

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE (SAF) BUDGET REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS

FSA fiscal year (FY) **2026** begins on June 1st 2025 and ends on the following May 31st **2026**.

Excel templates for each Council are on FSA SAF webpage, "Financial Documents" section [\(link\)](#)

Need FSA Help? eMail [FSA BUSINESS OFFICE](#) or call FSA (X-3187).

SAF INCOME: (the fees that each student pays). Take these factors into consideration:

- 1) If your college has substantial student enrollment changes planned for FY 2025 (check with your college Dean's office), multiply the estimated enrollment (# of students) by your Council's annual SAF rate [\(link\)](#), for full-time students and part-time students, and insert your calculations/ rationale. SAF rate changes (rate charged to each student) have advance planning requirements and must be discussed and planned with FSA far in advance.
- 2) If your Council expects a larger than usual surplus of unused income as of 5/31/25, that becomes your "rollover" income to the new FY2026. Councils have the authority to adjust their SAF rate to reducing the Fall 2025 SAF rate that you charge to students.

During the budget certification **FSA will make any needed adjustment** based on actual SAF income collected and refunds.

OTHER INCOME: Categories vary for each council, and include ANY income anticipated to be received from any other sources (fundraising, event fees, advertising income, etc.), as well as Rollover income (\$ NOT spent; remaining balance on 5/31). Review your Council's most current available YTD Actual report [\(link\)](#) to estimate any fiscal year end (FYE) "rollover". Any Club that will retain its FYE 5/31 MUST be highlighted in the comment column for that budget line item row as "retains any rollover". Otherwise, all balances are rolled over as income to the Council and the Council can redistribute as the Council determines. If the Council is unable to estimate how much will be rolled-over on 5/31, the Council may note a generic instruction such as "place all rollover income in the Reserve Fund" or another unallocated category ("Programs/Projects", "Spontaneous"). After start of the next fall semester, the following year Council is able to re-allocate any excess rollover funds to other specific council accounts.

EXPENSES: Use Excel spreadsheet format - greatly helps prevent math errors. FSA has prepared a blank 2026 Budget Excel Template [\(link\)](#) based on your council prior year budget and YTD actual income and expense categories which you can download, complete then print. Insert additional rows as needed (new clubs, events, or expense categories). Treasurers can present the same excel document Budget for the Council's approval "motion", so Council meeting minutes and attachment MATCHES the Budget being submitted to FSA. We do understand your SAF income is estimated and may need to be adjusted during FSA's certification.

Use the "Comments" column to:

- Include any specific requirements for any line item. Example: if the Council chooses to specify exactly what a club may (or may not) spend its funds on, or
- If the Council anticipates any current fiscal year unpaid expenses or invoices that will not be submitted for payment by 5/31, be sure to include an expense line that will allow it to be paid after 5/31. Example: a yearbook final balance or event that is planned near year end, where the expenses will be paid after the current fiscal year end on May 31st.
- If the Council will allow any club to retain its FYE 5/31 balance (typically if a Club has deposited fundraised income).

RESERVE FUND(s): SUNY Guidelines require a minimum reserve of 5% up to a maximum of 100% of the prior year actual annual expenses. During FSA's certifying the Council's budget, FSA may adjust once 5/31 actual amounts are known.

BALANCED BUDGET: Councils must submit a **Balanced** budget, where ALL income and ALL expenses plus Reserves net to a bottom line of ZERO dollars.

SUBMITTING YOUR SAF BUDGET: Advance materials can be sent to FSA by [eMail](#), but Council must submit signed originals to the FSA Business Office (Student Center Rm. 2-09; MailStop 1219) ASAP. **Councils must submit:**

1. [SAF Budget Request and Agreement Form \(link\)](#). Insert the current officers, or 2025-26 elected officers (if known), and term of office. Place authorized signatures in signature section. Officers who are not available to sign can add their signatures at the FSA Office after the budget is submitted. **Signature Requirements:** Some Council Constitution/ Bylaws posted on the [Student Activity Fee](#) already specify authorized signature requirements for disbursements (payments).
2. **Attach the Proposed Budget that the council approved** to the above form; [eMail](#) the completed excel version.
3. **Attach a signed copy of the Council's meeting minutes** at which the budget of the organization was approved unless minutes are already posted on the [SAF Minutes webpage \(link\)](#), Minutes must be in the format of [SAF Meeting Minutes Guidelines \(link\)](#) and **must be signed by the Council Secretary (or other officer if Secy is unavailable)**.

Certification: FSA reviews and makes any required adjustments or revisions once actual year end 5/31 amounts are known and will return to the Council a completed, fully executed **certified budget** over the summer. During FSA certification, any Rollover estimated as of May 31st will be adjusted to the exact amount, adjusting the "Reserve Fund" or another appropriate expense category (such as 'Programs & Projects'; 'Spontaneous', etc...) to balance the budget. Councils can submit revised budgets to FSA for certification at any time.

v.5/11/21