

Student Activities Commission

Georgetown University

27 April 2020

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order--8:02pm
2. Approval of Minutes--Move to approve by Javi and seconded by Bobby, Motion passes 12-0-0
3. Public Comment

GBC, no budget appeal, but a statement to SAC, comment done by Rose, allocated much less than what they gave, clear up rumors, GBC is not primarily dedicated to executive board, open to general membership, dinner series was miscatgorized, helps spur bipartisan dialogue, disservice to end the series, true at the beginning of the year they were unaware of events in private residences, no events in private residences moving forward

Riley: Thank you for the statement, have been budgetary issues across many SAC orgs, but this does not mean you are not a part of the problem, perfect example of why we are implementing new auditing process, have blatantly lied on EAFs

Riley: minutes that are posted onto HoyaLink are summary of conversations that happen in meetings, many members of the SAC, including myself, are confident that what was said at budget summit is the truth and expressed our agreement

Riley: I was your commissioner last spring and I made you aware that we do not fund events in private residences, convo we had was in reference to breakfast, would have learned this if you paid attention in blueprint training.

1. Restoration Presentations
   1. CAUSA--8:06
      1. Missed the budget deadline
      2. Implemented a collaborative approach the budget
      3. More experience to pass on
      4. Gets more people involved
      5. Improving communication
      6. Move to restore full ATB by Javi and seconded by Rose
      7. Javi: great presentation, repaired the reason why they were in restoration
      8. Motion passes 12-0-0
2. Budget Appeals
   1. Active Minds--8:19
      1. Had requested $800 budget, eventual request is $350
      2. Historically speaking, only enough to cover monthly dinner discussion
      3. Covering themes regarding mental health
      4. Insufficient amount of money to cover all events
      5. Have events with foods, drinks, arts, and crafts
      6. These events cost about $200
      7. This budget is not substantial to cover obligations to student body
      8. Bobby: give you us an attendance breakdown for each of these events and what sort of meals you are using
      9. Dinners have around 20 students, usually get catered food, ranged anywhere form $100-$137
      10. End of the year study breaks: $200
      11. Unexpected cost coming into fall term was banner, had to go and purchase another one
      12. Bobby: for the tabling event what are you requesting? Doing a table twice a week in Leavey center, approach with mental health resources
      13. Clay: when we received your request you had 3 monthly dinners, and then $150 for finals study break, and we also funded the banner, why were these other events not included on your initial budget request
      14. They were included on the budget request, silent study break was a new development, hoping to continue for the fall
      15. Being proactive about the types of activities we are doing
      16. Clay: can you explain which number is most accurate for your appeal
      17. Historically the cost for study break is about $200, discrepancy is based on type of activity we are funding for that academic term
      18. Annabel: were really inconsistent, changing the numbers a lot, sounds like she was just getting more money out of us, do not understand why she made all these errors
      19. Matt: if you’re treasurer screws up, not something you can appeal
      20. Clay: basically just added new stuff in their budget appeal that was not in their budget
      21. Rose: that happens fairly often, would not be in favor of increasing budget
      22. Move to table by Clay and seconded by Rose
      23. Motion passes 12-0-0
   2. Quiz Bowl--8:26
      1. Request $1300 more
      2. Cost of minimum essential activities to operate as an organization
      3. $265 for working buzzer set, essential for practices and tournaments
      4. $850 for attending tournaments
      5. $200 to purchase question packets we use for local high school teams
      6. Social events contribute a great deal to our club culture
      7. Riley: SAC has to make a lot of cuts this semester, social events should not be funded
      8. Shrayus: new appeal does not include social events
      9. Clay: I think we did fund social events at smaller events, had to do a 18% cut, question set was for Spring Tournament, is this in the fall
      10. This was a copy and paste error, should have been fall tournament, just a typo
      11. Clay: under event 3 it says cost is $300 is question set, but in description you said $200 is for questions and food, what is the actual number and what is the difference
      12. Should have been $400, costs for questions changes based on tournament attendance
      13. Javi: when do you know how many teams will be attending this tournament?
      14. We post on the quiz bowl forum and teams can tell us up until two weeks before the tournament
      15. Move to table by Clay and Riley
      16. Clay: the main thing is the question set that was not allocated for in the original budget, come in ad hoc for the question set, funded part of social event meal cost like team dinner, this is the best approach for now
      17. Javi: we also did fund the working buzzer set, we also did 18% cut
      18. Motion passes 12-0-0
   3. LSA--8:37
      1. We missed the deadline to apply for the budget
      2. Not a new club
      3. We are looking for similar amounts of money as in the past
      4. Work with other groups as well
      5. Do host a dinner/party once a semester
      6. Move to table by Javi and seconded by Riley
      7. Javi: very strict with the budget submission process, do not make any exceptions, Restoration is not a punishment, still received funding for all the events you want to host
      8. Motion passes 12-0-0
   4. Cricket Club--8:45
      1. Mistake on our part, missed budget email, never submitted budget
      2. Harsh was abroad
      3. Moving out and back to India
      4. Completely missed that process
      5. Try to get out of the restoration process
      6. This past year has been important for cricket club, gained some traction this year
      7. Important for us to have that budget, being in Restoration is not going to help that
      8. Especially for a sport where we constantly need equipment
      9. Help create community around our team
      10. Bobby: were you two the ones in charge of submitting the budget? Yes, did you see the email late, did not see the email at all, only saw the restoration email, were traveling during the time the email was sent
      11. Bobby: want to give this club the benefit of the doubt that they missed it, should give them this benefits
      12. Matt: who is their commissioner and is this a one time thing?
      13. Annabel: I am and first time issue
      14. Kathy: agree with Bobby, in terms of traveling just really difficult
      15. Riley: if we are going to be spending the least amount of money, would be giving them the budget
      16. Janz: with the appeal they have and what they have said, we would not have funded that anyway, if we do agree this is a special circumstance we need more information
      17. Can you give as many details as you would like
      18. Rose: maybe they give us a breakdown now verbally?
      19. Cricket protective gear is $250, helmet, gloves, shin guards, and thighs, using remaining $150 for watch parties
      20. Rose: how many people would attend social event? Around 20-25
      21. Javi: possible to have them resubmit budget and then discuss over email or separate meeting
      22. Clay: if we were to allocate on an ad hoc basis in restoration similar to normal allocation what would be better $400 in bulk or larger budget allocated per event? Budget helps because it makes it easier, more importantly the budget helps us think about how to structure events, helpful to have that budget and how to allocate that money on a semester by semester basis, social events are helpful to marketing the club
      23. Move to give them a budget by Javi and seconded by Rose
      24. Javi: as Bobby pointed out, have legitimate reason to be considered, seeing an application will be beneficial
      25. Clay: not opposed to giving them a budget, not a rule we make exception to at all, they may have been traveling but also had two weeks, also reasons why he wanted budget over restoration, is why we have restoration, not convinced there is a problem with them being in restoration, am sympathetic, should be cautious
      26. Bobby: isn’t it better for give them a smaller budget than what they would get in ad hoc via restoration, we should lean on the side of saving more money
      27. Clay: need to be intentional about making exceptions
      28. Matt: seems like LSA was in the same boat, should be consistent, need a precedent
      29. Rose: LSA would have brought that up as a specific excuse, club’s responsibility to provide context and extenuating circumstances, would be good to see budget breakdown
      30. Kathy: circumstance that should be accounted for
      31. Claire: i know they said they missed the email, but everyone was traveling, majority of clubs sent things in, and commissioners sent reminder emails, should have been able to do this
      32. Annabel: feel like both of them were traveling internationally, puts extra strain
      33. Annie: similar situation to Pre-Med with no electricity, would justify, LSA did not give attempt to explain
      34. Riley: with international travel, good to give them a budget
      35. Janz: the only other thing is that there was another person who was not traveling that could have done the budget
      36. Bobby: making the exception of international travel
      37. Motion passes 8-4-0
   5. Project Lighthouse--9:01
      1. Half of that budget allocation covers operating cost
      2. Subscription for us to use our chatline alone is $2200
      3. Our additional request is about $1600, total request is $6500
      4. Had a lot of members and peer supporters drop off the map, important to build community, they feel like they have a community within PL
      5. Focusing on growth and engagement, increasing presence on campus
      6. Bobby: could you explain that subscription cost? Subscription does not run on semesterly basis, $2200 for six months, have to keep platform operational throughout, split the year into two, have to pay for the whole year
      7. Claire: one thing while we were allocating we got numbers over $6000, we could cut final budget number by 18% which would be less than $6000, these clubs face more of the cut, also their operational costs cannot be cut down
      8. Riley: should help them find alternative sources of funding for food, should fund them as fully as we possibly can
      9. Javi: agree with Riley
      10. Annie: I think that Claire’s earlier proposal would be helpful
      11. Clay: what we gave them is a pretty sizable increase, have already made notable exceptions, we would be making an exception to our $6000 cap
      12. Claire: their budget went up because they switched the chat network they are using, it is more secure, have to fund otherwise their club cannot operate, club is unique, don’t fit 100% with our budget guide, in favor of making an exception
      13. Javi: we cut some things
      14. Claire: trying to be aware of our financial situation
      15. Clay: changed meals to snacks
      16. Move to allocate a budget of $5330 by Rose and seconded by Claire
      17. Motion passes Kelly Y, Annabel Y, Janz Y, Riley Y, Bobby Y, Clay Y, Annie Y, Claire Y, Matt Y, Javi Y, Rose Y 11-0-0
   6. PRIDE--9:08
      1. In our proposal we called our Welcome Back Social, Ice Cream social, oversight on our part, we don’t provide ice cream
      2. Similar to an ice cream social
      3. Students can familiarize themselves with others
      4. Got funded $2/person for the event
      5. Providing pizza and cupcakes so would like more funding
      6. Kathy: the amount that you are requesting is that total or additional? Are requesting $4/person, so another $300
      7. Janz: are you planning on having drinks? No
      8. Move to change budget tier to 1025-1435 low by Clay and seconded by Rose
      9. Clay: would change their tier for this event, would be about $3/person for light meals, pretty reasonable
      10. Motion passes 11-0-1
   7. Ballroom--10:28
      1. Stand by the attendance numbers we have
      2. What can be reasonably proved by evidence
      3. Another big change is that we decided to only request registration fees for the competitions that are in the DC area
      4. Riley: does your organization have social dues? No, dues are to cover instructor
      5. Riley: you report in your document that 73-80% attending are GU undergrads? Where do those people come from and do they pay extra, that’s just based on FB attendance, probably closer to 90%, going with most conservative numbers, would be GU alumni and students from GW
      6. Riley: how do you fundraise? If you want us to do more fundraising, we can do that, would have to fundraise a lot more with current budget allocation, have other spaces to do fundraising
      7. Riley: how do you use ticket sales to lower SAC ask? For Yule Ball we charge $10/ticket for full catered meal, can do for other socials and want to be as inclusive as possible
      8. Riley: why was there a surplus to pay for Copley Formal? Comes from dues, also comes from us cutting down, leftover money has been exhausted
      9. Riley: how are you looking to fix past mistakes? Going to use eventbrite to have better track of attendance, everyone on commission can come to events, not penalizing clubs for spending less than their budget
      10. Clay: you say in appeal you reserve the right to request more, what do you mean by this? if they have more students go want to request more funding
      11. Have a new newcomer class every semester
      12. Riley: your attendance numbers from last semester to this semester changed from 40 to 15 for practices, what explains this change? Last semester might have done 40 total but this semester did per lesson
      13. Move to maintain current funding tier by Clay and seconded by Claire
      14. Clay: instructors at $35, per student per semester by average attendance, funding everything else, get to a budget in the $1800-$1900 range, with 18% scale cut gets around 1435-1845, seems they are uncertain about registration fees so we can push that to ad hoc and give it all at once
      15. Motion passes 12-0-0
   8. IRC--9:27
      1. Requested $4700 as full request
      2. Received cut of around $2200
      3. Requesting $509.5 more, fund the most critical events
      4. Mentorship: more social oriented events, fairly widely spread, important to foster engagement
      5. Outreach: similar thought process, bonding and international affairs discussion
      6. Special Events: clarified intention behind social mixers, bringing IR, more relaxed environment, serve the purpose of creating social space
      7. Conferences: Ubers to intra-DC, public transportation is not the best since you have to dress up
      8. Goal is to incorporate freshman and make them feel included and welcome
      9. Bobby: what are sub-board members? Assist board members with their duties, members come together, good IR event combined with bonding
      10. Riley: Georgetown and American are very close, why is business attire a reason not to use public transportation? Lot of people do not have suits of their own so have to lend out, not close to metro line, lots of logistical intricacies and complications involved, would make sense to have Ubers there
      11. Rose: is boba event only open to sub-boards or open to everyone? Roll is fulfilled by freshman, operates as a learning route, does not include entire club, cultivate leadership
      12. Kathy: there is a metro bus close to Georgetown that goes to American, why is that not an option? Has not worked out, does not run on time, complications that everyone can get on the bus, during the summer, ubers make it easier
      13. Kathy: for mentorship, the holiday donut run can you explain how that is crucial for fostering mentorship? Gives people something fun to do off campus with their family, wholesome family bonding, providing folks with venue to socialize
      14. Bobby: usually on the transportation side, obliged to fund those ubers because they explained it well
      15. Rose: have never talked about sub-board situation? Not necessarily a board position but still somewhat exclusive
      16. Clay: I think similar to GIVES Retreat, bring in more people, and have funded this in the past
      17. Bobby: other groups ask for funding for people who help prep for events, seems like a quasi-board, fine with funding it or not funding it
      18. Riley: in general with comments on social events, why do you feel events that we have funded that are purely social are not enough? Why do you need more?
      19. Riley: if we are looking at this proportionally, getting more social events
      20. IRC is one of the largest organizations on campus, problems with engagements, trying to increase our focus, would have a whole lot of events to target different groups of people, maximize our research to every part of the IRC body, would be challenging if we were to cut specific events
      21. We access a wide and diverse range of community, one of the most accessible clubs for freshman, trying to speak to people who aren’t in any of these exclusive groups
      22. Javi: should fund intra-DC, we allocated for Uber costs to italian embassy, for social mixers no need to fund all of them, do not need to fund Holiday Donut Run
      23. Riley: I think we should fund Ubers, against social events
      24. Rose: do not fund sub-board events (degree of board event), fund Ubers, cut Holiday Donut Run, would be open to funding Friendsgiving, they did cut so much out, huge membership
      25. Javi: in appeal for National Mall event they are only asking for funding for ice cream
      26. Riley: I’ve looked at it as mission-based/non-mission based
      27. Rose: sub-board, position you hold, auxiliary function you hold
      28. Clay: gonna get in the same range regardless of how much you fund
      29. Move to change funding tier to 2460-3280 low by Clay and seconded by Rose
      30. Motion passes 11-0-0
   9. GUCD--9:51
      1. Clarify some events on our budget submission
      2. Received a big cut from past allocations
      3. Current active membership is 100
      4. With more interest in election semester, expecting 200 active members, decrease in per member allocation
      5. Gonna be able to work with planned audit
      6. All of our officers are blueprint and bystander trained
      7. Removed several unnecessary expenses
      8. Reduced overall non ad hoc ask
      9. Campaigning events is largest part of appeal: $900 for 5 canvasses in Northern Virginia, also adjusting our plans, anticipating smaller amount of ad hoc funding, cutting down number of trips, requesting $180 to fund extra NoVA trip, prioritize less ambitious and definite programming
      10. Requesting an additional $1180 for campaigning
      11. Planning for comparable campaigning levels to Fall 2018
      12. Very central to mission
      13. Requesting $360 for advocacy department due to Uber and Lyfts, strict schedules of members and congressional staffers, Ubers provide flexibility
      14. Becomes very arduous and inaccessible, highly preferred for these trips, can’t use CSJ vans
      15. GUTS bus does not provide flexibility, these trips were able to be completed because of Uber funding, did receive Uber funding in the past
      16. New total request: $4082.50, $4277.50--with organizational investment
      17. Would still be a significant cut for us
      18. Fall Semester is a unique one, happens once during somebody’s time at Georgetown
      19. Janz: could you send the presentation to us? The google link sends out the full information
      20. Bobby: still ending up with similar number, my issue is that they have a lot of dinner/eating events, should not fund those for food if they truly believe that canvassing is most important, do not know how integral this is, still getting about $2455, need to prioritize what is most important for their club, would not want to add all this extra funding
      21. Riley: keep it the way it is, they’ll get their funding in ad hoc
      22. Clay: we funded Ubers in the past, could fund that now, at least add that, with canvassing we should fund it now since it is in the Beltway, we don’t need to have them cut down completely on social events, but some cuts
      23. Kelly: have funded for other groups, for canvassing need to take CSJ vans, go to multiple locations throughout the day, ends up being cheaper, also take equipment
      24. Riley: theme throughout their appeal was giving more information and changing on what they wanted, not the purpose of an appeal, would switch on Ubers
      25. Clay: did change how many in beltway trips, do not give them this ask, vast majority is clarifying
      26. Motion for $3280 flat by Clay and seconded by Rose
      27. Clay: add in Ubers, one tier bump
      28. Riley: most I am willing to go is low on 2460-3280 tier
      29. Clay: canvassing is $900 chunk
      30. Kelly: for social events had also talked about cutting their formal, if we are going to that would be opposed to cutting more social events
      31. Clay: just one large think that we are no funding
      32. Move to amend motion to 2460-3280 no designation by Javi--unfriendly amendment
      33. Javi: appreciate they have increased local canvassing, still high number of events, not critical to have all this canvassing, much more comfortable with one tier bump
      34. Rose: canvassing is critical to mission
      35. Clay: only funding five canvassing trips, also did cuts to social events
      36. Claire: what does their appeal change, we already pushed this to ad hoc, we should have ad hoc funding for this
      37. Kelly: unnecessary to move these five to ad hoc since they are well attended, during an election year, should be in their budget
      38. Amendment passes 6-5-0
      39. Motion: change funding tier to 2460-3280 no designation
      40. Motion passes Kelly Y, Annabel Y, Janz Y, Riley Y, Javi Y, Clay N, Annie Y, Claire Y, Matt abstains, Bobby Y, Rose N 8-2-1
3. NCD Presentation
   1. Citizens Climate Lobby--10:09pm
      1. Last semester you guys wanted us to do one specific on campus event
      2. We had this event planned but it did not happen because of COVID
      3. Had multiple speakers, worked with GU Politics to publicize it
      4. Had large expected attendance
      5. Would have been helpful to have GU email to contact attendees, could not book HFSC, plan to have this event once we are back on campus
      6. Panel was on carbon-pricing and market based solutions
      7. Working with more on-campus partners
      8. Have upped the ante to increase visibility
      9. Riley: how many people have you had at your events this semester? At General membership meeting had about 10, had 15 people at Netflix party
      10. Javi: how many additional events did you guys plan on hosting outside of the speaker panel? It was all hands on deck for that, hadn’t finalized plans aftewards but planning on holding more general membership meetings, planning on having workshop that we are having tomorrow on how to write letters and op-eds, and a study break as well
      11. Move to extend NCD by Riley and seconded by Janz
      12. Riley: unfortunately, I am with you that you would have more of an opportunity to get out of NCD, but because you only had 10 people in attendance
      13. Javi: how many members are you at? Have over 100 people on our listserv, have heard interest about initiative, have engaged actively
      14. General membership meeting they had was ten other members so 14 total members, event that we are having tomorrow is how many other members we are expecting
      15. Javi: last time we wanted them to have that major event, never an issue of membership numbers, answer clarifies that, have had events, disagree with Riley’s motions
      16. Rose: agree with Javi
      17. Riley: did not have many events before spring break and a lot of inward focused events, most of their work is outward, if they can show that they can do this on event, not in favor
      18. Janz: looking back at last semester’s minutes, another reason why we extended, your club does have a big emphasis on lobbying, what percentage of your events is lobbying? Some events are enriching for the community, national lobby day is teaching attendees how to talk about environmental policy, how to participate in government is important, more important than anything else
      19. Panel was this big event that you wanted us to have, was 100% educational, focus was informative
      20. Letter writing event is a huge component of what CCL does on college campuses, civic engagement is a huge part of our philosophy
      21. Javi moves to amend motion to grant ATB--unfriendly
      22. Tabling discussion at 10:28
      23. Resuming discussion at 11:33
      24. Javi: pretty vocal, in terms of moving out of NCD, clearly different from GREEN, worried about internal focus, made a switch towards internally focused event, something we should acknowledge, would have taken place, only 2 EAFs, would have had 4 EAFs, met the requirements, should be allowed to leave NCD
      25. Riley: they did not meet the requirements, we made an exception, dropped the ball by having less than 12 people, didn’t reform themselves for me to trust, did not meet the standards, have lobby in their name
      26. Bobby: seems like they are not fully focused and organized with operating on campus, need more time, being more focused and organized
      27. Rose:in favor of granting them ATB. I was satisfied with their explanations for why their events were reported with lower attendance, don’t think they would benefit internally from MORE attendance, see how their activities both will engage with and improve campus and their general body throughout the year, and see their lobbying element as common throughout several clubs we have no issue with, their internal elements will grow with ATB in my opinion, not in the same situation they were in
      28. Javi: the biggest distinction really lies on what we gave them last semester, we are punishing them for COVID-19, would have met that requirement if we were on campus
      29. Janz: no NCD clubs are going to get out this semester, have to make that clear
      30. Amendment fails 1-9-0
      31. Motion: extend NCD
      32. Motion passes 9-1-0
4. Jake’s Annotations--none
5. Adjournment--11:46