Somali Student Association

January 24, 2014

Student Services Fee Request for the 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

300 Washington Ave SE Minneapolis, MN 55455

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>651-214-2710</th>
<th><a href="mailto:ssa@umn.edu">ssa@umn.edu</a></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>Email</td>
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</table>

“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.”

Abyan Gurase                                      Safia Abdinur
Preparer’s Name                                   Co-Preparer’s Name
Guras002@umn.edu                                  Abdin008@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):

- General Operating Support: X
- Start-Up Costs: X
- Capital: X
- Project / Program Support: X
- Technical Assistance: X
- Other (List):

Budget

- SSF Dollar Amount Requested: $30,000.00
- Total Annual Organization Budget: $36,660.00
- Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating): $33,560.00
Somali Student Association

Section 1: Narrative

History and Background of the Somali Student Association

Somali Student Association was formed in response to the strong demographic change in the Twin Cities metropolitan area due to a large population of Somali immigrants. This is due to the collapse of Somalia's government and the continuous conflict that is still happening. Since the 1990s, many Somalis have resettled in Minnesota in hopes of finding a place to call home. Somalis in Minnesota are estimated to be around 36,000. Half of that population is under 24 years old. With the growth of the Somali Community in Minnesota, young people started striving for higher education. Thus, with the increase of University of Minnesota students of Somali descent, the founders of SSA saw a need to build a support group for students. The Somali Student Association was established in the summer of 1998 by a group of motivated young Somali students who saw the need and wanted to create an organization that can serve the need of such students. The main goal that led to the creation of this organization was to make the University of Minnesota a more welcoming place for Somali students. With the need for such support and growth of the population of Somali Students at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, there was a clear need to create the Somali Student Association in order to not only meet student needs, but also to build a bridge between the University of Minnesota and its neighbors of the west bank, which are predominantly Somali. The association itself began to create a bond between Somali students and the University in order to improve both the academic and social atmosphere for Somali students. The activities and services of this organization are testimonial to its commitment to work for a more tolerant environment for Somali Students.

Now fifteen years later the Somali Student Association has grown in size along with the population of Somalis attending the University of Minnesota. The organization has been transforming over the years, sharpening its vision and adapting its role in both the University and that of the Somali community. Furthermore, SSA has become a face for the University of Minnesota to the Somali Community, especially with the enormous number of Somali people in Cedar Riverside, adjacent to the West bank of Campus. The Somali Student Association here at the University of Minnesota serves as a main contact to connect Somali’s across the world who are interested in gaining more knowledge about Somali people in the West, according to the recent census, about 40% of Somali people in the U.S live in the Twin cities and its surroundings. It is the largest population of Somali people outside of Somalia. Our organization here at the University of Minnesota is the largest Somali Student Organization in all of North America and it is a valued resource in connecting Somali people and helping the Somali community. For example, BBC in collaboration with MPR on “Africa Have Your Say,” a special presentation where the topic is around the 20th anniversary of the start of the civil war in Somalia, they invited the Somali Student Association to participate in the BBC-MPR live broadcast. This is an example of one of many news outlets who are interested in having college students be part of their events/conversations, and see University of Minnesota’s Somali Student Association as the primary contact for reaching out to Somali youth. Here on Campus, The Somali Student Association strives to present Somali culture to University of Minnesota -Twin Cities Somali and Non-Somali students through music, food, workshops, film, poetry, awareness and speakers with the goal of celebrating diversity among different cultures.

Mission

As students of an accredited institution and members of the Somali Student Association, SSA, we shall strive to promote (A) higher education, (B) cultural awareness at our institution and the community, (C) be a support group for students, and (D) strive to create unity among Somali Students and the University of Minnesota community at larger.

Relationships with Organizations of Like Mission

The Somali Student Association recognizes the importance of cooperation with the larger student group community, and we have endeavored to promote it as one of the pillars of this organization. SSA prides itself with its collaboration with diverse groups. SSA worked with the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence (MCAE) on facilitating a study night, Power Productivity Palooza, which provides students with a supportive study atmosphere where they can avoid procrastination and also learn about and use the resources of MCAE. We have also worked with the Multi-Faith Student Council in a roundtable discussion, where we discussed the history of Somalia and its diaspora. The event was focused on hope and how different communities find hope in their struggles.
Somali Student Association

We are also currently working on an event to help the west bank community that was affected by the recent explosion, with the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) and Somali community leaders. The events we collaborate on range from educational workshops to cultural exchange programs. As result we have developed strong relationships with other student organizations and SSA will continue to pursue worthwhile collaborations and further strengthen our ties with organizations of like missions.

Need for the Somali Student Association

The University of Minnesota campus is often praised for its geographic location. Generally, the praise is attributed to how the architecture seamlessly blends in with its metropolitan surroundings. This fact could not be more evident than in the fraction of the University of Minnesota campus known as the West Bank. The West Bank borders a residential community and this community’s constituents consist mostly of ethnically Somali immigrants. In recent years, certain events have transpired in this community that has affected the university’s Somali minority. To that end, the availability and presence of the Somali Student Association is crucial and cannot be understated. Students of Somali descent have been applying and arriving at this institution’s door in large numbers over the last decade. Our general body membership has significantly increased each of the last 5 years. The Somali Student Association endeavors to cater to the needs of its members. For them, we provide a familiar base in which they can comfortably assimilate with the larger student body. SSA provides these students with a voice and the necessary tools to positively contribute to this institution. Furthermore, SSA served as a bridge between that community and larger University of Minnesota community. With the large Somali community neighboring our campus, our role is to facilitate relations between these groups in the hopes of building cultural understanding and respect.

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

All University of Minnesota students are able to benefit the services and activities that the Somali Student Association hosts regardless of whether they are members of the Somali Student Association or not. SSA’s aim is to bring together Somali students and non-Somali student to share and exchange cultures. Many students who have had little knowledge or interactions with Somali Students have benefited from our efforts of bringing students together to celebrate cultural tolerance. We have been successful in collaborating with different organization in order to reach out to a variety of students. We have worked closely with MCAE in implementing ways to better assist students of multicultural background with academic support and also in the social engagement. One of our major goals is to give students and scholars a venue to interact with one another and we serve as hub that matches new students with upper class-men, professors, and faculty who can help them succeed at the University of Minnesota academically. We also provide students with a way to connect with the community by sharing knowledge of volunteer, internship, research and career opportunities. Students are able to engage directly with us by taking part in our mentorship program, academic workshops, as well as our numerous social events.

Describe student involvement within your organization

The Somali Student Association is a student run organization in which a general body elects an executive board who in turn appoints committee members who work together towards the mission of the organization. The Somali Student Association is open to all student involvement and strives to make all students welcome, Somali or non-Somali. We have a strong general body that is very enthusiastic in supporting the organization in its events by attending and volunteering. General body members are very eager to share their ideas and help develop events that are catered to their needs as well as the needs of their fellow students. SSA involvement is not limited nor required to just our membership base. We strive to recruits best of best future student leaders, who are currently in high school, to come and participate in our organization and its mission toward strengthening the University of Minnesota’s diversity and increasing the graduation rate of Somali students.
Somali Student Association

Section 2: Organizational Chart

President
Mohamed Shire

Vice President
Safia Abdinur

EC = Event Committee

FC = Finance Committee

CO = Committee Oversight

Executive Position

Non-Executive Position

Technology Coordinator
Nima Odawo

Public Relations
Thao Phan

Secretary
Semal Musleh

Treasurer
Abyan Gurase

Event Coordinator
Salma Bile

Outreach Coordinator
Hibo Ahmed

Academic Affairs Co.
Salma Hassan

Freshmen & Volunteer Co.
Sowda Ahmed
Section 3: Performance Report

Participation and Attendance Figures

The Somali Student’s Association strives to serve both students of Somali descent as well as the larger University community. Our main purpose is to educate the University of Minnesota community about the rich and diverse culture of Somalia. Our events are open to all University of Minnesota students, staff, and faculty. Our event’s and student participation has increased over the years, as well as the size of our general body. With increased interest and knowledge of our organization, the quality of our event have improved as well. We give students many chances to give us feedback through surveys given out in our newsletters and at our general body meetings. At our general body meeting we also give our members the chance to voice their opinions, suggest event ideas, and organize action teams to carry out their ideas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>2013-2014 Actual/Estimated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Multicultural Kickoff</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities Fair</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 SUA Fall Activities Fair</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Fall Kickoff</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Breakfast in Somalia</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>400/880*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 General Body Meetings</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>280/600*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Ladu Tournament</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 MCAE Power Productivity Palooza</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Fuel Up for Finals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Spring Kickoff (Spring)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>175*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Poetry Night (Spring)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Networking Workshop (Spring)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Identity Seminar (Spring)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>300*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Culture Night (Spring)</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>400*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Student Youth Leadership Conference (Spring)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Event (Spring)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Farewell Dinner (Spring)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
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*estimated

Section 4: Reserve Accounts

The Somali Student’s Association does not have a reserve account.

Section 5: Fees Request

With the increase in the attendance of students who are of Somali descent in recent years, we have faced a positive outcome in more members, but it does pose logistical problems. Essentially we fear that with our current budget, we will be unable to properly meet their needs. This year we received less student service fees due to the actions of the previous board, and we struggled to try to improve the quality of events and at the same time continuing out traditional events. We are therefore are looking to increase the amount of student service fees we are requesting for 2013-2014 year This is accompanied with a request for the sum of $30,000.00. This number is an increase from our previous year but it represents a reasonable estimate of the sum that we feel would allow us to accommodate our general body and the university community.
Somali Student Association

Indicate at what percentage your organization will operate in the summer of 2014. The Somali Student Association will operate on 5% of the amount awarded by the Students Services Fees for the summer of 2014. Most of this will be meeting the needs of students who are on-campus for summer terms. Our office will be staffed several times a week during the duration of the summer.

Section 6: Description of Impact of a 10 Percent Reduction in Fees Request

A 10% reduction would affect the Somali Student Association’s ability to focus on improving its programs and activities. This reduction may severely reduce the quality and the amount of events we can host. We would have to focus much more on fundraising taking away from our programming events and the support we provide to students.