Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Bill #44

Funding for Bobcat Model United Nations to attend the Model Arab League

This bill will fund Bobcat Model United Nations travel and hotel fees to attend Model Arab League in Reno, Nevada from April 7th-9th 2017

Introduced By: Eva Perez, ASUCM Senator

<u>Authored By:</u> Eva Perez, ASUCM Senator Sophie Vo, Bobcat Model United Nation Secretary General Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

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Background:

Bobcat Model United Nations (MUN) is an organization dedicated to furthering students' understanding of international affairs and skills in public speaking through the modeling of UN sessions and participation in intercollegiate MUN conferences. The club provides the necessary resources and training to compete in these conferences. Through Bobcat MUN, students gain a deeper understanding of the principles of international relations and the roles of various actors in the global political arena as well as those of the United Nations in maintaining peace and conducting conflict resolution. Students also explore the context in which global issues transpire through the research and study of assigned countries' histories, policies, and past involvement with other countries and entities.

During Model United Nations conferences, delegates emulate an assigned country and gather to discuss issues of international diplomacy. Topics discussed in each competition include (but are not limited to) concerns relating to world health, social and humanitarian issues, international criminal tribunals, and conflict resolution for peace. Delegates in every room compete for a "Best Delegate" award, which is bestowed based on speaking ability, teamwork, and leadership exhibited during session. SBIMUN is one such academic competition.

During the Model Arab League, delegates will be able to demonstrate speaking ability's, teamwork, and leadership. Specifically, the Model Arab League, aims to encourage students to not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples, but they have an extraordinary chance to develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, writing, editing, and public speaking skills. The students will tackle international challenges of representing the needs, concerns, interests, and foreign policy objectives of a government other than their own, especially that of an Arab country.

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to allocate \$2,291 from ASUCM's Senate bill funds to Bobcat Model United Nations to assist with the cost of the Model Arab League conference, transportation, and hotel fees to participate in the Northern California Regional Model Arab League that will be taking place in Reno, Nevada, from April 7th-9th.

 <u>Whereas:</u> The Preamble of the Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of California, Merced communicates that ASUCM "promotes 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. <u>Whereas:</u> This event will provide the opportunity for UC Merced students exercise and gain public speaking skills, become educated in international affairs, explore peace maintenance options and conflict resolution on a world scale, and represent at a state tournament.
- 3. <u>Whereas:</u> Bobcat Model United is a club on campus that is dedicated to furthering students' understanding of world politics and diplomacy and furthering students' professional and speaking skills; and,
- 4. <u>Whereas:</u> Each member that attends this conference will be able to gain the skills listed and will be able to bring back what they've learned to benefit the UC Merced
- 5. <u>Whereas:</u> Bobcat MUN won 2 "Best Delegates" Award at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' in the NorCal Model Arab League competition of 2015-2016; and,
- 6. <u>Whereas:</u> The budget breakdown of all costs can be found in appendix A

<u>Be it enacted</u>: That ASUCM allocate \$2,291 from ASUCM's Senate bill funds to Bobcat Model United Nations to assist with the cost of the Model Arab League conference, transportation, and hotel fees to participate in the Northern California Regional Model Arab League that will be taking place in Reno, Nevada, from April 7th-9th.

Appendix A: Budget Breakdown

Cost for 12 delegates

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Delegation fee	\$0	1	\$0
Delegate fee	\$45	12	\$540
Hotel room for 4	\$318	3	\$954
Transportation (gas)	\$265	3	\$796
Overnight Parking	\$0	6	\$0
Total			2,291

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Date Introduced:		Submitted Se	enate Committee(s):	
Date Settled:		Budget and Finance Student Advocacy		
Veto Expires:		Acad	ent Activities emic Affairs	
Comments/Recommendation	<u>s:</u>			
Senate Action:	Approved		Not Approved	
Senate Chair Authorization:		Approved <i>Godoa</i> albert Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President		
President Action:	Approved		Not Approved	
President's Signature:	_ Date: <u>3/2/17</u>			