

AS Queer Guild Council Budget

Grant Proposal

Overview

Contact: Karen Deysher, Coordinator for Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Centers, karen.deysher@wwu.edu

Summary of proposal: This proposal seeks to have the AS Queer Guild Council (QGC) pilot grant extended (see “Proposed Levels of Funding”). The original grant awarded \$8,000 total to be used over the course of fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Given that a global pandemic arose six months into the pilot period of this grant, the membership of the Queer Guild Council firmly believe that they were not afforded due opportunity to pilot the execution of allocating monies appropriated to the Queer Guild Council, and seek to have one of the proposed levels of funding fulfilled.

Total fiscal impact: Approximately \$4,000 per fiscal year.

Duration: Duration is dependent on the proposed level of funding selected.

Information

Grant Objectives: The AS “grant” that has funded the AS Queer Guild Council for two consecutive fiscal years ends FY 2020-2021. The original grant awarded \$8,000 total to be used over the course of fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Since a global pandemic arose six months into the pilot period of this grant, the membership of the AS Queer Guild Council firmly believe that they were not afforded due opportunity to fully actualize the Queer Guild Council. Thus, the Queer Guild Council is requesting that that they be afforded the opportunity, along with funds, to properly pilot the AS Queer Guild Council.

Background: The Queer Guild Council is a compilation of AS Queer and Trans focused clubs working to set policies and procedures, to hold each other accountable and maintain the mission of the university by:

- Creating program standards for AS Queer and Trans focused clubs.
- Conducting strategic planning and long-term goals for individual clubs.
- Providing a space in which AS club leaders can come together and address issues affecting the community.
- Allocating funds and making recommendations for the distribution of funds to AS Queer and Trans focused clubs.
- Engaging in resource exchange between AS Queer and Trans focused clubs and the Queer Resource Center.
- Fostering inter-club communication and providing collaboration for large-scale events.



As of April 21, 2021, Queer Guild Council membership includes: Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) Club, WWU Queer Club, T.A.G. Team for Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Students, Western Aces and Aros, WWU Queer Con, Queer Christian Club (QCC), Queer Eco Justice Club, and Western Gaymers.

Fiscal Impact

Three proposed levels of funding:

1. Extending the pilot of total of \$8,000 to be used over fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 for an extension of the Queer Guild Council pilot.
2. Operationalization of the Queer Guild Council budget, which during the pilot program of the \$4,000 per fiscal year.
3. A carry-forward of the existing grant's budget to be used by Queer Guild Council during fiscal year 2021-2022.

Breakdown of requested funds: For Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the AS Queer Guild Council membership has discussed wanting to use funds for the following:

- Film Screenings
 - Queer Eco Justice has held three film screenings this year, and to be able to do so, they needed to acquire films with public performance rights or a public performance license, which cost them anywhere from \$150 to \$400 per screening. The Queer Guild Council would like to continue to support opportunities for students to engage with works by Queer and Trans filmmakers by continuing to hold educational and community-building events similar to this.
- Snacks, “Cooking Party” supplies
 - The Queer Guild Council would like to support increasing access to nourishment and subsistence to its members because Queer and Trans students are much more likely to experience food insecurity than their straight and/or cisgender peers. All the clubs in Queer Guild have expressed wanting to have more food-centered events to encourage attendance/participation as well.
 - Queer Eco Justice and QTPOC have held virtual “Cooking Parties,” where its membership received meal kits, where they cooked together.
 - Aces and Aros holds their annual ACE week celebration with cake, which is customary at such events.
- Craft and journaling supplies
 - Aces & Aros would like to resume their quarterly “Craft Night.”
 - QTPOC and Queer Eco Justice have also sent their membership journaling supplies, and have expressed interest in continuing to do so.
 - T.A.G. is interested in holding craft and journaling activities, too, since they were so successful within other clubs.
- Conference attendance



- For FY 2021-2022, several clubs have expressed interested in attending queer-focused conferences that have fees associated with them, and/or there may be a possibility to attend in-person.
 - In FY 2019-2020, QTPOC was approved by the Council to attend Portland State University's annual Queer Students of Color Conference in-person, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was cancelled, and out-of-state travel was prohibited.
- Marketing
 - WWU Queer Con hosts an annual LGBTQ+ comics and media fan convention that has had really great attendance, even during the pandemic. In order to increase participation/attendance, WWU Queer Con would like to advertise the convention in LGBTQ+ focused media (e.g. Bellingham's The Betty Pages).
- Queer Prom
 - Before the pandemic, the Queer Guild Council hosted a very well-attended Queer Prom event, which cost about \$1,500 to achieve. Membership in the Queer Guild Council have expressed interest in collaboratively planning another Queer Prom (with adaptations given COVID-19 restrictions) during FY 2021-2022. Costs associated with this include decoration supplies, ear plugs, compensation for the DJ, food items, COVID-19 related supplies, etc.

Before the pandemic, the Queer Guild Council was on its way to fully utilize its \$4,000 budget (with the current membership of the Queer Guild Council believe that with the events/activities described above will cost the full amount of requested funds.

Justification

How does the grant fulfill a demonstrated need? The AS Queer Guild Council was created with the intention of establishing a group/space where Queer and/or Trans club leaders can gather and support one another in their respective clubs. The space was also intended to create better inter-club communication, community, and partnerships. Since establishing a budget specific to AS Queer and/or Trans clubs (as well as a structure and space), the clubs within Queer Guild Council experienced easier collaborations with each other and have expanded the scope of their club programming and events. Throughout the pandemic, club leaders have expressed how helpful Queer Guild Council has been for them because it served as a space in which they did not have to facilitate in order to connect with community, and it helped them plan, execute, and market events/programming for their clubs.

How will the grant be successful at achieving its objectives? The chair of the AS Queer Guild Council is the AS Queer Resource Center Community Engagement Coordinator, and the QGC's advisors are the LGBTQ+ Western Director and the Coordinator for Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Centers. These three positions hold job duties specific to support the AS Queer Guild Council, and therefore help accomplish its objectives. Each week of fall, winter, and spring quarters, the QGC holds a regularly occurring meeting where a representative from each club attends. Since the pandemic began, there has only been a handful of meetings when QGC did not meet quorum.



Queer Guild Council membership attributes its high participation rate to the necessity of such a space, as well as each member seeking to be a good steward of AS funds.

How will the grant benefit general WWU students? There are numerous research studies that prove Queer and Trans clubs in education settings lower the rate of bullying for all its student body. By providing funding to the Queer Guild Council, AS Queer and/or Trans focused clubs are able to collaboratively plan more expansive events/programming for the LGBT2SQIA+ community.

How is the grant aligned with the WWU mission and AS mission? The charge and charter of the AS Queer Guild Council specifically names aligning with the WWU mission, AS mission, and AS Program Standards.

What alternatives are available if funding is not awarded? If this funding was not awarded, most of Queer Guild Council's membership would be able to access funding through the AS Activities Council (except for Queer Christian Club and Out in Science who are not eligible to receive AS funds). QTPOC would also be able to access funds through the AS Ethnic Student Center's Budget and Planning (BAP) committee.

