



ASI Finance Committee Minutes

2017-18:6 Friday, February 9, 2018, 8:30am-10:30 AM, BSC, 2nd Floor, England Evans

I. Preliminaries

- A. Call to Order at 8:37 am
- B. Quorum Check:

Kellie Pinedo, Treasurer, Chair

Voting members:

- Catherine Kavianian, Senator Pro-Tempore, Vice Chair
- Farris Hamza, President
- Carlos Gomez, Vice President
- Courtney Yu, Business Senator
- Elizabeth Marquez, Senator-at-Large (MCC) **Excused Tardy**
- Rachel Hunter, Senator-at-Large (SIC)

Advisors:

- Jami Grosser, Senior Coordinator, ASI Advisor
- Carol Lee, ASI Director of Financial Services

Non-voting Liaison:

- Joshua Ebner, Attorney General

- C. Agenda Changes
 - 1) Kellie recommended amending Discussion Item B. to Mid-Year Budget Request: Pi Sigma Epsilon, \$5,335 NP&A
 - i. The agenda amendments were approved
- D. Approval of Minutes
 - 1) There were no minutes
- E. Introduction of Guests
 - 1) Nicholas Almeida, Global Medical Brigades, Vice President
 - 2) Teresa Rodriguez, Global Medical Brigades, President
 - 3) Neomi Perera, Global Medical Brigades, Treasurer
 - 4) Patricia Munoz, Global Medical Brigades, Secretary
 - 5) Leanne Kim, Pi Sigma Epsilon, Treasurer
 - 6) Shannon Hennebry, Pi Sigma Epsilon, Director of Corporate Workshops
- F. Reports
 - 1) There were no reports
- G. Open Forum
 - 1) There were no speakers

II. Action Item

- A) Mid-Year Budget Request: Lebanese Student Association, \$5,420, NP&A
 - 1) Carlos moved to recommend the Mid-Year Budget Request of \$5,420 to Senate, Courtney seconded. Vote, 6:0:0, motion passed.
- B) Mid-Year Budget Request: American Society of Civil Engineers, \$5,500, NP&A
 - 1) Farris moved to recommend the Mid-Year Budget Request of \$5,500 to Senate, Elizabeth seconded. Vote, 5:1:0, motion passed.

III. Discussion Item

- A) Mid-Year Budget Request: Global Medical Brigades, \$5,500, NP&A

- 1) Teresa, Nicholas, and Neomi presented for the Global Medical Brigades.
 - 2) Teresa shared that the organization plans to travel to Esteli, Nicaragua over Spring Break (March 17 through March 27, 2018) to provide temporary health services in rural communities for people who would not otherwise have access to health care. She added that medical brigades are already in place in this area and the students provide organizational support for a seven day period.
 - 3) Neomi shared the students will provide medical triage to patients, support doctors in patient consultation, and help provide dental services to people in the community. She added that the students host personal and pharmaceutical workshops. She continued that the students provide free health care to 754 patients over the course of seven days.
 - 4) Teresa shared that the cost is \$1,805 per person to attend; including food, transportation, and accommodation for the duration of the trip. She added that the organization hopes to bring 47 of the organizations active members to Nicaragua. She added that the organization was able to fundraise 61% of the organizations expenses.
 - 5) Farris asked how their current year's fundraiser efforts differed from last year and if each student does not reach their fundraising goals will they still attend.
 - i. Teresa shared that if a student does not reach their fundraising goal they will not be able to attend.
- B) Mid-Year Budget Request: Pi Sigma Epsilon, \$5,335 NP&A
- 1) Leanne and Shannon presented for Pi Sigma Epsilon.
 - 2) Leanne shared that the budget request is for their organization to attend a National Conference in San Diego, CA on Monday, April 9th to Friday, April 13th. She added that Pi Sigma Epsilon is a co-ed business organization.
 - 3) Leanne reviewed the expenses per person for admission, accommodation, and parking fees. She added that the organization hopes to bring 20 of their active members. She continued that three students will receive free admission from the National Chapter.
 - i. Shannon added that the organization won three free conference admission through a series of different awards.
 - 4) Shannon shared that the National Conference will include workshops, competitions, and networking events.
 - 5) Catherine asked the organization why expense line 8 does not include any amount.
 - i. Leanne shared that the organization was unsure if they would be able to raise enough funds to help reimburse students for their gas fees.
 - ii. Josh added they can request up to \$5,500 and they can amend their budget.
 - 6) Carlos asked if the conference attendees plan to miss an entire week of class.
 - i. Shannon added that most of the students are business majors and their professors recommend attending this conference.
 - 7) Kellie asked the organization if they would like to amend their budget to \$5,500.
 - i. Leanne shared that they would like to amend the budget to account for gas reimbursements.
- C) TGIF
- 1) Farris shared that the Sustainability Committee is interested in adjusting the way the TGIF reserve can be used. He added that at the moment there is roughly \$182,000 available in the reserve. He added that Martha Rosario, Secretary of Sustainability, is interested in amending the fund to be used in three different ways, (1) Programmatic Activities, (2) Conferences, and (3) On-Campus Green Projects. He added that health should also be included in the way the TGIF definitions sustainability.

- 2) Catherine shared that ASI needs to think about the way that they define sustainability. She added that the main issue with this program is lack of advertisement.
- 3) Rachel shared that sustainability should be defined very broadly and the interpretation left up to the Sustainability Committee each year.
- 4) Farris asked Global Medical Brigades if they would use health to define sustainability.
 - i. Leanne shared that their organization is based on building sustainable health care models in rural areas. She added that their organizations brigade in Panama ended because the country's government was able to utilize the brigade's model to implement their own health care system.
- 5) Farris asked Carol what the process is for modifying the TGIF.
 - i. Carol shared that this process would begin by first modifying the reserves policy document as part of the budget process. She added that the Finance Committee would revise the document then take the recommendations to Senate. She continued that Senate would then approve the document.
- 6) Jami asked the committee to reflect on Catherine's comment about marketing for the fund. She added that although the Global Medical Brigades used the term sustainability, the organization does not actually incorporate environmental sustainability practices in their work. She added that the committee should first think about the initiative behind the reserve and whether or not expanding the scope will improve the funds effectiveness. She added that the maximum amount students can apply for may not be enough to support a project with the level of scope desired for a project. She added that opening the sustainability term too broadly may raise complications for the fund overall.
- 7) Carlos asked for information on the origins of the TGIF. He added that they should set a cap for programmatic requests. He added that the funds intent was to fund sustainable initiatives that directly influences the campus. He added concern that if the fund continues to be used for conferences the reserves will diminish and that funding this type of thing strays to far from the original intention.
- 8) Farris added that one solution he sees improving the process for the fund is by giving more authority to the Sustainability Committee to approve projects they see fit. He added that many projects also experience setbacks from lack of university staff and faculty buy-in. He added that projects have sometimes never gone into fruition because the university has limited the approval. He added for this reason he sees broadening the options of what can be funded would be more useful.
- 9) Carlos added that the fund is called the Green Initiative Fund not the Sustainability Fund. He added that he would like to see the TGIF model switch over to something similar to a grant model and open up to academic and senior project research. He added that funds could be open to colleges and could stay truer to the original efforts of the fund.
- 10) Catherine shared that having some limited funds for programmatic and outreach strategies would be valuable, but she added that the fund should truly be about on-campus sustainable initiatives that directly better campus sustainability.
 - i. Elizabeth added that she believes a cap on programmatic events is a good idea. She continued that the project requirements should be broader to support more ideas for on-campus projects.
- 11) Carol shared the committee should use caution, because the existing reserve is \$182,000 and each project can request up to \$5,500. She continued that this leaves only opportunity for a small number of projects anyway. She added that a missing component of the TGIF might be the educational component of sustainability. She added that the

fund could sponsor academic projects. She added that marketing is a really important piece and the committee should think about how ASI advertises how to use the fund.

- 12) Farris asked if there is opportunity to change the process of approval to allow the Sustainability Committee to approve more projects and no longer require Finance Committee's approval.
 - i. Carol added that since most individuals who serve on Finance Committee are also on Senate amending this process will not be too challenging.
- 13) Carol added that possibly amending the group's ability to carry over funding from one academic year to another year may provide groups more flexibility and opportunity.
 - i. Carlos added that Sustainability Committee can act as the grant manager to require students to request specific funds when needed. He added that this would likely allow for better budget management of the funds as well.
- 14) Catherine shared that she believes the Sustainability Committee should have a small percentage of the reserve to provide outreach and programmatic activities for the campus community. She continued that other groups, such as clubs, colleges, and individual students should be restricted to using the fund solely for on-campus projects.

IV. Information Item

- A) There were no information items

V. Adjournment

- A) Next Finance Committee Meeting: Friday, February 23, 2018, 8:30am-10:30am, BSC, England Evans
- B) Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 AM