Finance Board Meeting

 Minutes

 Date: October 16, 2012

Commons 318

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

**Roll Call**

Mani Gupta

Sam Spehr

Macy Bokhari

Chisom Ebinama

Mark Crenshaw

**First Year Ambassador**

Sara Kim

**Prep Time**

Kaylesh is going over the Mid-Year Finance Board Meeting Check Up. Work with 0 is an initiative to get students events more environmentally friendly. Create a separate funding budget called the Green Fund.

**1) Pre-Law Society**

Pre-Law Society General Interest Meeting

Description-

This is their first general interest meeting. They want to have a speaker from UMBC come in and talk about topics that would interest Pre-Law Students. They want to have food at this event to get more students as well as something for the speaker something to eat.

Questions-

Macy-Would you look at Dr. Davis as a speaker?

PL-I wouldn’t look at him as a special speaker because he is an advisor and a professor. To freshman he could be new.

Sam-So you are saying he/she could be considered as both?

PL-Yes.

Sam-How are you advertising?

PL-We made a new event on Spotlight.

Sam-Do you know about the 1,000 free copies from SGA?

PL-No

Sam-(Goes over policy)

Macy-How do you think that the food will contribute the event?

PL-Food is going to be something that could get more people to come out. A lot of people ask us when our events are, but I feel like it’s always a struggle for them to actually come out. So the food would be a good way to get people out. Also it’s during free hour so people will be hungry.

Michelle-How do you see your event if the pizza was not there?

PL-There would definitely be a smaller turnout.

Discussion-

Sam-How do we feel about this event?

Mani-Not good, because the food is an incentive and we haven’t approved of any orgs asking for food as a recruitment device.

Sam-Can you explain to the organization why we wouldn’t be in favor of funding this event?

Mani-The food is being used for recruitment and we can’t take our students money for that purpose.

Macy- I see myself going to this event without the food. I think that this org could use other ways to get people involved other than food.

Sam-So what I am hearing from other people, is we don’t want to fund for this because we turned down the same request from other orgs?

Sara K-So you guys don’t fund for events that are focused on the food?

Mani-If the food is an incentive, then yes.

Macy-I just want to clarify; there are a lot of other orgs that have come in that we have turned down. So we want to make it fair for other orgs, it’s not just that we don’t like your event.

Sam-We have had a lot of requests similar to this, so I agree.

Macy-Move to approve

Chisom-Second

Votes-

0 In favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstaining, 1 not present

$43.00 was denied funding to the Pre-Law Society for Pre-Law Society’s General Interest Meeting

**2) Mama’s Boys**

Festivus Acappellius

Description

This is the first of two concerts where they have performers from UMBC share their talent with the campus. They have other schools’ a cappella groups perform, as well as other groups from UMBC. They have done this event for many years. This event is to be helped in Lecture Hall 5 at 8:00pm.

Questions

Mani-How are you marketing?

MB-Every event we have performed thus far we have talked about that event. We have done some auditions. We also have a Facebook group and a Spotlight. We are pretty confident that we can get the word out.

Macy-What’s the price of the student marshals?

MB-You have to change the $60.00 to $105.00 because we want to add an extra hour and a half to each marshal’s shift.

Sam-The sound on your Events Planning form is $550.00, but your attached email says you are getting sound with recording, which is $650.00.

MB-Yeah we are only getting live sound, which is $100.00 cheaper.

Mani-Have you collaborated with other groups?

MB-We have spoken to several musical groups on campus. There is also going to be an alumni group.

Macy-Have you done this event before?

MB-Yes.

Sara K-It says that you are planning to have 200 people on this event, but you are aware there is going to be another event at the same time as yours right?

MB-We got this number from Jackie. In the past we have never needed to get wristbands. We have never had a problem with getting a large crowd.

Macy-Are you trying to have off-campus people coming, such a relatives?

MB-Yes, we are planning on having a lot of our relatives come.

Sara L-This event on the same day is The Bethel Students campus event (Marvelous Encounter).

Sam-You have the 10-10 written in the upper right-hand corner of your allocation request form, what does that stand for?

MB-I don’t know why it’s there, it’s probably the day I submitted this allocation request.

Sam-I am only asking this because you didn’t write in a date of submission.

Macy-Are you the treasurer or the president of Mama’s Boys?

MB-I am the treasurer.

Macy-(to Sam) Is it okay that he didn’t sign it?

MB-The reason that I didn’t sign it is because I thought that the president or treasurer of the SGA was supposed to sign it.

Sam-Yeah, I think that we should allow this as a one-time thing, because he is the treasurer and it was submitted before the deadline so I still deem this valid. Also, it was submitted before we told organizations via email that we would no longer be accepted improperly completed allocation request forms. However, in the future, this will not be accepted.

Chisom-I agree.

Discussion

Macy-I personally think this a great event which boosts the culture on this campus. It also doesn’t utilize food. It’s also a wonderful way to showcase the talent at UMBC.

Mani-Move to approve

Macy-Second

Votes:

4 In favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, 1 not present

$725.00 allocated to Mama’s Boys event for Festivus Acappellius.

**3) Hindu Students Council**

Description- This is the first time the organization is co-sponsoring with the Graduate Student Association’s Hindu Student Council for this event. In the past, GSA has sponsored this event in full and students have been charged $15.00 to fund the difference. This event is called Diwali Dhamaka and it is the Festival of Lights. It is going to be held in the UC Ballroom.

Questions-

Macy-Could you walk me through your event?

HSC-There are going to be performances, such as dances and skits. Then, there will be food with some singers in the back. After people are done eating, the music will start up and there will be an open dance floor.

Mani-What is the $1,000.00 dollars coming from?

HSC-We are co-sponsoring so that total is from the main org cost for set up.

Mark-Who will be a part of this event?

HSC-Mainly UMBC students and some other people from other colleges. The charge will be 5 dollars for anyone who isn’t a UMBC student.

Mark-Where did you get the 300 people come from?

This is the first time we are co-sponsoring. Last year, it was not free for UMBC students and last year with a charge there were 175 people. So since there won’t be a charge for UMBC students to come, I think estimating 300 people was a good amount.

Macy-So this is a holiday?

HSC-Yes.

Macy-Can you go into the holiday?

HSC-Festival of Lights…..

Chisom-How does the food add to this event?

HSC-It is a good way to celebrate our holiday. This holiday is sort of like a New Year’s dinner, food is crucial. Also in November it’s cold and we want to get more people out, so the food can get some people’s attention.

Sam-So in the past was this is funded by the GSA. In regards to that, I have two questions: A) Do you think more grad students would attend? And B) how would you get more undergrads to attend?

HSC-Yeah there are mostly grad students that were performing so all of their graduate friends would want to come.

Discussion

Macy-We funded a night called Pho Night, which we funded because the food was a large part of the event and there was a lot of cultural education behind it. The food was not just an incentive; it was imperative to educate others about their culture.

Sara K-Is the board willing to fund food whenever it’s for cultural events?

Sam-Food is really a gray area because the role of food is different for each event. We look at events on a case-by-case basis, and the same applies for food.

Chisom-How do you differentiate this from Pre-Law Society’s allocation request? For this event, I would fund the marketing but not the food. I do agree it is a cultural event, but I don’t see food playing a huge part in this event. The organization even stated that food is expected at this event, and I don’t think we should fund food only because it’s expected to be there.

Mark-You guys called this an “Indian Christmas”. It’s like when you go to a Christmas dinner and everyone is together and there is no food. I would be pretty mad. I honestly do not see why you would not fund food. I don’t think she was saying that students would expect food to be there because they want it, I think she was saying that usually food is served during this holiday, the same way you expect a Christmas Dinner.

Macy-For me it seems that the basis of this event is about their culture. Also, this event is also a four hours long. I know that she said that the food was expected, but I get what she means in that sense. Another big thing to consider is the focus of this event seems to be on performances.

Mani-In my opinion, when I celebrated this holiday back in India, we just sat together as a family. We didn’t have a huge dinner or anything like that. So I don’t think that the food is necessary.

Macy-Do you think that is would be better to have a breakdown on what the grad school is spending money on?

Chisom-No, not really, because this is more specific to what the organization is asking for. I just think that the board needs to look at food in cultural events more critically, because every cultural event seems to fly through.

Sam-To me I think that we don’t just fund food for all cultural events. I think that when we’re looking at food for an event, we want the food to have an aspect to it other than giving incentive for students to come, and giving them a free dinner. So there are certain things that we look for in food, and it just happens that requests for food for cultural events align with what we look for.

Mark-I was going to say the same thing

Macy-How important is the food for the holiday? That’s what I look at this when I fund for events like these.

Chisom-Move to Approve

Mani-Second

Votes-

4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, 1 absent

$2,941.50 allocated to Hindu Students Council for Diwali Dhamaka

**4) Debate Club**

Debate Club’s Annual Tournament

Description-

Every year we have hosted a debate tournament on campus for other schools to compete in. It is one of our biggest recruitment events. We have our event on Spotlight and Facebook. Our members are also gaining a lot more experience by being judges for this event. Since we are the host school, we just want to have the ballots to keep the wins and losses. We are expecting 80 to 100 people, there could be more it just depends on word of mouth.

Questions-

Sara K-What other benefits will UMBC students have with this event?

DC-They get to watch other people who have been debating for years.

Chisom-How are you housing these people?

DC-They will be staying in near by hotels and we have made arrangements with John Hopkins to help with the housing situation.

Mani-How many teams are you planning on having?

DC-We haven’t had any requests yet, but we are looking into have about 50 teams.

Mark-What’s the point of the breakfast?

DC-The breakfast is for the students and the teams. The food we will be more of an offering or some sort of a courtesy or a thank you for people who are coming.

Macy-It says that the rooms are reserved, but there isn’t any confirmation listed.

DC-24 rooms are confirmed, a few of the lecture halls, as well as rooms in Public Policy and Math and Psychology.

Sara K-What role does food play in your event?

DC-On-campus food is very limited and students don’t have meal plans. Food can be really disruptive to our event as well, because students participating in the competition won’t have time to get breakfast before the event starts, and may not want to leave the campus mid-day for lunch.

Chisom-Can you explain the trophies and ballots?

DC-It’s something cheap and inexpensive that we could award to people who participate in this event.

Macy-How was this event funded before?

DC- By the Finance Board.

Discussion-

Chisom-I think this event is a really good idea. However, we should put something to question. The trophies seem like a give away and we usually get a breakdown for the food and any miscellaneous items.

Sam-It’s a precedent that we don’t give away giveaways, it’s not a policy. It’s a policy to not fund things that are given directly to charity, because we can’t use state funds for charity.

Macy-You should think of the trophies as a decoration. I want to know what the trophies look like.

Chisom-I think, in general, this whole thing needs more of a breakdown.

Sam-How do we feel about funding food for non-UMBC students, considering that the pot of money that we allocate is created by the Student Activity Fee?

Mark-I don’t think the food is a good idea. Students at UMBC would not be benefitting, and this is student money. The ballots seem important to me though.

Chisom-How do you feel about the trophies?

Mark-I think that we should fund them, because other schools go to this event to win. People who go to that school could see their trophy, which helps shed light on UMBC.

Chisom-I don’t see the correlation. We could just serve them breakfast and the participants could just eat the food. Then when they would win the debate, they can go back to their school and say, “We went to UMBC and they served great food and gained a lot of new experience from the debate.” We don’t need the trophies.

Mani-I don’t want to fund food, I see the importance of having food for other schools but I don’t think it should come from this pot of money. To me, the trophies shed some light on UMBC.

Sara K-I have never gone to a conference at another school had breakfast and said, “Oh my God, this food is so good, let me go tell all of my friends when I get back to campus.”

Macy-I am not for funding food is because I participated in something like this. Food wasn’t provided for us at the conference; it was up to individuals to feed themselves. However, I am in favor of funding trophies and ballots.

Sam-Straw Poll: Result: Striking food, line items 1, 2, and 3. Straw Poll for ballots and trophies. Keeping ballots and trophies. So we are keeping line item 4. New total is $100.00. We are tabling this event and will vote on it upon receiving an accurate breakdown of trophies and ballots.

Tabled.

**5) Living Water Christian Fellowship**

Living Water Thanksgiving Banquet

Description-

The organization wants to host a Thanksgiving Dinner in University Center 312 to facilitate networking and socialization between individuals attending.

Questions

Chisom-Why would you guys want to have a Thanksgiving banquet?

LWCF-This is a great opportunity for people on campus to socialize and network for free.

Sam-Could you walk me through this event?

LWCF-It will first start out with the speaker. Breaking into to smaller groups. Play some games.

Mani-How are you marketing?

LWCF-We are using Facebook. We want to get banners to hang in the Commons.

Sam-How would you pay for the banners? They have to be ordered from Commonvision and cost money, but there is not a line item on your form requesting for Marketing.

LWCF-We will pay out of pocket.

Chisom-What is this speech about?

LWCF-It is a sermon.

Chisom-Why are you having this event?

LWCF-To reach out the rest of the campus.

Sara K-What is the main purpose?

LWCF-Networking.

Discussion-

Chisom-I like this event, but I don’t see why we would fund this event. I don’t see the campus gaining anything, and I don’t see how this networking ties in. I am not in favor of funding this event

Macy-I do not think that this was event was well presented. This food seems like a giveaway. I feel like this event is just for socializing and eating. I am still ambivalent about this event.

Sara K-If we had more of a clear-cut description of what the event is all about, I would feel more comfortable about funding it.

Sam-So you see the networking of this event more so than the cultural aspect? Because that is a valid point, as abstract as it may sound, Thanksgiving is a cultural event. It is an American holiday. It may be difficult for us to imagine, but not every person on campus has the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving at home.

Mark- I do see this more as a networking event.

**Chisom-This event does not make sense to me.**

Kian-Did the board suggest the idea of having a pot luck to the organization? It’s just an idea.

Sara K-I really like this event, but I don’t see how this is going back to the Christian aspect.

Mani-Move to approve

Chisom-Second

Vote:

1 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstaining, 1 not present

$1,468. 31 not allocated to LWCF

**6) Splash! UMBC**

Splash! UMBC Fall 2012

Description-

They are going to gather teachers (UMBC students) from UMBC to inform High School Students about what college is like. Students will teach classes that they are interested and passionate about. A lot of high school students are unprepared for what is going to happen in the next chapter of their life. This event will hopefully help those students.

Questions-

Chisom-What inspired you to have this event?

SPLASH-This event was started to help to students understand what college is like.

Mani-What is the process for the teacher reimbursement?

SPLASH-We give each teacher 30 dollars so they can run their lecture the way they want. They go out and buy what they want with their money, then they give us the receipts, and we reimburse them for what they got.

(Sam and Sara L. go over reimbursement policy)

Chisom-In regards to policy, I think this is okay since the teachers have not spent the money yet.

Mark-What role do you see food playing?

SPLASH-We provide food for the teachers all day.

Chisom-Is there a breakdown for food?

Sam-Yes, turn the page of your packet.

Mani-Do you know about the 1000 free copies from SGA?

(Sam goes over policy)

Chisom-Back to the $1,000.00 for the reimbursement, are the teachers asking for them

SPLASH-No, they are not requesting it.

Chisom-You are requesting for this reimbursement for supplies, which will be used for the event?

SPLASH-Yes

Chisom-How did you get the amount of $30 for each teacher?

SPLASH-Most teachers on average spent $20 in the past.

Sam-Can you elaborate how UMBC students are contributing to this event?

SPLASH-We are going to have 35 teachers from UMBC participating in this event.

Macy-So the teachers are from UMBC? They’re UMBC students?

SPLASH-Yes.

Chisom-How do you guys determine who these 35 teachers are?

SPLASH-Students apply to be teachers.

Mani- So are they UMBC students?

SPLASH-Yes

Discussion-

Mark-I think that this event benefits the community as a whole. I am a little iffy on this event when it comes to food. Also the brochures should go under the 1,000 free copies instead.

Chisom-I think the idea behind this event is great. I don’t think that we should reimburse the teachers money, because they aren’t asking for it. The food in this event also to me could go both ways. I don’t think that the food is very necessary to the main function of this event.

Sam-How do you guys feel about reimbursement?

Mani-I think that we need a breakdown. I am for funding it though.

Chisom-I think that we should have more of a breakdown as well.

Macy-I am not for the reimbursement. I see these teachers as volunteering to do this.

Sam-Straw Poll for Reimbursement. We are striking line item one, Teacher Reimbursement, for $1,000.00. How do we feel about food?

Macy-No food

Mani-I am not for funding food.

Sam-Straw Poll for Food. We are striking line item two, Food, for $239.03.

Sam-Straw Poll for Brochures and Ink Cartridges, given that they could use the 1,000 free copies from SGA. We are striking line items three and six, Brochures and Ink Cartridges, respectively, for $76.90, collectively. New total is $1,169.79

Macy-Move to approve

Second-Mani

Vote:

4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, 1 and absent

$1,169.79 allocated to the Splash! UMBC for Splash! UMBC Fall 2012.

**7) Muslim Student Association**

The Glory of Eid

Description

The purpose of this event is for their religious holiday, Eid. They are planning on educating the students on campus of this holiday. It will be held in the Skylight Room on November 31, 2012.

Questions

Mani-You know that you cannot serve food that is not catered by Chartwells in Skylight, right?

MSA-Food is going to be served in the Fireside Lounge when everyone leaves.

Chisom-You are going to have the event in Skylight and the food is going to go in Fireside?

MSA-Yes.

Macy-Can you tell us about the presentation?

MSA-This event is mainly about our Muslim holiday, Eid. There is going to a slide show, discussion, a lecture, we are going to have skits. The schedule of the program is going to run:

Walk in

Prayer

Lecture

Entertainment

Food as we leave.

Mani-So people are just going to pick up food and leave?

MSA-Yes, because food is an important part of this holiday

Sarah-Is the food going to be interpreted into this event?

MSA-Yes, but the food is mostly there, because our event runs late. Along with that Eid, incorporates a lot sitting with family and eating.

Discussion

Mani-I do not think that this food should be funded.

Macy- I know that food is really important for this holiday, because I am Muslim.

Kian-I think we should showcase this event, because we don’t see a lot of the Middle Eastern culture here.

Chisom-I understand that the food is integral, but I don’t see how the food ties into this whole event.

Macy-I second Chisom on that, because food is a part of the holiday. It seems like the people at this event are just going to take the food at the end and leave.

Sam-STRAW POLL; 3 for, 2 against.

Chisom-Move to approve.

Mani-Second.

Votes:

2 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 not present

$544.49 was not allocated to the Muslim Student Association for The Glory of Eid.

Sam departs from the meeting early due to illness, leaves Mani to chair the meeting.

**8) Persian Student Association**

Description-Yalda it is a very large cultural event. This food is very important to the event. This event has performers. They are going to have poetry readings. Towards the end of the night they are planning on having an open dance floor with a DJ. This event has more than 300 people easy. It exposes students to the culture and the turn out is always large.

Questions

Macy-Could you please walk me through your event

Persian-We are going to have round tables set up for everyone. Everyone will be seated. Then were are going to have 2 MC informing people about Yalda. After that we are going to have a dance team come up which will then follow food. Towards the end of the night well will have some singers perform, some poetry being read, and an open dance floor with a DJ.

Macy-You guys know you get 1000 free copies

Persian-Yes

Macy-Are the decorations from Moby Dick?

Persian-They don’t come from there, those are just where we are getting the tables from and the vases.

Chisom-Where are you getting the decorations?

Persian-It maybe the Dollar Store and the clothing which is for the dancers would be coming from a place our secretary knows of.

Sarah-What will vases add to the event.

Persian-The vases are for cultural reasons and are a symbol which is apart of this Yalda celebration. We are planning on having gold fish in the vases, which is apart of our Persian traditions.

Chisom-Do you know specifically where you are going to get your decorations

Persian-We don’t have the vender, but I’m sure my dancer manager knows.

Macy-Do you see a big turn out coming from the UMBC campus?

Persian-We have never had a problem getting people to come to this event. Every year that we have had this event, we have had a huge turn out. There hasn’t been one year were out event wasn’t sold out.

Chisom-Are the majority people going to be on campus and off campus.

Persian-We get a lot of student on campus and students living off campus. A lot of other college students come to this event. We advertise for this event on a large scale

Macy-Food is in the middle. So the ending has more of a solemnness to it, yeah?

Persian-During the food portion we are going to have presentation and small performances during. Its not just going to be people sitting down and eating, there are going to be MC talking to students.

Mani-What is this event without the food?

It has everything to do with this event. Its where the culture comes in.

Macy-How would you feature Dr. Habrowski?

Persian-If he wants to talk her can. However, we want him to see what this event is about. I want him to know what

Mani-Have you asked any of the dean’s to fund for this event at all?

Persian-No, I don’t think we have.

Sarah-Sorry to bring up the food, but how did you get the prices for it?

Persian-We are expecting 350 people to come and it’s the average of what we have had from the previous years. We also asked the caterers how much is would cost to feed 350 people how much it would cost

Discussion-

Chisom-The set up seems good to me. Set up is good to go, but the food to me is a huge chunk of the request. That’s brings up a lot of question, but I’m going to let the board discuss this. Also the decorations should be broken down more. So this should be tabled, because we have made a percent to have a detailed break down for the decorations.

I would second getting this tabled, because we don’t have a vender quote for the decorations.

Mark-To me I think that the decorations are not a big deal, because its not important to the total request. I just don’t feel it’s necessary for them to have a break down.

Kian-The food is a really big part of this event. You can’t really take the cost of the food down, because if they don’t have enough food people will get upset. Along with that it’s only $20 dollars per person for food if you look at it. The food also adds a lot of culture to this event, which to me is really thought out. Even the little things like the fish in the vase is something very interesting to learn about.

Macy-Yes I do see that food is a huge chuck of this event. Do we want to set this as a precedent, where we can have people send us allocations which is 65% for just for the food. .

Mark-I don’t know how I feel about food. I do think that the food is really important even at the expense that it is.

Chisom-Again I like this event, but I think the food is being seen as integral to the event. I do think we still need a break down for the decorations. I want to know where they are getting the decorations from.

Macy-I agree.

Mani-Do we need the name of the performer’s?

Sarah(Advisor)-Not necessarily, it really depends on the board.

Mani-I think that we should table this, because we don’t know where a lot of decorations are coming from.

Sarah-Do you want them to come back next week and discuss this?

Mani-No I think I would be fine with just if they send the vender quote

Macy-I agree, I would feel comfortable with voting on this with a break down.

Tabled.

**9) ISM**

Description:

This event is going to be held on October 29,2011 at 11 am where they are going to decorate pumpkins and give them away to children as a charity. They have had this event before and they are planning on having about 100 people participating in this event.

Questions:

Sarah-Would you give the pumpkins to non UMBC students?

ISM-Its like a charity.

Sarah(Advisor)-Is that a can we issue, I don’t see how this was approved last year. Its state law that we cant take student money and give it to non UMBC students.

Macy-Could we just strike line item and approve the rest of the event?

Mani-Do you have the list of everything you are getting from stores?

ISM-Yeah we are getting the glitter and everything from Michaels.

(Crossing out some line items)

Sarah(FYA)-Do you want to verify with the org leader if he still wants this event since we are taking so much out of this event?

ISM-I just need the Banners and the Flyers. Other than that I am fine! Could I use the orgs carry over account and get the pumpkins?

Mani-You can buy whatever you want if you use the carry over account.

Chisom-Do you know about the 1000 free copies.

ISM-Yeah I did, but I want colored flyers.

Mani-Okay lets move to discussion.

Macy-How would the not color copies affect your event?

ISM-Probably not.

Discussion:

Mark-I am fully for this event. It helps the campus at a cheap price.

Macy-I second that.

Chisom-I feel like this event is dependent on the pumpkins, which we don’t know if they will have. What does the banner add?

Sarah(FYA)-To me that is some sort of advertising which they need.

Macy-They said that they can get these pumpkins, so its not like they wont have them. The flyers are a good way to let students know what it is for.

Chisom-Move to approve

Macy-Second

Votes:

4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 2 not present

$73.75 allocated to Interdisciplinary Studies for their Pumpkin Service Project.

**Roll Call**

Mani Gupta

Macy Bokhari

Chisom Ebinama

Mark Crenshaw

**E-mail Assignments**

Mani – HSC, Splash! UMBC, EESA

Macy – PSA, Debate Club

Chisom – INDS, Pre-Law Society

Mark – Mama’s Boys, Living Water

Sam – Muslim Student Association

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm

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