

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SENATE
SESSION LXIV TERM I

IN THE SENATE

BILL 613

SPONSORED BY

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The purpose of this bill is to foster academic and professional development among ISU students by financially supporting their active participation in relevant conferences. ASISU recognizes the value and importance of conferences in enhancing knowledge, facilitating networking, and providing exposure to current trends and practices in various academic and professional fields.

ARTICLE VI—BENNY’S FUNDING

Section 1—Purpose

Clause 1—ASISU shall maintain a Benny’s Fund. The purpose of the Benny’s Fund is to supplement single clubs or organization, joint club or organization, and individual funding requests. The Benny’s Fund is to be allotted for reasons deemed appropriate by the ASISU Senate supermajority. Limitations on funding shall be at the discretion of the ASISU Senate. All unspent funds will remain in the Benny’s Fund and carry over into the following year.

Section 2—Eligibility

Clause 1—Applicants must be a current recognized ASISU Student Organization or Club or an ASISU fee paying member. The student organization or club must be in good standing for at least a month prior to requesting funding.

Clause 2—Disbursement of funds for events, equipment, ~~travel~~, supplies, etcetera shall not exceed \$1,500 per academic year for a single club. Disbursement of Funds for one joint event sponsored by two or more clubs or organizations shall not exceed \$3,000 per academic year. Disbursement of Funds for an individual ASISU paying member shall not exceed \$400 per academic year. ~~Individual funding may be used for personal projects and/or research conferences.~~

Clause 3—No more than \$100,000 shall be awarded during the academic year.

ARTICLE VIII—ASISU STUDENT CONFERENCE TRAVEL FUND

Section 1—Purpose:

The purpose of this article is to define and allocate specific funding amounts for various types of student conferences. ASISU shall provide financial support to encourage and facilitate student participation in conferences that contribute to academic, professional, and personal development.

Section 2—Types and funding amounts:

- A. Research Conference:
 - a. For students presenting at research-focused events, symposiums, or conferences can receive up to \$600.
 - b. For students only attending research-focused events, symposiums, or conferences can receive up to \$300.
- B. Other Conferences: Students attending conferences that do not primarily focus on research but contribute to academic or professional growth can receive a maximum amount of up to \$400.
 - a. Professional Conference: The funding amount for this category shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Students attending conferences centered on professional development, industry insights, or discipline-specific knowledge-sharing are eligible to apply.
 - b. Workshop: The funding amount for workshops, which are typically hands-on or skills-based sessions, shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - c. Pitch Competitions: Students participating in competitions where they present business, product, or project ideas to a panel can apply for funding. The specific amount will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - d. Hackathons: Students participating in intensive coding, design, or ideation marathons can apply for funding. The specific amount shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - e. Networking Events: Students attending events specifically designed for making professional or academic connections can apply for funding. The specific amount will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - f. Virtual Conference: Students attending any of the above-listed conferences virtually can apply for funding. The specific amount will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Section 3—Disbursement of funds:

- A. Pre-Conference Disbursement: Prior to the conference, students can access the

awarded funds upon presenting evidence such as conference registration, formal invitation, or any other relevant documentation to validate their participation.

B. Post-Conference Disbursement: After the conference, students are required to submit receipts that total up to or beyond the pre-disbursed awarded amount. This ensures accountability and authentic use of the funds.

Section 4—Eligibility

- A. Student Status:
 - a. Applicant must be recognized as an ASISU full time and part-time fee-paying member.
 - b. Undergraduate Students: Applicants must be currently enrolled as undergraduate students at ISU with a minimum of 09 credits at the time of applying for funds.
 - c. Graduate Students: Applicants must be currently enrolled as graduate students at ISU with a minimum of 03 credits at the time of applying for funds.
- B. Academic Standing:
 - a. Undergraduate Students: Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 at the time of application.
 - b. Graduate Students: Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 at the time of application.
- C. Prior Funding: Applicants who have previously received funding from the ASISU Student Conference Travel Fund for a specific conference type in the current academic year are not eligible to apply for the same type again until the next academic year.
- D. Conference Relevance: The conference in question should be directly relevant to the student's current field of study or professional aspiration.
- E. ASISU: Members of the ASISU are also eligible but cannot evaluate their own proposals
- F. Submitted applications do not automatically guarantee the funding for the student. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis

Section 5—Application Requirements:

- A. All students desiring funding must submit a complete application through ASISU website link, detailing the nature, aim, and relevance of the chosen conference in relation to their academic or professional progression.
- B. Students are required to provide a current unofficial ISU academic transcript along with their application to verify their enrollment status and academic performance.
- C. As part of the application, students must provide a letter of recommendation from their relevant ISU faculty and Staff. This letter should articulate the necessity of the conference attendance and discuss its anticipated impact.
- D. For pre-conference disbursement, candidates are required to present evidence such as

conference registration, formal invitation, or other relevant documentation.

- E. Post-conference, candidates must submit receipts that match or exceed the pre-disbursed awarded amount to validate the genuine utilization of funds.

Section 6—Procedure and Responsibility

- A. The Chair and Director of Finance will evaluate all applications, ensuring they align with defined objectives and checking against fund availability.
- B. The Chair and Director of Finance will confirm the authenticity of letters of recommendation and any other provided documents.
- C. The Senate Finance Committee will then vote on the request at the next Finance meeting. If the request is approved, the Finance Committee Chair will release the request at the Senate meeting.
- D. In the following week the request is introduced in the Senate, and the Senate can approve, table, or deny the request. Any action taken requires a supermajority.
- E. Upon approval, The ASISU Director of Finance will disburse the funds to eligible students either pre or post-conference, based on the provided evidence and receipts.
- F. The Chair of Finance and Director of Finance will routinely review any funds from specific conference categories that remain unused at the academic year's end and decide on potential reallocation or carry-over to the subsequent academic year.
- G. In the event of the application rejection by the finance committee, the Director of Finance is required to email the applicant within the next 24 hours. The Director of Finance must cc the President of the ASISU, Senate Pro Temp, Vice President of the ASISU, Chair of the Finance Committee, and ASISU Secretary.
- H. In the event of the application rejection by the ASISU Senate, the Senate Pro Temp is required to email the applicant within the next 24 hours. The Senate Pro Temp must cc the President of ASISU, Vice President of ASISU, Chair of the Finance, Director of Finance, and ASISU Secretary.
- I. In the event of application acceptance by the both finance committee and the ASISU Senate, the Director of Finance is required to email the applicant within the next 24 hours. The Director of Finance must cc the President of the ASISU, Senate Pro Temp, Vice President of the ASISU, Chair of the Finance Committee, and ASISU Secretary.

DATE OF FIRST INTRODUCTION: 09/20/2023

SENATE ACTION: _____ DATE: _____
ASISU PRESIDENT: _____ DATE: _____
ASISU SECRETARY: _____ DATE: _____