WHEREAS Utah State University is a research institution.

WHEREAS Utah State is renowned throughout the state and nation for its Undergraduate Research Program.

WHEREAS the 08-09 AOF funds have been fully allocated and yet there exists an additional need.

WHEREAS Capital and Support funds are for the purpose of enhancing students educational experience at Utah State University.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED that $3,000 from Capital and Support be transferred to the AOF fund to cover remaining applicants that had applied prior to the depletion of original funds.

Sponsor: Jeremy Jennings, Academic Senate President

Co-sponsor:
ECB 09-10 Capital and Support Request for Academic Opportunity Funds

History:

The Academic Opportunity Fund originated through legislation within ASUSU to provide support for Undergraduate Research. In the recent past, the line item ASUSU budget for this item has been $10,000 (still is) and additional funds were secured from the undergraduate research office if they were available. This year we received the first $11,000 enhancement to the fund from tier 2 monies, which allowed us to allocate $21,000 in support. Accordingly we have provided more support for students this year than ever before, a notable achievement given the economic situation around campus limiting the departmental and professorial support students have been able to receive.

The current situation stems from a loop whole in the application process that will be remedied for future years. The application states funds are awarded on a first come first serve basis but we have historically not provided a means to determine application date. As of March 16th when we ran out of money we had an additional 6 applicants that had already turned in their applications but were waiting to appear before the committee and request funds. The committee felt it unjust to penalize these students since there was no way to verify that they hadn’t applied previous to the other students who received funding.