

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Has your VSO received funding from the ASSU Undergraduate Senate Appropriations Committee in prior years? If so, how much and when?

We have received ASSU special fees in prior years, not Appropriations Committee funding.

Have you registered your events/organizations with events.stanford.edu? (note: registration is mandatory) (yes/no)

Yes.

How large is your officer core?

Solar Car has five core officers. There is one team leader and one leader for each of the sub-teams: composites, electrical, financial/public relations and mechanical.

If you applied for Special Fees last year, is there an increase in the amount you're seeking this year? If so, why?

We have asked for more funding this year. The increase is primarily due to higher parts costs as we seek to produce constantly improving cars. Renewable energy, efficient electric engines, and the aerospace field are three markets which see consistent industry innovation, and to produce competitive race cars, Solar Car Project designs our cars to take advantage of the best technology available.

Please define the services provided by your group with the Special Fee, as per the ASSU Constitution:

With regards to Article V, section 2, and the latter paragraphs of point A, we provide services to the student body including access to our solar car, the ability to work on and with the entire solar car production, testing, and racing cycle. We also provide students with information about renewable energy and an opportunity to see the direct results of ongoing research in the field of solar power.

Please list all: 1) assets, 2) reserves, 3) authorized and unauthorized non-ASSU bank accounts, 4) sources of funding other than Special

Our current assets consist of \$93,345.07 in our ASSU accounts (\$75,631 in our checking account, \$807.42 in our prior year expense account, \$16.29 in our reserve account, and the rest in Special Fees-allocated accounts).

Our other sources of funding include \$35,000 annually from the URP, a \$10,000 donation from the School of Earth Sciences, a \$16,000 donation from alumnus through the School of Engineering, and a \$25,000 donation from the Office of the President. Please note that these funds have already been received this year, though we are planning on applying for them again next year. We are constantly attempting to find additional industry sponsors, and they provide the remainder of our funding.

Have you applied for Special Fees in the past 3 years? If so, please detail the outcome of each attempt.

We have applied for Special Fees each of the past 3 years, and have received funding each time.

How do you plan to publicize your events/programs to the greater Stanford community? Have you registered with Events at Stanford?

When we hold independent events like the unveiling of a new car, we flier throughout dormitories and houses, make announcements at house meetings, send flyers to e-mail lists, and register at events.stanford.edu.

How many members are on your email list?

There are 179 members, including team members, members of the general student body, alumni, professors, and members of industry.

If you are an umbrella group, please list the groups for which you are applying for Special Fees, their ASSU account numbers, and contact information for their financial officers.

Stanford Solar Car is not an umbrella group.

Please describe a few past events organized by our VSO (please limit your response to 50-100 words).

During the past year, we have attended SURPS, exhibitions at Parent's Weekend, Stanford Community Day, the Sally Ride Science Festival at Santa Clara University, in-dorm meetings, and have toured the solar car to local groups. We are also being featured in a show titled Future Wheels because we are competing in the Shell Eco-Marathon. We have organized unveilings of each of the cars as they are finished.

What are the three largest line item requests in your budget and why?

The three largest requests are for equipment purchases, gasoline, and registration expenses.

Equipment forms the largest expense category because we are an organization based around building, from the ground up, a fully-functional race car. Equipment spending allows us to purchase car parts, as well as tools to manufacture the solar car. Much of our material needs to be purchased from specialized suppliers because we are building a highly-optimized vehicle in a small market. As an example, we have purchased a solar array whose cells are primarily marketed to aerospace applications, which cost us approximately \$150,000.

Registration is the second-largest expense, and funds our entry into the World Solar Car Challenge in 2007. The money funds the race, where teams from schools and companies world-wide compete to race across the continent of Australia.

Our third-largest request is for funds to cover gasoline. During the testing phase for Equinox, we are planning to travel over 5000 miles with 2 separate support vehicles following the car, hopefully more. Given that the cost of gasoline has drastically increased recently, so has the portion of our budget allocated to gasoline.

What events/programs does your group hold throughout the year for the Stanford Community?

We attend numerous events which showcase research and student projects to the Stanford Community, and have outreach to local community groups, such as Boy Scout Troops. We also host an unveiling ceremony for each car once it is completed.

What is the fundamental goal/purpose of your VSO (please limit your response to 50-100 words)?

Stanford Solar Car Project's principal objective is to teach students of all majors practical engineering and business skills, and to promote renewable energy. This is primarily accomplished by building and racing solar-powered vehicles. Our goal is to build a new car every two years and race it in the North American and World Solar Car Challenge.

What percentage of your total membership is undergraduate? Graduate?

The team is approximately 90% undergraduate and 10% graduate.

Why are you requesting Special Fees?

Solar Car Project is a unique student group offering any Stanford student the opportunity to become involved in the planning and execution of the construction of a fully functional solar car. Our project is on the scale of industry projects, and gives students real hands-on engineering experience.

Special Fees funding finances a portion of the cost of designing, building, testing, and racing the car. We raise most of our funds from outside sources as well as some specific university departments, but Special Fees allow us to operate on a weekly basis, maintain the quality and safety of our shop, and make purchases when we cannot find willing sponsors or donations.

What is the average attendance at your events?

Most of our events are large fairs showcasing many groups, such as SURPS, Stanford Community Day, etc. The unveiling of our last car, Solstice, was attended by approximately 40 people.

What is your total membership?

Stanford Solar Car Project has roughly 30 core members who regularly attend meetings and participate in projects. Members attend two meetings each week at the Solar Car site, one Monday evening and one Saturday.

When and why was your VSO established (please limit your response to 50-100 words)?

Stanford Solar Car Project was established in 1989 to give Stanford undergraduates the opportunity to participate in a large-scale engineering project, specifically designing and building a car powered entirely by solar power. The group was founded by a graduate student and visiting professor, both of whom soon left the team, leaving Solar Car an entirely undergraduate-directed project.

BUDGET DETAIL

	Budgeted	Requested	Recommend	Approved	Petitioned	Elected
Equinox Design, Construction and Testing	\$(182,062.00)	\$25,750.00	\$24,400.00	\$24,400.00		
Stanford Solar Car Project is building a new solar car, Equinox, for the 2007 Panasonic Solar Car Challenge. Equinox will also be racing in the Shell Eco Challenge Americas.						
7120 Phone (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)	12 months * montly rental (\$25) = \$300 60 minutes per month * 12 months * 10 cents/minute = \$72	\$(372.00)	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
7130 Postage/Courier (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)	Anticipated shipping charges for car components: Metal tubing = \$100 Carbon Fiber Panels = \$100 Miscellaneous Parts = \$300	\$(500.00)	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
7410 Equipment Purchase (Non-Cap) (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)	Mechanical parts: Rims, (\$2400) Suspension, steering and bolts, (\$4000), Metal parts (\$1000) = \$7400 Composites: Chassis Panel (\$1875), Core sheets (\$1950), Carbon Prepreg (\$1375), Prepreg Fiberglass (\$490), Epoxy Film Adhesive (\$300), Foam Adhesive (\$500), Layup Disposables (\$1000) = \$7490 Electrical: PCB (\$2000), Microcontrollers (\$1000), Passive Components (\$1800), Wires and Connectors (\$1000), Tools (\$800), Buffer (\$500), Consumables (\$500), Enclosures (\$2000), Radio Modems (\$500) = \$10,100 Array: 8m^2 used array (\$138700), RWE bubble cells (\$11300) = \$150,000 New tools for site = \$600 Display Materials = \$600 Disposable site supplies (e.g. wood) = \$1000	\$(177,190.00)	\$23,800.00	\$23,800.00	\$23,800.00	
7430 Equipment Maintenance (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)	Repair of welders = \$200 Repair of bandsaw = \$100 General site maintenance = \$200	\$(500.00)	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
7720 Gas (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)	Driving during construction: 10 months * 400 miles/month * \$0.25/mile = \$1000 Vehicle Testing: 5000 miles *\$0.25/mile * 2 vehicles = \$2500	\$(3,500.00)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Gas is funded only for community service.						
Panasonic World Solar Car Challenge	\$(2,400.00)	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00		
A Solar Car competition taking place in Australia, 2007. The challenge occurs biannually.						
7820 Registration Expense (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)	Registration fee for World Solar Car Challenge in Australia.	\$(2,400.00)	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	
APPLICATION TOTALS	\$(184,462.00)	\$27,500.00	\$26,150.00	\$26,150.00		