

Guidelines for FSA Academic Appropriations

Approved March 2, 2016 by the FSA Board

The FSA hereby adopts the following FSA academic appropriations guidelines. These guidelines are informed and guided by SUNY Guidelines for the Operations of FSA's, SUNY Maritime College FSA's By-Laws, and SUNY Maritime College FSA's historical policies (see Section A for details).

1. Funding should affect a broad sector(s) of the college community or respond to the needs of an otherwise under-served or under-represented campus community.
2. Appropriations should support activities and programs that enhance the education, research, learning and living experiences of the college community.
3. Funding provided as an FSA budget-line item, earmarked for a specific entity's discretionary use, should be used only by the entity in ways that align with the original intent of the appropriation.
4. Funding will not be provided for faculty or student salaries.
5. Funding will not subsidize staff salaries beyond the historical and customary administrative assessment calculation.
6. Appropriations for student food or student lodging are prohibited.
7. It is prohibited to use funds for the purchase or distribution of alcohol and tobacco.
8. Funding will not be provided for events that are private in nature (e.g., retirement parties).
9. Funds will not be approved for goods and services supplied by outside vendors or organizations if current contractors have the ability to supply similar or identical goods and services unless cost/benefit information is provided to the FSA Board to assist in its determination of the advantage of that approach.

Procedure: The aforementioned guidelines may be amended only at a duly held meeting of the FSA Board by vote, in person and not by proxy, of a majority of the Board members present at such a meeting, provided that notice of the purpose of the proposed amendment has been stated in the notice of meeting.

Section A: The aforementioned guidelines are informed and guided by:

I. SUNY "Guidelines for the Operations of Faculty-Student Associations" allow:

"Support of Faculty Research and Scholarly Activities: Expenditure of funds in partial support of research and seed monies for scholarly activities of the faculty of the College."

They also allow:

"Library Support Materials: The expenditure of the Faculty-Student Association funds for the purchase of additional library materials to supplement the purchases of library materials made from State funds." (Note the emphasis of "additional ... supplement")

They also allow:

“Travel Advances: The temporary advancement of monies to faculty [and staff] ... for travel expenses which are subject to reimbursement from other than State funds.”

II. The same Guidelines specifically forbid FSA:

“Subsidization of the salary of a State employee ... for which no services to the Faculty-Student Association are required or provided in return.”

They also forbid:

“The employment of persons to be a faculty member.”

III. The FSA’s By-Laws provide appropriation guidance with its purposes description:

“The general purposes of this Association are educational within the meaning of Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations, and within this meaning the general purposes shall be to establish, operate, manage, and promote educationally related services for the benefit of the State University of New York Maritime College Campus Community, including faculty, staff and students in harmony with the educational mission and goals of the College.

IV. The FSA’s own guidelines have historically forbidden the use of FSA appropriations for student food or student lodging.

V. The FSA’s own guidelines have historically appropriated funds for programs and activities that focus on enhancing and supporting students and the campus community with educationally-related services.

VI. The FSA has historically provided funding as a budget-line item to various, diverse college groups and organizations (hereafter referred to as entities). These entities include, but are not limited to student clubs, athletic improvement expenses, college program fund, scholarship support program, regimental fund, enrollment support program, college development, student activities, academic enrichment, professional development, and library program support. Many of these budget-line item funds are allocated to the entity for its discretionary use. Such use should align with the original intent of the appropriation.