

USSA Congress Funding Request



Proposed Motions: Approve \$3,000 from Operational Enhancement FXXENH to help fund eight students to attend the United States Student Association National Student Congress.

Sponsor: Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs

Persons of Contact: Members of the Legislative Affairs Council

Date: June 5, 2014

Background & Context

ASWWU has seen an increase in investment and involvement with the USSA this year. Students have seen many benefits from USSA and student participation. USSA has two annual conferences, National Student Congress and LegCon. Every year, student leaders from across the country attend the USSA Congress during the summer where for six days, students draft, debate and vote on USSA's priorities, elect new leadership for the upcoming year, and attend multiple workshops. Students will participate in regional meetings, caucus and affiliate spaces, workshops, conference governing committees, plenary, and elections for a new board of directors and president and vice president. This is also the conference where changes can be made to the organization's operations, budgets, and structure. Congress is a great opportunity for WWU students to meet and network with students across the country and to get their voices heard and prioritize their issues at the federal level. The purpose of congress is to get more involved at a federal level working on federal issues while receiving training in grassroots organizing and building a network. Attendees should bring back to campus the knowledge and inspiration to help enhance and improve.

This year, USSA National Student Congress will be held August 7-12, 2014 at University of California Irvine, Irvine, California. Legislative Affairs Council approved and selected eight delegates to attend on behalf of Western; however, due to the uncertainty of the Legislative Action Fund and restructure, the LAC is only able to contribute \$2,000, which would only cover the basics (registration fee, hotel, and transportation) for three people to attend. LAC is asking that the AS Board help to subsidize the other five people to attend.

At this time, LAC has not disclosed the individuals selected to attend. Upon results of this funding request, delegates will be notified.

Summary of Proposal

I am requesting that we move this proposal to immediate action due to the tight time frame. Early registration closes Monday, June 9th, and if we do not register by then, our cost per student in registration fees increases. I am unsure by how much the increase is at this time.

I am also requesting to nearly deplete the FXXENH, since this will be the last funding request of the year. It would be unfortunate for unused funds to go to reserves when USSA Congress is such a great investment opportunity that will provide students many benefits.

Fiscally

Total Anticipated Expenses of the basics:

Early Registration (May 1st – June 9th): \$175 x 3 people = \$525
Lodging \$100 per night x 6 nights x 1 rooms= \$600
Transportation (flights): \$250 x 3 tickets = \$750
Amount Requested: \$2,000

Early Registration (May 1st – June 9th): \$175 x 8 people = \$1,400
Lodging \$100 per night x 6 nights x 2 rooms= \$ 1,200
Transportation AS Vehicle: \$.45 per mile x 2600 miles = 1,200
Amount Requested: \$4,000

*These prices are subject to change

Operational Enhancement: FXXENH

Operational Enhancement	\$10,000
Oregon Students of Color Conference	\$ 1,062
Lobby Day (underwrite)	\$ 3,000
Special Elections (underwrite)	\$ 157
WSA Lobby Day	\$ 286
Take Back the Night Security	\$ 750
NCCWSL Conference	\$ 920
B2B Reunion	<u>\$ 353</u>
Total remaining (approximate)	\$ 3472

Requested allocation:	
USSA Congress	<u>\$ 3000</u>
Remaining in acct if requests approved	\$ 472

Rationale

Student representation is a core value and responsibility of the AS. Sending more students to USSA Congress has many benefits to students including increasing and enhancing student representation at the federal level as well as providing various trainings to students who can bring those skills back to campus.