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Submitted by user: smh42

Request: 88

Date: October 6, 2021

Request Name: Lucy Neely McLane Forensics Squad Room (Intercollegiate Speech and Debate Program)

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Division Submitting Request: Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs Office of the Dean

Nature of Request: Requesting additional or alternate square footage without a specific room/space/location already identified.

Is this change expected to be temporary: No

Preferred Allocation Date: August 1, 2022

Space Allocation Details

Type of Space Needed

The forensics program needs an ADA-accessible space where 11 - 30 people can sit/work comfortably in a group (movable tables and chairs essential, no secured-furniture or rolling side-dependent desks). This space needs to be somewhere that loud noise (dramatic shouting, screaming, etc) is not disruptive. They need hyflex capabilities as they compete online and a lockable storage closet for cameras/stands/tubs. Ideally, this space is centrally located and/or adjacent to the Department of Communication.

Alignment with University Principles

[HSU Strategic Plan](#)

Strategic Plan Goals:

- Goal 1: Academic Roadmap
- Goal 2: Community Collaboration & Shared Success
- Goal 3: Employee Engagement & Success
- Goal 4: Future Proofing HSU
- Goal 5: Resources Stewardship & Sustainability
- Goal 6: Student Experience & Success

Goal 1 Details:

Forensics situates student learning with regards to student interests, they select the advocacies that matter to them the most and that care translates into thoughtful and rigorous research and preparation. Strong evidence indicates Forensics improves retention and graduation rates as well as GPAs, these results have been shown to be robust across demographics.

Goal 2 Details:

Forensics has historically hosted (2-5/year) local and regional camps, workshops, and high school / public tournaments as well as on-campus exhibitions which can include local experts and advocates as well as interlocutors from all over the world. Attendance for these events is consistently 40-120 including HSU employees, faculty, alumni, students and the public.

Goal 3 Details:

Forensics education is interdisciplinary, they draw from every school on campus, entailing demonstrations/lectures which end up in retention/advancement files. They could theoretically offer graduate teaching stipends to grad students from any discipline interested in Forensics Education. Their camps/workshops are open to HSU employees and their families.

Goal 4 Details:

Forensics is a term coined by Aristotle, current surveys demonstrate the skills targeted by Forensics education (critical thinking, listening, research, and oratory skills) are currently among the most-valued for contemporary employers, often ranking even higher than familiarity in the selected field. Communication is essential technology, regardless of the era.

Goal 5 Details:

A dedicated Forensics Office is a demonstrated need for program resilience and sustainability. Insofar as Forensics Education is, itself, a resource of the University this space would make a substantial difference. Forensics is co-curricular, interdisciplinary, and recruitment and retention oriented making it a vital resource

for HSU or Cal Poly Humboldt as shown by the vitality of Cal Poly SLO Forensics.

Goal 6 Details:

Decades of evidence accumulated across demographics demonstrates the effectiveness of the curriculum design of Forensics, which is rigorously and methodically experiential. Students select advocacies, work with experts, craft their words, and perform their speeches. All involved listen, question, wonder, and learn. For future speakers (teachers, politicians, lawyers) this is essential and demonstrably transformative experience.

Collective Impact:

Forensics students have engaged with essential programs on campus including: The Student Legal Lounge, KRFH, Umoja Center for Pan African Excellence, NAS' Food Sovereignty Lab, Associated Students Presents, campus tours. These collaborations include co-founding the Legal Lounge, interviewing folks via forensics pedagogy on KRFH and first-hand participation (lecture, demonstration, mediation, moderation).

Request Importance - Needs Analysis:

As a curriculum, Forensics is skill-based and targets broad employment potentials (broadcasting, politics, law, education, marketing, strategic/scientific/informational communication, ...) by improving listening, notation, research, teamwork, and public speaking skills. These outcomes are rooted in ongoing practice and preparation. The current "squad room" is not ADA accessible, cannot seat enough people, is too close to working offices for loud/emotional speeches, and is booked out to other departmental needs during times of our peak demand. Campus labs and spaces are too unpredictable or do not meet their needs. This space improves University-wide recruiting, retention, and pedagogical outcomes in demonstrable ways.

Recent History:

MBU/Division Outcomes and Objectives Related to this Request:

The Forensics Squad Room would display team awards and team history, store team technology and equipment that is expensive and essential to their preparation and competition, provide space for ongoing research projects (which can be delicate and messy), and give students a place to fine-tune dramatic, short preparation, and platform speaking and argumentation skills and for competition in front of judges and amongst peers from all over the world. Forensics improves listening, notation, research, critical thinking, teamwork, and speaking skills.

Funding

Has Funding for this Request Already Been Identified? No

Proposed Funding:

Shannon Collart spoke with Kassidy Banducci with the Planning, Design and Construction Unit about this space need on Tuesday, September 28th. At this time no physical space has been identified, but Facilities is aware of the need.

Additional Document Upload

Additional Document Upload

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Additional Relevant Information Not Previously Addressed:

Routed for Review

College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences Lisa Bond-Maupin - Dean