



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
ASSEMBLY BILL

Sponsors: Assembly Chair Anna Locke, Assembly Vice Chair Christina Dong

Date Submitted: October 6, 2024

Date Introduced:

Date Action Taken:

AB 203 - A Bill to Improve Student Organization Funding Allocation for Spring 2025

WHEREAS, as stated in Redbook, Assembly's contingency budget, which comes from the student fee, shall be used for the sole purpose of funding Recognized Student Organizations, hereafter referred to as student organizations.¹

WHEREAS, in recent semesters, ASUU has allowed student organizations to submit a request or proposal for funding for any amount up to \$4,000.²

WHEREAS, for the 2024-2025 academic year, the Assembly's contingency budget is \$264,000.³

WHEREAS, by the Fall 2024 priority budget proposal deadline, September 15, 2024, Assembly received \$324,853.81 in funding requests from 147 unique student organizations.⁴

WHEREAS, this total was over double Assembly's spending goal for the entire 2024 fall semester, which is typically approximately half of the overall contingency budget for this fiscal year.

WHEREAS, given the often limited information provided by student organizations in the Fall 2024 budget proposal form and the limited time frame between the submission deadline and General Assembly, it was not reasonably feasible to make the needed cuts of over \$100,000 on a case-by-case basis—instead, the Assembly used a progressive reduction system to make uniform cuts to the total amounts that the student organizations requested.

WHEREAS, cutting funding requests in this manner is not sustainable in the long-term, as many organizations will begin to anticipate the reductions and simply increase the amount they request

in order to “make up” for the expected cuts. This fails to encourage self-sufficiency and sustainability amongst student organizations regarding funding.

WHEREAS, in a public forum during the General Assembly on September 24, 2024, student organizations expressed their frustration at uniform cuts to student organizations’ proposals, explaining that it unjustly reduces funding for organizations who have a large membership and strong impact on campus.⁵

WHEREAS, during this public forum, multiple student organization leaders also expressed that they would like membership, event attendance, history, and overall impact to be weighed in the decision to allocate funding.⁵

WHEREAS, these student organization leaders also felt there was not enough transparency or communication in the budget allocation process for Fall 2024.⁵

WHEREAS, the demand for ASUU Assembly funding has gone up in recent semesters, and it is clear from the aforementioned limitations and frustrations from the Fall 2024 priority funding session that the current system is not sustainable because the Assembly simply does not have the capacity to fully fund all student organizations who request funding.

WHEREAS, for Spring 2025, it is important to develop a transparent funding system that allows for the inclusion of multiple factors to make holistic allocation decisions that stay within Assembly’s current budget constraints.

WHEREAS, according to the “University of Utah Academic Affairs Budget Principles” published in 2014, “Resource allocation [at the University of Utah] is driven by the mission and strategic vision of the University. Budget decisions should reflect the priorities of the University and its colleges, departments, and other budgeting units... Resource allocation will promote excellence in the University’s three core missions.”⁶

WHEREAS, according to the University of Utah’s Budget Office, the University follows an incentive model for resource allocation to colleges, using metrics such as enrollment, number of majors, and number of degrees.⁷

WHEREAS, the Assembly should implement a funding allocation system that is based on measurable metrics that reflect the priorities of ASUU and the impact student organizations create on campus.

WHEREAS, to ensure equitability, these metrics should be centered around both productivity and output, measured by membership and student impact, respectively.

WHEREAS, the ASUU Assembly is intended as a supplementary source of funding for student organizations rather than the primary source, and this must be made clear to student organizations throughout the funding request process.

WHEREAS, due to the large number of student organizations Assembly serves and the frustrations towards the limited functionality of communication and amendment features on the Campus Connect platform, this process must be as streamlined as possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED for Spring 2025, the ASUU Assembly will change the funding allocation process to a two-part system, described in the following clauses:

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the first part of this system will be based around student organization membership, hereafter referred to as “Base Funding.”

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the second part of this system will be based around student organization impact, hereafter referred to as “Impact Funding.”

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, student organizations will have the opportunity to submit an application for both Base Funding and Impact Funding through a form on Campus Connect, with a single deadline determined by SLI staff, ASUU advisors, the Chair, and the Vice Chair, advertised in advance. To ensure the opportunity for comprehensive review, this deadline shall fall before the first Assembly Rules Committee meeting of Spring 2025, which is currently scheduled for January 14, 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the Base Funding will be allocated solely on a per-member basis. Student organizations who wish to apply for this funding will submit, to the best of their knowledge, a meeting attendance roster with both the names and uIDs of their recurring attendees. This self-reporting system will be implemented on a temporary basis with the intent to develop a more comprehensive and reliable attendance tracker for future semesters.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, once the attendance rosters have been submitted by all organizations, the Assembly Rules Committee will decide on a per-member amount to allocate to each club (e.g., \$20/member) to meet budget goals. This amount will be consistent across all student organizations and shall not exceed \$2,000, regardless of membership.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the majority of the Assembly’s remaining budget for Spring 2025 should be allocated in Base Funding. The exact percentage will be decided by the Rules Committee.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, Base Funding is not guaranteed, as Assembly members reserve the right to pull any organization's Base Funding application for an individual vote during the general session.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the remaining budget after Base Funding is established shall be distributed to a few select student organizations based on exemplary student impact.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the ASUU Assembly will develop a list of 3-5 institutional goals for how Assembly funding should be used. These goals should reflect the Assembly's priorities and be representative of the four Assembly subcommittees: Affinity & Advocacy, Graduate & Professional Development, Arts & Recreation, and Sports. They should be comprehensive enough to cover the wide variety of student organizations on campus.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, if a student organization wishes to apply for Impact Funding, they will submit essay responses in the funding application explaining how their organization has met these goals in the past and how they specifically plan to advance these goals using this funding in the upcoming semester.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, additional questions that involve a summary of their events with attendance estimates, outside funding, and any other relevant information will also be included in the Impact Funding section of the application.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the exact wording of these questions will be determined by the Chair and the Vice Chair with the guidance of ASUU advisors and SLI staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, to ensure transparency, this portion of the application will include clear statements on ASUU's budget limitations, information on how the funding will be distributed, a link to this legislation, a disclaimer that Impact Funding will only be available to a few organizations who demonstrate exemplary student impact as determined by a review of their responses, a link to the updated ASUU Student Organization Funding Regulations, a link to any known and available funding alternatives, and a referral to SLI staff for more information on alternative funding opportunities.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the Assembly Rules Committee will act as an ad-hoc Funding Committee for Spring 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, this Funding Committee will develop a comprehensive rubric based on the chosen Assembly goals and organizational impact that they will use to determine how the Impact Funding should be distributed.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the Funding Committee will use these rubrics to perform a thorough review of each Impact Funding application they receive.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, in order to ensure the Funding Committee has adequate time for review, the Assembly schedule for Cycle 4 shall be adjusted to the following to include two Rules Committee meetings: January 14, 2025 - Rules Committee; January 21, 2025 - Rules Committee; January 28, 2025 - Subcommittees; February 4, 2025 - General Assembly.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, at the discretion of the Chair, the Funding Committee may meet multiple times in the week following the application deadline to ensure they review all material.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the Funding Committee will make a recommendation on how many student organizations should be awarded Impact Funding, which student organizations should receive this funding, and the additional amount they should be allocated, which can range from \$500-\$1,500 and may differ across organizations at the discretion of the Funding Committee and the Assembly.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, these recommendations will be presented to subcommittees, who will review and debate them. During this stage, the Assembly will make any changes to the Funding Committee's recommendations that the majority of the group deems necessary.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, in the General Assembly session on February 4, 2025, the Assembly will vote to finalize the allocations for both Base and Impact Funding to student organizations for Spring 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the student organization officer who submitted the application shall be informed of their funding status no later than within two weeks of the General Assembly's vote.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the entirety of Assembly's remaining contingency budget for the 2024-2025 academic year shall be allocated to student organizations in Spring 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the funds allocated by the Assembly to student organizations through this process are intended to be used for basic operational costs as the organization sees fit, so long as the expenses are compliant under ASUU, University, and state

guidelines. In the event that they submit receipts for restricted items, they simply will not be reimbursed.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, if any student organization does not use the entirety of their allocated funding, as per Redbook guidelines, it shall be returned to the Assembly contingency fund in the next fiscal year to be used solely to benefit more student organizations.⁸

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, this system shall be implemented with the intent to continuously modify and improve it in future semesters upon receiving feedback from ASUU student leaders, advisors, and student organizations.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the Assembly shall host a town hall for student organizations in the month of November 2024, led by the Chair and Vice Chair, answering questions about the decisions made in Fall 2024 and the improvements that will be implemented for Spring 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, the new funding application shall be published to Campus Connect and available to student organization leaders no later than December 6, 2024, unless extenuating circumstances arise.

Citations:

1. ASUU Redbook. Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1.3
2. 2024-2025 ASUU Student Organization Funding Regulations, <https://www.asuu.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2024/09/UpdatedFinalSOF-Regulations-Updated-10th-September.pdf>
3. ASUU 2024-2025 Budget (President Boyden)
4. Fall 2024 Priority Deadline Budget Proposals, <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZnvPnzBWQXQ7c19S-6aJAzOrAF2lgwwD/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117205838651183902773&rtpof=true&sd=true>
5. Cycle 1, General Assembly - September 24, 2024, [Agenda Minutes.docx](#)
6. University of Utah Academic Affairs Budget Principles, 2014, <https://academic-affairs.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2015/03/BudgetPrinciples.pdf>
7. University of Utah Budget Office, Incentive Model Allocation, <https://budget.utah.edu/incentive-model-allocation/>
8. ASUU Redbook. Article IV, Section 2, Clause 2.3