

Minutes for BC Meeting 10/23

In Attendance:

Hao Liu (Treasurer) - absent
Fawzi Itani
Katarina Cruz
Karen Blake
Manny Morales
Marie Lambert
Richard Park
RJ Kermes
Tierney Werner
Vivian Yee (minutetaker)

1. EDU (rep by Danny)

- Publicity for a workshop that the EDU will hold to inform people of an Amherst College event about 5 College Program
- Motion to fund – 5,0,0

2. Amherst College Republicans (rep by Robert)

- Want to reallocate previous club funds (13k) into discretionary and ask for 6.5K for another speaker
- Want to reallocate ½ amount back to discretionary and ½ to their speaker
- First time heard that this speaker is not on the 'list', which was previously just some names of big name speakers
- Kat – can't reallocate back into discretionary because have percentages preordained in the aas constitution
- Karen – we are calling this a reallocation, but technically they already have this money in their budget, so they can use this to reallocate to their speaker
 - Had allocated that amount in the club budget with the belief that it would be used for certain xyz speakers before, but senate had decided that they would not be comfortable using this amount to bring this speaker to campus
 - Tierney – as said in senate, someone more 'moderate'
- BC members – before had mentioned that they would prefer if clubs get tentative dates, tentative speakers, tentative amounts
- Doesn't feel like a fair chance to get the funds for this event
- Tierney – recommend going to the administration
 - Already in the process
- Already running threat analysis for this speaker as well with ACP, FBI, diplomatic services, etc.
- Troubling that explanations from experts with proper experience and knowledge about the concerns that were brought up

- Karen – not necessarily the job of the senate to justify their feelings of concern/threat
- Speaker that Amani had suggested also has certain qualities that other students may feel concern if brought as well
 - Kat and Tierney – should be handled the same way as this request has been if a student brings up concerns about this speaker
- This is possibly the most moderate person who can be brought given this position/situation

3. Dalai Llama Event (rep by George and Philip)

- Asking for 5k for 33 tickets to Dalai Llama event
- Not a club, but people who wanted to attend the event (on top of what was requested before)
- \$213 for tickets now – time value
- Called event organizers, event coordinators – a group event, if more than 30 ppl will cost \$3,350 but cannot be broken up (must be paid in full)
- Richard – when is deadline?
 - Tuesday
- Marie – are these additional tickets on top of the 15?
 - Yes, will bring around 40 some
- Ayoung had sent out email, already have 15 people (62 people responded)
 - 33 people responded to George to rerequest for this event for more tickets
- RJ – do you know where these seats are?
 - RJ - Previously had chosen the cheapest seat to be able to send the most # of people there
 - These tickets amount to about \$100 per person, so would be already cheaper than the ones ayoung got
 - Would likely be far away seats
- Richard – funded \$103 a ticket for 15 people before, so could this deal be extended to more people to change the rate for other tickets?
 - Pretty sure the tickets for the previous seats have already been ordered
 - Richard – will be spending about 5k for about 40 people to go to the event, decided that 15 people would be an appropriate amount given the current state of the budget
- Value is worth the cost
 - Richard – not denying the value of this event, but in a hard position where we understand the value but don't have adequate funds
- 15 was an arbitrary limit placed by a limit, the 30 people is not a random # - is the number of people who responded took the time to respond
- RJ – not that we don't have funds, but this event would represent a good chunk of what we have left for the semester, not a question of the actual dollar amount but of the percent it represents in the remaining budget

- Will there be future events that this 5k can be given to for additional value
- Lauren – the number of events seems to drop off as the semester continues
- George – is there a possibility to extend the # from 15 to a higher number
 - Karen – was a deal for 30 people though, would not be comfortable funding it at not the group rate
- RJ – a very large contrast since it is similar to ‘all or nothing’
- Richard – understand your point and dedication, but other groups have also done similar for their events, not discrediting your position
- If we figure out a way to see if ayoung has purchased the ticket and get the group rate for everyone else
- RJ – could compromise and table the event to see if they can call the organizers again to try to get this group rate for all
- Richard – need to decide how many additional tickets, not necessarily how much more in funds can be allocated
- Ayoung has purchased 10 tickets, not the additional 5
- This is cheaper than bringing him in to the campus
- Tierney – currently in the position where we have been spending more than 7.5k per week, but at this point we have budgeted this amount from this point per week given the current standings of the budget, so we really can’t budget this
- Christina – students shouldn’t have to pay for student-sponsored events themselves. This really fails the student body. Similar to asking Frisbee to pay for hotels
 - Tierney – had already predicted that there would be many, many people who want to go, and had decided on the amount knowing this
 - Richard – this cannot be compared to forcing frisbee to pay for their hotels
- If timing is taken into consideration for funding, then this will be discouraging to people to find funds. Would just be encouraging people to just come earlier and earlier
 - Tierney – either way, this would still have been 1.5 of what would have been fiscally responsible to spend per week
 - Karen – the same would have been done even if they had been seen first. The amount requested is such a large amount that this request would have been a large consideration either way
- RJ - The number of people who show up for BC meeting is not necessarily a metric that we can use for budgetary decisions
- Right now the tickets are organized in blocks of 12, so could have an option to rent just 1 block and possibly bring only 12-15 people so the rate would be the same
- Karen – decision has been made by BC and need to be respectful to others’ requests, can come back to senate meeting to argue for their request
- Motion to zero – 7,1,0

4. Middle Eastern Students and Studies Association

- Harvard Arab Weekend – 6-9 Nov
- Yosef speaking at the event
- For 10 people
- RJ – how do you decide who will go?
 - Sent out a list to the club – 10 people said they wanted to go
 - Event needs to be advertised and if more people want to go, need a lottery system
- Tickets \$60, also have fees, need 3 rooms for 2 nights (3 day event)
 - Will leave 1pm on fri and come back 11pm on sun
 - Event starts on thurs, but going on fri
- Motion to fund – 8,0,0

5. Terras Irradiant (rep by Josh)

- Substance free, open to entire campus
- Want to hold a Halloween costume party
- Want to host at chapin
- Richard – don't fund requests from student organizations that are exclusive (glee club...), should seek out CAB or cosponsor with a diff student organization
- RJ, Tierney – this is more in CAB territory

6. Women's Ultimate Frisbee (rep by Monica)

- Nov 1st and 2nd will be having first 2 day away tournament on the weekend, need hotel rooms for 24 people
- Richard – how many rooms and nights?
 - Will be 6 rooms for 1 night
- Motion to fund – 8,0,0
- Also must include tax fees

7. Marsh House (rep by Andrew Wang)

- Will be Nov 1st
- Will have 4 bands, each asking for \$400
- RJ – have you talked to the powerhouse? Will there be an event that night?
 - Powerhouse is having their own event (not concert) tonight
 - Any honorarium request over 1K must be halved and then ask student groups to seek cosponsorship
- Tierney – should ask CAB
- Richard – are these student bands?
 - Not Amherst student bands, one is from Hampshire
- Motion to fund halve – 8,0,0

8. Middle Eastern Students and Studies (rep by Amani)

- Josef Assad coming to talk on Nov 6 about his studies and a book he wrote

- Need honorarium, publicity, transportation (amtrack), 1 night lodging
- Sought cosponsorship from ASLC and religion depts (only able to fund dinner)
- Coming from NY (at Columbia)
- RJ – should halve honorarium, ahead of discretionary money pacing
- What if they cant get funding from other places? How much funding max could BC fund?
 - RJ – have 40k for rest of the semester
 - Tierney – there are 2 weeks until the event, and we are trying to be a bit more fiscally conservative
- Possible to fund honorarium in full and try to get other items from other depts.
 - If the request had been 5k and it were halved to 2.5k, would this have been a different situation?
 - Karen – we are halving this because of precedent, but does not necessarily mean that we would have funded more
 - Karen – want to support this meeting, can help with finding cosponsorship
- Is there likelihood that BC can give more money?
 - RJ – don't know future requests, must balance the value of events to campus
- Robert – possible to reallocate funds from their event to discretionary and use this to help the event
 - Richard – can't just reallocate from club funds to discretionary
- Motion to fund – 7,1,0

9. Rep by Kali and George

- A concert at UMASS for west African music concert
- Want to get funding for a group of students to go see
- Will happen next Thursday
- Not a required event
- Motion to table – 8,0,0

10. Pride Alliance (rep by Michael)

- Amherst alum (Rob) coming to speak
 - Will have honorarium to seek cosponsorship
- RJ – what are decorations for?
 - For a different event – for a Mad Hatter Halloween party for QRC
 - Kat – will they come to request more money?
 - Most likely will not
 - Kat – is this in the club budgets already
 - Decorations have already been funded - will be zeroed
- Motion to fund – 8,0,0

11. Amherst Safespace for Kinksters (ASK) (rep by Michael)

- Asking for 2nd half of honorarium for 2 people for event on Nov 1st
- Sought cosponsorship with QRC, but said they couldn't fund it, and Dean Brill said that she should go to BC first
- RJ – why would QRC not be interested in funding this?
 - Not sure, but could try to talk w the again and come to senate on Mon
- Also have exact amount for travel funds now (for 3 – 1 is for technician)
 - Kat – would not be able to fund the 3rd, but can fund other 2
 - Don't have amounts broken down
- Motion to table – 8,0,0
- What is the policy for funding fees and competitions?
 - Do do that
 - Some students will be competing in competitions for ballroom