

## "AS Elections Public Financing Funding Request"

**Proposed Motion: Approve transfer of \$600 from Discretionary Reserves [FXXRES] to provide sufficient public financing for the 2016 AS Elections [FXXELC]."**

**Sponsor:** AS VP for Governmental Affairs, Patrick Eckroth

**Persons of Contact:** Patrick Eckroth, [asvp.gov@wwu.edu](mailto:asvp.gov@wwu.edu)

**Guest Speaker:** none

**Date:** 4/07/2016

### **Background & Context**

On Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00 PM the AS Elections filing deadline arrived and, fortunately, there are a total of 22 candidates running for AS Board of Directors positions. However, the budget allocation for AS Elections [FXXELC] provides enough money for 20 candidates to be reimbursed with public financing up to the \$150 campaign finance cap. With the upcoming elections having 22 candidates and 2 referenda (one of which also includes the possibility of an oppositional campaign, which are also eligible for public financing). With this great participation in AS Elections, the AS Elections budget has the potential to be \$600 below budget.

### **Fiscal Implications**

*Potential public financing for 2 candidates (X \$150/candidate) = \$300.00*

*Potential public financing for 2 referenda (X \$100/ referendum) = \$200.00*

*Potential public financing for opposition campaign (X\$100) = \$100.00*

*NTE \$600.00*

### **Rationale**

The AS Elections have had a brief history of low participation and turnout for both voters and candidates/issues on the ballot. Now, with this increased level of participation, it is especially important that we are making these opportunities for students as accessible as possible to encourage as much future participation in AS Elections as possible and to remove any barriers that candidates for AS office or AS Board members bringing referenda will face with having to finance their own campaigns. This is mostly an exercise in caution, as there is a possibility of candidates and referenda sponsors staying far below the \$150 public financing cap in their campaign efforts.