

7:30pm-9:00pm

Minutes for Budgetary Committee Meeting 10/27/2016

**In Attendance:**

Aditi Krishnamurthy (Treasurer)  
Pierre-Alexander Low  
William Zaubler  
Mohamed Ramy  
Ben Fiedler  
Shannon Wei  
Jenine Shepherd  
Jacob Silverman  
Yuko Nakano (Minute Taker)

**Not in Attendance:**

Olivia Mastrangelo  
Jeremy Paula  
Daniel Njoo

**Requests**

1. **International Students Association** requesting funding for food and decorations
  - Aditi: we aren't allowed to allocate more funds for food or decorations, per guidelines
  - motion to zero (4, 1, 0)**
  
2. **La Cause** requesting funding for event
  - specifically \$600 more for honorarium, has \$500 currently
  - Pierre: how many people are you expecting?
    - Rep: it's held at the Powerhouse, so we are expecting a lot
  - Rep: event's co-chair isn't here yet, can we wait for him for more information?
    - Aditi: reconvene when he gets here
  - Aditi: will you have to increase accommodations/travel costs?
    - Rep: no, we have other funding sources
  - motion to fund (7, 0, 0)**
  
3. **First Generation Association** requesting funding for decorations
  - Rep: purpose of this event is to create a discussion for/celebrate first generation students
  - specifically \$25 for foam fingers
  - Rep: will be held next 11/4 (Fri.)
  - motion to fund (7, 0, 0)**
  
4. **Consulting Club** requesting funding for honorarium
  - specifically \$200 honorarium for unspecified speaker for one meeting
  - Aditi: we can't fund this honorarium until you have a speaker arranged
    - Rep: when do I have to have this done by?
      - Aditi: there's no deadline, just whenever you get a speaker lined up, come to us
  - motion to zero (8, 0, 0)**
  
5. **Poker Club** requesting funding for food and equipment
  - Aditi: have you had your intro meeting yet?
    - Rep: yes
  - for equipment, specifically \$35 to replace equipment from 3 semesters ago, not itemized

-Aditi: please submit request after you've itemized your needed equipment  
**-motion to fund \$50 for discussion food (7, 1, 0)**

6. **Student Health Educators** requesting funding for equipment

-specifically \$1000 for condoms, give away's every year  
-Rep: Health Center can't fund things that we give out as well  
-Aditi: why can't you order these in bulk all at once?  
-Rep: condoms expire so we have to order them periodically  
-Rep: these condoms go in dorms  
-Aditi: you should talk to ResLife, they have a lot of money and they fund things like this  
-Aditi: also, how urgent is this?  
-Jacob: let's see if we can get another funding source  
-Aditi: I can also talk to Paul Gallegos  
-Rep: ok  
**-motion to table (8, 0, 0)**

7. **Newman Club** requesting funding for event

-Rep: speaker for event is Susan Conroy, she requested the usual amount for honorarium  
-someone on BC: expected 30 attendees, on the lower end, lower end \$10 each = \$300  
-specifically: \$15 for publicity and \$20 for transportation for speaker  
-Aditi: we can't give you a number for honorarium specific to Susan Conroy  
-Aditi: guideline states between \$10-\$20 per attendee, but try to get the cost down  
-Aditi: student representatives for clubs can make the value judgment, just BC can't  
-Will: also, what if speaker doesn't want an honorarium?  
-Pierre: no, she just asked for the standard price  
**-motion to fund (7, 0, 0)**

8. **Drew House** requesting funding for event

-hosting party at Drew House for Hurricane Matthew victims  
-Aditi: can we meet next week? I'm working on getting ResLife funding for you  
-Rep: we can meet next week but I want to get publicity started  
-requesting \$15 for publicity  
**-amend request to \$15 for publicity and fund (7, 0, 0)**

9. **African Caribbean Student Union** requesting funding for event

-event Explosion needs \$100 more for \$1000 stage  
**-motion to fund (7, 0, 0)**

10. **MESSA** requesting funding for conference

-Rep: two additional tickets to Harvard Arab Weekend (\$100 each = \$200) and additional room for two nights (\$150 per night = \$300)  
-Rep: Paul Gallegos is funding travel (Peter Pan)  
-Rep: also, can we emergency fund?  
-Aditi: you can ask  
**-motion to emergency fund (6, 0, 1)**

## *Discussion*

### 1. **Conferences**

-Pierre: we should maybe open a discussion on conference costs

- Ramy; I think we should fund conferences generally
- Aditi: for new members, a Yoga retreat last year opened discussion on what a conference is
- Ramy: I think the point of a conference is to bring back knowledge to campus

## 2. Return of the Musical

- Aditi: for the musical, what they do is work on it over interterm, bring in a director and house him in the area, buy a lot of costumes/props, and this used to be a tradition at Amherst, Orr Rink
  - there's a current discussion with Paul Gallegos and Bidy to try to restart this event this year
  - first proposed budget was a total of \$10,000
- Pierre: if I recall correctly, the musical was pretty bad previously
- Aditi: Frank (Rep) will request \$2000 for sound/stage and \$2500 for Mark Swanson from BC
  - Aditi: Mark Swanson, Amherst faculty conductor is going to be helping conduct the orchestra, however, I'm not too keen on paying an Amherst faculty
    - Pierre: he will get paid though, just depends on who fronts the cost

## 3. Incremental vs. Aggregate Costs

- Pierre: I think clubs don't think enough about the aggregate sum of costs throughout the semester
  - Pierre: incremental funding is the main issue
    - Jacob: when clubs come with unexpected costs for events that are already in motion, these small additions can add up, students here feel wrongly entitled to the money here

## 4. Return of the Musical (con't.)

- Pierre: people actually left the musical because it wasn't good
- Will: and I don't feel comfortable paying a faculty
  - Ramy: but he's working additional hours?
  - Will: even additional hours
- Aditi: they're getting funding from the President's Office as well
- Will: the budget we deal with is for students, it feels wrong to pay an Amherst faculty for doing something he's already paid for by the school
  - Ramy: the additional hours though, for a student event, are why he should be paid extra
- Jenine: don't want to fund in general because apparently the musical sucks
  - Aditi: as a teaching moment for all new members, we can't use the subjective value or success of an event or other cost as a reason to not fund something
- someone on BC: So what's Paul Gallegos's role specifically?
  - Aditi: Paul Gallegos has a similar size budget to ours but doesn't fund club sports like we do
    - Jenine: can he help with the musical?
      - Aditi: he's already funding a lot, I don't want to create a relationship where I say no to all requests and send everyone to Paul for funding
- Aditi: do you want to split up costs, sound/stage and Mark Swanson, and evaluate each separately?
  - Will: fund all of soundstage (\$2000), half Mark Swanson (\$100)
  - Jacob: I want more information; I feel like we're early in the negotiation phase
    - Aditi: actually, we have been talking about this for 3 weeks behind the scenes, I just didn't want them to come in and for us to have a whole big discussion during BC meeting
      - Aditi: we don't want another DRAM situation (I like the Broccoli song!)
  - Jenine: \$1000 for sound/stage, \$0 for MS
  - Ramy: \$1000 for sound/stage, \$1250 (1/2 of request) for MS
  - Jacob: more info/itemization for sound/stage (why has it increased \$1,000 since last year), don't want to fund more than we need to, zero MS
  - Shannon: \$1000 sound/stage, \$1000 for MS
  - Ben: \$1000 sound/stage, \$1250 for MS
  - Pierre: more info please, \$1000 stage, \$1000 for MS

## 5. **Hallmark Food Category**

-Pierre: open discussion for Hallmark Food, La Causa is asking

-Aditi: this is a very fuzzy concept and isn't applied often

-Aditi: it's an exception to the general food rule, for large, established events that happen year after year