

Middle Eastern Student Association

Enter Submission Date Here

Fees Request for 2009-2010 Academic Year

2105 140th Ave NE, Ham Lake, MN, 55304
Address

763-458-8594 _____ mesa@umn.edu _____
Phone Fax Email

“We acknowledge that the fees committee does not award actual dollars, but rather a penny fee that earns dollars based upon student enrollment levels. Any differences between anticipated and actual income resulting from changes in enrollment are the responsibility of the student organization, not of the fees committee.”

Anthony Zerka _____
Preparer’s Name Here

_____ Murid Amini _____
Co-Preparer’s Name Here

Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit? Yes _____ No X _____
If yes, please provide proof of your organization’s 501(c)(3) status.

Funds are being requested for (check all that apply):

General Operating Support \$575 Start-Up Costs _____ Capital _____
Project / Program Support \$5025 Technical Assistance _____ Other (List) _____

Budget

Dollar Amount Requested \$5600
Total Annual Organization Budget \$575
Total Project Budget (Apart from General Operating) \$5025

Middle Eastern Student Association

Narrative

Please use the following guidelines to provide a description of your organization:

- Brief summary of organization history, including date of establishment
- Organization mission / vision statements, inclusive of organizational goals
- Describe your organization's relationship with organizations of like mission
- Illustrate the need for your organization within the university community, inclusive of how your organization meets this need
- Detail the student benefit derived from your organization, whether or not students utilize services
- Describe student involvement within your organization
- State the total amount of your student services fees request. Indicate whether this amount is a decrease from last year, an increase from last year, or if this is a first-time request.
- Indicate at what percentage your organization will operate in the summer of 2009.

MESA was founded to promote awareness of the countries and cultures of the Middle East. MESA strives to spread understanding and diversity throughout the campus and encourages everyone, regardless of race, gender, class, or religion, to take part in learning about the many different aspects of Middle Eastern countries and cultures. MESA began in the Fall of 2005 as a group of people with a common interest. With all the other Middle Eastern related student groups focusing primarily on religions or specific countries, we wanted to educate the University of the beauties of the Middle Eastern culture. We wanted to turn the fanatical images of our homelands that the media has portrayed during current events into the culture-rich images that we know of. We accomplish this by sharing our arts, food, past times, and history at the various events we take part of with the rest of the University. MESA participates in events that promote cultural awareness, such as cultural shows and diversity fairs. Past events that we have hosted include barbecues and dinners with Middle Eastern foods, cultural showcases with Dabke (cultural dance) and singers, a Mr. Middle East pageant, and our annual soccer tournament in the spring. In the summer, we've held barbeques and small dinners, but a majority of our board and regular members travel back to their homes. This summer, 2009, we are expecting to hold another barbeque in late August when members are coming back, but only a small percentage will operate during the main summer months. We are applying for more student service fees in effort to expand and decrease our reliance on grants. Grants are not always guaranteed, and in order for us to reach more students and share our culture, the greater amount of student service fees is highly demanded. For 2009-2010, we are requesting \$5,600; this amount is higher than last year's request due to our expansion. Last semester, we were able to throw two highly successful events, and now, we are planning at least four more new events this Spring semester.

Middle Eastern Student Association

Organizational Chart

Provide a block diagram that details more clearly your organization structure. The organizational chart should provide a clear picture of the reporting structure and student involvement.

Elected Board Position:

Social Chair – Jamelah Hersh Plan social events and involve MESA in campus or community socials	Advertising Chair – Rebecca Elkhoury Create flyers and organize sponsors	Outreach Coordinator – Saja Ben-Abdallah Reach out to new students, educate and recruit new members, keep old members active, expand membership	Community Service Chair – Dema Mohammed Plan involvement in campus and community fundraising and community service
President- Ahmed El-Mawas Oversee, organize, represent MESA, administrative tasks	External Relations – Sherif Elabbady Liaison between MESA and the U, Twin Cities, and other communities	Secretary/ Webmaster – Murid Amini Taking and distributing minutes, in charge of listserv, update website, log events	Treasurer – Anthony Zerka Keep track of accounts, provide updated financial reports
Events Coordinator – Saja Ben-Abdallah Delegate and oversee tasks during event and planning	Cultural Chair - Nadine Abou-Karam Plan involvement in campus and community cultural activities	Grant Writer – Murid Amini Responsible for funding forms, researching what is available	

Delegates:

Dedicated members that are not elected into position, but still attend meetings, and take part in planning our events (15)

General Board Members:

Members on our email lists that attend our events and are able to vote for our elected board (est. 200)

Middle Eastern Student Association

Performance Report

Use quantitative measures to indicate participation in services and programs within your organization. Figures should be used to demonstrate the impact your organization has on campus life:

- Number of events
- Participation / Attendance figures
- Survey results or other methods of evaluation

MESA has held two major events last semester, but has been apart of many others held by the University or other student groups. Our attendance is estimated based on guests signing email lists, food tickets handed out at doors, and room capacity. At our MESA Bonanza 2 event, we had roughly 200 people in attendance. We offered free food (which was more than enough considering at least 50 more people went for second servings) and entertainment, which included a cultural dance called dabkeh, and a Middle Eastern singer. MESA also had prizes being given away such as gift cards. We introduced the audience to popular Middle Eastern songs and at least 100 students started to dance without any knowledge of the correct form of dancing. At our spring welcome dinner, we handed out roughly 200 meal tickets, and also ran out of seating. At our Mr. Middle East event, we had over 125 in attendance, and some were not from the University of Minnesota. We are becoming known amongst many other colleges due to our influence of coming together as a culture. We had 10 contestants competing for Mr. Middle East of 2009, the remaining 3 would receive prizes. For both events combined, we were able to gain over 100 new members.

Please report figures for the previous, current, and requested fiscal years.

Use qualitative measures to depict the evaluative actions of your organization:

- Describe your criteria for success. What does your organization hope to accomplish as a result of its activities? Please describe goals for short-term and long-term success.
- How will your organization determine whether or not its goals have been met?
- Who will be involved in evaluating your organization?
- What will be done with any collected evaluation results?

MESA hopes to expand the mind of its participants at our events. We want the community at the University to understand the diversity of the Middle Eastern culture and we believe that a strong way to achieve that is to hold activities that anyone can learn from and participate in. In the short run, we hope to continue with our regular events, but also focus more of our time expanding our membership and listserv instead of finding funds. Once we have more active members and a more secure budget, we can expand our ideas and our participation at the University as a diversity group. Our success will be measured by the participation at our events, along with our membership. So far, we are pleased with our turnouts at events and even general board meetings. Our organization's founding members, along with members of the community and student group advisors, have helped us in evaluating our group's progress. Although no longer students, our founders are still very active in all of our actions and have become advisors of our group, giving us an "outsider's" voice during our meetings and counseling us on our next steps. After each event, our board gathers to evaluate our progress. We look at budget, completion of tasks, and compare it to our turnout and reactions to our events. Along with evaluating our events, we also evaluate our board at the end of each semester. This will be based off of attendance at meetings, how thorough their tasks are completed, and peer reviews.

Middle Eastern Student Association

Description of Impact at a 10 Percent Reduction in Fees Request

Please describe how your organization would function should the fees committee reduce your fees request by 10 percent. What would be most greatly affected? Please provide specifics, including how a 10 percent reduction would change the dollar amounts as outlined in your 2009-2010 expenses on the next page.

If we were to have a 10 percent reduction, we would first cut out things that aren't necessities. For example, food/dinnerware at our events are important, because it will affect the number of attendees. However, things such as decorations and advertising can be cut without decreasing expected turnout. To be specific, for our 2009 MESA Bonanza 2 show, we could have used less decor, or reuse other student groups' previous decoration. Instead of printing fliers on matte paper, we could print on cardstock or even paper. Another way to cut our cost is by not using lights, or having lights being donated to us. Instead of giving away prizes based on our Middle Eastern culture, we could have given away gift cards to local shops around Minneapolis. By doing this to those two events, we would be saving about \$200 on decorations, and \$150 on advertising measures, and \$100 on prizes, totaling a \$450 save in budget. Any amount given by the University of Minnesota will be very helpful and any reduction that may occur, MESA will take proper precautions and be as efficient with every purchase possible.

BUDGET			
Complete the sections below, as it applies to your organization Shaded sections are formulas and should not be changed			
Student Organization Name:			
INCOME	ACTUAL	PROJECTED	REQUEST
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Student Services Fees		\$ 1,440.50	\$ 5,600.00
Foundations			
Corporations			
Individual Contributions	\$ 50.00		
Fundraising Measures	\$ 350.00	\$ 400.00	
In-Kind Support			
Investment Income	\$ 50.00		
Grants Internal to UM (i.e. Administrative, Coke)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,300.00	
Grants External to UM			
Operation Reserves (should be 10%)			
Equipment Reserves (if applicable to your organization)			
Long Range Planning Reserves (if applicable to your organization)			
Carry over from Previous year			
Total Income	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 4,140.50	\$ 5,600.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	ACTUAL	PROJECTED	REQUEST
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Salaries, Wages, and Stipends			
Insurance, Benefits, Taxes			
Consultants / Professional Fees			
Travel			
Food			
Equipment		\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
Supplies			
Printing and Copying	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
Telephone and Fax	\$ 50.00		\$ 75.00
Postage and Delivery			
Rent and Utilities			
In-Kind Expenses			
Other (Specify)			
Total Operational Expenses	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 575.00
PROGRAMMING EXPENSES*	ACTUAL	PROJECTED	REQUEST
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Food	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,965.00	\$ 2,500.00
Room Rental	\$ 550.00	\$ 430.00	\$ 875.00
Advertising	\$ 200.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 200.00
Entertainment	\$ 200.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,000.00
Travel			\$ -
Other	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
Total Programming Expenses	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,620.00	\$ 5,025.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 3,820.00	\$ 5,600.00
Difference (Income Less Expenses)	\$ -	\$ 320.50	\$ -
<p>* For the Programming/Project expenses, organizations must provide a breakdown of the programming/projects that comprise the total costs listed above. In turn, the sum of each programming/project's costs should add up to the totals listed for each item. The Programming/Project breakdown sheet is provided on the next page and should be duplicated for each individual program/project. Breaking down your organization's projects and supplementing with narrative pages could alleviate the need to compile this information for the fees committee at a later date.</p>			

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN 2009-2010						
Student Org Name	Middle Eastern Student Association					
Name of Program	MESA Bonanza 2					
Food	\$ 1,015.00					
Room Rental	\$ 220.00					
Advertising	\$ 100.00					
Entertainment	\$ 450.00					
Travel	\$ -					
Other (Specify)	\$ 250.00	Dinnerware, prizes, lights, decorations				
Program Total:	\$ 2,035.00					
Narrative:	Every year, MESA throws a show that encourages diversity and cultural awareness. Next year, we hope to have a talent show in which any student from the U can show off their diversity in their own way. We hope to partner with other diverse groups on campus to increase attendance.					
PROGRAM BREAKDOWN 2009-2010						
Student Org Name	Middle Eastern Student Association					
Name of Program	Mr. Middle East					
Food	\$ 950.00					
Room Rental	\$ 210.00					
Advertising	\$ 75.00					
Entertainment	\$ 150.00					
Travel	\$ -					
Other (Specify)	\$ 200.00	Dinnerware, prizes, lights, decorations				
Program Total:	\$ 1,585.00					
Narrative:	Mr. Middle East was brought to the attention to many males with a Middle Eastern background. It did not matter what country they were from or their religion. Even though it was a male pageant, our attendance was over 100 people and this event was a week before finals began. We succeeded by attracting more individuals to come and experience our events to get a better understanding of our culture.					