

This e-mail in a sentence: with predictions of less students (and therefore less money) coming into the College (and ASLC) due, in part, to national trends, expect budget allocations for next year to decline relative to 2013-2014 amounts.

Dear Student Organizations and Leaders,

My name is Micah Leinbach, and I serve as the Auditor for the Associated Students of Lewis & Clark. The auditory is an independent branch of the ASLC that is charged with providing reports and information on the state of students, the state of the college, administering surveys, collecting data, and assessing the effectiveness of College programs, the ASLC, and the various organizations therein.

I write with very important information regarding your budget allocation from the ASLC this year.

The ASLC makes all allocations using funds from the student body fee, which means that our budget is directly tied to the number of students attending Lewis & Clark. This year, next year, and for a few years to come colleges are widely expected to face declining enrollment - and this means declining budgets. This is a national trend, and not specifically effecting Lewis & Clark.

What this means for you: Because the ASLC-SOC must use projections to make allocations, we cannot perfectly predict next year's total budget. Only when fee payments are finalized on the first day of classes do we have a truly concrete number to work from. That being said, the College and the ASLC make efforts to predict incoming class sizes to the best of our abilities. **We are expecting a decline substantive enough that the ASLC budget could decline by as much as 15%.** That means that even if every organization applies for exactly the same amount of funds as they received this year, funding for all clubs would diminish. This is not a result of club contributions to the campus community, or the quality of the work of any given club. There simply may not be as much money to go around.

The ASLC Student Organization's Committee first faced the impacts of declining enrollment when making allocations for this year. The 2013-2014 budget decline was mitigated by a large allocation of reserve funds from a roll-over account into which excess funds flow at the end of the year ([see attached infographic for a full explanation](#)). While that fund ([now known as the "Reserve Fund" and managed publicly by Senate](#)) still remains, the Senate would have to approve additional expenditures of this kind.

I cannot speak to how the ASLC - SOC plans to handle applications in light of this. I can assure you that Student Organizations Coordinator Leann Knapp and her committee are fully aware of this reality and are planning accordingly. **Please also bear in mind that this is a possibility and not a guarantee.** While the college *is* preparing for reduced enrollment [in line with the pattern observed this year](#) there is always the chance that admissions will bring in a regular class size. Our neighbors at Reed College, for example, [saw their largest pool of applicants this year](#), suggesting that national trends do not determine the fate of an individual college.

You are welcome to be in contact with me if you have additional questions. **Please remember that I cannot speak to your individual application or the SOC plan for preparing a budget.** I urge you to put extra effort into a quality budget and presentation. The SOC budget will be presented to the Senate who must vote to approve it, and you are always welcome to reach out to your elected Senators to give them your perspectives on the sorts of organizations students prioritize.

More resources and information regarding the projected decline are provided at the end of this e-mail.

Be well,

Micah Leinbach
Auditor
Associated Students of Lewis & Clark

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[Lewis & Clark Applications/Acceptance/Enrollment \(2004 - 2013\)](#)

[Lewis & Clark Retention Rates \(2003 - 2013\)](#) *(The rate at which Lewis & Clark keeps students at the college are, as you can see by comparing to the list below, not high. Trends suggest that the current first-year class is on track to set a record for percent of the class transferring, though this is also not a finalized number. This can also have an impact on the college budget)*

[Nationwide Retention Averages \(U.S. News\)](#)

[New York Times Article: College Enrollment Decline](#)

Gawker Article [One](#) and [Two](#) on the same topic.

[LA Times on the increasing ease of getting into college](#) (due to lower application numbers)