



“ESC Student Funding for USSA”

**Proposed Motion: Approve funding for four ESC students to attend USSA. \$3,650 out of operating and enhancement budget**

**Sponsor:** Abby Ramos, ASVP for Diversity

**Persons of Contact:** Abby Ramos

**Guest Speaker:** NA

**Date:** 2/24/16

**Attached Document**

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**Background & Context**

The United States Student Association (USSA) is the country's oldest, largest, and most inclusive student-led organization in the nation. USSA helps amplify the student voice at the local, state, and national levels by mobilizing grassroots power to win concrete victories on student issues. Each spring USSA organizes a legislative conference and student lobby day. This year, it is the National Student Power Summit, and this three-day event includes workshops, marches, rallies, and the opportunity for students to lobby their elected representatives on student issues. Past legislative conferences have resulted in Congress passing historic student aid reform and investing more federal money into higher education. Students at prior legislative conferences have attended Senate press conferences, bill signings with President Obama, and LegCon has had media coverage from the Washington Post, NPR, CNN, Fox News, the Nation, and USA Today.

USSA's National Student Power Summit is organized to develop students' abilities in advocacy, networking, lobbying, and protesting. NSPS is the largest lobbying event USSA holds and each year students from all over the country join to work towards affordable and accessible higher education. Sending delegates to this conference is a unique opportunity for Western's students' voices to be heard at the national level and ensure diverse representation of Western's study body. As Western seeks to increase our national engagement, students attending the National Student Power Summit would serve its purpose by bringing valuable skills back to Western's campus while helping to increase our national presence overall. Additionally, Western is an active and involved campus in USSA and several Western students hold Vice Chair or Co Chair positions on USSA's board. It is important that we continue to have Western represented in USSA and sending a large delegation to this conference assures that we'll have continued involvement in USSA decision making.

**Summary of Proposal**

This proposal is asking to fund four students for the ESC that will not only be representing Western but the ESC. Patrick came to me and asked that we could potentially add to the number of students attending if ESC Steering was able to pay for four more students. However, our amount of money in

Steering is tight and technically I am not allowed to ask for funds since I am not a club and ESC clubs are only allowed to ask. We just recently came across this by-law.

### **Fiscal Impacts**

Expense	Quantity	Cost	Total
<i>Registration</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>\$200</i>	<i>\$800</i>
<i>Flights</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>\$450</i>	<i>\$1,800</i>
<b><i>Meal Stipend</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>	<b><i>\$150</i></b>	<b><i>\$600</i></b>
<i>Lodging</i>	<i>1 room, 3 nights</i>	<i>-350/Night/Room</i>	<i>\$1,050</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>'\$912.50</i>	<i>\$3,650</i>

### **Rationale**

As someone who has attended the USSA conference I can vouch that there is a necessary component of having students of color attend the conference. Historically organizing around policy has always been exclusively white, this will help eliminate that by assuring that students of color are attending this opportunity. This request is also coming forward because the cost of taking four students would take a huge impact for the ESC steering fund. Although I'm sure I can get food passed for the students through steering, eliminating \$600 and making the total funding out of this proposal \$3,650. The students have already been selected that would be attending the conference and flights are booked, this kind of came down to an emergency situation because of funding and time. I also am proposing that we act on this, this week.