



"The Oregon Students of Color Conference"

Proposed Motions: Approve a total of \$1,242 from the Operational Enhancement Budget [FXXENH] to fund 3 AS employees to attend the Oregon Students of Color Conference.

Sponsor: Mayra Guizar, AS VP for Diversity

Date: October 3, 2013

Attached Document

-2012 Oregon Students of Color Conference Program

Background & Context

This summer when I attended the United States Student Association (USSA) Congress, which was held at Rutgers University in New Jersey, I met students from Oregon who told me about their annual Students of Color Conference and they recommended students to look into it. When I returned to work after USSA Congress, I also received an email from Kevin Majkut who sent me a link to this conference and told me it would be great to look into. I then got in contact with Cristal Sandoval, the Oregon Students of Color Coalition Field Organizer, who gave me a little more information and a copy of last year's program, which I've attached for you all (as soon as this year's program is done, I'll forward you all the digital copy). The conference will be held at the University of Oregon in Eugene, OR on November 15th -17th. At this conference there will be speakers, performances, and sessions each day with various opportunities for discussion, and workshops on issues that affect underrepresented groups. There will be workshops similar to last year's conference that touch on issues that affect all students on a campus and national level. Things like cultural competency, leadership development, power, privilege, and oppression, social justice, racial inequality, immigrant rights, and much more will be the topics of the sessions during this conference (based from last year's program).

Summary of Proposal

After further conversations with Kevin, Nate, Carly, Hung, and Morgan, I have decided that it would be beneficial to attend and to take 2 other AS employees and 3 AS ESC students (who will be funded through my Diversity Initiative Fund). It is very important that my position and other AS employees get the experience and have the knowledge to assure that we uphold our commitment to diversity and inclusion, which can be found under the AS Strategic Plan, and that we are able to give the best resources for all employees and students. Through this conference we will gain knowledge that we will bring back and it will enhance the operation of the Associated Students as a whole.

I see that this conference is relevant to my position because in the job description for the Vice President for Diversity, it states that my focus on diversity "includes the empowerment, retention, and full inclusion of all populations on campus that are underrepresented of a marginalized nature in society." With this being said, I also have not been trained on how to handle certain issues that students may come to me with. I want to make sure that I am able to support these students that come from backgrounds and communities that I may not be aware of or identify with. In order for me to be successful in this position, I need to attend conferences and workshops that are focused on awareness of the issues that are affecting students from underrepresented groups and how we can support them.

After serious consideration, the AS employees that I believed would benefit the most out of attending this trip and bring back what they learned to the AS/their offices are Polly

Woodbury, the ESC Program Support Coordinator, and Ruta Nanivadekar, the Personnel Office Project Assistant 1. The reason that I have chosen these two is based on their position and job descriptions. In taking Polly, she will be able to bring back what she has learned to the Ethnic Student Center through her administrative role, and will also have more to add to her experience with supporting students and clubs. I knew that it would also be great to take someone from the Personnel Office since this office is more internal to the AS, and with Ruta being responsible of holding mid quarter trainings, she would then be able to implement the many things she learned from this conference to our trainings and also back to her office.

Through funding the 3 of us to attend this trip, it will overall enhance the operations of the Associated students since the knowledge we will be gaining through this conference will be brought back. I also plan on us all to take notes when we are going through sessions, (similar to what Kaylee did for USSA Congress) so that we have this information to bring back and to add to our legacy documents for future employees.

The only downside to this trip is the travel and the fact that it's out of state, so SOME sessions may not be relevant to us, but there are many other sessions that will be offered that aren't focused on Oregon State (based on last year's program).

Fiscally

1.) Registration per person would be \$85 for the conference, which would total up to be \$255 for all 3 AS employees.

2.) Right now I have gotten in contact with Comfort Suites, which is 8 minutes away from the University of Oregon, and I have put my card down on hold until I get IAS funding. Once I get the funding, I will work with the Finance office to make the switch from my account to the AS account. There were also special rates for this conference exclusively at Comfort Suites and 2 other hotels, but they were the least expensive. After recently getting in contact with the Comfort Suites manager, they were willing to work with me and extend the special rate date for hotel reservations so that I can reserve two rooms. One will be paid through my Diversity Initiative fund, and the other one will hopefully be paid through the Operational Enhancement budget. The special rate is \$150 per night, and for 2 nights, the amount we would need from the Operational Enhancement Budget would be \$300, plus a tax of \$37.50 which would be \$337.50.

3.) I have already reserved the AS mini van for the trip, which charges on a mileage rate of \$0.43/mile. According to the AS mileage chart, a trip from Western to Eugene is 748 miles, so I would need \$322 (\$321.64 exactly, but I've rounded up) to pay for the vehicle/gas.

4.) Finally, The conference is providing Dinner on Friday, All meals Saturday, and a light breakfast on Sunday. Because it will be a 6+ hour drive (depending on traffic and weather), we will be stopping for food during travel on Friday and Sunday. Based on Western's per diem rate, lunch on Friday will be \$14 per student, which will be a total of \$42 on Friday. On Sunday we will most likely have to pay for our lunch and dinner. The dinner per diem rate is \$21. So overall with breakfast and dinner, the amount needed for Sunday is \$105. All together, the cost of food would be \$147.

After adding everything up, the amount I'm asking for is \$1, 241.50 (I've rounded up to \$1,241.50)

Rationale

The benefits of attending this conference are:

- 1) Like stated before, it would enhance the everyday operations of the Associated Students because by funding this trip, Polly, Ruta, and myself will bring back what we

have learned back to our positions, offices, and the AS as a whole, which would make for better resources for our employees, and the students we are serving.

- 2) I've looked into other conferences similar to this one, and this one is probably the most affordable of the conferences that I have looked into, and is the closest.*
- 3) This conference will also benefit the employees/ESC students by giving us the tools and knowledge that we can use for personal growth and leadership development, which is what the AS strives to do by giving us opportunities and experiences that will prepare us for our lives after Western.*