

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Bill #41

Funding Public Health Society for the Spring Session of Project Amazonas

This bill will fund Public Health Society at UC Merced's travel and registration costs to participate in Project Amazona's volunteer trip over Spring Break in Santo Tomas from March 25th to April 1st.

Introduced By:

Levi Martin, ASUCM Senator - School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts

Authored By:

Morelia Marines, Vice-President of Public Health Society at UC Merced
Levi Martin, ASUCM Senator - School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Bill #41 – Funding Public Health Society for the Spring Session of Project Amazonas

Background:

Public Health Society at UC Merced is dedicated to broadening the horizons of many students in terms of their public health knowledge and careers. One of Public Health Society's main goals is to help its members with career planning. This is achieved through demonstrations, guest lecturers, and an overall bonding experience between the members of the Public Health Society; all while strengthening both the understanding and passion of public health between its peers and those that attend its events.

This service trip to Peru will allow members who attend to gain first-hand experience in the field of public health. Project Amazonas provides a great learning and networking experience for all those who participate, from undergraduates to experienced public health researchers. Traveling abroad allows members to gain the experience necessary to gain a better sense of public health issues currently facing the world which we live in. This opportunity leads to working with a variety of professionals in the public health sector. The Peruvian environment gives members insight into the variety of health challenges that one may experience in many parts of the world. Traveling to the remote area of Santo Tomas, Peru in the Amazonian Rainforest not only allows members of the Public Health Society to strive academically and explore a culture unique to their own; but it also helps the individuals of this remote area gain access to healthcare and health literacy. During this trip, members will be assisting in the clinic by working as translators, medical assistants, and conducting minor health procedures. This is an opportunity like no other for public health students.

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to allocate \$11,500 from ASUCM's Senate Bill Fund to Public Health Society at UC Merced for 10 students to participate in the Spring Session of Project Amazonas at the Santo Tomas Clinic in Peru from March 25th to April 1st.

1. **Whereas:** The Preamble of the Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of California, Merced communicates that ASUCM is dedicated to promoting the general educational welfare and enhancement of the academic benefits and opportunities offered for the continued success of the students of the University of California, Merced; and,
2. **Whereas:** This bill supports an opportunity that promotes both educational welfare and enhancement of academic benefits by allowing students to gain clinical and volunteer experience and learn about another culture; and,

3. **Whereas:** The students who are attending will share with the rest of the UC Merced student body what they learned from the trip both clinically and culturally through club meetings and events; and,
4. **Whereas:** This opportunity is open to all UC Merced students including new members of the organization; and,
5. **Whereas:** 5 members of Public Health Society at UC Merced are already committed to attend the trip and willing to pay for flight out of pocket; and,
6. **Whereas:** The club is planning to promote open positions on the trip extensively via social media and on-campus advertising; and,
7. **Whereas:** This opportunity allows students to promote health care and translate for international physicians who are also volunteering; and,
8. **Whereas:** Spanish speaking students will be translating and breaking down health care instructions from physicians in terms the patients can understand; and,
9. **Whereas:** Students who do not speak Spanish will serve as volunteers in the clinic, assisting physicians and patients in a variety of tasks; and,
10. **Whereas:** This is a great opportunity for UC Merced students to assist in improving the health conditions of underserved communities while also gaining first hand experience in the field of public health, working and networking with physicians; and,
11. **Whereas:** There are currently no opportunities locally in Merced for groups of students to volunteer at a clinic; and,
12. **Whereas:** Project Amazonas provides the medication and equipment needed to treat patients so no portion of the funding will go towards that; and,
13. **Whereas:** The costs of the trip does not include a “fun day” - the students will have to pay for that, if they desire, themselves; and,
14. **Whereas:** Public Health Society at UC Merced is willing to pursue reimbursements through the Office of Student Life if they do not make the required timeline to purchase tickets; and,
15. **Whereas:** The budget of the bill is outlined in Appendix A

16. **Whereas:** Appendix B is a “very rough” breakdown of the trips costs estimated by the Spring Session Project Amazona coordinator.

Be it Enacted: The ASUCM Senate will allocate \$11,500.00 from the 2016-2017 Senate Bill Fund to Public Health Society at UC Merced to send 10 students to participate in the Spring Session of Project Amazonas in Santo Tomas from March 25th to April 1st.

Appendix A: Budget Breakdown

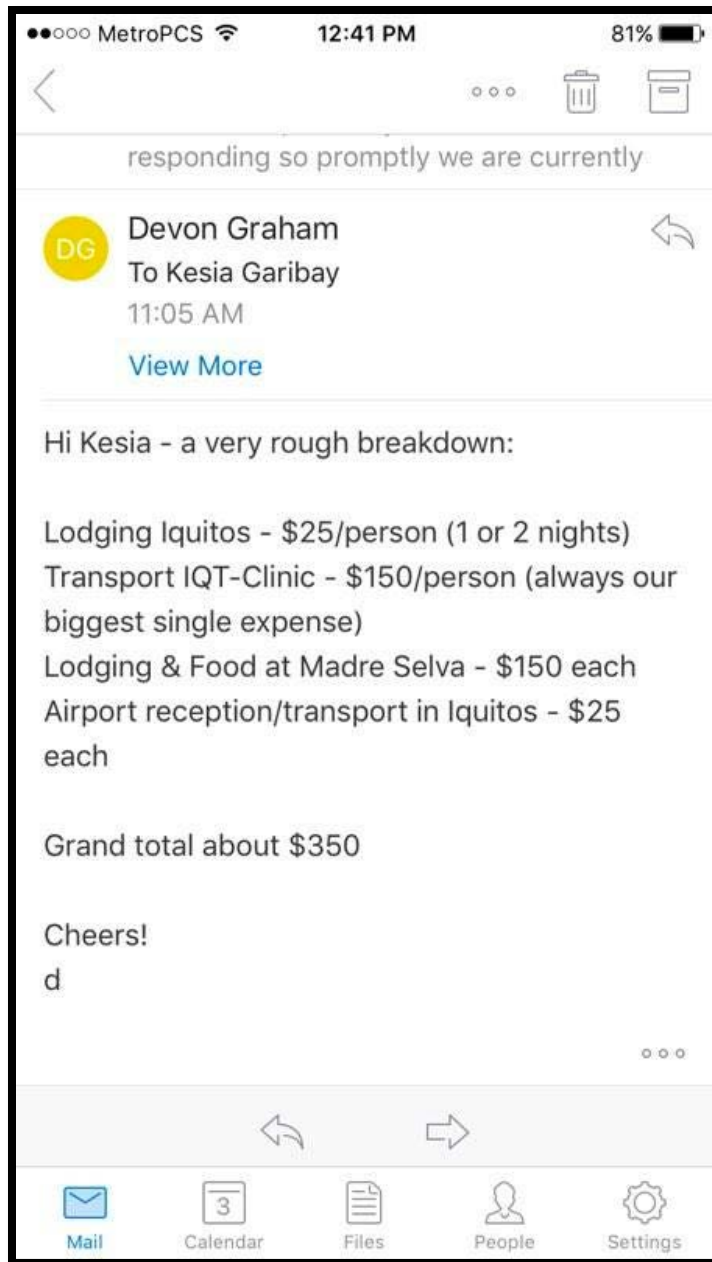
Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Lodging*	25	10	250
Transportation	150	10	1,500
Lodging at the clinic**	150	10	1,500
Transportation between airport and location	25	10	250
Airfare	750	10	7,500
Buffer***	50	10	500
Total			\$11,500.00

*Transitional lodging from the city to the villages

**Research station (Madre Selva) where members will stay through the rest of the duration.

***Buffer to account for final totals and air fee fluctuations.

Appendix B: Screenshot of Rough Estimates



Associated Students of the University of California, Merced
Bill #41 – Funding Public Health Society for the Spring Session of Project Amazonas

Date Introduced: _____

Submitted Senate Committee(s):

Date Settled: _____

Budget and Finance

Student Advocacy

Veto Expires: _____

Student Activities

Academic Affairs

Other _____

Comments/Recommendations:

Senate Action:



Approved

Not Approved

Senate Chair Authorization:

Date: 2/15/17

Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President

President Action:

Approved

Not Approved

President's Signature: _____

automatically approved

Date: 2/15/17

Katelyn Fitzgerald, President