Finance Board Meeting

Minutes

01/29/2013

Meeting was called to order at 5:29pm

Roll call:

Samantha Spehr

Michelle Kuah

Chisom Ebinama

Chuka Agbaraji

Mani Gupta

First Year Ambassadors

Gabriella Kuffour

Sara Kim

Morgan Mayer

Prep:

Sam informed the board that the Arab Student union was going to be taken care of tonight. Coordinator of Communications walked in at 5:30pm. Sam talked about the fact that the budget was down to 77000 dollars and that the allocations tonight was about 28000, so we should be aware of that. She also informed the board that the new chair of Election Board was going to be sworn in during the meeting tonight. She encouraged the board to be aware of past precedents and be energized despite of the vacancies. She also talked about the SGA retreat on Saturday and reminded the board to attend. She also answered questions about how to RSVP. She informed the board that Bismah was going to submit the minutes for the last two meetings soon so we can approve it.

For Japanese Student Union,

Chisom brought up the issue of storage. And Sam brought up the issue about them not having a cubicle

Chuka brought about the issue of advertisement

Hong Kong Student Association

Michelle informed the board that in this event, they worked with the dining hall to cook food that reflects their culture.

Sam wanted to know what happened to the old decorations since the event happens every year.

Sam also wanted to know about advertisement

Gabriella wanted to know how students and commuters who did not have a meal plan will be able to attend the event.

INDS

Sam wanted to know the role of food in the event and also how comfortable the board was with paying for travel expenses, as well as the honorarium.

Chuka wanted to know if the board thought a decision should be made between the travelling expenses and the honorarium

Sam confirmed that the event occurred yearly.

She also confirmed that the honorarium was approved and funded last year.

Morgan suggested we ask whether the honorarium was required or just a way of showing gratitude or being polite

Sarah wanted to know how many people were going to the event and the audience it was catering to.

Craig pointed out that last year, they requested only 800 dollars for 50 people while this year, they are requesting more money for food while accommodating only 40 people, thus we should be aware while making decisions. Sam pointed out that we should be sure to ask what the purpose of food is in the event.

Chisom brought up the fact that inflations could have occurred and it wasn’t in our place to make those assumptions or decisions.

Sam wanted to know what the significance of the event to the UMBC community was and why it had to occur every year.

Morgan wanted to know if it was open to the general public and how they were going to advertise to other students in different majors.

Bethel Campus fellowship

Sam wanted to know what the benefit it would have in the UMBC campus community

Michelle pointed out that the form was not filled out or signed by either the president or treasurer of the org and the form might not be considered valid.

Sam wanted to know How they came about the price and also pointed out that we could not fund graduate students .

Sarah wanted to know the difference between transfer student and UMBC transfer.

Concerns were brought up about the form not being signed by neither treasurer or president.

Chisom pointed out that if the president or treasurer attended the meeting, we could ask him/ her to sign the form and the issue will be resolved

Craig brought up the fact that this org was new to the whole issue with funding and allocation requests so, the board should be patient with the org.

A representative for Hong Kong Student walked in around 6:05

The board continued with prep

Black Student Union

Sam wanted to know how comfortable the board with was paying students who were taking part in the event. e.g., the Viscom was taking over the audio visual and it was run by students.

Morgan wanted to know exactly what the students would be doing that will require the amount of money they are requesting.

A rep from Interdisciplinary studies council of majors walked in around 6:09pm

We started with HKSA around 6:10

Vincent: Treasurer

He informed the board about how important this event was in Hong Kong culture. And they were going to decorate the dining hall with Chinese decorations and they arranged with the dining hall staff to cook Chinese food.

Mani asked what happened to the decorations from last year

He said they have most of them

Chuka wanted to know about advertisement

He answered facebook

Mani wanted to know how they were going to attract commuters

He answered that Commuters were going to be able to attend and could take part in activities outside the dining hall but could not enter to eat

Sarah wanted to know the purpose of pencils in the decorations

He said he had no explanation for it and asked for it to be crossed out

Morgan wanted to know about the envelopes

It was part of the Chinese culture and was important for symbolism

Michelle wanted to know how they came about the amount for the line dancers and if the staff of true grits were okay with them dancing in the dining hall

He said the was the amount they came up with last year and that the staff was okay with it

Sam wanted more information about the line dance. He explained that it was a dance in Chinese culture where they dance and try to mimic animals.

Michelle wanted to know how they were going to store the abacus.

Chisom asked the representative to take the question more seriously because it seemed like he wasn’t.

He said he doesn’t know and that he doesn’t even think that abacus was important and that it should be cancelled from the allocation request.

Discussion

Mani said he liked the event

Gabriella brought up the fact that she thought students would be double paying as they will have to pay to get into true grits and that it would not be fair on the part of commuters

Sarah pointed out the fact that the finance board was only paying for decorations so students paying for the food was not an issue

Mani moved to approve, Chuka seconded

Members For: 4

Abstaining :1

The organization was approved for $772.22

Interdisplindary studies Council of Majors

Rachel was the representative

Org brought up the point that they had made some changes and the costs will change

This event is a lecture held every year

Questions:

Chuka wanted to know how the dinner guests were determined

She answered that Students were contacted about who was interested and only about 5 or 6 are chosen from each co sponser group, that is the departments that were co sponsoring.

Sarah wanted to know what exactly was going to be on the advertisement

She verified that the advertisement would say the event started at 7 but those having dinner would come earlier and have dinner.

Sam wanted clarification about the traveling expenses

She said it was because he was travelling from quite a distance away and he asked for some compensation

Discussion:

Chuka was kind of hesitant about the dinner and said it sounded a little bit exclusive

Sarah was also hesitant about the dinner and travelling expenses but was for the honorarium.

The board agreed to strike out food.

Michelle wanted to open up questions again and ask if the event will still be successful without food being funded by the finance board.

She said they would find someway to fund food because it will be what everyone will be expecting but the event would still be able to go on.

Sarah wanted to know how they came back about the 50 dollars for travel expenses and wanted to see the breakdown of expenses.

Org answered that she used map quest to determine the price for the travel expenses.

Michelle brought up the point that by policy, the finance board can only fund travelling expenses calculated by the

Craig suggested that if the org could get the area from which the speaker was travelling from, the board could make the calculations.

The representative of the org answered that she was unwilling to call him at this hour and thus travelling expenses should be crossed out of the allocation request, explaining that she could pay that amount out of pocket.

Discussion

Michelle brought the fact that by budgetary policy, were are not allowed to fund the travelling expenses since it was done by map quest.

Mani suggested that they go back and figure out the issue with the travelling expenses.

The org told us to strike out travelling expenses.

The costs came down to

721.25

Michelle moved to approve

For:5

BCF:

Angela and Faith:

National BCF is hosting a conference “In his steps”. Expecting over a thousand students for all around the world. Event was posted on UMBC spotlight and students who were interested applied. Event costs 210 dollars to attend. Which covers transportation, accommodation and food. It was at total cost of $4200 for total number of people who requested funding. Executive members are not included in the list.

Questions  
Michelle wanted to know if all the students were undergraduates.

The org answered there was one student who graduated in the winter.

Mani wanted to know how the event bensefits the whole campus:

The org answered that event is a leadership conference and the students will come back to the campus, work place and will implement what they learnt in their daily lives.

Craig wanted to know the difference between umbc transfer and transfer.

She verified that they were all umbc students.

She also verified that they could work with the coordinators should the money not be collected by students who were requesting partial funding before the deadline

Discussion

Morgan:

Brought out the fact that we didn’t fund a similar situation that involved food and lodging for mock trial and thus we should be aware during decision making.

Mani: Mani brought up the point that the org was contributiong money and asking for only partial funding for the event

Sarah was for funding the event because she liked the dedication the org shown for raising money to make to event successful.

Chukwa:

He brought up the issue with someone dropping out at the last minute.

Morgan thought funding this event would be not be fair to past organisations who had come with similar allocation requests.

Sam brought up the point that she would only be comfortable with partially funding for each student.

Sam moved backed into questions;

The org pointed out that the students who needed full funding had no means of paying for the conference. The org had also accommodated for people who ask at the last minute.

There was a slight confusion about the number of people on the allocation form.

Mani moved to approve. Michelle seconded

They were approved for $2940

Members For-5

Opposed-0

Abstaining-0

O not present

Black Students Union

Anika and Trent were the representatives

They explained that it was the Seventh annual fashion show. They call it a night of the art where they showcase different types of art. It is an avenue for artists to display their works. The show is a lot more cheaper than last year since they have a lot more people volunteering and helping out for the success of the event. They have been having fund raising to compensate people involved in organizing the event as well as costumes, make up etc.

Questions:

Chuka wanted to know what line item 3, other consisted of:

They explained that Decorations and materials for the photographer, designer of the marketing package

Mani wanted to know what happens to the costumes after the event;

They answered that it would be given to the models as well as a dvd filming of the whole event

The contract was changed from 4000 to 4500 and line item 3,other to 300

Sarah:

How was the cost for the professionals generated

They answered that the professionals contacted the org with the fabric and materials they needed and they budgeted accordingly

Michelle wanted to know how many models there were in total

She answered 26

Sarah wanted to know why the costs for the coaches were different

They answered that they were generated from the number of times the coaches came to campus to coach.

Sam moved into discussion:

Chukwa wasn’t comfortable with funding if the models were keeping the clothes.

Sarah brought up the issue that the event is a fashion show and thus clothes would definitely be needed.

Chisom pointed out the fact that we do have a precedent with giveaways

Chuka: Brought up the point that he thinks if the event is funded, the models shouldn’t be able to keep the clothes.

Morgan:

She suggested that the clothes should be sold to the models and the money given back to the student org

There was a straw pull on who was comfortable with funding dvds. Dvds was struck out.

Sam moved back into questions

The org pointed out that clothing was not only going to benefit the models and that it was an art display that would benefit the whole umbc community. They also suggested that if giving the clothes to the model would be a problem, they could give the clothes to charity

Mani wanted to know if there was any room to lower costs:

They answered that they could negotiate, but the costs would not come down by a significant amount

The org verified that the money for designers was just the cost for making the outfits and not for compensation and that for the coaches were for transportation

The org verified that the amount for the designer from the Viscom was for compensation and it was an amount the requested

We moved back into discussion:

Sarah was for funding the event but asked whether the students orgs suggestion of giving away the clothes to charity could be approved considering the policies.

Sam pointed out that she would be comfortable with funding if the costs for runway coaches went down.

The org was asked to come back with a breakdown of exactly what they needed and the finance board came to a consensus that they would want to see the cost goes down. The request was thus tabeled.

Musical Theatre:

Tommy, President

Annual Spring Musical and this will be the 7th musical. He pointed out that everyone on campus is encouraged to participate in this musical. He stated that they will need to rent lighting because the lighting in the location the event is occurring is not the lighting that they will need for their event.

The cost went up this year because they have more cast compared to that of last year and also the costumes they were using for this particular event is more than that of last year

Questions:

Sam asked if he could provide a breakdown for costumes

He answered it will be difficult but generally what he does is calculate 15 dollars per costume

Chisom wanted to know how they store the costumes and if these costumes could be used next year

He answered that they do reuse the costumes

Mani suggested that the student org buy the equipment rather than rent each year as it can reduce costs.

He brought up the issue of storage

Chisom brought up the suggestion of the student org renting costumes

He answered that if costumes were rented, they could not be altered in anyways to accommodate the event

Discussion:

Morgan thought the event was great

Sarah said he was for funding the event

Chuka said he felt that issues such as lumber and hardware shouldn’t be reason to put the event on hold and is for funding the event

Michelle pointed out that the event was occurring for 3 nights and thus was for funding the event

Chisom moved to approve, Chuka seconded

For: 5

Opposed:0

The org was approved for $9756

Japanese Student Associatioin

This is a recently established organization. The event is to introduce japanese culture into the campus. The org explained the purpose of each breakdown in the making of the craft materials. The bouquette would be needed because the event is two days before valentines day.

Questions:

Sarah asked for a specific walk through of the event from beginning to end and wanted to know about forms of advertisement

They answered that participants were going to practice first, then would be able to make their own crafts. They were also going to advertise on the umbc spotlight and make flyers.

Chuka asked about storage for some of the equipment or materials.

They asked about lockers and were told lockers were only assigned on a first come first serve basis in the beginning of the school year.

The club verified that the space in harbor multi purpose room was reserved

Sam asked if the costs included tax

They answered no

The org verified that the grand total was exact

Discussion

Michelle said she felt comfortable funding the event and that we shouldn’t expect the org to have a cubbie since they are a new organization. She suggested that working under arrangement, it could be stored somewhere in the commons or org space. She also brought out the point that Japenese culture has not really been displayed on the campus and this event will be a great way to address this issue.

Sam said she was for funding

Mani moved to approve. Chisom Second

For- 5

The org was approved for $887.06

The org was advised to keep in contact with Chisom involving Treasured training

Interdisciplinary studies council of majors was reopened because there were miscalculations in the total.

The total came to 755 dollars

Chisom moved to approve Chuka seconded

For-5

Collin gave us a little background about his involvement in SGA and pointed out that one quality of a Chair of the Election board had to be impartial and he was fit for this position because he possessed that quality. He was going to let students be more informed about how to run for positions in the SGA. He also stated that he had very strict plans to make this year’s elections as fair as possible.

Sarah wanted to know some of the improvements he had in plan for the election board

He answered that he could make improvements by making this campus wide

Sam wanted to know how he was going to decide who the election board members are going to be

He answered that was looking to have a diverse election board and he was looking for someone who was hardworking and dedicated. But he was also looking for people who possessed specific qualities that would benefit the election board.

Michelle wanted an elaboration on how he was planning to get students more involved in elections

He answered that he was going to have informed decisions on which organisations he and his board felt will be more effective.

Chisom wanted to know a vague understanding of some of the rules that he was going to put in place

He answered that they were going to be strict about campaigning in the SGA office because it is a space for work to be done. He however still had to talk and discuss some more issues with his board

Sarah wanted to know how many people applied for the position

Kaylesh answered that about three people came up to her and she made her decision based on people being unbiased.

Sam wanted to know how he was going to deal with posters that have been put in areas that are not allowed

He answered he would be fine with just taking posters that are in areas that are not supposed to be down

Sam wanted to know how he was going to deal with the issue of candidates harassing/ forcing/coercing people to vote for them

He answered that his board was not going to tolerate that and that students will be given the most information of each candidate as possible to avoid that issue

Michelle moved to approve, Mani seconded

For-5

Collin was sworn in

Tabled Events from previous meeting

Arab student Union

Chisom moved to approve, Chuka seconded

For- 5

They were approved for $6068.17

Email assignments

Michelle was given Interdisciplinary studies council of majors and musical theater

Chisom was given arab student union and BCF

Sam was given Persian Student union and BSU

Sarah was given FASA

Morgan was given Japanese Students Association

Chuka was given HKSA

Meeting adjourned at 10:03pm