

Student Organization Funding Association (SOFA) Bylaws

Approved May 2025

- I) SOFA Mission Statement: The Student Organization Funding Association (SOFA) is a standing committee of the Student Government Association (SGA). As a guiding body for student organizations under SGA, this committee looks to ensure equal opportunities for all student organizations involved in planning campus and community events. The purpose of this committee is to promote, facilitate and supplement funding for student organizations wishing to host events for the UIS community. The SOFA encourages its student organization to plan activities that promote diversity, learning, community awareness, and civic engagement.
- II) SOFA Membership, Duties and Eligibility
 - a. Membership to the Student Organization Funding Association shall be comprised of:
 - i. Chair (Treasurer of SGA)
 - ii. Vice-Chair
 - iii. Treasurer
 - iv. Secretary
 - v. Records Keeper
 - vi. Board Members (6)
 - vii. Advisor(s)
 - b. Duties
 - i. Chair: The Chair of SOFA shall be the Treasurer of the SGA. The chair will then appoint a Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and additional committee members with an effort to represent a diverse group of students. The chair must schedule all meetings for the academic year. The Chair shall schedule and plan training board members. The Chair will conduct all meetings, ensure that SOFA adheres to all regulations, and serve as a tie-breaker.
 - ii. Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair is required to attend all SOFA meetings. The Vice-Chair will work with the Chair on meeting agendas. The Vice-Chair will work with the team members in scheduling office hours. The Vice-Chair is in charge of social media handling with the help of one board member of their choosing. When acting as Chair, the Vice-Chair will have no vote except in the event of a tie.

- iii. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the SOFA and keep close track of all money allocations to student organizations. The Treasurer shall keep records of every expense and allocation and shall work with the Records Keeper to track account payments and allocations with the Office of Student Life. The Treasurer will also track differences in amount allocated and amount spent and report this information to the board every meeting. The Treasurer is a voting member.
- iv. Secretary: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the SOFA and keep track of member attendance. The Secretary will also keep very detailed minutes of each meeting, while providing for member anonymity. Minutes are to be sent to the board members, Student Life and the organization representatives from the meeting described. The Secretary is a voting member.
- v. Records Keeper: The Records Keeper shall attend all meetings of the SOFA and shall also track the receiving of event program reports, along with working with the Treasurer to track account payments and allocations with the Office of Student Life. The Records Keeper is a voting member.
- vi. Board Members (6): Board members must attend all meetings of the SOFA. The Board members shall participate in discussion of all funding requests and vote on requests.
- vii. Advisor(s): The Advisor(s) may be a faculty, staff or a GA. The advisor(s) is/are a non-voting member.

c. Membership Eligibility

- i. In order to be eligible for position on the SOFA you must adhere to the following requirements:
 - 1. Any member of the SOFA must be a currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate student at UIS.
 - 2. Any member of the SOFA must not show preference in discussion or decision of funding requests based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, political ideology, academic affiliation, etc.
 - 3. Any member of the SOFA is expected to commit to serve for the entire academic year.
- ii. Attendance is required at every SOFA meeting.
 - 1. An absence will be deemed excused or unexcused by a majority vote of the board members. To be excused, an

absence must be made known to the Chair no later than 48 hours before the said meeting.

2. No board member shall have more than two (2) unexcused absences or three (3) excused absences over each academic semester or three (3) consecutive absences of any kind. Any SOFA member who violates this rule is automatically eligible for removal from their SOFA position and will be notified by the Chair of this. Due Process will be given.

III) Funding Process

a. Funding Eligibility

1. In order to be eligible for funding from SOFA, student organization must be recognized by the Office of Student Life and SOFA by completing an organization registration form or renewal form for returning organizations in accordance with Student Life policies

b. Process

- i. Once an organization is registered, certain procedures must be followed in order to receive funding:
 1. To receive funding the student organization should submit a completed funding request through UIS Connection by 5pm the Friday prior to each board meeting.
 2. The funding request form must outline the expected costs and the impact of the event.
 3. SOFA will not review submitted requests after the deadline.
- ii. SOFA will meet and discuss funding requests and submit allocation decisions 3-5 business days after the funding request due date.
 1. Board members cannot present or vote on a request for an organization they are a member of, but they may still participate in the discussion.
 2. Board members part of the specific organization are required to abstain from voting for or against the funding request.
- iii. Members from the requesting organization must present their requests to SOFA by or at the next SOFA meeting
- iv. After receiving funding, the student organization must complete and submit a program report to SOFA within 10 business days after the event. Student Organizations will not be eligible to receive additional funding until the past due program report is completed. If past the 10 business days a letter of appeal will be required along with the

program report. Funding requests submitted after failure to turn in past due event program report to qualify for an automatic denial.

c. Funding Policies

- i. At the beginning of the academic year, the board should issue a vision statement for the board, outlining the goals and vision of the board and its idea on how best to allocate its funds.
- ii. SOFA meetings shall be held at least once a month, a minimum of 6 times per fall and spring semester (generally concurrent with SGA meetings). The meeting schedule must be approved by SOFA board members.
- iii. Meeting dates will be set at the beginning of the semester by the SOFA Chair. Changes to the meeting schedule may be made with student body notification ten (10) days prior to the planned meeting.
- iv. The SOFA must split total budget for the year for every semester.
 1. 35% for Fall Semester, 35% for Spring Semester, 10% for UIS Facilities usage costs, and 10% for SOFA operational costs.
- v. The fundraising efforts of Student Organizations will be considered when making funding decisions.
- vi. SOFA quorum shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the SOFA board members present at a funding meeting, with a minimum of five voting members present. If quorum is not met at a funding meeting, the SOFA will attempt to obtain quorum through an online means. Those who are considered voting members may vote electronically if a scheduled SOFA meeting is occurring. Voting members may also vote through online means if a campus emergency occurred and the Chair presents a voting matter to the members.
- vii. A simple majority is required to pass a vote. Roll-call votes are available at any time upon request of a board member. In the event of opposition in voting, individual members' votes will be recorded in the meeting's minutes.
- viii. Changes to a request after approval should be made known to the SOFA and must receive approval first.
- ix. Student Organizations must turn in receipts for reimbursement for events within 3 weeks following the event. Receipts turned in after the deadline will not be reimbursed, unless prior approval has been given.
- x. Requests that meet all eligibility requirements under the SOFA by-laws but for which a quorum of voting SOFA members does not exist,

will be presented to the Student Government Association for approval.

- xi. Money that is allocated to an organization for an event, but is not fully used shall be returned to the SOFA fund following the event. This money is allocated for the event, not for the organization's other uses.
 - xii. All events allocated SOFA funding are required to put the SOFA logo on all advertising materials.
- d. Funding Guidelines – The funding requests will be evaluated by SOFA on a case-by-case basis while keeping these guidelines, SOFA rules, and the vision of the board in mind.
- i. Funding requests must be for events open to the general UIS community.
 - ii. Request over \$600 must be turned in at least four (4) weeks prior to the event.
 - iii. SOFA will consider all other events occurring on campus when reviewing funding requests.
 - iv. Events funded by SOFA for over \$250 are required to swipe in students to record attendance (UISConnection). After the event, the recorded attendance needs to be reported to SOFA within the program report within 10 business days after the event.
 - v. SOFA MAY fund:
 - 1. Apparel (t-shirts, hats, hoodies, sweatshirts, etc.) funding requests may not exceed \$300 for the total cost of the purchase including tax. No organization shall be granted more than the specified \$300 for apparel in a given SOFA year, excluding apparel items such as competition, dance, or costumes kept and maintained by the organization for member use. Apparel cannot be individualized and should be available to all students that wish to receive the apparel and ample opportunity for students across campus to receive the apparel. A mockup of the apparel requested by the student organization must be presented to the board at the time of the request.
 - 2. Costumes essential to the mission or objective carried out by the organization may be requested once a semester for up to \$500.
 - 3. Uniforms, a generalized multiuse item required for competition or performance, may be requested once a

semester for up to \$400. Not to include warmups, personalized or customized items, line jackets, membership apparel, and non-required uniforms. A mock-up of the uniform requested by the student organization must be presented to the board at the time of the request.

4. For organization travel to and from events
5. The purchase of food for organization's events
6. The purchase of meeting refreshments up to \$40 maximum per meeting.
7. The purchase of supplies integral to the advertisement and carrying out of an event.
8. The purchase of prizes for an event up to \$70 but the amount for prizes should not exceed 20% of the total event cost.
9. No organization shall receive more than 5% of the SOFA funds available in a year except when overridden by the unanimous vote of all SOFA members.
 - a. Due to the ever increasing demand for limited SOFA funds, student organizations are never guaranteed to receive the maximum amount of funding.
10. No event shall receive more than 7% of the SOFA funds available in a year.
11. Police security (max \$400) for parties/dances held in UIS facilities, a separate fund set aside for facilities (III.C.iv.1) will be utilized so the costs will not count towards the organization's maximum funding amount. Once this budget for facilities runs out, the cost will start counting towards the organizations maximum funding from SOFA. First-come, first-served basis.

vi. SOFA will NOT fund:

1. Events that have already occurred (no retroactive funding is allowed)
2. The purchase of computer hardware or software with the possible exception of flash drives or other computer disks.
3. The purchase of products/supplies intended for individual use, rather than organization purposes.
4. The purchase of memberships, dues, private lessons, or salaries.

5. Receptions and dinners exclusive to that organization, including invite-only events or events not advertised.
 6. The purchase of food for events that exceeds \$20 per person.
 7. The purchase of personal clothing
 8. The purchase of letterhead, official stationary, or business cards
 9. The purchase of subscriptions to journals or publications
 10. Monthly service charges for telephone use
 11. The purchase of religious materials, including but not limited to religious texts, worship materials, or devotional books.
 12. The purchase of film or film processing.
 13. Requests for costs associated with conferences and retreats external to the University of Illinois Springfield.
 14. Any materials to be sold for profit including for fundraising
- e. An organization dissatisfied with SOFA decisions must first, upon submitting a written appeal, return to the next regular meeting of the SOFA for reconsideration of the matter in question. If again dissatisfied with the SOFA decision, they may make, within ten (10) business days, a written appeal delivered to Student Life to be submitted to the Student Government Association. The SGA shall then deal with the appeal at their next regularly scheduled meeting. A SOFA representative shall be present at the meeting to explain SOFA's decision. The decision of the SGA shall be final and subject to SOFA, Student Life and University policies.

IV) Amendments

- a. Any member of SOFA may offer, in writing, a proposed amendment to the SOFA By-laws by submitting it to the board as a whole five (5) days before the next regular meeting.
- b. All proposed amendments must receive a two-thirds majority of the SOFA members present and voting.
- c. The chair is responsible for informing the SGA of amendments proposed to the by-laws in a timely manner.
- d. Amendments will go into effect the semester following their approval by both SOFA and SGA unless otherwise stated.
- e. As a standing committee of SGA, SOFA By-laws must be approved by the SGA.

V) Resignation, Removal, and Replacement of Board Members

- a. Disciplinary action may be taken against any elected or appointed board member of the SOFA

- b. Charges may be brought against any elected or appointed official by any member of the board who is able to show just cause for removal according to the SOFA bylaws set within the University of Illinois at Springfield Student Government Association Constitution or the University of Illinois at Springfield Student Rights and Policies. The SOFA, the SOFA Advisor, along with the Director of Student Life and the Internal Vice President of SGA shall hear the charges from the plaintiff(s). If the Internal Vice-President of SGA is also a SOFA member, the President of the SGA shall select a different SGA Executive Board member who is not a SOFA member to hear the charges from the plaintiff(s).
 - i. The member being charged shall be allowed an opportunity to respond to any charges brought against them.
 - ii. A three-fourths majority vote of all SOFA members in secret ballot shall be necessary to remove the officer from office.
 - iii. Decisions may be appealed with the Rules and Constitution Committee of the SGA.
- c. In the event of a board member not adhering to the attendance policy, removal process will go into effect.
- d. In the event of resignation or cause of removal of a SOFA member, the Chair will accept applications for a two week period. At the closure of the two week period, the Chair will appoint a new SOFA member to complete the academic year.