

2019-2020 Student Fee Advisory Committee Report

Funding Priorities for 2020-2021 Budget Requests

Submitted by Jenny Wu, Chair

Executive Summary

Eight proposals were submitted for consideration to the 2019-2020 Student Fee Advisory Committee. The comments in this report reflect not only the majority opinions of SFAC, but also provide context as to what aspects of a request or specific requests SFAC found most attractive. As a low number of budget requests were submitted and with one dominating request, the committee believed thorough analyses of each proposal would offer greater insight and distinction on the nuances of each proposal. Listed in descending order, the following list contains the funding recommendations for the 2020-2021 budget call process:

1. SRS - Undocumented Student Services
2. SRS - Scalable Peer Training Initiatives
3. University Events Office - Triton WinterFest + Others
4. Graduate Division - Peer Educator Program Pilot
5. ArtPower - Program Manager
6. ArtPower - Other
7. University Events Office- Events Specialist
8. SHW - Medical Records Personnel
9. Center for Student Involvement - Tritons Together

Overview

Student Services Fees were established by Regents Policy 3101 to “support services and programs that directly benefit students and that are complementary to, but not part of, the core instructional program.” The Student Fee Advisory Committee, hereafter referred to as SFAC, was also created by the same policy to advise campus administration on Student Services Fee expenditures and to ensure their proper usage and alignment with student priorities. Given a list of the 2020-2021 proposals, SFAC evaluated each one based on varying factors. Rankings of each proposal were then based on the average score of the Committee.

Challenges

As SFAC discussed the budget proposals, a challenge arose when the Committee felt that a split of the request would best represent the Committee’s rankings. Having thoroughly discussed the value of ArtPower’s proposal, SFAC believed a split of ArtPower’s request would emphasize SFAC’s value placed on the Program Manager and its role in ArtPower’s operations. The Committee steadfastly supports the mission of Undocumented Student Services. As it served as the biggest ask of the 2020-2021 budget requests, great deliberations were made to emphasize which line items resonated the most. The Committee ultimately decided that while there were particular line items more highly ranked, the separation of the request would not have placed the unit’s request at a different position.

Procedure

The Office of the Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs presented the Student Fee Advisory Committee with eight [8] proposals under consideration for the 2020-2021 budget cycle. SFAC carefully examined the financial position and supporting documentation of each proposal.

During Fall 2019, SFAC spent much of its time familiarizing itself with the departments supported by Student Services Fees, the University’s current fund allocations, and the on-boarding of SFAC representatives.

Winter Quarter 2020 was spent on presentation and further review of units. SFAC invited the head of each proposal-entering unit to speak and present their proposal before the Committee. After a presentation, the committee discussed how well the request fit with the goals and priorities of the student body.

A set of guidelines was provided to serve as guideposts for SFAC members to evaluate and score each proposal. Freedom was levied over the actual scoring so that representatives may evaluate proposals in context of their representing body’s values and preferences. SFAC evaluated each proposal based on its breadth of impact, depth of impact, and a score of parameters such as student demand, cost of not being funded, and relevance to campus conditions.

Breadth was defined as a measure of the number of students that would be affected by the proposal. Depth was defined as the level of impact on the students who would be the focus of the program implementation. Student demand was a measure of demonstrated demand from the students who would be impacted by the program. Impact if not funded was a measure of how severely a program would be negatively impacted if the proposal was not funded in this current budget cycle. Relevance to Campus Conditions sought to capture the degree to which the proposal responded to current events affecting the campus community and any associated student needs. "Past program experience" sought to capture if there had been demonstrated success with the proposed program in the past.

While these were not the only areas touched upon during our evaluation, they provided the baseline framework from which committee members could discuss each proposal. Each SFAC member was tasked with evaluating and scoring each proposal using a 100 point scale. Individual scores were then averaged across the committee, standardized, and an SFAC average score was assigned to each proposal. From this, a ranked list was compiled. While SFAC views each of the proposals as valuable to this campus, difficult decisions had to be made regarding the final scoring.

Rankings

Rank	Proposal	Request	FTE	Score*
1	SRS - Undocumented Student Services	\$672,300	3	1.036
2	SRS - Scalable Peer Training Initiatives	\$101,600	1	0.528
3	University Events Office - Triton Winter Fest + Others	\$125,800	-	0.493
4	Graduate Division - Peer Educator Program Pilot	\$166,228	2	0.208
5	ArtPower - Program Manager	\$101,600	1	0.067
6	ArtPower - Other	\$186,600	0.5	-0.339
7	University Events Office - Events Specialist	\$102,400	1	-0.229
8	SHW - Medical Records Personnel	\$136,500	1	-1.030
9	Center for Student Involvement - Tritons Together	\$58,874	-	-1.609

*Scores have been standardized

Funding Recommendations

1. SRS - Undocumented Student Services

Due to the cessation of the seed money that was initially given by UCOP in 2016, Undocumented Student Services (USS) is requesting an amount of \$672,000 in order to fully fund and continue its operations at current capacity. Despite the relatively small number of students reached, SFAC believes that the depth and sheer necessity of this service for the students that use this service outweigh its breadth consideration. As to not place greater financial burden on undocumented students, the ability for USS to offer legal help or financial assistance is critical for undocumented students to be able to continue their education and be treated equitably at UC San Diego.

Failure to fund this proposal from any source would result in the inability of USS to continue anywhere near its current capacity, drastically lowering the ability for an undocumented student to attend this campus and ultimately changing the culture and diversity we pride ourselves in. While all aspects of the program and center are critical to USS's operations, it must be noted that the committee did see the line items of the Immigration Attorney, Program Manager, Dream Fellowship Scholarships, and Immigration Stability Fund as the most critical items in comparison to the rest of the budget.

2. SRS - Scalable Peer Training Initiatives

With the early success and impacts the International Peer Coaching Program Pilot has demonstrated, it is imperative that continuing to fund this program provides an additional resource for international students as they adjust to a completely new environment. SFAC's support for the continuation is reflective of the committee's belief that dollars invested in support for International Students is an opportune way for the university to have a large impact on the student body.

Additionally, SFAC believes the return on investment on a Program Coordinator, responsible for peer training initiatives, would be large in both impact and value. As SRS continues to grow its mentorship programs, the need for uniform guidance will prove this position critical. Funding this position would increase SRS's bandwidth to collaborate cross-campus and extend the impacts of SFF dollars. As such, SFAC maintains its commitment to funding not only the partnership between ISPO and SRS, but in future scalable mentorship programs as enabling students to aid other students has immeasurable benefits to the campus culture and student success.

3. University Events Office- Triton WinterFest + Others

Since Triton Fest's inception, SFAC has been highly supportive of the program's initiatives and expansion. While many students are often inundated with invites to events, Triton WinterFest has always stood out to students in its ability to transform the everyday campus to a creative space, if only just for a night. The sheer number of students affected by this program is of special note as few programs on campus have the reach of Triton Fest. Moreover, SFAC highlights Triton Fest's willingness to collaborate with existing groups and units on campus such as Recreation and MASA and its continued push for new and innovative ideas. Such an event evokes a feeling of community as students from all colleges and backgrounds congregate in a fun and safe social environment and learn about the different resources our campus has to offer.

SFAC recommends that the University continue to support events, such as Triton WinterFest, that create and foster a sense of community that is often lacking on this campus. Additionally, SFAC believes funding a program with this reach and impact could combat the stigma that the university lacks a social scene and can be a hallmark event to attract potential students.

4. Graduate Division - Peer Educator Program Pilot

Over the last five years, the graduate student population has increased by 29%, whereas the number of graduate career advisors in the Career Center has remained the same at two FTEs and one part-time GCPE to serve the needs of approximately 7,000 graduate students. With high awareness, yet low comparative usage of the Career Center's graduate career resources, the Graduate Career Peer Educators would be able to educate their peers on the nature of the programs and aid students in their career planning. Moreover, survey data from the most recent Graduate and Professional Student Experience Survey (GPSES) completed in 2017 shows that a majority of graduate students are not accessing Career Center resources.

The funding of this position has the potential of freeing resources and alleviating Career Center staff to increase marketing efforts and services to students. SFAC also believes that the funding of these positions would offer graduate students an alternative employment opportunity from the traditional roles of teaching or research assistants. We believe that expanding the GCPE program is the best way to meet this need: it not only allows for greater attention towards particular divisions that have been historically underserved by the Career Center, but also provides graduate students in these roles professional training and experience that they can leverage to build their own multifaceted careers. With the support of SFAC, we hope the inaugural launch of the GCPE program would affirm future funding from the Grad Division as such a program brings added value to a graduate student's experience and the campus.

5. ArtPower - Production Manager

As ArtPower has expressed, having a production manager is non-negotiable in running performing arts programs and they have been reallocating their funds to ensure the fulfillment of this role. SFAC holds that while ArtPower does provide an important role with the number of diverse performances throughout the year, the Production Manager was the highest priority on ArtPower's request this year. Securing this funding would allow for a greater number of quality productions to be hosted and a fulfillment of a production management need. On a campus notorious for its STEM focus, there is great value in freeing up funding that would enable ArtPower to increase awareness for the arts, connecting students interested in humanities and arts to our campus, and offering an avenue of expressive solace from the pressures of school.

6. ArtPower - Other

With dance performances one of ArtPower's most culturally rich and popular events hosted, SFAC sees the imperative need to fund transportation to dance programming as the renovations at Mandeville have rendered the auditorium unsuitable for dance performances. SFAC hopes that as the campus grows, future adjustments are made in considerations for appropriate performance needs. As ArtPower aids in Box Office operations, funding the transition to a single ticketing system would allow the Box Office to become a one-stop-shop for all students' ticketing purchasing needs, creating a more seamless customer experience. Lastly, SFAC had a difficult time finding the demonstrated demand for ArtPower's remaining employment requests; however, imagines that part-time employment through ArtPower offers students additional experiential learning in arts programming. ArtPower's programming and opportunities are so often lacking on UCSD's campus and while intermediately relative to other requests, SFAC envisions a campus that actively supports the arts and would love to see a greater commitment to ArtPower's missions.

7. University Events Office - Events Specialist

Concurrent with the recent spikes in enrollment, the demand for quality all campus events has increased. As such, the position of Events Specialist would continue production of student centric events crucial to the continued improvement of the campus social climate. With the addition of this position, SFAC believes UEO's bandwidth to collaborate with other campus offices and units, grow the Triton Fest Event Series, and execute logistics for signature campus traditions would increase. The impact of this position is not limited purely to experiences created by the University Events Office and may create more opportunities for student engagement as a greater emphasis may be placed on cross unit collaborations and securing talent. With this position, the University could reduce costs associated with hiring talent or hire more prominent talent, drawing more students to campus events that form the heart of campus social life. SFAC would like to note that the existence of large-scale events is more critical to the student experience and as such ranked the University Event Office's request for WinterFest higher.

8. SHW - Medical Records Personnel

While SFAC remains grateful for the speediness of SHW's services, SFAC did not see that the unit's need justified a year-round FTE. The added position of a Medical Records Personnel would alleviate the stressors SHW faces as the demand of this position stems from a temporary increase of student non-compliance in the beginning of the year and speed bumps in the medical system transition. However, SFAC notes that the depth of this request remains relatively small and hopes SHW finds an alternative solution to address the rush of non compliance to immunization policies and can work with other units in emphasizing the importance of such compliances on their academics.

9. Center for Student Involvement - Tritons Together

As a group of student leaders, SFAC thematically believes in and encompasses the values of communicating varying ideas. SFAC recognizes the value of encouraging challenging conversations on campus; however, the breadth and depth of this program were exceeded by other proposals. SFAC notes that student organizations working in similar situations to facilitate community conversations can be potential partners in achieving the goals of this program. Additionally, SFAC encourages program leaders to consider partnering with other campus units to increase outreach efforts and create a diversified pool of participants.

Conclusion

As SFAC considered these proposals, student leaders expressed shared beliefs about how such programming and resources should be utilized to be both impactful and wide reaching in serving students. On a large campus such as UC San Diego, events are hosted on any given day by organizations, clubs, and college councils. It was expressed that the planning of high-quality large-scale events would be preferred to a greater number of smaller-scale events as to eliminate event fatigue. Thus, SFAC strongly advocates for departments that create large-scale events and/or collaborate with others as they have the power to create a larger community and evoke a sense of school pride. Furthermore, as UC San Diego continues to attract more students to STEM departments, funding for non-STEM student programming is ever more critical in facilitating a well-rounded student experience.

Although each proposal presented to the committee is unique, they all seek to improve the overall campus climate and address student needs in one way or another. The inclusion of student voices creates a more vibrant conversation of where the student needs lie. SFAC appreciates the opportunity to be the voice of our students. As such, SFAC hopes that the recommendations found in this report are taken into consideration and called upon during the budget allocation process.