

Finance Board Meeting Minutes
Date: February 14, 2012
Location: Commons 318

Call meeting to order at: 5:35pm

Roll Call

Michelle Kuah
Kaylesh Ramu
Damani Lewis
Kian Larijani
Ebony Tango
Morgan Russo
Samantha Spehr

First Year Ambassador
Sheetal Chopra

Secretary
Jasmine (Yasmin) Wands

1) HLSU

Description

Requesting funding for pizza to serve at a Dream Act presentation. At the presentation, speaker from a speaker from a non-profit organization will come in and talk about the dream act.

Questions

{Note: There was an issue with the tip cost. It was explained that there is a new policy where tip is now standardized so all tips will now be 15%.}

Damani: Is this event to recruit people to the event itself?

A: Yes, in a way, it is. We don't have as many people as we want so we're still waiting. The dream act is separate from the pizza. We usually have pizza the first or second meeting of the semester. This is just another way to have people talk and break the ice around food. The dream act presentation will occur with or without food.

Ebony: Did you draw up a contract with the person who is coming to the event?

A: No, the person came before and we've never had a contract so...

Damani explains policy.

Discussion

Kian: It looks fine to me. The DREAM act is a very important part of our political environment.

Sam: Do you see this as a recruitment event?

Kian: Yes, I see it as recruitment event.

Sam: Have they already had one?

Michelle: Yes, they've already had one.

Kaylesh: I see this as a speaker event.

Morgan: I agree with Kaylesh. I thought that they used the term recruitment in a different way; not to recruit members to the club, but to the cause.

Damani: Worst comes to worst, without a contract, it'll be a meeting without pizza.

Results

Votes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 not present
\$82.21 allocated to HLSU for Dream Act Presentation.
(\$82.21 for pizza from papa johns)

2) Debate Club

Description:

Requesting funding for the registration fees of a set of weekly debate tournaments (3 total: UV, William & Mary, and GW). The event takes place at different schools and that's how the club markets themselves. To keep cost down, the club members will drive themselves.

Questions

Damani: Can you explain which one is tournament 1 and which is tournament 2?

A: Tournament 1 is at William & Mary. Tournament 2 is at UV.

Sam: You said the amount on the line is for registration fees?

A: Yes, we're banking on the fact that we can get the school to reduce it.

Sam: It says that you are charging a registration charge. Will you still do that if you're funded?

A: Sorry, that is a mistake. We're the ones who are being charged a the registration cost. We're requesting funding for it.

Ebony: Can you give us the dates of these events?

A: Will Mary is at the end of March, University of Virginia is two weeks after that, and George Washington is the beginning of May.

Sam: Does each tournament feed into another? Like is there a pre-requisite for each one? Meaning, if you do poorly in one, would you still be able to go to next one?

A: No, there is not a pre-requisite for each tournament. Even if we do poorly in one, we can still attend the next tournament.

Michelle: We typically split these request up so which one would you like us to look now?

A: The first one, William & Mary.

Sam: Do you know how many people you want to come to this?

A: The \$350 is just for 9 people.

Kian: If we fund this and you don't get the price down, then how would you go?

A: Worst case scenario, we'll pay the difference ourselves.

Michelle: How is this calculated? How did you come to this particular cost?

A: This is how they {the school} charge us. This number is based on how many people will debate. We tried to ask for as little as we can get away with.

Sam: I'm confused about this negotiation thing. How do you all negotiate?

A: We just talk to one of the people in charge.

Kian: The standard rate would actually be \$450, and you're looking at a \$100 discount, right?

A: Yes

Kaylesh: It's a \$100 for two people and \$50 for a judge?

A: Yes

Craig: Is it possible to get documentation of these debates?

A: Yes

Discussion:

Damani: I'm fine with funding this. It's very standard. The organization comes all the time and it allows the org to come back and talk about what they debated.

Kian: The only thing that I'm concerned about is that the entire tournament is \$1200. I'm okay with funding it, but I want to make sure that there is not the same nine people going every time. If they don't rotate people, then it's a little expensive.

Michelle: The problem with this is that they don't have the exact date. When most organizations come without a date, we table the request.

Damani: I don't see a problem with that. I put trust in them that the event is happening and they will know the date.

Sam: How would you know that they are rotating people?

Craig: As an advisor, I have to say that you are all going on speculation that it'll be \$350, and you're going on the assumption that this tournament will happen. They do not have documentation nor do they have a date.

Kaylesh: I think our best bet would be to table the request.

Ebony: I think that the \$350 is not a problem and I think that they have a date, just not an exact date.

Kian: I just pulled up the website and found the date March 16th.. I'm comfortable with the \$350 and the \$450 because they can go either way.

Kaylesh: I think there is no problem with tabling this until they get the exact quote.

Kian: My question is will it make a difference to us? If the price is going up, will we still be comfortable with funding it? I don't understand why we're asking for a more expensive quote.

Damani: Some of us are waiting to see if \$450 is a definitive price.

Ebony: I think they'll be okay with partial now.

Sam: I want to go back to the rotation thing. Looking at these 3 tournaments together, I'm not saying that they should rotate all 27 people, but I don't feel comfortable funding the same people every time.

Craig: You can't focus on future events. You have to focus on the one that is before you.

Sheetal: If you have nine winning people, then why would you rotate them?

Ebony: I agree with Sheetal, if they're winning why would they rotate?

Damani: I don't feel like it's our job to make sure that they rotate people. It's going too far out of our place.

Kian: I see the value of waiting, but I'm much more comfortable with just funding the \$350. I'm interested in making sure that the \$350 is possible.

Sam: I have no problem with the \$350, but if we table it, I want to see them do some negotiation.

Michelle: So we're going to table this request and we need to see them negotiate the request {note: the negotiator will CC Michelle the results of the negotiation which will take place via email}. We will no longer discuss the rotation as it oversteps our bounds.

Results

REQUEST TABLED until group can give definitive proof of date and cost of the event. The group must CC Michelle the results of their negotiation to lower the price.

3) CWIT

Description

Requesting funding for the various items need for a women's technology event. The goal of the event is to bring students together and help develop their leadership/networking skills.

Questions:

Sam: Who are the people listed here {on the included list}?

A: These are the students who were at the event last year, and it shows how they became an affiliates. It's pretty simple to become an affiliate.

Michelle: What do these titles mean?

A: When everyone registers for the event they have to choose one and I want to show that . A scholar is the one who get the scholarship from CWIT and a affiliate is the one who didn't get it, but reaps the benefit.

Ebony: What was wrong with the food last time?

A: It was small and couldn't feed everyone.

Kaylesh: Have you reserved the room?

A: Yes

Michelle: Line items 2 and 3 will be combined to make it common vision marketing/advertising.

Sam: What does CWIT stand for?

A: Center for Women in Technology.

Ebony: The type of speaker coming, is the person coming from outside?

A: It's an industry person so yes.

Michelle: Do you have contracts?

A: Contracts...?

Michelle: {explains policy}; Is there any other sources of funding for this event?

A: Yes

Michelle: Is it departmental funding?

A: No

Michelle: Have you talked to the college of engineering about funding this event?

A: No.

Kaylesh: Can you tell me about how this idea started?

A: Before we would just have this table event with a lot of people talking, and so we wanted to make it more fun and interactive.

Kaylesh: How much student involvement versus faculty involvement will there be?

A: There's one advisor. We have 10 girls but people can join whenever they want to. There will be 60% undergraduate students.

Sam: Are you renting or buying these tablecloths?

A: I think we're buying.

Michelle: There are 10 on the list, but 12 on the paper.

Sam: Are you sure that you're buying them, because you got the quote from a rental company?

A: {No answer}

Discussion

Damani: The food looks okay. Are tablecloths generally that expensive?

Michelle: Knowing that these are rented, and not brought, does this change your impression of the quote?

Sam: I find it to be expensive for just one night.

Kian: Doesn't the commons rent tablecloths as well?

Michelle: Maybe something to ask is if they can look at cheaper alternatives for tablecloths?

Ebony: They can buy tablecloths at that price so if they can buy it, then they can reuse it for next time.

Kaylesh: I feel like we're making too much of a big deal out of these table cloths.

Craig: What stuff do you need quotes for and what stuff do you not? At the moment, we don't have the right quote for the tablecloths. You have a quote from last year, do you know if it would be the same?

Kaylesh: I don't know, we just started asking for quotes this year and mainly for food. I don't feel like prices will change that much.

Damani: Off campus things should have more of a checking into then everything else.

Morgan: So do we all need to see an updated quote for this particular request?

Michelle: For future request, we will require organizations to bring in updated quotes. Whoever emails CWIT make sure that you remind them to bring in an updated quote and remind them about the contract.

Results

REQUEST TABLED until organization can provide contracts for people and updated quotes for tablecloths.

4) African Student Association

Description

Requesting funding for "Jamba Nite/Fashion Show." The event takes place every year during the spring semester. The goal is to showcase different parts of Africa.

Questions:

Damani: Can you clarify the information about your food?

A: We're using an off-campus vendor that specializes in different african food.

Damani: Have you resubmitted another food contract?

A: No

Michelle: Do you have contracts with UMBC for whoever is coming {performers}?

A: As far as this budget goes, contracts/entertainment refers to outside performances. All performers outside of UMBC are not getting paid.

Damani: People outside of UMBC do require a contract whether they are getting paid or not. Will you all be advertising the event?

A: Yes, we're working with common vision to make a poster that will hang outside of the commons.

Damani: Will that come out of your carry over?

A: No.

Damani: Then you can add advertising to your request.

Discussion

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

Results

REQUEST TABLED until food and performer contracts are provided. Also, until advertising is added to quote.

5) Hong Kong Student Association

Description

Requesting funding for equipment rental machine, food, and speakers {equipment} that are necessary to host a karaoke night. The purpose of the event is to entertain the student body, and to act as a stress reliever for the students.

Questions:

Michelle: Can you give us a quote or break down of the equipment rental? Where is the number coming from?

A: {pulled up information on laptop}

Kaylesh: How many people do you expect for this event?

A: About 40-50 people.

Michelle: How do you plan on advertising?

A: Spotlight, facebook, and generally word of mouth.

Discussion

{Note: Not too much discussion. General approval of event}

Results

Votes: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 1 not present

\$413.93 allocated to HKSA for Karaoke Night.

(\$210 for equipment rental; \$73.94 for food; \$129.99 for decorations)

6) Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) {Two request}

1st Request

Description

Requesting funding for recruitment event, but instead of doing pizza, they want to order something cheaper (cupcakes).

Questions:

Kian: Where are these cupcakes coming from?

A: Giant Food

Kaylesh: How are you advertising?

A: Spotlight, flyers, and announcements to the club.

Discussion

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.

Results

Votes: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 1 not present

\$36 allocated to CRU for recruitment event.

(\$36 for cupcakes)

2nd Request

Description

Requesting funding for transportation to Big Break. Big break is a Christian conference. It's a week in Panama city from the 17th to the 24th.

Questions

Morgan: What is the purpose of this event?

A: The conference is for building leadership skills as well as learning how to work with people with different people.

Morgan: Have you all done this before?

A: We've gone for the last four years that we've been here.

Damani: How many people will be attending?

A: We're expecting about 20-25 people to come.

Ebony: How much will the UMBC students paying to assist with the funding of the bus?

A: Instead of paying \$200, we'll be paying 92 dollars.

Kian: How is this funding different from last year?

A: We paid ourselves last year.

Morgan: How have you guys brought this back?

A: The week after we come from big break, the ones who come back from the experience try to incorporate at least one activity learned in school events.

Morgan: Are the things that you learned different every time?

A: The structure is similar, but the speakers always change.

Michelle: Are you planning on advertising?

A: Yes, through spotlight, poster on commons, announcements, and fliers

Michelle: Will you be coming to FB to request funding for it?

A: No, we'll use our carry over.

Discussion

Kaylesh: I think it's expensive for just 20-25 students going. We're in the spring semester and the budget is a bit tighter. This benefits the individual more than it does UMBC students.

Damani: I could talk partially, but given that it's spring time, it is a bit costly.

Kian: It sounds more like a fun spring break trip to me.

Morgan: I don't like the idea of funding someone's vacation.

Results

Votes: 0 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 1 not present

REQUEST FOR FUNDING BIG BREAK DENIED, due to the trip seeming to be something to benefit the individuals going rather than the UMBC community.

7) Korean Campus Ministries

Description

Requesting funding for “white day”. White day is on march 14th. It is a korean tradition where guys do something really nice for girls. This event, in particular, is an appreciation night for the female students at UMBC.

Questions

Ebony: How do you plan on advertising?

A: Facebook, flyers on academic row, flyers in dorms {Damani explains that they need permission for this}, amongst ourselves it's traveling fast, and we're making banners with common vision.

Michelle: Is the advertising going to come from your carry over account?

A: No, that's not apart of this. It's actually coming from somewhere else.

Kian: So basically, the guys give food to the girls at this event?

A: Basically, it's just appreciation night.

Discussion

Kian: I like it. I think it showcases a unique part of the Korean culture. It's actually kind of cute. The cost is basic...no extravagant decorations or anything.

Results

Votes: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 2 not present
\$1082.50 allocated to the Korean Campus Ministry for White Day.
(\$800 for Glenmore Caterers; \$283.50 for Commons Gameroom Contract)

8) Anime Society

Description

Requesting funding for use of AV equipment for the rest of the semester.

Questions

{No questions...whoa}

Discussion

{Instant move to approve}

Results

Votes: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 2 not present
\$50 allocated to Anime Society for AV equipment.
((\$50 for AV equipment for the semester)

9) Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Description

Requesting funding for advertising of Sense and Sexuality which is a retreat from March 2nd- 3rd.

Questions

Michelle: You said that you're charging \$10 for the food; is it to help supplement the cost of food for the event?

A: To be completely honest, I don't know. I think it'll help pay for catered food.

Damani: I feel like that needs more clarification. It's a worthwhile thing to discuss because we don't know where the food is coming from.

Discussion

Michelle: My concern is that UMBC students are being charged. They are being drawn by advertising and then being told that they have to pay. I think there needs to be more clarification.

Damani: Technically, it could be double charging. I want to make sure that people aren't bringing in their own food, but still paying.

Kaylesh: Ultimately, we would like to not charge UMBC students and rather for you {the organization} to request food.

Damani: We also need you to fill out the contract for the keynote speaker.

Results

REQUEST TABLED until organization can provide an adequate response to the food situation (i.e. requesting funding for the food), clarification of where the \$10 for the students is coming from, and a contract for their keynote speaker.

10) Intersity Christian Fellowship

Description

Requesting money for an coffeehouse event. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about fair trade and social justice.

Questions

Damani: Will you all be advertising?

A: Yes, but not through commonvision.

Michelle: Do you need funding for sound equipment?

A: We have our own and we keep money for using the sportszone and other areas on campus.

Michelle: So this will be a coffeeshouse where people sing?

A: It'll be a laid back atmosphere with soft music playing...like a panera bread type atmosphere.

Michelle: So if I walk in would I mingle with people, eat, etc?

A: Yes, and we're doing a lot of events on campus to deal with human rights and fair trade.

Ebony: What is the purpose of the utensils?

A: To raise awareness, but also to actually use.

Discussion

{Note: There is a 20% discount on one of the items, and the organization didn't have it. Kian mentioned that the discount would save \$65}

Results

REQUEST TABLED until organization can provide an updated total including the 20% discount on the relative item.

11) Humans vs Zombies

1st Request

Discussion

Requesting funding for miscellaneous games items for the Human versus Zombies invitational, and advertising for the following week.

{Previously for last week, but organization came this week.}

Questions:

Kaylesh: Do you have a place to store everything?

A: Yes, we have a club locker.

Kian: Are you using the armbands and stuff from last year?

A: Yes, they're still being used.

Discussion

Kaylesh: I can fund it. It goes along with it's {the group's} purpose and it's reasonable.

Results

Votes: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 2 not present

\$413.93 allocated to HKSA for Karaoke Night.

(\$210 for equipment rental; \$73.94 for food; \$129.99 for decorations)

2nd Request

Description

Requesting funding for invitational supplies, including Jenga puzzle, danger tape, water bottles, and advertising {?}

Questions

Damani: How do you plan on advertising this to other schools?

A: HVZ forums, word of mouth, emails, etc.

Damani: Does this take place only once a year?

A: Yes.

Discussion:

Damani: Fine with it. It's exciting to have other schools come and have fun.

Results

Votes: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 2 not present

\$127.90 allocated to Humans vs Zombies for Invitational.

(\$23.90 for advertisement; \$65 for water bottles; \$33 for jenga; \$6 for danger tape)

Email Assignments

Ebony- HLSU, ASA, Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Kian- Debate, CRU

Kaylesh- AICHE, NSBE, MCSCOM, and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Damani- CWIT, Korean Campus Ministry

Michelle- HKSA, Anime Society

Voting members present at the end of the meeting:

Ebony

Kian

Kaylesh

Damani

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.