

Associated Students of the University of California, Merced

Bill #9

**Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Good Samaritan Medical and Dental
Ministry (GSMDM) Mission**

*The bill will sponsor members of the Vietnamese Student Association to attend the
GSMDM Mission from July 6th to the 22nd, 2017.*

Introduced By:

Anh Diep, ASUCM Senator-at-Large

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Anh Diep, ASUCM Senator-at-Large

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**Bill #9-Funding for Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Good Samaritan
Medical and Dental Ministry (GSMDM) Mission**

Background: The Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) is a student oriented organization that focuses on broadening the understanding and appreciation of the Vietnamese culture, language and history. In order to bring the cultural awareness to campus, VSA hosts various club-sponsored activities including, but not limited to, social events, guest speakers and festivals that showcase the Vietnamese tradition. VSA's philanthropy is to give back to the Vietnamese community. For the past two years, this organization has taken a step further and has reached out to the less fortunate people of Vietnam through a medical mission called *Project Vietnam*.

The Good Samaritan Medical and Dental Ministry (GSMDM) is a non-profit organization that travels to remote villages in Vietnam every summer to provide free medical care to less fortunate families. The organization first started in 2000 with just one physician and four volunteers who wanted to participate in a free clinic in Vietnam. Upon coming back and were moved by what they encountered in Vietnam, the group of friends founded GSMDM as a way to continue giving back to the people of Vietnam and opening up more opportunities to other individuals who share the same interests. Since then, the organization has expanded significantly. It now has nearly fifty medical providers, ranging from physicians, surgeons, nurses, dentists to pharmacists, and more than fifty volunteers coming from different cities in California. Every summer, GSMDM spends two weeks in Vietnam and treats more than 4,000 patients. Services include general medical care, laboratory tests, surgeries, dentistry care, optometry care and pharmacy care.

For the past two years, a total of 15 UC Merced students were sponsored partially by ASUCM to go on this medical mission trip. Historically, for the remaining mission costs not covered by ASUCM, the students hosted club fundraisers and asked relatives to help cover for the costs. Upon coming back from the trip, the students along with VSA have been hosting information sessions to share with other students about the experience. These information sessions were open up to all students. In addition to that, VSA has been working on giving back to the UC Merced community by participating in various on-campus events such as Mid-Autumn Festival and Stand For The Kids to share and educate students about some of the skills that were acquired from the mission trip. This year, VSA will be hosting club fundraisers to raise funds for the trip.

Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to allocate the amount of \$7,800 from the 2016-2017 Senate Bill Fund to assist with the costs of sponsorship and transportation for six UC Merced students of the Vietnamese Student Association and their participation in the Good Samaritan Medical and Dental Ministry Mission, from July 6 - July 22, 2017 for 17 days in Cao Bang, Vietnam.

1. **Whereas:** The Preamble of the Constitution of the Associated Students of the University of California, Merced states that ASUCM strives “to support, promote and celebrate the diversity of culture... to advance the development of leaders that will serve and make a difference in the present and future;” and,
2. **Whereas:** The Constitution further reiterates 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,
3. **Whereas:** A main focus of the Vietnamese Student Association is philanthropic with reaching out to those less fortunate in one of the poorest areas in Vietnam; and,
4. **Whereas:** The mission will offer unique opportunities for these students to gain invaluable skills, knowledge, and inspiration to optimize their candidacies in health-related professions post-graduation from UC Merced; and,
5. **Whereas:** The mission will offer specialized programs for students to gain first hand experience in fields such as but not limited to: general care, surgery, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, etc.; and,
6. **Whereas:** The Vietnamese Student Association will implement this mission to allow growth and development of the organization’s members through cultural enrichment and philanthropy outreach; and,
7. **Whereas:** The establishment of *Project Vietnam* will offer a more immediate experience and immersion of Vietnamese culture through health-care volunteering that will be brought back and shared with other members of the Vietnamese Student Association and the UC Merced community; and,
8. **Whereas:** The Vietnamese Student Association is currently holding fundraising efforts to cover 43.5% or \$6,000 of the total fees; and,
9. **Whereas:** Any funding not used for this trip will return to ASUCM; and,
10. **Whereas:** Prior to attending the mission, the nonprofit Good Samaritan Medical and Dental Ministry is providing mandatory training sessions so all students going will be properly trained; and,
11. **Whereas:** The budget breakdown for the Vietnamese Student Association’s *Project Vietnam* is further elaborated upon in Appendix A and B; and,
12. **Whereas:** Appendix C entails the day-to-day schedule of the participants of the mission; and,

13. **Whereas:** This bill upholds the constitution; therefore,

Be it Enacted: That ASUCM Senate will allocate the total amount of \$7,800.00 from the Senate Bill Funds to the Vietnamese Student Association of UC Merced to cover the mission expenses of 6 students for their participation in the Good Samaritan Medical and Dental Ministry (GSMDM) Mission in Vietnam for the Summer of 2017.

Appendix A: Total Mission Expenses

	Cost	People	Total
Airfare/ Registration Fees*	\$1,300.00	6	\$7,800.00
VSA's Mission Fundraising Contribution	\$900.00	6	\$5,400.00
Buffer/Miscellaneous	\$100.00	6	\$600.00
		Total	\$13,800.00

***Appendix B: Budget Breakdown of Airfare/Registration Fees**

	Cost	Days	Total	People	Total
Mission Fee	\$220.00	n/a	\$220.00	6	\$1,320.00
Hotel	\$25.00	17	\$425.00	6	\$2,550.00
Airfare	\$655.00	n/a	\$655.00	6	\$3,930.00
			(\$1,300.00)	Total	\$7,800.00

Total Cost of Mission for 1 Student: **\$2,300.00**

ASUCM's Cost for 1 student: **\$1,300.00**

Total Funding requested from ASUCM (for 6 students): \$7,800 for Airfare/Registration Fees.

ASUCM will be covering 56.5% of total mission cost.

Appendix C: Trip Schedule from Monday-Friday for Two Weeks

Time	Activity
5:00-6:00 AM	Breakfast
6:00-8:00 AM	Bus Ride to Clinic
8:00-8:30 AM	Set up at the Clinic
8:30-12:00 AM	Volunteer at Clinic

12:00-12:30 AM	Lunch
12:30-6:00 PM	Volunteer at Clinic
6:00-6:30 PM	Clean up/Load Bus
6:30-8:00 PM	Ride Back to Hotel
8:00-9:00 PM	Dinner
9:00-10:00 PM	Debrief/Inventory
10:00-12:00 AM	Free Time
12:00 AM	Curfew (Students must be back in hotel room)

*On Saturday/Sunday, students are given the day off to explore the city on their own expenses. The program specifically entails that students can only go off in groups of three for safety reasons.

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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: _____

Gabriel Hulbert, Internal Vice President

President Action:

Approved

Not Approved

President's Signature: Katelyn Fitzgerald Date: _____ Timeline Passed

Katelyn Fitzgerald, President