



Request for 2022-23 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Disability Resources for Students

Create Date: 02/13/2023

Due Date: 02/17/2023

Submitter Name: Victor Flores

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Bernard Anderson, AVC for

Requested Amount: **\$33,569**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The funds that DRS has requested will support several key initiatives: a) Student Navigator positions – student employees will engage with DRS students to provide information, support, and mentorship to new and returning DRS students. Assist DRS students with the transition to the university and building of relationships with other students, faculty, staff and departments/programs and b) Benefits to navigator positions –

- Student leadership position on campus, working in a professional environment to plan and program events; and student-led programming and campus-wide retention efforts.
- Student Office Assistants – positions that will support and provide engagement with students, faculty, staff, community, and prospective students with information on academic accommodations and access services.
- Events and Workshops – educational programs that will deepen the understanding of accessibility, universal design, disability advocacy, and mental and physical health issues. This may include but is not limited to: outreach efforts (tabling – welcome daze, student involvement fair; outreach presentations of disability services – pack advisors, faculty, departments, PAWS), guest speakers, disability awareness month, training – disability 101, testing anxiety, and advocacy;
- Increase student education and understanding of DRS academic accommodations; and accessibility on campus, which will increase the number of students registered for DRS academic accommodations.

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

Goal 1: Increase recruitment, enrollment, retention and graduation rates with a focus on closing equity gaps: *The goal is to increase the number of students that utilize DRS services and encourage participation in DRS and student-led initiatives*

- Success Indicator #1: To increase students with disabilities accommodations from 3.5 to 5 percent of the UW Tacoma population
- Success Indicator #2: To build programs and services that will provide students with advising, organizational development, personal growth, and referrals to different departments and programs

Goal 2: Enhance student well-being: *The goal of the new DRS community space is to begin to develop and foster a sense of belonging for students with disabilities and provide them a voice on campus, similar to other UW Tacoma community spaces on campus – First Gen, CEI, VMRC, a place where students can engage their peers, build community and create learning opportunities.*

- Success Indicator #1: To increase student involvement, advocacy, and engagement with the disability community
- Success Indicator #2: To create a safe and welcoming environment that has the qualities of a home away from home

Goal 8: Cultivate an accessible, equitable, respectful and inclusive campus culture: *The goal is to increase marginalized community/students with disabilities opportunities to develop community and leadership on campus*

- Success Indicator #1: To increase students programs and services that will provide student mentorship, welcome and graduation celebrations,
- Success Indicator #2: To strengthen persistence to graduation for all student populations.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Currently, DRS has no SAF-funded programs or services. The current academic year has consisted of planning, organizing, and providing a community space for students with disabilities. The goal of the community space is to have an open and active space where students can come hangout, rest and relax, use computers and printers, meet with staff, other students, or classmates to study. We are always looking to partner with staff members from other campus offices such as CEI, Fist-Gen Fellows, and Global Affairs, to facilitate the development and promotion of our community space. At the beginning of the year, DRS held a open house house to kick off our year and introduce new students and campus to our services and center. Since then, we've assisted 225 DRS students and an additional 209 visits in our community space assisting students with resources, academic accommodations, and support and campus staff and faculty. Additionally, during the month of October, DRS was excited to hold its annual Disability Awareness Month, offering various events including disability-related discussions, Event Accommodations workshop, and hosted guest speaker Ivanova Smith, a Washington Disability Rights Activist. Moving forward, DRS plans to activate this space with additional programs and events designed to promote student development and encourage the building of relationships and connections. This spring we have several programs planned to create

opportunities for collaboration and education for student learners. Below is a list of events we have identified as education opportunities for students, but not limited, to the following:

- Study Abroad Information Session – collaborate with Courtney Kroll, Study Abroad office, to host an information session at MAT 107 for DRS and students interested in traveling abroad
- Testing Anxiety and How to Prepare for Exams – collaborate with Maddie Brown, Health and Wellness office, to host workshop to educate student on how to best prepare for exams with proper sleep, nutrition, and health
- DRS 101 – collaborate with VMRC, CSI, etc., for tabling sessions, presentations to RSOs and ASUWT, departments and programs (faculty and staff) to educate on DRS services and support
- Welcome Days – partner with CSI, NST, etc on hosting a reception for students and families in Autumn quarter to welcome students to the campus Student Utilization.
- Event Accommodations Statement

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

The DRS community space has only been open to the campus community since Autumn quarter 2021 and does not have student utilization numbers to compare for the past 2 years. However our space is open to all students, faculty, staff, and the campus community serving over 225 registered DRS students and over 200 visits by students, staff and faculty. However, it has been difficult to make use of the space in light of course modality changes, decreased student presence on campus, and other contributing factors resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As we look toward a post-COVID campus and determine what that looks like, DRS is hopeful that these new programs and events/services will increase student utilization. This would give us the structure to develop a demographic analysis of DRS students, programs, and services, which we could use to further enhance the supports and resources we provide to UWT Students. Collection of Feedback & Improvements The DRS has implemented a variety of different mechanisms to collect feedback on current programs and services:

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

The DRS has implemented a variety of different mechanisms to collect feedback on current programs and services:

- Survey – DRS sent a survey to current DRS students to solicit student feedback on programs and services they would like to see offered by DRS
- Sign-in Sheets – to record all student, faculty, staff, and community that has visited new community space
- Programs and Events – attendance sheet that records attendees
- DRS Student Advisory Board – student representatives that provide feedback and consultation on vision and future programs and services of new community space

Again, due to Covid concerns and changes in course modality, like many other UW Tacoma units, DRS has seen a dramatic decrease in attendance with department-led programming and visits to our community space and events. Our hope is that as we move towards spring quarter 2023, we will see more students on campus and an increase in student users and participants at DRS programs, events, and in MAT 107.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The funds that DRS has requested will support several key initiatives:

- Student Navigator positions – student employees will engage with DRS students to provide information, support, and mentorship to new and returning DRS students. Assist DRS students with the transition to the university and building of relationships with other students. Benefits to navigator positions – student leadership position on campus, working in a professional environment to plan and program events; and student-led programming and campus-wide retention efforts.
- Events and Workshops – educational programs that will deepen the understanding of accessibility, universal design, disability advocacy, and mental and physical health issues. This may include but is not limited to: outreach efforts (tabling – welcome daze, student involvement fair; outreach presentations of disability services – pack advisors, faculty, departments, PAWS), guest speakers, disability awareness month, training – disability 101, testing anxiety, and advocacy.
- Increase student education and understanding of DRS academic accommodations and accessibility on campus

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	DRS Student Navigator - two (2) positions charged with coordinating outreach efforts to new DRS students, assist with new students transitioning to the campus culture, coordinating workshops and trainings on advocacy, disability services and support DRS major events. Will also serve on the DRS Student Advisory Board. E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$23,925
	Fringe @ 21.5%:	\$5,144
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$29,069

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Welcome reception, end of year celebration, fall open house, Disability Awareness Month S001	\$2,000
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Marketing and outreach materials, events and program flyers and training materials; and office supplies S002	\$1,500
Food	Events, programs (welcome reception and end of the year/graduation celebration, Disability Awareness month) and staff trainings. S003	\$1,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$4,500

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$29,069
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$4,500
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$33,569

Supplemental Documents



DRS NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

DRS is proposing the development of a DRS Navigators Program, to provide students with the knowledge of, and connections to fellow students, DRS, and other campus resources.