



Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Spring 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 Spring 2016
Date Funding Needed By	Start of Spring 2016
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Fall, 2015
Proposal #	707
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	n/a
Amount Requested from IRA	3150
Estimated Number of Students Participating	300
Conditions and Considerations	Artist/Performer/Speaker Fees & Honoraria, Space/Facilities Services Requirements
Brief Activity Description	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

	<p>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 two 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>Last spring, we managed to schedule six speakers to conduct five distinct events. The speakers were a multicultural, international bunch of poets, memoirists, and literature scholars. This fall, we have continued our pattern of bringing dynamic, award-winning intellectuals to campus. We would like to continue this in the spring. 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 345: Science/Fiction, English 462: Poetry Writing, 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, 220: American Literature 2, 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 will be invited to write down their thoughts on prepared pads in the lobby.
Activity Budget	BudgetforIRARquest_EnglishSpeakerSeries.xls
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—
Other Sources of Funding	None.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	This event will primarily be for students who wish to engage with literature in a vibrant, dynamic setting. It will further be advertised to the local community as one of the enriching cultural events that university campuses attract. The event 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 Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Bradley Monsma
Date/Time	9/30/2015 6:58:24 PM
Validation	myCI-signin-PM-2991

Dean Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey

Date/Time	10/1/2015 8:35:51 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-KM-3166

IRA Committee Decision

Decision	—
Comments	—

Actions

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