

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Create Date: 11/04/2025

Due Date: 11/07/2025

Submitter Name: Livia Petzinger

UW Email Address: lpetz@uw.edu

Phone Number: 253-692-4366

Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$23,000**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

Climate change is not only a global emergency, but has been designated as an emergency by the City of Tacoma. The mission of the Husky Sustainability Fund (HSF) is to increase UWT's capacity for climate resilience through student engagement, specifically by funding impactful, accessible, and meaningful student-led sustainability projects as well as by increasing overall student competency and leadership skills related to sustainability. Whereas young people are actively fighting a climate crisis on every front, the provision of resources both tangible and intangible as well as the opportunity to apply those resources through experiential and community-based projects is critical for their survival. Although it may seem exaggerated to call student internship stipends, event funds, and grant funds "emergency expenditures," the climate crisis is so extreme that as many resources as possible must be directed toward addressing it within our purview of student engagement.

In annual allocations for the '25-'26 fiscal year, the HSF program received only 55% of the budget requested, meaning that we are operating with about half as many resources as we need to flourish. Supporting the fully functioning capacity of the HSF is critical to UW Tacoma, as we are engaging students across campus, between disciplines, and within the larger community with tangible sustainability learning experiences. The return on any investments we make into addressing sustainability issues on our campus will be made clearer each year as our water, air, and earth become more and more polluted; we will look back and be grateful that UW Tacoma was a leader and community resource in the fight against climate change. The fully functioning operation of the HSF is critical not just to the development of students, but also to the community of Tacoma as we work together to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects.

STUDENT UTILIZATION

The core work of the HSF is to fund student-led sustainability projects. We have had our capacity reduced significantly this year and have only a total of \$14,150 available for students for the entire year. In comparison, during the '24-'25 fiscal year the HSF spent \$23,196 on student-led and student-centered sustainability projects. With those funds, despite being fully staffed for only 5 months of that fiscal year, the HSF team was able to directly impact 1,243 students with our programs. Using these numbers, we can see that at our current capacity the HSF will only be able to impact about 758 students across campus over the entire year (representing a 40% reduction in the number of students impacted) unless we acquire more funds for projects and staffing. This reduction reflects various dimensions of engagement-- direct acquisition of knowledge through workshops, guest speakers, and field trips; the building of new climate resilience skills such as CPR certifications and disaster preparedness training; opportunities for expansion of leadership abilities such as project management, outreach, public speaking, and marketing; direct provision of resources in the form of reusable and eco-friendly items; and meaningful impact on the campus through the development of new infrastructure. Those are the outcomes of the HSF, and with our current funding, fewer students will get these opportunities.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

There are five budgetary items outlined in this proposal-- all five of them will go directly to students. Two of these items are stipends which will be paid directly to five UWT students over the course of Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters of '25-'26 (see attached job descriptions for more detail). Another two items are funds for our Earth Day Celebration, an event which will take place on April 22nd and which is incredibly meaningful and engaging to students, providing them directly with relevant resources such as food, seeds, planting materials, reusable items, and emergency preparedness items. Our final budgetary item is for grantmaking, funds which according to the HSF bylaws must go either directly to students for their sustainability-related projects or must go to sustainability projects that center student needs. Just this year we have already had an engineering student group propose a project idea for improving the solar panel infrastructure of the Giving Garden, an idea which we had to reject due to lack of sufficient funds. The guarantee that these funds will be spent appropriately and efficiently is demonstrated through the track record of the HSF, its inherent structure and purpose, as well as the wealth of student-led project ideas ready to be implemented.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The purpose of the HSF is to provide meaningful, impactful, and accessible student-led sustainability learning experiences at UWT. We demonstrate the success of that mission through the gathering of data, and since becoming the Sustainability Coordinator almost a year ago I have worked with students to give them as many opportunities as possible to share why and how this work is meaningful to them. What I have found is that students are hungry for sustainability-related knowledge and experiences-- for many of them, events hosted by the HSF are the first time that they are being exposed to existing campus sustainability projects or to concepts of environmental justice. For example, during an October 2025 Campus Sustainability Month event in the Giving Garden, one student said that "the treasure hunt with the swag prize was really fun, I actually learned so much about the garden!" with another adding "I never knew they had a rain collector or green house." About another Campus Sustainability Month event, our Winter Weather Emergency Preparedness Workshop, one student commented "I did not know there were so many options to get real time information on natural disasters and stay informed.. plus the [emergency kit] and learning what to put in it will definitely give me an edge in the event of an emergency." This theme of exposure to new, relevant, and sustainability-related information and resources is one of the most meaningful and significant ways the HSF benefits students.

Another theme that has arisen frequently is the sense of fun and community-building that comes along with these events. Of our Earth Day 2025 Celebration, one student said "this was the most fun I've had at a campus event. I thrifted a whole outfit and learned about composting!" Another student, speaking about the Campus Sustainability Month event in the Giving Garden said "this helped me feel more connected to the campus community. I'm very thankful that these events exist, because I just moved here, and don't know anyone in town." Talking about environmental justice, learning how to creatively address these issues, and actually taking action on them as a student body has been incredibly meaningful and significant to those students who have participated in HSF-funded projects.

Aside from exposing students to sustainability knowledge and building a sense of community and belonging, the work of the HSF actually improves our campus-wide sustainability and meaningfully addresses issues such as transportation, waste reduction, ecological restoration, and urban agriculture. Our most recent grant awardee, the Indian Student Association, said that their completion of an HSF-funded project "significantly enhanced the board's awareness of waste reduction initiatives... the process encouraged a deeper understanding of the university's sustainability guidelines and demonstrated how thoughtful planning can align cultural celebrations with environmental responsibility." Their participation and the participation of all students with the Husky Sustainability Fund represents real progress toward making UW Tacoma more just, more sustainable, and better prepared for climate change.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$0

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Project-based stipend for 3 STARS Reporting Interns. Each intern will complete 100 hours of project work over 10 weeks for \$2,000 in compensation. Interns will be hired in succession over Winter, Spring, and Summer quarters of 2026. S001	\$6,000
	Project-based stipend for 2 Earth Month Interns. Each intern will complete 100 hours of project work for \$2,000 in compensation. Interns will be hired simultaneously, culminating their work at the end of Spring quarter 2026. S002	\$4,000
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Supplies for Earth Day Celebration activities, workshops, and educational content. S003	\$1,500
Food	Food costs for Earth Day Celebration. S004	\$1,500
Aid, Grants & Subsidies Given	Husky Sustainability Fund increase to support meaningful, impactful, and accessible student-led sustainability projects. S005	\$10,000
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$23,000

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$0
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$23,000
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$23,000

Supplemental Documents



HSF ANNUAL REPORT 24-25



STARS REPORTING INTERN POSITION DESCRIPTION



EARTH MONTH INTERN POSITION DESCRIPTION