



# Services and Activities Fee Committee Meeting

February 21, 2025 | 1:00 PM | Husky Union Building 303

## MINUTES

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### Call to Order

The Services and Activities Fee Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM on February 21, 2025.

### Roll Call

- Present
  - ASUW: Haley Chee, Annie Chen, Jack Prichard, Aiden Reeder, Crystal Tran
  - GPSS: T Marzetta, Althea Rao, Alec Solemslie, Ryan Wicklund
  - Advisor: Lincoln Johnson, Kristian Wiles
- Absent
  - ASUW: Khushi Loomba (Absent Excused)

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda for February 21, 2025, SAF Committee Meeting was approved.

Motioned by Alec Solemslie, seconded by Aiden Reeder; unanimous vote to approve the agenda.

### Public Comment [10 minutes]

### Old Business

### New Business

## Discussion

### 1. Budget Presentations:

#### Intellectual House

- Speakers: Chena Henry (Director), Michael Yates (Administrative Assistant)

FY26 budget is relatively the same as last year with some new staffing changes. Compensation for the student assistant position was adjusted to align with their level of workload. The previous assistant left in September, but the role has been reposted with revised responsibilities with the new changes. In the meantime, a temporary Program Operations Specialist has been hired. Around 250 events are hosted each year.

A recent policy change has now allowed for more subsidized space rentals for American Indian and Alaska Native faculty and students, improving access for the Intellectual House's targeted demographics. These subsidies are covered through revenue opportunity costs. Revenue from space rentals is maintained as a buffer to cover state funds and periods when the space isn't booked as often. Note that the state funds help pay for staff salaries and the university for utilities.

The Cargo Grant was a grant that was received last year and is helping with the Hall-Mary mentorship program, which hosts a regular group of about 30 students. Additionally, the Intellectual House plans to build a broader mentorship program that involves the community involving alumni, community members, and indigenous business professionals. This serves as a way to network and support students in the long-term from resume building to how to apply for graduate school by connecting them with an industry mentor. Another goal of the Intellectual House is work more with indigenous art.

#### Questions & Answers

**Jack** – Can you elaborate more on the Yehawli role and how SAF funding could expand it in 2028 (the next two years)?

- The former Yehawli Coordinator used to be reimbursed at the end of the quarter, but this process will be changed. Having a paid coordinator has proven helpful, and the role is expected to continue at Seattle's minimum wage with additional responsibilities as the Intellectual House expands.

There's also been improvements to the native garden and work done at the Burke Museum.

**Aiden** – What would the assistance look like for helping in the CAIS programming?

- That topic was a conversation if the CAIS lose grant funding. One of the activity CAIS picks up is the week-long orientation program, an early start program for first-generation college students with information for setting up housing and food. However, the conversation wasn't picked up over a year ago so this might not be something that gets dropped, but it was worth mentioning.

**Alec** – When would you foresee asking SAF to help cover the existing net deficit in SAF-related funding and expenditures?

- Eventually, the Intellectual House will need to ask SAF for support in covering the existing deficit either this year or next year once they revisit their current standings.

**Aiden** – What is your availability in doing more billable events while retaining the same amount of free events for your students?

- This depends on maintaining accessibility. Events for students must remain free, and only certain types of events can be designated as billable. While some groups aren't student-led, their events often have strong cultural and educational value. Currently, only three events are hosted per week which leaves room to increase billable events as needed. While more billable events benefit the broader community, it'll also block off times for indigenous students and staff from Indigenous-centered programming from hosting workshops to activities like the moccasin makings. The recent policy changes have made the space more welcoming and reversing them could undermine that progress.

## **SLS**

- Speakers: Tanya Fekri (Director), Trevor Hunt (HUB Associate Director & HUB Finance and Business Operations)

SLS offers free 40-minute consultations and serves a wide range of legal needs beyond common areas like immigration and tenant issues. They also assist with

contracts, traffic violations, and employment matters, making their services widely accessible. SLS has undergraduate student employees, many who are aspiring law students, who get the opportunity for practical experiences and paralegal work. SLS has been pursuing an active outreach among a diverse demographic where their services are offered on all 3 UW campuses, funded by their own SAF funds, respectively. Almost all outside legal offices offer consultations, but SLS is different by providing ongoing legal support, not just one-time advice.

SLS has seen a significant increase in demand with over 1,000 requests received, triple what they are used to seeing before active outreach. Legal issues are often time-sensitive, so delays in access to legal advice can cause situations to escalate. This is the inevitable future for SLS if they continue to stretch themselves too thin that they can't speak with all students who need SLS services. SLS is requesting a third professional staff member specializing in family law. Currently, they can only handle uncontested family law cases, leaving a gap in their services. With another staff member and law specialty, SLS will be able to double the amount of slots for student appointments and shorten the timeframe to meet with a legal professional.

**Aiden** – For the shift to academic credit for student position, will parts of it still be paid?

- The proposed shift to academic credit means positions would no longer be paid. While this opens access for more student employment, SLS does understand that unpaid roles may limit participation for students who rely on income for part-time work. Nevertheless, SLS wants to ensure that if roles become credit-based, the focus remains on observing and learning from attorneys, with the attorneys handling the core legal responsibilities and delegating tasks appropriately. Paid positions offer not just experience, but an opportunity for students to gain real legal practice and potential post-graduation employment.

**Jack** – Want to clarify the status of transition from paid interns to academic credit positions. Will it start in 2026?

- The process to academic credit positions has been finalized and will start in Fall 2025.

**Alec** – How many more consultations could one additional staff attorney provide?

- With a third attorney, SLS predicts being able to double its current operating capacity or increase it by 30% - 40%.
- **Alec** – Can you describe the difference between requests, consultations, and ongoing cases? When you receive these requests, are most of them resolvable, or are there many you can't address?
  - Resources are stretched thin with the increase in ongoing cases, ranging from 5 to 80 hours depending on the case complexity and student involvement. This year, SLS has already reached this amount of workload in just 6 months. Many students want to utilize SLS services, but SLS are restricted by their resource constraints. For example, while hiring private sector legal representation costs \$323/hour, SLS requests \$20/hour where some of that goes to operational expenses. As a result, SLS has had to turn away many students. There has also been an increase in immigration-related requests where resources are needed more than ever to continue providing ongoing legal representation.
  - SLS sometimes have to reject cases due to their capacity and area of expertise, but the bigger problem SLS faces are cases where clients must cancel or don't show up. Reviewing cases and sending follow-up emails requires effort so it sets operations and waiting time back if appointments are cancelled. With the current staffing, SLS is managing their operations, but students are waiting around 2-3 weeks to set an appointment.
- **Althea** – How would you see to see from affect wait time?
  - With the current model, SLS can't offer more than 15 slots/week or 3 consultations per day. However, with a third professional attorney in the office, SLS can offer 30 slots/week, which is about 6 consultations per day and offers a smaller wait time.

**Annie** – Knowing the financial constraints that we all have, have you thought of alternative plans if you're unable to receive the full funding for the new staff attorney position?

- SLS would do their best to continue their operations with their budget. The alternative plan would be for the professional staff to work more than 40 hours a week. The attorneys are very committed to their work on campus and often even work over 40 hours a week. Working more hours

won't solve the waiting time but there won't be any capacity for other operations.

- **Annie** – Are you able to provide industry standard wages for the staff attorneys?
  - No, these roles attract people driven by passion rather than compensation. SLS has been fortunate to find staff committed to the mission and work done on campus. Currently, SLS has two professional staff attorneys with four 3<sup>rd</sup>-year law students, two undergraduate legal assistants, and one outreach intern.

## **CSF**

- Speakers: Danny Arguetty (Director), Tatiana Brown (Manager of Program Operations), Kort Madea (Outreach and Education Coordinator), Boe Zhou (Grant and Project Coordinator), Sofia Berkowitz (ASUW Representative Chair), Mazzi Nowicki (ASUW Representative)

**Ryan** - As an update from STF, CSF had a meeting earlier this Tuesday and are now hoping to hear a resolution regarding funding from STF to support some projects.

CSF is requesting a \$35,000 increase, though historically, such increases haven't been approved. CSF notes that they applied for the SAF capitol request which could be noted as an external one-time source of funding. CSF has a large reserve from COVID, as grants intended for student projects were not utilized. This reserve will help supplement both grants and operational costs.

## Questions & Answers

**Annie** - What would you do if you do not receive the full amount for grantmaking purposes? I know that there's basically always going to be more demand than supply in terms of funding but how would you approach having to select certain projects over others?

- CSF has historically struggled with higher demand of projects that need grants than available funding. CSF aims to fund well-developed proposals who prove to be a strong contender and will be successful from the beginning to the end of the project. CSF avoids partial funding, as it often becomes the only funding a project receives, limiting its potential impact.

Some project proposals are denied due to limited funds, even though they were worth supporting.

- **Annie** – Do students have access to other funding sources?
  - No, CSF is usually one of students' best chances of receiving grant funding. CSF aims to support students leading sustainability efforts during their time on campus. Students are required to build their own advisory networks, which can open doors to additional funding opportunities on their own. In terms of external sources, CSF provides guidance and suggestions to help them explore these options.
- **Y** – With more projects getting turned away due to CSF's total funding budget, is there extra time or a separate team that is involved in helping connect the proposals, which are rejected, to other sources of support?
  - CSF provides applicants with a list of campus grants and groups they can potentially connect with. While staff time is limited due to managing funded projects and developing network relationships, CSF do try to help projects pivot, rescope, or find alternative paths to move forward. Staff actively work to build and maintain partnerships, and the diverse committee, made up of students from various majors, brings valuable insight. CSF's funding criteria are flexible, allowing them to support unique student-led initiatives that might not qualify for traditional grants.
  - CSF is working to expand funding through alumni and donor support but building this funding stream will take more time.

**Alec** – How reliable is the recouped funding?

- Recouped funding isn't a consistent or predictable source. Before Danny joined, there wasn't enough capacity to regularly follow up on projects. However, with improved oversight and project status reports now, CSF is able to occasionally identify and recover unused funds.

**Alec** – Was the drop of the line item in the budget proposal intentional for SAF funding consideration?

- CSF wanted to go to a conference to discuss the work and impact CSF grants is making on campus so the \$3,900 requested reflects the current

maximum ask. For FY27, that amount will likely increase. If the budget is still tight, CSF will consider where funds can be reallocated to make the most impact for their mission.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the January 17, 2025, SAF Committee Meeting were approved.

Motioned by Jack Prichard, Seconded by Aiden Reeder; unanimous approval.

### **Announcements**

SAF Staff positions will open for hiring in March 2025.

### **Adjournment**

The SAF Committee Meeting was called to adjourn at 2:36P M.

Motioned to adjourn by Annie Chen, seconded by T Marzetta; unanimous vote to adjourn.