



ESC Location Expansion

Proposed Motion: Earmark \$50,000 from the AS Rainy Day Reserves for expansion and remodeling of the AS Ethnic Student Center.

Sponsor: Carly Roberts, AS President, Mayra Guizar, AS VP for Diversity

Date: May 30, 2014

Attached Document

Current Reserve Balances

Background & Context

The location of the Ethnic Student Center (ESC) has been a concern for many years for the students who utilize its services. The accessibility and visibility of the office are the main concerns.

Minutes from ESC Presidents' Council October 31, 2011

Duot said that MeCHA has proposed moving the ESC. He gave the floor to Bonifacio Sanchez to explain more about MeCHA's proposal. Sanchez stated that the club wanted to move the ESC out of the "basement". This was based on the question of how to be more involved in Western's community. He said that more space is needed because the office is growing. One of the large reasons for moving is for the office to become more visible. Khadeer asked if any possible locations had been thought of. Sanchez said they had considered the bookstore. Shirley So said that the location depends on Western and what is available. She said there is little to no room on campus and Western, as a school, is still expanding and that the ESC should find spaces to propose. Khadeer agreed and said that a proposal to move the office would have a better reception by the administration if they have spaces to propose. The council suggested Old Main and Miller Hall. Duot said that it was good to propose this and put it into a document. He said that the ESC is made up of 16% of Western's student body and with that number it is important to have a space to accommodate those numbers. He added that the space needs to be accessible and large enough to be a place for students to socialize. Sanchez said Old Main would be a good space. Khadeer recommended bringing back the idea to the clubs and to create a document together as a council. The committee agreed.

From the Rainy Day Reserve Policy:

1. Rainy Day Reserve

a. **Purpose:** This reserve provides:

(i) a safety net for sudden, unforeseen and catastrophic reductions in revenue (such as those caused by drops in enrollment).

(ii) funding for infrequent and unique opportunities to maintain or improve services and activities for students.

b. **Special Conditions:** Distribution of funds from this reserve requires a positive motion approved twice by the AS Board of Directors at separate meeting occurring at least 24 hours apart.

(i) No more than 50% of target balance can be distributed unless for expenses under 5a(i).

Summary of Proposal

This project has continued to gain momentum. The Western's Administration is currently also trying to find funding to put towards these efforts. This is being led by Dean Ted Pratt, Associate Dean Renee Collins, and Vice President for Enrollment & Student Services Dr. Eileen Coughlin.

Roberts and Guizar feel that it is important to contribute to this project now in order to keep up the momentum that has begun. Roberts's preliminary assessment with Burke, Majkut, and Raquel Wilson show that a \$50,000 allocation will be comfortable. Remodeling can often be a large expense, about this is a significant contribution. The AS Reserves were restructured last year to bring the reserves down to a more reasonable level and free up some discretionary money.

Fiscal Impacts

The Rainy Day Reserve currently has \$492,000 available. If this request was funded the amount would be reduced to \$442,000.