University of South Florida
Student Senate

SB [A] 52-040
The Enriched USF Week Funding Act

The intent of this allocation shall be to provide substantial funding to the Center for Student Involvement for the purpose of enhancing USF Week related programming.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the University of South Florida Student Government assembled, that the Center for Student Involvement – USF Week Program be allocated the following funds from the SG Unallocated Cash Account:

$15,000.00  Programming and Other Operating Expenses
$900.00  Overhead
$15,900.00  Total

ATTEST:

Matthew A. Diaz
Student Body President

Khalid J. Hassounah
Senate President

Dr. Jennifer Meningall
Vice President, Division of Student Affairs

This is a true and original record of Appropriations Bill 52-040, adopted by the Senate on March 06th, 2012.
To: VP Student Affairs Dr. Jennifer Meningall

From: Student Body President Matthew Diaz
Senate President Khalid Hassounneh

Subject: SB [A] 52-040 Enriched USF Week Funding Act

Date: 08 March 2012

Dr. Meningall,

Attached for your review and subsequent approval is a bill totaling $15,000 to support the USF Week initiative. As you are aware, USF Week was established three years ago by former Student Body President Juan Soltero with the intent to enhance the spring semester student experience. The idea was that Student Government, by collaborating with its many University and Community partners, would host a week of festivities celebrating USF and its accomplishments in a fashion that parallels Homecoming in the fall semester. As with any new initiative, that goal was not immediately recognized. However, over the course of the last two years, the program has grown and developed in its own way. We believe this year we have the opportunity to propel USF Week to the next level and host a program of the caliber that we would expect at a major university like USF.

Over the course of the past year, we have both worked towards institutionalizing Student Government's flagship programming, in an effort to both elevate the quality of events and ensure its future success. This approach could not be more visible than in our vision for USF Week 2012. On behalf of both our offices, we initially jointly requested a total of $110,000 for the purpose of funding the major components of USF Week. While we recognized that this was
a rather large allocation request, we firmly believed that this is what it would take for us to achieve the quality programming our student body deserves and should be accustomed to. Time and time again, students have shared their disappointment with us regarding the lackluster performances we have hosted at USF. This is especially disappointing when you take into account that just down the road, other state institutions, of comparable character, are proudly hosting the types of programming that we have continually fallen short of.

While Student Government initially approved funding the week at the total $110,000 initially requested, upon receiving news of the impending state budget cuts, we decided to reevaluate the initial spending in an effort maintain the strongest viable financial position. Several components of the program were cut, including a Lecture Series event and a philanthropy component. Student Government, through a mix of Auxiliary funds and limited surplus SG operating budget, was able to fund the concert upgrade without allocating additional funds. This reduced the total Unallocated Cash request to $15,000. The request covers two elements of the program (a) $5,000 for a USF Week kick-off event and (b) $10,000 for a marketing, promotions and publicity. This bill allocates funds to the Center for Student Involvement which will be responsible for coordinating these programs as a part of the greater USF Week Steering Committee (under the direction of Dr. Banks).

Funding for this initiative would come from the SG Unallocated Cash account. The account balance is currently in excess of $900,000 (estimated). This request is similar to both the Campus Rec Center Extended Hours and Magnolia Fields debt repayment requests that were adopted by the Senate in September 2011. This allocation, if it were adopted, would not adversely affect the financial stability of the A&S account.

This bill is being proposed for your consideration on behalf of Student Government. We have both had the advantageous opportunity to serve the Student Body over the course of the last four years, and as such, recognize the relationship between quality programming and enhanced student experiences. A few years ago, Student Government allocated additional funds to the Homecoming Steering Committee to bring performer Ludacris to USF. Student feedback was extremely positive, record crowds turned out to watch the performance, and participation in the festivities was at an all-time high. Furthermore, we have heard repeatedly from students that they want to enjoy better programming experiences, with recognizable talents and
memorable festivities. With the A&S fee, Student Government has the unique opportunity to fund initiatives and programs that would otherwise continue to go under funded. We now have the opportunity to recognize and host those opportunities that our students are asking for. As such, Student Government has approved this request and presents this bill for your consideration in hope that you too will recognize the merit in this request and join us in making it a reality.

GO BULLS!

**Attachment:** SB [A] 52-040 The Enriched USF Week Funding Act