

# Student Senate Appropriations Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** 2/14/2017

**Meeting Time:** 4:30 pm

**Meeting Location:** Kirkhof Center Room 2201

**Chair:** Rachel Travis

**Advisor:** Valerie Guzman

**Board Members Present:** Mathew Criado-Cano, Carly Aller, Deja Broaden, Riley Burch, Olivia Kolc, Tyler Szymkowski, Wesley Wilson, Quinn Gardner

### 1) Opening of Meeting

- a) Meeting Called to Order
- b) Committee Introductions
- c) Organization Role Call

### 2) Hearing of Requests

- a) **Requesting Organization:** United Students Against Sweatshops

**Title of Request:** Speaker Stipend

**Date of Activity:** 2/22/2017

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Skylar Hill and Lindsey Disler

**Amount Requested:** \$9036

**Amount Allocated:** \$0.00

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** The organization explained that they received a catering quote. The organization reached out to two members of the administration at GV who stated via email that they would be willing to possibly send an administrator to the event, but they did not give explicit consent. No detailed information about the contract was provided, which was an issue raised at the tabled meeting the week prior. The organization went on to describe the speaker's accreditation and explained the program topic in more detail. The board came to the consensus that the organization attempted to follow through on items that were requested at the last hearing when the request

was tabled. VP Travis raised the point that the amount of the request was very high when there could be other (free, less costly) avenues taken on campus to learn about GV's funding and hedge funds. The organization went on to further explain that this event would be educational in nature; that they desired to teach and empower students about how to effectively protest and stand against injustices. The board discussed the irony that the group was requesting money from the university to in turn 'discredit' GVSU by raising possible issues and dissatisfaction which have not yet been brought to the attention of administration. The organization responded that they did not wish to discredit the administration. VP Travis suggested that the organization meet with the administration for free to learn as much as possible about hedge funds before putting on this event which would cost thousands of dollars. Member of the board strongly agreed that it would be more fiscally responsible to do this, versus use resources from the Student Life Fund and exhausted the limited resources available at this point in the semester. The organization suggested a compromise in asking the presenters to not speak directly about GV, just about hedge funds in general. A member of the board questioned now this event reflects the organizational mission. VP Travis brought up the time frame of planning such an expensive event with a quick turn around and that an event of this amount should be planned months in advance with the guidance of Student Life staff. It was confirmed that the group already did promotional work for this event. Due to the high cost of the event and available options to address the topic, the request was denied in full.

**Motion to:** deny in full

7 FOR 1 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

**b) Requesting Organization:** Criminal Justice Student's Association

**Title of Request:** Those Who Protect Us

**Date of Activity:** 2/18/2017

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Chad Jackson

**Amount Requested:** \$510.22

**Amount Allocated:** \$510.22

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** This event is co-hosted by PALs Student Mentors, and the total requested is for the food, the room set-up fee, and balloons. The promotional materials have already been purchased and fundraising have been done for this event. The organization explained the event (that is coming up this Saturday) in detail. The organization went through their entire packet and also provided pictures of the event from previous years. The CJA will be putting in about \$70-\$80 from raised funds.

The board expressed concern with the fact that the request wasn't submitted within the 4 week parameter and that food is not typically funded for non-GV students. The organization was warned about late requests in the future, and it was pointed out that the form did not mention this 4 week rule on Orgsync. The board discussed that this event does bring positive community engagement and it reflects the club's values, thus it should be approved in full.

**Motion to:** approve in full

8 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

**c) Requesting Organization:** Farm Club

**Title of Request:** Rainwater Harvesting System Solar Powered Pump

**Date of Activity:** N/A

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Ellen Audin

**Amount Requested:** \$400.00

**Amount Allocated:** \$400.00

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** The Farm club explained that they were interested in building a solar powered pump. Not only would this benefit the club, but it would demonstrate an example of what projects the group could do in the future. The board asked how long this equipment would last and if the prices listed were competitive. It was explained that the panel would last a few years, and that most of these prices came from Home Depot. The board deliberated that this project would be a good use of funds.

**Motion to:** approve in full

8 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

**d) Requesting Organization:** Association of Fundraising Professionals

**Title of Request:** APF International Fundraising Conference

**Date of Activity:** 4/29/2017-5/2/2017

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Caitlyn Dieroff

**Amount Requested:** \$503.60

**Amount Allocated:** \$200.00

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** Funding is being requested to send one student to a national conference. Some funds will be provided by the national organization. The board explained that they would not be able to fund the transportation to and from the airport or baggage. The organization explained that line item one should be adjusted to hotel costs at \$816. The board brought up the point that the group does have additional funds coming in, and they debated whether or not they should follow the traditional \$200 per person rule or not. They determined that they should be following the guidelines that they have in place.

**Motion to:** line item 1 at \$200

8 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

e) **Requesting Organization:** Cage Free

**Title of Request:** Documentary Screening and Discussion

**Date of Activity:** 2/16/2017, 3/16/2017, 3/30/2017

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Jessyca Stoepker and Rutkowski

**Amount Requested:** \$630.00

**Amount Allocated:** \$630.00

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** Funding is being requesting for 3 movie showings. They have promoted the events themselves using their own funding, and there will be 3 separate events. Food is being requested (including vegan options) and the board determined that the food is indeed integral to the event. The group was reminded that they must submit their events at least 1 month in advance.

**Motion to:** approve in full

8 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

**f) Requesting Organization:** Beekeepers

**Title of Request:** Equipment Shed

**Date of Activity:** N/A

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Megan Damico, Kali Smolen, and Emily Noordyke

**Amount Requested:** \$1264.62

**Amount Allocated:** \$1264.62

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** Funding is being requested for a beekeeping shed that will keep all the beekeeping supplies dry. Currently, the equipment is being stored in the SAP garage that is not good for the equipment. In order to maintain longevity for the newly funded equipment. The group brought in an invoice from Home Depot outlining all of the costs for the shed. The group hopes to make this shed another community project for the organization, which would not only benefit the bees in the long run, but also to engage their club. The group does do fundraising, but that money is going towards boxes for the bees, jars for the honey, and conferences. In interest of keeping all of the equipment new, the board decided to fund them in full.

**Motion to:** approve in full

8 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

**g) Requesting Organization:** Urban Planning Association

**Title of Request:** Travel and Lodging Expenses

**Date of Activity:** 3/30/2017-3/31/2017

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Stephanie Blake

**Amount Requested:** \$1274.04

**Amount Allocated:** \$957.28

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** Funding is being requested to allow students to attend a conference, for which they need lodging and transportation coming. Currently, the club is asking members for about \$45 each, and the board for about \$80. The transportation costs are so high because there is no other option besides the minivans. However, it was clarified that as long as the vans are returned within 24 hours, they will only be charged for one day. The group explained that it might be more plausible to rent 1 van for 2 days and other vehicles can be located.

The group is currently contributing \$600, and the board attempted to figure out all costs in order to ensure that 50% of the costs are being funded. The organization figured that this would bring the group's contributions to \$69 the board's to \$58.

Transportation was struck from the line items, and the board looked into the contributions to determine whether or not to fund more than 50%. \$957.28 would technically be half, but the board could fund \$90 more, and violate their guideline. The board decided against this, in order to stay consistent.

**Motion to:** approve line item 1 in full, friendly amendment to adjust line item 1 to \$957.28

8 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

**h) Requesting Organization:** Campus Lions Club

**Title of Request:** Dinner in the Dark

**Date of Activity:** 3/15/2017

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Kole Niemi

**Amount Requested:** \$1419.00

**Amount Allocated:** \$1179.00

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** Funding is being requested for an annual dinner where students attend and can experience what it is like to have a visual impairment. The group opens this dinner up to all students at GV. Specific funding items include a banner to promote this event to all students, other marketing items, and catering for a full pasta dinner. Service before this event is also available to students. The board suggested pairing with other organizations, including PanHellenic groups.

Registration for this event is not required, and any student can come. The speaker has a set time, but otherwise people can eat and be blindfolded whenever they like.

It was suggested by the board to fund for 120 people, because that what's being expected. It was suggested that they fund for these 20 extra people because this event has had so many in attendance in the past, nearing 200 students. This would bring line item 3 to 1120.

**Motion to:** approve line items 1 and 2 in full, and line item 3 at 1120.

8 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly

**i) Requesting Organization:** National Society of Minorities in Hospitality

**Title of Request:** Conference fees

**Date of Activity:** 2/23/2017-2/26/2017

**Name(s) of Presenter(s):** Craig Thompson and Nakaria Williams

**Amount Requested:** \$2000.00

**Amount Allocated:** \$1400.00

**Narrative description of presentation/discussion and details on what was approved or unapproved in the request:** Funding is being requested for conference registration fees to for a national conference specific to this organization. The group admitted that they did submit this late, but they really wanted to attend in order to have a bigger presence at this conference as GV will be hosting the next conference. The group has been working to fundraise money for this conference, and they have also reached out to the Career Center and received \$1000. They have raised \$3000 for this travel costs, and this is well over the half mark. Again, the board debated whether to stick to the \$200 per person rule. In order to follow what has been consistent thus far, the board stuck with \$200 per person, coming to \$1400 in total.

**Motion to:** approve at \$1400

7 FOR 0 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN

**The allocation recommendation is:**

FINAL x Pending Referral to Student Senate General Assembly