



Budget Request Form FY2012

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department: MSC SCONA

Program, Service, or Operation Requested

MSC SCONA Annual Conference-Open Lecture Forums for Keynote Speakers(6 Keynote speakers over the 3 day conference)

SSFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

General Description:

For over 50 years, the MSC Student Conference on National Affairs(SCONA) has given students the chance to meet and talk with some of the world’s top policy makers and experts on national and international affairs. MSC SCONA delegates do more than just listen to prominent speakers, delegates actively participate in facilitated roundtable discussions. These roundtable sessions offer students a great opportunity to meet other students from around the country while discussing issues of national importance, sharing ideas, and working together to craft a policy proposal and presentation that, at the end of the conference, is reviewed by a panel of judges.

In order to continue bringing the national figures to Texas A&M and remaining open to the Texas A&M community, MSC SCONA requests the funds to partially pay for Rudder Theater’s reservation. This would ensure that the high quality speakers of MSC SCONA are available to the students, faculty, and the surrounding community, instead of being an isolated conference that is not allowed to interact with the A&M community. Even in its current form, the conference is still closed off to those who are not delegates to the conference. Texas A&M would greatly benefit from being able to hear all of the speakers of this annual conference, without having to miss class or be one of the few to register for the conference.

Request Type: Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

General Questions:

How does this increase impact students, and what motivated this request (needs, strategic planning, etc.)?

This increase would impact students directly, since this would allow A&M students from every field of study to be able to hear from the world’s top policy makers, political figures, and scholars about the world’s most pressing issues; over the three day conference, this is a total of six speakers.

To bring this audience, MSC SCONA continuously works with the various academic departments and colleges, especially those not directly involved with political science or international studies, since MSC SCONA believes that these national and international speakers are of importance to everyone on campus; no matter what the major, every student at Texas A&M University should be aware of the issues that these speakers bring to College Station.

Due to MSC SCONA’s growth and collaborative efforts with Texas A&M Academic Departments, national institutions, and international counterparts, speakers to the community at Texas A&M were closed off, until MSC SCONA decided that the quality conference speakers should be open and in a forum that would hold a large audience of A&M students.

How do other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.

MSC SCONA has an endowment, which is drawn from every year to help fund a portion of its conference. MSC SCONA also actively pursued corporate advertisers, developed relationships with the MSC SCONA alumni, and researched many grants across the nation. Over its long 55 year history, MSC SCONA has had very little university support, which is unique to MSC SCONA; other conferences across the nation have large support from their universities, since these conferences offer the opportunity to showcase the university in a very significant way.

Even still, the amount of money requested will only cover a portion of the reservation of Rudder Theater for these speakers for these speakers to open solely for the benefit of Texas A&M students; the remainder of the cost for conference production will be gathered through fundraising efforts, since a portion of the audience will be external to Texas A&M University.

Generally, what assessment tools will you use to evaluate this program/service?

We assess MSC SCONA by trends of the audience over the year, documented evaluations from speakers and attendees, and lastly an overall conference evaluation completed by the MSC SCONA students and advisory staff.

Funding Description:

	Dollar Amount
Total Estimated Cost	\$4,000.00
Rudder Theater Reservation	
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)</i>	
TOTAL SSFAB INCREASE REQUEST	\$4,000.00

SSFAB Comments/Notes:

STUDENT | SERVICE | FEE | ADVISORY | BOARD