

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

**Bill #10**

**Funding of SEEK Conference for the Catholic Newman Club**

*This bill will help sponsor the Catholic Newman Club at UC Merced to attend the SEEK 2017 Conference hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students January 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>.*

Introduced By:

Eva Perez, ASUCM Senator

Authored By:

Eva Perez, ASUCM Senator at Large  
Michaela Shanahan, Treasurer of the Catholic Newman Club

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

## **Bill #10- Funding of SEEK Conference for the Catholic Newman Club**

### **Background:**

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) is a national organization dedicated to supporting Catholic ministry efforts on college campuses throughout the United States. The Seek Conference, hosted by FOCUS every other year, is an opportunity for over 11,000 Catholic students from around the country to come together in one place with some of the most prominent speakers in the Catholic Church today. The 2017 conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas. Conference attendees will hear keynote talks and partake in workshops from leadership experts such as Curtis Martin, Sr. Bethany Madonna, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Dr. Edward Sri, who will teach students how to be effective leaders of Catholic ministry on college campuses.

The Catholic Newman Club (CNC) is a Catholic organization that strives to provide students from all walks of life with an open and inviting atmosphere of faith, fellowship, and community outreach. The objective of this club is to advance and strengthen the knowledge of the Catholic faith for students of the University of California, Merced and the surrounding community. The club meets regularly to discuss topics of faith and spirituality. They host Mass and Confessions on campus every month, and serve the community through St. Patrick's Parish. Additionally, every year on Ash Wednesday, CNC members administer ashes to over 500 UC Merced students, staff, and faculty.

In 2011, the ASUCM Senate approved a bill to send 8 students to the 2013 FOCUS Seek Conference for the amount of \$3,840.00. In 2015 ASUCM approved a bill to cover \$3,864 to cover partial airfare for 11 students. The Catholic Newman Club's participation in both conferences served as catalysts to significant club growth. The impact on campus within the past year has grown both in the number of activities hosted and in the number of students who participate.

This year because of increased support from the local Catholic parish they have fundraised most funds for this conference. The Catholic Newman Club is only asking for 20% of the total they are expecting to spend on this conference. All ASUCM funds will only go to paying for registrations of this event. The student leaders in the Catholic Newman Club are confident that their participation in this year's conference will continue to strengthen their ability to serve both Catholic and nonCatholic students at UC Merced. They are open to anyone going on this trip under the condition that those individuals must help fundraise for this trip

**Purpose:** The purpose of this bill is to allocate \$4,000 from ASUCM's Senate bill funds to assist with the cost of registration fees for SEEK in San Antonio, Texas for 20 UC Merced Students.

1. **Whereas:** The Preamble to the ASUCM Constitution states that one of the purposes of ASUCM is: "...to advance the development of leaders that will serve and make a difference in the present and future..."; and,
2. **Whereas:** The Preamble to the ASUCM Constitution also states: "...to support, promote and celebrate the diversity of culture, lifestyle, and beliefs for the breadth of ideas and perspectives they bring..."; and,
3. **Whereas:** ASUCM has previously funded other faith based organizations to go to conferences; and
- 4.
5. **Whereas:** ASUCM funding will make it possible for more economically disadvantaged students at UC Merced to grow in spiritual wellness through our conference retreat opportunities
6. **Whereas:** The students attending the conference are committed to growing the club on campus and expanding its service to students and the greater Merced community; and,
7. **Whereas:** The Catholic Newman Club is only asking for 20% of their total expenses. The rest of their funding is coming out personal expenses and through community contributions; and,
8. **Whereas:** The budget breakdown of all costs can be found in appendix A; and,
9. **Whereas:** An itinerary for the weekend can be found in appendix B; and,
10. **Whereas:** A form that the Catholic Newman Club is requiring everyone who wants to go on the trip to fill out can be found in appendix C;
11. **Whereas:** Thus, ASUCM funding the expenses of participation in this conference upholds our preamble in that it promotes and celebrates the diversity of culture, lifestyle, and beliefs for the breadth of ideas and perspectives they bring..."; therefore,

**Be it enacted:** The ASUCM Senate will allocate \$4,000 from ASUCM's Senate bill to the Catholic Newman Club at UC Merced to assist with the cost of registration fees for the SEEK conference in San Antonio, Texas for 20 UC Merced Students.

**Appendix A: Budget Breakdown**

SEEK 2017 in San Antonio TX: <http://www.focus.org/seek2017/registerearly.html>

- January 3-7, 2017
- Registration cost per student: \$399
- Estimated travel cost per student (flight from CA to TX): \$500
- Estimated total cost of attendance per student: \$899
- Estimated attendance: 20
- Estimated Total Cost: \$17,980

**Cost of SEEK Conference**

Expense	Description					Total
Conference Registration	Registration, lodging, etc.	\$399	x	20	Participants	\$7,980
Airfare	Round trip tickets	\$500	x	20	Tickets	\$10,000
Misc. Tavel	Shuttle from airport	\$500				\$500
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$18,480</b>

Source	Description					Total
ASUCM	Registration Fees	\$4,000	x	1		\$4,000
Fundraising/ Participant contributions	Airfare and remaining registration fees	\$14,480	x	1		\$14,480
Total						\$18,480 ASUCM: \$4,000 Fundraising: \$14,480

## **Appendix B: Itinerary With day-to-day Breakdown**

When you arrive at the conference, you can expect the evening schedule to look a lot like this: *(January 3)*

- 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration and Check-In
- 5:00 p.m. Mass
- 8:00 p.m. Welcome and Keynote
- 10:00 p.m. Entertainment and Adventure Expo

Here's an overview of what a typical conference day will look like:

*(January 4-6)*

- 8:30 a.m. Prayer
- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- 11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions for Men/Women
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. Impact Sessions, Round 1
- 4:00 p.m. Impact Sessions, Round 2
- 4:45 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Keynote
- 9:00 p.m. Adventure Expo, Hub Lounge (Adoration and Confession will be hosted on Day 3)
- 10:00 p.m. Entertainment (Adoration and Confession will be hosted on Day 3)

The conference wrap-up will look a little different: *(January 7)*

- 9:00 a.m. Going Forth Keynote
- 11:00 a.m. Mass



**Appendix C: Form for all interested in attending**

SEEK Interest/Commitment Form (Due no later than October 20th) SEEK 2017, San Antonio TX. January 37

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I (circle one):                      Am definitely attending SEEK!  
   Am interested but would like more info first.  
   Would love to go, but I don't think I can afford it.

Please answer the following questions so that we can help make your SEEK experience amazing!

This year's theme is 'What moves you?' Please provide a brief answer to this question:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Registration, lodging, and food; Cost per person: \$399.00**

**Travel Costs (circle the one which you would like to utilize):**  
**If you fly:                      \$500.00**  
**If you join a carpool:      \$150.00**  
**If you drive a carpool:    \$0.00**  
**Total Cost: \$549-\$899**

\*\*\*If we do not have enough drivers, seats in cars will be filled on a first come first serve basis. Those driving will need to leave early January 2nd and will return on January 9th. Those flying will be responsible for helping fundraise additional money. Flights will leave on January 2nd and return on January 7th (you are responsible for getting to and from the airport).

This trip is one that will change your life in ways that you cannot imagine (I guarantee it). You will grow in faith and encounter Jesus on a whole new level. Additionally, preparing and fundraising for and attending SEEK will create a bond between you and those that

you travel with. But, SEEK is expensive and we need your help if you want to attend. Don't let the money scare you away, we will offer you every opportunity needed to fully fund any amount that you cannot afford. But please do not plan on attending unless you are willing to help us make this happen.

Are you willing to help fundraise or contribute to the cost of this trip (circle one):

YES!            NO.

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

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Date Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted Senate Committee(s):

Date Settled: \_\_\_\_\_

Budget and Finance

Student Advocacy

Veto Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Activities

Academic Affairs

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Recommendations:

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Senate Action:



Approved

Not Approved

Senate Chair Authorization:

Date: 10.06.16

Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President

President Action:



Approved

Not Approved

President's Signature:

Date: 10.11.16

Katelyn Fitzgerald, President