Cultural Funding Discussion

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 4/11/17

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

Meeting Location: Kirkhof Center Room 2201

Finance Chair: Rachel Travis

Diversity Affairs Chair: Maddie Rhodes

Advisor: Valerie Guzman

Narrative of Event:

VP Travis began the meeting by presenting the budget to the group and explaining how the new budget was determined. She explained that it was a 'forecast' for the following year, and went through each of the categories that were increased or decreased. VP Travis went on to explain the current model as well as the proposed change for the cultural board. Some of the proposed benefits that were presented were an increase in consistency, the minutes that would be taken, easier communication and transparency, and ease in training, and overall better serve students.

Discussion was opened up, and the first concern was having an equal representation for cultural representatives versus appropriations.

Another idea was opening some spots up for members of the cultural organizations to sit in on these meetings.

The next point was why the cultural board was created in the first place, and the answer was due to the consolidation of categories, except for the cultural board.

Another point was cultural training and financial training to all members-including appropriations and cultural.

A point was made about having the cultural representatives sit on the appropriations board too to improve consistency.

It was confirmed that there could be 3 appropriations spots-one from a cultural org, one from DAC and one from appropriations.

It was confirmed that the meetings would just be lengthened, but it would only be for a few additional requests.

It was questioned whether or not there would need to be a cultural meeting every other week (as part of appropriations), and Valerie weighed in that it does student organizations a service to give them more chances to have their requests heard.

It was then discussed whether this would be too much work for the DAC chair and representatives from DAC, but it was brought up that student senators must still do office hours

The point was brought up that the difference in food prices and how this would look as enforced with cultural board vs. appropriations, but it was pointed out that as long as rules are transparent, this could still work.

Another point would be that food is treated very differently with cultural organizations because food is typically such an important part of cultural events, and this will have to be considered for the appropriations members.

There was a concern raised about a meeting where an event that hadn't been requested yet had money set aside, and this seemed very unfair. VP Travis touched on this, and mentioned that this sometimes happens with Relay for Life.

(Minutes by Amber Gerrits)

- Learning experience from GA
- Eliminating mind set for annual events
- Pull from reserve funds and should not plan on taking from that, even if you need to fund an annual event
- Adjust budget at the end of the year for new events
- Encourage groups to request funds as early as possible, we will not save funds for you
- Should we be changing everything after one year?
- Similar set up every week
- Focus on the past year and making sure everyone is comfortable
- This year's funding board was not heard as well and did not have enough discussion and potentially not enough training
- Why not train the VP of DAC and the committee better instead of the approps in cultural
- In GA the senators were not trained and that is how it is usually
- How easy is it to find funding rules online? What changes need to be made? Easy to understand?
    - Was not easy, because had to reach out to others to understand for first timer
    - Every member of E-Board should know the rules
    - Email out to orgs
    - We have walk in hours for orgs to come in and ask questions-market better
    - Emphasis importance of training at ignite
    - Print in different languages?
    - SPlit orgs up at Ignite and do it at downtown campus
    - Individual student org training options
    - Put out promotions campaign for orgs
- Fear of orgs feeling like there is no point in trying to get funding at approps
- How can the boards help student orgs to feel comfy and help them overall?
    - Orgs left not knowing where to go for more funding for events when cut or denied
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(minutes by Olivia Kolc)