

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Registered Student Organizations

Create Date: 01/28/2026

Due Date: 02/06/2026

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Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$36,050**

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, the annual pre-Autumn Quarter orientation and training for RSO officers.

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 involvement on students' development is a foundational idea in student development theory that has held up in multiple 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. More contemporary theories like Strayhorn's (2020) theory of student belonging have found that students with a secure social support system are better positioned to pursue self-actualizing goals. Registered Student Organizations are one way to find belonging: 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 in 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)

Last year saw a substantial increase in RSO activity, which has leveled out to more modest growth in the current year.

The raw number of RSOs has remained stable, as the current and previous two years' data illustrate.

- **2025-2026 (as of Jan. 30, 2026): 75 (71 activated + 4 in application, pending completion of requirements)**
- 2024-2025: 83 (was 73 at SAF deadline in Winter Quarter 2025)
- 2023-2024: 54

Other metrics show more substantial increases in activity. Across all currently active or pending RSOs, there are 3,224 members, comprising 1,511 unique students. This is a marginal increase over the 2024-2025 figures, which were 2,901 club members comprising 1,409 unique students. There are 398 club officers compared to last year's 302.

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

- 2025-2026: 358
- 2024-2025: 332
- 2023-2024: 405

If you served on the committee in the previous budget cycle, you might notice that the '24-'25 and '23-'24 numbers reported here are higher than what was presented last year. The search results in 25Live only show the first instance of any submitted event--so even if an RSO held 10 weekly meetings in a quarter, the results would only show one meeting. Exporting the results into an XML spreadsheet revealed a column showing the occurrences of each event, allowing for accurate totals to be calculated using an Excel SUM function.

There are club and event meetings not reflected in the figures above. These usually fall under one of the following circumstances:

- **The event or meeting are off-campus.** These include very close locations such as 7Seas or Campfire Coffee.
- **The event is held in a space that's not in 25Live.** Certain locations, such as the Center for Equity and Inclusion lobby, are not bookable in 25Live, but are commonly used by RSOs through arrangement with the space's managing unit.
- **The event is held in YMCA-managed space.** In the University YMCA, meeting and event rooms are managed by the Center for Student Involvement, but the athletic rooms are managed by the YMCA. Even though locations like the UWY basketball court are technically in 25Live, the Y handles bookings on a separate system, disincentivizing RSOs from doubling up on 25Live.

Taking into account 61 known RSO events in YMCA spaces, this year's RSO events come to a confirmed 419, with an unknown additional number taking place in untrackable spaces such as the CEI.

COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

DubNet, our online involvement platform powered by CampusGroups, is the site where RSOs register and apply for funding and resources. It allows us to track the number of active clubs, who's serving as an officer, who's requesting resources, which resources, and how much. Additionally, I compile these groups into a spreadsheet where I track which groups have sent their officers to an orientation and training.

This data empowers me to adjust resources to where they're most needed as the year goes on. It lets me more aggressively pursue RSOs that have not completed their registration requirements or attended an orientation, and it lets me know whether I need to be more conservative with RSO purchase requests, or if I can loosen the purse strings.

Using the tracking spreadsheet as a guide, I've worked with our RSO Coordinators to schedule and market alternative Club Camps for groups that missed the September session. Our purchase request form data showed that RSO funding had been under-requested to a degree that's informed more advertising and promotion of the resource.

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 wages for summer (July-August). \$18.03/hour x 5 hours/week x 10 weeks x 2 staff E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$1,803
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	\$292
Student Staff ³	RSO Coordinator wages for Autumn Quarter (September-December). \$18.03/hour x 10 hours/week x 16 weeks x 2 staff E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$5,769
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	\$935
Student Staff ³	RSO Coordinator wages for winter and spring quarters (January-June). \$18.03/hour x 10 hours/week x 24 weeks x 2 staff. E003	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$8,655
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	\$1,402
Student Staff ³	14 hours of wages for two staff for Club Camp and Student Leader Training. E004	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$361
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	\$58
Student Staff ³	Wages for committee obligations. Includes Council for Campus Engagement (1 hour/week for 36 weeks for 1 staff) and Block Party Committee (1 hour/week for 20 weeks for 2 staff) E005	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$1,370
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	\$222
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$20,867

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Miscellaneous expenses for involvement fairs, block party, and officer socials.	S001 \$348
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Promotional materials.	S002 \$500
	RSO Operations Fund. Used for fulfilling purchase requests made by RSO officers.	S003 \$11,785
	Office supplies.	S004 \$750
Food	Lunch for Club Camp.	S005 \$1,800
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		\$15,183

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$20,867
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$15,183
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$36,050

Supplemental Documents



RSO PROGRAM AUTUMN REPORT

Autumn 2025 report for the Registered Student Organization program.