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Student Affairs Fee
Advisory Board
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Funding Request Form FY2023

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department:

Office of the Dean of Student Life

Program, Service or Operation Requested:

Health Promotion – Student Development Specialist III

General Description:

Health Promotion – Student Development Specialist III

The Student Development Specialist III is responsible for coordinating the Health Promotion initiatives related to the Student Success Initiative. These include, but are not limited to, coordinating curriculum development and training for the First Year Experience, developing and assessing programs for first year students, and supporting other health and wellness programming within Health Promotion.

Request Type:

Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:

UAF Other

General Questions

How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?

In July of 2019 the Office of Student Success provided three year funding for a new position within Health Promotion that would focus on issues related to launching the First Year Experience, closing achievement gaps, developing programs for Regents’ Scholars and first – generation students, assist Texas A&M University in becoming a Hispanic Service Institution, and achieving the retention goals of the Student Success Initiative. In addition to these original initiatives, this position has been critical in providing continuity for first year programming and training. Students begin with information presented at their New Student Conference and then those that attend Fish Camp will receive additional information and finally all incoming students will complete the first year programming circle with several lessons in their Hullabaloo U course. As part of this first year programming initiative, Fish Camp student leadership as well as Hullabaloo U peer mentors receive training on how to provide ongoing support to the students they work with. When asked about the impact of this position on the work with the Office of Student Success, Jason Mastrogiovanni, Executive Director, had this to say:

“This position was hired in 2019 as part of a 3-year, seed-funding grant to build capacity in Student Affairs offices that support the campus-wide Student Success Initiative. Since being hired, this position has been an invaluable support to our Hullabaloo U and the Routh First-Generation Center (“Center”) teams in the Office for Student Success. The employee was the primary designer of the initial Healthy Relationships and Wellness curriculum for the Hullabaloo U seminar and continues to support these curricular pieces that reach over 10,000 students annually. In the last year, this employee has begun to work with our first-generation student initiatives including programming for Center’s student leaders. The contributions in these areas have supported our office’s mission and goals related to student success at Texas A&M University.”

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

- Department Strategic Priority #2: Support students through quality programs and services
- Division Strategic Goal #1: Enrich the learning experience of students by cultivating an environment of intellectual curiosity (Create curriculum for courses such as Hullabaloo U as well as classroom presentations)
- Division Strategic Goal #2: Contribute to student success, including retention/persistence and timely graduation (Focus on first year students to ensure healthy habits start early)
- Division Strategic Goal #3: Create an inclusive environment that develops leaders who productively engage in a wide spectrum of ideas, perspectives, and cultures (Develop programs specifically for First Generation students)
- Division Strategic Goal #4: Provide innovative programs and resources that promote the health, wellbeing, and safety of students (Develop programs and curriculum that advance the knowledge and understanding of resources that promote overall wellbeing.)

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

This position provides curriculum development support for a number of programs aimed at supporting the first year experience, new students in college, and first generation students. This development is key for consistency across both New Student Conference orientation, Fish Camp extended orientation, and Hullabaloo U First Year Experience curriculum. This allows students to increase their skills and knowledge around key health and wellness components in a strategic, resource driven way.

Presentations and Events Related to First Year Students:

FY19 : 80 Presentations reaching 12,051 Students

- Including New Student Orientation, Fish Camp, Hullabaloo U First Year Experience, Regent Scholars, and other specially adapted programs upon request

FY20: 17 Presentations (virtual and in-person) reaching 10,483 students

-Due to the pandemic, numbers of individual presentation decreased, however attendance at each presentation was increased due to the nature of Zoom presentations. Additionally, we provided passive video content to a variety of campus partners in lieu of in-person presentations/events.

Key initiatives provided by this position:

- Hullabaloo U First Year Experience Curriculum development (wellness, healthy relationships, bystander intervention, alcohol and drugs), as well as support for training peer mentors in these topics
- Gen1 Peer Mentor Book Club – grant funded project to provide peer mentor training and professional development, incorporating aspects of DEI in the classroom
- Support for the 1st Gen Learning Community, including consultation and development of wellbeing driven programming and connection to academic success

What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?

Health Promotion eliminated one position in Fall 2020 due to required university budget reduction. The scope of Health Promotion has increased over the last several years with a greater emphasis on mental health and losing another position would result in a reduction in educational presentations and services.

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

Success will be evaluated through a variety of assessment measures, similar to all programming and events in Health Promotion.

- Hullabaloo U First Year Experience curriculum is evaluated through Student Life Studies with pre/post survey.
- All curriculum will utilize both post evaluation surveys, as well as observational skills assessment.
- Gen 1 Peer Mentor Book Club utilizes Student Life Studies as well for survey results.
- In addition to reach and student engagement, Health Promotion seeks to understand the impact of these first-year experiences on academic success through the academic journey, and is proposing future longitudinal assessment to validate the focus on first year student learning.

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

Staff positions are typically not funded through sponsorship or fundraising or any soft funds. This position was only funded for three years and it has been confirmed that OSS will not fund this position after FY22/23.

Total Estimated Cost

Funding Description	Amount
Salary	\$45,000
Benefits	\$13,500
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$58,500