

Student Fee Narrative
Native American Student Center (NASC)

A. Overview of unit and how student activity fees are used:

i. Describe the programs you host with your student activity fee funding.

The Native American Student Center (NASC) utilizes the student activity fees to create student retention programs, leadership development opportunities, and support the educational, cultural and professional growth of the Native American student population. Below are our student fee initiatives:

NASC is providing tutoring on an as needed basis and after all other UI resources have been accessed. Internal tutoring is an instrumental part to retention for native students on campus. In center tutoring allows students to learn in a comfortable and familiar environment. NASC staff can also closely monitor attendance and provide assistance as needed.

The Center will also provide bi-weekly *Strengthen your Mind & Motivation* information sharing sessions. Every other week NASC will provide academic, career, and social information tips for students to use that will assist in their success at the University. Providing snacks in conjunction with learning new skills and tools builds on the theme of doing well for mind and body.

NASC Indigenous Leader Award is provided monthly to students who may be doing some of the following; attaining good grades, good attendance, turning in grade checks, improving academically, taking part in NASC retention services, participating in cultural and social events, etc. NASC provides small incentive award items to these students. It is important for students to be acknowledged for their success and encourage other students as well.

Native student leaders will attend the National Indian Education Association convention on an annual basis. At the convention, these student leaders were able to gain greater knowledge of the Native American education system, meet educational professionals and tribal leaders, and network with other student peers. The students are required to attend a three day college symposium that offers guidance to properly utilizing higher education as a means to helping Native families and communities reap economic and financial success.

NASC hosts a graduation ceremony each spring for graduating NASC students. This event typically features a keynote speaker and student fees are used to cover the speaker's honorarium and travel costs. Additional costs for the event are also covered from student fees.

For Native American Heritage Month we bring in regional/national speakers to educate about and address current issues affecting the Native American population. Events range annually depending on current issues and interests of NASC students.

NASC provides the annual Tutxinmepu Pow-wow. This is our largest cultural event that 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.

Access to cultural practices on campus by students is instrumental to retention of Native American students. Vandal Nation is composed of UI students who meet weekly to sing and drum cultural songs that come from various tribal nations in the United States and Canada, as well as sing songs that are from time immemorial. Vandal Nation is also available to sing at UI campus events as requested and available. A one-time financial support from student fees will cover costs to provide uniform tops for singers to wear to presentations as well as fees to get drum cover and drum stick bag for maintenance of items.

The NASC retreat provides the opportunity for students and staff to build rapport, work on team building, focus on academic workshops, and be acknowledged and honored for positive academic success.

Other academic, cultural, retention, and recruitment costs are provided to students as necessary and allowable. These may include the Native American Mentor Program, an annual symposium, and the summer bridge program.

ii. Approximately how many students are served by or attend your programs and events?

NASC programming is designed to welcome all UI students interested in participating in NASC programming. Larger cultural awareness programs, events, and classroom presentations designed for the UI campus at large include Native American Heritage Month, Tutxinmepu Pow wow, monthly socials, food Friday's, and graduation ceremonies. More specifically NASC goal is retention and recruitment of Native American Students. NASC works with over half of the 68, "single race," self-identified Native American students enrolled at the University of Idaho in past semesters (less than 1% of the total student population). Bi/multicultural students increase this number by approximately 240.

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)?

The NASC receives funding support from the University of Idaho General Education Funds. The NASC has received funding from the Diversity Initiative Growth Grant (DIGG). However, the DIGG opportunities are no longer available.

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)?

This is the third year that the Native American Student Center has received student activity fees to support our programs and goals. The Center is not requesting any increases or changes for FY015.

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

The NASC is continuously works with the University of Idaho Development Office and the Tribal Liaison Office to search and secure grant dollars to support future NASC programs and scholarships. The NASC recently added a gift/donation tab to our webpage to further increase fund raising opportunities

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?

In keeping with the University's Goal 1, Objective B regarding healthy living and learning environments, the NASC envisions creating a Native-specific residential space. This model has a proven track record of success in promoting underrepresented minority student retention and larger university engagement. Such engagement can only serve to strengthen the NASC's commitment to investing resources into strengthening our nascent Native American Alumni Organization. As more Native students successfully graduate and become fully participating members of the Native Alumni Association, they will be well equipped to widely broadcast the University's message of expanding its statewide and national impact as detailed in Goal 3 of the University Strategic Plan. Moreover, faculty, students, and alumni will be afforded increased opportunities to connect with external constituents who are addressing high priority state and national issues.

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

Realistically, all of NASC's future opportunities are circumscribed by funding challenges. Understandably, the NASC's 5 year long term plan can only be accomplished with additional staff and financial resources.

The NASC was able to hire a full-time staff person to assist in our student retention efforts, cultural programming, and to manage the office budgets.