

Office of Internal Affairs  
Graduate and Professional Student Association  
Arizona State University

**Report  
August 2012**

**Travel Grant**

In June, July, and August of 2012, travel spending somewhat mirrored the 2011-2012 funding for the same months. However, as you can see from the chart below, certain significant changes were made.

For example, due to budget constraints, travel during the summer months was dispersed more evenly and in some months (June and August), more funds were dispersed to students.

Throughout the 2012-2013 academic year, funding each month will mirror the 2011-2012 funding fairly closely, taking into account the cut in travel funding in GPSA's budget.

2011-2012 Funding	% of Apps Funded 2011-2012	Projected Spending 12-13 Year (\$320,900)	Amount Funded	% of Application Accepted	Total # Applications	Total # Applications Accepted
\$12,763.00	43%	\$15,000	\$ 14,818.00	29.0322581	62	18
\$28,588.00	79%	\$16,000	\$ 15,164.00	59.4594595	37	22
\$14,566.00	56%	\$16,000	\$ 16,630.00	27.3972603	73	20

**Graduate Research Support Program (GRSP)**

The GRSP grant application opened to students on August 1, 2012. The deadline to apply for this grant is October 4, 2012. Awards will be announced in mid-November.

Advertisements have gone out via GradStu, Facebook, and Twitter and will continue to go out until the application deadline.

**JumpStart (JS)**

The Fall JumpStart application also opened up to students on August 1, 2012. The submission deadline to apply for the JS grant is November 8, 2012. Awards will be announced in early or mid-December.

Advertisements for the JS grant have also gone out via GradStu, Facebook, and Twitter, and will continue to go out until the application deadline.

**Teaching Excellence Award**

The Teaching Excellence Award recognizes one graduate student for outstanding instruction in a classroom. Graduate instructor nominees may be lab TAs, course instructors, or session leaders who hold a consistent teaching schedule on any ASU campus.

Students may be nominated in both the Fall and Spring semesters. Decisions are announced in Mid- to Late April. Fall nominations begin on August 27, 2012 through September 14, 2012.

This event has been advertised to undergraduate students at the Passport to ASU, held on August 22, 2012. At this event, nearly 1,000 flyers were dispersed. The flyer created to advertise this event was also forwarded to Jennifer Cason, the Director of Graduate Support Initiatives with the Graduate College, so she can disperse the information to the directors and chairs in each department. Finally, TEA will be advertised through a pizza/nominations table on September 10 and 11 outside of the MU during lunch hour. This table will require 3-5 volunteers each day; the volunteers will disperse flyers, hand out pizza to students, and (hopefully) technology will be available on which students can nominate their instructors.

### **Peer Reviewers**

This year, the pool of peer reviewers will be started anew and the Blackboard bank of reviewers will likely be purged. It is possible, however, that an e-mail will go out to existing reviewers to give them a chance to remain or be removed entirely.

This project stemmed in part from the large number of reviewers (almost 750) that are currently enrolled in the Blackboard "Peer Reviewer" course. This number is unwieldy and difficult to manage. Further, the past few months have demonstrated that some of the reviewers on that list have graduated or are no longer interested in reviewing applications. For example, I have received numerous e-mails from current or former students asking to be removed from the list. Additionally, travel applications have been assigned to these reviewers and not all applications are being reviewed.

To move forward with organizing a new pool of reviewers, a Google Form has been created and sent out via GradStu. This form asks students to indicate the programs for which they are interested in reviewing, for what applications they plan to apply, and whether they are willing to complete training to become a reviewer.

This form gauges interest in reviewing for travel, GRSP, JumpStart, and TEA.

The goal of this project is to create steps necessary to become a peer reviewer and to allow interested students the chance to actively show their interest and intent to review.

So far, 54 students have responded to the call and have volunteered to review at least one program. The form will continue to be dispersed to students for about the next month.

An offshoot from the new peer reviewer form is the new travel training page on the Blackboard website. Training documents and procedures are being created to ensure that travel reviewers are working from the same rubric when they score the applications. Moreover, this training page will create the travel reviewers' accountability, at least at the beginning of the year.

### **Information Sessions**

Information sessions will be held twice on each of ASU's four campuses. These sessions will be run by volunteers and will provide students who are interested in applying for these programs with an overview of each of the Office of Internal Affairs programs and how and when they can apply.

The powerpoint presentation has been created to ensure consistency across sessions. These powerpoints will be provided to interested presenters.

### **2012-2013 Budget**

The GPSA budget has been cut across the board for GPSA. That being said, IA's travel grant budget has been reduced by almost \$50,000.

Given that the travel program is the best way that GPSA can touch students and given how competitive this program has become, the amount recommended in the proposed budget is appropriate.

IA's other programs—the line items for JS and TEA—have also received cuts in funding, although these cuts are not as large. That said, these programs are also extremely important to GPSA and to graduate and professional students. Additionally, the majority of the amounts listed on the budget for these programs goes to the students as grants or awards and is not used internally by IA.

The Office of IA earmarks approximately \$4,000 for marketing and public relations of all of its programs. This amount has been reduced from the 2011-2012 budget and is separate from the funds provided to students.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Fischer  
GPSA Vice President of Internal Affairs