American Indian Student Cultural Center

January 24th, 2012

Student Services Fee Request for 2013 - 2014 Academic Year

300 Washington Avenue SE #204

Address

612-624-0243          aiscc@umn.edu
Phone                Fax            Email

“We acknowledge that the Fees Committee does not award actual dollars, but rather a penny fee that earns dollars based upon student enrollment levels. Any differences between anticipated and actual income resulting from changes in enrollment are the responsibility of the student organization, not of the Fees Committee.”

Christopher Hammerly          Drew Coveyou
Preparer’s Name                Co-Preparer’s Name
Hamme381@umn.edu               covey032@umn.edu
Preparer’s Email               Co-Preparer’s Email

Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit?    Yes______________  No_x____________
If yes, please provide proof of your organization’s 501(c)(3) status.

Funds are being requested for (check all that apply):

General Operating Support:  x  Start-Up Costs:  Capital:

Project / Program Support:  x  Technical Assistance:  x  Other (List):

Budget

Dollar Amount Requested  $33,727.00
Total Annual Organization Budget  $44,087.40
Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating)  $35,885.00
Important Note: All Student Services Fee applications will be evaluated using the Guidelines for Decision-Making found on pages 20-21 of the Student Services Fee Handbook. It is critical for your application to address these guidelines in your written application. Please reference/describe how your organization meets particular/applicable guidelines in Section 1, Section 3 and/or Section 5 of the written portion of your application and in your program breakdown included in the SSF budget worksheet.

History

In a grassroots effort to establish a positive environment for American Indian scholars, American Indian students began to meet regularly in the early 1970’s; the AISCC was founded in 1975 in 104 Jones Hall. Few resources and support services were available to American Indian students at the time, so they occupied space in an empty classroom. The American Indian Student Cultural Center (AISCC) was officially established in 1975, however the group previously existed first as cultural center and its atmosphere have been vital to American Indian students and non-Indian students for over 30 years. Our presence on the University of Minnesota campus is essential in fostering cultural understanding and educating fellow students on issues surrounding cultural identity and diversity on this multicultural campus.

Mission

In our 30 years we have developed a three-point mission to serve as an organization that:

- Meets the needs of American Indian students on our multicultural campus.
- Functions as an agent for educating the broader University of Minnesota community about American Indian cultures and traditions.
- Provides a bridge between American Indian communities and the University of Minnesota.

The AISCC’s leadership, cultural, and outreach programs retain American Indian students by making their education at the University of Minnesota relevant to their lives. Programming at the AISCC falls under five main categories, which correspond to the purpose of the AISCC and its constitution:

- Education
- Diversity
- Programs and Cultural Activities
- Leadership Development
- Community outreach

Examples of some of our past events that fall under these categories include the Fall Powwow, Winter Storytelling, Honoring American Indian Women, Frybread Frydays, and American Indian Student outreach with Minneapolis Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools and Osseo Area Schools Indian Education Programs.

The AISCC builds an understanding of American Indian people within the larger University community. We hope every University student graduates having learned something about the breadth and depth of American Indian cultures and their contributions to American society.

Beyond drawing a diverse University audience, our programming attracts American Indian people from all over the Metro area and other American Indian communities in the region. The American Indian community has looked toward the AISCC for providing annual community events where students from across campus can interact with one of the largest urban American Indian populations in the country. We
also work with the American Indian Studies Department to develop curricula and events that are relevant to both students and other University community members.

The AISCC board oversees the programming that is funded by student service fees. The AISCC members elect their board annually. The board holds weekly meetings, which are open to all students and other University community members. The board has established partnerships with several campus groups to increase the variety of events the board funds, in order to reach a larger diverse population and to enhance campus life. The board also oversees the student staff and works closely with them to enact the goals of the board, establish leadership, launch new initiatives, and create new projects for the cultural center. The AISCC serves as the host for many American Indian campus events and serves as a resource for all students by providing awareness of American Indian cultural history and contemporary issues.

**AISCC Relationships**

The AISCC has had numerous relationships with a variety of organizations and we continue to value and cultivate those relationships. Having strong ties with most of these organizations helps us to provide large events and activities for the University community. We have developed opportunities to build community with the following organizations:

- Circle of Indigenous Nations (COIN)
- The American Indian Studies Department
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)

The board also works to maintain relationships with other student groups to celebrate diversity and learn about each other. We interact with the following groups by attending each other’s events, sharing space to help host events, and/or lending our sponsorship:

- La Raza Student Cultural Center
- Queer Student Cultural Center (QSCC)
- Black Motivated Women (BMW)
- Women’s Student Activist Collective (WSAC)
- American Indian Cultural House (AICH)
- Minnesota Student Association (MSA)

**Illustration of Need**

At this time, American Indian students make up 1.2% of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities student population. Organizations like the American Indian Student Cultural Center help to increase retention rates of American Indian students on campuses of other large universities. The three parts of the University of Minnesota’s mission statement outline the University’s commitment to diversity. The University mission statement also emphasizes the University’s commitment to prepare students for, “active roles in a multiracial and multcultural world.” American Indian student enrollment enriches the University community and assists the University in fulfilling its mission and commitments.

In 2010 the University of Minnesota Twin Cities students who identified themselves as American Indian had a 24.1% four-year graduation rate. This 24.1% four year graduation rate is an obvious disparity within the University of Minnesota. American Indian students across the country have lower four-year graduation rates than all other minorities. The University of Minnesota Twin Cities has an innovative and extensive network of support for American Indian students, which has led to the success of many of those students. However the four-year graduation rates clearly show that although American Indian students are graduating, the University needs to continue to make a concentrated effort to recruit, support, retain and graduate its American Indian students.
The American Indian Student Cultural Center exists to provide cultural and academic support for American Indian students and to help facilitate awareness and outreach for all the students on the Twin Cities campus. Many American Indian students at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities come from reservations, rural areas, and areas where a high proportion of the population are American Indian people. These students can become overwhelmed by the environmental and demographical differences of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. The proportion of American Indian students to non-minority students is such that American Indian students often feel isolated on campus. The American Indian Student Cultural Center space and events create a sense of belonging for American Indian students, which positively relates to academic success.

Other University of Minnesota Twin Cities students may come from areas where there is a very low population of American Indian people and may not have any awareness or experience of American Indian peoples and cultures. Many students have never had an opportunity to attend an American Indian cultural event. The University requires students to actively learn about and expose themselves to cultures other than their own. The American Indian Student Cultural Center organizes cultural events, which are open to the entire University community. The American Indian Student Cultural Center is a vital part of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities because it is a space where American Indian students themselves become cultural resources to each other and to non-American Indian students.

**How Our Organization Meets the Need**

The American Indian Student Cultural Center is designed to create a space on campus for American Indian students and non-American Indian students to meet, study, and socialize together. The space is decorated with American Indian artwork and resources for students are made available in the center. The center is also a place where cultural events from the greater Minnesota community are advertised. The AISCC is an important resource for new students. Interaction with older students assists incoming students in developing a real connection to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. The AISCC is also a popular place for older students to study, socialize, and find resources useful for planning life after college. Several times a semester, the AISCC meets with touring American Indian high school students who are interested in learning more about higher education and the opportunities on the Twin Cities campus. The AISCC and its programs leave a strong impression on the students and many University of Minnesota students have stated that the existence of the organization was a deciding factor in their choice to attend the University.

Students utilize the services that the American Indian Student Cultural Center provides on a daily basis. The center space provides a safe, welcoming, and clean study area to students with access to phone, Internet, computers, and printing facilities. The AISCC is staffed by 1st year students who are hired as well as board members who volunteer their time to assist others in utilizing the resources available at the center. The staff also welcomes new and visiting students to the center. The large events that the American Indian Student Cultural Center hosts, such as the Spring Powwow and the Winter Storytelling are attended by a wide variety of people from both the Twin Cities community as well as from the greater community. Smaller scale events such as Frybread Frydays are opportunities for students to learn about various aspects of American Indian culture and socialize with other students, members, and the board in a casual manner. The environment of the AISCC provides a space for building relationships essential for the growth of all students and the University of Minnesota community.
Derived Student Benefit

Listed below are the derived student benefits:

Academic Support

- Free computer, telephone, internet access, and printing.
- Quiet, safe, welcoming study areas.
- Growing library of American Indian journals, publications, newspapers, books, and other materials for students.
- Place for students to hold study groups, particularly American Indian Studies and American Indian language studies students.
- Tutoring hours for several American Indian studies courses.
- Working in conjunction with American Indian Studies Department to provide meeting space for Ojibwe/Dakota Language study groups and Language Tables/Feasts.
- Resource for non-American Indian students with questions and concerns regarding American Indian issues.

American Indian Cultural Awareness

- Large annual events – Fall Round Dance & Feast, Winter storytelling Heritage Week, Spring Powwow & Feast, and Honoring Indian Women’s Luncheon
- Host nationally acclaimed Indigenous scholars, artists, writers and educators at the University
- Work in conjunction with several Twin Cities campus groups in order to promote health awareness including sexual health resources, diabetes information, alcohol responsibility, and mental health information
- Work in conjunction with Admissions to bring American Indian high school students from the Midwest region to the University of Minnesota for campus and AISCC tours.
- Friendly staff who provides information and resources to students looking for information about American Indian cultures.

Student Involvement

We encourage all of our board members to take an active role in the running of the American Indian Student Cultural Center. Our members volunteer their time to assist in staffing our cultural center. For many of our large events we have a number of students as well as board members who volunteer to help with a variety of tasks such as serving on a committee, general event planning, and event execution. Registered students elect our board and all are welcome to attend meetings and inform our board of any problems/suggestions that they may have. All registered students are eligible to run for election. Our events/activities are planned with the students’ interests in mind. Planned for spring 2013 is the institution of a general membership drive to increase the opportunities for student involvement in the AISCC.
**AISCC President Duties:** Preside over all meetings of the organization and serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee. Act as an official representative of the center at other meetings and events. Oversee all officer’s positions and duties, keep the board cohesive in making decisions and executing events.

**AISCC Vice President Duties:** Preside at meetings of the organization and the Executive Committee in the absence of the president. Succeed the president if the president becomes unable to complete his/her terms of office. Act as the coordinator of subcommittees. Be in attendance at all events in the absence of the president.

**AISCC Treasurer Duties:** Oversee all financial transactions of the organization. Maintain thorough and accurate records of all transactions. Maintain a filing system of all AISCC transactions. Produce financial reports as required by the organization. Reports transactions made and balances at weekly board meetings.

**AISCC Secretary Duties:** Record and produce minutes of all meetings. Handle the organization’s correspondence including: voicemail, e-mail, mail, agenda, meeting minutes and membership registration.

**AISCC Director of Center Duties:** Maintain the physical space of the AISCC, including maintenance and technical support. Order supplies with board approval, hire student workers and complete the schedule for AISCC with student worker hours as well as board member volunteer hours. Oversee student worker positions.
**AISCC Community Outreach Coordinator Duties:** Advertise for all AISCC events. Oversee all public relations. Assist the president in all representative matters. Meet weekly with AISCC members/students for feedback on events and concerns relating to the center.

**AISCC Event Planner Duties:** Organize events approved by the AISCC Board of Directors, including catering, facilities rental, etc. Be the connection between the AISCC board and possible event staff of any kind. Be present at each event.

### Section 3: Performance Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>2013-2014 (Projected)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Frybread Fryday  
September 28th  
“Welcome Back” | 70 | 56 | 65 | Gathering to talk about American Indian Cultures and have Frybread |
| Cultural House Retreat  
September 8th | 25 | 20 | 25 | Event to build a relationship with first year students in the American Indian Cultural House |
| Frybread Fryday  
October 26th  
| Frybread Fryday  
November 16th  
“Thanks-Taking” | 80 | 61 | 70 | Gathering to discuss Thanksgiving from the American Indian perspective, featuring writer and presenter Dawi Huhamaza. |
| Native American Heritage Month Kickoff  
November 2nd | N/A | 30 | 40 | Gathering to cook and eat a variety of traditional American Indian foods. |
| Honoring American Indian Women Luncheon  
November 8th | 45 | 100 | 125 | Event to honor Native Women who have made a change in surrounding Native communities through their profession and/or community work |
| American Indian Literature: Author Susan Power  
November 13th | N/A | 40 | 50 | Event to illuminate one of the Native American authors in the Twin Cities. |
| Native Comedy Night  
November 28th | N/A | 100 | 125 | Event that featured comedians in the Native Community including University of Minnesota students, faculty, and alumni. |
| Fall Round Dance  
November 30th | N/A | 250 | 300 | Event facilitating a traditional round dance and feast. |
| Frybread Fryday  
February  
March  
April  
May | Projected: 50 | 50 | 50 | Gathering to talk about American Indian Culture and have Frybread. Frybread Frydays have varying themes that are decided by the week prior. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Projected Attendance</th>
<th>Projected Attendance</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Story-Telling</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>A gathering to tell Native American stories from different cultures and a feast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Powwow</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>A traditional gathering dances and socializing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe Ceremony</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>A traditional ceremony in which students of the Dakota and Ojibwe language classes are invited to participate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian Heritage Week</td>
<td>30/event</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>A week of events focused on relevant topics in the American Indian community such as Alcoholism Awareness, Beading Workshops, and Sunrise Ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dakota Astronomy Presentation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Guest Speaker Jim Rock presented on Dakota star knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Day April</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>An event focused on our relationship with the Earth as Indigenous people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Issues Discussion</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>An event to raise awareness current issues and events related to indigenous peoples such as the Idle No More movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Floor Talent Show</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>A talent show for students from 2nd floor organizations to show their unique talents and build relationships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian Month</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>40/event</td>
<td>Several on-campus events to kick off American Indian Month (May).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring/Fall Finals Feast</td>
<td>30/feast</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>The AISCC provides food and beverages to celebrate the end of the semester as well as snacks for students who visit the center during finals week.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reserve Accounts**

At this time, the AISCC board keeps no separate bank account for reserve funds. However, the AISCC board does aim to keep a 10 percent reserve in our main bank account, to which only the president, vice president and the treasurer have access. The reserve amount is calculated each year when we are awarded fees; the reserve is 10 percent of what we are wholly awarded at the end of the student service fees process. Our ability to maintain this reserve is dependent on our fundraising tactics for the year, our ability to create and provide programming and services that are effective in reaching and educating the University community, all cost effectively. The reserve from 2011-2012 was greater than 10 percent due to both the grants received for the Spring Powwow ($8,400) and the unexpected lower cost of the Fall Powwow ($7,000 left over due to a collaboration with AISES).
**Total Fees Request**

The American Indian Student Cultural Center fee request for 2012-2013 is: $33,727.00. The AISCC board believes if we are awarded the full amount of our fees request, we will be able to fully meet the goals we have set forth for our organization in the 2013-2014 academic year. The board members of the 2012-2013 year are currently planning on greatly expanding our programming, services and collaborations with other student groups for the 2013-2014 academic year and beyond. We are continually building new relationships with various student groups and building bridges off campus into the community. The vision of the AISCC Board is to maintain, create and promote American Indian leadership and cultural awareness to the students of the University of Minnesota and the Twin Cities Community at large.

At this time, the AISCC board has decided to remain open on a volunteer basis during summer 2014. One member of our board will be staffing the center for one day each month in order to check the mail and keep the physical space in a clean and orderly condition. We plan to work with the office of admissions to schedule tours and coordinate the hours of the AISCC in order to showcase resources available to the future students of the University of Minnesota. The services offered during the summer will be the same as those offered during the academic year, and summer students will benefit in many of the same ways all other students do from the presence and access to our organization’s services and space.

**Description of Impact at a 10 Percent Reduction in Fees Request**

A 10 percent reduction our fees request would challenge our board and members to continue operating the AISCC at the same level of productivity that has occurred in the 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013 school years. A decrease in funding would preclude our ability to hire student workers and keep our space open to students at the level of access provided now.

Although a 10 percent reduction in our fees request would decrease the amount of revenue, the AISCC works to improve the quality and amount of our fundraising ventures in order to ease the financial stress of operational and programming expenses. The services likely effected by a decrease in funding would be the daily services offered in our center such as free printing, access to computers with relevant programming, study space, as well as educational and general access to the space. A funding decrease would affect our larger events at which we are able to reach and impact a large number of Twin Cities campus students and community members. Expenditures would be mostly limited to operational costs, and the cultural programming we provide to the University would suffer.

There has been a great increase in the degree to which our space is used and the effectiveness of the services we offer students, this is due in large part to the AISCC receiving more funds to hire workers and keep technology upgraded. Our daily services are a vital component to the school week of American Indian and non-American Indian students; our center provides a comfortable space to gather, research, write and print documents, eat, and rest in an environment in which its members are driven to uphold these opportunities and serve the American Indian student community.

Please be aware that the complete Student Services Fee application, including budget pages (Excel spreadsheets) should be downloaded from the Fee website:

[http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/](http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/)