

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Registered Student Organizations

Create Date: 10/24/2024

Due Date: 11/08/2024

Submitter Name: Daniel Nash

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$10,000**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

During the annual allocation process, the Registered Student Organizations program was awarded \$7,500 for RSO Operations, an amount that includes \$6,500 for RSO item/equipment/event funding and \$1,000 for so-called "pass-through" costs in space bookings--fees for things like last-minute furniture changes and emergency custodial. The operations funding is necessarily awarded in a fixed sum before we know how active clubs will be in the following year, and we give RSOs a request limit of \$250 with the disclaimer that the funding may run out. However, as of the end of the day I'm writing this, we'll have 62 active RSOs, and based on correspondence with interested students, we expect to have 65 by the end of Autumn Quarter. This is a wonderful development that nevertheless has put greater strain on available RSO resources. Factoring in expenses for all-club events like the involvement fairs or Spring Block Party, that leaves the per-club funding average at less than \$100/club--in other words, if all clubs requested funding up to their allowed limit, we have the funds to honor fewer than half of all requests. We are requesting enough supplementary funding to allow us to honor all RSO requests in a scenario where 100% of RSOs request funding.

STUDENT UTILIZATION

RSO Operations funding is used exclusively to benefit student organizations. We use it to purchase supplies and equipment for RSO meetings and events, or to benefit events that promote membership in all clubs, such as the quarterly involvement fairs and Spring Block Party. If granted this special allocation, the funding will continue to be used in this manner, but with greater purchasing capacity.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

As mentioned above, RSO funding is exclusively used for student organizations' benefit. We have policies and procedures in place to ensure the funds are used properly. We have clear restrictions on purchases of high-dollar prizes and gift cards so that the funds can't be improperly directed to a single person's benefit. When requests are made, we require an itemized list of items to be funded, and we make the purchase on the club's behalf, except in cases where circumstances require that we reimburse a student for a purchase that only they can make. The latter option is used only rarely, when circumstances call for it. For example, our Society of Women Engineers once requested funding for bracelets customized with the RSO name, but the product required that the purchaser design the bracelet with a design tool in the web browser--meaning that to have control over the design, an SWE member had to make the purchase.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

While most SAF-funded programs give students a degree of voice and responsibility, the Registered Student Organization program is perhaps the only program other than ASUWT that directly facilitates grassroots student programming. While students can gather freely and organize in groups and under collective club names on their own, the RSO program gives students the ability to do so with a small amount of funding, a UW email, digital real estate on the DubNet platform, calendar access, advertising access, and physical resources such as a mailbox, dedicated computer workstations, and lockers. If a club wishes to start a group bank account outside of UW that will allow them to fundraise, we verify their status with the bank, direct the club to appropriate agencies for obtaining a Tax ID and incorporation papers, and provide avenues for them to fundraise legally on campus. Since Autumn 2023, we've used DubNet for much of our metrics tracking. At the end of today, Nov. 8, we will have 62 active clubs in our RSO groups list. According to the DubNet events calendar, RSOs have put on 64 meetings and events prior to today, and from today through Dec. 13, there are 28 more scheduled. These are healthy numbers on their own, but I will mention that they are slightly less than the actual number of meetings and events. We have seen a small handful of events booked in 25Live and not placed on DubNet, for whatever reason, and events that previously could not be placed on the DubNet calendar because they were arranged in non-25Live spaces, such as SNO or TLB, and we required them to be confirmed in 25Live. After review, we decided that policy led to a disproportionate under-representation of identity-based clubs, as several of those clubs hold programming in the Center for Equity Inclusion, which is in a Library-controlled non-25Live space. Since the end of October, we've added an option on our event form to allow RSOs to report when an event is in a space that's not on 25Live.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
	PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	RSO Operations funding for equipment and supply purchases to RSOs, payment of pass-through fees for space bookings, and all-club events such as the quarterly involvement fairs and Spring Block Party. S001	\$10,000
	SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$10,000

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$10,000
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$10,000

Supplemental Documents

ACTIVE CLUBS AS OF THE MORNING OF NOV. 8, 2024



Group report from DubNet. Excludes three organizations pending activation at the end of the day--Multicultural Society at Milgard, Tech Startup Club, and the Association of Indian Students.