



Request for 2024 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Disability Resources for Students

Create Date: 01/31/2024

Due Date: 02/07/2024

Submitter Name: Victor Flores

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Bernard Anderson, AVC for

Requested Amount: **\$27,786**

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

The DRS 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 to study. We partner with staff members from other campus offices such as CEI, First-Gen Fellows, and Global Affairs, to facilitate the development and promotion of our community space. Our hope is to increase our student usage by 3-5% with the Peer Navigator outreaching and educating peers, student groups, and leaders of the services and support DRS provides. The Peer Navigator will host socials, 1:1 events and workshops to help students with finding their place/home on campus, education of resources and peer support and navigation of the campus.

Last Fall, DRS held an open house to kick off our year and introduce new students and campus to our services and center. Since then, we've assisted support 683 registered DRS students and an additional 250 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 hosted Mr. Jake Prendez, Owner and Co-Director of The Napantla Art Gallery to share his experience with the intersectionality of identity, culture, disability and going from struggling with his academic success as a youth, to earning his master's degree, to following his passion in the arts. Collaborated with CEI, Nicole Jordan, SIAS, Professors Chavez, Woodside, Ochoa Camacho, and De La Cruz, Dean Eschenbaum, Roland Heyne - ASUWT Director of University Affairs/SAB Chair on the signature event for Disability Awareness Month,

DRS plans to activate this space with additional programs and events designed to promote student development and encourage the building of relationships. This spring we have several programs planned to create opportunities for collaboration and education for student learners. Below is a list of events, but not limited, to the following collaborations:

- ASL Practice Group - to learn and practice ASL
- Study Abroad Information Session – with Angel Reddy, Study Abroad office, and hosted two information sessions at MAT 107 for DRS and students interested in traveling abroad
- Testing Anxiety and How to Prepare for Exams – 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 – 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 – with CSI, NST, etc on hosting a reception for students and families to welcome students to the campus
- Event Accommodations Statement – information session ensure campus events are accessible

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

The DRS has seen an increase of student utilization of accommodations and services due to Covid and mental health concerns. We have received a large number of referrals from the Office of Student Advocacy and Support, CARE Team, Psychological and Wellness Services, professors and staff reporting students needing additional support for their disability(ies) and need for academic accommodations for academic success. We have seen a rise in applications and approvals for academic accommodations from 463 students in 2022-2023 to 682 in 2023-2024/current year. This has prompted DRS to have our Peer Navigator outreach and connect with new DRS students and new students to the UW Tacoma to ensure they have the information and support making the transition to the UW Tacoma and DRS services. This position will also meet with student for 1:1 check ins, advisement and mentorship on how to navigate the campus. Below are some demographics of the students DRS serves:

Gender:

- Females: 65%
- Males: 34%
- Nonbinary: <1%
- Nonspecific: <1%
- Transgender: <1%

Veteran/Military Dependents:27%

Class:

- Freshman:6%
- Sophomore:8%
- Junior:17%
- Senior:52%
- Graduate:13%
- Nonmatriculated:1%
- Postbaccalurate:1%

Ethnicity:

- Black/African American:7%
- American Indian:1%
- Asian:7%Caucasian:26%
- Pacific Islander:1%
- Hispanic:2%
- Not Specified:1%
- Blank:55%

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

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.
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- 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 position that is charged with coordinating outreach efforts to new DRS students, returning students, to assist with transitioning to the campus culture, coordinating workshops and trainings, advocacy, disability services and support major DRS events. Will also serve on the DRS Student Advisory Board. E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$19,324
	Fringe @ 20.5%:	\$3,961
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$23,286

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	To support trainings, workshops and social events, welcome reception, end of the year celebration, open houses, Disability Awareness Month S001	\$2,000
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	To support marketing and outreach materials, swag, event flyers, training materials and office supplies S002	\$1,500
Food	To support 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:	\$23,286
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$4,500
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$27,786

Supplemental Documents
