

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)

Letters to the Editor

Posted: 11/1/06

Dear Editor,

This letter is written in response to the letter to the editor by Kelley Muldoon published in the Oct. 26 of the Spartan Daily. Out of the \$73.50 of the Associated Students fee, only about \$0.56 from each student went toward the \$17,000 that A.S. spent on Homecoming events.

As stated in A.S. mission statement, we strive "to represent the students of San Jose State University and continually improve the quality of their educational opportunities and experiences."

This means that our special events and marketing department, which organizes Homecoming and other programs such as the Spartan Squad, is just one branch of A.S.

Additional departments and services that are funded by A.S. fees include the Print Shop, Computer Services Center, Child Development Center, Cesar Chavez Community Action Center, Campus Recreation, Transportation Solutions, General Services and Government.

A.S. also provides scholarships, the fund for which was increased this year from \$30,000 to \$60,000. Students may apply for these scholarships through the Financial Aid and Scholarships office.

We also provide funding to student organizations and their events, the budget for which was increased this year to \$200,000 from \$110,000.

A.S. is looking to further improve funding for students by 2007 so that individual students may receive subsidy for professional development such as higher education placement exams (MCATs, GREs, etc.) and conference registration fees.

Student input is sought after throughout every stage of these funding procedures. Decisions are generally made through committees that have student membership; for example, Homecoming events were approved by the A.S. Programming Board.

Surveying is another method utilized to measure the satisfaction of particular services. We also invite students to contact A.S. Directors and staff directly with their suggestions and concerns, such as speaking during public forum at Board meetings every second and fourth Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the Ohlone Room of the Student Union.

In addition, the annual budget is a public document that is available by requesting a copy at the A.S. House, located by Duncan Hall. The budget process takes several months, and students can provide their input for the 2007-2008 budget by speaking at Finance Committee meetings, which are held every first and third Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. at the A.S. House.

In addition, the Finance Committee has an open voting student position, as do many other committees. Applications are available at the A.S. House or on the A.S. Web site at www.as.sjsu.edu.

Concerns with the cost of course fees or the quality of classroom supplies or cafeteria food should be directed to the various departments or organizations that provide them, such as Spartan Shops, the University, or the State Legislature. A.S. directors can help students in lobbying for these improvements.

I hope that you encourage your readers to continue to give A.S. and the university more constructive input such as that provided by Kelley Muldoon.

Che Angkham
A.S. Vice President

Dear editor,

In regards to both the Oct. 24 article, "A.S. events have mixed reactions," and the Oct. 26 letter, "A.S. might want to ask students where their money is going before spending it," I have an opinion.

Of the \$73.50 for Associated Student enrollment being paid by each student, only a fraction of a dollar actually goes to A.S. events. If we have roughly 30,000 students, and \$17,000 goes to events, it is obvious that the bulk of the funds do not go to A.S.'s attempt to boost campus unity and school spirit through on-campus activities.

I believe that any individual student would not mind paying a few cents for a noontime show, evening concert or inflatable playground. If anything, they would appreciate it rather than spending large amounts of money downtown, or maybe sitting around in their dorm room.

The activities actually benefit students and campus life. Student employees who are involved in setting up and working these events are benefiting by having a secure job and earning money, and the actual production of said events works towards the university's mission "to enrich the lives of students."

Just because there maybe a low turnout does not mean that it is a waste. The problem I find with the unpopularity of events on campus is due to a lack of proper advertising.

How many students walking by the Event Center pay attention to the electronic marquee where Homecoming activities were advertised?

Having previously lived on campus and being surrounded by campus life everyday, I rarely heard of anything happening on campus until I happened to walk by the event.

I am sure that attendance would be greater if students were actually aware of what was going on with proper notice in advance, rather than simply stumbling upon it.

Sarah Armes
English
Junior

© Copyright 2006 Spartan Daily