

Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Spring 2015

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IRA Funds Request for Mathematics Seminar

Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Selenne Banuelos
Activity Title	Mathematics Seminar
Activity/Event Date	weekly events throughout Spring 2015
Date Funding Needed By	1/16/2015
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Fall 2014
Proposal #	180
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	Yes
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	Spring2014IRAMathSeminars.docx
Additional Report #1	—
Additional Report #2	—
Additional Report #3	—
Additional Proposers	Dr. Ivona Grzegorzcyk
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	Mathematics and Applied Physics
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	n/a
Amount Requested from IRA	3000
Estimated Number of Students Participating	400, counting repeated participation; average attendance ranges from 20-30 with highs near 100
Conditions and Considerations	—
Brief Activity Description	<p>"Mathematics Seminar" consists of a weekly series of invited lectures on contemporary mathematics and applications of mathematics to other areas of study and life. Presenters include CSUCI students and faculty as well as a large number of invited speakers per year. Topics are chosen from mathematics education, mathematics research, and interdisciplinary applications of mathematics. In past semesters presentation topics have included topics as diverse as the Higgs Boson at CERN, the use of art projects to further students' learning of high school algebra, applications of mathematics to exercise science, engineering for the other 90% (that part of the world's population making less than \$4 per day), two research studies on a) using art, and b) using poetry to enhance students' learning in mathematics classes, and many others. This semester we have had speakers present some</p>

	of their on-going research. Examples are: Applications of partial differential equations, math games, proofs for the infinitude of prime numbers, and Risk Processes - a great real-life application that concerns anyone making financial investments. Seminars are publicized and open to the entire campus and to the local community. Typically between 20 and 30 students participate in each seminar (with highs near 100), which translates to roughly 400 students each semester; faculty and community participants typically attend as well. We request funds to be able to cover costs (lodging, travel, etc.) and pay honoraria to our invited speakers during Spring 2015.
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	Students taking MATH 499 are the primary beneficiaries of these funds, as they alone are required to attend the weekly seminars. However, all CI students are invited to attend. Students with an interest in mathematics and in the applications of mathematics to other fields (e.g. to other sciences, including social sciences) attend as interest dictates. Many instructors provide extra credit for students that attend. In addition, students in MATH 492, MATH 497, UNIV 498, and LS 492 attend and even give presentations at some seminars. In particular, we use the seminar for capstone presentations and Master's thesis presentations, which typically occur in the last 1 to 3 weeks of the semester.
Description of Assessment Process	Mathematics Seminar uses attendance at seminars and student evaluations for MATH 499, MATH 492, MATH 497, and UNIV 498, and for LS 492 as appropriate to determine whether the program has attained its educational goals. An ongoing CI Learn discussion board site is also used to receive student feedback on various presenters' topics and delivery. We also use the feedback obtained from distinguished presenters to assess whether we have been good hosts.
Activity Budget	iraregularbudget_MathSeminarS15.xlsx
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—
Other Sources of Funding	Each semester, some faculty at CI donate their time and effort by giving some of the seminar presentations. (However, it is neither possible nor desirable for only CI faculty to present at the Mathematics Seminar.) CI faculty also conduct the behind-the-scenes work of making the arrangements necessary to provide for a positive experience for our distinguished visitors. CI faculty often buy speakers' dinners out of their own pockets and provide refreshments for all seminar attendees. Students sometimes volunteer also to provide refreshments. Other institutions and associations (e.g. UCSB, CLU, the Southern California-Nevada Section of the Mathematical Association of America) engage in cost-sharing (particularly travel costs) when we share speakers who make one trip to Southern California to speak at multiple events.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	Students registered in Math 499 are required to attend. We advertise the talks throughout campus to all CI students and staff, however our target audience are students with an interest in mathematics and in the applications of mathematics to other fields. We have organized the seminar so that the students registered in Math 499 are entrusted with the responsibilities of hosting a speaker, see the following link for more information: http://math.csuci.edu/courses/col.php The advertisement group is in charge of making flyers, posting them in the math department, library, student union, etc., sending an email out to everyone in the computer science, mathematics and applied physics programs, and posting the event on our webpage. The management group and I make sure this job is done days before the talk.
Bring Benefit to Campus	—
Sustainability	Many times, in teaching the more traditional mathematics courses, we as instructors find it difficult to set time in our teaching for the applications of the particular course while still covering all the core material that students need moving forward. Unfortunately, this is where many students lose interest in mathematics - they need to see the application, the connection to the real world. The Mathematics Seminar offers that. Students are able to see what people are doing with mathematics, as researchers, instructors, or professionals in industry. Our goal is for students to become interested in research so that they may attempt it themselves. Moreover, the Mathematics Seminar is an excellent example of a CI course that embodies the Integrative Studies Pillar.
Program Chair/Director	ivona.grzegorzcyk
Academic Affairs AVP	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 Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Ivona Grzegorzcyk
Date/Time	10/1/2014 8:16:18 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-DP-2063

Academic Affairs AVP Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey
Date/Time	10/2/2014 7:53:48 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-YJ-8831

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