Diversity Matters Funding Guidelines

PURPOSE
The Diversity Matters Fund was established in early 2010 through a grant from the University’s Diversity Council (per chair Dr. Terry Hogan, Vice-President for Student Affairs) to Northern Iowa Student Government. These funds are currently scheduled to be allocated for during Fall 2014, and Spring 2015.

The Fund seeks to provide a new, unique, and flexible funding source to collaborating UNI student organizations, and to supplement those monies already available from other sources (e.g. NISG, Intercollegiate Academics Fund, etc.). To that end, the fund's criteria (outlined below) promote unique and innovative programming, and the idea that requests will be evaluated based upon merit rather than a strict set of prescriptive guidelines. Some general goals of the fund include maximum dispersion of monies across organizations promoting cooperation among historically dissimilar student organizations (i.e. multicultural organizations and organizations without a primarily multicultural focus) in programming efforts. The Diversity Matters Fund Advisory Committee, along with the NISG Director of Diversity and Student Life, retains the right to evaluate all requests, and to grant or deny funding on that basis, as deemed appropriate.

OPERATING PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE

- The Committee, which evaluates funding requests, shall consider application on a weekly basis. Applications shall be submitted by Friday at 12 pm (Noon). The Committee will then review the application and vote electronically by the following Friday at 12 pm (Noon). If votes are not unanimous, the Committee will meet the following Wednesday afternoon to come to a decision. The applicants will be notified the results of their application within two weeks of submitting the application.
- The maximum grant for an event sponsored by one student organization shall be $500.
- The maximum grant for an event sponsored by two student organizations shall be $700.
- The maximum grant for an event sponsored by more than two student organizations shall be $1,000.
- The Committee retains the right to approve or deny requests in any amount at its discretion, considering the criteria outlined below.
- Members of the committee affiliated with student organizations making requests shall abstain in votes on those requests.

Composition of the Committee:

NISG Director of Diversity and Student Life – Chair
Appointees of the Diversity Council Chair (2)
NISG Senator appointed by NISG Vice President
Student Representatives appointed by NISG Director of Diversity and Student Life (2)
CRITERIA
The following are criteria that will be considered in evaluating requests. Student organizations are reminded that requests will be evaluated on merit as defined by the Committee members, and these criteria represent several things that could be deemed "meritorious."

Does the request involve an on-campus event?

Is the event a first-time collaborative effort for organizations involved?

The degree to which proposed event contributes to the achievement of the university’s and NISG’s missions and visions for diversity.

The number of students involved in planning the proposed event and the potential growth/enhancement for the students associated with the request.

The number of students expected to participate in or attend the proposed event and the potential growth/enhancement for the attendees/participants.

If the event was executed in the past, how is the organization improving the event?

Event provides a benefit and/or creative/innovative/unique opportunity for enrichment to the student body.

Have the applicants considered other sources of funding?

NOTE
The Diversity Matters Fund Advisory Committee WILL NOT FUND:
Requests for events or activities that would violate UNI policy and/or be deemed inappropriate by said policy
Requests for events or activities that might entail or include violations of local, state, or federal laws
Requests for retroactive funding of events or activities (all funding must be approved by the Committee PRIOR to the event or activity)

Funding requests for items will only be approved if items have a clear and direct relationship to the cultural purpose or success of the event

Approved 9/10/14