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STUDENT ORGANIZATION FUNDING GRANTS CONDITIONS AND PROCESS

Student Organization Funding Grant Philosophy

Student Organization Funding (SOF) Grants are available to any registered Student Club or Organization (StudOrg) for operational, programmatic, or travel expenditures that enhance overall quality of student life on campus. SOF Grants should be used to boost the overall educational experience of students through development of, exposure to, and participation in social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, governance, leadership, group development, campus and community service, and informational programs and activities. These guidelines and process comply with district, federal, state, and local laws as well as BC policies.

Committee on Student Organizations

The Committee on Student Organizations (CSO) is responsible for management, allocations, and supervision of the entire SOF process.

Eligibility of the SOF Grant Requests

Any StudOrg that meets the following criteria is eligible to apply for SOF Grants:

1. Fully compliant with the StudOrg registration policy;
2. The StudOrg is in good standing with the Office of Student Life; and
3. The officers of the StudOrg (Leadership Team) are in good standing with the College.

Registered StudOrgs may request grants from the CSO Committee. These grants are intended to support organization activities, but not to fully fund them. StudOrgs are not guaranteed funding. Grant funding for an organization will be based on the CSO Committee's evaluation of the organization's requested event, submitted budget request, presentation, available funds, and information gathered during financial workshops with the Office of Student Life.

SOF Grant Proposals

StudOrg officers should complete a SOF Grant Proposal and a letter explaining the request. The same form will be used for all funding categories. Submission of a grant request does not automatically entitle a StudOrg to receive funds.

SOF Funding Categories

Four funding categories differentiate expenditures – operations, programs, fundraisers, and travel. All requests and expenditures are categorized into one of these four categories. All awarded funds must be expended no later than May 1st of each academic year. Any awarded grants not encumbered by May 1st will be forfeited. These monies are funded through the purchases of the BC Kern Value Student Discount Card. Grants are contingent on availability.

Category 1: Operating Funds

Operating funds may be requested annually to support day-to-day operational expenses of registered StudOrgs. Grants are used for enhancing the overall effectiveness, mission, and presence of StudOrgs on campus.

1. The maximum a registered StudOrg can receive per academic year is \$200.
2. Operating funds may be spent for costs within the following limitations:
 - a. No expenses for food;
 - b. No expenses for salaries, stipends, or wages;
 - c. No expenses for technology purchases.
3. For the purpose of this section, operating funds shall include college student media organizations, provided that a maximum of \$3,000 funding is available as start-up costs for the first year, with declining future requests outlined in a marketing and business plan submitted with the grant.
4. Operating funds are intended for annual startup expenses.
5. The Director of Student Life has special approval for SOF grants only requesting operational costs, but may defer grants to the CSO Committee.

Category 2: Programs Funds

Programs funds are awarded to support events that enhance the educational, cultural, and social experience of the BC community and events that are available for participation by the entire student body.

1. The maximum a registered StudOrg can receive per academic year is \$1,000.
2. The CSO Committee will award funds requested for campus security and emergency services as deemed necessary for safety precautions.
3. Programs funds may be spent with the following stipulations:
 - a. \$75 maximum for food, per event holding 40 or fewer people;
 - b. \$200 maximum for food, per event holding more than 40 people;
 - c. No more than \$10 per person per event for food.
 - d. Gifts are limited to \$15 per person for guest speakers who do not request an honorarium.
4. Programs funds may not be used for the following:
 - a. Services or ceremonies that are religious or political in nature;
 - b. Events that are only limited to organization membership and/or invited guests;
 - c. Salaries or stipends of BC students, faculty, or staff;
 - d. Programs that are held off-campus;
 - e. Other stipulations and regulations placed by the policies and procedures established by Kern Community College District Business Services and the General Funding Policies and Guidelines listed further below.
5. The StudOrg, through self-generated funds or sponsorships with other entities, must fund 25% of the total cost of each event. StudOrgs should show proof of the availability of funds at the time of submitting SOF Grant funds.
6. SOF Grants will not be allocated to StudOrgs who are already receiving financial assistance from the Office of Student Life or SGA.
7. Event funding in excess of \$1,000 for any specific reason requires the approval of the Director of Student Life, who will consult with the Vice President of Student Affairs, before submitting the grant request to the CSO Committee.
8. Programs funds help to provide funding for events, activities, and programs from August 1st to April 31st of the academic year.

Category 3: Fundraisers

All fundraising initiatives (with or without SOF Grant funding) must be approved by the Director of Student Life, who may seek further review from other College entities.

1. StudOrgs may request grant funding for organizational fundraisers. The CSO Committee may award startup costs to enable the proposed fundraiser. StudOrgs must repay these startup costs within four (4) weeks after the fundraiser as outlined below.
 - a. All self-generated funds by StudOrg shall remain in that StudOrg's Club Account and shall be carried forward to future academic years.
 - b. All funds generated through any StudOrg fundraising effort must be deposited into the StudOrg's BC Club Account within 48 hours.
2. Any StudOrg that does not comply with these parameters will be subject to judicial sanctions through the Office of Student Life.

Category 4: Travel Funds

Travel funds are awarded to support and assist with travel expenses that directly aid the organization in achieving its mission. Travel includes conferences, training sessions, competitions, and other off-campus events.

1. No more than 50% of the total cost of travel will be awarded per request.
2. The maximum a registered StudOrg can receive per fiscal year is \$1,000.
3. Travel grant funds must be spent in compliance with BC and The State of California travel guidelines and policies.
4. Funds to support participation in tournaments or competitions, which require qualification, should be requested only after the organization has been qualified.
5. All travel funds shall be limited to BC Students only.
6. Travel funds can be used to cover the costs of:

- a. Registration and/or entry fees:
 - i. Up to \$100 per member;
 - b. Lodging:
 - i. Up to \$100 per room per night;
 - c. Travel:
 - i. Mileage reimbursement for trips beyond a 50-mile radius of campus only;
 - ii. At the current State of California mileage rate;
 - iii. Vehicle rentals and travel tolls may be reimbursed;
 - d. Per Diem
 - i. Travel funds may not be used for reimbursement of per diem.
7. Advisor Travel Incentives:
- a. All StudOrgs must be accompanied by their Advisor or designee (who is a BC faculty or staff member) when traveling.
 - b. A maximum of \$250 can be awarded for assisting the StudOrg Advisor or designee with travel expenses.
 - c. Expenditures can only be used for registration, lodging, or transportation for the advisor.

General Funding Guidelines

Funding from all categories must comply with the following policies:

1. The SOF Grant Philosophy shall serve as the basis for awarding all grants.
2. The grant request form must be filled out in its entirety and typed. StudOrgs are encouraged to meet with the Director of Student Life or designated SGA members prior to submission of the grant request. All proposals must include the following attachments (where appropriate):
 - a. Quotes from vendors and suppliers for each requested expense item.
 - i. If the expense item is \$99.99 or less in value, please provide one quote or similar documentation from vendor or supplier.
 - ii. If the expense item is \$100 or greater in value, please provide three quotes or similar documentations from vendor or supplier.
 - iii. All food or catering quotes must be from BC Food Services.
3. If the SOF Grant Proposal includes a lecturer, guest speaker, or performance, the request must include a letter from the individual or agent:
 - a. Qualifications and experience;
 - b. The proposed honorarium or sample/unsigned contract;
 - c. Completed and signed W-9 form;
 - d. Confirmation of availability.
4. Representative(s) of StudOrg must contact the Office of Student Life at least three (3) weeks prior to the event in order to develop contracts with speakers, bands, caterers, etc.
5. The Office of Student Life must handle all business transactions dealing with SOF Grants. If proper accounting procedures are not followed, the StudOrg officers may be personally responsible for the expense.
6. StudOrg officers or representatives may not commit the StudOrg, the Office of Student Life, SGA, or the College to any expenses.
7. Officers, members, or the advisor are not permitted to sign contracts of any kind.
8. Members should not commit to events until SOF Grant funding approval is final. A verbal contract may be considered legally binding. The CSO Committee is not obligated to fund an event arranged prior to approval of grant funding. Finalizing any contract is contingent on funding, and contingent on receiving necessary purchasing documentation from the College.
9. No money will be released for purchases until all paperwork is finalized, including signatures and approvals.
10. SOF funding may not be used to reimburse expenses incurred prior to funding approval.
11. All StudOrg publicity for programs sponsored with SOF funding must have the Student Government Association and the Kern Value Card Logos clear and visible on them. The logo is available on the Office of Student Life Website. If a different format for the logo is needed, StudOrgs can request it from the Director of Student Life (studentlife@bakersfieldcollege.edu).
12. Unallowable Expenses:
 - a. Activities not included in the original proposal;

- b. The purchase of furniture items;
 - c. Activities designed to promote a single political candidate or issue;
 - d. Activities that is not open to all students or those that do not comply with the non-discrimination policy;
 - e. The purchase of alcohol;
 - f. Donations, contributions, scholarships, grants, financial aid, legal services, religious or political proselytizing, or sponsorship of public elections;
 - g. Activities which are linked to academic courses or for which academic credit is awarded;
 - h. Items for personal use.
13. Any StudOrg that does not abide by the requirements listed in these guidelines may be deemed ineligible to receive grants from the CSO Committee until these guidelines have been met.
 14. Collaborative events must have SOF Grant proposals submitted at the same time so CSO Committee can review all requests for funds at the same time.

Helpful Hints When Applying for SOF Grants

1. Make reasonable and practical requests. The theory that “if-you-ask-for-more, you will-receive-what-you-need” is inaccurate. If the CSO Committee finds inflated requests in the grant proposal, the allocation may be less than what your organization really needs.
2. Be specific when requesting line items. If it seems questionable, explain your request, providing sufficient information so the CSO committee understands the need.
3. Discuss the request with your organization members and the Advisor. The CSO committee will always review requests favorably if it appears to be supported by the organization.
4. Discuss the SOF Grant request with the Director of Student Life; we are always here to help you create the best request.
5. Have a location for your event reserved. To reserve a location for your event call Facilities Scheduling (661-395-4614). Depending on the time, location, catering, and nature of your event, additional charges may apply. Make sure to ask about the cost of holding your event and security detail in the location you choose.
6. Involve your Advisor in all aspects in program planning and implementation.
7. Proposals may be judged for the quality and clarity of the presentation to the CSO committee. The use of PowerPoint and other visual aids is recommended.
8. The Office of Student Life can be a vital resource in program planning and implementation. For advice or questions, contact the Director of Student Life (studentlife@bakersfieldcollege.edu).

Application and Review Process

1. StudOrg Officers are responsible for developing and submitting SOF Grant Proposals for each event, activity, or travel.
 - a. Applications are available on the Office of Student Life website or in the Office of Student Life, Campus Center, Room 4.
 - b. Complete SOF Grant Proposal form and SOF Grant Itemized Budget Report in full.
 - c. It is the registered officers' responsibility to apply for grants and initiate paperwork for expenses in a timely manner. To be timely, organizations must plan head and submit proposals at least three weeks in advance of the activity or travel.
2. In filling out the SOF Grant Proposal, officers will be asked to provide the following items for within the application.
 - a. Proposal description including how this event meets your organization's mission and enhances the overall quality of student life on campus and the activity's logistical aspects;
 - b. Methods of promotions and advertizing to the campus community;
 - c. Methods of evaluation;
 - d. A statement of support from your StudOrg Advisor;
 - e. The itemized budget report; and
 - f. The quotes/proof for all items requested.
3. Attach all required supporting documentation such as quotes, estimates, proposals, biographies, etc.
4. Submit the SOF Grant Proposal at least three weeks prior to the date of proposed activity.
5. The proposal will be reviewed at the next SOF Grant Review.

6. At least one officer listed on the leadership roster must be present at the SOF Grant Review with a prepared five to ten minute presentation about the SOF Grant Proposal. The CSO Committee may ask questions to the presenting member.
7. All presentations are open to the public.
8. After the review, CSO Committee will deliberate and allocate funds.
9. StudOrgs will be sent a SOF Grant Notification Letter to the emails provided within 36 hours.
10. StudOrg officers must contact the Office of Student Life by the following Friday after the SOF Grant Review to be notified about the awarded grant decisions and initiate the necessary paperwork.
11. SOF Grant monies are not transferred into any StudOrg Club Accounts. Expenses are processed through a central grant account managed by the Office of Student Life.
12. A submission of a SOF Grant Proposal does not guarantee an award. If a StudOrg incurs an expense or commits to a purchase or speaker without prior SOF approval, the StudOrg shall be PERSONALLY responsible for paying that expense.

Composition of the CSO Committee

The CSO Committee, composed of five (5) students, makes all grant funding decisions. The SOF Grants shall be fiscally managed and administered by the Office of Student Life. The CSO committee shall be structured as follows:

1. The SGA Director of Clubs and Organizations, Chair.
2. Three (3) SGA appointments.
3. One (1) student-at-large (appointed by the Director of Student Life)
4. The Director of Student Life (non-voting, advisor).

Meetings and Quorum

1. Quorum shall be any three (3) voting members.
2. CSO Committee shall meet twice a month in the fall and spring semesters or more frequently as agreed by the chair and the Director of Student Life.
3. A schedule of meetings will be posted online.
4. Summer SOF Grants are administered by the Director of Student Life and the SGA Director of Clubs and Organizations.

Basis of Grant Decisions

Programs that seek to elevate the quality of education through co-curricular experiences will be considered a priority. The CSO Committee shall make decisions based on viewpoint-neutral criteria as listed below:

1. Student Participation
 - a. The number of BC students active in the organization; and
 - b. The number of members active in planning, developing, coordinating, and implementation of the proposed activity.
2. Completed Proposal
 - a. The application must:
 - Be submitted by the appropriate deadline and submitted three (3) weeks prior to event.
 - b. Be filled out completely and thoroughly – including, but not limited to:
 - Adequate descriptions and goals of event;
 - Complete, detailed, and thorough description of expenses; and
 - Budgets must be correctly added.
 - c. Contain complete, detailed, and thorough backup documentation to include but not limited to:
 - Bio of speaker, performer, or conference/travel schedule;
 - Cost estimates (provide as much detail as possible); and
 - Correspondences and Support items.
 - d. Appropriate quotes submitted for each item

3. Financial Dependency – Extent reliance on grant funds verses obtaining alternative funding or use of self-generated funds.
 - a. Co-sponsorships;
 - b. Active collaborative efforts/sponsorships from other StudOrgs or departments;
 - c. Involvement in fundraising, dues, and other self-generated funding.
4. Presentation
 - a. The representatives of the StudOrg must be knowledgeable of the activity and adequately answered questions of the CSO committee; and
 - b. The representatives of the StudOrg should have professionally presented the proposal to the CSO committee. Use of PowerPoint or other visual aids is recommended.
5. Cost Mitigation
 - a. The honoraria requested must be in range similar to other speakers/performers;
 - b. All expenses must be in range of items used in similar events; and
 - c. Budget items cannot be requested for items that could or should be donated, free, provided by other sources, or obtained at a lower cost.
6. Uniqueness
 - a. The event should not duplicate an event already held in the current semester unless proper justification is provided explaining the need for a similar event; and
 - b. Format of event must be unusual or unique events are highly encouraged.
7. Event Management
 - a. The event must be open to all BC students;
 - b. Adequacy of facilities and venue;
 - c. Scheduling of venue through appropriate College department;
 - d. Other relative logistical requirements (Consult with Office of Student Life for planning details that might include consultation with other College Departments, Department of Public Safety, Maintenance and Operations, Scheduling, etc.); and
 - e. An estimated attendance figure is required.
8. Collaborative Events
 - a. Collaborative events limit the amount your StudOrg can receive.

9. Promotion
 - a. Advertising and promotion plan must be submitted with grant proposal that will include the description and method of advertising and extent of advertising; and
 - b. Promotion efforts should attempt the entire campus.
10. History
 - a. The following will be taken into consideration:
 - Prior management of funds;
 - Completion of an event survey;
 - Success of past events;
 - Discussed and seek assistant from the CSO Committee and/or Director of Student Life about the SOF Grant Proposal prior to submission; and
 - Events have met the organization's goal for the event.

The CSO Committee considers proposals for the grant funding of specific events by reviewing requests item-by-item. StudOrgs must submit a SOF Grant Proposal with an Itemized Budget Report detailing all information completed. If the CSO Committee approves the request, the funds may only be used as stipulated by the CSO Committee's decision, as per the original request, or as per the Director of Student Life.

Members of the CSO Committee cannot vote on any proposals that they are directly connected to through affiliation or membership. Funding is allocated on a first come, first served basis, until grant funds are depleted. StudOrgs are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

StudOrgs may be asked for information about other activities and functions done in the past in an effort to ensure that active StudOrgs receive the benefits. Partial awards may be offered with fundraising recommendations.

SOF Funding Exceptions

StudOrgs may seek an exception from specific parts of these guidelines and process if it prevents the StudOrg from accomplishing its mission. Such exception requests should be submitted to the Director of Student Life with the completed SOF Grant Proposal and Itemized Budget Report. The Director of Student Life will consult with the CSO Committee and the Vice President of Student Affairs prior to making a decision. The StudOrg Officers will be notified if the exception is approved before the SOF Grant Review.

SOF Grant Appeals

Appeals are limited to the process of receiving funds itself. Amounts in the General Funding Guidelines are not subject to appeal and thus must be followed by the CSO Committee. StudOrgs must submit a letter of appeal to the Vice President of Student Affairs within three (3) instructional days of the date of receiving the SOF Grant Notification Letter. The letter of appeal must include the specific guideline being questioned.

The Vice President of Student Affairs, with consultation with the Director of Student Life and the SGA Director of Clubs and Organizations, may choose to deny the request or uphold the appeal and return the request back to the CSO Committee for reevaluation.

Failure to Adhere to Regulations

Uncompleted proposals or proposals from StudOrgs not registered with the Office of Student Life will not be considered for grant funding or approval.

Completing a SOF Grant Proposal

1. Before filling out the SOF Grant Application, review the Student Organization Funding Grants Conditions and Process.
2. There are two sections within the SOF Grant Application form. The first section involves the type of SOF Grant you are choosing to fill out and the second section requires that you provide a breakdown of the proposal. Note: Be sure to fill out all of the items in each section.

3. Include supporting documents, photos, and files that pertain to the grant. Any information you submit will help the CSO Committee when they are reviewing your proposal.
4. Include the itemized budget, which is essentially a breakdown of all the items you will need for your proposal as well as the items you will be requesting from the CSO Committee.
5. Submit online the SOF Grant Application at a scheduled student organization meeting (preferred).
6. The Director of Clubs and Organizations, or designee, will call/email the StudOrg Treasurer and Advisor of the date, time, and location of the scheduled SOF Grant Review meeting.
7. Attend and present your grant to the CSO Committee. There you will provide insight to the CSO Committee about your proposal and how it will benefit your organization and the BC community.
8. After presenting your proposal to the CSO Committee, you will receive an email indicating the committee's decision within 72 instructional hours.

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