

### *Motion for Specific Guidelines on Winter Coat Fund Eligibility*

**Purpose:** A specification of the eligibility requirements regarding the student funds for winter clothing will allow low-income students to get the proper funding with consistent guidelines on obtaining them. This ensures that low-income students, especially those coming from warmer climates, are aware of the student success fund (which is where the winter coat fund will come from) and have a clear understanding of the fund.

**The What:** Similar to the guidelines for the Weiland Grant which state that students whose families earn \$65,000 or less per year with typical assets and are eligible for \$0 parent or guardian contribution, the same will apply for this Winter Coat fund. Students will be properly made aware of this grant and will be provided to them upon request. A big issue is that even though the Student Success fund is readily available for students, they have no clue it even exists due to the lack of publicity. This will be a one-time fund of \$300 given to eligible students during their first semester of freshman year to cover the costs of their winter clothing. Students who need more than \$300 will have the option of an additional \$200 in the form of a loan which will be charged to their student account. This fund is separate from the Weiland Grant and the \$300 will not be taken out of the Weiland Grant in advancement as low-income students need the full grant for plane tickets and other necessities.

**The How:** Karin Weston and Cindy Wells are already in the works of implementing a fund for winter clothing and working with them will help solidify specific guidelines. Similar to the establishment of the Weiland Grant, a solid explanation of the purpose and process of how the Winter Coat fund will be given should be emailed to those that are eligible or in the newsletter.

**Strengths and Importance:** Preserving our students' health and wellness is crucial, especially in such a cold climate. And providing this Winter Coat Fund to low-income students gives them the opportunity to purchase a solid set of winter clothes to get them through the winter. This takes away some of the financial burdens that low-income students may have.

**Possible Risk Areas:** The financial aid administration may be reluctant to set up another grant aside from the Weiland Grant. However, the majority of students who are low-income or Weiland Grant recipients are still in need of extra funding. \$300 is a lot of additional money, especially for students receiving the Weiland Grant so we can possibly reduce the amount for Weiland Grant recipients to \$200 to allow for other low-income students who aren't necessarily eligible for the Weiland Grant to get the full \$300.

**Intuition and Questions Already Addressed:** Cat and Bibatshu met with Karin Weston to discuss funding for winter clothing and confirmed that \$300 is available to students if they request it and will loan additional funds if more than \$300 is needed. SGA plans on getting Karin access to an Outdoor ProLink account to help give her access to deals for students. She also plans on purchasing an excess of coats and things when clearance starts at the end of the winter for next year to give another option to students.

Contact Information for questioning, clarification, or pre-meeting critiques:

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