Forensic Science Club #900

January 24, 2014

Student Services Fee Request for the 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

3-104 Molecular and Cellular Biology 420 Washington Avenue S.E. Minneapolis, MN 55455

Address

(612) 625-2788 (612) 626-7823 fsclub@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.”

Caitlyn Beck India Addington-White
Preparer’s Name Co-Preparer’s Name
beckx391@umn.edu addin027@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):

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

- SSF Dollar Amount Requested $ 3300
- Total Annual Organization Budget $ 4025
- Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $ 3850
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

Please use the following guidelines to provide a description of your organization:

- Brief summary of organization history, including date of establishment
  
  The University of Minnesota Forensic Science Club was established in fall of 2002 as a Campus Life Program with the College of Biological Sciences. This school year is our 11th year on campus. The club strives to have 2-3 events per month including speakers, interactive workshops, field trips and conferences. There has been consistent attendance throughout the club’s history. Through the knowledge and networking provided from the club, several past officers have graduated and moved on to positions in the field, most notably, the club’s first president and co-founder, Holly (Hofstad) Long, who now works for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Also, our former co-President, Tonja Shudy, worked as an intern Forensic Artist at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension temporarily before moving northeast this winter.

  This club is a place where a variety of students with interests ranging from general curiosity about the field to those planning a career in forensics can meet and learn more about what forensic science is and how to get more involved through experiences such as internships. Recently, the club has focused more on giving a wider perspective of the field beyond the DNA and chemistry labs and providing guidance to students who are pursuing a career in fields such as forensic anthropology and forensic psychology.

- Organization mission/vision statements, inclusive of organizational goals
  
  Mission: “To provide a place for students to network and learn about the field of forensics and what students can do if they want to pursue a career in this field.”

- Describe your organization’s relationship with organizations of like mission
  
  Our student organization may not officially partner with other student groups for our events, however we always invite student organizations with members that may benefit or share an interest in that particular specialty field. We aim to have speakers come in that cater to different professions and majors at the university to educate students about the forensic career path they are not taught in classes. For example, we had many nursing students engaging with the Forensic Nurse we had in for a speaker this fall. We also had many medical students and mortuary science students attend our meeting when we had a medical examiner as a speaker. This allowed students in all three fields to interact with a professional and ask questions to gain knowledge they would not typically get in a classroom setting. We have also annually participated in the week-long BioDays event put on by the College of Biological Sciences in the spring. At the end of fall 2011, we partnered with the Future Leaders Aspiring in Science and Healthcare (FLASH) for a charity event-- Holiday Helping Hands. The club held a bake sale to raise funds for the event. In 2012, the Forensic Science Club participated in several events hosted by Habitat for Humanity, notably including 60K day, where the club raised
300 dollars in support. The club has also established a relationship with nearby Hamline University’s Forensic Society. We have strong ties to local scientists at both the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office (HCSO) Crime Laboratory and we are working to expand our network throughout the state and beyond. The club has established a connection with the BCA crime scene team in which the club and the crime scene team participate in a network build through Habitat for Humanity. HSCO Crime Laboratory and more recently, the BCA, have expressed interest in connecting with the University of Minnesota Forensic Science Club students for internship and network opportunities.

- Illustrate the need for your organization within the University community, inclusive of how your organization meets this need

  Many students have an interest in forensics, but are not taught how they can incorporate it into their future career goals since there is no major or minor program offered at the University of Minnesota. The student organization started eleven years ago to help educate and inform any and all students with an interest in the field. This is an opportunity University of Minnesota students may not otherwise have, except perhaps through the career center. However, the club provides a network with which to make connections with like-minded peers and also continuously strives to create new experiences and offers a variety of options that our informational binder in the career center cannot provide. These include internship preparation workshops, field trips to local forensic laboratories and professional conferences, interactive events and a wide array of speakers from various specialties in the field.

- Detail the student benefit derived from your organization, whether or not students utilize services

  Many people enjoy watching CSI and other crime shows on TV, which often creates unrealistic expectations of how science is used in the justice system. This trend, known as the “CSI Effect,” is creating problems in real situations and courtrooms because the public’s knowledge is based off of fictional crime shows. The Forensic Science Club allows students to see how real-life scientists work, and how they can get involved. Students have an opportunity to find internships and receive advice and help applying for these positions. The field of forensic science is a tight-knit and competitive field. It has been shown that students with active club participation are more likely to be hired by forensic labs as interns and later as employees. Many of our past and current members have completed internships at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension’s State Crime Lab, the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Crime Lab, St. Paul Police Departments Laboratory, and the Center of Homicide Research, to name a few. In addition, as many as 10 former members are now working in forensic labs around the country. We hear a wide variety of speakers every semester, which gives students the chance to talk directly with an actual professional in the field and make a connection, as well as learn about the different specialties available for the students to pursue.

  The club also brings together people of many different disciplines/majors and backgrounds under a common interest. Students from CBS, CSE, CLA, Medical School, Clinical Laboratory Science Program, School of Mortuary Science, Nursing and even Carlson have attended Forensic Science Club events over recent years. We also attract a variety of ages, from freshman to graduate students. This puts our members in contact with others with whom they may not normally interact, which stimulates a positive student experience as they learn from their peers and broaden their perspectives.
- Describe student involvement within your organization

Students lead the organization with six officers currently creating and organizing 2-3 events per month. Three of the officers are serving their second year on the board. Students often lead events, such as our annual Internship Panel in the fall, where our past or current forensic science interns give a presentation on their experience at a local crime lab doing research or other projects, as well as when members attend conferences and share what they learned with other students in the club. Members and student groups with interests related to the speakers are e-mailed about upcoming events and are welcome to attend any and all events. The officers also hang flyers around campus to invite the general student population to events. Most of the time, students are observers or listeners, but the club works to host events where they can actively participate—from lifting latent prints using powder, to tours of local labs, to our annual Murder Mystery Dinner hosted in the spring.

Section 2: Organizational Chart

- Provide a block diagram that supplements the narrative section and details more clearly the structure of the student group. The organizational chart should provide a clear picture of the reporting structure, student involvement and programmatic areas.

Section 3: Performance Report

- Use quantitative measures to indicate the degree of use and participation of services and programs within the student group. Figures should be used to demonstrate the impact the student group has on campus life and the collegiate experience of undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

Consider the following details:
  - Participation/attendance figures
  - Survey results
  - Number of students served

The Forensic science club has had 5 events so far this year, reaching a total of 70 students throughout the semester. The average number of students we had at each event was 14. We had as many as 30 students at the Medical Examiners event; with a mixture of undergrad, Medical students,
and professional programs, such as Mortuary Science students. As a result of the SSF providing more for students at meetings and our increased efforts in garnering publicity and membership for the club, we have seen more students attend events this semester than ever before. At the end of events we have attendees fill out a survey asking them about their experience and to rate the event on a scale from one to ten. For this semester, our average overall rating for events was 8.9 out of 10. We also got very positive feedback this semester about events, and have increased activity and membership on our club’s Facebook page, as well as our website, and Twitter. As we move into the next semester, with seven events already planned, we hope to reach out to even more students, and the SSF will help us to do this.

Section 4: Reserve Accounts

- Any student group reserve accounts must be listed and described. Include the following:
  - Name of the account(s)
  - Current amount in the account(s)
  - Purpose of the account(s)
  - Additional information the committee may find helpful

The University of Minnesota Forensic Science Club does not have any reserve accounts.

Section 5: Fees Request

- State the total amount of your student services fees request. Indicate whether this amount is a decrease from last year, an increase from last year, or if this is a first-time request. The Fee Committee will be particularly interested in the reasoning behind a fee increase.

The Forensic Science club is requesting $3,300. This is a decrease from last year, as we requested $3,500.

- Regarding compensation for student employees, student group officers and/or professional staff; please include the number of compensated individuals, type of compensation (salary, hourly wage and/or stipend), compensation levels, approximate number of work hours (either per week or per semester) and general responsibilities/duties of compensated individuals.

The Forensic Science Club does not offer compensation for student employees, student group officers and/or professional staff.

- Please provide additional detail if you are requesting one-time, special or a significant funding increase as part of your SSF request. Include plausible/realistic plans, evidence that the applicant has thought through the facility, security, permitting and/or other requirements for putting on significant events, and demonstrate an understanding of the true full cost of the events or other applicant requests (where one-time, special or significant funding increases are included in the SSF application). The SSF Advisor is available to consult with applicants who wish to request one-time, special or significant funding increases.
For groups requesting more than $15,000 in annual SSF support, indicate if your organization will be either 0%, 50% or 100% operational in the summer of 2015.
- If your organization has an office, will it be open in the summer?
- What programs and services will your student group offer in the summer?
- How will students who pay Student Services Fees in the summer benefit from your organization?

Section 6: External Funding

- Describe your organization’s efforts to secure funding in addition to Student Services Fee income.
  In addition to the Student Services Fee income, the club hosts bake sales and sells t-shirts to raise money for events. Each year the club hosts a Murder Mystery Dinner and raises money through selling tickets. In the past, the club used individual grants to fund our events; however, this has not been necessary with the Student Services Fees.

- Describe your organization’s financial need for Student Services Fee support that cannot be fulfilled with alternative sources of income.
  Although we have a few fundraising events, they do not raise enough money to allow students to travel, either to professional conferences or to local crime labs. The SSF grant has allowed five students, board and non-board members, to attend two conferences this year. In the past, students have had to cover these expenses themselves, which prevented many students from attending. Also, without the funding we are unable to supply food at all the meetings. We noticed that serving food and snacks is a good way to gain more attendance at our meetings.

- State the percentage of your budget that comes from Student Services Fee income and any other sources of revenue.
  93% of our budget comes from the Student Services Fee. We have revenue from the Murder Mystery Dinner, Bake Sales, and t-shirt sales. If students go over budget on events, such as traveling to a conference, they will pay out of pocket.

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/