

Response Summary:

Q1. Applicant Information

Name (first and last)	Shantille Connolly
Email address	shathompson@ucdavis.edu
Phone number (xxx) xxx-xxxx	5307529651
Name of Department/ Unit/ Student Organization	Health Education and Promotion
What is your role or position within the Department/ Unit/ Student Organization?	Health Promotion Specialist

Q2. Event/ Program Information

Name of the Event/ Program	Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver
Date(s) of Event (include the year)	2025-2026
Location	UC Davis
TOTAL event/ program budget (\$x,xxx)	5000
Funding request amount from COSAF (Student Programming Fund) (\$x,xxx)	5000

Q3. Please provide a detailed description and purpose of the event/ program.

The Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver would aim to increase student involvement in campus clubs and organizations by removing the financial barrier that club membership fees pose. According to the National College Health Assessment (NCHA) conducted in 2023, 49.5% of graduate students and 56.7% of undergraduate students at UC Davis experience significant levels of loneliness. Being involved in organizations and clubs on campus empowers students to make meaningful connections with others and develop a sense of belonging on campus.

Research highlights the critical role of student involvement in academic success and social well-being. Greater involvement in the academic and social aspects of the college environment increases the capacity for student learning and development (Astin 1984). A strong correlation exists between co-curricular student engagement and higher GPAs (Bergen-Cico and Viscomi 2012). Extracurricular engagement, especially among underrepresented students, combats feelings of isolation and boosts academic performance (Baker 2008). Additionally, early involvement in student organizations significantly mitigates drop out risks (Thomas et al. 2021).

We conducted an anonymous survey at the 2024 Student Involvement Fair and received responses from 90 student organizations (this represents approximately 10% of the 800+ total campus organizations). The survey assessed how much each organization charges members for dues and if they allow sliding scale policies (paying any amount between \$0 and the total fee). Of this sample, 35% of organizations require dues from club members. Of the 35%, 22.2% of clubs had dues ranging from \$0-10, 25.9% of clubs had dues ranging from \$10-20, and 55.5% of clubs had dues of \$20 or more. When asked about their membership fee policy, 46.4% of clubs allowed a sliding scale while 53.6% of clubs required the member to pay the fee in full. From this data, we are able to conclude that approximately one-third of the clubs sampled require dues. Of that third, more than half require dues of \$20+ per quarter or ~\$60 per year.

Q4. How will the requested funds be utilized to support this event/ program?

We will review student applications and reward funds (up to \$50/quarter per student) based on a minimum 2.8 GPA to ensure academic commitment. Priority will be given to (1) students seeking participation in organizations that align with institutional values, (2) students from low-income or underrepresented backgrounds, or (3) students joining organizations that promote inclusivity or serve underrepresented groups.

Health Education and Promotion will consult the Center for Student Involvement on the best method for distributing funds.

Q5. Please enter estimated attendance for the following groups.

UC Davis Students	100-500
UC Davis Staff	NA
Faculty	NA
Other (please specify and include number)	NA

Q31. If this event does not receive funding or receives only partial funding, how will the event be impacted?

If the Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver were to receive partial funding, we would fund membership fees for as many students as the grant funding allows. This might mean being able to offer our Club Fee Waiver for one quarter out of the entire school year.

Q6. Who is the target audience of the event/ program? (e.g. students, program participants, users of a specific service)

Our target audience are UC Davis undergraduate and graduate students, particularly students who have not yet joined a club and are from low-income and underrepresented/historically marginalized backgrounds.

Q7. What program, activity, or service will be provided? (e.g. six-week training program, instructional class or activity, structured community program that exposes students to new ideas and experiences)

The Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver will provide students with the financial means to participate in organizations that require member fees without having to use their own personal funds.

Q10. How does the event/ program provide services that are of growing interest to students? (if applicable)

The Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver is of growing interest to students because as stated before, both UC Davis graduate and undergraduate students experience high levels of loneliness. Removing the financial barrier would allow students to join clubs of their interest whether it be professional, community service, cultural, or social without straining their own finances.

Q11. How does the event/ program foster diversity, equity, and inclusion? (if applicable)

The Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver fosters diversity, equity, and inclusion as it will be primarily awarded to (1) students who demonstrate financial need, (2) students from underrepresented identities, and (3) students joining organizations that promote inclusivity.

Q12. How does the event/ program provide crucial services to students? (if applicable)

As cited above, it is crucial for students to find a community in college in order to maintain their social well-being. Research shows that student involvement improves the capacity for student learning and development (Astin 1984). As well as a strong correlation existing between co-curricular student engagement and higher GPAs (Bergen-Cico and Viscomi 2012).

Q32. How does the event/program benefit a large range of student population?

The Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver will be available to all UC Davis undergraduate and graduate students. With over 800+ clubs that span a great variety of interests and topics, students from all areas would benefit from the Club Fee Waiver.

Q13. Has your Department/ Unit/ Student Organization put on this event in the past?

- No

Q33. If this is an annual event, is there a change to funding from previous years?

- This is not a regular annual event

Q34. If Yes, what is the change?

N/A

Q35. If this is an annual event, is there a substantive change to the program agenda from previous years?

- This is not a regular annual event

Q36. If Yes, what is the change?

N/A

Embedded Data:

N/A

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM COSAF | 2025-26

Name of Event/Program:

Empowering Connections Club Fee Waiver

Name of Department/Unit/Student Organization:

Health Education and Promotion

Program Date(s) in 2025-26: **entire year**

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	SUB-TOTAL
FACILITY: Room Rental, Room Set-Up, Equipment Rental, Audio/Video		
1.	\$ _____	
2.	\$ _____	
3.	\$ _____	
4.	\$ _____	
5.	\$ _____	
6.	\$ _____	\$ 0.00
FOOD: Refreshments, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (include estimated cost per person)		
7.	\$ _____	
8.	\$ _____	
9.	\$ _____	
10.	\$ _____	
11.	\$ _____	
12.	\$ _____	\$ 0.00
PERFORMERS, GUEST SPEAKERS, HONORARIA		
13.	\$ _____	
14.	\$ _____	
15.	\$ _____	
16.	\$ _____	
17.	\$ _____	
18.	\$ _____	\$ 0.00
PUBLICITY/MARKETING: Flyers, Posters, Advertising, Mailing, Printing		
19.	\$ _____	
20.	\$ _____	
21.	\$ _____	
22.	\$ _____	
23.	\$ _____	
24.	\$ _____	\$ 0.00
SUPPLIES: Decorations, Online Tools, Software, Licenses		
25.	Grants to cover the cost of student organization and club dues	\$ 5,000.00
26.		
27.		
28.		
29.		
30.		\$ 5,000.00
TRAVEL: Transportation, Parking, Lodging		
31.	\$ _____	
32.	\$ _____	
33.	\$ _____	
34.	\$ _____	
35.	\$ _____	
36.	\$ _____	\$ 0.00

Total Amount Requested from COSAF:	\$ 5,000.00
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