Finance Board Meeting

 Minutes for February 19th 2013

Meeting was called to order at 5:31

Roll call

Samantha Spehr

Mani Gupta

Michelle Kuah

Chisom Ebinama

Chuka Agbaraji

Morgan Mayer

Sara Kim

Dawit Yonas

Gabriella Kuffour

Sara Leidner

Perfected Praise

Org: This event is is dance fest. It is held annually. It is showcase all the dances we've learnt and performed throughout the year. We invite other dance groups, other miming groups and sometimes poets. We have food which is served at intermission and this event is basically a collection of dances, poetry, miming and other performances.

Questions

Morgan: How many attendees do you expect to be UMBC vs Non UMBC students

Org: In previous years its been pretty split but its usually because we have a lot of outside support. But a lot of people from the campus attend as well so this year we are probably expecting the same

Chisom: Can you walk me through the event?

Org:The host comes in an introduces the event and the theme for the event, we will start with the acts, and presentations with the author and writer of the song that the performers are dancing to. We will then have miming or poetry performances. There will be about four or five acts before intermission. During intermission there will be eating and socialising. We come back for the second part and there will be about four to five more acts. And the performers come out and introduce themselves and give us a background of themselves, then we will be closed out.

Chisom: It looks like you have a lot of things going on so how does food play a part in this event

Org: Its more like a dinner type of event because we have it between 5:30 to like 9 pm. So the food is kind of like a break.

Sara: How did you come to the number of attendees

Org: It was just the number that can fit into the UC ballroom excluding the performers.

Michelle: Did you give Glenmore the price of $2000 or you gave the number of expected attendees and they gave you a price

Org: We were told that $2000 is a good price within out budget, so they kind of worked with us with that price

Gabriella: How do you think this event will benefit the average UMBC student

Org: I think this is a very different and unique event, not a lot of people know about dance ministry. It is another way to showcase dance in a way that a lot of people have never seen. I know last year a lot of people had never seen miming before

Morgan: Do you think your event can still be successful without food?

Org: It could, but the reason why we push for food is because its during that time people usually eat or have dinner, so we wouldnt want to keep people without feeding them. So just as courtesy we wanted to have food, and it also kind of breaks up the show so during intermission, people are not just sitting there.

Sam: For decoration are you picking it up, just because I noticed it excluded shipping

Org: Yes, we will be picking it up

Discussion:

Morgan: I really like this event, I think it is interesting. I am however interested to hear everyone else's opinion on food. But I might be for food.

Sara: UMBC is usually known for biology and other science majors. This is a student organisation that wants to showcase dance but I think for my opinion UMBC really lacks in the arts department and this is a great way to showcase arts in UMBC. I did a calculation and it will cost each person $6.25 for food which I think is pretty reasonable. But when she said its about split for UMBC vs Non UMBC in terms of number of attendees, it made me question if it was good use of the student activities fee.

Gabby: For the Non UMBC students who are attending, they are paying to attend so it is not like they are getting free food, even though the money will go into the org's carry over

Sam: So Im hearing a lot of ambiguity on food, but does anybody know where they stand on food?

Dawit: I think ill definitely be for refreshments

Chisom: I like the presence of food. But I wouldnt mind the cutdown of the price of food to as low as possible

Sam: I guess a lot of people are saying they are okay with the presence of food but not the price, so I guess to play devil's advocate, think back to relay for life, they had a 24 hour event and they also needed food, so how do you guys differentiate between the two

Chuka: I don't think we can differentiate because we've seen events like this be successful without food, and im trying to give myself a reason to fund food, but I cant come up with a good enough reason

Chisom: I don't think we can differentiate between all the orgs that have come to request for food. At the end of the day, we fund things based on the way orgs have presented, and based on our judgement on how we think the student dollar will be put to good use.The way I saw relay for life was strictly a cause and I didn't see the role of food. I am for funding food for this event not because of the timing, but because of my judgement and how the org explained the role of food in this event

Michelle: My issue with food in Relay for life is that there was no way to ensure that every attendee will have an equal amount of food.

Questions:

Sam: Will you guys be comfortable communicating with Glenmore to see if you can get the price of food to go down

Org: We can probably talk to them and see

Sam: We are going to table your request and then when you guys come up with a new quote from Glenmore you can just email us and we will vote on your request next week, you dont have to come in or anything. Is that okay with you

Org: Yes

Michelle: I just wanted to ask give we can give the org a guideline, maybe a price to aim for.

Chisom: I think we should give them a number to work with

Discussion

Michelle: I think food takes a secondary role to all the activities going on in this event, I would a price of about $1000-$1500 for the cost of food will be okay with me

Morgan: I will definitely agree with Michelle

Sam to Org: Well do you have any questions on how tabling works or anything:

Org: No, we're good

Perfected Praise was tabled for their event to talk to Glenmore to see if the price of food could go down

South Asian Students Association:

Org: This is SASA banquet. We have it every year. We have dinner, we have dancing and we have acts. This year we have the Sri Lankan association performing for us. We are having a couple of other dance orgs and an acapella group perform as well. We sell out every year. It is catered by two indian restaurants and one is to cater people who dont eat meat. We get a great turn out and a great way to end the year right and to show different types of culture in South Asia.

Questions:

Morgan: Can you further explain why you have three different food vendors

Org: The halal food is for muslims who cant eat certain types of meat, and the indian delight is for vegetarians and the pea pod order is for utensils and drinks

Mani: How many people are attending

Org: Its going to be 250 people

Michelle: How did you come about the number of people who will eat from the indian delight and from the halal

Org: We just split it according to like how many people we think, and also from past experience with the event

Michelle: So you have here 200 people for the halal and 100 people for the indian delight:

Org: Yeah, There is going to be 250 people there, but we wanted to have a little more food just in case something goes wrong

Chisom: Do you have a storage space

Org: Yes we do, so everything on the request we are asking from peapod is for the stuff that we dont have

Michelle: Are the dishes one time use only

Org: Unfortunately, yes

Chisom: Can you walk me through your event and explain how food plays a role in the event

Org: We have an appetizer, everyone dresses really formally. There are acts, and dinner will be served. After the dinner, there will be dancing. The whole point of the banquet is to bring everyone together. So he food is to show everyone a part of the Indian culture but you dont have to be indian or South Asian to attend.

Sam: Are the contracts finalised

Org: Yes , everything is finalised, we just need to get the insurance form.

Sara Leidner: Well you guys are not supposed to finalise or sign anything till you are funded by the finance board. Because if for some reason the finance board doesnt fund , you are legally held to pay the contractors, and your student org account can go into debt.

Org: The reason why we have more food than the expected number of attendees is because last year we didnt have enough food so we wanted to avoid that this year. People go back for seconds and thirds and we cant control that.That is why we asked for a little bit more food.

Chuka: Last year was there a problem of there not being enough halal.

Org: Last year we didnt have halal

Chuka: Have you considered serving only halal to avoid the many food vendors

Org: If we did that then we will have to provide a vegeterian option for people who dont eat meat and we want to be able to serve everybody.

Mani: The marketing package 1 is $200 which contains 200 tickets. So you will need 50 more tickets and that will cost about $6.

Sam: So we have marketing as $206.56 is that fine with you

Org: Yes thats fine.

Mani: How many non UMBC students attend your event

Org: We do get a lot, probably around 50-60 non umbc students attend

Sam: Is there anything you would like to add before discussion?

Org: This is a really good event, we completely sell out every year. It is very important to the organization because we have it every year and we will really like it if you guys could fund us.

Discussion:

Dawit: I know food has always been an issue this past few meetings, but I feel good about the cost of food, just because not only is it cultural, but its a banquet and I wouldnt feel comfortable cutting anything from the request

Morgan: I think the only thing that stuck out to me was the food for the extra 50 people but overall I am comfortable funding this

Mani: I am not comfortable funding food

Sara: I think its pretty amazing how the student org is able to have a sold out event every single year. As for the food and from my calculation, is will cost $13.50 for each person, which I think it is a bit too high. I definitely see food playing a role in this event but I will like to see the cost of food go down.

Michelle: I agree with Sara but I am not comfortable funding more than the expected total

Chisom: I think there should be food in this event but I think there will be a lot of extras. I think the controlling question for me is how can we cut down on the cost for food. I think we should work with the org to see the cost go down or give them a number. Again, this is not arbitrary and we have done this before.

Chuka: I am not comfortable with the Indian delight.

Sam: I really think this is a great delight and like everyone else I will like to see the cost of food go down, but for cultural events I wouldnt like to knock it down like a $1000, I would say it should go down to about $3000 even so its serving only the 250 people.

Chisom: Arab student union was a cultural event and they knocked down the cost of food after we asked them to so I dont think it is a good justification to explain why the cost of food is so high. If we can do that to them, I think we can do it to this org too, and they had a lot more people attending. They also sell out, and they have a good show

Chuka: Its not sitting well with me at all to spend $1200 more the possibly less food. I am not comfortable with the quantity of food compared to the price

Michelle: Looking back at Arab student union, because we keep looking back at their event, their event was in the skylight lounge for 140 people, which is less than the number of people SASA is requesting. Their vendor was Chartwells, because they are required to use Chartwells. So I dont think we can compare the two. What I am struggling with right now is providing food for more than the total number of expected attendees. But I do cringe a little on the price.

Morgan: I dont think it is fair for us to start picking and choosing what vendors, or options or food choices they are using.With that being said, I think I will be personally for funding $2500-$3000 for food

Chuka: I dont think anyone is comfortable funding the 50 extra people, so I want to see what the price will be without the 50 extra people and I can go from there. In terms of the indian delight, I want to see what quantities they are serving

Sara Leidner: Just something for the board to consider, I think you should look at how much, or the quantity of food you are funding for each person, and how to balance that.

Sam: I want to hear numbers now

Michelle: I am comfortable with a number similar to Morgan, $2500- $3000

Chuka: I wont really be able to say without knowing the serving size for the Indian delight

Mani: $2500

Sara: Between $2500 and $3000

Chisom: $2500

Chuka: I'll go with $2500

Dawit: $2500-$3000

 After a straw pool,

The board agreed that they will like to see the price of food go down between $2500- $3000

Questions was reopened

Sam: We would like to see the price of food go down between a range of $2500 to $3000, and also kind of get a little bit more clarity on how much quantity of food each person will be getting. But do you think you can get this information from Indian Delight and Halal

Org: Yes

Sam: Once you do just email it to us and we will vote on your request next week and you dont have to come in

Pandemic

Org: This request is for three sets of steel drums, a triple chello, a double tena. We have a problem of capacity. A lot of people sign and come to our meeting but we dont have enough instruments to accomodate them. We have about 2 or 3 people sharing an instrument so the org is not able to expand. People lose interest a lot quicker when they find that they have to share instruments.

Questions:

Sara: How many regularly attending members do you have

Org: We have about 14 regular member, but we have only 10 instruments

Chuka: How will getting more instruments resolve the issue to accomodating all your members because getting more instruments will attract more people and in the end you will always need more instruments to accomodate them

Org: I agree that there will be more demand. But it will definitely help our situation now and make it much better and it will definitely help our band sound much better and make people want us to play at their events. And we will be able to get more gigs to get more money. Last semester we made $500, which we used to purchase tshirts.

Michelle: What is the life expectancy for each drum

Org: They last pretty much indefinitely. They have to be retuned, but they last a very long time

Sara: What is the current condition of the instruments you guys use now

Org: We have been working with the tuner and he agreed to tune them all for free. So all the instruments have all been freshly tuned

Sara: If the finance board does fund this request is there any way for us to know that the instruments will last for a long time and be treated with care

Org: I will use the local high school steel drum bands as an example.They've had the same instruments since they started, and theyve lasted more than 10 years

Michelle: In regards to storage I know you said you werent really sure but is that you are working with faculty right now or..

Org: We have made contact with them but we are yet to get a definite response from them and we understand if you guys will like to get a definite answer before you fund us.

Michelle: For me, that is a huge issue for me at the moment

Discussion:

Mani: I am for funding this given that we have a definite storage

Dawit: From what I heard it looks like the organisation is just starting to pick up steam, and the fact that the instruments last pretty much forever, this will help the growth of their club

Sara: I like how the current members are donating instruments to help their student org exist. I really like the passion the student org has and the growth. Its just really sad to know that people stopped showing up becauseof the lack of instruments, I feel like it wasnt the student orgs fault.I will be for funding, just knowing that there is a storage space on campus

Chuka : I am also for funding pending that there is a storage space.

Sam: So it sounds like everybody wantns to table this until there is confirmation of storage

Questions

Sam: So we are going to table this request, just till we are definitely sure that there is a storage space. So as soon as you get your confirmed storage space just let your email contact know and we will vote on your request

Chisom: I think the email should be coming from the department

Pandemic was tabled for their allocation request so that they could get a confirmed storage space on campus from faculty

Tabled requests

Living water

Sam: I talked to Charles and he said that Chartwells agreed to give them more plates and there is no service charge

 Michelle moved to approve, Chisom seconded

Members for-6

Opposed-0

Abstaining -1

Not present-0

 Living water Christian fellowship was approved for $1211.00for their event Living water Christian fellowship brother and sister appreciation event

Jewish Student Union

Sam: I think all we wanted was to see the price go down, and there weren't any other issues with this request. Other than the chocolate fountain, because I remember we were a little split last week

Sam: So I guess who is for or against the chocolate fountain

Sara: I am against

Michelle: Im okay, either way

Chisom: Me too

Sara: I guess why are you either way, even though the price of food went down

Michelle: I never had an issue with the chocolate fountain. I just thought there was a lot of food. And looking at the quote now, I am fine with the new numbers and I am for funding the event with or without the chocolate fountain

Morgan: I was for funding the chocolate fountain just because the finance board funding them buying it in the first place but I guess it might as well be reused

Sara: For me it wasnt saying no to reusing it, but I didnt see it playing a specific role.

Chisom: I think that makes sense because the fruit doesnt actually play a role in this event, and there is no close correlation between food and this event

Michelle: Looking at the email it doesnt look like they are still asking for the chocolate fountain

Gabriella: I dont think we should just cross out the chocolate fountain because we assume that it does not have a cultural tie to the event

Sara: I think with the budget we are on right now, every penny counts, and looking at the email they sent they didnt ask for the chocolate fountain.

Michelle: I think we should just call the org and ask if they are asking or not asking for the chocolate fountain

Sam: I guess we can do confirmations while waiting for Mellisa to call

So the reason I chose Dawit is because he seemed really interested in what the finance board does. He seemed genuinely interested in how we run things .

Dawit: I have enjoyed my time here so far. I do have a little bit experience from high school and I like to be a member of this organization

Questions:

Sara: What are some of your personal qualities that can strengthen us a board

Dawit: I guess I think out of the box all the time, just to add something new to the discussion

Chuka moved to approve Dawit for the First year ambassador,Michelle seconded

Members for-7

Opposed-0

Abstaining-0

Not present-0

Email Assignments

Morgan-Pandemic

Chisom-Living Water

Dawit- Perfected Praise

Sara-SASA

Mani-JSU

After a call from a representative of JSU, chocolate fountain was struck out.

Mani moved to approve, Chuka seconded

Members for-6

Opposed-0

Abstaining-1

Not present-0

Jewish student Union was approved for the Purim masquerade ball for $1103.75

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm

Roll Call

Samantha Spehr

Mani Gupta

Michelle Kuah

Chisom Ebinama

Chuka Agbaraji

Morgan Mayer

Sara Kim

Dawit Yonass

Sara Leidner

Gabriella Kuffour