

# Finance Board Meeting

## Minutes

Date: 10/04/11

Commons 318

**Call meeting to order at – 5:34**

### **Roll Call**

Morgan Russo  
Rosy Chirayath  
Josh Day  
Kaylesh Ramu  
Samy Rabb  
Michelle Kuah  
Damani Lewis

### **MSL**

The event will be at college park on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This conference teaches about how to make bills and how legislature works. The membership doubled this semester. New members are required to go for meetings.

### **Questions**

Rosy: any questions?

Morgan: can you teach these processes yourself to the new members?

Rep: it is a workshop not a lecture. So your learning is based on experience of how the legislature works. Every year there is a different themed experience. It is divided into senate and house and it is a continuous learning process. You learn the rules debate and if not present at the workshop you are not allowed to participate otherwise.

Samy: where has funding come? Have you done any fundraising?

Rep: the finance board has funded the past workshops. We have \$213 in the carry over account. The students go around to announce the org. we have also meet bring up different ways to fundraise. This brings down the workshop costs for each member.

Michelle: so its \$20 per person?

Rep: yes

### **Discussion:**

Samy: I feel that these kinds of request have only member only benefits. I am hesitant because this will set an example for other orgs. I think that the funds can be used differently.

Damani: I see it as training that will keep the org functional. I feel comfortable funding the event.

Kayl: same as Damani

Morgan: I feel that the old members should be able to teach new members. I feel like the funds from last year will be a waste and the org should be held accountable.

Kayl: this experience cannot be taught without the simulation. This will provide the experience need. As you, progress people learn different things. To allow the growth they should undertake this workshop.

Josh: learning the details is good and this exposure will enable one understand the policies here at UMBC.

But the workshop is for a select few. Individuals should be able to bring back the knowledge acquired.

Kayl: For every event, there is a significant amount of benefit. It is \$20 per person good investment. I see this as similar to funding Mock Trial.

Morgan: this is not comparable to mock trial. This is just one event.

Rep: no it is not one event. This will lead to the series for the whole year.

Josh: there is a difference from Mock Trial because unless you pay you cannot go.

Michelle: I agree that it is not like Mock Trial, I believe the org should be responsible for the funding.

### **Vote for \$240**

2-for

4-against

1abstaining

0-absent

### **DENIED**

### **SECOND REQUEST**

There are 20 members and new members are welcome to come.

Question

Samy: what is the date?

Rep: the 21<sup>st</sup>

Discussion:

Samy: this is a recruitment event and a good opportunity to get more members.

### **Vote for \$64**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **APPROVED**

**5:59**

### **IFC**

This event was smaller last year and it was self-funded. Many people came to support the event. We decided to make it bigger this time. We will have three live performance lasting three and a half hours before the game starts in the parking lot. We are expecting 300 people.

Questions

Sammy: In regards to cooking, is this regarded as campus?

Rep: chartwells is providing grill but no chef.

David: Chartwells has the contract but Glenmore can also be effective as well.

Rosy: make sure the caters are among the approved list.

Damani: you had food last year how much did you spend?

Rep: we had pizza and spent \$250. It was the first of its kind so we did not know what to expect.

Michelle: does the finance board fund the performances as well?

Rep: no, we will pay for that our selves

David: have you seen if they have any other events since its homecoming?

Rep: we have seen the events committee and they know about it.

Discussions

Kayl: it is a good event. It is worth funding. They are so well organized.

### **Vote for \$999.99**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **BU6:09**

#### **MTC**

This event is called Broadway backwards. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year the event is taking place and it sells out each year. A little over 400 people attended last. We are using marketing. The event is free to UMBC students and \$5 otherwise. The org is student run.

#### Questions

Damani: walk me through the event

Rep: in the sports zone there will be 40 performers but not on the stage at the same time. Each year we pick a theme. This year girls will sing the boys part. There will be different types of performances from singles, duets to large groups. No one is turned away.

#### Discussion

Samy: it sounds like a good event and it is open to everyone.

Damani: it looks expensive but I do not see anything that is not needed to make the event a success.

### **Vote for \$2313.00**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **SECOND EVENT**

This is a new showcase, which is an actual production. We have gotten the scripts and the writes through the clubs carryover account.

#### Question

Michelle: do you have the breakdown of the marketing?

Rep: no sorry

Kayl: how does the audition work?

Rep: there are 4 parts one can audition for. The director will choose who gets to partake. The show its self is free for all UMBC students. We will have flyers, posters and banners.

#### Discussion

FYA: it sounds similar to the first event.

Morgan: not comfortable funding marketing without details.

Josh: it seemed like they had the quote right here.

Rosy: he wants to have flyers and programs.

Morgan: I just wanted to make sure the money funded would go to the right place.

Michelle: I agree with the details I feel better funding it.

Josh: I feel Shannon went to check

Kayl: I think that once the quote is verified that this is a good event and students will come out.

Rosy: If there is not any breakdown, we may have to table the event.

Shanon: here is the break down.

Package \$165 (with 450 tickets)

Programs \$3331

Number of seats 140.

**Vote for \$655**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

**6:24**

**PRE-LAW**

READ THROUGH (GENERAL MEETING)

Discussion

Samy: the food is for every meeting. Every org will want that. We can only fund one recruitment event.

Damani: I feel comfortable funding one meeting and then tell them not to advertise free food in their other events.

Rosy: we have to distinguish the meeting from an event.

David: we have to define how many times you are willing to fund an event with food.

Kayl: In this request, there is recruitment. We should fund one and look at the others as different requests.

Morgan: I do not feel comfortable funding this request.

Rosy: this is can be their one recruitment event.

Morgan: in that case no problem

Michelle: Let us vote first without looking at the other requests.

**Vote for \$250 (1 meeting)**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

**SECOND EVENT**

READ THROUGH

**Discussion**

Josh: I do not understand the request.

Samy: here I was looking at the wording. It looks like people can come to have dinner. I do not like the wording one bit. I am hesitant because the request is vague.

Michelle: something similar to what Samy said. I see this as free food. I do not feel comfortable funding this.

Josh: they did not make it clear if it was an event, recruitment, or what the purpose is.

Samy: I am hesitant because they do not need food at every meeting. We cannot continuously fund food at meetings so that people will come. This is just to attract people.

Kayl: well I see this as an icebreaker during any successful event.

Samy: I know that food is a good icebreaker but there has to be an element that shows that it is just not free food. Even with a speaker, the food is just for 10-15 people. We cannot just fund to such a small group.

Kayl: I think when you have a speaker you need some incentive for the crowd.

Michelle: the pizza party is not similar to this because we referred to that as the one pizza recruitment meeting. This event however is for a speaker and does not seem to benefit the development of the organization. I do not see a good reason to fund food here.

Damani: I agree with kayl, if there is a speaker, it makes sense to have food but the necessity of the food here am not sure of. A meeting should not be for the food but for the actual event.

Samy: In the essence of the speaker event, it is fine. But as a finance board we have to use our own judgment to decide what is necessary or not.

Kayl: looking at the cost and the speaker, there could be no other intentions of the event.

Morgan: It is a long meeting with a lawyer and it would be disrespectful if there is a low turnout.

Michelle: we should not look at speaker events based on the speaker. There is a fine line between beneficial information and a four-hour lecture. I am not sure what to say, it is very risky. There are also events that are successful without food.

David: there will always be different views on this topic. This is fine but you need to articulate the main principle that the policies uphold.

**6:45**

### **C&BSM**

Rep: we will go to a local elementary school for a community outreach. Tables are set up experiments are made by students. The lava lamp will be given to the students present.

### **Question**

Michelle: will this be the whole org or a select group?

Rep: people are selected in groups of 10-15 based on who is interested.

Michelle: is the number due to limited space?

Rep: np, the students need to prepare before the experiment.

Kayl: have you ever gone?

Rep: yes, I went last year

Kayl: what did you gain?

Rep: I was able to interact with kids who though it was cool.

Kayl: do you do any preparations?

Rep: yes but mainly the professors are in charge of preparations

Josh: do you make the lava lamps before the event?

Rep: no at the event

Samy: did you get funding from the finance board before?

Rep: yes.

Samy: are you the ASC group

Rep : yes. We applied for a name change that is yet to be effective.

Samy: are all the materials give away?

Rep: it is given either away or not reusable.

Michelle: have you talked to Dr Carpenter about departmental funding

Rep: I don't know anything about that.

### **disc**

Kayl: this is refreshing to see. The funding is indirectly going into the community and it is not charity in that sense. It looks like we are funding the experience of the students as compared to the charity aspect. I do not see it as a giveaway but as a tool to teach students.

Faryal: I think this is a good event

Samy: I agree. The funding is going to something that the org wants to do and it is turned into something that can profit the community at large. I consider these are equipment for the club. They cannot be reusable but I think its okay.

Damani: I do not view it as charity and the department involvement does not change anything.

Kayl: the org needs advisors for its functions so I do not see any problem with it.

Samy: how are the 15 that go chosen?

Rep: we recruit freshmen from people who sign up.

Rosy: it is whoever is interested that can to go

Morgan: if you throw the lava lamps away, I think i can fund it. It is a good one.

Kaly: we have to clarify that with the org

Michelle: it is a great way because it is a good way to give to the community and the students as well

Salam: I will be for it only if the students do the experiment.

Rep: the professors train the students to do the experiment.

Michelle: it is similar to Kian's request because the members will have a unique request.

Rosy: If you made a decision, you can reopen discussion and revote. Hence, you can always consider a past decision but do not let it hinder you for making new ones.

### **Vote for \$200**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **7:10**

#### **ARAB STUDENT UNION**

Rep: this is a Halloween type event. We will have 400-450 people. There will be performances by students and others. There will be catering and a dance floor with a DJ. It is free to all UMBC students and \$10 otherwise.

Food:

- humus
- pitabread
- salads
- samosa
- chicken
- meat

#### **Questions**

Kayl: can we have the breakdown for the contract

Rep: \$350 for DJ ;\$150 for belly dancing

Damani: is there a specific reason why you took the \$90 off?

Rep: the request will go over, so we decided to take care of it ourselves

Rosy: how many people did you order food for?

Rep: we estimated around 400 people and got the food quote.

Rosy: walk me through your event.

Rep: we have people sit down. The MC opens up the show. There is a lineup of dance performances, belly dancing and singing. There is a break when people can get food. Then there is a male belly dancing contest.

Damani: what time is it?

Rep: it will hold from 8pm until 12 am in the UC ballroom

### **Discussion**

Morgan: it was good event last year. It also had great turnout. It looks like a good event.

Rosy: does anyone feel any different?

Michelle: you said you ordered 300 chairs.

Rep: we decided to reduce it so we can have performance space

Rosy: any other opinion.

### **Vote for \$2989**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **7:32**

#### **Pre Law Cont**

Kayl: we need to see the worth of the event. We also have to look at how many speakers are present. Are there any distinguishing factors between them? We need to think about it.

Damani: it is hard making a rule concerning speakers. We have to consider the decisions of how many we are willing to fund.

Kayl: I am fine with funding food for speakers.

Straw poll for Judge sfeakos with food

Yes – 5(Damani josh, morgan, kayl)

No – 4 ( Michelle sam, samy,)

Not sure -2 ( Salam, Faryal)

Michelle: I am not for funding food. It can be different event and other orgs can take advantage of this.

Sam: we are not entirely sure who this event is open too.

Rosy: if the group is open to anyone then I think it is fine

Damani: not everyone is interested in law within the group but as long as it is open to people outside.

### **Vote for \$100**

4-for

2-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **7:50**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Request**

READ THROUGH

### **Discussion**

kayl: I think this goes with the purpose.

Damani: it is another issue with a speaker

Josh: I am going to say no. But the amount is not cost effective.

Michelle: there is no advertising for these events so how are students supposed to hear about it?

Damani: there might be some advertisement for the guest speaker that is included with the one of the 1<sup>st</sup> speaker.

Rosy: that is true orgs have a way of contacting the guest speakers

David: should there be a limit to how many times you can feed the same set of people. Can you feed them twice or more in the semester? Is there a cumulative effect to the org concerned?

Samy: I think this is benefiting but we should keep an eye out on how much we are spending and on what.

Josh: we cannot fund all of these meetings. They can survive without food. I do not like the \$100 for food for one hour.

Kayl: Before we vote on this can, we determine a limit to how many of these events we are willing to fund

Morgan: I do not think the clubs purpose is a good enough reason to fund the money. Don't think food is necessary and it will only be a distraction.

### **Vote for \$100**

0-for

5-against

2-abstaining

0-absent

### **REQUEST DENIED**

**8:04**

### **ISCOM**

This is a showcase of artworks. We would have performances. Students can sell their artworks. It will run from 6pm until 10pm. The food is required because we have problems with the students staying at the event.

### **Questions**

Rosy: what is in your advertising package?

Rep: it's the standard package

Josh: are there going to be chairs at the event?

Rep: Since the area is a common space No., we cannot take over the main street.

Samy: you said there would be displays. Are they all students' artworks?

Rep: yes jewelry, t-shirts and music. It is intended to cover many areas

Samy: do you have a break down for food?

Rep: no. but we intend to order wraps and little finger food

Rosy: do you have a quote?

Rep: none officially

Josh: I think we should table this incase the quote changes the price and decide the next meeting

Damani: should we cover the issue of buttons first before tabling?

Michelle: why do you want buttons?

Rep: it can be used to advertise the event.

Michelle: so in order words you want to use different methods of advertising

Rep: yes

Josh: how many buttons do you plan on getting?

Rep: 100

Rosy: we would have to table the request.

Kayl: what is the breakdown for decorations?



Rep: that consists of tablecloth and utensils.

### **Discussion**

Rosy: how does the board feel about the buttons?

Kayl: I love the event but I do not want us to fund buttons. Everything else looks good. The money for the buttons should be from the carry over account.

Michelle: I agree with Kayl

Morgan: I am not comfortable funding food. I would prefer a better time. It will be a good event

Samy: it is not our place to say anything about the event. We need to clarify the quote for food and decorations.

Josh: how will you feel funding an org that wants to use buttons as a mode of advertisement?

Kayl: I see buttons as a luxury that also provides advertisement. It should be from the orgs carryover. If it is for strict advertisement, it may be okay.

Rosy: I see buttons as extravagant

Damani: During an event, a button is a giveaway. Before the event, a button is abstract. It is both a luxury and does not fit advertising.

Morgan: we should not tell an org how best to advertise them. We should try our best not to micromanage.

Damani: it will be dangerous to think about the direct correlation between the ads and number of people that show up at the events.

Samy: the org needs to know that we are judging the event based on the student benefit. Buttons have always been an issue. Buttons are still giveaways even though they are long term.

Rep: the buttons were funded last year. It is not said anywhere on the forms that one should not request for buttons.

Kayl: the finance board changes every year. We see things we believe we should not fund and it is always after treasurer training. We have not funded buttons this year. It may change during the year but it depends.

Michelle: I am for buttons. So everyone has a different opinion about it. A flyer is easy to throw away however; I will not be for funding the button because your org will not be promoted. It will be limited to only the event.

Samy: The student body elects us and we look out for the umbc community ensuring that the funds are allocated for the best of use. We cannot fund everything.

Josh: we want to get most of all the moneys value

### **REQUEST TABLED FOR FOOD QUOTE**

David: we will end up having to prioritize which events we should fund. This will be the best approach

Damani: we should let the org know the reasons why we do what we do.

Rosy: we must also maintain our professionalism.

**8:43**

**BSU**

### **Vote for \$1187**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

**8:45**

**Visual Arts Council of Majors**

**Vote for \$290**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

**8:47**

**CSC**

**Vote for \$4264.50**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

**8:53**

**FASA**

This conference includes schools from Boston to New York. The conference provides information about the Pilipino culture and culture in general. We can network with other schools. It will take place this year at Cornell. We will be driving up there. There are 3 workshops talking about the past influence and its implementations on the society. The amount requested is to reduce the registration fee for students.

**Questions**

Kayl: with the skills that you have learned so far, what is the most prominent impact on the UMBC campus.

Rep: we bring back culture to the campus. We have step up a youth dialogue that brings in kids and students on campus answer their questions about college and also any identity issues they may be facing in their schools.

Kayl: why should senior members go back? Why can't the event be held here at UMBC?

Rep: we are not the only ones within the area and others have different points of view. This is brought back and used on campus. The theme changes every year and is helpful to go each year.

Josh: did you look into buses?

Rep: yes, but it would cause a lot more and number of people that can go will be reduced.

Samy: how are people chosen?

Rep: anyone that wants to can go unless there is an issue with rooming as there was last year. It may be on a first come first serve basis

Samy: how have you gotten funds?

Rep: from the finance board

**Discussions**

josh: I think this is a good event. They seem to have done their research. I am in support of funding this event.

Damani: they provided a good answer to the questions asked. They are able to gain a different experience.

Samy: I am not sure if I should fund it even though they said they would bring the experience.

Damani: their answer was good. They have also cited good reasons and how what they brought back is good for the campus.

Kayl: I noticed the structure of the event. This cannot be seen as leisure but as a workshop.

Rosy: how do people feel about the cost?

Morgan: I feel it is very pricey

Josh: it can be seen as double charging due to the extra fee.

David: it is not double charging since the amount requested is to be used equally and the amount they ask for is to ensure that everyone can go

Kayl: yes they sis not request the full amount of the trip from the finance board

### **Vote for \$2964**

4-for

2-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

Samy: where can we draw the line on how much we are willing to spend on these kinds of requests?

Kayl: we can fund events that are more open to the campus

### **AICHE**

#### **Vote for \$1626**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **HUMAN VS ZOMBIES**

#### **Vote for \$1626**

6-for

0-against

1-abstaining

0-absent

### **9:23**

#### **Delta Phi Epsilon & Phi Kappa Sigma ( from last week)**

##### **Discussion**

Sam: it is open to all of UMBC not just Greek life

Kayl: I like to see Greek have an open event.

Josh: Can't they get the equipment form the commons?

David: they will still pay for it

Rosy: I want us to remember that each Greek org has philanthropy to support,

Josh: it is more as they focus on one.

Rosy: it is their responsibility to fund this \$473.44 worth value of entertainment. If we fund this Greek org now can we do fund others?

Morgan: if someone can go and have a good time, which I think, is the primary purpose. It is okay to have some other thing at the side.

Rosy: but this is their responsibility

Morgan: yes, but you cannot assume that they will take it away.

Rosy: I just wanted to bring this for the board to think on  
Kayl: it is a great social event; I do not mind the awareness aspect of the event.  
Michelle: If a non-Greek life org wanted to do the same event will, it be considered as a charity thing?  
Kayl: this is more of a social than a charity event.  
David: I think if you wanted to get a message across you will not have a DJ setting  
Damani: I agree with David  
Rosy: I was just asking the board since they are a restricted group.

### **Vote for \$473.44**

4-for  
2-against  
1-abstaining  
0-absent

**9:38**

### **Amateur Radio Club**

Read through

#### **Discussion**

Samy: this is a recruitment type event. I feel fine funding this  
Michelle: I am just curious as to why they need that, much money for pizza

### **Vote for \$125**

6-for  
0-against  
1-abstaining  
0-absent

**9:43**

### **Accounting Club**

Josh: do they have a speaker there?

Kayl: yes

Samy: As a finance board, we have to remember to treat each event separate at a time.

Damani: let's talk with the org about the whole speakers with or without food business

Michelle: they have a biweekly meeting for speakers. Is there a way we can know what the breakdown will be. Moreover, what exactly are they talking about?

Sam: I am not sure how many people will be coming to these events and it s too ambiguous,

Michelle: I will say no to this request because the speakers show up for regular meetings. It is not a special event.

Josh: I will not say No, but they have to come in to explain what exactly the event entails.

David: the amount falls within the allocated period.

Josh: if we decide to fund it, we cannot fund a similar event.

Kian: there is nothing wrong with communication. We can send a list of questions and they can either come in or reply the questions we need

Kayl: what questions should we ask?

Samy: the request will be tabled until we get the answers.

Rosy: can we come up with the list of questions?

- Are they convinced that they can fill up the room?
- What advertising methods are they using?

- What is the \$50 dollar for the speaker for?
- How many people are in the org?

Kayl: do we have a limit to the amount of speaker and food events? how should we do so?

Rosy: I think we should take a straw poll...

Damani: I do not think there should be a limit in that sense. I will like to base each event on merits and then work from there.

Damani: Special Constitutions get funds from SGA (Chatter) have the ability to mass-produce. They are tasked with looking at the layout of mandatory items.

David: retriever is a chatter org and now there is a serious attempt to clean up their acts

Damani: some specifics in the act are better left to the org. the finance board needs to however go through the constitution and give a feed back.

### **Meeting adjourned 10:32**

#### **Roll Call**

Morgan Russo

Rosy Chirayath

Josh Day

Kaylesh Ramu

Samy Rabb

Michelle Kuah

Damani Lewis