

OBFS 2025 Proposed Budget Narrative

Submitted by Paul Wetzel

Today's Date – 27 November 2024

Hello OBFS members,

Attached is the proposed OBFS budget for 2025 for your review and information. Long time members will note that the organization and formatting of the budget is changed. The **Income** section is nearly the same as previous budgets with the addition of two categories, *Donations—Development* and *Annual Meeting Fees*. Budget **Expenses** were organized primarily around OBFS standing committees, **Strategic Plan** initiatives are imbedded into the committee structure. This organization allows committee members to easily see their individual budgets. It also allows members to know the role that each committee plays in the organization. It is hoped that these changes will make the budget more transparent to all members.

In addition to the proposed 2025 budget column, actual values for fiscal year 2024 are given. Unfortunately, those values only include income and expenses through the middle of November, making the annual spending in each line unclear. However, an annual spending history will develop over the next two years making budgeting easier in the future.

There are several new lines in the proposed budget. The annual meeting fees and expenses have been included in the budget. This is because this is the first year that OBFS was responsible for collecting meeting fees and paying meeting expenses. In previous years the host institution did these tasks.

Three new administrative cost lines were also added—money for a fiscal audit, liability insurance for Board members, and website administrator. The OBFS budget has never been audited by an outside organization and the Board felt that such an audit would be useful. It is anticipated that such an audit would be done every 2-3 years. Finally, OBFS hired Fallia Gregory to be the website administrator in May. Her salary is estimated to be ~\$20,000 next year.

OBFS receives income from a variety of sources—membership dues, investment dividends, and restricted donations (auction, endowment) and unrestricted donations. Currently, membership dues and unrestricted donations are the only sources of operating income for the organization. For 2025 that is estimated to be \$39,500, about 30% of the estimated expense budget of \$130,025. That means that OBFS is proposing to spend \$90,525 more than it will collect next year.

As a member of OBFS should you be worried that your favorite professional organization is on the brink of financial ruin? No, not really—breath deeply and read on.

First, please realize that for the last four years OBFS has essentially been using the Board Directed Fund as an “endowment” to finance current strategic initiatives. The initiatives were started in 2020 and included an overhaul of the website, IDEA+ programs, expanding international participation, greater collaborations among stations, and a mini-grants program. The Board decided to use \$235,000 of investment earnings and checking account cash to finance these initiatives. Thus far, about \$27,000 of investment earnings have been used over the past

four years for strategic plan initiatives. The value of these initiatives, and how to pay for them, will be evaluated next year when the next strategic plan is written.

Second, several initiatives, such as station matching program and the mini-grants program, were budgeted but not all funds were used each year, effectively spreading out their budgets over two or three years. So OBFS has not actually spent these large sums each year.

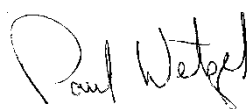
The assets of OBFS are listed in the table below. The OBFS Endowment Fund now totals \$70,576. All the mutual funds of the endowment were opened and are listed. Money from lifetime memberships and directed donations that had been accumulating in the UMASS Five College FCU checking account (\$15,596) over the last 18 months was moved into the Endowment. You will see by the amounts listed in the table that the **distribution** of funds into the various mutual funds recommended by the investment committee (60% stock funds—Social Investment & International Stock funds), 30% bond funds, and 10% cash—Money Mkt fund) has not been reached, but that is being done slowly and should be accomplished by the end of the year.

OBFS Assets (as of 30 September 2024)

Board Directed Funds	2022	2023	2024 (Sept)
<i>Vanguard Social Investment Fund</i>	286,112	387,915	478,710
<i>Vanguard Federal Money Mkt Fund</i>	238,860	200,108	208,137
Endowment			
<i>Vanguard Social Investment Fund</i>	-	-	30,288
<i>Vanguard International Stock Fund</i>	-	-	5,717
<i>Vanguard US Corp Bond Fund (Edmt)</i>	-	53,074	31,017
<i>Vanguard Federal Money Mkt Fund</i>	-	-	4,966
Paypal			43,887
Checking & Savings (UMASS Five College FCU)	118,468	92,233	19,903
Total Net Assets	643,440	733,330	822,624

With total assets of \$822,624, the OBFS remains financially comfortable near the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about OBFS finances.

Best wishes,



OBFS Proposed 2025 Budget || Submitted by Paul Wetzel || Fiscal Year = Calendar Year

	2024 Year to November Total	2025 Proposed Budget	Notes
I. Income			
Membership Dues	13,976	38,000	Slightly less than mean 2020-2023 Greater total investments. This income is reinvested automatically. Mean of last 10 years. Money
Investment dividends, capital gains	13,247	12,000	
Auction (revenue goes to Board Directed Fund)	3,135	10,500	invested in Board Directed Funds.
Endowment Fund/Lifetime Membership	3,692	4,000	Estimate--variable historic data
Donations (unrestricted)	252	500	endowment
Donations--Development (unrestricted)	500	1,000	Unknown--budget will be developed by meeting committee
Annual Meeting Fees	70,208		
Total Income	105,010	66,000	
Total Operating Income	14,228	39,500	Membership dues and unrestricted donations are only sources of
II. Expenses			
Administrative Costs		22,600	
Board Member Travel	1,500	6,000	Data incomplete
Dropbox Cloud Storage Fees	200	200	New expense. Anticipated to be done every 2-3 years
Fiscal Audit	0	10,000	
Liability Insurance	0	500	New expense.
Paypal Fees (donation collection)	1,671	2,500	
STRIPE Fees (membership dues collection)	274	500	
MemberClicks/Payscape/Moolah Services	6,857	0	Services ended in July, 2024
Misc. Costs (postage, wire fees, tax filing fees, Survey Monkey, etc.)	269	500	
President's Fund		1,000	
ZOOM (annual fee & cloud storage)	1,351	1,400	
Website & Membership Data Management		22,000	
Website Administrator (Fallia Gregory)	13,185	20,000	New expense. Sarah was hired to write website text and facilitate the transition to from
Website Coordinator (Sarah Oktay)	8,500	0	
Website Software/Application Fees	1,633	2,000	
Annual Meeting Planning Committee			
Total Cost (to date) of meeting	33,898		Not all expenses billed
Translation Services	700		Data incomplete at this time
Collaborations Committee		8,500	

Station Exchange	2,640	6,000	
Virtual Field Program	2,591	2,500	
Development Committee		2,250	
Community Donation	250	250	Data incomplete
Speaker Fee	2,000	2,000	Data incomplete
Governance Committee	0	200	
IDEA+ Committee		8,000	
Diversity Awards	2,000	2,000	
Donations to Host Location Community	0	500	
Speaker Fees Annual Meeting	0	2,000	
Special Initiatives	0	3,500	
International Committee		30,500	
Annual Meeting Travel Awards (international, early career)	2,055	5,000	Station matching program; also budgeted for prior financial commitments
Station Matching Program--Equipment/Teaching	3,004	10,000	
Station Matching Program--Travel	6,592	15,000	
Translation Services (virtual cafes)	200	500	
Membership Committee		24,000	
Mini-grants Program	6,875	20,000	New for this committee--was in Governance
Swag	0	4,000	
Website Overhaul	18,333	0	Website development is finished
Outreach & Communications // Editor		11,975	
AIBS Dues	0	2,725	2024 Dues (\$2,725) paid in 2023
AIBS Boot Camp	490	500	
Congressional Visits Day Contribution to AIBS	750	750	
Congressional Visits Day Travel Reimbursements	3,875	4,500	
Newsletter, Inter-organization outreach	0	3,500	Past outreach examples are ESA & SACNAS conferences
Operating Expense Total	121,694	130,025	
Expense Variance (Operating Income-Expenses)	(107,466)	(90,525)	