Saint Paul’s Outreach

January 24, 2014

Student Services Fee Request for the 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

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“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.”

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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):

General Operating Support: [X] Start-Up Costs: [ ] Capital: [ ]

Project / Program Support: [X] Technical Assistance: [ ] Other (List): [ ]

Budget

- SSF Dollar Amount Requested $128,775
- Total Annual Organization Budget $160,340
- Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $96,704
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

▪ Brief summary of organization history, including date of establishment
Saint Paul’s Outreach is a Catholic college student group that creates an engaged Catholic community of students on campus (GDM #1 - Community). SPO began in 1985 at the University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul, MN, and has since grown to fifteen college campuses around the country. SPO came to the U of MN-Twin Cities in the Fall of 2005, and has been steadily growing in student membership ever since.

▪ Organization mission/vision statements, inclusive of organizational goals
The primary mission of SPO, reflected in SPO National mission statements, is to create a strong community of students on campus (GDM #1). We provide a Catholic community where students make life-long friends, engage in their college experience, and learn about the Catholic faith. Not only does SPO involve them in a community, but it really provides the resources students need to mature, make better life decisions, and become student leaders as they progress through college. We help students to learn to give back to the community, a life skill we know will stay with them for years to come.

▪ Describe your organization’s relationship with organizations of like mission
SPO has a great relationship with many other student groups on campus. Throughout our history on campus, we have worked with the Catholic College Student Group, Campus Crusade for Christ, Episcopal Student Group, Students for Human Life, Intervarsity, Truth in Business, The Rock Bible Studies, and MacLaurin CSF. Unity among Christian and other student groups is a priority for us; we work hard to network with other Christian groups and to promote our common mission of Jesus Christ on campus. However, we believe that we have a unique mission as Catholic students to awaken the Catholic faith on campus, so we place special importance on our core programs that awaken and mature Catholic values.

▪ Illustrate the need for your organization within the University community, inclusive of how your organization meets this need
There are an estimated 11,000 Catholic college students here at the U of MN and probably many more that have ties with the Catholic Church. Because of the large population of Catholic students on campus, there is a serious need for programs that specifically serve this population. Thus, SPO targets its programs and services to the large Catholic population consistent with this need (GDM #5). However, SPO offers all college students the opportunity to be involved with a strong student community, access to high quality leadership training programs, and a way to learn more about one of the oldest religions in existence. SPO wants to offer every student on campus support in whatever their college experience may bring. All students are looking for community, and it is SPO’s goal and vision to offer a community of mature students for all those who are interested (GDM #1, #4). While we share the common thread of being Catholic, our students come from different backgrounds, and often the only things they have in common are their college and their faith. Thus, SPO brings diverse crowd of students together, people who might never have met otherwise, and gives us all a chance to learn from one another (GDM #4 - Diversity).
Detail the student benefit derived from your organization, whether or not students utilize services

SPO offers students safe, creative, and fun programs and environments where they can learn about Christianity and meet other Christians. These environments and programs comprise the service that SPO provides to the student body (GDM #1). Within these environments and programs, SPO simply puts forth an invitation to invest in relationships with other students and learn about the Catholic faith. This benefits the student body greatly because it provides a means to grow and mature for those students who desire to learn from other, often older students. Within Saint Paul’s Outreach, students are also given a chance to ask those questions of “Who am I?”, “Why am I here?”, “Where am I going?”, and begin to answer them. Saint Paul’s Outreach offers something for each student on his/her path of questioning, not limited to reaching one portion of academics, thereby reaching students across academic departments (GDM #4). For those who are unsure of what they believe, we offer talks, Bible studies, and even retreats to begin dialogue with them. For those who are already Catholic, SPO gives them the opportunity to deepen their faith. For those who want to serve the campus and grow in leadership skills, SPO eagerly invites them to be student leaders.

A second benefit that students derive from SPO is the network of relationships that it creates. Students involved with the program are able to form committed, positive friendships with peers who can support them in their faith. These committed relationships are the foundation of the true community that SPO creates on the Twin Cities campus (GDM #1). Since SPO is a Catholic student group, it brings together students from varying cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds. Furthermore, the active members of SPO enter into dialogue with many other students of differing religious backgrounds. SPO students represent the Catholic faith, but they engage in relationships with students of other faiths (GDM #4). We offer free Bible studies, faith-sharing groups, and lectures and debates on the Catholic faith, which further diversify the campus and its student body.

Furthermore, those students involved with Saint Paul’s Outreach impact the university culture around them. As a student group, we strive to spur positive action in students in every aspect of their life: from faith, to schoolwork, to their relationships, to the sports they play, and to other groups of which they are members. These SPO students motivate those around them, positively challenging their fellow students to work hard in school and to serve other people. SPO generates student leaders that bring their skills, talents, and positive motivation to the classroom setting, sports teams, and other student groups. Thus, even students not directly involved in a SPO program are able to receive benefits from them (GDM #6). SPO desires for every student to know that there are active Catholic students on campus, and if they desire to learn more, they are welcome any time.

Describe student involvement within your organization

SPO is a student-driven and student-run organization. Student officers, or “Student Missionaries” as we call them, form a group called the Mission Team. This Mission Team plans and executes all campus events with the help of one Chapter Director and four Mission Leaders. The Mission Team is also supported by SPO National in accounting, communication, development, and training. Students are invited to be a Student Missionary by the Mission Team.

There are around 150-200 members within SPO at the U of M. Students who regularly attend events and programs are members of SPO, and these members make up a majority of the students that participate in our programs. Many of them attend and serve at our monthly SPOken meetings (renamed prayer
meetings), which are times of prayer and fellowship, our monthly men’s and women’s events, and social events throughout the semester. If a member desires to be more active and is available to do so, they are invited to lead a small group bible study. The small groups are focused on faith-sharing through scripture and building relationships. In 2010-2011, we had 5 small groups. The next year, we received student fees and had 13 small groups. Last year, we continued to expand to 20 small groups! And this year, even with almost all first time staff and student leaders, we have 38 small group leaders and 21 small groups. Small groups are very popular among our members, and any U of M student is welcome to join. Students can also apply to live in a Saint Paul’s Outreach Household, which is a Christian living situation that focuses on prayer, service and outreach. While space is limited based on available housing, we have seen a steady increase in program interest, based on the increasing number of applicants each year.

Section 2: Organizational Chart

Section 3: Performance Report

Number of students served

SPO offers an extensive range of programs that are high-quality in nature, due to the experience and creativity of the Mission Team that executes the programs. All programs are consistent with SPO’s mission to awaken the Catholic faith on campus (GDM #2).

- School of the New Evangelization
  An intense, full-time, week long training program for college students sponsored by SPO that focuses on Catholic values, education, and outreach development which equips strong student leaders for the upcoming school year. (GDM #1, #2, #3, #7)
    - 2010-2011: 10 students
2011-2012: 20 students
2012-2013: 18 students
2013-2014: 30 students

Catholic Rush Week
Week-long program of events at the beginning of the school year including a lemonade stand, a barbeque, Catholic mass, activities fairs, a service project, and a theme party to provide the opportunity to meet Christian students and learn about the programs of SPO and other Christian groups at the U of M. (GDM #5)

2010-2011: 300 students
2011-2012: 500 students
2012-2013: 600 students
2013-2014: 600 students

Alpha Retreat
Hosted in the fall, this is an opportunity for students to build community, learn about living out their faith as a college student, and develop relationships with other Christians through participation in Catholic mass, featured speakers, worship music, prayer time, and fellowship. (GDM #1, #2)

2011-2012: 50 students
2012-2013: 57 students

Small Group
Bible Studies Held in the dorms and other on-campus locations, these groups meet only bi-weekly in 2010-2011 and now meet weekly. These small groups are the one of the most important SPO programs because they allow students to connect in a setting with fewer people than the large group events and share their faith. (GDM #1, #3, #5)

2010-2011: 5 student leaders, 25 members
2011-2012: 23 student leaders, 98 members
2012-2013: 31 student leaders, 123 members
2013-2014: 30 student leaders, 130 members

SPOken Events
U of MN students gather at Coffman to hear more about Catholic values and build community. SPOken used to be a bi-monthly program and is now monthly due to the expansion of other SPO campus programs. Note: changed to Prayer Meetings for 2013-2014 and held at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, retained the same frequency. (GDM #1, #2)

2010-2011: 35 students
2011-2012: 60 students
2012-2013: 60 students
2013-2014: 50 students

Men’s and Women’s Nights
Students gather and learn what it means to be a Christian man or Christian woman and other topics within the Christian faith and learn more about the teachings of the
Catholic Church encouraging them to integrate it into their everyday lives as students. Men’s and Women’s Nights used to be a bi-monthly program and is now monthly due to the expansion of other SPO campus programs. (GDM #1, #5)

- 2010-2011: 35 students
- 2011-2012: 60 students
- 2012-2013: 80 students
- 2013-2014: 110 students

- Evangelistic Lord’s Days
  Held twice per semester, students get together to celebrate the Sabbath, grow in community, create an alternative environment to the college drinking culture, and to bring their friends. (GDM #1, #5)
  - 2010-2011: 50 students
  - 2011-2012: 60 students
  - 2012-2013: 80 students
  - 2013-2014: 70 students

- Dinner with the Archbishop
  Students meet the Archbishop, engage in conversation about the Catholic faith, and share a meal together. (GDM #1, #4)
  - 2010-2011: 15 students
  - 2011-2012: 30 students
  - 2012-2013: 30 students
  - 2013-2014: 35 students

- All Saints Eve Party
  An opportunity for students to learn about this Holy Day in the Christian world and help build community among the students offering them a positive environment to participate in Halloween where there will be no alcohol allowed. (GDM #1, #5)
  - 2010-2011: 35 students
  - 2011-2012: 60 students
  - 2012-2013: 80 students

- Fan Into Flame Retreat
  Opportunity for U of MN students to take a weekend to learn about Christian values and meet Christian students. This retreat is integral to building student leaders on campus. (GDM #2, #5)
  - 2010-2011: 20 students
  - 2011-2012: 25 students
  - 2012-2013: 25 students
  - 2013-2014: 30 students

- Black and White Affair
  This is a formal affair for students to dance and celebrate in accomplishing another semester of college in a Christian environment where they won’t face the pressures of binge drinking and will be able to see people living out their Christian values. (GDM #1,
# Easter Celebration

A dinner in celebration of the Christian Holy Day of Easter, students invite friends and family to learn about the university life and community of SPO. (GDM #1, #2)

- 2010-2011: 30 students
- 2011-2012: 70 students
- 2012-2013: 80 students
- 2013-2014: 90 students

# Men’s and Women’s Events

U of M students gather once per semester for a whole or half day to learn valuable tools for integrating the Christian faith into everyday life. (GDM #1)

- 2010-2011: 35 students
- 2011-2012: 50 students
- 2012-2013: 75 students
- 2013-2014: 70 students

# Co-sponsored Event with Other Christian Groups

Opportunity to learn from keynote speaker or prominent Christian musician such as Matt Maher. (GDM #1, #4, #5)

- 2011-2012: 200 students
- 2012-2013: 250 students

# The New Rules of Love, Sex, and Dating Series

Three-week long series held in The Whole in Coffman. The goal is to challenge students in the areas of love, sex, and dating and present a Christian viewpoint. Includes time for small-group discussion and fellowship. The drop in student attendance is dictated only by the fact that we had students pre-register this year, so as to not break fire code in The Whole. Next year we are looking for a much larger (roughly 400 seats) venue. (GDM #2, #3, #4, #5)

- 2012-2013: 160 students
- 2013-2014: 150 students

**Section 4: Reserve Accounts**

SPO does not have a separate reserve account. However, we have the goal to keep a reserve of 6% of total operational expenses via carryover dollars. 6% is a reasonable amount for a reserve because it is within the recommended 0-10%. We have not identified any major risks facing our group that would require us to have a huge reserve. The reserve is mainly in place as a source of emergency funding.

**Section 5: Fees Request**
SPO is requesting $128,774.41, which is an increase of about 35% from last year. We are requesting more because, with what we were given this year and last year, we were able to use all of the funds to produce high quality, highly demanded programming for students. Note that the reason we did not spend all of our SSF funds in previous years was because we were able to improve our events in ways that allowed us to save money that we did not anticipate during initial planning. Our student leadership team has found that more money immediately allows for more programming, which is a huge advantage for us as a Catholic organization. Because of the many facets of the Catholic faith, it is important to have a large variety of events in order to engage Catholics of varying interests and expressions of the faith. This year, we had only one returning staff member and one returning student leader (about 10% of our leadership overall), which meant that a large portion of our available man hours were spent on training in all the new leaders and staff. Even so, we were able to continue to put out the same level of programming, and we are expecting an increase in student leadership next year. Because of this, we are certain that with just a 35% increase in funds, we could as much as double our student involvement next year.

We tried to look at areas we could most improve, and surveyed students to find what was most important to them. To our surprise, the overwhelming majority said they wanted financial assistance to encourage a program we already run: student mentorship. Currently, our student leaders pay out of pocket to meet one on one with younger students, which is an irreplaceable aspect of our program. It ensures new leaders have learned from the mistakes of the last generation, helps students get input on life problems, and makes them feel invested in. This, we know from experience, makes students feel cared for, and involves them more than anything else in our student group and in their own campus life. We find that students with extensive mentoring make significantly more mature life decisions and have a markedly better college experience. We know the program would continue to some extent if we did not receive funding, but students unanimously agree that funding would more than double the amount of mentorship. We understand that this is a large increase in funds, accounting for approximately a third of the total increase, but we would not ask for funds for such a program if we were not absolutely sure that the funding would bring a monumental increase in student engagement, which we are certain it will.

The two largest operational expenses we face are salaries and rent. Due to operational cuts last year, we were forced to reduce salary expenses by 65%. Fortunately, emergency funding was provided by SPO National to make up for these cuts; however, this will not be possible in 2014-2015. SPO National is undergoing expansion to new colleges and universities around the nation. Due to this expansion, they will not be able to provide this amount of operational funding to our chapter next year. Thus, we have a financial need that cannot be filled with other sources of income (GDM #8). We need SSF money to support our growth at the U of M. It is important for us to continue operating at the same level as we have for the past two years, the time when we have experienced the most growth due to receiving SSF money. Our student group will be severely impacted if we face such operational cuts.

We fully understand and support the policy that fees money should only be used to pay staff if they are a necessary component of a group’s ability to provide high-quality, relevant services to students. In our case, the staff is absolutely a necessary component to provide such services (GDM # 10). There are many reasons that this is the case. First of all, we are a religious-affiliated group. In order to have credibility as a religious-affiliated group, we must have well educated staff. It is the nature of our group to require well-trained, professional staff to provide services that are relevant to students who are seeking guidance in the area of religion. Poorly trained leaders can lead to the provision of irrelevant services and falsified teachings. We stand firmly in our commitment to maintain leaders that have professional training in outreach and leadership. Many have studied theology, making them excellent resources for our students. If we did not have staff, we would lose the wisdom and guidance that is essential for developing our programs. Full time staff members are not optional when it comes to providing frequent, high quality Catholic events.

The School of the New Evangelization (SNE) is another key component of our student group. It is an
intense conference put on by SPO National specifically designed to prepare students for the school year, and get them excited about getting other students involved in SPO. It also is the best way to truly prepare student leaders to teach the faith. Without students going to SNE, our student group cannot supply enough student leaders to assist with programming and to invest in all of the students who come to our events. In order to grow, we need to send more students to SNE. In order to get more students to SNE, we need more funds to provide scholarships, as cost is typically the deciding factor for students. One of the reasons we have so much support from the Archbishop and the Diocese as a whole is because of our reputation for high quality teaching on the Catholic faith. This reputation is invaluable to our branch here at the University of Minnesota, as well as nationwide. Providing this training will not only benefit the students who go, but will allow for our student group to engage and invest in more students overall.

In order to get students to SNE, we need leadership commitment and motivation to become better leaders from students. Fan Into Flame was designed to do just that. It’s a great experience for all students who attend, but we also find that all of our student leaders agree that it was pivotal in their decision to volunteer. We have also found that a big factor in a student’s decision to attend or not depends on retreat cost. If we can lower the price with scholarships, we can get more students to attend, and have a larger pool of potential student leaders to bring to SNE. The FIF scholarships are a long term investment, but we believe that with them, we can continue engage more and more of the students here at the U of M.

An added item to the programming budget is household rent stipends. In the past, the houses--used by students in SPO who would like to live together and receive more focused mentorship from our staff members--have been used to host many different events throughout the year. They have been a useful way to save on room rental, and serve as a meeting hub for the students in our student group. Not until recently has this become so common that it is beginning to wear on the houses and it can be somewhat of an intrusion to occupants. That being said, it seems fit to supplement the rent costs to pay for additional repairs and for the inconvenience it causes some of the members. If we do not receive these funds, we may have to rent rooms on a much more frequent basis, which would not only be less convenient, but also more expensive.

The last item we wanted to touch on was the increase in our Catholic Rush (CRUSH) week funds. We’ve found that these events are so monumentally successful that we want to try extending this series, put a refined effort into advertising (based off what we learned from this year), and see if we can make it bigger than ever. For the past few years, a good CRUSH week has meant a large amount of students coming to our events. With the larger student leadership team we’re expecting next year, we think the best way to test the limits of our organization is to invest at the start. Without CRUSH week we wouldn’t have an influx of over 700 new students at the beginning of the year. Getting more money for this event series will give us the best shot at continuing our rapid growth in 2014-2015.

**Description of Operational Expense Line Items**

1. **Salaries, Wages, and Stipends: $45,000**
   We are requesting $10,000 for one Chapter Director and $5,000 each for four Mission Leaders. We have gotten this amount in staff support in the past, and have found it necessary to support our student leaders and programming. We are also asking for compensation for 10 student officers who put in approximately six to eight hours each week.

2. **Operational Travel: $1,500**
   National staff training is mandatory for all staff each year. It is critical for our staff to attend this training to be well-equipped to serve the U of M students. We are requesting a $300 plane ticket for each of our five staff members to attend.
3. **Equipment: $1,645.41**  
   We need sound equipment and some musical equipment to improve the quality of our music. At our Prayer Meetings events, we have time for prayer and worship, and this equipment is needed to fully partake in these activities. Music is a large part of the SPO community and with our rising number of participants and musicians, the equipment and range of musical instruments is needed for the quality of the music. We are also requesting money for resource books for leadership development in students. The books would be used as a resource in developing topics and preparing talks for our outreach events. U of MN students also would be free to borrow books from this resource library if interested.

4. **Supplies: $200**  
   Supplies include $200 general office supplies.

5. **Printing and Copying: $200**  
   General printing needs.

6. **Internet: $780**  
   Internet fee of $65/month = $780.

7. **Postage and Delivery: $50**  
   General mailing needs.

8. **Rent and Utilities: $12,000**  
   Rent for office space on campus - $1,000/month x 12 months = $12,000.

9. **Other Expenses: $25**  
   This $25 covers our student group registration fee.

**Employee Compensation**

Professional staff include one chapter director and 4 mission leaders. The chapter director receives a stipend of $10,000/year to cover training costs during the summer. Each mission leader also receives a stipend, but of $5,000/year, to cover summer training costs. They each work 40hrs/week at the U of M, assisting and developing programming and mentoring students.

Student leaders would be given a stipend of $1,500/year for their time commitment. Designated student leaders spend 6-8 hours/week developing programming, leading discussion groups, setting up events, and other general student group tasks. Compared to other student groups, we thought this would be ample compensation for our student leaders’ time.

**Significant Funding Increase Justification**

Significant increases in funding are primarily due to asking for officer stipends, increasing the frequency of our programming to reflect the increase in skilled staff and students next year, funding the Mentorship Program, an already successful program that has until now only been funded out of pocket by students, and for more training for our student leaders, which we would find useful given the increase in number and expected growth.

- 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?
  Our office will be open for the entire summer.

- What programs and services will your student group offer in the summer?
  Students will continue to live in SPO households during the summer. The households serve as the center of our outreach on campus, so there will be activities and events still taking place there. A few weekly small groups will also be formed in the summer.

- How will students who pay Student Services Fees in the summer benefit from your organization?
  Some of our student leaders will continue to live on campus, coordinate smaller-scale events, and seek out U of MN students who are interested in learning more about our student group or mentoring student members who are still on campus.

**Section 6: External Funding**

- **Describe your organization’s efforts to secure funding in addition to Student Services Fee income.**
  In addition to Student Service Fees, we will secure funding through U of M internal grants for any of our programming that might be eligible to receive them. Student leaders also fundraise to pay for a portion of their training. For some events and programs, especially those off campus, funding is secured through ticket sales. In previous years, we have taken advantage of opportunities for outside funding as they presented themselves. This coming year, we are actively seeking out more ways to bring in outside funding.

- **Describe your organization’s financial need for Student Services Fee support that cannot be fulfilled with alternative sources of income.**
  At the University of Minnesota, Student Service Fee support is vital to the success of programming on campus and the organizational structure. Although SPO has a national contingent, the U of M chapter is the largest and offers a range of unique and cutting edge programming. Because our chapter has the most extensive programming, funding outside of SPO national is necessary, as SPO national has resources primarily to startup chapters and provide basic support. The introduction of new programs at the U of M requires funding by Student Service Fees, and these programs are necessary to sustain and promote growth of the chapter. The necessity of this funding can be seen in the explosive growth we experienced over the last 4 years. Without this funding, we will be unable to provide the same quality and quantity of programming.

- **State the percentage of your budget that comes from Student Services Fee income and any other sources of revenue.**
  80 % of our budget comes from Student Service Fee income. The other 20 % we will obtain through grants, fundraising, and other sources of income (including ticket sales). This is a decrease in the percentage of our budget coming from student service fees compared to previous years where 90 % of our budget was funded by Student Service Fees. Even though we requested a significant increase in funding from SSF, we are also pursuing more outside sources of funding than ever before.