

## “USSA Congress Funding Request”

Proposed Motion: Approve \$3,500 from Operational Enhancement FXXENH be transferred to the FXLACF to help fund four students to attend the United States Student Association National Student Congress.

Sponsor: Sarah Kohout, ASWWU Vice President for Governmental Affairs

Persons of Contact: Sarah Kohout

Date: May 22nd, 2015

### Background & Context

ASWWU has seen an increase in investment and involvement with the USSA this year. Students have seen many benefits from USSA and student participation. USSA has two annual conferences, National Student Congress and LegCon. Every year, student leaders from across the country attend the USSA Congress during the summer where for six days, students draft, debate and vote on USSA’s priorities, elect new leadership for the upcoming year, and attend multiple workshops. Students will participate in regional meetings, caucus and affiliate spaces, workshops, conference governing committees, plenary, and elections for a new board of directors and president and vice president. This is also the conference where changes can be made to the organization’s operations, budgets, and structure. Congress is a great opportunity for WWU students to meet and network with students across the country and to get their voices heard and prioritize their issues at the federal level. The purpose of congress is to get more involved at a federal level working on federal issues while receiving training in grassroots organizing and building a network. Attendees should bring back to campus the knowledge and inspiration to help enhance and improve.

This year, USSA National Student Congress will be held August 5-10, 2015 at University of Nevada Las Vegas, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Legislative Affairs Council is in the process of approving and selecting delegates to attend on behalf of Western; however, due to the uncertainty of the Legislative Action Fund and restructure, the LAC is only able to contribute \$1,500, which would only cover the basics (registration fee, hotel, and transportation) for only for a few students to attend. LAC is asking that the AS Board help to subsidize at least 8 people to attend. At this time, LAC has not disclosed the individuals selected to attend. Upon results of this funding request, delegates will be notified.

### Summary of Proposal

Number of People	Flight	Registration	Lodging	Food Stipend	Total Cost
1	350	200	375 (75/night)		\$925
2	700	400	725		\$1,850
3	1,050	600	1,100		\$2,750
4	1,400	800	1,475		\$3,675
5	1,750	1,000	1,875		\$4,600
6	2,100	1,200	2,250		\$5,525
7	2,450	1,400	2,625		\$6,450
8	2,800	1,600	3,000		\$7,375

USSA has not finalized the cost of registration and lodging the prices above are expected prices based upon last years prices. If it becomes finalized before this document is decided on, the ASWWU Board will be updated. The food stipend will be based upon what is available after the flight, registration, and lodging prices are paid for, it will not exceed the per diem rate for Las Vegas.

LACF 2014-15 Contribution (depending Financial Aid)	\$3,025
LACF 2015-2016 Contribution	\$1,500

#### Fiscal Impacts

The Operating Enhancement budget has \$6,768 left in for the year. At the end of the year the rest of the budget will go into reserves. This will be the second and last time that Operating Enhancement can USSA Congress will be able to use this fund. After the Legislative Action Fund stabilizes after this year, the fund should be able to sustain sending a stable amount of students.

#### Rationale

Student representation is a core value and responsibility of the AS. Sending more students to USSA Congress has many benefits to students including increasing and enhancing student representation at the federal level as well as providing various trainings to students who can bring those skills back to campus.

Apply for USSA Congress at [tinyurl.com/USSACongress15](https://tinyurl.com/USSACongress15)