

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Create Date: 10/16/2025

Due Date: 11/07/2025

Submitter Name: Clare Tupper

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Phone Number: 253-692-5869

Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$7,857**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

The minimum wage increase to \$17.13 in Washington state was not known until after the annual budget process, therefore we could not request the amount now needed to meet minimum wage requirements. We are requesting funds to increase two student employees' wages to meet these minimum requirements beginning January 1st. It was not foreseen that our student staffing would not be renewed with the annual budget. We are requesting funds to continue our two Giving Garden Assistant positions that have existed yearlong for over 5 years. We are requesting 10 hours/week total for the Winter quarter and 20 hours/week total for Spring and Summer quarters to return to our historical minimum hours for these positions and provide students when reliable employment.

We would also like to purchase materials for raised bed replacement. We did not know some of our raised beds would need to be replaced during the annual budget process. Some of our beds are breaking apart and exposing screws. We would like to replace 5 raised garden beds

STUDENT UTILIZATION

Providing funds to meet the minimum wage requirements and continued positions for the remainder of the year, will provide two students with jobs. With two student employees, not only does this benefit those students, but it allows the Giving Garden to continue to provide fresh produce to the Pantry, provide volunteer and academic opportunities, and stand as a welcoming and beautiful green space on our campus

As of 10/13/25 the Giving Garden donated 374lbs of produce to students. While we see this generally as a positive, we know it is not what the garden could be providing. In 2024 we donated 414lbs by this date. This decrease in harvest is a direct response to decreased staffing.

The student employees also assist with volunteer opportunities. Increasing student hours will allow for more flexibility with group visits to the garden, complete more than basic garden requirements such as educational social media posts and special projects, and return to our previous levels of volunteer opportunities, see attached document

Funds for raised bed replacement will ensure we are keeping a clean and safe space for our students without decreasing our programs' capabilities by simply removing the decaying beds. Restoring our beds is also important for re-implementing the Giving Garden's bed adoption program for students. We have decided to reserve some of our beds for personal use by students who wish to apply, but we need to have enough beds available for this program to be feasible.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

These funds will be allocated to our wages budget and implemented January 1st as required by law. We create a new schedule each quarter depending on the student's availability so beginning Winter quarter, the students shift will reflect these additional hours. Once the funds are acquired, both students will be able to resume their workloads as before, taking on special projects in the garden, posting on social media once a week, and assisting with volunteer hours.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

According to a 2013 study by UW Tacoma Faculty Dr. Christine Stevens, one-third of students at UW Tacoma are food insecure and according to the National Health Assessment this number has risen to 46% of students in 2023. These statistics align with national studies (Goldrick-Rab, Sara, et al. Still Hungry and Homeless in College. Wisconsin Hope Lab. 2018) on food insecurity and show a need to assist our students.

The Giving Garden is already addressing this need by providing fresh produce to The Pantry. Fresh food and produce are a common request of students accessing The Pantry, according to their surveys. In 2021 the garden donated over 400 pounds of produce, and we are projected to surpass this number in 2023.

The immediate benefit to students participating in the Giving Garden is access to fresh nutritious food that they grow and a sense of service in supporting their fellow students. Beyond that, they have an outlet to be in nature and interact with the natural world without having to leave campus. Exposure to nature and fresh air has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety which is critical for busy students trying to balance their studies, work, and life. (Capaldi C, Dopko RL, Zelenski J. Frontiers in Psychology. 2014).

The Giving Garden also starts a career of community leadership with students, helping them learn about food security, equity, and the possibilities of growing your own food, even in an urban environment. The Giving Garden's harvests benefit every student who uses The Pantry and has access to fresh produce. Without ever attending an event or visiting the garden itself, students are impacted by what we do. The garden also provides opportunities for students to work on campus in a leadership capacity while aligning them within their community. It allows the students to engage in a professional setting while giving them tools and connections for their future. Courses that utilize the Giving Garden also give an opportunity for students to step foot outside of the classroom, allowing them to learn through a hands-on approach while connecting amongst their peers and building their community. The garden is becoming more and more intertwined with the campus through its partnerships with The Pantry, The Center for Student Involvement, Professional Development Center, faculty and their curriculum, and Facilities Services. Access is a core value of the University of Washington Tacoma and the Giving Garden serves this value through access to food, education, community, green space, and student growth.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Classified Staff ²	Two student employees Winter quarter: 5 hrs/week for 11 weeks Spring quarter: 10 hrs/week for 11 weeks Summer quarter: 10 hrs/week for 1 week E001	
	Classified Staff Wages:	\$5,996
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$1,379
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$7,375

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	lumber for raised garden beds S001	\$482
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$482

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$7,375
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$482
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$7,857

Supplemental Documents



STAFFING IMPACT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

a breakdown of the difference between 2024 vs 2025 volunteer hours due to staffing



STUDENT TESTIMONY

Victoria Sims has worked for the Giving Garden for over 4 years. She has written a testimony regarding the recent employment decrease and it's impact on the garden's program and her personally



RAISED BED MATERIALS QUOTE

itemized quote for raised bed materials