

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Bill #42

Funding for the Phi Alpha Delta, Pre- Law Chapter at UC Merced

This bill will fund the brothers of Phi Alpha Delta, Pre- Law fraternity, to travel to Washington D.C. to network with other brothers and expand on their knowledge of the legal profession while helping to establish the foundations of their own chapter.

Introduced By:

Jonathan Fuentes, ASUCM Senator

Authored By:

Kia Vang, External Vice President, Phi Alpha Delta
Kevin Quintanilla, Treasurer, Phi Alpha Delta
Jocelyn Huitron Gutierrez, Community Service Chair, Phi Alpha Delta
Angelica Rodriguez, Fundraiser Chair, Phi Alpha Delta
Gloria Nunez, Member, Phi Alpha Delta
Kimberly Ramirez, Member, Phi Alpha Delta
Seth J. Craig, Member, Phi Alpha Delta
Jessica Inn, Member, Phi Alpha Delta

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Background:

The formation of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International was created in 1902 by a group of law students in Chicago. These students aimed to provide a professional organization for the entire legal community. Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity, International exists to provide a strong relationship among people involved in the legal profession to advance the principles of liberty and equal justice under law, to promote personal integrity and professional expertise, and to support the welfare of its member so that they may enjoy a lifetime of honorable professional service. The Pre-Law chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International was established at the University of California, Merced on the 24th of April 2013. Since its establishment over 56 students have become members and participated in LSAT practice and review, field trips to court-houses and law school tours, community service events, and fundraisers all in attempt to further knowledge in the legal profession of members.

This trip will be a catalyst for motivation and leadership for members not just within Phi Alpha Delta but students of UC Merced and members of our community. The opportunity to visit iconic academic, legal, and political institutions in Washington D.C. will allow our members to build connections between our nation's capital and UC Merced. Aside from building leadership qualities within our members, this trip will also provide the leaders of Phi Alpha Delta the experience needed to continuously build a functioning, active, and engaging Pre-Law fraternity presence on our campus. This trip will also have the prospect of bringing interest to prospective members of Phi Alpha Delta and encourage students to take an active role in the fraternity as well as the legal community. Members of Phi Alpha Delta who go on the trip will prepare and present informational sessions open to all UC Merced students. At these informational sessions, we will be extending knowledge on the law school we visited as well as the connections we made and opportunities presented to us on this trip. Thus, this trip will help raise recognition of Phi Alpha Delta within UC Merced and recognition of UC Merced from other prominent universities in the East Coast. Overall, this trip is aimed to grant an opportunity and encouragement to students who wish to pursue a career in the legal field.

Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to allocate \$7,000.00 from the 2016-2017 Senate Bill Funds to assist with the costs of the trip for 10 UC Merced members of Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity International to visit Washington D.C. from Tuesday, March 28, 2017 to Saturday, April 1, 2017.

1. **Whereas:** The ASUCM Constitution states that we seek to, “promote the general educational welfare, for the continued success of the students of the University of California, Merced.” The primary goal of our Fraternity is to aim for each member's maximum potential to ensure success during their post-undergraduate careers.

2. **Whereas:** The philosophy of our chapter is to encourage and provide resources to students who strive to attend Law School. In D.C., members will learn valuable skills to help educate the students of UC Merced with various informational sessions, primarily law school admission process workshops.
3. **Whereas:** Phi Alpha Delta's primary concern for our members is academic achievement. Our fraternity aims to to deliver a professional D.C. experience to students whilst maintaining student punctuality. The five-day event is planned during Spring Recess so that members will not have to sacrifice course attendance.
4. **Whereas:** With only three years of establishment of our chapter, it is still on the verge of development. This visit will cultivate connections between fellow Phi Alpha Delta chapters in Washington D.C. whilst cementing the foundations of the present chapter at UC Merced.
5. **Whereas:** Washington D.C. is the center of law and policy creation in the United States. In our nation's capital, members who strive to work for the federal government will find many opportunities to fulfill a lifelong purpose of working in public policy. A professional experience in D.C. will invigorate members to chart their life beyond UC Merced.
6. **Whereas:** Phi Alpha Delta's objective is to formally prepare each student for the rigors of grad school, specifically Law School. Exposure and networking is one of the most important aspects of undergraduate studies. Members will network with influential officials in Washington D.C. and forge connections for UC Merced.
7. **Whereas:** The proper utilization of ASUCM funds is one of the Fraternity's primary concerns. All the money not utilized on the trip will be returned to ASUCM.
8. **Whereas:** Phi Alpha Delta will prioritize members who have not been to DC on a trip before during the selection process.

Be it Enacted: That \$7,000.00 from the ASUCM 2016-2017 Senate Bill Funds be allocated to the Phi Alpha Delta, Pre Law International Fraternity Chapter at UC Merced, to attend Washington D.C. from Tuesday, March 28, 2017 to Saturday, April 1, 2017.

Appendix A: Budget Breakdown

Item	Cost	Info
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Hotel	\$1,376.00	Comfort Inn Downtown DC/Convention Center (\$172 per night x two rooms).
Flight	\$4,950.00	\$495 round trip per student (Departure from Fresno).
Buffer	\$674	
Transportation	**Student Expense	Students attending will pay for transportation.
Total	\$7,000.00	

Appendix B: Itinerary

Schedule	Times	Details
Tuesday, March 28th		Arrive & Check in.
Wednesday, March 29th	8:00am	Arrive at Supreme Court House *Argument starts at 10:00AM, 3 cases on this day.
	2:00pm	Visit Top D.C Law Firm Covington and Burling LLP.
	4:00pm	Meet and Greet with Lawyers from Alan Lescht & Associates, P.C.
	6:00pm	Network with Attorney Jason Kalafat.
Thursday, March 30th	9:30am	Visit Georgetown Law.
	10:30am	Meet with P.A.D. Georgetown Law Members.
	2:00pm	Visit George Washington University Law School.

	2:30pm	Meet with P.A.D George Washington University Law School members.
	4:00pm	Special interest networking, meeting with Department of Justice & Department Of Education.

Schedule	Times	Details
Friday, March 31st	10:00am	Visit American University Washington College of Law.
	11:00am	Meet P.A.D. members at American University of Washington College of Law.
	1:00pm	Campus tour and classroom visit at Howard University School of Law.
	3:00pm	Special Interest Networking, members meeting with National Organization for Women.
	5:00pm	Networking Opportunity with UCDC Students.
Saturday, April 1st		Depart.

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Submitted Senate Committee(s):

☐ Budget and Finance

☐ Student Advocacy

☐ Student Activities

Comments/Recommendations:

Senate Action: Approved Not Approved

President Action: Approved Not Approved

Date Introduced: _____

2/03/17

2/03/17

Date Settled: _____ Veto Expires: _____

☐ Academic Affairs

Committee of the Whole

☐ Other _____

Senate Chair Authorization:  Date: 2/22/17

Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President

2/09/17

President's Signature: Katelyn Fitzgerald Date: 2/22/17 Associat-

ed Students of the University of California, Merced 2016-2017

2/9/2017

Katelyn Fitzgerald, President

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced *2016-2017*