Finance Board Meeting

 Minutes

 Date: September 11, 2012

Commons 318

Call Meeting to Order at-5:34pm

**Roll Call –**

**Craig Berger**

**Samantha Spehr**

**Michelle Kuah**

**Chisom Ebinama**

**Donta Henson**

**Mani Gupta**

**Macy Bokhari**

**Mark Crenshaw**

**Absent**

Sara Leidner

Prep Time: Voting for the Vice-Chair between Mani and Macy.

**1) College Democrats**

Description-

College Democrats wants to have an event on September 25th in the Women Center named “Paper’s and Pizza.” They want to show a movie about women immigrants. They are requesting $60.00 for pizza and $10.00 for soda, for a total of $70.00. This event has not happened before but they are expecting 15 people to be at this event.

Questions-

Mark-”The main objective of this event is educating students about the Dream Act?”

CD-“Yes, that is our goal for this event.”

Chisom-“How would this event change if you took out the food?”

CD-“I don’t think it would be as successful, because it would give people a reason to stay longer and discuss the movie. We really want to get more students educated on this subject, but we know that most often at these movies people leave right after it ends.”

Chisosm-“So the food is more of a something to bring more people to your event?”

CD-“Yes! We moved the time of this event a little later in the day, so we knew that some of the students would be hungry. After the movie instead of the people leaving and going to Late Night or Salsaritas, they could enjoy some free hot pizza. I feel like pizza would bring together a shared environment.”

Michelle-“What advertising have you done for this movie night?”

CD-“We are getting help from the Women’s center. We are also utilizing social media such as the Myumbc group, Facebook, and communicating with other clubs on campus.”

Mark-“How many people are you expecting?”

CD-“20-25 students.”

Mani-“Papa John has discount prices, have you looked into this?”

CD-No, I did not.

Michelle-“There is a discount, you just have to tell them you are from UMBC. Cheese is $7 and a large one topping is $8. We have always suggested to orgs to talk to Shawny so she knows what the total of everything should be.”

Sam-“Can we assume there will be a discount?”

Michelle-“No we should go and talk to Shawny and see if there are any restrictions.”

Sam-“The women center is paying for copy rights?”

CD-“Yes.”

Discussion-

Mani-“How is this groups event different from other people who asked for food like the cookout?”

Mark-“ I don’t think the pizza is a necessity. I have gone to the women’s center movie showings for extra credit and I do not think the pizza will make or break what the people will learn from the film.”

Donta- “Putting the food out there makes is more of an incentive. If you know that food is coming then you feel tempted to stay longer.”

Sam-“Okay why don’t we do a straw pool. Who thinks food adds to this event?”

Results-2 agree it does, 2 others believe it is not necessary, and the other 2 are on the fence.

Chisom-“I feel indifferent, but how do I say this. I can see this event going both ways.”

Sam-“ Why do you think food adds to this event?”

Macy- “It is moved to a later time, people are getting out later. It makes sense a dinner and a movie.”

Craig-“When Mani was talking about last weeks event compared to this event, we should really take that into account. This event is not on as a large of a scale as the other one. The purpose of the food is even the same, recruitment. We denied the allocation for the Cookout, so should we do the same for this org?”

Macy-“That was for recruitment, this event is not for the same purpose. The cook out was something that could have been done at the Involvement Fest.”

Michelle-“So I do think that food in this instance is different. My hesitation with this event is that I think a lot of the time we are going to have to decide on food as this role and its usage to attract people to be more involved in events. But what is going to get difficult is when other orgs will want the same thing and we give some orgs food and others none. I am just hesitant for funding just for food specifically; because I don’t know what message this will send to other orgs.

Donta- “The movie is the main event the food is an extra.”

Mark-“You want to educate these people about the Dream Act. Honestly I don’t see why you will need the pizza. If they want to learn about the act, then people will come to event. I feel this event is more for just your group of members. They will already be there; pizza should not be a need for them to stay there because they are members. I know you want to keep people so they can talk about the movie, but I feel you can do that in better ways than just pizza. The Dream Act is a phenomenal and interesting legislation, which people should learn about, but I don’t think pizza is completely necessary for this event. But that is just my opinion.”

Tabled to the end of the meeting.

Beginning re-discussion:

Michelle-“I know how hard it is to get people involved. To me I think that the food is very integral to the whole event. I question the potential of the food. I don’t think food would make this event more successful.”

Chisom- I think the idea behind this program is different. They have all these things planned out. I do think this event can function without food. The moral behind the event is the most important. The motivation to get the people to keep going is the food.”

Mani-“They need food to keep people there. Their event is after the movie. I think they need the pizza, but I am not okay with funding for this group due to the fact we denied last weeks orgs cook out which is very similar to this event.

Michelle-“The pizza makes it educational and the food makes it more good for holding a discussion.”

Sam-“The Mommas boys had a concert and after their performance they had pizza. Students just got pizza and left shortly after. “

Chisom- I don’t think this event is food based. They have a good moral behind this event, but looking at just the event I don’t see food as a primary need.”

Mani-“You can’t fund for food for every single org that asks for it.”

Michelle-“I see the necessity for food, but I don’t agree we should put money out for that. I don’t think that this money should be coming from us. “

Michelle-“Motion to approve”

Mark-“Second.”

Votes-

2 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstaining, 0 not present

$70.00 not allocated to College Democrats for Papers and Pizza

**2) Pagan Student Union**

Description-

This group of students wants to hold an event called Maboh Renaissance Festival Trip on September 23,2012 all day at an off campus location. Their only request is $198.00 for the tickets to go to this event. This event is new to this organization and the estimated turn out is 9 members.

Questions

Chisom-“ Have you ever requested for fund from the board.”

PSU-“No.”

Chisom-“If the finance board were not to approve, do you have any other plans?”

PSU-“We would need to scrap money to get this. They signed up for this so we really don’t want to make them pay.”

Macy-“There are other expenses. Are you going to have any transportation?”

PSU-“We have enough money for gas, food is all on the member. We just want to pay for the member that joined this semester tickets.”

Mark-“What he Maboh?”

PSU-“It is one of three Pagan festivals. When all the wine graves and apples get harvested. After this event we are all planning on drinking wine and apple cider at one of our friends off campus houses.

Michelle-“Have you thought of any ways to fundraise for this event?”

PSU-“We have gotten people to give us honey sticks. But we don’t know if we can just sit on the side of the road and be like HEY BUY some honey sticks!”

Michelle- “How many people do you have?”

PSU-“We have a pattern we get 7 new people each semester. They are all excited at the first meeting and then the next one NO ONE IS THERE. So this time we want to do an event as soon as we can to keep people attracted.”

Michelle-“What about the other people that join in later?”

PSU-“We have other events! Pagans always find times to celebrate something. So we got plenty in stored for future club members.”

CRAIG- “How much do you have in your coin purse?”

PSU-“We have $10.19.”

Discussion

Chisom-“I want to approve a program that impacts the larger student body. That is really the only reason why I wouldn’t fund for the this program, because I don’t think it incorporates all the student on campus.”

Michelle-“Every student pays a students activity fee. This money we get from them should be shared with everyone else.”

Macy-“I would like to 2nd something Chisom said. We are going to see other trips like conferences and trips which only focus on just the club members, but are known for the orgs biggest private event. This event does not seem like your main event of the whole year. Also if you did make it open to the public now, I don’t think you would have enough time to advertise.”

Sam-“Anything else?”

Craig-“We should not be voting on the request, more on the presentation of the event.”

Sam-“Alright so any other questions?”

Michelle-“Motion to approve?”

Chisom-“Second.”

Votes

 0 In favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstaining, 0 not present

$198.00 not allocated to Pagan Student Union for Maboh-Renaissance Festival Trip

**3) HLSU**

Description-

El Encuentro held at the University Center Ballroom from 7pm and 11pm is aimed towards celebrating Hispanic Heritage Mouth. The food is going to cost a total of $3,140.00. This event has been held before and based on the previous estimate from the last year they got 300 people. This event is held every fall, and always has a huge turn out. A lot of other schools will be coming. The Steal Drum Band hopefully will be attending, because last year they were a large hit

Questions-

Sam-“On your events planning board, it says Chartwells. So is that correct?”

HLSU-“Yes.”

Sam-“So the only thing that was excluded is the delivery charge?”

HLSU-“Yes!”

Sam-“Are these all from Maryland vendors, because if is in state we don’t have to pay taxes, but if it’s out of state we do.”

HLSU-“Yes, we plan on ordering them online. I don’t know currently if they are all from Maryland.”

Craig-“Even if they get items from Amazon we will have to pay tax.”

Michelle-“Could you walk us through your event?”

HLSU-“Performances

 Videos(educational)

Samba Lady

Steel Drum Band

In between each thing we have food”

 Dance till the night.”

Mani-“How many people attended last year?”

HLSU-“250 people and we actually had to turn people away.”

Mani-“Anything extra to get more people?”

HLSU-“Yes, by getting other schools involved like Towson and UMD. We are collaborating with other clubs as well.”

Macy-“So is food just for 200 people

HLSU-“We charged food for 200 people, because Chartwells always gives us more than we need.

Mark-“What does El Encuerntro mean?”

HLSU-“I have No ideaa, I think it means uhh jk I really don’t know!”

Michelle-“Are you going to go through any other advertising techniques?”

HLSU-“We are hoping to have a stronger social media concept.”

End of Questioning:

Michelle requested to go back to questioning:

Michelle-“How would the decorations add to the atmosphere?”

HLSU-“We have a theme which is El Dorado, the city of gold. We like to touch on things like this because it brings about our culture. It makes the UC look nicer and it just really brings the atmosphere.”

Mani-“Does the UC provide lighting?”

HLSU-“No”

Michelle-“Do you have a way to re use these items and a place to store them?”

HLSU-“Yes, we always keep some of our old material. However; a lot of our decorations don’t last long-like the lights die out quickly.”

Michelle-“What are the treasure chests for?”

HLSU-“They are just the center pieces.”

Michelle-“Where would all of them go?”

HLUS-“I could see us using them in the future. I know we are thinking for a future theme as the Caribbean. So they are known for treasure chests, so those center pieces could be re-used.”

Returning again to questions by Chisom:

Chisom-“I am still trying to figure out the prices for all of this.”

Sam-“These numbers that are listed are stamped by the UMBC Event’s Planning so these numbers are correct.”

Chisom-“I am trying to add up these number, because they don’t seem to add up. But I guess we can go back into discussion.”

Sam-“I understand it was just a discrepancy. So we can move back to discussion.”

Discussion

Mark-“ I went to this event last year and it was a lot of fun. I also learned something too like the difference from Hispanics and Latinos. I also enjoyed the diversity at this event. I do see this event as a success.”

Macy-“I know that this was very successful this? year.”

Craig- “If we do this, would we approve this for other clubs?”

MACY-“To me I think we would.”

Michelle-“Could we go back to questions really quickly?”

Sam-“Okay returning to questioning.”

Michelle-“We need to set a precedent for all organization who come in and make allocations. I feel because of the success of this event last year, we are jumping too quickly to approve this club. We need to make sure every org has a fair chance for funding for one of their events.

Chisom”-For setting a percent? for the future of the clubs, planning to approve this would set a good precedent.

Mani-“Could we get another room which is bigger?”

Michelle-“UC is the biggest room.”

Chisom-“Can we go back to questions”

Sam-“Okay for the last time we are going back to discussion.”

Chisom- “I have not been to this event before, but I agree that the decorations would add to this event. It makes it more homely and livelier. The whole idea of this event makes sense and it hits all aspects. I feel good with this event. This event will set a good precedent, good moral, good purpose, and students will love it.“

Michelle- “I agree that it will hit all of the student body. It’s one of the large scale events that everyone talks about. What I am saying though is for decorations I don’t see us funding $600 for every single large scale UMBC event. That’s very costly and I think that there are more ways to achieve the same sort of atmosphere at a cheaper price. I would like to suggest tabling, so that we some plan for where these items would go afterwards. So the chest is at $5 for 174 chests. How are you going to put all of those decorations all in one place when you have so many others things you need to put in storage.”

Sam-“Are you concerned that they aren’t going to store them.”

Michelle-“Yes.”

Sam-“So I think that things like this should be addressed in questioning…but wait you seem to want to say something?”

HLSU-“I actually don’t know why we have 147 treasure chests, I think that’s a huge typo. I don’t know why we have that written down, we have like 25 tables! I mean I guess we would have spares, but noooo! I just did the math and if there were 147 tables that would be like more than everything!”

Michelle-“When you were saying they were center pieces, I was wonder omg how are they gonna put all of those on the table!”

HLSU-“O yeah we just wanted to make a HUGE PYRAMIDE haha nooo I am so sorry!”

Sam-“Yeah that did stand out to me a little bit!”

HLSU-“So we only need 25 treasure chests!”

Mani-“Do they keep the previous things?”

Sam- “Yes but remember there themes change a lot so they cant utilize ever piece of their decoration.”

Craig-“There is also an option to cut some of the decoration down?”

Macy-“25 treasure chests can be stored and it’s a good cost. This is a good set up for future precedents.”

Sam-“So I just want to do a straw poll for this. Decorations for, not, or table.”

Results: 1 for funding, 1 for partially funding, 3 for tabling

Sam-“What is a reasonable price for this organization to use as a guide for how much they should cut down.”

Michelle-“I just think you should try to find cheaper options for tablecloths and other things. The treasure chests I understand you need that. But for getting the price down, I think you should just try get whatever you think is absolutely necessary. But don’t pressure yourself to get rid of something that you think is important to your event. All we are asking is for you guys to try to find cheaper options.”

Donta- “Find some alternate options for tablecloths. If you could find a better option that would really help us out a lot!”

Chisom-“Again just anywhere we can get a lesser amount will be fine. Even if is just a dollar that would make a difference.”

Sam-“So we are going to table this request, but I hope you understand why!”

HLSU-“Yes yes of course I do!”

Mani-“These number do not add up.”

Sam-“Okay guys let’s all take out our calculators…or your brains if you prefer.”

(A few minutes later after crunching numbers)

Sam-“So the actual total for the decoration is $819.90.”

HLSU-“I’m gonna come back!”

Tabled.

**4) Vietnamese Student Organization**

Description-

Questions- NO SHOW

Discussion-

Vote

**6) Hindu Student Council**

Description-

Questions-

Discussion-

Sam-“We just needed the quotes and the break down for decorations for this discussion.”

Michelle-“From what I recall, I was pretty confortable for funding this. It seems very reasonable.”

Craig-“To help in the future. The decorations break down a lot of the time, when we get requests, are not verified from the vendor. My question to you is, do you like this policy?”

Michelle-“With me I am okay with it. I trust the org and if they put down a certain amount, which they did, to me it seems reasonable.”

Sam- “So are we okay with these kinds of break downs?”

Chisom-“I think it makes sense because I want them to feel that they have some control.”

Michelle-“Personally when I look at decorations, I see a lot of variability. This shows the break down that they have the cost in their head. They know where the money is being put towards. With the cost of food and the room, items like this you can’t change.”

Chisom-“I’m fine with these kinds of “Quotes and Break Downs” but I do think now that they should include the vendor, because I want to get some idea where they get there estimates from. They put down $1 for streamers which I am sure is accurate, but as a financial board member I would like to know where they got that number from. I think is it important we know where the money is going.”

Sam-“Lets take a poll on what everyone’s thinking. The topic is if you are for or against putting vendors on the breakdown.

Results: Mani, Chisom, and Donta want a more detailed breakdown. Mark, Macy, and Michelle don’t think it is necessary.

Sam-“What is the purpose of the vendor?”

Donta-“We should have some idea of where this number is coming from. I think every value should have some justification. If I saw $10 for an item, I would want to know how that number came about.”

SAM- “I see the validity of the vendor breakdown. But I think it is a lot of work for orgs, because they already have so much to plan and do. I think is it nice to see a vendor, because it shows they are putting some work into it. However; with just these estimates I trust the orgs that they did some research and that’s how they got these values.”

CRAIG-“There is a lot of tension, because you need to hand out the money in a resourceful way. Students at UMBC all paid a certain fee to the financial board to help us support orgs. The money we receive from them should not be wasted. To orgs putting down all the vendors may seem tedious, but setting this new precedent is fair to the students. They should feel their money is being used in the most frugal and effective way. If they go to an event and don’t like the way we are spending their money, it looks bad on the finance board.”

Macy- “Honestly I trust the orgs, I don’t think we should make their lives more complicated.”

Sam-“To me if there is any indication where they looked into pricing I would be okay with that. To me I think it is a bit nick picky to ask for vendors for EACH decoration. I do not think it is necessary.”

Donta-“I think we getting away from the main point. I like to see where these numbers come from. We are not trying to police what they are doing; we just want to know how did they get 1 dollar for streamers.

Sam-“What specifically do you want to achieve from this new policy for breakdowns?”

Donta-“I wouldn’t just want to know the number, more like where did it came from. Was it from the past or was it from some store online.”

Michelle-“Alright do you want to have vendor quotes where you have a general location or do you want the exact address for each vendor.”

Donta-“No no I do not think they should have the exact vendor, but I would like to have a general feel for where there number is coming from.”

Macy-“Does this student org have enough time to go through this vendors list?”

Sam-“This is not fair, because I agree to their breakdown and if I tell them to do the breakdown again I don’t this that is right.”

Chisom-“I think we can go on with this, but for the future we need to set this rule.”

Donta-“We should not table this another week, but from here on out we should expecting these things.”

SAM-“We are going to send an email to all the orgs sending an accurate quote page.”

Michelle-“Motion to approve.”

Macy-“Second.”

Votes

6 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining, 0 not present

4746.64 allocated to HSC.

**Roll Call**

Members Present at End:

**Craig Berger**

**Samantha Spehr**

**Michelle Kuah**

**Chisom Ebinama**

**Donta Henson-** Responsible for emailing HLSU

**Mani Gupta-**Responsible for emailing Vietnamese

**Macy Bokhari-**Responsible for emailing College Democrats

**Mark Crenshaw-**Responsible for emailing Pagan Student Union

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:43pm**

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