National Society of Black Engineers

1/24/14

Student Services Fee Request for the 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

Mechanical Engineering Bldg. 2121-B, 111 Church Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455
Address

N/A       N/A       nsbe@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.”

Vincent Knox       Hardisha White
Preparer’s Name       Co-Preparer’s Name

Knoxx098@umn.edu       whit1391@umn.edu
Preparer’s Email       Co-Preparer’s Email

Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit? Yes X  No
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project / Program Support: X</td>
<td>Technical Assistance:</td>
<td>Other (List):</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSF Dollar Amount Requested $12,139.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Annual Organization Budget $31,612.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $26,918.76</td>
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Section 1: Narrative

- Brief summary of organization history, including date of establishment

NSBE is a nationwide organization that began in 1971 by Edward Barnette and Fred Cooper of Purdue University. It was created in order to improve the recruitment and retention of black engineering students. In the late 1960’s, a devastating 80 percent of freshmen entering the Purdue engineering program dropped out, indicating a clear need for the organization. NSBE is now one of the biggest student-led organizations in the country, engaging its members to fully live out its mission:

To increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

In 2002, there was not an organization at the University of Minnesota that brought together minority Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students in an environment that truly welcomed them and offered programming and services relative to their experiences. With this intent in mind, a group of University of Minnesota students, alongside the distinguished Electrical Engineering professor, Paul Imbertson, started the University of Minnesota chapter of NSBE. Our chapter has continued this legacy of impacting the community, while providing our students opportunities for growth academically, professionally, and socially.

- Organization mission / vision statements, inclusive of organizational goals

Mission

NSBE's mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

Vision

The NSBE experience empowers every member to reach his or her full potential. We are encouraging our membership to continue the legacy while maintaining leadership roles in NSBE, Black communities, and other professional organizations. We instill pride and add value to our members, which cause them to want to give back to NSBE in order to produce a continuum of success. NSBE sets the standard of excellence in providing services to science and engineering students. We maximize our potential collectively to facilitate the development of quality Black engineers. We are advancing a cultural paradigm which inspires the Black community to achieve greater engineering and scientific feats than ever before.

Chapter Objectives

Academic Excellence: Implement successful academic excellence programs for membership to increase Chapter GPA.

Technical Excellence: Heighten membership knowledge in the importance of technical research and advanced educational opportunities.

Career Access: Promote and provide professional development in preparation for career in industry.

Cultural Awareness: Contribute to the community by lending technical expertise, personal effort and attention.

Leadership: Train and encourage members to be proactive, take on responsibilities of leadership roles and be aware of NSBE's rich heritage and tradition of professional excellence.

- Describe your organization’s relationship with organizations of like mission

NSBE here at the University of Minnesota has great relations with both minority STEM organizations, as well as African and African-American organizations on campus. Similar to MSTEM, NOBCChE, SHPE and SASE we all wish to create opportunities for growth for our members. This past fall semester we collaborated with these organizations to host a summer opportunities expose where technical professionals and students shared their experiences in both research and industry. This
opportunity guided students on how to gain more experience during the summer that will help them succeed professionally.

We work closely with ASA and BSU to affect change in our community. In the fall of 2013 we collaborated with the BSU on a welcome-back barbecue, that was made an official Welcome Week event. We also collaborated with ASA during their annual Red Spots event at the McNamara Alumni Center, which received praise for its substantial impact on students’ knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

We also work with organizations geared towards increasing the number of engineers at the University of Minnesota so that we may fulfill our mission. We have partnered with other organizations such as Innovative Engineers and Active Energy Club on community outreach projects which focus on getting K-12 students interested in science.

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

In a predominantly white institution, African and African-American students need support both academically and culturally. It is important to feel a sense of community while going through times of adversity in academia. The ASA and the BSU attempt to fulfill these needs, but there are large differences between what a STEM student wants in a student organization versus a non-STEM student.

Even with the small percentage of black students at the University of Minnesota, the amount of black STEM students is even smaller. It is important for these students to meet others that share common interests as well as common experiences. It creates great friendships as well as opportunities for collaboration, but also increases the amount of successful STEM students bettering their communities through research, unique technology applications, etc. In addition, these engineers need access to career development, academic and volunteer opportunities customized to their backgrounds, their experiences and their future goals. This enables better retention and matriculation rates of STEM students of color.

Given that black students are, on average, less prepared than their counterparts for STEM majors due to a variety of factors, they tend to shy away from the majors or transfer out of the College of Science and Engineering when it becomes too challenging. There needs to be an organization that shows these students that it is possible to overcome these institutionalized obstacles.

Our organization provides these opportunities for engineers of color in several different ways. First, we provide spaces for our members to feel welcome and secure. We host events such as general membership meetings and bowling nights, creating a positive atmosphere and causing members to learn more about each other. We encourage having a positive impact on the community by having a wide array of STEM-related volunteer opportunities available to our members as well, such as A Walk for Education (AWFE), collaboration with Teach for America, trips to White Earth, and tutoring. We also promote career development by constantly bringing in corporations to speak to our members while developing a certain skill set, such as resume workshops, your personal brand, time management, and other such presentations. These opportunities have given many of our members career, internship and co-op opportunities to excel and positively impact the University community.

In order to increase the number of black engineers on our campus, we have begun the process of creating a Pre-College Initiative (PCI) chapter. Through this chapter, based at a STEM magnet school in the metropolitan area, we will be able to mentor students as well as show them how STEM is a very real possibility as they progress towards post-secondary education.

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

The networking opportunity is the biggest benefit we have. Through the many interactions we offer students, many of our members have helped their friends earn job, internship, and co-op opportunities. For example, this fall we collaborated with NOBCChE, SHPE, MSTEM, and SASE to hold a summer opportunities expose where students had the chance to ask technical professionals any questions that
would better prepare students for a STEM career. Events such as these enable our members to meet actual working engineers in their field of study and helps give them the ammunition they need to press forward and continue fulfilling NSBE’s mission.

We also offer the feeling of belonging. We are very welcoming, and this shows in our meeting attendances. Being minorities ourselves we are aware of the many barriers and hardships one can face so we try to simplify that for our members. We show them despite the misconceptions of minorities in society, we have the ability to do great things. This is why we have fellow minority engineers in companies come speak about their experience in the industry thus encouraging our members that they can belong. Nowadays, companies may even have NSBE alumni groups therefore increasing the comfort level for Africans and African Americans.

To better align with the national organization, we are focusing more on Academic Excellence and ensuring our members are receiving the needed resources when it comes to studying and succeeding in their class. In order to accomplish this, we hold bi-weekly study nights where we provide a quiet area with other STEM students in similar courses so members as well as others can study together. At these bi-weekly study nights we provide food and beverages for them to enjoy while studying.

- **Describe student involvement within your organization**

  Our organization is completely student based and led. We have many opportunities for students to get involved and participate. This year as a board, our focus was to positively impact the community so we got involved! We are requiring members to attend at least 4 volunteering events in the spring semester and attend six NSBE events in order to receive funding from our chapter to go to the National Convention in March. We currently offer 3 volunteering events next semester with local high schools, any campus wide student volunteering events, and we will be looking for even more events to offer in the spring. We are also providing the opportunity for a few general members to help in the planning of our yearly banquet.

  Our biggest source of involvement currently is through our community outreach project which allows us to go to K-12 schools and show them some fundamentals of engineering and spark their interest in science, engineering and higher education as a whole!
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.

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                   Advisor
                   ↓                   ↓
                   President       Vice President
                                  ↓                   ↓
                                  Treasurer       Treasurer
                                  ↓                   ↓
                                  Career          Information Technology
                                  Development     Chair
                                  Chair
                                  ↓                   ↓
                                  Corporate Relations Chair
                                  ↓                   ↓
                                  Academic Excellence Chair
                                  ↓                   ↓
                                  Publicity Chair
                                  ↓                   ↓
                                  Secretary
                                  Senator
```
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:

- Number of events

30 events per semester

- Participation / Attendance figures
  - Welcome Back BBQ (50)
  - 7 General Membership meetings (40/meeting)
  - Study sessions (20/session)
  - 4 Career Development Seminar (30/seminar)
  - Summer Opportunities Expose (75)
  - Fall Regional Conference (18)
  - National Convention (30)
  - Bowling Night (40)
  - Annual Corporate Banquet (80)
  - 12 Corporate Visits (40/visit)

- Survey results or other methods of evaluation

We have over 100 members in our chapter and of which there are about 40 active members. Of that number, 22 are registered local members.

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 total amount of the student services fees request is $12,139.76. This is an increase from last year. This fee increase is largely driven by the estimate of the number of students that will be attending the Regional Leadership Conference, Fall Regional Conference and the National Convention. Our hopes are to send all 13 members to the Regional Leadership Conference next year. Due to lack of funding this school year, we are not able to send all of the students who have signed up for the Annual Convention. We have seen an increase in the numbers from last year to this year, and have used this increase to estimate the number of students who will be attending next year.
Section 6: External Funding

- **Describe your organization’s efforts to secure funding in addition to Student Services Fee income.**

Every summer, the Corporate Relations Chair for NSBE creates and sends out a corporate sponsorship package. This sponsorship package helps bring in funds for our programming needs that cannot be met by the Student Services Fee income. Although this method has brought in substantial funds for our organization the past couple of years, this income is not guaranteed. It is always a risk when planning for programming events that are based on these sponsorship funds, as funds may not be provided as estimated. If funds are not provided as estimated, programs will have to be cut. We also take the initiative to apply for grants the College of Science and Engineering offers every semester, and for SUA grants to help send students to the Fall Regional Conference and National Convention. In addition, the North Star STEM Alliance (NSSA) helps fund students to go to these conferences as well. However, the NSSA is not able to fund international students, and a good portion of our members are international students.

- **Describe your organization’s financial need for Student Services Fee support that cannot be fulfilled with alternative sources of income.**

Our organization makes a strong effort to seek external funds to support our programming and operations for the year. Between Fall 2012-Fall 2013 our organization has successfully secured $14,299.69 in company sponsorships with the hope to secure more company sponsorship funding this spring and in the upcoming years. While we have had some success in securing external funding, it is also apparent that our annual expenses increase along with our organization’s growth and programming. We have seen our organization’s budget increase from $23,598.84 (2012-2013 school term) to $26,538.89 (projection for 2013-2014 school year), and to the $31,612.31 (estimated budget for the 2014-2015 school year). Since our external funding is not guaranteed we are asking for more of a financial contribution in student service fees to ensure that we can successfully support our programming for the following year. Without the help of SSF, the number of programming events we could hold to fulfill the NSBE mission would be dramatically diminished.

- **State the percentage of your budget that comes from Student Services Fee income and any other sources of revenue.**

The $12,139.76 that our organization is requesting for Student Service Fees for the 2014-2015 academic school year makes up 38.4% of the $31,612.31 of the budget for the 2014-2015 academic year. Organizational Contributions, like sponsorships from some of the companies we have relationships would make up 20.3% ($6,429/$31,612.31) of the budget. Internal grants from the University of Minnesota would make up 18.3% ($5,780/$31,612.31) of the budget, while external grants would make up 7% ($2,200/$31,612.31) of the budget. Operational reserves would make up 15.1% ($4,763.55/$31,612.31) of the budget. This leaves the remaining .9% to come from individual contributions, which will consist of membership of dues.