American Indian Student Cultural Center

January 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2014

Student Services Fee Request for the 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

234 Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Address

612-625-0243  aiscc@umn.edu
Phone           Fax       Email

“We acknowledge that the Fee 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 Fee Committee.”

Elizabeth Cates          Drew Coveyou
Preparer’s Name          Co-Preparer’s Name

Cates033@umn.edu        covey032@umn.edu
Preparer’s Email         Co-Preparer’s Email

Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit?  Yes\underline{X}  No \underline{X}
If yes, please provide proof of your organization’s 501(c)(3) status.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Operating Support</th>
<th>Start-Up Costs</th>
<th>Capital</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project / Program Support</th>
<th>Technical Assistance</th>
<th>Other (List)</th>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
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Budget

- SSF Dollar Amount Requested $42,351
- Total Annual Organization Budget $63,151
- Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $53,370
Section 1: Narrative

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. Amidst a dangerous and racist social climate on campus during the American Indian Civil Rights Movement, few resources and support services were available to American Indian students, so the first space was obtained via occupation 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 has 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 Reception, 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. It is our goal to educate the University community about the breadth and depth of American Indian cultures and their presence in and contribution 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 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 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 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)
- Office for Equity and Diversity

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)
- American Indian Cultural House (AICH)
- Minnesota Student Association (MSA)

**Illustration of Need**

As of the fall of 2013, American Indian students were 1.1% 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 multicultural world.” American Indian student enrollment enriches the University community and assists the University in fulfilling its mission and commitments.

In 2012 the University of Minnesota Twin Cities had an overall six-year graduation rate of 65.7%. Students who identified themselves as white had a 68.3% six-year graduation rate. Students who identified themselves as American Indian had a 26.8% six-year graduation rate. This 26.8% six year graduation rate is an obvious disparity within the University of Minnesota. American Indian students across the country have lower six-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 some students. However, the six-year graduation rates clearly show that although some 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 provides opportunities to fulfill this requirement by organizing cultural events that 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, and computers. In previous years, the AISCC was staffed by two (2) first year students who are hired by the Director of Center and approved by the
board, each of which work 10 hours per week are paid a wage of $8.00 per hour, as well as board members who volunteer their time to assist others in utilizing the resources available at the center. The paid first year staff are a vital part of the continued success of the organization. First, they allow board members to use their time planning events and fulfilling their higher level duties rather than attending to basic secretarial duties such as data entry, taking messages and answering the phone, sending and writing the newsletter, and greeting people who come into the center. Second, they serve as a bridge between first year students and established members of the organization. Third, many of our student workers eventually end up serving as board members in their later years, and this job gives them a chance to see how the organization works and to feel prepared to take on the responsibility of a leadership role. Since we do not have student workers, however, we lack this unique opportunity to develop new board members.

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, and internet access
- 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**

- Host large annual events – *Fall Round Dance & Feast, Winter storytelling Heritage Week, Spring Powwow & Feast, and Honoring Indian Women’s Reception*
- 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.
Employ friendly staff that 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. Beginning in the Spring of 2013 we the instituted what we have called the “general membership program” to increase the opportunities for student involvement in the AISCC. Since we have implemented this program we have seen a huge increase in non-board member involvement in planning committees, at events, and generally in the day to day operations of the center. We now have a solid base of members of the organization and are committed to ensuring that we are successful in all of our endeavors. We also find that it is not only Native students who get involved with planning and volunteering, but also non-native students who want to learn more about indigenous cultures of the Americas. Because of this diverse involvement from students of all backgrounds, we feel that our organization is consistent with the goals of the University as a whole, as well as the goals of our own organization.

**Section 2: Organizational Chart**

**The AISCC Structure**
**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 University Outreach Coordinator Duties:** Promote events to, coordinate outreach to, and arrange opportunities for collaboration with student groups, multicultural organizations within the University, and other University offices. Update the officers and general body of cultural center and University events of interest. Coordinate classroom visits.

**AISCC Media Director Duties:** Design, print, and distribute advertisements, manage social media and website, maintain promotional material for tabling purposes.

**AISCC Historian Duties:** Manage archiving of organization documents, including planning and advertising documents. Photograph organization events.

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**Section 3: Performance Report**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural House Retreat September 8th</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0*</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event to build a relationship with first year students in the American Indian Cultural House. *Due to very low enrollment in the AICH.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September Community Retreat: September 13th</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>We played board games and had a quick informational meeting to kick off the new school year</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Frybread Fryday October 11th: Misappropriation of Native Cultures in Fashion</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We hosted a panel discussion with Native students to discuss the impact of the appropriation of Native Cultures in modern fashion.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>October Community Retreat</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>We had a short meeting to recruit volunteers and update our general membership about what’s going on, then watched a movie together</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anti-Columbus Day: October 14th</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion and flag-making activity to raise awareness of first contact and colonization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frybread Fryday November 1st &quot;Traditional Foods/Heritage Month Kickoff&quot;</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gathering to announce the Heritage Month events while sharing indigenous foods.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Honoring American Indian Women Reception November 6th</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event to honor Native Women who have made a change in surrounding Native communities through their profession and/or community work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Appropriation Exhibit/Current Issues Symposium</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>This event encourages discussion and education about issues important to modern Native people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redskins Protest: Banner and poster-making collaboration with AIM.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>One-time event</td>
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<tr>
<td>A collaboration with the Minneapolis chapter of AIM to raise awareness and prepare for a march/protest targeted at the “Redskins” as a racist team name.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beading Workshop November 11th</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minneapolis local Deanna Beaulieu facilitated a workshop to make beaded pouches for participants to keep.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Actual</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Comedy Night</td>
<td>November 14th</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Round Dance</td>
<td>November 22nd</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Community Retreats:</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Projected: 25 per retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Community Retreats: January 24th; February 7th; March 7th; April 11th; May 9th.</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Projected: 25 per retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frybread Fryday January 31st: Two-Spirit Society</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Projected: 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Story-Telling</td>
<td>February 21st</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Projected: 250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frybread Friday February 28th: Native Music</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Projected: 75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Powwow March 15th</td>
<td></td>
<td>750</td>
<td>Projected: 750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frybread Fryday March 28th: Native Languages</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Projected: 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frybread Fryday April 18th: Youth Outreach</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Projected: 60</td>
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Section 4: 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 2012-2013 was slightly less than 10% of total income, but almost exactly 10% of our requested SSF funding - $3,000. We are projected to have a small carry over of approximately 1% of the overall budget, in addition to operational reserves.
**Section 5: Fees Request**

The American Indian Student Cultural Center fee request for 2014-2015 is $42,351.00. This request is a significant increase over our previous requests and awards. We are looking to expand events that are growing in popularity, such as our Spring Powwow. We are also hoping to introduce new events celebrating our 40th anniversary on campus and to continue to build our relationship with surrounding Native American communities. The vision of the AISCC is to maintain, create, and promote American Indian leadership and cultural awareness to students and the surrounding communities, and this additional funding will allow us to keep building relationships with our audiences.

While AISCC board members will occasionally access the office during the summer, the AISCC will be effectively 0% operational in the summer of 2015. However, the AISCC plans to work with University Admissions to schedule tours of the office as our members are available to showcase our services.

**Section 6: External Funding**

The AISCC is supported primarily by funding through Student Services Fees, but we supplement key programming through other avenues as well. These other funding sources include SUA Coke Event Grants, which we are progressively taking more and more advantage of each year. For 2014-2015, the AISCC will apply for a total of 4 of these grants.

The AISCC partners with the Circle of Indigenous Nations and the Office for Equity and Diversity to fund our largest event every year, the Spring Powwow. For this event, the AISCC generally covers approximately 65% of costs, with OED and SUA covering the remaining 35%. If our full SSF funding request is granted, our budget will be funded by SSF for 68%, with the remaining 32% being primarily from SUA Coke Event Grants and OED funding mentioned above. Simply put, there are not enough Coke Grants or available funding from sources like OED and MSA to fulfill our programming and operational needs.