

Undergraduate Student Government
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SENATE

2011 RESPONSIBLE HALL COUNCIL FUNDING ACT

An Act to restore sanity to the Hall Council Funding Process

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be referred to and shall be cited as the “Responsible Hall Council Funding Act.”

SECTION 2. FINDINGS

The Senate finds that—

1. The structure of Hall Councils reporting to the Undergraduate Student Government is a legacy of the Student Polity Association when every building would send two Senators to the Polity Senate;
2. The financial requirements of Hall Councils drastically differ from that of the other USG-funded organizations;
3. The process for Hall Councils is somewhat confusing since they receive financial support from multiple sources;
4. The number of Hall Councils increases operational costs of the Undergraduate Student Government;
5. With additional funding, the Residence Hall Association may put on larger programming for the undergraduate student body; and
6. The Residence Hall Association is in favor of this Act because it will give them greater control of funding within the residence halls.

SECTION 3. CONSTRUCTION

1. The Residence Hall Association (herein referred to as the “RHA”) shall be an independent agency of the Senate.
2. The President of the RHA shall be a Senator on the Undergraduate Student Government (herein referred to as “USG”) Senate.

3. The USG may not enact policy on the Residence Hall Association or its operation, except as it explicitly applies to the expenditure of the Undergraduate Student Activity Fee (herein referred to as the “SAF”).
 1. The USG shall consult with Campus Residences regarding any perspective change in policy
4. The RHA shall be appropriated an annual budget by the USG that shall be used in part to fund every Hall Council of Stony Brook University.
5. Expenditures of the RHA and its Hall Councils shall be subject to applicable USG policies and enacted legislation.
6. The RHA Treasurer and USG Treasurer shall meet on a monthly basis during the academic year to coordinate the operations of the two organizations and suggest policy changes to the USG Senate.

SECTION 4. BUDGET PROCESS

The RHA shall develop and maintain an annual process to appropriate funding to the Hall Councils.

SECTION 5. FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The RHA shall develop and maintain a voucher process for the Hall Councils and the RHA to make expenditures using the SAF monies that has been appropriated to the RHA. All vouchers of the RHA are subject to approval by the RHA Treasurer and shall not require approval of the USG Treasurer.

SECTION 6. RESTRICTIONS

1. A Resident Assistant (herein referred to as an “RA”) shall not be considered towards quorum for a Hall Council.
2. A Residence Hall Director (herein referred to as an “RHD”) may not veto any expenditure of a Hall Council including preventing its placement on the Hall Council agenda. If the RHD wishes to prevent the expenditure, they may send a written request to the Treasurer of the RHA who may consider the request during their approval of the expenditure. A copy of this request must also be sent to the USG Treasurer.
3. Any Hall Council expenditure may not—
 1. Be for the purposes of funding an event in which an RA is using towards their programming requirements; or

2. Be used for purchases that may be considered “building maintenance” and would otherwise be paid for by Campus Residences.
 1. This clause shall not be misconstrued to include purchases for common areas of the building that build community amongst its members.
4. Hall Councils may not sponsor off-campus trips.
5. Hall Councils may restrict their voting membership to residents of the building, though its events must be open to all students who pay the SAF.
6. Hall Councils may not co-sponsor an event with any club other than another Hall Council at Stony Brook University.

SECTION 7. ENACTMENT

1. Section 4 of this Act shall take effect in the 2011 Spring Semester for the 2011 – 2012 Academic Year USG Budget. RHA shall be given until March 18th to submit their budget application to the USG for the Spring 2011 budget process.
2. All the Hall Councils shall be removed from line budget beginning with the 2011 – 2012 Academic Year USG Budget
3. This Act shall take effect immediately following the enactment of this Act.

Alexander E. Dimitriyadi
Executive Vice President

Date

Matthew H. Graham
President

Date