**College Student Council FAQs**

1. Why is the move to CSCs happening?

College Student Councils were always an entity listed in the ASUU governing documents, but ASUU was not actually forming functioning CSCs. The formation of CSCs is a move to align ASUU’s actions with its own policies. Further, CSCs allowed for some consolidation of funding previously distributed through SACs.

1. Where did all of the money previously allocated to SACs go?

It may appear as though available ASUU funding has been dramatically cut – whereas previously each SAC within a college was eligible for $5,000, the new model states that the CSC for the entire college is eligible for only $8,000. However, this perception is not quite reality. The reality is that the $5,000 for each SAC was the theoretical funding ceiling, not funding that was actually allocated. When ASUU students discussed how to allocate funds to CSCs, they used data on the amounts actually allocated to colleges in the past. The $8,000 makes sense when considering that graduate students didn’t pursue ASUU funding for travel in past years in the same way they are now that the availability of Graduate School funding has changed.

It is also important to note that ASUU made a decision to allocate $8,000 to each college regardless of the amount of students enrolled. This decision could be revisited through ASUU’s legislative process, meaning that each college’s Senator and Assembly Representatives would need to raise the issue through written legislation. Because of the impact each college’s Senator and Assembly Representatives can have on the college’s funding for activities and student travel, colleges should be heavily invested in improving the extent to which their elected ASUU representatives truly represent the college and its interests.

1. What should be happening with my college’s CSC?

Each college has one Senator, and a proportionate number of Assembly Representatives based on the students enrolled. The Senator chairs the CSC and the Assembly Representatives serve as members. Beyond that, each college has leeway to determine the composition of their own CSC. The most effective CSCs ASUU has seen involve student leaders of the college’s clubs and SACs, as well as some students from the college’s general population. CSCs should be meeting several times a semester and should serve as a means for a college’s students to raise concerns they may have that their Senators and Reps can then bring back to ASUU and work on addressing. CSCs may also serve as a forum for planning events and activities for a college’s students, for which ASUU funding can be requested out of the CSC’s $8,000 cap.

1. What should be happening with my college’s SACs?

All departments should continue to have SACs, and from ASUU’s standpoint, SAC involvement in RPT should not change. The only change is that ASUU is not funding SACs individually, instead funding CSCs at the college-wide level. Thus, SACs can seek funding for events via the CSC, and can collaborate with one another on college-level activities and events funded via ASUU’s allocation of funds to the CSC.

1. What should graduate and undergraduate students do for travel funding in the short and long term?

CSCs should be working on figuring out an equitable process for allocating student travel funds, taking into account the amount of students in their college and the fact that the $8,000 is a funding cap, not a guarantee. Another means of securing travel funding is for students to form ASUU-recognized organizations around common interests and common conferences. ASUU has resources for following this process on their website. Students can then apply for travel funding through ASUU via their own organizations. Student groups formed in this way do not need to have department support or a faculty advisor, but do need to have a clear, shared mission that is not related to the functioning of the SAC or CSC.

1. What about graduate representation in ASUU?

Graduate students historically are not as involved in ASUU as undergraduate students, likely because of the differential in free time graduate students have to devote to extracurricular activities. Because of the change in student travel funding from the Graduate School, graduate students are now more reliant on ASUU to fund the travel essential to their academic and professional development. Graduate students can run for office, be appointed to positions, and otherwise engage in ASUU in the exact same manner as undergraduates, and colleges should encourage such participation from their graduate students.

1. What about other, non-SAC and non-CSC student groups?

The fund for student group travel is higher than the $8,000 cap for CSCs – the precise amount is determined by a student travel committee and can fluctuate. However, there is far greater demand than there is funding. As mentioned above, students interested in forming groups around common interests can access travel funding in this manner.

For any further questions, please contact Abby Feenstra, the ASUU Legislative Advisor, at afeenstra@asuu.utah.edu or (801) 581-2788.