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## University at Buffalo Student Association Inc. Senate Meeting

January 28, 2026 - 5:00 pm

Student Union Room 378, University at Buffalo North Campus  
Amherst, NY 14260

### Present

**Aisha Adam**, SA President; **Mason Bayer\***, SA Vice President for Advocacy; **Will Dong\***, SA Vice President for Clubs; **Ben Lau**, SA Vice President for Events; **Jack Koscinski**, SA Treasurer; **Aeaad Alawaad**, Senator; **Adam Bilali**, Senator; **Joshua Brodsky**, Senator; **Arya Dixit**, Senator; **Michaelangelo Fontana**, Senator; **Ismat Haque**, Senator; **Piyush Ohri**, Senator; **Grant Peterson**, Senator; **Rima Saeed**, Senator; **Aidan Thomas\*\***, Senate Chairperson/Senator; **Nour Touti\***, Academic Council Coordinator; **Ryder Albano**, Engineering Council Coordinator; **Leya Skaria**, Hobby Council Coordinator; **Akash Shah**, International Council Coordinator; **Manal Al Bahantah**, People of Color Council Coordinator; **Nasra Isse**, Special Interest Council Coordinator.

Asterisk (\*) indicates member arrived late or left prior to adjournment.

Double asterisk (\*\*) indicates member's status changed during meeting.

### Absent

**Sierra Fernandez**, Senator; **Devin Hendricks**, Sports Council Coordinator.

### Call to Order

Aisha Adam, SA President, calls the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Aisha Adam, SA President, proceeds to call the roll.

Aisha Adam	Present
Mason Bayer	Present
Will Dong	Present
Ben Lau	Present
Jack Koscinski	Present
Aeaad Alawaad	Present
Adam Bilali	Present
Joshua Brodsky	Present

Arya Dixit	Present
Sierra Fernandez	Absent
Michaelangelo Fontana	Present
Ismat Haque	Present
Piyush Ohri	Present
Grant Peterson	Present
Rima Saeed	Present
Aidan Thomas	Present
Nour Touti	Absent
Ryder Albano	Present
Leya Skaria	Present
Akash Shah	Present
Manal Al Bahantah	Present
Nasra Isse	Present
Devin Hendricks	Absent

20 Present, 3 Absent

Finding a quorum is present, the Senate proceeds with the order of business.

**\*\*Nour Touti, Academic Council Coordinator, enters at 5:04 pm.\*\***

### Approval of Minutes

Aisha Adam, SA President, introduces December 10, 2025 Senate Meeting Minutes for consideration.

Motion to approve December 10, 2025 Senate Meeting Minutes by Ben Lau; second Mason Bayer.

Without objection, motion passes with unanimous consent.

**\*\*Result: December 10, 2025 Senate Meeting Minutes are approved.\*\***

### Old Business

None.

## New Business

Aisha Adam, SA President, introduces Resolution - 2025-2026 - S#17 (“Resolution to Update SA Club Budget Policy and Funding Appeals Processes”) for consideration.

Motion to approve Resolution - 2025-2026 - S#17 by Jack Koscinski; second Ryder Albano.

Aisha Adam	Yes
Mason Bayer	Yes
Will Dong	Yes
Ben Lau	Yes
Jack Koscinski	Yes
Aeaad Alawaad	Yes
Adam Bilali	Yes
Joshua Brodsky	No
Arya Dixit	Yes
Michaelangelo Fontana	Yes
Ismat Haque	Yes
Piyush Ohri	Yes
Grant Peterson	No
Rima Saeed	Yes
Aidan Thomas	Yes
Nour Touti	Yes
Ryder Albano	Yes
Leya Skaria	Yes
Akash Shah	Yes
Manal Al Bahantah	Yes
Nasra Isse	Yes

19 Yes, 2 No, 0 Abstain

Motion to approve Resolution - 2025-2026 - S#17 passes 19-2-0.

**\*\*Result: Resolution - 2025-2026 - S#17 is approved.\*\***

Aisha Adam, SA President, introduces the Senate Chairperson election and opens and calls for nominations for the position of Senate Chairperson.

Piyush Ohri nominates Aidan Thomas, who accepts.

Grant Peterson nominates Joshua Brodsky, who accepts.

Hearing no other nominations, Aisha Adam, SA President, closes nominations for the position of Senate Chairperson.

Aidan Thomas, Senator, addresses the Senate.

Joshua Brodsky, Senator, addresses the Senate.

The Senate automatically enters a question-and-answer period.

Motion to limit the question-and-answer period to one minute by Jack Koscinski; second Mason Bayer.

Division - Aisha Adam proceeds to call the roll.

Aisha Adam	No
Mason Bayer	Yes
Will Dong	Yes
Ben Lau	No
Jack Koscinski	No
Aeaad Alawaad	No
Adam Bilali	Yes
Joshua Brodsky	No
Arya Dixit	Yes
Michaelangelo Fontana	No
Ismat Haque	Yes
Piyush Ohri	Yes
Grant Peterson	No
Rima Saeed	No
Aidan Thomas	No
Nour Touti	No
Ryder Albano	No

Leya Skaria	No
Akash Shah	No
Manal Al Bahantah	No
Nasra Isse	No

6 Yes, 15 No, 0 Abstain

Motion to limit the question-and-answer period to one minute does not pass 6-15-0.

Motion to limit the question-and-answer period to three minutes by Grant Peterson; second Mason Bayer.

Without objection, motion passes with unanimous consent.

**\*\*Result: The question-and-answer period is limited to three minutes.\*\***

**\*\*Mason Bayer, SA Vice President for Advocacy, leaves at 5:18 pm.\*\***

**\*\*Mason Bayer, SA Vice President for Advocacy, enters at 5:19 pm.\*\***

Motion to enter an untimed question-and-answer period by Grant Peterson; second Mason Bayer.

Without objection, motion passes with unanimous consent.

**\*\*Result: The Senate enters an untimed question-and-answer period.\*\***

Motion to end the question-and-answer period and vote in the Senate Chairperson election by Ben Lau; second Arya Dixit.

Division - Aisha Adam proceeds to call the roll.

Aisha Adam	No
Mason Bayer	Yes
Will Dong	Yes
Ben Lau	Yes
Jack Koscinski	No
Aeaad Alawaad	Yes
Adam Bilali	Abstain
Joshua Brodsky	No
Arya Dixit	Yes
Michaelangelo Fontana	No

Ismat Haque	No
Piyush Ohri	Yes
Grant Peterson	No
Rima Saeed	Yes
Aidan Thomas	No
Nour Touti	Yes
Ryder Albano	Yes
Leya Skaria	Yes
Akash Shah	Yes
Manal Al Bahantah	Yes
Nasra Isse	Yes

13 Yes, 7 No, 1 Abstain

Motion to end the question-and-answer period and vote in the Senate Chairperson election passes 13-7-1.

**\*\*Result: The Senate ends the question-and-answer period and enters a vote in the Senate Chairperson election.\*\***

**\*\*Will Dong, SA Vice President for Clubs, leaves at 5:39 pm.\*\***

Aisha Adam	Aidan Thomas
Mason Bayer	Aidan Thomas
Ben Lau	Aidan Thomas
Jack Koscinski	Aidan Thomas
Aeaad Alawaad	Aidan Thomas
Adam Bilali	Aidan Thomas
Joshua Brodsky	Abstain
Arya Dixit	Aidan Thomas
Michaelangelo Fontana	Aidan Thomas
Ismat Haque	Aidan Thomas
Piyush Ohri	Aidan Thomas
Grant Peterson	Joshua Brodsky

Rima Saeed	Aidan Thomas
Aidan Thomas	Aidan Thomas
Nour Touti	Aidan Thomas
Ryder Albano	Aidan Thomas
Leya Skaria	Aidan Thomas
Akash Shah	Aidan Thomas
Manal Al Bahantah	Aidan Thomas
Nasra Isse	Aidan Thomas

18 Aidan Thomas, 1 Joshua Brodsky, 1 Abstain

**\*\*Result: Aidan Thomas, Senator, is elected Senate Chairperson and takes the Chair.\*\***

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Senate meeting by Jack Koscinski; second Mason Bayer.

Division - Aidan Thomas proceeds to call the roll.

Aisha Adam	Yes
Mason Bayer	Yes
Ben Lau	Yes
Jack Koscinski	Yes
Aeaad Alawaad	Yes
Adam Bilali	Yes
Joshua Brodsky	No
Arya Dixit	Yes
Michaelangelo Fontana	Yes
Ismat Haque	Yes
Piyush Ohri	Yes
Grant Peterson	No
Rima Saeed	Yes
Aidan Thomas	Yes

Nour Touti	Yes
Ryder Albano	Yes
Leya Skaria	Yes
Akash Shah	Yes
Manal Al Bahantah	Yes
Nasra Isse	Yes

18 Yes, 2 No, 0 Abstain

Motion to adjourn the Senate meeting passes 18-2-0.

**\*\*Result: Meeting is adjourned at 5:45 pm.\*\***



University at Buffalo Student Association Inc.

350 Student Union, Buffalo, NY 14260

[www.sa.buffalo.edu](http://www.sa.buffalo.edu)

**Resolution - 2025-2026 - S#17**

**Subject:** Resolution to Update SA Club Budget Policy and Funding Appeals Processes  
**Requested by:** Aisha Adam, SA President; Will Dong, SA Vice President for Clubs; Jack Koscinski, SA Treasurer.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the attached amended Club Budget Policy shall be the Club Budget Policy of University at Buffalo Student Association Inc. (“SA”), amending and replacing the current Club Budget Policy;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the SA By-Laws be amended, such that:

- 1) all references to “Elections and Credentials”, without quotation marks, are replaced with the following text, without quotation marks: “Elections and Compliance”;
- 2) the following text, without quotation marks, is added as the new Section 5.03(a)(vii): “Shall decide club funding appeals in accordance with Section 7.01(e).”; and
- 3) in Section 7.01(e), the text “SA Treasurer if the SA Treasurer at that time is a different person than the SA Treasurer who rendered the decision being appealed; otherwise, club funding appeals shall be decided by the SA President”, without quotation marks, is replaced with the following text, without quotation marks: “Elections and Compliance Chairperson”;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that, in the SA Supplemental Funding Policy, the text “SA Treasurer if the SA Treasurer at that time is a different person than the SA Treasurer who rendered the decision being appealed; otherwise, club funding appeals shall be decided by the SA President”, without quotation marks, is replaced with the following text, without quotation marks: “Elections and Compliance Chairperson”;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that, in the SA Election Rules and all SA policies, each reference to the “Elections and Credentials”, without quotation marks, shall be replaced with the following text, without quotation marks: “Elections and Compliance”;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the stipend previously approved for the Elections and Credentials Chairperson shall be the approved stipend for the Elections and Compliance Chairperson; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Resolution is effective immediately; any underlined text in this Resolution or its attachments shall not appear underlined in the text of any amended policy; and any struck-through text in this Resolution or its attachments shall not appear in the text of any amended policy.



# Club Budget Policy

## Policy Information

Date Established: March 29, 2022

Date Last Updated: ~~October 4~~ January 28, 2025 ~~2026~~

Category: Finance

Internal Control Program Approved: April 19, 2022

Internal Control Program Update Approved: ~~October 4~~ January 28, 2026

The Student Association prepares an annual budget according to the processes set forth in the SA By-Laws and SUNY policies. Every expenditure by SA or an SA recognized club is pursuant to an approved budgetary allocation. Estimated revenues and estimated expenditures must be based on realistic projections. As used in this Policy, “Budget” for clubs means the amount of money allocated by SA for the club at the beginning of the relevant fiscal year for that year.

SA uses a system of budgetary accounts to codify the budget. The breakdown can be found within SA’s chart of accounts and line descriptions. Each budget is for the fiscal year beginning on August 1 and ending on July 31 of the following year. Once the proposed budget has been prepared, it must be formally approved or adopted in accordance with the SA By-Laws, UB and SUNY policies.

[For more information on the budgetary process, see Article VII of the SA By-Laws.](#)

## Prior Year Budget Activity and the Effect it has on the Current Year’s Budget

Any encumbrances outstanding at the end of the fiscal year (July 31) will be voided prior to fiscal year end and entered into the new fiscal year’s budget. They may be voided prior to 7/31 if it is not reasonably possible for the check to be processed in the last check run of the fiscal year.

## Club Budget Tier System

The Student Association, in its efforts to maintain consistency from year to year, categorizes clubs into tiers. ~~Each tier has requirements that organizations~~ Clubs must meet a tier’s requirements to be eligible ~~for the to receive any amount of funding sources that the falls within such tier provides.~~ The calculation of tier requirements will include club activities from the first day of the fall semester up to the third Monday in April of the academic year. Funds will be budgeted and disbursed based on approved viewpoint neutral policies and procedures. Consistent with the mandates of SA’s By-Laws, SA is strictly prohibited from considering the viewpoint(s) held and/or expressed by any club, its officers, or its members when making club budget determinations. No club should expect their sole funding to come from the Student Activity Fee.

The term “active members” of a club refers to the number of ~~voting members a club has in accordance with their approved constitution~~ UB students who have attended at least three of that club’s Meetings and/or Events on or between the first day of the fall semester and the third Monday in April of the academic year. How many Meetings and Events an individual has attended and how many Meetings and Events a club has held may be tallied periodically throughout the academic year. Without limitation, SA may rely on the information entered by the club into UBLinked for purposes of determining how many active members are in the club, how many Events and

Meetings the club held, and any other data that is relevant under this policy. The amount of active members in a club is considered 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.

As used in this Policy, the terms "Meetings" and "Events" refers only to approved club events on UBLinked.

### Tier I

Clubs who are assigned to this tier are generally new clubs and clubs who did not apply for a budget during the spring's budgetary process. Clubs within this tier receive a flat budget amount of \$250. Budgets are only available to new clubs once they have completed all recognition requirements as stated by the New Club Recognition Policy. Clubs within this tier must meet the requirements as set forth by the Annual Registration and Requirements for Recognition Policy.

### Tier II

Clubs who are assigned to this tier have requested a budget and have been approved to have a budget of \$251 - \$2,499. Clubs in this tier must complete the following requirements:

1. Be a recognized SA club.
2. Have completed 4 Club Meetings and/or Events for the academic year.
3. Have at least 10 active members.

### Tier III

Clubs who are assigned to this tier have requested a budget and have been approved to have a budget of \$2,500 - \$4,999. Clubs in this tier must complete the following requirements:

1. Be a recognized SA club.
2. Have completed 5 Club Meetings and/or Events for the academic year.
3. Have at least 15 active members.

### Tier IV

Clubs who are assigned to this tier have requested a budget and have been approved to have a budget of \$5,000 - \$9,999. Clubs in this tier must complete the following requirements:

1. Be a recognized SA Club.
2. Have completed 6 Club Meetings and/or Events for the academic year.
3. Have at least 20 active members.

### Tier V

Clubs who are assigned to this tier have requested a budget and have been approved to have a budget of \$10,000 - \$19,999. Clubs in this tier must complete the following requirements:

1. Be a recognized SA Club.
2. Have completed 7 Club Meetings and/or Events for the academic year.
3. Have at least 25 active members.

### Tier VI

Clubs who are assigned to this tier have requested a budget and have been approved to have a budget of \$20,000 - \$50,000. Clubs in this tier must complete the following requirements:

1. Be a recognized SA Club.
2. Have completed 10 Club Meetings and/or Events for the academic year.
3. Have at least 30 active members.

## Budget Requests Packets

During the spring semester of each academic year, clubs can submit budget requests through the SA website. Any club that does not submit a budget request by the SA Treasurer's set deadline will receive a \$250.00 budget.

### General Budget Limitations

There are certain limitations that automatically apply to requested budget amounts before any other factors are applied. They are as follows:

1. The maximum budget for any club is \$50,000.
2. The amount of a club's budget request will be reduced to the lower of: (a) the total amount requested by the club or (b) the total itemized expenditures in their budget packet.
3. A club cannot receive more than the maximum budget allocated for their eligible Tier.
4. Clubs must meet the requirements for the Tier they have requested a budget for to change their current Tier. Clubs which do not meet the requirements for their respective Tier will be eligible for, at most, funding in the Tier that they did complete the requirements for.  
~~The calculation of tier requirements will include club activities from the first day of the fall semester up to Monday of the third week in April of the current academic year.~~
5. Clubs can only move up one Tier at a time. Clubs may only move up to the higher of the following:
  - a. The club's assigned tier in the then-current academic year, plus one; or
  - a-b. The tier to which the club was assigned in the then-previous academic year, so long as the club did not drop tier(s) due to violations.
6. The SA Treasurer may (but is not required to) require all clubs to use a budget request form that caps a club's itemized requests at the maximum amount allowed ~~for the tier above the club's then-current tier~~under number 5 above; for clubs in the highest tier, the maximum amount of itemized request under such form shall be the maximum amount allowed for such tier.
7. The SA Treasurer may round any numbers to the nearest dollar, so long as rounding is handled consistently for all clubs.
8. Historical data of any derecognized club shall not be used in any subsequent calculation of club budgets.
- 5-9. Club requests must be allowable under SUNY policy to be allocated.

~~Club requests must be allowable under SUNY policy to be allocated. There are also other limitations which apply to calculated budget allocations after all other factors are applied. They are as follows:~~

### Percentage Reductions

1. The total funds allocated to all clubs in total may not exceed the total available amount set by the SA Treasurer prior to club budget considerations.
2. A percentage reduction to the proposed budget of all clubs may be applied if necessary to reduce the total amount allocated to clubs. Tiers one, two and three clubs shall not receive a percentage reduction. Tier 6 clubs will receive a percentage reduction that is double the percentage of tier 4 clubs with tier 5 clubs' percentage being halfway between the two.  
~~(The references to tier in this paragraph shall refer to the tier the club would have been in for the upcoming budget year after application of all other criteria under this policy, except for subsection #3 under Historical Data.)~~
- 2-3. If calculation of the percentage reduction under number 2 above would result in the proposed budget of Tier 6 clubs being reduced by more than 50%, then the following percentage reduction shall instead be applied: Tiers 3, 4, 5, and 6 will each receive an equal percentage reduction, and Tiers 1 and 2 will not receive a percentage reduction.

References to tiers under this subheading shall refer to the proposed tier the club would be in for the upcoming budget year after applying all other criteria under this policy, except for number 2 under Historical Data.

## Historical Data

The Student Association considers the then-current academic year and then-previous academic year when determining budgets for clubs with historical data.

1. For clubs in tiers 5 and 6 requesting a budget increase only: No club shall receive a budget increase that would result in the club's budget being more than 5% higher than the amount they spent during the then-current academic year (through the third Monday of the third week in April) or the entire academic year before that, whichever is greater.
- ~~2. For clubs without historical data (i.e., new clubs that have not spent any money), the total budget allocation shall not exceed \$1,500.~~
2. If a club has been found to have committed 3 or more policy violations in the then-current fiscal year, 10% shall be removed per violation (starting with the third violation) from the final proposed budget of that club.
  - a. For clarification, if a club is found to have committed a violation after the club's budget for the following fiscal year is determined but before the start of the following fiscal year, that violation shall still count in the described calculation, and any resulting reduction to the club's budget shall be made when reasonably possible.
  - a.b. Money removed due to club violation(s) shall be used to fund additional monies granted to any clubs that win their budget appeals, and if any amount is left over, such amount shall be added to the SA budget line for Newly Recognized Club Funding and Club Appeals.

## Expenditures

All expenditures involved in the calculation of a club's total budget numerical request must be itemized. If the expenditures are not itemized and detailed, money will not be provided for them. Itemization involves explaining what the expenditure is and listing out the specific items and their individual costs needed for that expenditure. Numerical ranges and descriptions such as "Other Expenses" are not allowed. The Student Association will not allocate as part of a club's budget request funds for the following expenditures:

1. Any food other than for ~~1 banquet or 1 barbeque~~ up to 2 events per semester (academic year; if the club requests more than that, only the least expensive highest allowable food requests in a semester may be approved); however, if a particular food is so integral to the club as to be part of both the club's name and purpose, then the foregoing limitation shall not apply with respect to such food.
2. Merchandise as defined by the Ticketing and Merchandise Policy.
3. Gift Cards.
4. Tangible items to giveaway.
5. Individual non-transferrable memberships to outside organizations.
6. Expenditures related to any aspect of the production or distribution of publications or digital media.
7. Separated hotel and transportation bookings for Artists, ~~because~~ any fee paid for a performing artist should be inclusive of the vendor paying for the artist's accommodations and travel.
8. Expenditures that violate any applicable policy or law, are not reasonably feasible, are not covered by SA's existing insurance, or could result in unreasonable liability and/or safety risk to the club, SA, and/or UB.
9. If reasonably equivalent goods or services can be provided by another vendor at a lower price, funding shall not be provided for the excess amount.

10. Items and services that SA provides to SA clubs at no cost.

## Events

For events that are expected to cost over \$1,000, the following are required:

1. Estimated attendance (broken down by undergraduate UB students, non-undergraduate students of UB, and outside public).
2. If a repeat event, information on past attendance with numerical data.

If the total cost of the event (excluding conferences and competitions) divided by undergraduate UB student attendance is more than an individual student's activity fee for a semester, then expenses will be capped at the amount of an individual student's semesterly activity fee multiplied by the number of undergraduate students included in a reasonable attendance estimate based upon past attendance. Without limitation, SA may rely on information from the UB Ticket Office related to ticket sales and information that the club has entered into UBLinked when making such determination.

## Appeals

Clubs may appeal funding determinations within 10 days of when the club is informed of the determination by email. SA shall provide notice of the determination to the President and Treasurer of the club (as listed on SA's records). Any appeals made by clubs may only be based on procedural error, inaccurate application of the above criteria or math pertaining to the relevant club, or violation of law. A club may only appeal its own budget, not that of any other club. Appeals shall be decided within 45 days of when they are submitted. Club funding appeals shall be decided by the ~~SA Treasurer if the SA Treasurer at that time is a different person than the SA Treasurer who rendered the decision being appealed; otherwise, club funding appeals shall be decided by the SA President~~Elections and Compliance Chairperson. If a club is successful in its appeal, that shall not result in a reduction in the funding of any other club.