

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Create Date: 01/22/2025

Due Date: 02/07/2025

Submitter Name: Daniel Nash

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Department Head Approval: ✓

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$55,424**

Departmental Information

STUDENT UTILIZATION

All funds for this proposal go directly to students in the form of student staff wages and Registered Student Organization operations funding.

Students can make friends and form interest-based clubs without UW's assistance, but by agreeing to register with the university, we provide them with resources like a dedicated email address, a mailbox, light storage, a small amount of operations funding, and craft supplies for making posters, banners, and buttons. Additionally, we provide guidelines for RSO business such as how to operate a fundraiser, how to use UW imagery in compliance with trademark, how to author a constitution, and more. A large part of how we educate students on those requirements is through our staff of student RSO Coordinators, who respond to club questions and help them book rooms. If approved, this proposal will also fund Club Camp,

In addition to being fun, the Center for Student Involvement sees RSOs as a way for students to drive the culture of the University, and to expose Tacoma students to the ins and outs of operating an independent organization, such as a nonprofit corporation or social club. In fact, many RSOs become Washington state nonprofit corporations when they wish to open an organization bank account.

CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

The Registered Student Organizations proposal covers the strategic plan goal categories of **Students, Communities, Scholarship, Equity, and Vitality.**

Students

Goal 1: Improving Recruitment, Enrollment, Retention, and Graduation Rates

The beneficial effect of campus involvement on students' development is a foundational idea in student development theory that has held up in multiple research studies. A.A. Astin's (1984) theory of student involvement was based on research that found that the more invested students were in non-academic campus life, the more academically successful they seemed to be, on average. More contemporary theories like Strayhorn's (2020) theory of student belonging have found that students who have a secure social support system are better positioned to pursue self-actualizing goals. Registered Student Organizations are one way to achieve these circumstances for success: they create a reason for students to be on campus when they're not in class, and they can facilitate a social support network.

Communities

Goal 4: Enhance the economic vitality of the region

RSOs operate independently from the institution and have the ability to support local organizations through fundraising, events, and programming. Many RSOs fundraise for themselves or their endeavors, while also supporting the surrounding community.

Scholarship

Goal 7: Foster a climate of creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation

RSOs allow students to participate in these categories as they work to plan and execute events, build on meeting structure, develop membership experiences, and broaden students' understanding of what they can achieve outside the classroom. They are centers for students to develop their understanding of working with budgets, limitations, and opportunities to bring their ideas to life. The resources provided to them by the CSI and the campus help them understand more about how they can succeed.

Equity

Goal 8: Cultivate an accessible, equitable, respectful and inclusive campus culture

Goal 9: Attract, engage and retain a diverse community of students, faculty and staff.

Vitality

Goal 10: Intentionally create spaces, programs and activities that encourage engagement with our campus.

RSOs embody this principle and through CSI support, are better able to create spaces that engage students into further understanding their place on campus and in the world.

SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

The main goal for RSOs is similar year to year: to continue increasing officers' knowledge and understanding of resources, services, and policies, as well as to encourage the development of new or returning organizations. This year, we have focused on deepening RSO officers' engagement with new resources introduced in the previous year--namely, our online DubNet platform. Last year, DubNet launched just as Autumn Quarter began, which prevented our office from adequately teaching officers the system, as professional and student staff were only just learning how to use the system themselves. This year, with more experience under our belt, the CSI team heavily promoted DubNet at Club Camp, Orientation, the Husky Help Desk, and Autumn Involvement Fair.

DubNet has multiple features relevant to RSOs:

- Group registration
- User-facing group webpages with tools for managing officers and members
- An events calendar with tools for tracking registration and attendance
- Forms and form-building software. Staff use forms to administer RSO funding, approve fundraisers, approve events on the calendar, distribute access to a group Canva account, and more.
- Email newsletter tools

About a third of currently operating RSOs are active users of DubNet, as determined by repeat use of the calendaring system and form submissions. Most of the frequent users were groups that sent officers to our Club Camp training in September, though some newer RSOs, such as the Economic Policy Impact Club, have also become frequent users. RSO event submissions to DubNet for the period from July 1, 2024, to Feb. 4, 2025, were up to 157, exceeding the 138 posted during the same period last year. RSOs have already scheduled 80 events on DubNet for the remainder of the current school year.

A full list of RSO events as reported to DubNet can be found in the Supplemental Documents.

Student organizations as a whole are collaborative in nature, with students connecting with faculty and staff across campus to serve as advisors for their clubs. This gives them access to another system of support, as well as a deeper connection to the area in which the advisor works. We highly encourage RSOs to collaborate with one another, and departmental offices.

STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

RSO participation can fluctuate year over year, but they have seen marked growth this year. The numbers of active clubs year-to-year will best illustrate this point. I include seven years of data to illustrate the arc of involvement around the years the campus operated remotely due to COVID.

2024-2025: 73 (72 + 1 pending application)

2023-2024: 54
2021-2022: 47
2020-2021: 57
2019-2020: 52
2018-2019: 64
2017-2018: 70

Total club memberships are 2,901 comprising 1,409 distinct students. Last year, our office reported 1,648 total club memberships. 302 students have served as officers this year.

Even though the program is responsible for procedures that can make RSO formation easier or harder, the figures above do not reflect anything we've done as administrators so much as they reflect the desire of students to be involved on campus. Since the campus returned from COVID closures, staff have wondered when student life would come roaring back, if at all. We now have our answer.

RSO Room/Space Requests (Snapshot of past and future events in 25Live at time of SAFC proposal)

2024-2025: 111
2023-2024: 130
2022-2023: 187

It's important to acknowledge this downward trend is baffling in light of the inverse increase in the number of clubs. I offer some context below.

In addition to the number of 25Live bookings confirmed above, we can confirm 60 athletic club events in the UWY space that were arranged directly with YMCA staff. The Smash Club has also run its weekly meetings out of the Dawg House lounge without booking, since it's public space; I recently reached out to them and they'll be booking in 25Live from now on. **With UWY Courts, Multipurpose Room bookings, and Smash Club's meetings accounted for, we have 186 confirmed on-campus meetings/events for the school year so far.**

Additionally, there are club events and meetings that occur outside 25Live that cannot be counted reliably:

- **Off-campus meetings due to specific facilities needs.** At least three athletic RSOs have facilities needs that can't be met on campus. Some of these are still thriving and inclusive groups: the Claybreakers for example, meet offsite at a skeet-shooting range and have done so ~30 times since Autumn.
- **Virtual meetings.**
- **Non-25Live campus bookings.** These include TLB, SNO, some spaces in MLG, and assorted other spaces run directly by academic programs. If and when all spaces move under 25Live, we'll be able to track this data. Until then, we may adopt a practice of requesting this information directly from non-25Live space managers.
- **"Ghost Bookings."** These bookings are logged in 25Live, but have bypassed our RSO Request system. Typically they're meetings booked in study spaces under students' individual accounts, or spaces booked by an advisor on behalf of the club. Of the categories on this list, this is the only one that we actively discourage, as the use of individual accounts makes it impossible to obtain even a rough estimate of the number of such bookings being made.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

We use administrative tools for counting groups and users in DubNet, form submissions in DubNet, and 25Live's reports function.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Quality involvement complements a student's academic experience and contributes to their personal development at the University of Washington Tacoma. Benefits from joining a student organization, depending on the particular organization's mission, include:

- putting academic concepts into practice
- exploring career paths in academic fields
- practice in communication and leadership by working on a self-driven team
- community service
- experience collaborating on self-driven projects
- event planning experience
- friendship
- expansion of personal horizons
- increased confidence

The Registered Student Organization program is the only student program where students are the sole creators and drivers of the activities and events, working on the missions that connect with them. The most meaningful thing staff in the Center for Student Involvement can do is set them up for success with tools, funding, and occasional advice on best practices. A certain amount of bureaucracy may be necessary to distribute money and campus space fairly, but we encourage students to reach out directly when they run into challenges, and eliminate unnecessary obstacles when possible. For example, we are working on replacing our current quiz-based 25Live training system with a library of videos and a checkbox attestation. We know our services are benefitting students when we see growth in club participation and club-planned events.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	RSO Coordinator for Promotions & Partnerships. This request covers a \$17.16/hour wage for 12 weeks of summer at 10 hours/week and 40 weeks of the academic year at 12 hours/week. It additionally covers two 10-hour trainings--the annual Club Camp program for RSO officers, which the Coordinator helps run, and Student Leader Training. E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$10,640
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$2,447
Student Staff ³	RSO Coordinator for Events and Projects. This request covers a \$17.16/hour wage for 12 weeks of summer at 10 hours/week and 40 weeks of the academic year at 12 hours/week. It additionally covers two 10-hour trainings--the annual Club Camp program for RSO officers, which the Coordinator helps run, and Student Leader Training. E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$10,640
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$2,447
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$26,174

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	RSO Operations Fund. Covers \$250 in requests for 75 clubs. As of this writing, there are 72 active RSOs and a 73rd pending approval. S001	\$18,750
	RSO Involvement Fund for three Involvement Fairs, Spring Block Party, and officer socials and workshops. S002	\$5,000
	Fund for giveaway items promoting RSOs. Planned in conjunction with RSO Coordinators, but past items have been clothing ("Join an RSO" shirts) keychains, notebooks, etc. S003	\$2,000
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Miscellaneous supplies fund. Covers button makers and button making supplies, poster-making supplies, and trifolds for Registered Student Organizations. S004	\$2,000
Food	Food for Club Camp. This is less than we spent for the September 2024 camp, but for 2025, we'll request dietary restrictions at the time of registration, which will allow for a more precise order. S005	\$1,500
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		\$29,250

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$26,174
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$29,250
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$55,424

Supplemental Documents



RSO COORDINATOR FOR EVENTS & PROJECTS

Job description



RSO COORDINATOR FOR PROMOTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Job description



ACTIVE RSOs

As of Feb. 6, 2025