

Finance Board Meeting Minutes
Date: February 21, 2012
Location: Commons 318

Call meeting to order at: 5:35pm

Roll Call
Michelle Kuah
Kaylesh Ramu
Damani Lewis
Kian Larijani
Ebony Tongo
Morgan Russo
Samantha Spehr

First Year Ambassador
Sheetal Chopra

Secretary
Jasmine (Yasmin) Wands

1) AICHE

Description

Requesting funding for a special meeting for the engineering majors. During the general board meeting, the organization has a speaker come in. The event has been very successful in the past. This year they would like to include pizza and soda.

Changes made:

- Date changed to Monday, March 26th
- Updated pizza quotes

Questions

{Note: Michelle explains pizza deal that UMBC has with Papa Johns. This resulted in a change in the numbers.}

Kaylesh: How do you plan to advertise the event?

A: By sending out a message to the email list and a sophomore representative will announce it in building 225.

Ebony: Is this an ongoing event?

A: We only do one per semester.

Ebony: Is this one for this semester?

A: Yes.

Sam: So do you expect about 30 people?

A: We expect 40.

Sheetal: March 26 is the first day back from spring break, do you expect all to attend?

A: I would think so since there will be classes.

Sam: Can people outside of the organization attend?

A: Yes, anyone can come.

Discussion

[Note: No discussion]

Results

REQUEST TABLED UNTIL GIVEN CHANGED DATE AND UPDATED TOTALS.

2) Model UN

Description:

Continued from previous request (02/14/12)

The org is asking for an addition to last week's request, therefore voting was reopened.

Changes:

Additional funding is being requested because the tax policy does not stand in New York; also, the dean is not giving the group the contribution that was originally expected.

Questions

Sam: The dean wont fund more, yet you still only want the previous cost?

A: I know that others want to do so as well.

Kian: If this is not funded, are you sure that you'd be able to fund the event?

A: I sent an email out to everyone saying that we might have to pay an additional 100-150 if we are not funded. They sound positive about it, but they are hoping for \$100

Discussion:

Damani: We do ask them to go back on the organization, and I appreciate her going back and doing that. I feel the same way that I did about this last time.

Kaylesh: I feel like the cost per person still is kinda high. I'm definitely fine with doing the original, because I feel like the cost per person was reasonable.

Kian: Can we use the student activity fee to fund the tax.

Michelle: If it's out of date, then yes. If it's in state, then no.

Michelle: {Note: does straw poll {2 for, rest against}. For those against, are you all against partially funding? How much of the taxes are you willing to fund?

Kian: Given the content of the event and something that is this long, I'll be comfortable with funding half of this price.

Sam: I agree with around half. If we can take some of the pressure off of the organization members then I think that will help a lot.

Kaylesh: I still think that \$90 per person is a lot. That's like the cost of the student activity fee and in the past, we have rejected people for less.

Damani: We've pretty much said yes to the original. For me, I recognize it as expensive, but the overall value of the actual event swayed me to pay for it. The event itself is worth the intended price.

Morgan: Same reasoning. The higher price is well worth what we've been saving by not funding student conferences.

Kian: I recognize that this is not a one day or two day conference; this is a five day conference in NYC. I know it's a good idea. I'm comfortable with funding less, but not less than half.

Sara: Think about past conferences, did you only decide to not fund it because it was a cost of the student activity fee or more?

Kaylesh: There is a definite structure and it's longer than the other conferences that I've seen.

Sara: Well, TSA, did you reject it because of the cost or the content?

Kian: If we're going by the activity fee, we can't validate it given the cost per person. I want to fund this, because it's a valuable event. With all the departmental support that they have and the scale of the event, it's hard to compare to two.

Ebony: Out of all the conferences, this is actually something directly related to their org. I think we don't have to fund the whole thing, because they can actually do it. They have the option open to partially funding and that's fine as well.

Michelle: So you're saying the original price is what you support?

A: I don't think that is appropriate. The students have already paid \$300.

Ebony: So the members have already paid out of pocket?

A: We have ways to offset the cost should you give us the funding, but then we'll have them pay \$100 along with the \$300 already paid.

David: Every request that you're given, you have to go by the standard that you set for all the organizations. If you have a standard, then it gives you a bar to set for all future request. When you think about how many individuals can pay, you'll sacrifice thinking about the actual merit of the event.

Damani: I recognize now that this is expensive. I feel that the additional price incurred in tax based on the quality of bringing "backness" does suffice. It is expensive, but we don't want to use this arbitrary number. If we can come, then it'd be fine, but I'd still be fine funding the additional amount.

{Note: Finance Board moved to other groups and then came back to Model UN}

Michelle: For the four opposed, are you still opposed?

Kaylesh: I still feel like this is expensive, because it's how I was evaluating these conferences.

Ebony: Based on what David said, I'm going for the full amount.

Kian: If we're talking student activity fee...I think spending \$90/person on a five day conference is different than a one day one. It's different from one where someone sits all day and eats pretzels, than a competition in NY. I can't justify paying that amount for any conference, at this point I don't now how comfortable I am with this.

...

Kian: After some thought, I'm for fully funding it. But what is the measurement? it makes me wonder what is valuable to everyone. Since I can't answer that, do we not like that measure? WE say that we're comfortable for funding \$90 per person and there's a lot to it, than just the numbers.

Damani: I'm comfortable with funding it. It's very valuable.

Morgan: I'm for fully funding it for what it can bring back. It brings back what the student activity fee is worth.

Sam: I'm leaning towards fully funding. I would prefer to fund it, but the precedent that it sets is a little dangerous. I would rather fully fund it than not funding it at all.

Kaylesh: I think I struggle when it comes to conferences, but I think one of my main things was about how much we say no to conferences and I want to make sure that students have the opportunities to bring things to the campus.

Ebony: I'm for fully funding it just because of the quality of it; can't place a number on it.

Results

Votes: 6 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining, 0 not present

\$1,251.08 (in addition to the previously allocated amount of \$1,198.92) allocated to Model United Nations for National Model UN Conference.

3) Jewish Student Union

Description

Tabled from previous week (02/21/12).

Changes:

Event ends at 11pm, not 1am.

Date changed from the 6th of March, to the 8th.

Results

Votes: 5 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining, 0 not present

\$2,426.50 allocated to Jewish Student Union for Purim Masquerade Ball.

{\$52.50 for setup; \$460.00 for AV; \$450 for security; \$189.00 for housekeeping; \$1,000.00 for food}

4) Hispanic Student Association

Description

Requesting funding for Salzonate. The event is a celebration of the organization's culture. The theme is a Caribbean cruise.

Questions:

Ebony: How do you plan on advertizing?

A: Spotlight, facebook, and my UMBC posters that is included in our package.

Sam: The allocation request does not match up with the actual planning form.

A: We have to move it back to three or two weeks.

Sam: Why did you move it to the skylight room?

A; A lot of the spaces were filled up and we didn't want to risk the rain.

Damani: Can you walk me through the event?

A: We want to have it similar to the past. The performers will open the dance floor to dancing. The theme and food and décor will go within the theme.

Sam: I have two questions, do you have breakdowns for food and quotes?

A: Yes {reads out breakdown}

Sam: Second question, on your allocation request, you have entertainment for 300, are you still having performers?

A: We will, but performers within UMBC. Originally we were going to get people from outside, but changed our minds.

Kian: Do you have anything more specific for the decorations?

A: Not right now.

Damani: How many people would you be expecting?

A: About 140 people.

Discussion

{Note: Not too much discussion. Quickly agreed upon to table the event.}

Results

REQUEST TABLED until the Finance Board is given a decoration and food quote.

5) Perfected Praise Liturgical Dance Ministry

Description

Requesting funding for a dance festival in which different dance groups will be showcased. The group will invite various dance groups throughout the DC area to come and perform.

Questions:

Sam: Can you walk me through your event?

A: We'll have the audience to be sitting around the table that the dance groups will be using as well.

Kaylesh: Can you clarify the purpose of the uniforms?

A: We wear leotards when we dance; we can't really reuse them for hygienic purposes.

Kaylesh: Did you get money for the ones worn last year?

A: Yes

Kaylesh: Can you explain the uniforms for the organization?

A: We use uniforms because as a Christian organization, it's important that we cover ourselves. And it's less because we did ask old members to return their uniforms (at least the ones that can be shared).

Sam: Do you have quotes for your food and decorations?

A: {reads quotes}

Discussion

Kian: It sounds fun. I don't see anything wrong with it, but I might be missing something.

Sam: I like this event. At first I looked at uniforms, and I was a bit skeptical, but it seems that it's like a tool they need.

Kaylesh: If they're an open organization, then okay. I'm fine with uniforms as long as they try to reuse them.

Results

Votes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 not present

\$4090.95 allocated to Perfected Praise Liturgical Dance Ministry for a Dance Festival.

{ \$137.00 for set-up; \$460.00 for AV; \$2,000.00 for food; \$225.00 for security; \$200.00 for market; \$189.00 for housekeeping; \$100.00 for decorations; \$799.95 for uniforms }

6) Intersity Christian Fellowship, Enigma Artist's Society, Invisible Children

Description

Requesting funding for awareness campaign about human trafficking. Included will be internships, volunteer opportunities, a documentation presentation.

Request includes coffee event and other coffee event tabled from last week.

Questions:

Michelle: We saw a request about just the coffeehouse, did things change?

A: We're actually having two so they invited us to come join with them to make it fair trade.

Kian: Is this something that would require a quote for our rule?

Ebony: Giant is a well-known business with a set price. We would need quotes for small businesses whose prices are more variable.

Kian: So total with possible discount?

A: We put it in with the request.

Sam: When we added this up, we didn't get the same numbers.

{works out totals}

A: We have to see if it's {the discount} possible, because it's only for k-12 schools and non-profits. If you add up the totals.

Sam: I'm getting a total of 43.13 and the grand total also doesn't match.

Kian: For the documentary, did you get special permission for that?

A: We're working with a non-profit who has the documentary.

Sam: For advertising, what is the purpose of the laminated fill mountain poster? What does this add?

A: Because the poster will guide the people through the event, and it's 7 different schools working on the same thing.

Morgan: So how is the tent structured? I know a tent is small.

A: They would go straight through and the posters will surround them as if leading them through.

Michelle: Do you have a back-up plan in case of inclement weather?

A: We're going to speak to the commons to see if they have any covers.

Discussion

Damani: The laminated posters are actually apart of the tent. I don't see it as an advertisement, but rather, a more of an expensive material. I don't see it apart of the marketing package.

Sam: For the flyers, SGA gives student orgs 1000 free copies, but it's going to be black and white and not recycled paper; if you do that then you can use that instead to lower the price.

Kaylesh: I consider the \$798 as essential for the quality of the event. It's the total cost.

Results

Votes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 not present

\$1,572.13 allocated to Intersarsity Christian Fellowship

7) BCF

Description

Requesting funding the Gethsemane Experience. The night is used to gather students so that students may “experience God through music, skit, and the word.”

Questions

Ebony: You incorporated tips and everything in your food cost?

A: Yes

Kaylesh: Can you walk me through your event?

A: It opens with a band. Lights will come on and then people will come on the stage. The lights will dim again and then the other forms of art that we incorporate will come on. We're trying to come up with something creative this year.

Kaylesh: How many people are involved in the planning?

A: Primarily 7, but with marketing, we go all hands on deck. Usually when everyone is involved it's much more successful and it's contributes to the success to the event.

Sam: How many people do you expect?

A: We expect full house, like 300 people.

Sam: For item four, is it all a bunch of different group of people or is it for the actual band?

A: It's for all the different people.

Michelle: How much are you charging the speaker and the band?

A: \$250 for the speaker and \$700 for the band.

Discussion

Kaylesh: Great event, especially when considering the turnout and cost.

Sam: They have a good turnout.

Michelle: Are you okay with funding food, without a food quote?

Kian: Sticking to what we said last week, we should require a quote for this.

Results

REQUEST TABLED UNTIL GIVEN A FOOD QUOTE.

8) Alpha Nu Omega

Description

Requesting funding for Evangelism Flash Mob. This, according to the org, is not a recruitment event. The group is using this event as a new way of expressing their faith.

Questions

Damani: How will the t-shirts be used and distributed?

A: They're not give aways. Anyone who participates gets a t-shirt.

Sam: What's the difference between transfer and black ink, than puffy paint?

A: It's a different design aesthetic. We decided to go with the transfer paper because it looks cleaner and looks better than puffy paint.

Sam: You're printing it ahead of time and then will transfer it onto the shirts?

A: It's a time commitment, because we're actually going to be making the shirts.

Discussion

Damani: Great event. The t-shirt are like materials. It's not member specific. Every other item looks fine.

Results

Votes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 not present

\$207.43 allocated to Alpha Nu Omega for Evangelism Flash Mob.

{ \$147.94 for plain, white t-shirts from shirtsupplier.com; \$20.99 for black ink; \$38.50 for transfer paper }

9) African Student Association

Description

Previously tabled request.

Questions

Michelle: Can you break down the cost?

A: The four thousand comes from the designers to give us our clothes for designers

Sam: Can you give us a food breakdown?

A: At the post-evaluation meeting, we were advised to get more food, because we ran out last time.

Discussion

Michelle: With this year's number, how do you all feel?

Damani: The price get's me when I look at it, but it looks like they're looking at only the essential. The real meat is within food and contracts, but there's not be too much to do about that.

Kaylesh: I'm comfortable with funding it. You get a great amount of turnout for UC events. This is the type of event that make up college experience.

Results

Votes: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining, 0 not present

\$207.43 allocated to Alpha Nu Omega for

10) MCSCOM

Description

Requesting funding for personal branding and networking discussion. A speaker will be coming in and talking to the students about how to sell themselves.

Questions

Damani: How are you advertising this event?

A: Spotlights on my umbc and flyers that we'll put around the school.

Michelle: Are you partnering with any department?

A: No, we don't have any other sources of funding.

Discussion

Kian: There is nothing that would stand out to me that would be wrong or not good. It's a good cause.

Results

Votes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, 0 not present

\$60.00 allocated to MCSCOM for Personal Branding and Networking Discussion.

{ \$60.00 for pizza, 20 drinks, paper, plates, napkins, ice, cups }

11) ROTC

Description

Requesting funding for Military Movie Night on 2/27/2012. The purpose of the event is to make the campus aware of the group's existence.

Questions:

Sam: How will this be advertised?

A: Through commonvision and flyers around the campus.

Kay: How many people do you expect?

A: About 50...we don't know for sure, but that's how much we would like to see.

Josh: Is this for everyone on campus?

A: It's for anyone.

Josh: Have you looked at speaking to different organization, like Black Student Organization, to help assist with this?

A: No, we have not. This event is one of the ways we're looking to put ourselves out there and develop that base.

Discussion

Kay: it sounds like a good event to me, I like how they're trying to reach out to campus.

Michelle: The organization is a restricted org.

Sara: {Explains policy and needs to determine whether it is recruitment or open to the campus.}

Sam: I feel like they're saying that we're open and that we exist.

Kay: It's integrating the rest of the community. I don't see it as recruitment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.