

Request for 2025 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Create Date: 10/30/2024

Due Date: 11/08/2024

Submitter Name: Clare Tupper

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Department Head Approval: 

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$4,902**

Departmental Information

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA

The minimum wage increase to \$16.66 in Washington state was not known until after the annual budget process therefore we could not request the amount now needed to meet minimum wage requirements. We are requesting funds to increase two student employees' wages to meet these minimum requirements beginning January 1st as well as to increase their weekly hours to 10hr and 15hr/week to not only return to our original hours of operation but better fit the students' and the garden's needs.

An additional student employee was not seen as a possibility when requesting annual funds as we had to decrease our current students' hours. With the likelihood of electricity in our greenhouse becoming almost certain by the end of winter quarter, the garden will have the capacity to produce more than we had originally planned. An extra set of hands will allow the garden to reach its full capacity while

STUDENT UTILIZATION

By providing the funds to meet the minimum wage requirements, we can continue providing two student positions. A minimum of two student employees not only benefits the students who need and enjoy this job, but it allows the Giving Garden to continue to provide fresh produce to the Pantry. As of 10/29/24 the Giving Garden has donated 311lbs of produce to students through the Pantry, Nourish Mobile Food Bank, and direct student harvests and 418lbs in total. These are record harvest numbers for the Giving Garden, which is largely due to the continued staffing support. The student employees also assist with volunteer events, class/community visits to the garden, and educational outreach. Increasing student hours will allow for more flexibility with group visits to the garden and allow our team to focus on more than just the basic garden requirements. We can get more special projects done and increase our educational outreach.

We are requesting the addition of a temporary garden assistant position for several reasons. A third position would provide another student with flexible work that involves them with the campus and greater community. This position would help the garden thrive during its busiest season without requesting assistance from other CSI ProStaff, something we had to do last year. Lastly, this position would allow for a smoother transition as we prepare for our senior garden assistant to graduate in the Fall quarter 2025.

See attached documents for student testimonies.

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

These funds will be allocated to our wages budget and implemented January 1st as required by law. We create a new schedule each quarter depending on the student's availability, so beginning Winter quarter, the student's shifts will reflect these additional hours.

Last year, the Giving Garden students were only able to work 4 hours/week with the wage allocation provided. This required both students to find second and even third jobs. Juggling several jobs is tricky and creates an added layer of stress to a student's life. These funds will make it so the students are not put in this position again. With more hours, our students can better serve their campus community by supporting volunteers, and not only maintain this campus green space but drive it forward with infrastructure projects and educational outreach.

If a third temporary position is approved, we will advertise for the position as soon as possible to ensure that a student can be hired by the beginning of Spring quarter. Creating a transitional position will support all garden staff by allowing for time to share knowledge on processes and procedures. A large contributor to our record harvest is having staff who understand how we grow our produce and a workplace where students feel confident trying new techniques and these things can take a little time. A third student will provide the bridge the garden needs to continue our level of production and support The Pantry.

SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Research conducted by UW Tacoma Faculty Dr. Christine Stevens has shown that there is an ever-increasing percentage of UWT students affected by food insecurity. As of this year, UWT is nearly 50% over the national rate of college students experiencing food insecurity at some level. (See attached document for Dr. Stevens's food insecurity research). This research shows a need to assist our students.

The Giving Garden is already addressing this need by providing fresh produce to The Pantry. Fresh food and produce are a common request of students accessing The Pantry, according to their surveys. With continued support the Giving Garden has been steadily increasing its yield which goes directly to students.

The immediate benefit to students participating in the Giving Garden is access to fresh nutritious food that they grow and a sense of service in supporting their fellow students. Beyond that, they have an outlet to be in nature and interact with the natural world without having to leave campus. Exposure to nature and fresh air has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety which is critical for busy students trying to balance their studies, work, and life. (Capaldi C, Dopko RL, Zelenski J. Frontiers in Psychology. 2014).

The Giving Garden also starts a career of community leadership with students, helping them learn about food security, equity, and the possibilities of growing your own food, even in an urban environment. The Giving Garden's harvests benefit every student who uses The Pantry and has access to fresh produce. Without ever attending an event or visiting the garden itself, students are impacted by what we do. The garden also provides opportunities for students to work on campus in a leadership capacity while aligning them within their community. It allows the students to engage in a professional setting while giving them tools and connections for their future. Courses that utilize the Giving Garden also give an opportunity for students to step foot outside of the classroom, allowing them to learn through a hands-on approach while connecting amongst their peers and building their community. The garden is becoming more and more intertwined with the campus through its partnerships with The Pantry, The Center for Student Involvement, faculty and their curriculum, and Facilities Services. Partnerships with the community also continue to expand with recent collaborations with Hilltop Urban Garden (HUG), Tacoma Tree Foundation, local high schools, and community volunteers to name a few. Access is a core value of the University of Washington Tacoma and the Giving Garden serves this value through access to food, education, community, green space, and student growth.

Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff ³	senior garden assistant wage increase. E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$372
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$86
Student Staff ³	garden assistant wage increase and increased hours E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$1,114
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$256
Student Staff ³	Temporary spring quarter garden assistant to assist with busy season and staffing transition E003	
	Student Staff Wages:	\$2,499
	Fringe @ 23%:	\$575
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$4,902

Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$0

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$4,902
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$0
COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:	\$4,902

Supplemental Documents



DR. STEVENS RESEARCH UWT FOOD INSECURITY

Basic information on the food insecurity and food deserts and comparative research on UWT vs US



HARVEST TOTALS

list of annual harvest with type of produce, lbs, date, and donation location



VOLUNTEER HOURS

Annual Volunteers. Duration, type of participant (student, community, staff), number of participants, total volunteer hours, event type



STUDENT TESTIMONIES

Two testimonies made by garden staff on the need for a third student employee and additional hours in general. Vicky Sims touches on unused hours from Summer quarter due to extreme circumstances