

Student Activity Fee Narrative Information for the Student Diversity Center

Please provide:

1. **Narrative Information:** Please provide responses to the below questions regarding your unit:
 - A. Overview of unit and how student activity fees are used:
 - i. Describe the programs you host with your student activity fee funding.

A wide variety of cultural programs and events are covered using student fees. Programs hosted by the Student Diversity Center and funded through student fees are as follows:

- Welcome Back BBQ: At the beginning of each fall semester, new and returning students are invited to a Diversity and Human Rights (DHR) Unit Welcome Back Barbecue. DHR includes the Office of Human Rights, Access and Inclusion, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Women's Center, Native American Student Center and CAMP. Students are introduced and have the opportunity to interact with diverse student organizations, faculty, staff, and administrators here at the University of Idaho that has a vested interest in their success. This event attracts approximately 500 students.
- Latino/a Heritage Month: We bring in regional/national speakers to educate about and address current issues affecting the Latino population. We have had the presence of theatrical group, "Latinos Shaping a Nation" and were also fortunate to bring in Keynote Speaker Maria Hinojosa, the nationally acclaimed journalist. These events attracted approximately 2,000 students.
- El Color de Nuestra Tierra: This event has many cultural artistic performances featuring Central and South American countries allowing the audience to get immersed and experience the beautiful cultural differences within the Hispanic community. This community event also provides an opportunity for young children to learn about different Hispanic games and traditions from other countries. Attendance averages 400 from both the university and community.
- Tutxinmepu Pow-wow: This annual Native American event, sponsored by the Native American Student Center, is a cultural event, which shares the traditions and diversity within the

Native American tribes. It is an opportunity for our University of Idaho students and community to see and learn the various drumming groups, regalia, and customs from surrounding tribes. Attendance for this is in the hundreds each day (it is a two day event.)

- Shades of Black: Shades of Black, which is a UI signature event, showcased each Black History Month and celebrating its 12th anniversary, is a cultural event that recognizes the diversity within the Black culture through various performing ways, such as dancing, through poems, songs, etc. This event alone is typically 800 attendees.
- Take back the Night: The crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence affect entire communities, far beyond the one in four women in the US who are listed as victims in police reports every year. The Women's Center, along with other campus and community organizations, sponsored this event to educate and empower students, staff, faculty, and community members around these critical issues.

- ii. Other Programs and support: The student activity fee also supports other cultural programs such as Africa Night, Farmworker Awareness Week, National Society of Black Engineers Lecture Series, and the lactation station. Approximately how many students are served by or attend your programs and events?

All UI students are encouraged and welcome to attend all of the events sponsored by the Student Diversity Center fees. Every program has different amounts of students that attend ranging from 200 up to 800 per event. When we were able to bring the Rev. Jesse Jackson to campus, there were over 5000 attendees at the one event. Over the course of an academic year, over 5,000 students attend our programs.

- iii. Does your student activity fee funded program also receive funding from other sources (and if so please include a brief description of the other sources)?

Most cultural programs are funded entirely from the student activity fees, while others, are supplemented by other sponsors and contributors. There are many cultural events led by other departments on campus, such as the Tutxinmepu Pow Wow, in which the student activity fees provide the foundational funding, ensuring these critical cultural events continue taking place.

- B. Have you received an increase to your student activity fee in the past three years and if so when, how much and for what purpose(s)?

The Student Diversity Center has not had an increase over the past six years.

- C. What opportunities do you see for other funding sources and what are your plans in the future to find other revenue?

We are exploring the services of staff in university advancement who target fundraising. There is a specific area of opportunity to raise money from alumni who are interested in supporting diversity efforts and multicultural education enrichment for the UI student body.

- D. What changes do you see happening to your program in the next 5 years – what is your vision and how does it fit in the university's strategic plan?

The Student Diversity Center's goal would be to continue to grow additional partnerships across the University to better provide co-curricular educational opportunities to create a positive campus climate for all students. We are also going to continue developing relationships with other Student Affairs offices to better increase a wide range of student populations. We already work with ASUI and other student groups to determine programming of interest to students.

The Office of Multicultural affairs has evolved, in particular over the past three years, to focus on student retention. To attain these retention goals, we envision several changes to the Diversity Center use for increased emphasis on the four strategic goals of UI: Teaching & Learning; Scholarly & Creative Activity; Outreach & Engagement; and Community & Culture.

Within the university's strategic plan, we are continuing our work to meet Goal 4: Community and Culture by increasing the scope of services and striving to better campus climate for all students, faculty, and staff at the University of Idaho. We will additionally continue our strong relationship with the Office of Human Rights, Access, and Inclusion to provide comprehensive Safe Zone trainings. Safety and affirming climate is essential to the increase of student retention and it is our goal to continue our strong partnerships to create more inclusive campus for all individuals. The Diversity Center, and its funding, provides a physical space for activities such as Safe Zone training, student organization meetings, study table sessions, tutoring sessions, and related activities.

E. What opportunities do you see for your unit and what challenges are you facing?

The Student Diversity Center believes our opportunities reside in maintaining and creating diverse learning environments—structural diversity by increasing computational representation, informal diverse interactions that are frequent and meaningful, and classroom diversity—because the deliberate construction of racially/ethnically diverse college environments benefits all students.

We have arrived at a challenge that springs from a good thing. We have outgrown the use of the Diversity Center. More and more students are utilizing the center for academic, social and cultural programming. This is a good problem to have and we will continue to look at different resources and partnerships to work together in this issue.