

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Bill #14

**Funding for Chess Club to attend the United States Chess Federation (USCF) 26th
North American Open Chess Tournament**

This bill will fund UCM's Chess Club's competition registration and travel expenses to participate in the USCF 26th North American Open Chess Tournament on December 26-30th in Las Vegas, Nevada at Bally's Casino Resort.

Introduced By:

Anh Diep, ASUCM Senator-at-Large

Authored By:

Anh Diep, ASUCM Senator-at-Large
Michael Sanfilippo, Chess Club Representative

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(USCF) 26th North American Open Chess Tournament**

Background:

Chess Club at UC Merced has been an active contributor to on campus life and activities to students here at UC Merced. For example, Chess Club has hosted many large, free-to-enter Chess Tournaments at UC Merced with the support of the Blum Center. Each tournament has had at least 40 participants. These tournaments are completely free to participate in with free food, and also offer scholarship prizes (~\$400 per tournament) to winners. Chess club has a history of stellar support and participation from both club members and non-club members: the officers of the club help make the events possible, staff members help officiate tournaments, and many other club affiliates help with volunteering. The Chess Club is a very active club, having participated in many school events as well as volunteering to teach chess at the local Boys and Girls Club. At the club level, they host tournaments, write articles, create puzzles, review and observe games from Chess Grandmasters, teach chess to new players, and work as a club to improve all of our members' skills. They have been featured in the Merced Sun Star for their success and contribution to the community.

Why is chess important? Playing chess has proven to help enhance creativity, improve power of concentration, develop and expand critical thinking skills, boost memory and retention, and achieve superior academic performance. Additionally, chess has been shown to augment problem-solving capabilities, provide cultural enrichment, advance intellectual maturity, and enhance self-esteem. Chess Club strongly believes that these are qualities that can enrich and benefit students. Chess can be viewed as an analytical problem, and UC Merced's student body as a whole can greatly benefit from strong analytical problem-solving minds. Last June, ASUCM passed a bill that provided the Chess Club to attend and compete in the National Open (at the International Chess Festival) where they took home 1st and tied for 2nd place in their division. Additionally, they have placed 2nd at the last North American Open.

The Chess Club proposes to attend the North American Open Chess Tournament located at Bally's Casino Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada. It will be held on December 26-30th, 2016 at Bally's Casino Resort, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd S., Las Vegas, Nevada.

This is one of the largest, national USCF tournaments of the year where the Chess Club will be able to compete against some of the strongest players in the world. They will also have the opportunity to observe games from Grandmaster and listen to lectures from Grandmasters This would provide an invaluable tournament experience that will increase the professionalism of their tournaments and allow them to host USCF-standard tournaments in the future at UC Merced. The goal is for the members who attend to learn and take home these experiences to share with their club so that they can grow and build

a stronger chess community. Not only do they seek to improve and enrich their club members' experience, but they also aim to represent UC Merced's name abroad at this tournament.

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to allocate \$3179.52 from Senate Bill Funds to the Chess Club at UC Merced to cover the registration and travel expenses for the USCF's 26th North American Open Chess Tournament, in order to enrich the participating students and promote academic success and personal development of our campus as a whole.

1. **Whereas:** The Preamble to the ASUCM Constitution states that one of the purposes of ASUCM is to promote 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 tournament will promote the diversity in culture, lifestyle, and beliefs of students at UC Merced as stated in the Preamble of our constitution; and,
3. **Whereas:** This tournament will provide students invaluable experiences to become better chess players, as well as the opportunity to represent UC Merced on a national level, and the opportunity to get UC Merced students ranked by the United States Chess Federation (USCF) itself; and,
4. **Whereas:** This tournament provides the opportunity for the participates to spectate and learn from games played by Grandmasters, thus strengthening chess abilities; and
5. **Whereas:** This tournament will allow participating students to learn about how professional USCF events are administered as therefore improving knowledge of how to host higher quality chess tournaments here at UC Merced for our community to participate in; and,
6. **Whereas:** Historically, Chess Club has hosted such events for the UC Merced Community that provided not only the opportunity to play class competitively but also win academic scholarships provided by the club itself; and,
7. **Whereas:** Chess Club has a history of success with chess tournaments, having placed 1st and 2nd in the 2015 National Open (International Chess Festival), and placed 2nd in the 2015 USCF North American Open; and,
8. **Whereas:** The budget breakdown of funding request will be found in Appendix A and the Supplemental Information provides further expenditure details; and,

9. **Whereas:** Funding the registration and travel expenses for Chess Club upholds our Constitution by not only enriching these students but also enriching our student community as this competition broadens Chess Club's knowledge and skill in providing quality representation of our university abroad and quality events for our university community background; therefore,

Be it Enacted: The ASUCM Senate will allocate \$3179.52 from Senate Bill Funds to the Chess Club at UC Merced to cover the registration and travel expenses for the USCF's 26th North American Open Chess Tournament, that'll take place on Dec. 26-30th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Appendix A

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Registration Fee	\$275.00	4 (entries)	\$1,100.00
Plane Ticket	\$199.00	4 (tickets)	\$796.00
Hotel Room (at VDARA Hotel)	\$641.76 (from Dec. 26th-30th)	2 (rooms)	\$1,283.52
		Total Funding Requested:	\$3,179.52

Supplemental Information:

-Plane Tickets are from (SNA/LAS), (SAC/LAS), (FAT/LAS), and (LAX/LAS) respectively as these 4 individuals will be flying individually to Las Vegas and convening there for the tournament.

-VDARA Hotel was chosen as it is one of the few smoke-free, gambling-free hotels in Las Vegas. The reasoning for 2 rooms is for the comfort of the participants, who desire for the rooms to be separated by sex.

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Date Introduced: _____

Submitted Senate Committee(s):

Date Settled: _____

- Budget and Finance
- Student Advocacy
- Student Activities
- Academic Affairs
- Other _____

Veto Expires: _____

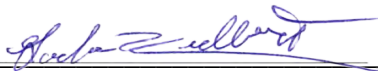
Comments/Recommendations:

Senate Action:

Approved

Not Approved

Senate Chair Authorization: _____


Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President

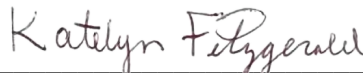
Date: 10/19/2016

President Action:

Approved

Not Approved

President's Signature: _____


Katelyn Fitzgerald, President

Date: 10/19/2016