



“Student Enhancement Fund”

Proposed Motion: *To create a two-year grant program for conference funding*

Sponsor: *AS President, Belina Seare*

Persons of Contact: *AS President, Belim Seare*

Guest Speaker: *(none)*

Date: Friday, April 15th, 2015

Attached Document

Background & Context

Every quarter since members of this board have begun their terms, we have seen an incredible amount of students engaging with the Associated Students by receiving funding for conferences. The commitment on the part of the AS has been steady with each funding request and we have been committed to fully funding almost all of the proposals that have come in. However, there has been a considerable amount of challenges presented in the ambiguity of how to process these requests. The opportunity to support students gaining experience beyond the classroom is important to the AS but it still remains that there is no clear understanding of how to move forward in supporting this aspect of student enhancement without facing the same challenges.

Summary of Proposal

The fund will be a grant of \$35,000 per year coming out of discretionary reserves which would amount to a total of \$70,000 over two years. The purpose of having the grant as a two-year program is to give the board of 2016-2017 an opportunity to review the grant and to work out any of the challenges or opportunities for improvement after the first year. There will be a committee set up to decide which students' proposals will be funded and will also be trained to understand the different avenues for gaining funding on our campus. The long-term vision is to see a position created that would work under the AS Business office or as an additional AS Board member because of the extensive knowledge that this position must have with budgets and the discretionary reserves. This position would be responsible for working with the Finance office, the AS Business Office, the committee, and students who are hoping to get funding and have the ability to prepare each meeting and provide guidance throughout the year. This position would be responsible for working with the AS Publicity Center and the AS Communications office to create an outreach/marketing plan to inform students about this opportunity. They would also be responsible for organizing an informal reception at the end of each quarter which would bring students across campus to learn from previous conference attendees about the opportunities to get funding and inspiration for which conferences to attend.

(The amount for the grant is subject to change as you will find below)

Fiscal Impacts

There are no fiscal impacts to this resolution.

Rationale

The fund will be created as a grant and will be used with a deep understanding to respect the manner in which it was collected, which is through the student dollars which have accumulated in discretionary reserves for many years. There are several opportunities for students to receive partial, and occasionally

full, funding for conferences if they are seeking funding as an AS club, for an ESC club, through the Personnel Development fund, as an Environmental organization and more. However, it can be extremely difficult for students who aren't necessarily directly affiliated with the AS or another organization. The hope is that creating a fund that will support student's development professionally and personally while also increasing students access to engage with the Associated Students in the future. Students who receive this funding will be supported to pursue unique opportunities that will enhance their professional and personal development in a way that contribute to the betterment of our campus-community.