Finance Board Minutes: Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

Roll call: Sara, Taylor, Danny, Aysha, Morgan, Hannah, Sara, Haneen

**Arab Student Union**

Description of event:

Night in Arabia: duration 4 hours, semi-annual cultural event, in ballroom

Atib, Sameer, Amy

Promote culture, open for students (free) and non-students ($5), 250 tickets

Same vendor, Baba’s of Towson-Egyptian

DJ-Lebanese, in DC

Dance team performance and teaching students, willing to perform for free, from GMU

Questions

Haneen asked if they ran out of food last time.

Amy says they ran out of food

Haneen asked if they are ordering the same amount of food

Sameer: same amount, but they also had seconds

Taylor: could you break down the amount of food?

Sameer: 70-75 people from tray

Amy: officers will serve to ensure equal portions, not self-serve

Sara says that we want to treat all organizations equally and set a precedent

Haneen: how many performers and staff

Sameer: the 250 is to account for everybody

Hannah asks how many people eat from each tray

Sameer reconfirms 70-75 people

Taylor: what are the flags for and how do they look

Sameer: the flags will drape in the ballroom

Taylor: how will the organization deal with the flags afterwards the event

Haneen: do you have a locker?

Amy: we applied for a locker but the flags are too big

Danny: Sponsors?

Sameer: we do have cosponsors, usually $150

Sara: Where will you keep the flags?

Sameer: in my car trunk

Amy: I have a library locker so we can put it in there

Hannah: we are asking where you keep your flags is because other organizations the items get lost because of transition between years, miscommunication

Sara: Can you give us a walkthrough please?

Sameer: doors open at 7:30, but people come late, 9:00 we open up door to food, after everyone eats, we will have the performers come on and then the dance floor will open up, then we have a belly dancing competition then we do raffles, the money we get will go to our charitable organization

Sara: Which organization?

Sameer: something in Syria, we will discuss in our GBM

Amy: we want to make sure that what we choose is a nonprofit

Taylor: look into Charity Navigator to find good not-for-profits

Discussion

Taylor: main dishes-600 servings vs. side dishes-400 servings-between all the foods. 4 main dishes and 4 side dishes.

Sara: They want to cut down on people dipping out. It’s great that they are talking to other schools: good social networking.

Taylor: good that the organization is making a good contribution to campus life and pressures other orgs. to amp up their events

Sara: What do you think about the flag storage?

Taylor: not a matter of questioning person storing them but more that of other students want to use the flags

Morgan: good scenario to make a stipulation. Finance Board has a right to tell organization what to do. We understand that you don’t have a locker room but we want to tell you how to store the items

Danny: I’m not sure if we should force the organization to any stipulation

Sara: It should be up to the other student orgs. but when dealing with other orgs, we will fund this but we want to know where the funded items will be stored.

Taylor: student organs shouldn’t be punished for limited space, buy one set of flag for every country

Sara: What if other orgs come in with requests? Think about what are you mandating and stipulating. Be careful that the Mosaic Center may not provide the flags. Steel drum band didn’t get funding last year due to them not being able to find storage space on campus.

Haneen: can we ask a professor

Haneen: what if we reduce the trays to three or two

Morgan: I3\*70=210 which is less than the number of people attending but I don’t think everyone is going to get every dish

Taylor: some food is more prevalent but you still have 700 serving sizes

Hannah: Pakistani’s eat almost everything with rice, cut lower with kofta and kitchen

Haneen: half the dish is rice and other half is everything else, leave rice at 3 and reduce other things to 2 each, hummus to two, soda: 24, water: 12 packs of 28

Taylor: it is ultimately up to the org. ask org for what they would cut

Aysha: I don’t think it should be cut down

Morgan: me neither, but for drinks we are funding for a lot of soda and water. We should come up with a certain number and let them do with that what they want

Taylor: there seems to be a lot of excess

Sara: Water?

Haneen: 250 on each

Taylor: I don’t want to cut down on water

Haneen: I like the idea of making numbers

Morgan: 1500 is a good area

Taylor: I don’t care about the end number as long as it follows thee serving sizes

Hannah: I agree with Taylor. Are we comfortable with the amount of people

Sara: Those in favor of what Morgan suggested or if # of serving sizes should equal the number of attendees?

Morgan: I understand that the serving sizes are really big but we don’t know what the dishes are because some may have more than expected

Taylor: we need to work with the org as much as possible, food isn’t an exact science, and we are not even close to #of attendees

Sara: #1: say a number we are comfortable with or #2: # of serving sizes should equal the number of attendees. #1: 0 for, majority against; #2: majority rules in favor

Open Back to Questions

Sara: In terms of storage space, are you talking about a Professor or an advisor?

Amy: we can ask a professor

Sara: Is it ok if we table this?

Amy: we need to confirm with the DJ

Haneen: is there a reason why the professor may not store the flag?

Sameer: he is very likely to store the flags

Sara L.: How specific do you want the precedent to be?

Sameer: caterer is a family friend, it is really hard to bring down the amount of food

Morgan: we set a precedent that we are uncomfortable with serving more than 1 serving size. But this is not a dinner and so this is a more unique situation

Sameer: what you tell us we will work around it

Taylor: what do you mean by working around it?

Sameer: it’s hard to pinpoint what the serving size is

Haneen: would you rather we give you a number or give you serving sizes

Morgan: I don’t want to micromanage

Sameer: I think these prices are already good; they do not keep the serving size for a lower number, it is pretty cheap

Taylor: we don’t want to look at what kind of a deal you are getting.

Sameer: we can cut down hummus

Sara: Food is a tricky topic.

Morgan: keep rice at 3, kofta and chicken at 3

Haneen: I agree with Morgan, keep at $1500

Sameer: we don’t like throwing away food

Amy: I think the serving is more like 50 per tray

Taylor: we don’t want to pay for people’s dinner

Discussion:

Sara: How specific do want to keep storage?

Haneen: as long as it is on campus and more accessible

Taylor: as long as it is not privately owned

Sara: Food

Morgan: I’m keeping with between $1400-$1500.

Taylor: Range is closer to $1400

Sara: $1400: 4, $1500: 2, going with $1400 keeping in mind it is up to the student org to determine what they want to get. Total will be $4167.29

Vote

5-For, 0-against, 2-abstaining, 0- not present

**Model United Nations**

Description of event:

National Model UN Conferences-held in DC and the other in Chicago,

UMBC representing France in DC, can only bring 12 people, usually very expensive, has $2500 from PoliSci department

Questions

Sara: Will MUN be attending any other conferences this year?

Haneen: there might be a model Africa conference later this year on campus and we will be attending a conference in NY.

Taylor: is there an equal opportunity to participate. It is cost-prohibitive

Haneen: we hold fundraisers for students that cannot pay

Taylor: how many people in MUN, how do you choose who goes?

Haneen: 30-35 people in club, we usually do first come first serve

Sara: Are the same people going to the same conference?

Haneen: you can go to either one or the other

Aysha: did you ask for funding last year?

Haneen: I did get fees granted

Taylor: what distinguishes MUN from other teams that go to intellectual competition?

Haneen: it is not a competition but more of a conference

Taylor: is there a way that the students have displayed what they have learned?

Haneen: it helps them writing papers. I have not thought about on campus conference

Taylor: how are the awards granted

Haneen: usually through participation, depth of discussion

Aysha: what if we don’t fund you

Haneen: we would have to pay more out of pocket

Taylor: would you rather us fund DC, New York or DC

Haneen: New York

Discussion

Aysha: I want to fund only one but not both because I question what the student gives back to the campus and the school. I think of this more in the long term

Taylor: it’s a group has been training for a long time. It’s very exclusive. No demonstrated return to campus. MUN shouldn’t be privileged over other groups like them

Danny: New York is more important

Sara: We don’t know if they are bringing an allocation request for NY.

Morgan: we fund two to allow for as many participants as possible

Taylor: they are requesting a subsidization for their fees.

Aysha: November is $50/student. France is more important and more students go

Sara: How do you look at these knowing that more are coming and in clusters as well?

Morgan: think about how this decision is going to affect precedence.

Taylor: we would be subsidizing the DC one more.

Heer: what is the proportion of majors going?

Open to Questions

Haneen: Only half of the people going are poly.sci. majors

Discussion

Hannah: It’s based on who signed up first

Taylor: This is awkward

Danny: these conferences are very vital to the organization. So we should ask the org which to fund

Hannah: only 12 people going

Taylor: Imagine if we were paying for the total request. The dollar adds up in the end but we need to consider what precedence we are making.

Morgan: I am comfortable for funding one event off campus

Aysha: they do have a good name on UMBC

Taylor: we have to think about if they were presented at the same time or separately

Morgan: we were given two requests for one time but if requests are presented at the same time, the org should decide

Hannah: I agree with Morgan

Morgan: we can form a precedent

Hannah: make everyone aware ahead of time

Danny: I agree

Taylor: we want to make it clear to everyone ahead of time, it would be optimal

Morgan: we should include Haneen in this

Hannah: there are other orgs that go off campus for a conference and competition

Heer: there is a difference between orgs going off campus for competitions vs conferences

Haneen: I agree, one per semester or one per year

Taylor: I agree, we have to look at their contribution to the student body. We want to fund events that the whole student body can participate in

Morgan: we want to set a precedent for all 250 orgs, 1 off campus event for orgs that need to function by going off campus

Taylor: we should be promoting to orgs that have the opportunity to host on campus

Haneen: some orgs can’t have events on campus

Taylor: orgs are restricted by outside forces

Sara: Set the precedent for 1 event/semester or 2 events/year.

Questions

Sara: If you had to choose, which one do you want?

Haneen: We choose DC

Vote

DC: 5-For, 0-against, 2-abstaining, 0-not present

Chicago: 0-For, 5-against, 2-abstaining, 0-not present

HLSU

Last week: Tabled-DJ confirmation received

Vote

4-For, 0-against, 3-abstaining, 0-not present

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.