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.

All funds requested from SAF will go directly towards the costs of bringing acclaimed international artists to campus. The Series promotes and sets up one lecture per quarter on the EWU campus. Funds from SAF would be pooled with total budget resources to cover costs consisting of travel, lodging, honorarium and printed materials for three guest lecturers a year.

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 visiting artist lecture series provides free lectures that are open for all students on campus. To effectively calculate how many students specifically take part would be to count the number of bodies that enter the auditorium where the lectures are held. This has never been done, but I can safely say that all VALS lectures fill the Art Auditorium, which holds xx number of students. Often students have to sit on the floor or the steps because the seats are filled. The series was developed as a way to diversify influence and exposure to art students enrolled in the art programs. Due to the nature of the fines arts program at EWU, students often lack a varied point of view for disciplines within the arts. For instance we only have one ceramics instructor, one painting professor, one sculpture professor and one digital arts professor. To offset this we bring in three professional artists to campus to speak about their work and experience as an artist. However, all students from every discipline are encouraged to attend. We often have speakers whose work or subject straddles a number of different disciplines and interests.

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.

VALS offers a work-study position for one student.
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?

VALS gauges effectiveness of the services by assessing feedback and input from students. Generally student influence, needs, and interests are factors in the development of the themes of the Visiting Artist Lecture Series and the artists we bring to campus.

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 lecture series is designed to benefit students and the local community.

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?

Yes, the VALS is the recipient of a gift of $2800 from the Sahlin Foundation as well as gathering additional funds from the partnering institutions, Spokane Falls Community College ($2500) and The Museum of Arts and Culture ($2500). Our overall budget is a yearly amount of $10,000. None of the consortium funds is obtained directly from students.

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

The VALS will seek funding as needed. EWU needs to contribute an annual sum of $2500 to continue representation with the consortium.

8. Was your 2010-2011 S&A Fee allotment increased, decreased or unchanged from the 2009-10 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?

S&A Fees has not funded the Visiting Artist Lecture Series in the past. The series was funded by support from the College of Arts and Letters (now CALE). CALE is unable to commit to further funding at this time. The Visiting Artist Lecture Series is a program that is twenty years old and is managed by the VALS committee, which consists of a representative from each acting institution in the consortium (Spokane Falls Community College, Museum of Arts and Culture, Eastern Washington University). Actual expenditures always fall within the annual budget of $10,000. EWU is only responsible for $2500.

9. What is the impact to service to students if your request is not funded or lowered?

If we do not get funding, EWU can no longer be a part of this important consortium. This would be a considerable loss of the current educational and enriching exposure that the lecture series
provides for students. This would also be a loss for EWU as the series provides great exposure for EWU.

10. What are three new initiatives for future years?

1) Broader exposure across campus.
2) Establishing and using assessment tools to gauge effectiveness of the service. (keep track of numbers, catalogue student input and feedback.)
3) Offer student representation on the committee to provide further insight on student need and current interests.