
**EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** CU Denver Student Government Association Senate

**FROM:** 2024-25 Executives, Savannah Brooks (President), Mitchell Mauro (Vice-President), Tegan Gough (Chief of Staff)

**DATE:** September 04, 2024

**RE:** Student Life and Campus Community Travel Expenditures

The 2024-25 CU Denver Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Team has experienced difficulty navigating budget reallocations that have impacted the SGA operating budget and the Finance and Funding Committee allocation budget. This shift in funding and the amount allocated for travel amplifies the need for strict guidelines for student fee funding. Without these protections, student fee funds are at risk of further mismanagement which detracts from the student experience of our constituents. There is not an agreement among professional staff that this is not a mismanagement of student fee funding, but students are in alignment. As stewards of student fee money, we align with our student body and will continue to advocate for what they believe to be just.

Funding was approved using several mechanisms including the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Genia Herndon, and Director of Student Life, Jarrick Brown. These channels of approval are no longer adequate and have proven time and time again that changes must occur.

Discussions to move forward in budgetary discrepancies have occurred since June 2024, and there has been no progress to ensure similar occurrences will not happen. As a temporary solution to reallocation of SGA funding, we are posed to turn to creative solutions in terms of spending. This type of rebut is not only unacceptable but a complete disgrace that cannot be tolerated. Student fee money belongs to students and as such, should be reinvested within the student body.

The continued extravagant spending of student fee funding on items that are not relevant to the student body is not permissible and must cease immediately. The SGA Executive team plans to advance this initiative through to its completion so we can best serve the interests of our constituents and safeguard student fee funds from future CU Denver students. As student leaders and advocates for the student body’s interests, we will continue to work with CU Denver’s financial management team to establish protections for the money that students of the institution generate. The need for a shift in the ideals of spending of student fee money is apparent and must reinvest into the good of the student body.

In order to see an effective and adequate solution to student fee funding management, we will:

* Work with university administration to create true structure/policy for how student fee funds are spent
* Outline that student fee funds will go towards goods and services that will directly impact students.
* Work to recuperate the funding lost from our student serving units of Student Life; specifically, the Finance and Funding Committee, the Student Government Association General Budget, the Campus Activities Team, and other facets that directly impact students.
* Push for greater accountability and involvement from administration in student affairs.
* Reevaluate the organizational relationship between higher administration in student affairs and student government to be student focused.

This depends on high levels of accountability and involvement from administration involved with student affairs.

We, the executives, urge the SGA Senate Body to support similar initiatives and bring legislation to the floor that demonstrates the need for protection of all student fee funds within the University of Colorado Denver.