



Request for 2022-23 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: SIAS / Student Transitions & Success

Create Date: 02/16/2023

Due Date: 02/17/2023

Submitter Name: Vanessa de Veritch Woodsic

UW Email Address: vdw@uw.edu

Phone Number: 253-692-4494

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Natalie Eschenbaum

Requested Amount: **\$5,036**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

In 2020 the UWT Undocumented Student Advocacy Working Group was charged by then Asst. Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion with recommending actions to be taken to put in place permanent resources and supports necessary to promote a sense of safety, belonging, and thriving for students pursuing their degrees at UWT who are undocumented, DACA recipients, and/or from mixed-status families. This charge came from the recognition that UWT does not presently have a formal set of coordinated institutional strategies, programs, or services designed to offer academic, co-curricular, or community advocacy support for undocumented students. Ultimately, the aim is to utilize these actionable recommendations to build a set of integrated protocols, programs, and accountability systems that helps these students feel heard, seen, and part of the fabric of the University. The Implementation Team convened in 2021 began to expand Undocu Initiatives associated with five identified priority areas: campus support and advocacy, legal support, financial/administrative support; community-based engagement, and communication.

In addition to developing services and resources that benefit this unique student population, we specifically intend to create one paid part-time position for a peer Undocu advocate, enhancing academic learning with leadership and professional development. The position will entail one-on-one advising, development and execution of relevant workshops and events in collaboration with other units and community organizations, and contributing to a sense of community among students with similar experiences. (We received one-time Office of Community Partnership funding for one such paid position for January-December 2022.)

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

A desire to develop Undocu Initiatives originated in student concerns and requests for institutional support that fosters **student success**. The implementation of Undocu Initiatives recommendations will undoubtedly help to **"increase recruitment, enrollment, retention and graduation rates with a focus on closing equity gaps"** and **"enhance student well-being."** It's imperative to privilege students' voices in our work and a peer advisor will serve as the primary liaison. We'll also establish a task force composed of student representatives who are undocumented, DACA recipients, and/or from mixed-status families to spearhead efforts to gather feedback regarding UWT student experiences, foster relationships of trust and belonging, put recommendations into action, and assess whether we've effectively accomplished our goals.

Central to our work is **community**--both in the sense of developing community among UWT students with similar experiences and challenges *and* in strengthening connections with organizations that already work with undocumented students and mixed-status families in the South Puget Sound like Proyecto MoLE, Washington Sin Fronteras, CASA/MECA at TCC and more. Through creating relationships of trust and direct pathways to individuals and resources on our campus, we are likely to attract additional prospective students who are confident that they will feel welcomed, respected, and supported at UWT, regardless of immigration status. We will thus **"strengthen collaborative community partnerships with an emphasis on diverse communities."**

Our programs enable students to overcome unique obstacles that result from simultaneously navigating higher ed and immigration systems, thereby increasing retention and graduation rates. Moreover, our initiatives will offer targeted professional development and resources for post-UWT life. Our work, though, is holistic in nature. We recognize that the sociocultural climate on our campus and beyond certainly affects all students' well-being. This is even more pronounced among students who experience the precarity and uncertainty of temporary status or the potential for additional financial and familial obligations in the event of parents' deportation, for example. Through our initiatives will not only support individual student success, but foster a **culture of equity** more broadly and thereby **"cultivate an accessible, equitable, respectful and inclusive campus culture."**

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

At Implementation Team meetings, subcommittees shared current progress and prioritized recommendations for the coming year. In general, the goal is to shift from a model of individual support to institutional support. In other words, rather than essentially expecting students to seek out resources and support by connecting with individual faculty and/or staff members, we'd like to show progress in terms of a more comprehensive and visible resources; centralized, consistent, and accurate information regarding available services and resources on- and off-campus; and formal protocols for sharing updates.

We also determined it's essential to leverage our community assets by better connecting UWT students with community organizations supporting students and/or immigrants and their families *and*—importantly—fostering a sense of trust and connectedness to UWT among middle- and high-school students and their families and students at South Puget Sound community colleges.

Specific ongoing goals include:

- 1) Increasing efforts to advertise and expand Undocumented Peer Advising services
- 2) Identifying Undocu Allies across campus units and hosting Leadership Without Borders Undocu Allies Training at UWT regularly
- 3) Developing a user-friendly dedicated Undocu Initiatives website that centralizes information and resources for potential, current, and past UWT students (e.g., financial aid/admissions videos in various languages, Undocu Allies directory, internship and research opportunities, scholarships, preparation for grad school and careers for undocumented students, legal assistance, emergency planning, etc.)
- 4) Hosting quarterly events/workshops with campus units and community partners
- 5) Developing a tentative in-time communications plan for emergent issues related to risk and safety and an ongoing plan for maintaining a welcoming space for undocumented students
- 6) Growing communities of support through Monarchs United, a new dedicated RSO, and specialized group counseling via PAWS

Implementation of the recommendations pertaining to each priority area our group identified will promote a sense of safety, belonging and thriving for undocumented students, and may potentially position UWT as a model for other educational institutions. We have already successfully researched best practices, compiled available resources, created and allocated dedicated DACA Renewal/Legal Assistance funds, co-created a proposed model for Student Legal Services at UWT, and formed a coalition of service providers who work with undocumented students at local community colleges and secondary schools.

We've already established an active community of folk across UWT units who are invested in better supporting students who are undocumented and/or from mixed-status families. The Working Group and Implementation Team members include students, faculty, and staff from Advising, UWT Library, Registrar's Office, Undergraduate Education, Student Transitions and Success, Financial Aid, Global Affairs, Academic Affairs, Student Advocacy and Support, Legal Pathways/OCF, Center for Equity and Inclusion, Student Life, Campus Safety and Security, Advancement, Social Work & Criminal Justice, and Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences.

Through previously established connections, our team also already collaborates with Proyecto MoLE, College Success Foundation, Washington Sin Fronteras, and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. We intend to strengthen and formalize partnerships with other local organizations including Tacoma Community House, Mi Centro, Korean Women's Association, and the City of Tacoma's Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

This funding is intended to develop new UWT Undocu initiatives so we have limited data regarding utilization of services. We piloted an extremely preliminary version of Undocumented Peer Advising virtual and in-person drop-in hours during Autumn 2021 and Winter 2022 and WASFA drop-in hours, a collaboration between CEI and the Office of Student Financial Aid, in November 2021. All of the handful of participants were undergraduate or graduate students who are undocumented or DACA recipients and identify as Latinx.

During Spring, Summer, and Autumn 2022, our Office of Community Partnerships funding supported continued Undocumented Peer Advising as well as the UWT Monarchs United RSO's collaboration on event planning and execution with community organizations Proyecto MoLE and Washington Sin Fronteras. Four UWT students, for example, participated in the day-long workshop "Beyond Papers: We Rise and Thrive" event (rescheduled from December to January 2023), which included presenting about their own experiences in higher ed, participating in sessions with speakers who addressed post-graduation opportunities as Undocu Professionals, wellness and mental health, and holding a space for the undocu/DACAmented community to process the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic, fluctuations in DACA policies, etc., on local undocumented communities. Other campus events (open to all UWT students) included Know Your Rights workshops. Again, all participants were current undergrad or grad students who are undocumented or DACA recipients and Latinx.

Currently, there are approximately 250,000 undocumented immigrants, 230,000 residents eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and 15,000 undocumented students in higher education in Washington state. Each year, 2000 undocumented students graduate from WA high schools. The UW estimates that, of 46,686 students across the three campuses in Autumn 2017, 456 were undocumented. Recent estimates indicate there were approximately 100-125 undocumented students at the UWT campus alone during the Autumn 2022 quarter. Based on current estimated enrollments of undocumented students at local schools and community colleges, we expect this number to rise.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

Aside from compiling a checklist of the intended deliverables, the Undocu Initiatives Implementation Team plans to meet twice a quarter to discuss progress and modify or expand specific prioritized goals. Subcommittees associated with each of the separate priority areas (and which all include 1-2 students and/or alumni) will meet independently between the full-team meetings to continue to make progress toward goal completion. We also intend to create a variety of avenues for current, past, and potential students to provide feedback regarding their experiences (e.g., online surveys, focus groups, community forum, etc.).

Our Peer Advisor will track the number of student interactions during drop-in peer advising hours, separately indicating whether these are unduplicated. If it's possible to maintain a sufficient degree of privacy of students' immigration status, we plan to use swipe cards to track attendance at our various on-campus workshops and events. We may, for example, destroy any original files that maintain student information once we create a new document that indicates the number of participants and perhaps what year of their undergraduate or graduate program they are currently in.

For collaborative community events, we will use sign-in sheets so as to accommodate folks who are not associated with UWT as well.

We are still in the pilot phase of our Undocumented Student Peer Advising program in partnership with the Center for Equity and Inclusion, and have not yet collected formal assessment data.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Because we are still creating and implementing new programs and services, we can only project at this point what the most meaningful and significant benefits will be based on student and alumni feedback we have already received. At least half of each 2020-2021 Working Group monthly meeting was dedicated to hearing directly from invited guests, who shared their unique insights about the diverse experiences of students who are undocumented and/or from mixed-status families and/or about the programs at UW Seattle and UW Bothell that are already in place to support undocumented students. We also invited feedback from students, staff, and faculty at a virtual community forum event in Spring 2021. The UWT Monarchs United

RSO, established in 2022, have provided more specific feedback. Some of the primary ways that our initiatives would meaningfully benefit students are by:

- Helping students to overcome financial and administrative barriers to support retention and graduation (e.g., assistance with DACA renewal fees or other immigration-related legal costs, paid student positions, connections to community resources, streamlined information sharing so students can easily find answers pertinent to their situation on various campus unit websites);
- Providing timely information regarding changes in federal policy and its impact on UWT students, anticipated presence of ICE/CBP on campus, etc.;
- Facilitating professional development and high-impact practices that are available to students regardless of immigration status (e.g., paid internships, compensated research assistant positions, etc.) and preparing students for various paths post-UWT (e.g., employment opportunities, grad school, law school, med school, etc.);
- Offering peer-to-peer advising to address both practical concerns and questions and creating a broader sense of connection; and
- Developing a sense of community, connection, and belonging among students via peer advising, the new Monarchs United RSO, and assessment practices that enable students to feel as though their voices and experiences are important and valued by UWT.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	Undergraduate Non-Academic Part-Time Position Stipend 8 hours/week for 30 weeks at \$17.27/hour = \$4145.00 This position is currently classified as 01-80 in case we hire a student who can receive wages processed via Workday rather than via stipend, as is the case for students who are undocumented. E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$4,145
	Fringe @ 21.5%:	\$891
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$5,036

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$0

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$5,036
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$0
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$5,036

Supplemental Documents