



# DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Award Selection Committee:

April 30, 2023

I write in strong support of the students of Biology Students For Equity in their application for a Seed grant from the Campus Sustainability Fund and the Resilience Lab. I am their current faculty advisor and have served as such since the club's beginning about six years ago. The core of current officers is a small group of students who are continuing in their roles for the upcoming year and who will be training new leadership while working on existing programs and establishing new ones.

The specifics of the application center around COMMUNITY BUILDING, STUDENT LITERACY, and NETWORKING STUDENTS WITH CAREER PROFESSIONALS. Each of these goals is in itself worthy and achievable. But this energized group of students in Biology Students for Equity has demonstrated that they can actually conduct all three areas of work simultaneously. They are seeking funding to help them ensure that their efforts are:

- 1) More broadly felt; that more students are reached,
  - 2) More equitably achieved; with more focus on improving equity in STEM in general specifically and transparently unpacking equity measures at all events,
  - 3) More sustainably passed along from one year to the next.
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- 1) Broader Impact. The applicants are asking for a small amount of funding necessary to attract students from across STEM fields to this club's event and membership. These "refreshment" funds are not supported within the department.
  - 2) With Equity in our name, the club wants to ensure that we highlight areas in which equity has not been served and ensure that we are transparently doing our best to right past wrongs. For example, when a panelist from an impacted background is asked to contribute to a club event, the club would like to be able to provide an honorarium for their time.
  - 3) As more students are brought into the organization, there will need to be better mechanisms for communication and for passing along information to sustain what works and improve what does not. Current leaders have made vast improvements in our information sharing but the planned STEM event with BurkeMobile will provide a celebratory way to transition from one team to the next at year's end.

I want to highlight that this club was founded to improve access and belonging to marginalized students from many backgrounds. As such, it is a founding principle that this club will not charge its membership any dues. Much has been accomplished without student dues funds, but much more can be accomplished with the support of the Campus Sustainability and Resilience Lab award.

Sincerely,  
Linda Martin-Morris, Ph.D.

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