Minutes for BC Meeting 11/6

In Attendance:

Abigail Xu (Treasurer)

Katarina Cruz

Karen Blake

David Zhang

Bryson

Hao Liu

Marie

Richard

RJ (absent)

Tiffany

Paul Gramieri (minutetaker)

1. **TWLOHA** (represented by Darian):

Request: $4,660 for spoken word performer for second annual benefit concert.

* + Approached Hao and Abigail about putting it in this semester’s budget because the event is in March
  + Needs to secure allocation of funding asap to ensure that the performer can come (Andrea Gibson) to campus. She’s very high demand for tour dates
  + Benefit concerts speak to the mission of the club
  + Abigail asks if this is similar to an event last year. Darian says no, it’s a concert.
  + Abigail clarifies that they need the money this semester to ensure that there’s enough time to book her. Darian says that he wants to move forward with this contract.
  + Darian says that they can’t wait for too soon to the event.
  + Abigail says that they cannot fund for events next semester. Says that BC is meeting this weekend to revise funding policy, since funding now is for this semester.
    - Motion to table, passes 8,0,0

1. **ACEMS** (represented by Olivia, Julia, Adrian)

Request: $17,2000 for tuition assistance for EMT course

* + Approached this as a need blind application process. Each applicant had to send a request for financial need. Mariah added financial need amount, which is the money they’re requesting.
  + This money is for 36 students. Asks for BC to fund this in the spirit in the school
  + Hao asks why there’s a large increase from last years 3200 to this years 17200. Says that last year they were able to match the funds last year but can’t do as much from their master general this year because of new equipment, etc. Also more students taking class this year and more people requested aid this year. Also last year not everyone received their needed amount of financial aid
  + Richard asks for how many people asked for aid last year. This year, 17 asked for aid. Last year, 8 or 9 asked.
  + The course is $1100 in total.
  + Richard notices that they’re covering about 90% of the financial need of the people needed. Says they’re trying to maximize aid.
  + Abigail asks if they’ve been in contact with other sources of funding. Says they’ve been in contact with Dean Larimore, has a meeting with Biddy next Tuesday.
  + Abigail says that even though they want to fund this, they cannot fund $17,200. Suggests that they halve this amount and find alternative sources of funding to cover the rest.
  + Richard suggests that a BC representative sits down with ACEMS for meetings with Biddy/Larimore.
  + Julia says that the meeting with Biddy is primarily to say that the school, not AAS, should fund this.
  + Bryson asks how they determine the need. They say that it’s not super formal, each applicant needs to say what their need is to give an explanation, and then they got a ranking from financial aid who needs the most funding. Also money can be based on familial discretion.
  + Richard doesn’t think you can use need blind in this scenario. He says priority should go to people who cannot afford it, which would make it need based. They say that they need to do the best they can. They have not yet heard back from financial aid. Bryson suggests getting permission from applicants to release financial info to ACEMS.
  + Abigail hopes that this interterm course will be funded by the school eventually. Thinks it’s best to halve or table it.
  + Richard suggests funding the amount from last year. Hao doesn’t think that makes sense. Abigail understands where Richard is coming from, especially since the budget broke even last year.
  + They urge to fund as much as they can because dealing with Amherst bureaucracy this late in the game is unlikely. They may end up having to depend on as much as AAS can allocate.
  + Abigail says that we’ll fund as much as we can now, but without knowing what Biddy and Dean Larimore say, it’s hard to determine how much “how much” is.
  + Bryson asks if they need to go to school referendum if they fund something over $17,200. Abigail says that it depends if it’s defined as an “event.”
  + Julia asks if they could go to referendum. Abigail says that they don’t have the money right now.
  + Karen says it’s best to see what the other sources are available to pay and then we’ll see what we can do.
* Motion to table passes 8,0,0.

1. **HEMAC** (represented by Terri)

Request: Money rulebook for tournaments, leggings, and membership to HEMAC alliance.

* + Karen asks what HEMAC is, says it’s basically German longsword fighting.
  + Hao asks if there’s a cap on the number of students in the club, says it’s open to everyone who joins the club.
  + Tiffany asks if leggings are to replace, but she says they’re new.
  + Abigail says that they don’t traditionally fund books for clubs, thinks of precedent. Abigail asks if it’s online, says no. Asks if the library can get it for you, says she’ll ask.
  + Abigail says that books should be open for all to use, which is why the AAS doesn’t fund books for clubs, but this may be an exception.
  + Motion to fund $365,all but the rulebook, passes 8,0,0.

1. **EDU - Splash** (represented by Vera):

Request: Funding for event where students will volunteer time to teach classes to local area students.

* Reached out to neighboring school districts to invite middle school and high school students to take these classes.
  + Abigail asks if these are materials for these classes, says yes.
  + Abigail says that they fund materials, but says there’s strict rules about food. Says that smores are used for wilderness skills, Chinese food is for a class about how to say names of Chinese food, Asian cooking material they’re making sushi (says they’ve had that class previously). Last year they didn’t break it down.
  + Abigail asks BC how they view food. Katarina says she doesn’t think smores are needed for class. Richard still says that the club still has $200 food rule, and that it’ll help the class.
  + Abigail asked if they’ve gotten other sources for sources, and says that staff has given funding for registration materials (posters, printing costs (total $50)). Abigail says that they would pay for printing costs.
  + Abigail recommends going to program board, social council for funding. Recommends tabling food costs, can come back next Wednesday to emergency food funding thru food rule. Abigail says that finding money from other sources will save them food money for the rest of the semester.
  + Hao asks about Asian cooking materials, says it’s a class about making sushi.
* Motion to fund $373, everything but food, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Habitat for Humanity** (represented by Lizzy):

Request: $250 for another build.

* Motion to fund $250, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Paper Arts Club** (represented by Chloe):

Request: Funding for introductory meeting and origami materials and black scratching papers.

* Abigail asks if they’ve gotten club approval from school, says yes.
  + Motion to fund $100.36, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Amnesty International** (represented by Rosie):

Request: Funding for zipcar and conference fees.

* + Rosie says zipcar cost is $90.
  + Rosie says there’s an Amnesty conference in Boston this Saturday. Also needs funding for conference fees.
  + Abigail says they don’t fund transportation for conference events. Rosie says they weren’t able to get a van.
  + Hao and Abigail recommends talking to Dean Fatinni about funding transportation.
* Motion to emergency fund $60 conference fees, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Amherst College Republicans** (represented by Robert):

Request: Money for event that will bring Newt Gingrich to Amherst.

* + Event also incorporates UMass and Smith College Republicans.
  + The event is in December.
  + Total cost of event is $35,000. Smith pays 7-8, UMass pays 5-6. Meeting with Biddy tomorrow to see if she can get some funding. Independent sources/donors will give 10. Event is here.
  + Biddy will give whatever they need leftover.
  + Hao wants to add on publicity because it’s a 5-College event. Robert says each college can handle publicity themselves; he will do publicity for Amherst.
  + Richard thinks they should go to school referendum for this event. Says it’s good to gage student opinion to warrant funding this much money. (if 10%of the students want to see him, why do we warrant spending $35,000?)
  + Robert says that bylaws say they can fund $10,000, especially since this event last year made national news three nights in a row.
  + Bryson asks how much they paid last year. Robert said event for Karl Rove was at UMass last year, and Scott Brown and other senators came to here and it cost the same amount (9999.99). Scott Brown got 76 people, but there was a blizzard that morning. Treasurer event had 35 people.
  + Abigail recalls a few speakers coming to each event.
  + Karen agrees to put this out to school referendum.
  + Hao understands that this is 1 cent away from referendum. But thinks that since it’s so close to finals, students may not be interested. Hao says that the policies never say that if it’s below $10,000, then they cannot go to referendum.
  + Robert asks if there’s any precedent for going to referendum under $10,000. Abigail not sure, but since the entire event is $35,000, it may be worth going to referendum. Abigail says they’re reaching the end of the semester so discretionary funds are low. Recommends seeing how much Biddy will give; Senate is more willing to fund this if it’s substantially less.
  + David says that this is clearly a way to bypass referendum (1 cent less).
  + Bryson says they funded it last year, but understands their concerns about a lack of attendance. Survey may not be accurate. If there’s precedent of funding it, sees no reason why they shouldn’t fund it.
  + Abigail says that they won’t fund because its substantial and if it brings them into the red, also Abigail says there’s a precedent for events over $1000 to go to student feedback. Doesn’t understand logic in spending $200 per student in attendance since this money is the students’ money.
  + Karen thinks it’s more important to see how we spend the students’ money, regardless of the number in the bylaws.
  + Abigail recommends seeing how much Biddy is willing to pay, then come to senate, shouldn’t be afraid of getting student feedback.
  + Robert concerned about time to move forward, says they need the money to reserve him. No deadline but worried about competition.
  + Abigail asks if other schools have funding. Smith is in the process of budget proposal, UMass already has the money.
* Motion to table, passes 6,2,0.

1. **Drew House** (represented by Abigail):

Request: Money for speakers for house event.

* These speakers create media for gaps they see in society. There will be a panel discussion for these speakers.
  + The event is December 5.
  + Honorarium will be halved, try to find cosponsorship (Black Studies, MRC, etc)
  + Abigail says that for speakers, they only fund one night at the Lord Jeff at $160 a night.
  + One of the speakers asks if they can get half of money before event, Abigail says to inquire about it.
* Motion to fund $3,793, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Men’s Project** (represented by Noah):

Request: Money for table tents (for Val) to attract more people to meetings.

* Now more focused meetings.
  + Richard asks what the Men’s Project is. Noah says it’s a place for men or women to discuss how men’s lives are affected by masculinity.
* Motion to fund $7.50, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Native American Students Organization** (represented by Whit):

Request: Funding for remainder of honorarium

* + Heard back from MRC, they are funding $200.
  + Need $400 for each speaker ($800 total)
* Motion to fund $800, passes 8,0,0.

1. **WAMH** (represented by Tony):

Request funding for artists fees, sound, lodging, transportation, crowd manager, and publicity for event.

* + Concern about senate funding it, especially because of all of the other high funding amounts tonight.
  + Doesn’t think that Senate is too willing to fund, but Abigail and Katarina suggest getting school referendum to gage opinion, which would strengthen argument for senate.
  + Concern about student attendance. They want several hundred people there to get their moneys worth, since this is students’ money. Show that enough people will go then they can pass it.
  + Doing referendum for Monday.
* Motion to table, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Gender Justice Collaborative**:

Request: Funding for speaker event.

* + Wants to bring three bloggers who are on college tour to talk about feminism. 7500 500 75 10 50
  + The event is on November 20.
  + Abigail asks if they've gotten cosponsorship, says no.
  + Richard suggests tabling it because it’s so much money.
  + Abigail says they should halve this because it’s so short time span.
  + Abigail suggests going to Biddy about this. Reach out to her as soon as possible. Get help from head of Women’s Center.
  + Richard doesn’t think it’s worth halving it if they’re not going to fund it in the first place.
  + Abigail says other tabling was because of attendance. She thinks this is less contentious in her mind. Tiffany thinks it's a value judgment.
  + Abigail says that for all of the honorarium events this semester, attendance wasn’t a question. Doesn’t think it should be a question now.
  + Says that she’d expect high attendance for this event, given that Amherst is looked highly upon in feminist blogs.
  + Hao suggests halving honorarium and funding the rest.
* Motion to halve honorarium and fund the rest $4,375, passes 8,0,0.

1. **Amherst Outing Club** (represented by Hao):

Request: Funding for food on a camping trip.

* + The overnight trip is for anyone who wants to go. Educational camping trip.
  + Hao says they didn’t spend $200 food rule, they cancelled that funding a few weeks ago.
  + Abigail sees that they have $200 to spend this semester, and they know it.
* Motion to fund $200 passes 8,0,0.

1. **ISA** (represented by Hao):

Request: $50 for decorations for another multicultural cooking night.

* They are having different stops for different continents.
* Motion to fund passes 8,0,0.