

Status: **Recommended As-is**

Financial Officer: Philip Bui

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Application Summary	Budgeted	Requested	Recommended	Approved	Petitioned	Elected
APPLICATION TOTALS	\$(21,973.00)	\$19,473.00	\$19,473.00			
Undergraduate Special Fees		\$19,473.00	\$19,473.00			
6560 - Event Food	\$(500.00)	\$500.00	\$500.00			
7200 - General Marketing Expenses	\$(120.00)	\$120.00	\$120.00			
7410 - Equipment Purchase (Non-Cap)	\$(18,853.00)	\$18,853.00	\$18,853.00			
[All Expense Total]	\$(21,973.00)					

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

The SAS has not applied for Special Fees in the past 3 years (or ever for that matter).

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

N/A

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

The SAS has a surprisingly large base of student support, with a mailing list of 300+ students and many new faces showing up at each event. On the surface level, the SAS provides equipment (such as telescopes, star charts, cameras and binoculars) to Stanford students to facilitate their viewing of astronomical objects. The SAS also organizes events such as star parties that allow students of like interests to meet each other and share their mutual passion for the night sky. On a broader level, however, the SAS serves a much greater purpose. While many students at Stanford have no intention of majoring in astronomy or astrophysics, many come to Stanford with curiosities that stem from childhood experiences viewing stars and constellations. The SAS allows these individuals to indulge in this interest without having to personally purchase their own expensive equipment. Of course, many first-time participants leave our events with a newfound appreciation for the beauty and vastness of the universe.

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

The largest line item request in our budget is the actual purchase price of a roll-off roof observatory from Backyard Observatories (CJE Construction, Inc). The second and third largest line item requests are for the CCD camera and Hyperstar lens system. These are without a doubt large initial investments, but due to their quality and durability they can be expected to be useful and operational for decades. In other words, this one-time investment will provide great value to the Stanford community for many years.

What is the average attendance at your events?

We average between 30-50 people at our events, which typically take place at night on the hill by the current Stanford Observatory.

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

We will publicize our events through a variety of media, from Facebook ads to emails to flyers posted campus wide. We have registered with Events at Stanford, and will also post our events to the newly created ASSU Student Events Calendar.

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.

N/A

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

- 1) \$1,165.86 in SSE bank account, 8 inch Orion XT8 telescope, eyepieces
- 2) none
- 3) none
- 4) currently seeking corporate and private donors

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

The SAS holds several events throughout the year, mainly centered around astronomical events of interest. Many of these events are held during the peaks of annual meteor showers, such as the Perseids, Orionids, and Leonids. Participants are also able to use SAS telescopes to view solar system planets and deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters. The SAS organizes trips to local museums and institutions of interest, such as the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland and the San Jose Museum of Art. During the summer of 2008, the SAS organized a trip to Yosemite National Park, where we joined the Sonoma County Astronomical Society for a magnificent viewing of the Perseid meteor shower in August.

Why are you requesting Special Fees?

We are requesting Special Fees because these available funds are crucial to the completion of the observatory project. We are aware that some of the requested line items are somewhat unusual in nature, but we believe that this project will truly enrich the Stanford and larger Palo Alto community. Although an observatory already stands on the Stanford Campus, it is operated by the Physics department and access is severely limited (access is only given to students taking Physics 50 and Physics 100). The donation of a Celestron 14 inch SCT telescope and Astrophysics mount and the completion of an observatory to house it will create a place that is truly student-run and student-serving. We also plan to install a remote access system in the near future so students will be able to control the telescope and camera without leaving their dorm room.

BUDGET DETAIL

		Budgeted	Requested	Recommend	Approved	Petitioned	Elected
Meteor Shower Viewing Parties		\$(620.00)	\$620.00	\$620.00			
<p>The SAS has traditionally organized meteor shower viewing parties on the hill by the golf course. This year we plan to host parties for the following five meteor showers: Eta Aquarids, Perseids, Orionids, Leonids and Geminids. This funding will allow us to provide hot drinks and snacks to the participants.</p> <p>Location: Stanford Student Observatory Contact: Josh Chan Attendance: 50(total)</p> <p>Url: joshchan@stanford.edu UG: 40 Staff:</p> <p>916-230-6455 Grad: 10 Other:</p>							
		Budgeted	Requested	Recommend	Approved	Petitioned	Elected
6560	<i>There will be at least five major events annually. Only snacks will be served. The attendance (judging from previous events) is expected at 50 people. At \$2 x 50 ppl x 5 events = \$500 \$40/quarter for Facebook ads</i>	\$(500.00)	\$500.00	\$500.00			
<p>Event Food (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)</p>							
7200	General Marketing Expenses (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)	\$(120.00)	\$120.00	\$120.00			
Outreach Observatory Project							
		\$(18,853.00)	\$18,853.00	\$18,853.00			
<p>A Stanford alum has approached the SAS with an offer to donate a \$15,000 telescope and mount. This project will oversee the construction and outfitting of a small observatory building that will house equipment and host outreach events for both the Stanford student body and the larger community.</p> <p>Location: Stanford Main Campus Contact: Josh Chan Attendance: 30(total)</p> <p>Url: joshchan@stanford.edu UG: 25 Staff: 2</p> <p>916-230-6455 Grad: 2 Other: 1</p>							
		Budgeted	Requested	Recommend	Approved	Petitioned	Elected
7410	<i>We will build/assemble a "roll-off roof" observatory to store and facilitate access to our equipment. Taking size and space into consideration, the most cost-efficient and durable observatory will be the Club Model 2 (http://www.backyardobservatories.com/pricing.htm)</i>	\$(16,263.00)	\$16,263.00	\$16,263.00			
<p>Equipment Purchase (Non-Cap) (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)</p>							
7410	<i>We will be purchasing a Hyperstar lens system to connect our camera to the Celestron 14" SCT telescope.</i>	\$(1,295.00)	\$1,295.00	\$1,295.00			
<p>Equipment Purchase (Non-Cap) (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)</p>							
7410	<i>An SBIG CCD imaging camera will allow us to take pictures in the night sky. This will aid our community outreach efforts tremendously, and allow for the future installation of a remote access system that will allow students to control the telescope and take pictures all through the internet.</i>	\$(1,295.00)	\$1,295.00	\$1,295.00			
<p>Equipment Purchase (Non-Cap) (Undergraduate Special Fees/Annual)</p>							
APPLICATION TOTALS		\$(19,473.00)	\$19,473.00	\$19,473.00			

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Account		Balance
2-6960-1-0-2800	ST ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY	\$1,165.79
2-6960-1-0-2830	ST ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY STANFORD FUND	\$0.07