

Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Fall 2016

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IRA Funds Request for English Speaker Series

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Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Sean Carswell
Activity Title	English Speaker Series
Activity/Event Date	Ongoing Fall 2016
Date Funding Needed By	Start of Fall 2016
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Spring, 2016
Proposal #	755
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	No
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	—
Additional Report #1	—
Additional Report #2	—
Additional Report #3	—
Additional Proposers	—
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	English Program
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	0
Amount Requested from IRA	3150.00
Estimated Number of Students Participating	300
Conditions and Considerations	Artist/Performer/Speaker Fees & Honoraria
Brief Activity Description	<p>The English Program has a long history of bringing innovative, exciting authors and scholars to campus. Previous events have included renowned scholars, National Book Award Finalists, NEA fellows, and award-winning fiction writers. We have hosted a rich, multicultural mix of intellectuals to speak about topics ranging from revolution in Nicaragua to the Yellow Power movement in San Francisco to the CIA's MKULTRA program to writing scripts for cop shows. We have managed to bring these writers to campus for far below their typical speaking fee. Starting in the spring of 2015, we began to pool our efforts into a single Speaker Series. Rather than each faculty member writing individual IRA grants each time we seek to bring an author or scholar to campus, we've begun writing this single grant to fund a series.</p> <p>By collaborating in this way, we have more effectively promoted these events to the community. While our events have been hugely successful among students, we had difficulty reaching interested parties outside of campus. This unified series has allowed us to work with area high school and community college English faculty. It also has allowed us to present a more unified vision of the program. Over the past three semesters, the English Speaker Series has been a better bargain for students. When we have a set amount of money within which we can work, we can budget better and offer more economical speaking fees.</p> <p>Over the past three semesters, the English Speaker Series has featured a multicultural, international bunch of poets, memoirists, publishers, and literature scholars. This spring, we have perhaps our most impressive guest, NY Times-best-selling author Pam Houston, who agreed to come to campus for a third of her normal speaking fee. We cannot guarantee a marquee name like Houston in the fall, but we can continue our pattern of hosting dynamic, award-winning writers. These events will allow students to connect their scholarship with artists and academics currently working in the field. The events will help students to see literature and English studies as a living, developing discipline</p>
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	The speakers will most directly relate to English 461: Fiction Writing, 220: American Literature 2, and English 325: Major American Authors. In each of those cases, students will be studying the works of the speaker. They will also be of interest for students in English 110: Multicultural Literature, 260: Perspectives in Creative Writing, 360: Literary Theory, and 433: LGBT Literature. Many students will be required to attend these events. If the past is any indication, most of the audience will be there on their own accord.
Description of Assessment Process	IRA student evaluation forms will be passed around the auditorium to solicit student responses. Additionally, students have been encouraged to write about their experiences for several classes. Their responses have been overwhelmingly positive.
Activity Budget	BudgetforIRARrequest_EnglisSpeakerSeries.xls
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—

Other Sources of Funding	None.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	These events will primarily be for students who wish to engage with literature in a vibrant, dynamic setting. Events will further be advertised to the local community as one of the enriching cultural events that university campuses attract. The events will be promoted through campus posters, class announcements, various online and social media sites, and, hopefully, through coverage in the local press.
Bring Benefit to Campus	The English Program has brought several award winning writers to campus for well under their normal reading fee. These events will continue that trend. When the university promotes its brand, we could always say that we have hosted authors who have won or been nominated for National Book Awards, NEA fellowships, Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Awards, Pulitzer Prizes, and MacArthur Genius grants. A formal, organized Speaker Series helps to strengthen this brand.
Sustainability	n/a.
Program Chair/Director	brad.monsma
Dean	karen.carey
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Bradley Monsma
Date/Time	2/29/2016 9:31:01 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-CN-1436
Comments	—

Dean Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey
Date/Time	3/1/2016 7:45:11 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-JB-1074
Comments	—

IRA Committee Decision

Decision	—
Comments	—

Current Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Assigned To
IRA Committee Decision	3/1/2016 7:45:11 AM	David Daniels

Completed Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Time Completed	Completed By
Review from karen.carey, Dean	2/29/2016 9:31:01 PM	3/1/2016 7:45:11 AM	Karen Carey
Review from brad.monsma, Program Chair/Director	2/29/2016 4:47:53 PM	2/29/2016 9:31:01 PM	Bradley Monsma
Fill out Request	2/29/2016 4:29:43 PM	2/29/2016 4:47:53 PM	Sean Carswell

Actions

- [IRA Committee Decision](#)
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