TO: Services and Activities Fee Committee
FROM: EWU Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
Nikki Graham-Brown, Symposium Coordinator
217B Showalter Hall, Cheney, WA 99004
509.359.6826, ewusymposium@ewu.edu
DATE: January 26th, 2012
SUBJECT: Request for Services and Activities Funds

About the Symposium

The Student Research and Creative Works Symposium is a two-day annual event where students from disciplines across campus present their research and creative work to the university community and the general public. The symposium is the largest, campus-wide academic event at EWU, with 404 student presenters and 133 faculty mentors participating in last year's event.

The Symposium showcases projects completed by undergraduate and graduate students under the guidance of their faculty mentors. It provides students with an excellent opportunity to showcase their academic accomplishments, explore the research of their peers, and interact with students and faculty across all academic disciplines. Students are encouraged to participate in the symposium as an integral component of their higher education.

Budget Questions

1. Please provide an explanation of how the program plans to spend the budget in each line item of the SAF Allocation Budget Request Form, including an explanation of increases or decreases from the previous year’s request. Items that are vague, such as “contact services” should be clearly explained.

   The Symposium Office is run each year by one graduate student under a Graduate Service Appointment. The graduate student is assisted for approximately three months by an hourly student assistant. Direct expenses include the honorarium for the keynote speaker; payment to internal vendors for printing (e.g. advertising, student presentation posters, and event programs), sound and tech support, and refreshments; and payment to external vendors for event materials (e.g. supplies and easels) and promotional products (e.g. bags, shirts, and pens).
2. How many students utilize the services and activities provided by your program? Describe how statistics are obtained and provide demographics on graduate, undergraduate, male, female or other categories you believe important and relevant to your unit.

The number of students presenting in the Symposium has grown exponentially since the event’s inception in 1998. The following demonstrates the number of oral, poster and creative works presentations and percentage of increase per year since 2005:

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>% Increase*</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>404</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>170</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>142</td>
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*from prior year

The largest, campus-wide academic event at EWU, the Symposium had 404 presenters in 2011 representing 3.3% of the total enrolled student population.\(^1\) In comparison, the Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Washington had approximately 900 participants, which is only 2.1% of their enrolled undergraduates for the same year.\(^2\) In 2011, 133 faculty mentors provided their expertise in mentoring the Symposium presenters. Thirty-six departments/programs were represented, encompassing all four colleges (College of Arts, Letters & Education; College of Science, Health & Engineering; College of Business & Public Administration; and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences & Social Work).

Statistics are obtained through the symposium database used to collect the students’ presentation abstract submissions. The demographics collected are student standing (graduate or undergraduate) and the department/program in which they are enrolled. We do not capture gender, race or socioeconomic demographics; however, the Symposium is proud of its origin as a showcase for McNair scholar research and its continuing role in support of the efforts of the TRiO McNair program.

3. Does your program provide employment opportunities for students? Please explain the nature of student employment within your unit, including total FTE and number of students employed.

As previously mentioned, the Symposium is coordinated each year by one graduate student under a GSA. The Symposium Coordinator is required to work 20 hours per week.

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\(^1\) EWU enrollment numbers from [http://www.ewu.edu/About/Facts.xml](http://www.ewu.edu/About/Facts.xml)

for the duration of the academic year (equivalent to 1 FTE). The coordinator is assisted
for approximately three months by an hourly student assistant. The Symposium Assistant
works up to 19 hours per week. Guidance is provided by the Office of Graduate
Education, Research, Academic Planning and Evaluation.

4. How do you gauge the effectiveness of the services and activities you provide to students? Is
student input collected and used in this process? If your unit has an advisory committee, in
what capacity is it involved in your budgeting process?

The increasing rate of participation by both students and faculty mentors is considerable
confirmation that the event is successful and well advertised. A growing number of
faculty require that their students present or, at the least, attend the Symposium. Surveys
are posted online after each event, and an email is sent out to all participants (presenters,
mentors and volunteers) to request their feedback via the surveys. Students are
encouraged to contact the Symposium Office with any questions or concerns throughout
the process (e.g. abstract issues, poster requirements, presentation guidance, and technical
questions). Beginning in 2012, a questions and comments area will be provided on the
Symposium website prior to the event for those who wish to provide feedback
anonymously before the event.

Beginning in 2008, per the request of students and faculty, the Symposium was expanded
to a two-day event, providing the Creative Works (Art, Creative Writing, Electronic
Media and Film, Music, Theatre and Visual Communication Design) students with an
evening to showcase their presentations in the Arts Complex on campus. This has
allowed the Creative Works students to use the resources and spaces that they are
accustomed to in presenting their pieces. Creating this evening event has also provided
session openings on the full-day of research presentations to allow additional students to
present, and permit students from both days to attend a greater number of presentations
by their peers.

The Symposium Committee includes the Symposium Coordinator (graduate student),
various faculty and administration, and an undergraduate student representative. There
are, on average, 20 people on the committee. Please see the attached listing for the 2011-
2012 Symposium Committee members. Additional university faculty and staff play
important roles in ensuring the success of the Symposium, including Event Planning,
University Graphics, the MARS Lab, Records & Registration, Trucking, Dining Services,
Print Services and event volunteers. Dr. Ron Dalla is a member of the Symposium
Committee and is the authorizing party regarding all budgetary issues. Event expenses,
while discussed on occasion at committee meetings, are not determined or approved by
the committee (with the exception of Dr. Dalla).
5. How do you ensure that student fees do not subsidize non-student uses? If previous requests have included statistical analysis on this point, please provide similar analysis using this year’s demographics.

The mission of the Symposium is to provide a platform for students to present their scholarly research or creative work to other students, faculty, administrators and any interested public audience (e.g. family, media, and public officials). The only requirements for participation in the event are current enrollment at EWU (or recent graduates wishing to participate) and completion of an abstract of the work to be presented. There have been a few exceptions to this, notably the 2011 presentations of a group of local high school students participating in the College in the High School Program (for which they received EWU credit). Their research was a collaboration of the students, their teachers and an EWU Biology professor. Ultimately, however, the event is a spotlight on current EWU students and their work.

6. Have alternative (non-S&A Fee) funding sources been pursued to the fullest possible extent? If yes, please elaborate. To what extent does your unit rely on earned income? How much of that revenue is obtained directly from students?

The Symposium has been the recipient of a $6000-$6500 sponsorship from STCU for a number of years and confirmed continued support for the 2012 event. The sponsorship is renewed on a yearly basis. The Kalispel Tribe denied our request for funding for the 2012 event (instead choosing to fund other projects at EWU that they had previously supported). Any additional attempt to secure corporate sponsorship must be approved by the Foundation. The Symposium’s budget is also subsidized by the Office of the Provost. There is no reliance on earned income, nor revenue obtained directly from students.

7. Are there any long term obligations associated with this funding request?

There are no long-term obligations presupposed by this request; however, repeat funding would provide more consistency in the quality of the event and opportunity for growth for the Symposium.

8. Was your 2011-2012 S&A Fee allotment increased, decreased or unchanged from the 2010-2011 budget? What was the overall impact on your organization and its ability to serve students? How closely did your actual expenditures align with the budget presented to last year’s Committee?

The Symposium did not request funding in 2011-2012.
9. What is the impact to service to students if your request is not funded or lowered?

The budget for the 2011 event required the removal of the traditional dinner banquet and the promotional gift for the presenters. This was unfortunate as it removed some of the incentive for the students to participate and to gather as a group for recognition and celebration. While the judging and awards will not be reinstated as part of the Symposium program (since the mission of the Symposium is promotion of the scholarly work and research, not to create a competitive atmosphere), we would like to provide the students with a proper luncheon where they can assemble as a whole (as opposed to their respective presentation rooms) to watch the keynote address and participate in sponsor and mentor recognition. Also, with continual growth expected in the coming years, the additional costs to print and laminate posters, print programs, provide t-shirts and congratulatory gifts (e.g. thumb drives), and provide refreshments will also grow. We hope that funding will assist us in ensuring that a limitation is never required on the number of Symposium presenters so that all applicants can continue to participate.

10. What are three new initiatives for future years?

1) The 2011-2012 Symposium is pushing a “green initiative” in order to find efficient and inexpensive ways to achieve event goals, including limiting the number of printed items (e.g. programs, schedules and flyers), encouraging digital means of promotion, and developing more detailed online information.

2) We would like to return to the format including an event luncheon (in place of a dinner banquet) in order to provide the students with a centerpiece during the full-day of research presentations (oral and poster). The budget for the 2011 event did not allow for a banquet (or luncheon) and many students and faculty expressed their disappointment to Symposium staff. As mentioned above, the luncheon would allow the students to gather as a group for mentor and sponsor recognition and celebration of the event, as well as to highlight the keynote address.

3) The Symposium would benefit from partnering with organizations/departments on campus (such as DiscoverE magazine, the Office of Grant and Research Development and EWU libraries) to raise awareness for students on research opportunities, grants, course suggestions and faculty mentors. The Symposium Office would serve as an additional resource for students as they complete their capstone or thesis.
Committee Members 2011-2012

Helen Bergland, Faculty Support & Student Learning Assessment Coordinator, Undergraduate Studies
Mindy Breen, Associate Professor, Engineering & Design
Larry Briggs, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Services
Kelley Cullen, Assistant Professor, Economics
Ron Dalla, Vice Provost, Graduate Education, Research, Academic Planning & Evaluation
Cynthia Dukich, Counselor/Academic Coordinator, McNair Scholars Program
Greg DuMonthier, Assistant Professor, Art
Ruth Galm, Executive Director, Office of Grant & Research Development
Christina Torres Garcia, Director, McNair Scholars Program
Sara Goff, Assistant Professor, Theatre
Nikki Graham-Brown, Symposium Coordinator, Symposium Office
N.M. Awlad Hossain, Assistant Professor, Engineering & Design
Sarah Keller, Professor, Anthropology
Julie Marr, Advisor/Recruiter, Graduate Studies
Jonathan Middleton, Professor, Music
Pete Porter, Assistant Professor, Electronic Media & Film
Julia Smith, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
Peter Spurgeon, Undergraduate Student
Rayette Sterling, Librarian II, EWU Libraries
Rachel Toor, Assistant Professor, Creative Writing, Inland Northwest Center for Writers
Mission:
The mission of the EWU Student Research and Creative Works Symposium is to promote student research, scholarship, and creative activity done in partnership with faculty as a vital component of higher education. Students, faculty, administrators, dignitaries and the community-at-large are invited to attend to hear and discuss undergraduate and graduate creative and scholarly work.

Goals:
The EWU Student Research and Creative Works Symposium, as a marquee event on the EWU campus, has multiple goals. As stated in its mission, the primary goal is to promote student research, scholarship, and creative activity done in partnership with faculty as a vital component of higher education. In addition, it is the goal of the Symposium Committee, faculty, staff and administrators to promote the event year-wide to increase participation. Since its inception, the Symposium has continued to grow in both the number of students and departments participating. The central goal is to have all EWU schools and departments participate in this yearly event.
### 2012-2013 Budget Request Form (SAF Allocation Only)

**Program Name (Budget Number):** EWU Student Research and Creative Works Symposium

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