

# Student Government Budget Audit

2022-2023

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**Members of Lafayette Data Community**

## **I. Introduction:**

The Lafayette Data Community is a student-led organization committed to a responsible and socially conscious use of data analytics. The club was officially recognized in December, 2022 and as one of its earliest projects was assigned with the task of auditing the Student Government budget allocation for the academic year 2022-2023. This is the first-time that Student Government has requested a student club to audit their budget allocations to ensure unbiased reporting.

This report is an initiative towards **collaboration, transparency, and accountability**.

## **II. Methods:**

The raw data including club-specific budget requests and allocations for the academic year 2022-2023 were provided by the Student Government Budget Committee. Only student clubs which applied for funding for either academic semesters are considered to be active or requiring student government funding, and included in the analysis.

Student club/organization categories were scraped from the OurCampus website (refer to supplementary material for code details). Thus, the club categories used are: Academic and Pre-professional, Cultural & Identity Based, Media & Publications, Performing and Fine Arts, Recreation & Club Sports, Religious and Spiritual, Service & Community Engagement, Special Interest, Academic/pre-professional + Sustainability and Environmental, and School events and Summer Programming.

Data analysis and visualization were performed using RStudio. Data were visualized for:

1. The difference of categorical average from the aggregate average in funding requests and allocations for each club category.
2. The percentage breakdown of funding allocations by club category.
3. The average allocation a club in each category received.
4. The total amount of funding requested and the total amount allocated to each club category.
5. The change in budget allocation from the fall to spring semester for each club category.

### III. Results:

In total, \$1,189,445.95 was allocated by Student Government to student groups and class year programs such as 1,000 nights and Senior Week during the 2022-23 academic year. The total amount requested was \$1,729,464.21. (Higher resolution images available as supplementary material).

Difference of Categorical Average from the Aggregate Average (2022-2023)

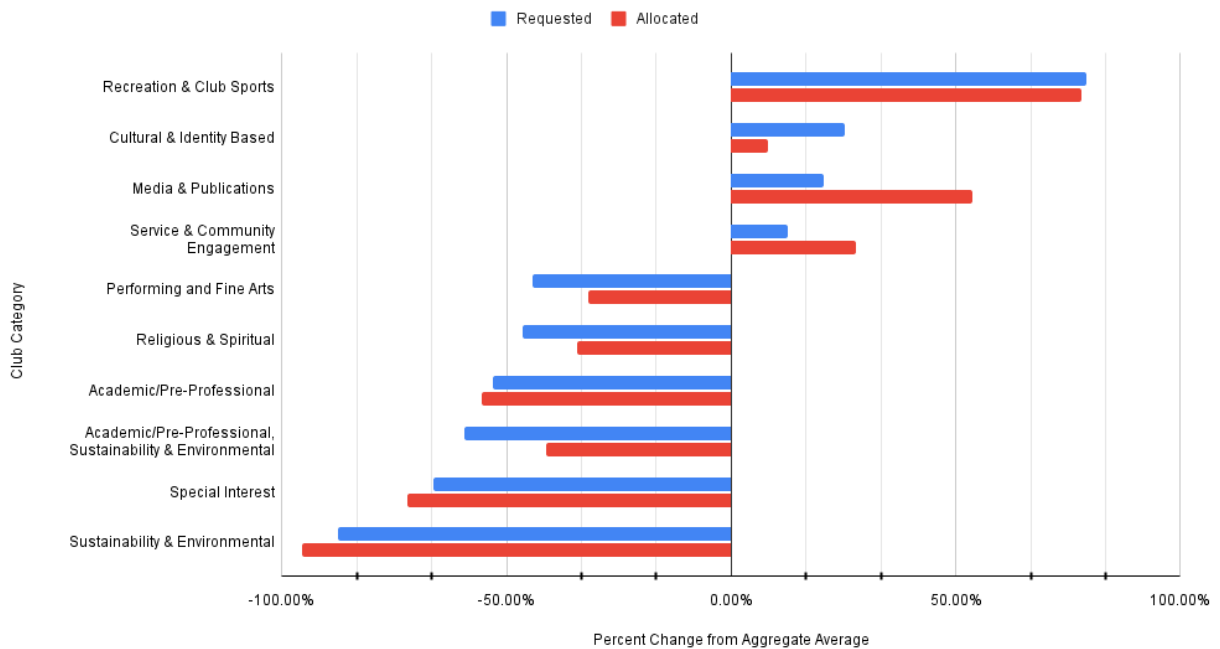


Figure 1.

\*The average student-lead organization requested \$11,919.19 and received \$7,342.76 of funding from Student Government during the school year 2022-2023. These two amounts are considered Aggregate Averages. The average amounts requested and received by each club category was calculated by dividing the total requested and allocated by the number of organizations in each category and are considered as Categorical Averages. See Figure 1.

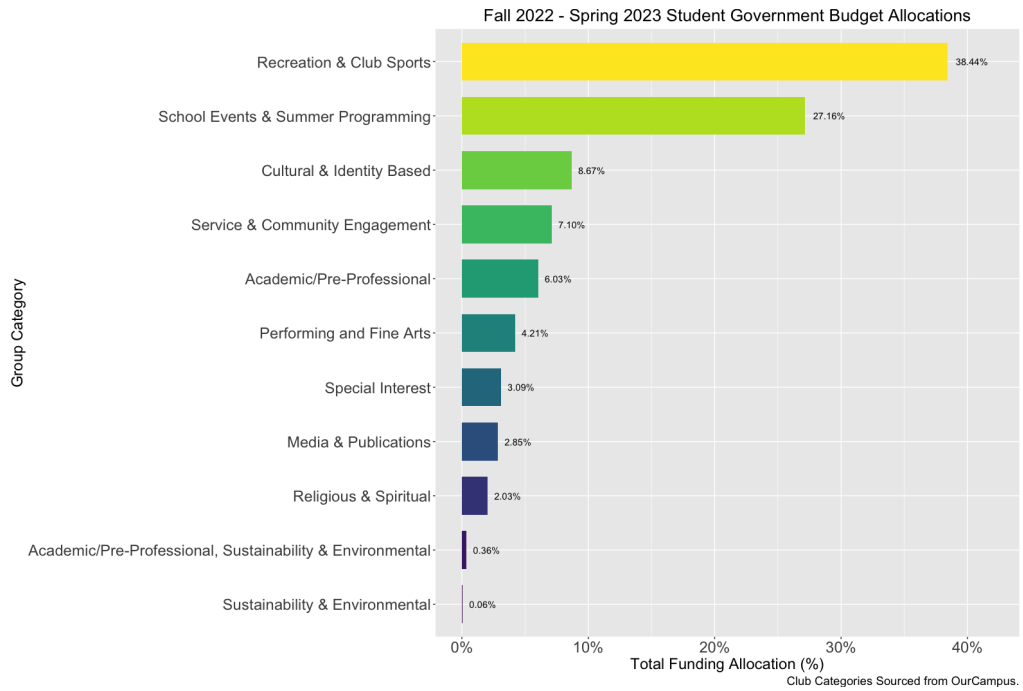


Figure 2.

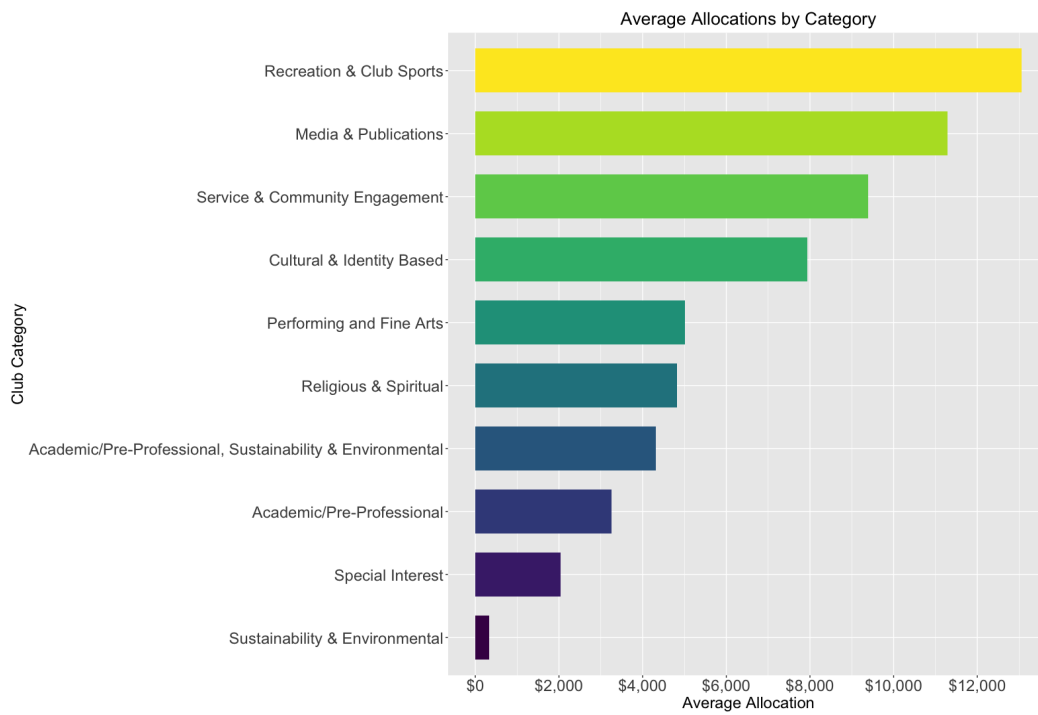


Figure 3.

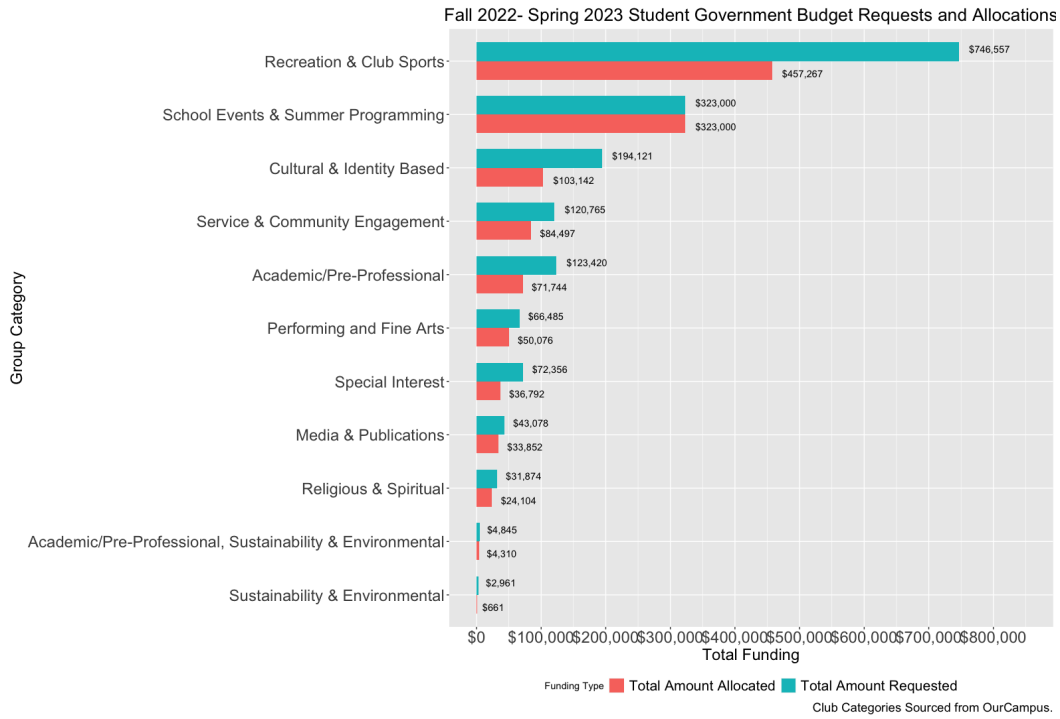


Figure 4.

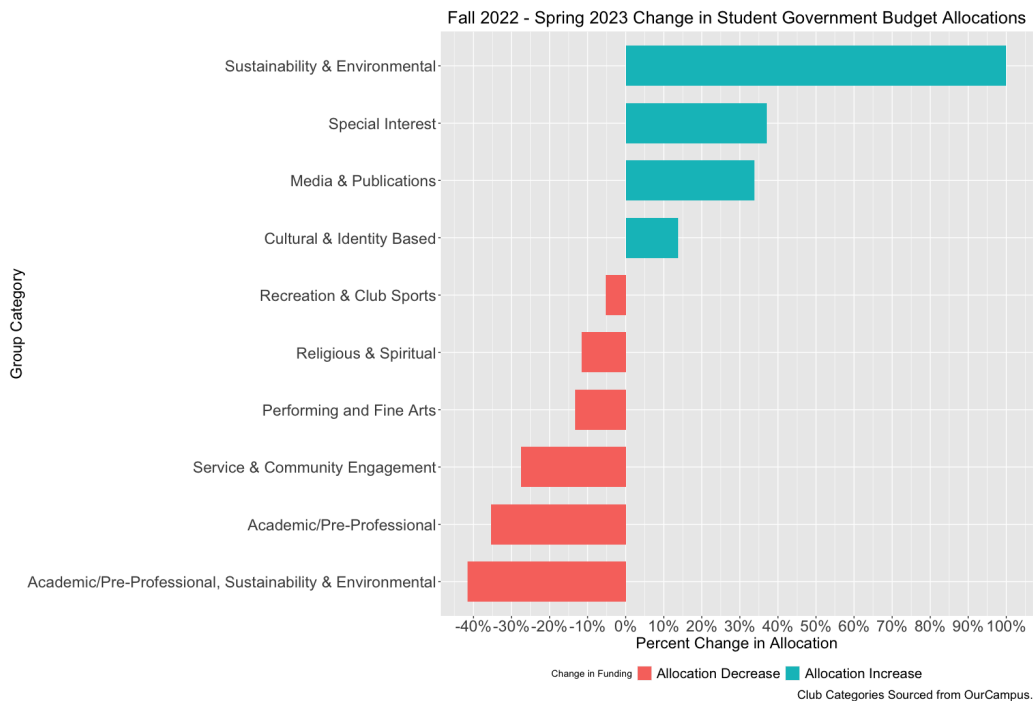


Figure 5.

#### **IV. Limitations:**

1. The OurCampus categorization assumes that each club belongs only to one specific category which undermines the intersectional missions of certain student clubs and organizations.
2. The Student Government budget file included only the total sum requested or allocated without any further breakdown of what the budget was being used for (eg: logistical expenses, inviting external speakers etc).

#### **V. Recommendations:**

1. We recommend that the Student Government and/or Student Involvement categorize student clubs and organizations such that they aren't restricted to a singular category and are more appropriately categorized to reflect their intersectional missions.
2. We recommend that the Student Government and/or Student Involvement categorize budget requests and allocations based on the intended purpose. This will allow for a clearer analysis of what are the major activities that the funding is being directed towards.

#### **VI. Acknowledgements:**

We would like to thank the Student Government Budget Committee and Student Involvement for providing us with required data for this report. Also, thank you to Simon Tonev, Director of Institutional Research, for his guidance and our club advisors, Prof. Toby Rossmann and Prof. Trent Gaugler for their continued support.

#### **VII. Declaration of Interest:**

The authors of this audit have no known competing financial interest or personal relationships that could have influenced the content of this report.

#### **VIII. Supplementary Material:**

Code used for Club Categories Scraping can be accessed at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ourcampusorg>

Higher resolution data visualizations can be accessed at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JbMnMCPhydKOyk4xF2avYqqkRI4pyHGL>