HESA Criteria for Scoring Funded Student Initiatives

Student Life Committee
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Why criteria?

The Basic Criteria determine that funding a given activity is appropriate for HESA. Attention to them is required by our funding partners.

The Success Criteria show what sort of student Initiatives can succeed with the unusual opportunities and challenges of the Harvard Extension School. Indirectly, they also show what sorts of Initiatives have met with little success in the past, so that projects can be framed in a way more likely to succeed.

Basic

These criteria are scored yes or no. One "no" is an obstacle to HESA funding.

Eligibility. Student Initiatives should be able to show their eligibility for HESA funding. (See section 3 in HESA Funding for Student Initiatives.)

Organization. Although student Initiatives need not assume the form of a club, they do need to have a recognized, responsible leader and a pattern of collaboration.

Money. Student Initiatives need to be able to explain how in which they will find and manage money, and show that they can comply with the disbursement requirements of HESA.

Compliance. Leaders of student Initiatives should be aware of the federal and state laws, and the Harvard regulations that apply to student organizations and to their activities.

Success

These diagnostic criteria help to identify weaknesses to be improved and strengths to be preserved.

Energizing Activities. Successful Initiatives are known for activities that attract members and support. Students join these Initiatives because of what they do, not because of what they are called.

Collaborating Leaders. Successful Initiatives are led by leaders who are effective delegators, collaborators, and builders of teams.
**Planned Succession.** Leadership succession is a planned process. Leaders do not stay in a position too long. Founders have identified protégées to help and follow them. Old leaders and new leaders work side by side for a period of time. Talented outside leadership is used to reinvigorate the Initiative.

**Successful Continuity.** Successful methods, and vital contacts and resources are transmitted to the next generation of leaders and collaborators.

**Resourceful Advocates.** At Harvard and elsewhere, there are advocates for the organization that help it get access to what it needs.

**Systematic Recruiting.** There is a tested method for recruiting new collaborators and leaders to the organization.

**Community Cheerleaders.** There is an extended network of well-wishers at Harvard and beyond who know and respect the work of the Initiative, and speak up for it when necessary.

**Field Strength.** The Initiative contributes to the strength of the general field of endeavor at Harvard of which it is a part. Leaders are in contact with their Harvard counterparts. Joint activities or mergers are planned where appropriate. The Initiative complements the work of other Initiatives rather than duplicating them or competing for the same resources. Harvard faculty and staff in the field of endeavor know and respect the Initiative's work.