

July 4th, 2022

**To:** ASuop Senate

**CC:** Angel Zhong, ASuop President

Dr. Maria Blandizzi, VP for the Division of Student Life

Karen Bravo, Business Manager

**From:** Brooke Tran, ASuop Vice President

Alice Zhang, Director of Finance

**RE:** Establishment of Graduate and Career Testing Fund

### **Background Information and Purpose**

Since Pacific prides itself on valuing diversity, equity, and inclusion (D.E.I.), what practices do we have in place to actually support this? One of our goals, as leaders of ASuop, is to expand access and make intentional decisions based on the data we have on our student body – on our constituents.

According to the 2022 U.S. News & World Report, Pacific is #7 in Ethnic Diversity in California (tied with UC Berkeley). With this, we can connect that systemic inequalities have put many of our students in economic disadvantage. Literature on standardized testing has also proven that exams are a better indicator of students' socioeconomic status, rather than their ability to succeed in their graduate studies. While many institutions have sought out holistic review of students for admission, quite a number of departments still require standardized exams, like the GRE.

By applying *social justice*, by definition, a “justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges in a society,” it makes sense to expand our funding opportunities for our Stockton students who pay ASuop fees.

Even other institutions, such as Chapman University, a majority white, private university of about 8,000 students, have implemented a similar fund. ASuop has a precedent of providing funding opportunities for students, such as through Conference Funding. For the past three (3) academic years, the budget for conference reimbursement has ranged from \$20,000 – \$25,000. Last year, students requested just under \$11,000; that amount guides our decision of reallocating \$10,000 for the creation of this new funding opportunity.

Overall, the purpose of the Career and Graduate Test Fund is to help alleviate financial burdens associated with but *not limited to* the following exams:

### **Estimated Costs of Common Exams**

GRE \$205  
DAT \$475

MCAT \$325  
LSAT \$215

### Processes

The process to obtain reimbursement for Career and Graduate Testing will be similar to how Conference Funding is approved. The limit will tentatively be placed at (one) 1 test per student per fiscal year and a funding limit of \$250 is going to be set. Students will submit the request, have a hearing with the Director of Finance, and then the request will be submitted to the Senate to vote on through an FBAR. Afterwards, they will be reimbursed for their purchase through our business manager.

### Cost

The main budget changes are as follows:

The budget for semi-annual funding was cut from \$52,000 to \$40,000. Looking at spending patterns from past years, semi-annual funding has never been fully utilized by students, so leaving \$40,000 should be more than enough to cover all reimbursement and Procard requests.

The salary for the Director of Finance was cut by \$1,000 to account for the fewer hours worked with a Deputy Director of Finance.

\$10,000 was allocated for the new Career and Graduate testing fund, \$4,000 was allocated for the newly hired Deputy Director of DEI, and \$2,000 was allocated for the Deputy Director of Finance.

Only \$3,000 of additional rollover was allocated to make these changes.

Karen Bravo, our business manager, has approved these changes. She will have a year-end update of the previous year's spending by mid-July which Director Zhang will later share with all of Senate.

Regards,

Brooke Tran, *ASuop Vice President*



Alice Zhang, *Director of Finance*

