

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Bill #43

2017 USCF National Open Chess Tournament

Introduced By:

Jonathan Fuentes, ASUCM Senator

Authored By:

Joseph Larco, Chess Club Representative

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

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2016-2017

Bill #43 – USCF National Chess Tournament

Background: Chess Club has hosted many large free Chess Tournaments (2 per academic year) with the support of the Blum Center. We have attracted around 40 players each tournament. These tournaments are completely free and also offer scholarship prizes (~\$400 per tournament) to winners and free food. The chess club is a very active club participating in many school events and also volunteering to teach chess at the boys and girls club. We also supported the boys and girls club and two UC Merced alumni who volunteer as US Peace Corps with chess sets so that they could continue to grow. We have tournaments, write articles, create puzzles, review games from grandmasters, teach chess to new players, and work as a club to improve all of our members. We have been featured in the Merced Sun Star. The chess club attracts a very diverse crowd: undergraduate students, graduate students, staff members, faculty, children from the area, students at Merced College, and Merced Chess Club.

In June 2015, ASUCM made it possible for our club to attend the National Open where we took home 1st and tied for 2nd place in our division. In December 2015 ASUCM made it possible for our club to attend the North American Open where we received a 2nd place finish in our division. This would be our third year attending and we have strong players who should achieve good results.

Chess club has continued to support the community by volunteering to teach chess at Hoover middle school and the Boys and Girls Club, we have also continued to work with the US Chess Trust to get funding for new chess sets for Title I students who participate in the chess programs we support.

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. We know that these are qualities that school administrators, parents, and professors desire for their students. Chess can be viewed as an analytical problem and UC Merced can greatly benefit from strong analytical problem-solving minds.

We propose to attend the National Open. Participating in the National Open Chess Tournament would provide an invaluable tournament experience that will increase the professionalism of our own tournaments and potentially allow us to host USCF tournaments in the future. The goal is for the members who attend to learn and take home these experiences to share with our club so that we can grow and build a stronger chess community.

The National Open will be held on June 15th – 19th, 2017 at 3000 Paradise Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89109. 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.

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to allocate \$4526.40 from Senate Bill Funds to the Chess Club at UC Merced to cover the registration and travel expenses for the USCF's National Open Chess Tournament, in order to enrich our 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:** The budget breakdown of funding request will be found in Appendix A and the Supplemental Information provides further expenditure details; and,
8. **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 \$4526.40 from Senate Bill Funds to the

Chess Club at UC Merced to cover the registration and travel expenses for the USCF's National Open Chess Tournament, that'll take place on June 15th-19th in Las, Vegas Nevada.

Appendix A: Budget

	Quantity	Total
Two Hotel Rooms 06/15-06/19	1	\$1976.40
Travel	6 Plane Tickets (\$200*6)	\$1200
Tournament Entry	6 Entries \$225 (entry cost per player)	\$1350
		\$4526.40

Supplemental Information:

-Plane Tickets are from (OAK/LAX), (FAT/LAS), (LAX/LAS), (LAX/LAS), (BURB/LAS), (SNA/LAS) respectively as these 6 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 and to accommodate the number of people we have.

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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:  Date: 3/2/17
Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President

President Action: Approved Not Approved

President's Signature: automatically approved Date: 3/2/2017
Katelyn Fitzgerald, President