

**SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CRITERIA FOR DEFINING A PROGRAM AS AN
INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITY

Education Code Section 89230 defines Instructionally Related Activity programs which may be funded by annual State budgets. These same definitions are utilized at Sonoma State University for defining programs eligible for funding by IRA fees collected from students. Consistent with Section 89230 eligible activities are those that are considered to be essential to a quality educational program and an important instructional experience for any student enrolled in the program. Sonoma State University Fee Advisory Committee places a high value on program effectiveness and accountability. Establishment of learning outcomes and a plan for assessment of learning outcomes is an important element of IRA eligibility and funding consideration.

- A. Intercollegiate athletics: costs which are necessary for a basic competitive program, including equipment and supplies and scheduled travel, not now provided by the State. Athletic grants should not be included.
- B. Radio, television, and film: costs related to the provisions of basic “hands-on” experience not now provided by the State. Purchase or rental of films as instructional aids should not be included.
- C. Music and dance performance: costs to provide experience in individual and group performance, including recitals, before audiences and in settings sufficiently varied to familiarize students with the performance facet of the field.
- D. Drama and musical productions: basic support of theatrical and operatic activities sufficient to permit experience not only in actual performance but production, direction, set design and other elements considered a part of professional training in these fields.
- E. Art exhibits: support for student art shows given in connection with degree programs.
- F. Publications: the costs to support and operate basic publication programs including a periodic newspaper and other laboratory experience basic to journalism and literary training. Additional publications designed primarily to inform or entertain should not be included.
- G. Forensics: activities designed to provide experience in debate, public speaking, and related programs, including travel required for a competitive debate program.

CRITERIA FOR DEFINING A PROGRAM AS AN
INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITY (Continued)

H. Other Activities: activities associated with other instructional areas which are consistent with purposes included in the above may be added as they are identified and approved by the campus President. Already identified and approved systemwide are:

- (1) Model United Nations activities;
- (2) Agricultural judging.

I. Other Programs & Considerations:

Provisions are also made whereby other programs may be considered and defined as IRA. A program that does not meet one of the categories above may be considered an Instructionally Related Activity if the Fee Advisory Committee (FAC) recommends approval based upon consideration of the Education Code Section 89230 and the criteria below and if the President of the University subsequently approves the Committee's recommendation.

- (1) A program that is a primary component of a class in which residential academic credit is earned and that is closely related to and/or in support of the classroom study of students may be considered eligible. Enrolled students typically produce a product or perform as representatives of SSU's educational program. (Examples: History Journal; KSUN Radio; SSU Literary Magazines)
- (2) A program not specifically supporting a class in which residential academic credit is earned may be considered for eligibility if it serves as a resource for classes, or serves as a direct and critical supporting role for such classes. (Examples: Extended Library Hours; Art Gallery; Community Counseling Center, Children's School)
- (3) Teams that participate in intercollegiate competition representing SSU may be considered for eligibility. Such teams may include club sports teams as well as on-going teams engaged in co-curricular and academically related competitions.

J. IRA funds may not be used for grants-in-aid, athletic guarantees, or faculty salaries.