

RSAC Annual Report 2018-19

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Department Mission:

The Middle Eastern Student Center supports intellectual exchange, encourages the study of Middle Eastern culture and history, while promoting the advancement of higher education. The MESC fosters relationships to build inclusion, acceptance, and earnest communication with an emphasis on cultural diversity. We collectively pursue civic engagement and civil discourse as a means to promote mutual understanding. Within a changing campus climate we create alliances and engage meaningful conversations to meet the needs of the Middle Eastern student population at UCR.

Purpose:

- 1) Summarize information for the new RSAC in Fall.
- 2) Present information for the RSAC web site.

Projected Referendum Fees Income in original Budget Plan: **\$100,000**

Actual Referendum Fees Income: **\$97,985**

STIP Income: **\$2,116**

Carry Forward Funds from last year for department: **\$17,317.43**

Total Available Funds = \$117,418.43

Budget Item	Final Expenditures	Carry-forward
Collaborative Expenditures	\$10,404.03	
MESCafe	\$1401.40	
Film Series	\$295.00	
End of the Year Gala	\$7141.70	
Lectures and Educational Events	\$9597.96	
MESC and Rest	\$278.92	
Mixers	\$3562.07	
ME Week	\$17684.75	
MSA Events	\$4033.73	
Outreach	\$237.93	
Retreats	\$2094.00	
Student Leadership Development	\$3485.76	
Supplies	\$1490.01	

TAPS	\$326.64	
UCOP Assessment	\$2752.00	
Student Staff Salaries/Non Project Code Expenses	\$25,334.24	
TOTALS	\$89,921.04	\$27,497.39

Carryforward Notes or Other Budget Notes, If applicable:

Our current status as a department without a director has meant that we have not had the chance to properly assess some of our funds, such as 2017-18 carryforward. I have done my best to report spending to the best of my ability. However, with my added workload I have not had the time, nor been taught, how to properly track and assess our funds.

Our initial reasoning for having around \$17,000 in carryforward funds was to ensure that we had money to purchase new furniture for our department’s impending move into Costo Hall. That move was, however, delayed and we were told it would not happen in the Summer of 2019, rather in Winter quarter of 2020. With that in mind, and with my absence as a program coordinator for the majority of Fall 2018, we were not able to plan our regular large scale program for Winter 2019 and an additional \$7000-8000 was left on the table. We figured that that money could also be put towards furniture when we moved. Our move was then delayed again until, at earliest, the Summer of 2021 as we were told by the HUB and the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. With the move being so far off, we decided to use the \$27,000 in carryforward toward student staff salaries and programming, appropriating to its initial purpose. The carryforward was also used to offset the loss of around \$12,000 in SSFAC funding that we did not get for fy2019-20.

Overview of Programs, Services, Staffing, & Support

Budget Item: Collaborative Expenditures

1. HESSR funds are used to cover Collaborative Expenditures as these are some of our main programs in which we partner with campus departments to put on programs for students. Collaborative programs also include funds given to student organizations to support their programming and initiatives. Collaborative Programs include
 - a. Wellness Wednesday
 - b. Fatima Mirza Event
 - c. SJP End of the Year Banquet
 - d. MESA Programming
 - e. GRADSuccess Coffee Social
 - f. Grad Student Mixer
 - g. Yalla Vote!
 - h. Little Helpers
 - i. Unity Hour
 - j. Nowruz

Budget Item: Film Series

HESSR paid for the screening of documentary about the Israel-Palestine conflict called 1948: Creation and Catastrophe and invited one of the films producers for a Q+A. The film was an opportunity at a deeper dive on the issue and to speak to someone who spent time in the region and to learn from their firsthand experiences and perspectives.

Budget Item: End of the Year Gala

The End of the Year Gala is an opportunity for MESC to recognize and appreciate all of the amazing work the department, employees, students, and community partners have done throughout the year. We provide dinner and awards to students and give space for students to speak on their year and experiences as well as show our ME Week video and honor graduating students.

Budget Item: Lectures and Educational Events

HESSR funded lectures on specific topics that are important and relevant to our Middle Eastern community and our campus community as a whole. Also different workshops that were educational and taught a skill were included in this category Lectures included

- 1) Yemen Civil War
- 2) Invasion of Iraq
- 3) Head on History
- 4) Fly with ME
- 5)

Budget Item MESC and Rest

MESC and Rest is a quarterly event that helps students destress during a midterms week and help diffuse their high pressure workloads through food, massages, calming environments, mental health and wellness tips, and free exam materials.

Budget Item: Mixers

Mixers allow the MESC community to learn about different student organizations, meet other students, network, participate in cultural activities, and learn about the resources MESC has to offer. Mixers are also used to introduce the wider campus community to the work that MESC does.

Budget Item: ME Week

ME Week is the largest event of the year for MESC. Using the platform of Arab American Heritage month in April, we raise awareness for issues in the Middle Eastern community, celebrate culture, give our students opportunities to showcase their talents, provide programming for the campus community, and introduce our campus community to different community partners. ME Week is also a great opportunity for students to learn about and get involved with MESC and other Costo Hall offices.

Budget Item: MSA Events

As one of the largest student organizations on campus, MSA events are used to educate the community about Islam and Muslims, while promoting a fun and welcoming environment to build community, make friends and network for success. MSA events also seek to combat racism, sexism, Islamophobia and discrimination on campus.

Budget Item: Outreach

HESSR funded MESC outreach that ranged from developing marketing in order to get maximum exposure for our events and our student organizations. We also used money promoting a voter registration drive with the Yalla Vote Voter Registration campaign as part of our civic engagement efforts.

Budget Item: Retreats

The two primary MESC retreats include the student staff retreat at the beginning of the year that seeks to build a solid foundation amongst the MESC staff as well as teach student staff the policies and procedures of the department and expectations and duties of their roles. The Winter Leadership retreat is an opportunity for the MESC staff to more intimately and personally give students an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and to also have a chance to destress away from the campus. The leadership retreat has produced numerous student org presidents, ASUCR members, student interns and gives students the tools and knowledge to step up and become active agents of change in their communities.

Budget Item: Student Leadership Development

HESSR pays for students to attend conferences both in-state and out in order to develop their leadership, networking, and presentation skills. Conferences attended include the Lebanese Collegiate Network Conference and the Afghan American Conference.

Budget Item: Supplies

HESSR pays for programmatic and general office supplies needed to keep the MESC functioning at a high level. This includes paper and ink for our printer that students can use for free, hand sanitizer, paper towels, plastic utensils, and computers for student intern use.

Budget Item: TAPS

HESSR covers the parking permits for visitors and guest speakers that benefit our students and provides free parking for students at large scale events.

Budget Item: Student Staff Salaries/ Non-Project Code Expenses

HESSR paid for the salaries of 4 student interns who worked at the MESC throughout the year. There are also minor miscellaneous expenses that did not have a project code that were added into this section, but they are a fraction of the spending in this section and can be seen in the budget spreadsheet included with this report.

Budget Item: UCOP Assessment Fee

The required UCOP assessment fee is based on a 2.5% fee on expenditures two years ago.