

Proposed Motion: *Designate funds NTE \$8000 from FXXRES to support critical maintenance of KUGS equipment on the Sehome Hill broadcast tower.*

Sponsor: *Chris Miller (VU Technical Services) and Jamie Hoover (KUGS-FM)*

Persons of Contact: *Jamie Hoover, Chris Miller*

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Background and Context:

KUGS-FM transmits from an antenna on the radio tower on Sehome Hill, which is owned by the City of Bellingham (COB). COB uses the tower for its own radio transmissions, and leases space to KUGS and other entities. There are two issues with the KUGS antenna and/or cabling on the tower, which will require evaluation and maintenance from Harrington Tower Services:

- 1. The KUGS-FM broadcast signal has been intermittently failing since February. KUGS receives complaints from listeners nearly every day as to the poor quality of the broadcast. Our contract Maintenance Engineer has requested that we send our contract Tower Services crew up to investigate.*
- 2. Another entity leasing space on the Sehome tower (AT&T) has determined that the KUGS broadcast signal is causing interference with their own transmissions. They have threatened to file a complaint with the FCC, which could result in financial penalty to the University or revocation of our broadcast license. They are also adamant that we send a Tower Services crew up to review the equipment.*

Given these conditions, it is essential to the continued operation of KUGS that we use our contracted Tower Services provider to evaluate the state of our broadcast equipment on the tower, and make any repairs/replacements necessary to resolve the broadcast issues above.

Summary of Proposal:

Our contracted Tower Services provider is Harrington Tower Services. They have quoted us a cost of \$2789.02 to climb the tower and replace the cabling between the tower and the transmitter. If they discover additional issues that require an additional trip up the tower, it will add approximately \$3000 to the cost of the project. There may be additional, unanticipated costs as well. We are asking for funds not to exceed \$8000 from AS Reserves to support this emergency repair.

Fiscal Impacts:

This project will reduce AS Reserves by a maximum of \$8000. There are no AS operating funds currently earmarked to support this level of maintenance for KUGS. Past maintenance issues of this magnitude have been funded by the KUGS Foundation account; however, those funds are limited and it is not financially sustainable to rely on those funds to address core programmatic needs such as the maintenance of broadcast infrastructure.

Rationale:

KUGS-FM is an activity of the Associated Students of WWU, licensed by the FCC since 1974. It is a major program of ASWWU, employing seven salaried students and providing up to 100 volunteer opportunities for students, with a wide listenership on campus and in the Bellingham community. It offers public affairs programming in support of the ASWWU commitment to diversity, and it provides a platform for informing students of AS events and resources. The broadcast infrastructure is a core programmatic necessity; the operation of KUGS is necessarily dependent on the maintenance of this infrastructure.