American Medical Student Association Pre-Medical Minneapolis Chapter #54

Friday January 24th, 2014

Student Services Fee Request for the 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

Address
126 Coffman Memorial Union 300 Washington Avenue SE

Phone Fax Email
612-226-0781

“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.”

Preparer’s Name Co-Preparer’s Name
Josh Bush Kelsey Simmons

Preparer’s Email Co-Preparer’s Email
bush0330@umn.edu simmo269@umn.edu

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: _ Other (List):

Budget

• SSF Dollar Amount Requested $37,075.00
• Total Annual Organization Budget $77,182.77
• Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $65,505.00
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.

Section 1: Narrative

The Pre-Med American Medical Student Association (AMSA) chapter was established at The University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in October 2005. Since its inception, Pre-Med AMSA has grown immensely. Pre-Med AMSA started out as a group of a dozen founding members to the present 200+ local and national pre-med members here on campus. Since 2010, we have made drastic improvements to our meeting structure and added many innovative and enriching programs/events for not only our members but also for a campus-wide audience. Over the past three years, our group has experienced overwhelming growth in terms of member recruitment and involvement. UMN Pre-Med AMSA is currently the largest Pre-Med AMSA chapter in our region (Midwest region #8 in the national level of AMSA) and the largest pre-med group on campus. There has been a great need for us to expand in our programming/events to meet the demand. In the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school year, we had over 150 members join our group locally and nationally. In the 2012-2013 school year, we added an additional 50 national members and increased our local membership by 120, equaling 260 national members and 270 local members. Our goal is to even further expand our membership during the 2014-2015 academic year. We meet on a weekly basis for 1-2 hours, and hold additional events/programs for our members and campus students to attend and learn more about medicine/healthcare and get involved in health advocacy and community service.

Our University of Minnesota Pre-Med AMSA Chapter has been recognized for our accomplishments and commitment to exceptional programming/events this past year both locally and nationally. At the national level, we were one of four chapters to receive a 2011 Paul Wright Award finalist’s award for Exceptional Service/Philanthropy and Recruitment for our achievements in the 2010-2011 school year. Along with the Paul Wright Award, we have been named National Chapter of the Semester by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). Locally on campus we have been recognized through the Tony Diggs Award for Outstanding Service/Philanthropy for our work with Better World Books, Invisible Children and our Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack.

Our organization’s objectives are modeled after the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), a nationally recognized medical student-run organization established in 1950. Currently, AMSA is made up of over 65,000 members ranging from pre-medical students, medical students, medical school faculty/deans, and practicing physicians.

Below is our national mission statement, for more information about national AMSA please go to www.amsa.org and for more information about our local chapter please go to www.umnpremed.com:

“The American Medical Student Association (AMSA), with a half-century history of medical student activism, is the oldest and largest independent association of physicians-in-training in the United States. Today, AMSA is a student-governed, national organization committed to representing the concerns of physicians-in-training. AMSA members are medical students, premedical students, interns, residents and
practicing physicians. Founded in 1950, AMSA continues its commitment to improving medical training and the nation’s health.

How is AMSA different from other organizations? When you join AMSA, you become part of a vital force of future physicians who believe that patients and health professionals are partners in the management of health care and that access to high-quality health care is a right and not a privilege. At AMSA, activism is a way of life. Student idealism is transformed into meaningful public service, innovation and institutional change.

Medical school will likely be the most difficult life challenge you have faced. From the rigorous studying to the pressure of fulfilling your roles as student, family member and friend, you need all the help you can get to succeed. AMSA is committed to improving the lives of medical students like you, in big ways and small. Our benefits will make your life just a little easier, and our magazine, The New Physician, will bring a smile to your face and provide a needed diversion from studying.

AMSA is about more than just improving medical student lives. We live in the richest country in the world, yet many have no health insurance. Research shows that health disparities are rampant in America. AMSA’s role in these issues is extremely important, because our strength is giving power to medical students to take action and create change about issues that they care about. It’s the presence of visionary medical students and our energy that makes AMSA such a powerful organization.”

The goals of Pre-Med AMSA are to help pre-medical students develop the essential qualities needed for a career in medicine through health advocacy and community service. Many current issues that affect healthcare and necessary knowledge regarding the role of a physician are not formally taught through an undergraduate curriculum. Our goal as a student group is to not only bring light to these vital issues and changes in medicine and healthcare, but to also give our members and students on campus the opportunity to get involved and advocate. This initiative is pursued through active service within our local and global community, and spreading education and knowledge about the journey to medical school and the life of a professional, practicing medicine. By joining our organization, members have been able to access new opportunities and a social network of pre-medical students, medical students, and physicians that they might not have otherwise known about.

Pre-Med AMSA typically has a meeting every week for our 200+ members and any interested non-members who are always welcome to attend. Our meetings consist of weekly updates on committees and events we are hosting, and the remaining time is focused on our weekly panel of guest speakers in medicine and healthcare. Meeting topics can range from a panel of doctors specializing in holistic health to plastic surgery, a panel of specialists on healthcare reform, a biomedical ethics committee, a volunteer coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, or a public health program representative for the MN HIV/AIDS Project. We take pride in our range and diversity of meetings, and we try to cater to our member’s interests and needs. With these presentations and discussions at our panel-style meetings, we often provide to our meeting attendees the opportunity to get involved, whether it be through shadowing the doctor presenting, volunteer/research positions, or ways to advocate and raise awareness outside of our meetings.

Aside from our weekly meetings, Pre-Med AMSA holds the same level of standards for our programs and events, to enrich members and the community on health and medicine. Pre-Med AMSA aims to help
create well rounded and balanced pre-medical students through our community outreach and involvement in health advocacy programs/events. The most popular and largest campus-wide event we hold is the Kids Against Hunger (KAH) Mobile Pack. This event happened for the third time this past Fall 2013. Through our group’s own personal fundraising efforts, we raised over $6,000 to help pay for the 50,000 meals we packed during our Mobile Pack Event. The KAH Mobile Pack event attracted over 300 diverse student volunteers from sororities to pre-pharmacy students, pre-med students to theatre majors; we spent a lot of time and effort making sure we had a diverse range of students who could come and help pack food. The Mobile Pack was our way of raising awareness to the global health issues that directly cause poverty and hunger, and its health impact on our local community. The overwhelming success and feedback from students has encouraged us to expand the event to pack more meals next year. There are not many events on campus where students not only get to physically see the impact they are making, but to meet people who they might not ever talk to through a common goal of feeding children in need. Our goal for our Fall 2014 Mobile Pack will be to pack 100,000 meals with the help of 600 student volunteers.

Another major event that Pre-Med AMSA is known for is our semi-annual Pre-Med Dinners. Pre-Med Dinners give an opportunity to pre-med students around campus to socialize and dine with approximately 40 medical students, physicians, and medical school faculty members. 100-150 pre-med student attendees have a chance to chat with doctors and understand their specialty within medicine, their medical school experience, and other ways they are involved with healthcare. Typically this also opens up doors to shadowing or research opportunities. The chance to network with such a large and diverse range of healthcare professionals is very popular amongst pre-med students, since it is so rare to have guest from different stages of medicine all at one event.

These two events are just some examples of the unique types of programs our members join our group for. Many other pre-medical organizations on campus focus solely on GPA, MCAT, and personal statements; our group is very different. We do consider medical school entrance requirements extremely important, but we like to balance it with more pro-active events/programs to highlight issues in medicine and our community. Unlike other pre-med groups on campus we do not cap or deny anyone of membership due to their college affiliation, GPA, and/or major. We make every effort to ensure that Pre-Med AMSA is inclusive to all students regardless of age, GPA, gender or ethnicity.

Along with providing information about the medical school application process through question and answer sessions with medical students and physicians and hosting MCAT/AMCAS/personal statement/mock interview workshop, we provide an exclusive deal on campus for all our national members. Pre-Med AMSA is the only group on campus with a platinum contract with Kaplan, a company who provides students with prep-courses for graduate/professional schools. Members on campus are able to earn a stackable 10% discount on Kaplan prep-courses to assist students while preparing for the MCAT. With this stackable discount, our members are able to save an additional $250-400 dollars off MCAT prep-course materials as compared to other groups on campus.

Pre-Med AMSA also provides general members with leadership committee chair opportunities to coordinate events and direct volunteers for nonprofit organizations we support, such as Kids Against Hunger and People Serving People Homeless shelter. Involvement in these leadership activities leads members to the core of our group the Executive Board, the driving force of our club. We believe and strive
for our members to be given opportunities to shine and take initiative, to build our future leaders of our group. This past year some of the committee chair positions were held by non-executive board general members who planned and coordinated some of the most organized and successful events, such as semi-annual campus blood drives for the American Red Cross, Better World Books Drive, and our Relay for Life team.

Section 2: Organizational Chart

### Executive Board:
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Events Coordinator
- Public Relations Officer
- Health Advocacy

### Committee Chairs:
General Member who leads a committee for an event/program

### General Members:
Members who join our group locally and/or nationally

**Figure 2. General Outline of Annual Goals**

**Fall Semester:**
- 3 Recruitment Events/Fairs, 2 Advocacy Events, 2 Regional American Medical Student Association Conference, 1 Pre-Med Dinner, Minimum of 8 Volunteer Events, 11 General Body Meetings, 1 Medical Student Mentor Program Kickoff, 1 Mobile Pack Event, 2 All Membership Social Networking events, 1 Chapter Leadership Forum, 1 Hunger Banquet, 1 Bioethics Week

**Spring Semester:**
- 2 Recruitment Event/Fair, 1 National American Medical Student Association Conference, 3 Advocacy Events, 1 Pre-Med Week, 1 Pre-Med Dinner, Minimum of 8 Volunteer Events, 8 General Body Meetings, 2 All Membership Social Networking events, 1 Election, 1 Medical Student Mentor Program Kickoff, Thank You Event, 1Wrap-Up Social Event, 1 HIV/AIDS Awareness Event, 1 Health/Wellness Week, 1 Mental Health Awareness Event
Section 3: Performance Report

- Average number of students at general meetings: 90-150 members
- Average number of students at bi-weekly volunteer events: 15-30 members
- Kids Against Hunger Mobile Pack: 50,000 meals packed, which feeds 100,000 children for three days, or 3 villages of nearly 100 people for a year. We hope to pack 100,000 meals next year to result in an increase in student involvement and the number of people we are reaching out to.

Table 1: (All tables are also included in the Budget Xcel File)
This membership report is compiled by the National AMSA office. Currently since Dec 2013, we have 250 registered national pre-med AMSA members in our chapter, out of all the chapters in our region; we have the highest numbers in recruitment and membership numbers. About 70% of our local members have paid to become national members.

Table 2: Local Membership Participation Log (NOTE: this only accounts for people who are active members who volunteer, some members choose to just attend meetings, where no AMSA BUCKS can be earned for attendance. The table was too big to fit on this application: The local membership AMSA BUCKS participation table is included on a separate attachment). This is an excel sheet of our “AMSA BUCKS” system to record participation of each member through volunteer events and donations. This system allows a measurable resource of member activity level to help determine eligibility for committee chair positions and board elections for the 2014-2015 school year.

Table 3: Listserv Marketing Audience. Our Listserv shows that our biweekly e-mails reach 2,080 students, which is a wide variety of both pre-medical students and those who have moved on to different subject areas. This large e-mail audience allows for our events and opportunities to reach a diverse population of students at the University of Minnesota.
Figure 3. In a recent survey we sent out at the end of the semester we asked what they liked most about AMSA so far; The majority of responses included: doctor presentations, mentorship program, and the varied opportunities we offer to get involved.

What do you like most about AMSA so far?

Answered: 44  Skipped: 0

I like the variety of speakers. I'm only a first year student so I don't know what field of medicine I'm interested in yet so this gives me a nice overview of many different career paths.
10/15/2013 8:26 PM  View respondent's answers

All the opportunities I am getting to do, for example the mentorship program. I also like that I'm learning more about the medical field and med-school because I was really clueless before.
10/2/2013 11:10 PM  View respondent's answers

All of the opportunities that it provides for people trying to go pre med.
10/2/2013 8:17 PM  View respondent's answers

Broad range of topics covered with good speakers!
10/1/2013 11:01 PM  View respondent's answers

So far I like hearing from The physicians that come In To talk to us. I think the set up is really nice and the presentations are always interesting.
10/1/2013 10:22 PM  View respondent's answers

I like the inviting atmosphere and all of the opportunities that are offered.
10/1/2013 10:03 PM  View respondent's answers

Section 4: Reserve Accounts

Name of the account:
UMN Pre-Med AMSA

Current amount in the account:
$1,579.70 as of 01/22/14 via TCF group checking account

Purpose of the account:
The TCF account is for group payments on the following expenses: food, printing, t-shirts, brochures/DVDs (recruitment items), Thank You gifts, supplies, and room rentals.

Note: Additional information the committee may find helpful is that through our platinum contract partnership with Kaplan INC, we are allotted a minimum of 4 courses/yr (total for selling 4 courses equal to approximately $6,400) to sell to raise money for our student group. This is our biggest means of getting any income other than writing grants through SUA and receiving Student Service Fees. We also are eligible for possibly up to 2 more courses a year during Kaplan promotions if we meet a competitive quota for assisting Kaplan in marketing.
Section 5: Fees Request

UMN Pre-Med AMSA is requesting $37,075 in Student Services Fees for the 2014-2015 school year. This request is a large decrease from the 2013-2014 request of $58,545. This decrease in request is due to our more efficient spending plan based off of our events and meetings. We are continuously seeking to improve our current programs and events, and expand the most popular, successful, and impactful events and programs. This means that we have excluded some past events and included new events that are not only more beneficial to our group, but also cheaper. The $37,075 is, however, an increase in the fees we actually received for the 2012-2013 school year. We feel that an increase in funds will allow our group to expand to a larger population of pre-health students, whether it is through our international volunteer trip or our travel to different conferences around the country. To our smaller programs, we want to increase participation to not only our local membership but also other pre-med students campus-wide. We truly believe that our pre-med group’s only hindrance from accomplishing our goals would be due to finances and the financial limitation causes us to not be able to showcase our best efforts to our membership and campus. We have a hard-working and truly determined group of young leaders who just need the motivation and resources provided by our student group to take initiative and make a change. With the 200+ members, we anticipate growing to at least 300+ by the end of 2014, and we strive to meet that goal and commit to still coordinate the same amount of programs and events needed to meet the services our group can provide for such a large membership.

Our chapter does not stop working over the summer. Around 40% of Pre-Med AMSA’s school-year activities are still going on. Unlike other student groups, who revolve their whole group around meetings, we have always balanced our meetings with just as much events/programs outside of meeting times as well. We still hold our mentorship program for our pre-med students to meet up with medical students over the summer, along with continuing our work with Kids Against Hunger. Along with our community service works, our national members are highly encouraged to apply for one of the several internships, workshops, and leadership forums open to all pre-med students throughout the summer in Washington DC, John Hopkins, and UC Davis. During the summer we still send out information to our listserv with updates on local internships, research positions, and opportunities to form study groups for the MCAT. Summer students can always contact us for opportunities to get involved, whether it be helping our board and committees coordinate and raise funds for our Mobile Pack in the fall, or finding a good medical student mentor. We are always there to serve anyone who is considering medicine as a career path.
Section 6: External Funding

One of the defining features of Pre-Med AMSA’s efforts to secure funding outside that of Student Service Fees income is its partnership with Kaplan. One of the tenets of this partnership ensures that Pre-Med AMSA receives a guaranteed number of Kaplan courses (mentioned earlier). In addition to this, Pre-Med AMSA receives more courses in return for a certain number of filled out lead cards. The amount of guaranteed courses and number of lead cards required for each extra course are determined by the agreement between Pre-Med AMSA and Kaplan, which is subject to change each year. Last year our organization received 10 Kaplan courses. At a price of $1,600 each that’s $16,000 that the group was able to spend on meetings, events, and trips that U of M students were able to enjoy and benefit from. Not only was it money spent almost entirely on opportunities for students, but it was $16,000 that Pre-Med AMSA didn’t have to ask of student service fees. However, it is not expected that Pre-Med AMSA will continue to receive this many courses. Kaplan has recently expressed concerns that they feel they are giving more courses than they need to. This has been reflected in the change in agreement with them which now guarantees only 4 course per year.

Pre-Med AMSA also seeks revenue through grants and fundraising measures. We believe the money available from grants internal to the U of M would be well spent on some of our programs and the University seems to agree; we have already applied for three grants during the fall semester and gotten all three approved. We also plan on applying for more for spring events. In addition Pre-Med AMSA has a few fundraising measures, the most notable of which are T-shirt sales and selling tickets for our Pre-Med Dinners. Unfortunately, the fundraising measures do not raise much in comparison to our large budget. In addition, grants can only be spent on certain things. Costs like operational expenses are not eligible for grant money. With a five figure operational expense over the year, the need for Student Service Fees is evident.

The limitations of grants and fundraising in scope and size as well as decline in financial support from Kaplan will unfortunately create a heavier reliance on money from Student Service Fees. Nevertheless, this dependence has not caused Pre-Med AMSA to request more money in Student Service Fees. In fact, Pre-Med AMSA is requesting over $20,000 less than last year, or roughly only two thirds as much, despite the projected decrease in funding from other sources noted in the budget. On top of all of this we are growing as a group and plan to continue to do so. This is all possible through good financial planning and increased efficiency in our spending, and we hope to use less Student Service Fees money to do more in coming years.

Based off of last year’s actual budget breakdown and this year’s projected, it is determined that about 65% of our budget income comes from Student Service Fees. Roughly 25% comes from organizational contributions, mostly from the aforementioned Kaplan partnership. The final 10% comes mostly from grants internal to the U of M and fundraising; about 7.5% and 2.5% respectively.