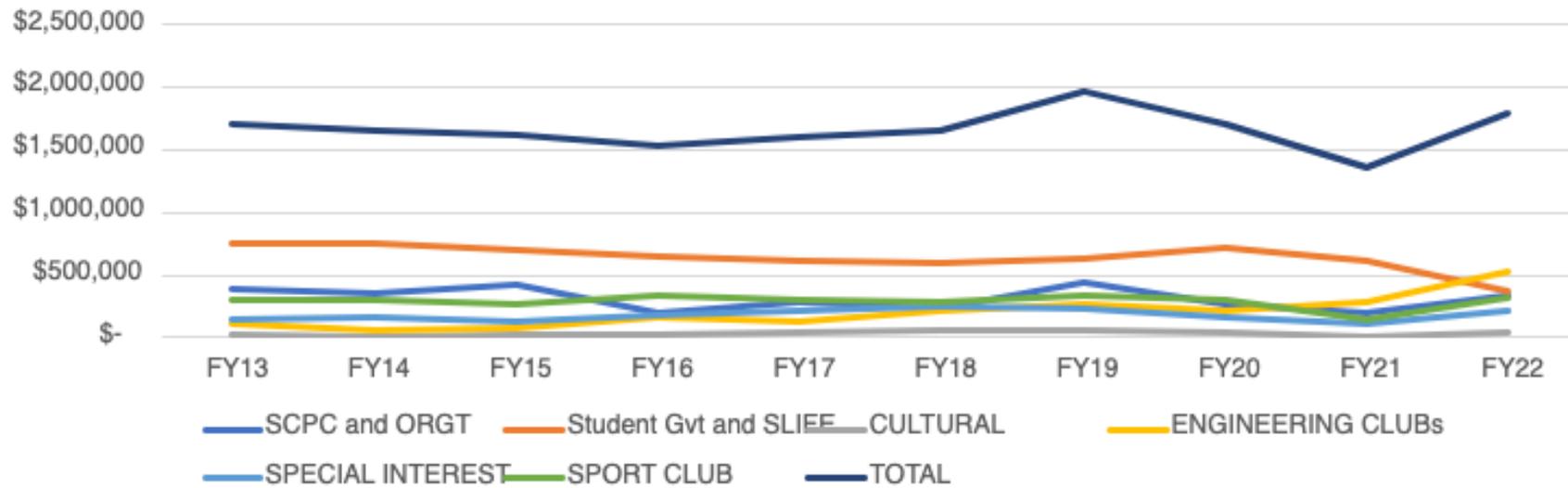
Current State of the SAF

Issues Currently Being Faced

- During COVID, SGA saw a decrease in the amount allocated to RSOs due to the fact they could not operate or function.
- Following COVID, FY22 saw a slight increase in funds allocated as RSOs started to function again, though many still did not due to poor communication.
 - Since RSOs are student run, it is up to an RSO's Executive Cabinet to inform next year's cabinet of how to obtain funding, which is sometimes poorly communicated.
- In FY23, we are seeing more RSOs learn about and seek SGA funding, which is leading to a drastic depletion of the RSO Funding account.
- As more RSOs come seeking funding from SGA, there will be fewer funds available in the upcoming Fiscal Years for students to access.

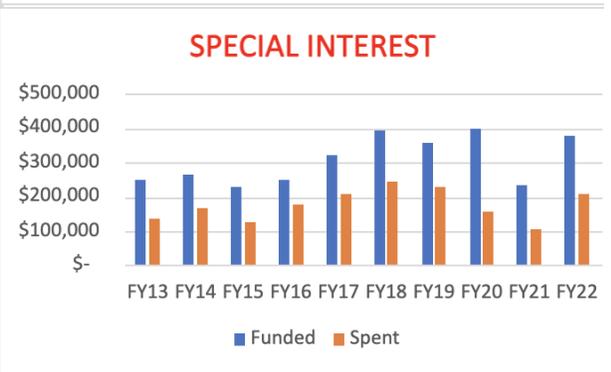
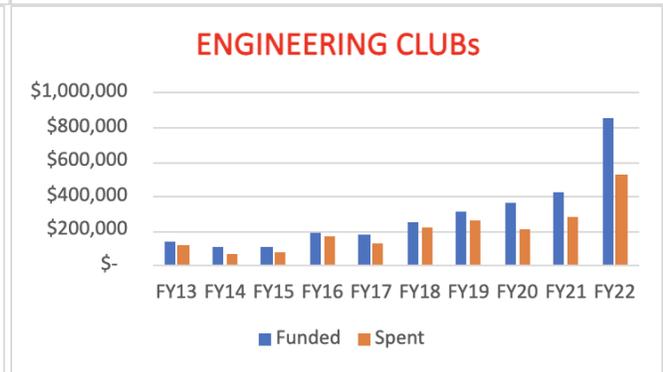
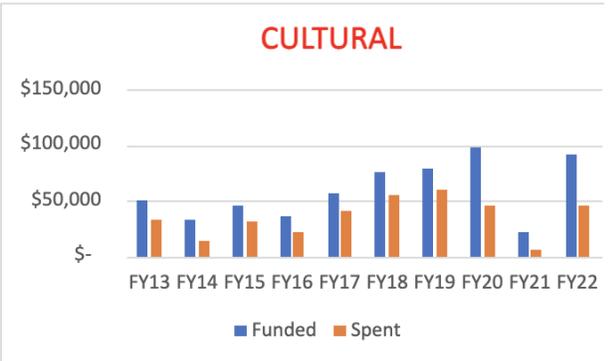
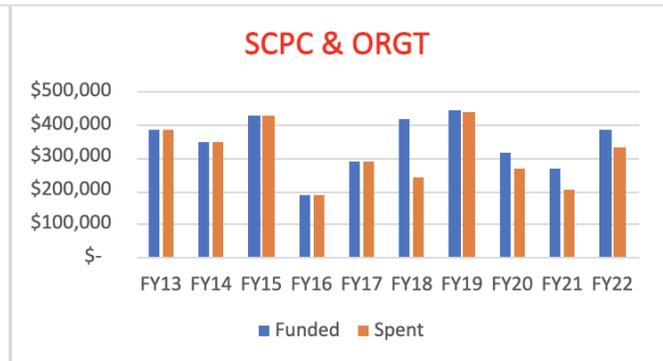
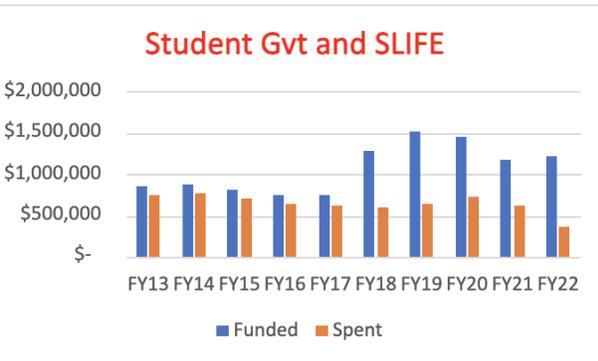
10 Year RSO Funding Chart

RSO Expenses in US Dollars



- SGA faced a lawsuit in FY20 where our Funding Policy had to be changed.
- In FY20, all RSOs started to take advantage of the policy change.
- The increase after FY21 is also due to post-COVID activity increasing.

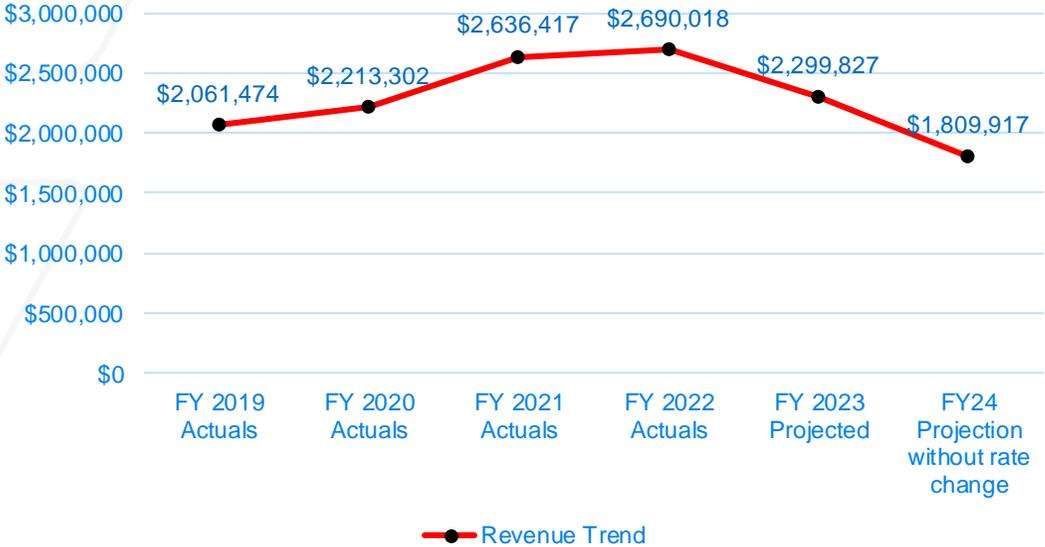
10 Year Breakdown of RSO Funding by Category



- Engineering Clubs have dramatically increased the amount of funding they obtain from SGA.
- The increase is also due to the creation of more RSOs.
- As the student population grows, RSOs will be requiring more funds to operate and serve everyone.

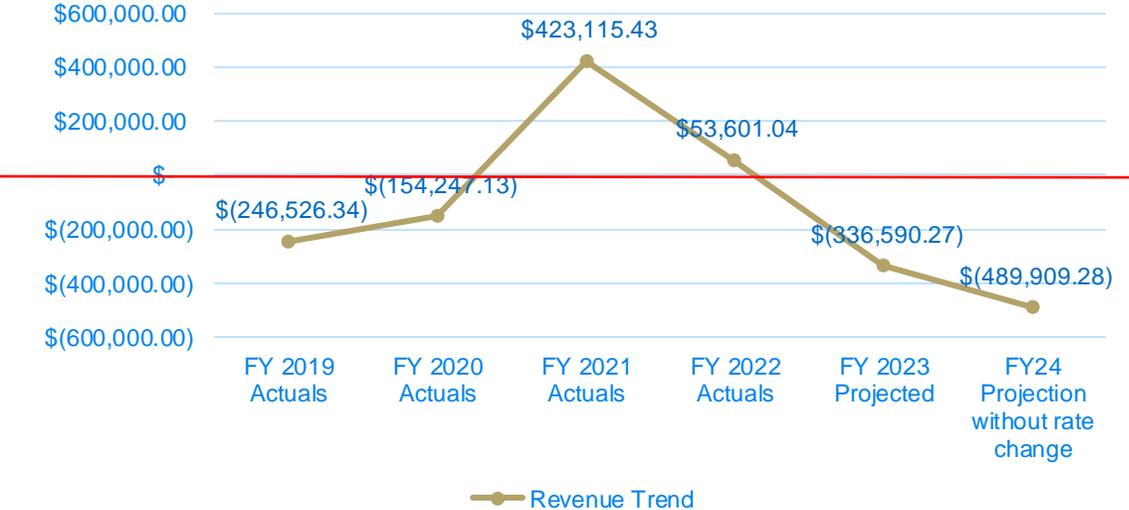
SAF Reserves Trends

Total Net Assets and Reserves



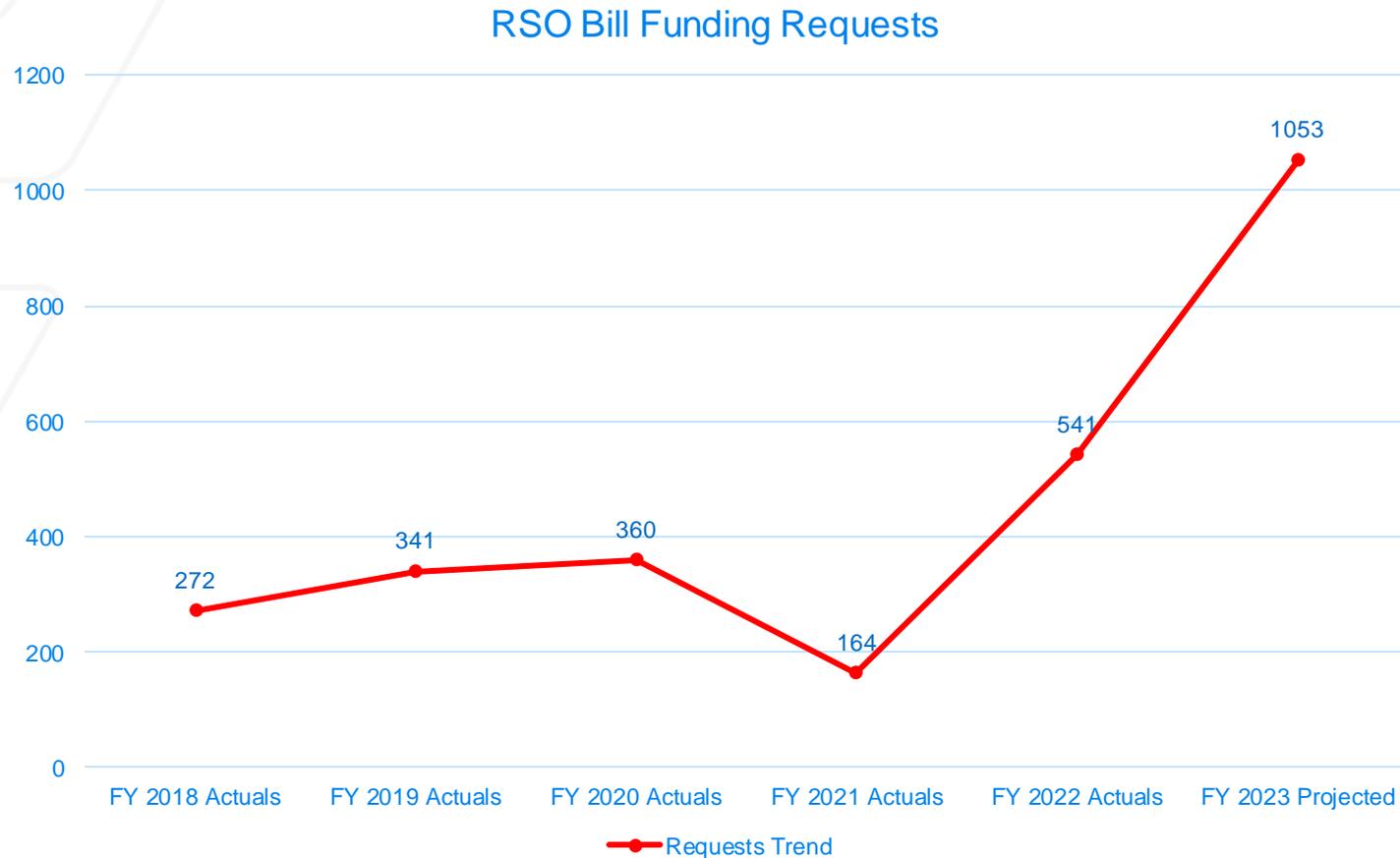
- The SAF Reserves will continue to be eaten away without any increase in SAF.

Surplus vs Deficit each FY



- Due to the increase in RSO presence on campus, the SAF will continue to operate at a deficit.

Number of RSO Funding Requests



- The FY21 dip was due to COVID.
- The steep increase post-FY21 is due to the formation of more RSOs.
- Due to the increase in funding requests, SGA has already gone through **48%** of its **\$2,096,120** RSO Funding Reserves.
- This is based on the roughly **140 out of 500+** RSOs who access SGA funding.

Issues Moving Forward

The SAF Reserves are Depleting

- As more RSOs come to SGA to seek funding for events and activities, there will be increasingly fewer funds available each fiscal year.
- As the Reserves are depleted, the SAF Funds available for allocation each fiscal year will continue to decrease.
 - For FY23, the RSO Funding Reserves is **\$2,096,120**. This means that for FY24 and beyond, the RSO Funding Reserves will only decrease.
- SGA needs to keep its Reserves high so they can continue to promote initiatives and create funds that students can access.

Why SGA is Requesting a \$5 Increase

- SGA would like to request a **\$5** increase to make the SAF **\$45** per semester.
- The increase will help SGA counteract the depleting reserves as they work to amend policy and tighten down on funding requirements.
 - This fiscal year, SGA has worked on making amendments to its RSO Funding Policy so that RSOs cannot obtain as much funding as they currently are.
 - Policy amendments are a long process, as GT Legal needs to verify that each proposal remains viewpoint neutral. Furthermore, SGA needs to test the amendments to see whether they are beneficial or counterproductive.
- The increase would also allow for SGA to establish more funds, so that students can have more ease in obtaining financial support.
 - Currently, SGA has funds for Career Development, Conference, and Career Advancement.
 - SGA would like to explore establishing more funds to better support specific student groups at Georgia Tech.

What Would Happen with No Increase?

- With no SAF Increase, SGA will continue to have less money to work with as the years go on due to the increasing student population.
- As more of the **500+** RSOs start to come to SGA for funding, more money will start being requested and allocated
- With less SGA funding, RSOs will find it more difficult to obtain funding for events and activities as SGA is typically their only option.
- RSOs such as SCPC will have fewer ways to obtain funding for large scale events, such as GT Night at Six Flags and Night at the Aquarium.
- It is likely that many RSOs would fall apart as it is difficult for college students to cover the financial burden of operating an organization.

Concluding Remarks

- The Student Activity Fee is vital for SGA to operate and provide services to students.
- As we move away from COVID, more RSOs will come to SGA to request funding.
- Due to the change in funding policy and increasing student population, RSOs are requesting more funding to provide activities and events for the campus community.
- With the current SAF of **\$40**, SGA is expected to operate at a deficit of **\$336,590** for FY23 and a deficit of **\$489,909** for FY24.
- SGA is currently working to improve its funding policy, but it is a long process that takes time to implement and test.
- A **\$5** increase will help combat the depleting Reserves and will help SGA be able to establish future Funds that will help financially-needy students and other specific groups as well.



Questions?