

University of Chicago Student Government

Student Government Finance Committee

November 13, 2025

6:30-9:00pm

Summary:

RSO Name	Event	Requested	Recommended
Alpha Phi Omega	Alpha Phi Omega 2025 National Convention	\$922.40	\$922.40
Oeconomica	2026 Econometrics Game	\$16,240.18	\$8,252.18
Women in Science	Dinner with the Dean	\$500.00	\$376.98
College Fed Challenge Team	2025 College Fed Challenge National Finals Event - Request for Funding for Travel and Hotel	\$6,300.00	\$3,543.25
Meditations and Buddhist Groups of UChicago	Rice Seedling Sutra Teaching and Q&A with Tibetan teacher, Khentrul Jurme Dorje	\$600.00	\$0.00
Muslim Student Association	Prophetic Lessons for Modern Life	\$3,690.00	\$1,400.00
Organization of Black Students	Request for Community Events Funding	\$1,473.68	\$90.00
Science Olympiad	Science Olympiad - Division B Funding Request	\$5,807.00	\$0.00
	Science Olympiad - Division C Funding Request	\$5,277.00	\$0.00
	Science Olympiad Socials	\$900.00	\$0.00
	Science Olympiad Club Meetings	\$150.00	\$0.00

South Asian Students' Association	SASA Family Program	\$1,619.92	\$1,619.92
Argentine Tango Club	Guided Practica and Advanced Workshops	\$5,000.00	\$0.00

Attendance:

Name	Attendance
Caitlin Mooney - Chair	Present
Liya Luk - Vice Chair	Proxy
Cambron Bice - CLI Advisor	Present
Andy Lin - Member	Present → Left Early
Grace Cheng - Member	Absent
Addison Marshall - Member	Present
Grace Beatty - Member	Absent
Kevin Guo - Member	Proxy
Carsten Chow - Member	Absent
Leonardo Quai - Member	Present
Fred Lee - Exofficio Member, Proxy, Temporary Secretary	Present

Alpha Phi Omega

Presentation:

- The Chair began by asking APO to walk through their request.
- The APO representatives explained that they are members of the Chicago chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity. They are seeking funding to attend the Biennial APO National Convention, which will take place in Philadelphia over Winter Break 2025. Each chapter is allowed to send two voting delegates to represent their chapter's interests and vote on amendments to the national bylaws.

- They are requesting support to send two members, with total costs divided into three parts:
 - Convention registration fees: \$320 per person, \$640 total
 - Hotel: \$120 per night for four nights, \$480 total (one shared room)
 - Flights: estimated \$830 total based on current prices
- They also mentioned their plans to raise about \$200 through a tabling event at Reynolds Club, based on past fundraising results. They thanked the committee for their time and said they were happy to answer any questions.

Q&A:

- Fred: How did you fund the \$300 for fundraising? Or I mean—how much are you actually expecting to make from fundraising?
 - APO Representative: Right, so we're going to be tabling at Reynolds next week. That \$300 figure was just an estimate based on how much we raised in the past from similar events. But the actual number we're expecting is around \$200
 - Fred: Wait, is it \$300 or \$200? Because I saw both on your form.
 - APO Representative: Yeah, sorry about that. It's \$200. I think the \$300 was from an earlier draft of the application, but \$200 is my final figure. When I tabled during my second year, we pulled in about \$130 or \$140, and we're hoping to do slightly better this time with a more strategic setup.

Deliberation:

- The committee agreed that APO's fundraising efforts demonstrated initiative and responsibility in partially covering the total cost.
- Hotel and registration costs were deemed reasonable and in line with previous national conference requests.
- Flight costs: While slightly above average, members noted that winter travel and fluctuating rates justified the submitted estimate.
- SGFC members debated how to handle taxes and fees but concluded these could be absorbed within the fundraising offset.
- Consensus was that APO had presented a well-prepared, transparent, and modest request for essential travel representing UChicago as a national organization.
- Fred: Motion to fund in full.
 - Addison: Second
 - **Passes Unanimously**

Oeconomica

Presentation:

- The Oeconomica president introduced himself and gave background on the Econometrics Game, describing it as a hackathon-style competition hosted annually in the spring. The event brings together UChicago students and teams from other

universities mostly within the U.S., with a few international participants to work collaboratively on a quantitative economics problem designed by Oeconomica in partnership with the Economics Department.

- Teams of four work for roughly 12 hours to produce a paper and written analysis, which is reviewed by faculty and industry experts. The strongest teams advance to a final round, where they present to a panel of professors and receive feedback. The purpose, the representative emphasized, is to foster intellectual exchange between student economists from different institutions and to allow participants to experience real-world applications of econometric and statistical tools.
- The representative added that many past participants described the competition as unique for giving them a chance to apply classroom concepts in a practical setting and to engage with professional economists. The event also provides networking opportunities with faculty and industry figures who use these tools professionally.

Q&A:

- Addison: I see three prizes listed. Did you also give prizes last year?
 - Oeconomica President: Yes, we did. The prize structure and budget are about the same as last year. We think it's fair recognition for the teams' work, and it's within a reasonable amount not excessive.
- Fred: For the hotel rooms, who's staying there and why?
 - Oeconomica President: Those are for students traveling from other universities. We don't fund their flights, but we do provide rooms so they have somewhere to stay. It also helps foster interaction with UChicago students since everyone's nearby.
- Fred: How many rooms and nights are we talking about?
 - Oeconomica President: Two nights total, two people per room, 12 rooms overall so 24 people accommodated, or 48 room-nights.
 - Fred: So \$500 per room per night?
 - Oeconomica President: No, That's \$500 total for two nights, about \$250 per night per room.
 - Fred: So it's not 24 accommodated, it's 48 people?
 - Oeconomica President: Yes.
- Fred: Got it. Are these 48 visitors included in the 90 total attendees?
 - Oeconomica President: Yes, that's correct.
- Fred: For food, do you have a plan for catering?
 - Oeconomica President: Yes. We try to keep costs minimal—bagels or breakfast sandwiches for breakfast, then Chipotle or similar platters for lunch. All cost according to SGFC guidelines.
- Caitlin: And the \$4,000 in donations where's that from?
 - Fred: I believe in the document they said it was from corporate sponsorship.

Deliberation

- Several members raised the issue of prize funding. One member stated that funding prizes directly violates SGFC cost guidelines. Another recalled that SGFC had explicitly

refused to fund prizes for Oeconomica in prior years. Multiple members agreed that funding ipads as giveaways was not good practice and that SGFC cannot justify allocating funds toward gift-like awards.

- The Chair confirmed that prizes are non-fundable under the cost guide. The committee reached unanimous agreement that all prize funding would be excluded.
- Members reviewed Oeconomica's food budget. The group noted that the per-person cost was within FGOC's \$15 per person per day guideline for multi-day events. Members agreed that this was a 2 day event. 90 attendances and \$30 food budget for two days amounted to \$2,700.
- Attention then turned to the lodging request. Members noted that Oeconomica estimated \$500 per room, which seemed higher than comparable past funding. One member checked the previous year's records, confirming that SGFC had funded rooms at \$300 per night for two people and a total of \$12,000 for accommodations.
 - Another member pointed out that the cost guide allows roughly \$186 per person per night, meaning double occupancy should not exceed about \$372 per room. To verify current rates, a member quickly checked prices online for similar hotels in Hyde Park for spring dates, finding rates between \$360–\$390 total for two nights (before taxes).
 - The committee agreed that \$500 per room was excessive and decided to cap funding at \$350 per room for two nights (two people per room). Using Oeconomica's count of 24 rooms, the total approved for lodging was calculated at \$8,400.
- Regarding venue rental, the Chair confirmed that the hall booking was eligible and within the university's internal rate standards, as the event is hosted on campus. That cost was approved in full.
- Hotel rooms: \$8,400
- Food: \$2,700
- Hall rental: full approved
- Other minor costs: as listed
- Total before applying sponsorship: \$12,252.18.
- Since Oeconomica had already secured \$4,000 from corporate sponsors, members agreed that this should be deducted before final approval. The revised total came to \$8,252.18.
- Fred: Motion to fund \$8252.18 on the basis that we cost guided the rooms for market rates, cost guided the food, not fund give aways, and everything else is already cost guided.
 - Addison: Second
 - **Passes Unanimously**

Women in Science

Presentation:

- The Women in Science (WiS) representative explained that the RSO focuses on supporting women and other underrepresented groups in all areas of STEM. They are planning to host a Dinner with Women Professors in Science event during the winter quarter, featuring a guest professor, Dr. Jean Hale, who has already confirmed availability.
- The goal is to provide students with the opportunity to hear directly from women faculty members about their career paths and experiences in academia. The dinner aims to foster mentorship and connections between students and professors from various scientific disciplines.
- WiS expects around 90 attendees, including members from related RSOs such as Women in Physics and Women in Math, who will be invited to ensure broad participation.
- The representative noted that the main expenses are catering, with minor decoration and supply costs based on previous events.

Q&A:

- Fred: Where's the attendance number of 90 coming from?
 - WiS Representative: We usually reach that level by collaborating with other RSOs like Women in Physics, Women in Math, and similar groups. Those collaborations help ensure turnout from across STEM fields.
- Proxy: Committee Member: Have you done similar events in the past?
 - WiS Representative: We've held events like graduate student dinners and similar collaborative gatherings, though not one exactly like this.

Deliberation:

- SGFC agreed to confirm cost guide compliance for utensils, decorations, and food. A member checked the guidelines and read aloud:
 - Utensils: No more than \$0.60 per expected attendee, or \$20—whichever is greater.
 - Decorations: No more than \$0.50 per expected attendee.
- Since attendance was estimated at 90, the maximum allowable for decorations was \$45, which WiS met. However, the utensils total exceeded the allowable range.
- The committee began working through the line items together, verifying the math for each adjustment.
 - Utensils, plates, cups, and napkins collectively cost \$153.81, which exceeded the guide.
 - The group initially moved to subtract \$153.81 from the total requested amount (\$500), leaving \$346.19, but then realized that the utensils should only be reduced to the cost-guide limit, not fully removed.
 - After rechecking the guide, members clarified that the utensil limit should be calculated as $\$0.60 \times 90 \text{ attendees} = \54 .
 - Therefore, the difference to subtract was $\$153.81 - \$54 = \$99.81$.

- Several members rechecked the math. One member confirmed that total line items added up to \$518.81, meaning the total post-adjustment should account for both utensils and any minor fundraising offsets.
- After recalculations and back-and-forth corrections, the committee finalized that \$141.83 (including utensil and donation adjustments) would be deducted from the total.
- From the total request of \$518.81, the committee subtracted \$141.83, resulting in \$376.98 to be funded.
- Fred: Motion to fund \$376.98 on the basis that we cost guided the utensils and everything else was within costguide.
 - Leonardo: Seconded
 - **Motion Passes Unanimously**

College Fed Challenge Team

Presentation:

- A representative from the University of Chicago College Fed Challenge Team presented a request for travel funding to attend the National College Fed Challenge Finals in Washington, D.C. The team recently advanced to the national round after competing in the regional and Q&A stages, marking the first time UChicago has reached the in-person finals since 2019.
- The representative explained that the team received official notice of advancement on Thursday, November 8, leaving them with only about two weeks to arrange travel and submit a funding request. The proposal included:
 - Seven roundtrip flights from Chicago to Washington, D.C.
 - Three hotel rooms for seven team members for two nights (Thursday, Nov 20 – Friday, Nov 21)
 - Two team dinners (Thursday and Friday evenings)
 - Local transportation costs, mainly Ubers between the campus, airports, and hotels
- The team emphasized that breakfasts and lunches were covered by the competition and hotel, so only dinners and travel were being requested. The total request was limited to essential logistics for participation.

Q&A:

- Fred: Can you explain the composition of the team and why you need three rooms?
 - Team Representative: Sure. We have seven members: four women and three men. We're requesting two rooms for the women and one for the men. The goal

is to make sure everyone has enough rest and privacy before competition day, since we're flying out the night before.

- Leonardo: How did you estimate dinner costs?
 - Team Representative: We assumed two dinners, about \$30 per person per meal. That's a high-end estimate to account for D.C. pricing, taxes, and gratuity. In practice, we'll probably spend closer to \$20 per person, but we wanted to include a reasonable buffer for inflation and service fees for group dining.
- Caitlin: What about transportation?
 - Team Representative: The quantity listed as 16 Ubers represents all ground transportation combined. We estimate about two XLs to and from Midway Airport at \$50 per car, plus a few rides in D.C. between the airport, hotel, and competition site. Total transportation costs would likely be around \$200–\$250.
- Fred: Why two nights if the competition is one day?
 - Team Representative: The competition ends around 3 p.m. on Friday. There weren't any return flights from DCA that fit within the competition schedule. We didn't want to force the team to rush packing before the competition or take a red-eye.
- Leonardo: Did you check flights to or from O'Hare instead of Midway?
 - Team Representative: We did look at Dulles and Baltimore airports but decided that would increase transportation costs and logistical risk. We didn't check O'Hare specifically but based on timing, Midway seemed simplest.

Deliberation:

- Fred, acting as Kevin's proxy, argued that the College Fed Challenge falls under the CAT, which traditionally does not fund transportation or meals for competition travel. He stated that as it was the wish of Kevin, he felt that staying consistent with CAT's funding rules meant SGFC should not approve those items either.
 - Chair clarified that even if the event is competition-based, since it came to SGFC, it must be evaluated under SGFC's own cost guidelines, not CAT's.
 - However, the group agreed that transportation and meals are generally restricted categories under both SGFC and CAT policies and had to be cost guided regardless.
- The committee discussed whether to fund Ubers to and from airports. Members agreed these costs should not be funded because:
 - Public transit is available from UChicago to Midway within 20 minutes.
 - Local transport in D.C. can be covered through inexpensive public options (e.g., metro).
 - The total Uber request lacked itemized receipts and therefore exceeded the necessary standard for approval.
 - Consensus: Transportation costs denied.

- There was disagreement about whether dinners could be partially funded. Fred concurring with Kevin felt that since meals are typically not covered for competition teams, dinners should not be funded at all. Others suggested cost-guiding dinners at \$12 per person per meal, aligning with SGFC's food policy.
- Eventually, the committee agreed to cost-guide dinners at \$12 per person and remove the gratuity and buffer inflation previously included. The final approved dinner allocation covered one dinner night only, totaling \$84 (\$12 × 7).
- The committee questioned the need for two nights. Several members noted that flights from D.C. to Chicago were available late Friday evening, making an additional hotel night unnecessary. The group agreed to fund only one night to reduce cost while maintaining feasibility.
- After removing the second hotel night, dinners, and transportation, the committee recalculated the funding as follows:
 - Flights: Fully funded as essential travel
 - Hotel: One night only (cut by half)
 - Dinner: \$84 total
 - Transportation: Removed
- The subtotal came to \$3,877.72 for flights and lodging. Applying SGFC's 25% funding cap for requests exceeding \$5,000, the final approved amount was \$3,543.25.
- Addison: Motion to fund \$3,543.25
 - Leonardo: Second
 - **Motion Passes** with
 - For: 4
 - Against: 1
 - Fred Dissenting.

Meditations and Buddhist Groups of UChicago

Presentation:

A representative from the Meditation and Buddhist Group of UChicago presented a request to fund a special guest teaching event. The group had invited a Tibetan Buddhist teacher—a respected master recognized within his lineage—to give a public talk at Bond Chapel on Sunday, November 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The representative explained that the guest primarily teaches in Tibetan and that they had arranged for a translator. However, because the translator turned out to be a UChicago faculty member (who cannot be paid), the group wanted to reallocate the \$200 originally budgeted for translation toward providing dinner for attendees after the teaching.

The final request therefore included:

- \$400 honorarium for the guest teacher
- \$200 dinner allocation to replace the translator payment

The representative emphasized that this would be an open and public event intended to promote interfaith understanding and reflection, with the dinner serving as a way for attendees to gather afterward in community.

Q&A:

No Questions

Deliberation:

- The first issue raised was timing. The event was scheduled for that coming Sunday (November 16), only a few days away. Members confirmed that SGFC cannot fund retroactively or approve expenses for events occurring too soon after submission. Since the group had submitted the request on November 3, the processing window was too narrow for the funds to be released before the event date.
- Several members expressed disappointment, noting the event was meaningful and well-planned but acknowledging that the timing automatically disqualified it for SGFC funding this cycle.
- A committee member checked the RSO's account balance. The group already had approximately \$3,300 remaining in their account and had previously been funded \$1,000 for meditation cushions as a capital investment. Based on this, the group had sufficient funds to cover the honorarium and dinner internally without additional SGFC support.
- The group collectively agreed to deny the request, both because of the late submission and because the organization had ample funds to self-fund.
- Fred: Motion to fund \$0 on the basis that it is too late to fund.
 - Addison: Second
 - **Passes Unanimously**

Muslim Students Association

Presentation:

- Representatives from the Muslim Students Association (MSA) presented their funding request for a major upcoming speaker and dinner event, described as one of their largest events of the quarter. The invited guest is a renowned Islamic scholar and

Director of the Qalam Institute Seminary, who will give a lecture on balancing culture, spirituality, and academics in college life.

- The representatives explained that the Office of Spiritual Life (OIS) is co-sponsoring the event and will cover a portion of the costs. The MSA requested SGFC support primarily for the honorarium for the speaker and catering for attendees. The food will be halal-certified, and the association has identified the most cost-effective certified vendor.
- The group emphasized that while their account balance may appear large (approximately \$41,000), the majority of these funds are reserved for Ramadan programming, during which MSA provides daily iftar meals for students throughout the entire month, an annual undertaking costing about \$40,000–\$48,000. They fundraise heavily each spring for this and cannot draw from those funds for other programming.
- This event aims to engage both Muslim and non-Muslim students in a cultural and spiritual dialogue, making it an inclusive and community-oriented gathering.

Q&A:

- Fred: Who is this one speaker again?
 - MSA Representative: He's a highly respected Islamic scholar very well known within Muslim student circles.
- Addison: How many attendees are you expecting?
 - MSA Representative: About 120, but we've budgeted for catering for around 60, since OIS will cover the other half.
- Fred: Got it. And the total request includes food and honorarium only?
 - MSA Representative: Yes, that's correct. The catering will include entrees, sides, and halal-certified drinks.
- Fred: Regarding your account balance you mentioned that the \$41,000 is reserved for Ramadan programming?
 - MSA Representative: Exactly. Every year, MSA provides nightly iftar meals for students during Ramadan. That costs roughly \$40,000, which we fundraise separately for. Those funds are already designated for that purpose, so we don't have flexibility to use them for this event.

Deliberation:

- The committee reviewed the request line by line. The honorarium amount requested was \$2000, which did not align with SGFC's maximum allowable rate for external speakers.
- The catering request was then evaluated. Since the event included a dinner for about 60 attendees, members applied the standard \$15 per person dinner cost guide, resulting in a total of \$900 for food. The committee confirmed that halal certification is a recognized accommodation under SGFC's food policy.
- While MSA's account balance initially appeared large, members acknowledged the explanation that nearly all of it was earmarked for Ramadan programming. A member

recalled that MSA had historically spent \$40,000–\$48,000 annually on nightly meals during Ramadan, and that this was consistent with past reports.

- Honorarium: \$500 (cost-guided, fully funded)
- Catering: \$900 (cost-guided at \$15/person × 60)
- Total: \$1,400
- Fred: Motion to fund \$1,400
 - Addison: Second
 - **Passes Unanimously**

Organization of Black Students

Presentation:

- Representatives from the Organization of Black Students (OBS) presented a request to fund two study break events for the remainder of the fall quarter. These events are part of OBS's ongoing initiative to provide academic and community support for members during midterms and finals periods.
- The representatives explained that the study breaks are designed to bring students together in a relaxed setting, offering snacks, hot chocolate, and supplies such as cups, utensils, and napkins. The goal is to create a welcoming and communal space for studying and decompressing at the end of the quarter.
- The request originally included study breaks planned across multiple quarters, but the committee clarified that only the fall quarter events would be considered in this meeting.
- OBS confirmed they plan to hold two study breaks this quarter—one during Week 8 and another during finals week—with expected attendance of about 25 students per session.

Q&A:

No substantive questions

Deliberation:

- The Chair reiterated that while OBS's original submission included multiple quarters, this review would focus only on two study breaks scheduled for the fall quarter.
- Members noted that the combined projected cost of \$90 total (\$40–\$50 per event) for food, snacks, and utensils was well within SGFC cost guidelines. The \$15 per-person food cap for casual events and \$0.60 per-person cap for disposable supplies were far above the per-capita cost of this proposal, which averaged less than \$2 per attendee.
- The committee agreed that the events promoted community-building and student wellbeing, particularly ahead of finals. The small scale and low cost made the request straightforward to approve.
- Final Funding calculation
 - Study Break #1 (Week 8): \$40
 - Study Break #2 (Finals Week): \$50
- Addison: Motion to fund \$90.
 - Leonardo: Seconded
 - **Passes Unanimously**

Science Olympiad

Presentation:

- Science Olympiad requested funding to run two large winter-quarter invitationals:
 - Division B (middle school) and Division C (high school) invitational tournaments.
 - Costs cited: medals/trophies (purchased from the official Science Olympiad vendor), campus venue rentals (Mandel Hall, BSLC, “Sunny Gym”), event materials/chemicals, volunteer and coach food, and team T-shirts.
- Additional asks: small budgets for weekly club meetings/study breaks and two Chinatown social dinners for team/community building.

Q&A:

- Fred: You’re selling T-shirts? Is the “ticket sales deduction” the projected shirt income?
 - Representative: No. We charge teams an entry fee different for CPS vs private schools. Some money is that. For Division C we expect around 45 teams; for Division B about 30. CPS teams pay \$50; private schools pay \$130. Payments don’t all arrive before the invitational; invoices are due about two weeks after.
 - Fred: Your form reads like \$50 per person with 900 attendance.
 - Rep: It’s per team, not per person. Teams are ~20 students; some schools bring multiple teams.
 - Fred: So are those revenue projections based on last year?
 - Rep: Yes. We’ve hosted since 2017; this is our largest year. We also cap entries room limits so around 45 teams max per division, ~20–23 schools.
- Addison: Then where does money from coaches/teachers go? And T-shirt revenue?
 - Rep: Back into the invitational. T-shirts are minimal, we have ~10 preorders right now. We don’t depend on shirts for revenue.
- Addison: What are event materials exactly?
 - Rep: Consumables for lab events (basic chemicals, supplies). Written tests just need printing. We keep costs down by reusing what we already own.
- Addison: Food for volunteers and coaches on two separate lines?
 - Rep: Yes. Volunteers: basic pizza by building to keep them going and help recruitment. Coaches: boxed lunches (e.g., Potbelly). Typically one coach per school; plan around ~100 boxes, with a form for vegetarian etc., and a small buffer.
- Fred: Storage rental, why do you need an off-campus unit?
 - Rep: We have bulky, reusable equipment: build rigs, tables, and non-perishable chemicals. We rent a unit year-round so we don’t rebuy annually. The cost is split across Division B and C lines.
 - Caitlin: Clarify the quantity/term on storage, six months on each request?
 - Rep: We pay monthly; the split across B and C is to reflect the year. The “six” entries correspond to months across the academic cycle; it’s one unit.
- Caitlin: Weekly meetings/socials what are “Chinatown socials”?
 - Rep: Once per quarter, if we can, team bonding (e.g., dim sum). After we host our invitationals there’s a winter lull; the social keeps members engaged and

encourages spring travel participation (UIUC; if we qualify, nationals in California).

- Fred: Awards are the actual medals and a team trophy?
 - Rep: Yes, official Science Olympiad medals/trophies from the national vendor; hosts all buy from the same place.
- Addison: BSLC fee—this is the Biological Sciences Learning Center, right? And “Sunny Gym” vs “school gym”?
 - Rep: BSLC is the Bio Sci building. “Sunny Gym” is a separate space listing; a prior template still shows “school gym” at \$0, we’re not asking money for that line this year.

Deliberation:

- Members pulled up the Division B and Division C lines from the current year’s annual budget.
 - It showed that venue rentals (Mandel Hall, BSLC), event materials, and general club snacks were all covered in that allocation.
 - The committee confirmed that awards, trophies, T-shirts, and volunteer/coach meals had been explicitly denied during the annual review because they are considered giveaways or non-essential hospitality under SGFC policy.
 - Because those categories matched most of the new Division B and C requests, the consensus was that virtually every invitational line was either ineligible or already funded. Members agreed that funding the same items again would amount to duplication.
- The group then reviewed the smaller “weekly meetings/study break” request.
 - Records showed SGFC had already allocated funds for standard weekly gatherings during the annual allocations process and we could not fund them.
 - The motion passed unanimously with little debate.
 - Fred: Motion to fund \$0 for general meeting on the basis that they already received annual allocations for general meetings.
 - Addison: Second.
 - **Passes Unanimously**
- The reviewed Chinatown Social Dinners request.
 - Some members suggested funding one Chinatown social at the \$12-per-person dinner cost guide, totaling \$360 for roughly 30 participants.
 - The reasoning was that a single quarterly social could promote retention and morale after their major invitational work.
 - Others objected that the social, by the club’s own description, was limited to board members and heavily involved participants, making it a closed celebration rather than an open, community-building event.
 - Members recalled that a similar Chinatown dinner for another RSO had been denied the previous week, and consistency required the same treatment here.

- After brief back-and-forth about whether socials that recognize volunteer contributions should be treated differently, members came to a consensus that SGFC fund community events, not private banquets.
- Fred: Motion to fund \$0 for China Town Socials on the basis that it is obviously a closed event that is limited to mostly board members.
 - Addison: Second
 - **Passes Unanimously**
- Storage Space Rental Debate
 - The most time-consuming issue was the club's request to fund its off-campus storage unit, which costs roughly \$3,600 per year.
 - Arguments For Funding:
 - Several members acknowledged that Science Olympiad has an unusual need for physical storage: bulky rigs, lab materials, and reusable equipment.
 - Because re-buying each year would waste money, the storage unit arguably saved SGFC funds long-term.
 - One member suggested classifying it as a capital expense or recurring subscription akin to software costs.
 - Arguments Against Funding:
 - The counter-argument was that SGFC has no established precedent for subsidizing private storage rentals.
 - Funding it could open the door for dozens of large RSOs, especially performance or engineering groups, to request similar annual reimbursements.
 - Members emphasized that UChicago does provide limited on-campus storage through CLI, and RSOs are expected to coordinate with them first.
 - Policy Implications:
 - Several members felt this was not just a Science Olympiad issue but a campus-wide policy gap that should be resolved by the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and CLI before SGFC sets a precedent.
 - One member proposed denying the item for now but recommending that SGFC raise the question formally to higher committees for long-term guidance.
 - After multiple attempts to reconcile the item with existing categories (capital, recurring, or subscription), consensus formed that the safest path was to deny storage rental this round while asking USG/CLI to review the issue institutionally.
- Fred: Motion to fund \$0 for B and C events on the basis that all items other than storage spaces were already funded in annual allocations or are ineligible items and that storage space question required more USG-wide discussion.
 - Addison: Second.
 - **Passes Unanimously**

South Asian Students' Association

Presentation:

- Representatives from the South Asian Students' Association (SASA) presented a request to fund their "Family System" program, an ongoing mentorship structure within the organization. The program pairs two to three upperclassmen "family heads" with 10–15 underclassmen "family members" to foster mentorship, belonging, and engagement with South Asian culture at UChicago.
- SASA explained that the family system had grown dramatically in the past year, doubling its participants, which rendered it financially unsustainable without SGFC support. Previously, family heads often covered costs for meals or cultural outings out-of-pocket, but the organization now wants to ensure every member can fully participate regardless of financial background.
- The funding would be distributed across ~120 participants, with each family planning small-scale cultural or social gatherings (e.g., shared meals, festival celebrations, or other culturally relevant outings). The representatives emphasized that the goal is cultural mentorship, not social leisure, and that every student in SASA is welcome to join a family.

Q&A:

- Fred: What's your current account balance? It is not listed in your application.
 - SASA Representative: Around \$500 in unallocated funds. Most of our money is reserved for four major events: Diwali, our Spring SASA Show, Eid, and Holi. Those have fixed budgets and typically break even after ticket sales.
- Fred: You listed attendance as 120 but line items add to 110. Which is correct?
 - SASA Representative: It's closer to 120 now, more underclassmen joined in the past week, so the numbers grew after submission.
- Fred: What kind of activities will families do with this funding?
 - SASA Representative: Many will eat together at South Asian restaurants or celebrate small cultural festivals, like Pongal or Eid. Others might host potlucks or game nights. Food is often part of the cultural experience, so we used restaurants as an example.
- Addison: Are these all food-based events?
 - SASA Representative: Not necessarily. We framed it around food for simplicity, but families may choose other cultural bonding activities.
 - Addison: But mostly it is food based events?
 - SASA Representative: Yes but we give the choice to family mentors.
- Fred: Can anyone join a family, or is there an application?
 - SASA Representative: Anyone can join. Family heads apply and are approved to ensure they're committed, but underclassmen just sign up via a form. We hold a

“Meet the Family Heads” event, then assign families based on interest and compatibility.

- Fred: So this request is essentially to cover small cultural gatherings for these families to reduce the financial burden on participants?
 - SASA Representative: Exactly. It’s about inclusion and mentorship, not just food.

Deliberation:

- After the representatives left, the committee engaged in an extended discussion. Members compared this request to a similar one from DeAsian Youth, which was denied the previous week for proposing family “dinner outings” deemed insufficiently mission-related. The challenge was determining whether SASA’s family program was meaningfully distinct.
 - Several members argued that SASA’s request was substantively different because:
 - It tied directly to the organization’s mentorship system, a central part of its mission.
 - The events were designed to be inclusive and culturally relevant, not selective social gatherings.
 - The family system was open to all SASA members, rather than a closed group of board members or friends.
 - Others cautioned that the structure, students receiving SGFC funding to dine out, was visibly similar to the rejected DeAsian Youth request, and consistency was crucial.
- The committee examined the request line by line. The total requested was \$1,619.92, covering all family activities for the quarter. Members calculated that the amount averaged to roughly \$13–14 per participant, which falls below SGFC’s standard \$15 per-person dinner cost guide with cultural focus. Because cost-guiding would actually increase the total (to \$1,800), one member proposed simply funding the full requested amount rather than adjusting upward.
- A key part of the debate was whether family events, many of which revolve around eating together, constitute cultural engagement. Members pointed out that in South Asian communities, festivals and family gatherings are central cultural practices. Multiple participants agreed that SASA’s explanation, emphasizing mentorship and cultural inclusivity, was more compelling and “substantively tied to culture” than prior similar proposals.
- At this point, the quorum had four members. Fred considered abstaining and asked the chair for clarification whether his abstention would reduce quorum below the required minimum, preventing a decision. Chair clarified it would, and Fred chose to vote instead, ensuring the motion could proceed.
- Addison: Motion to fund in full on the pretense that this is already cost-guided.
 - Leonardo: Second
 - **Passes with**
 - For: 3
 - Against: 1 (Dissenting: Fred)

Argentine Tango Club

Presentation:

- No presentation.
- Chair Clarification:
 - Argentine Tango Club requested support for additional instructional offerings beyond their current weekly Beginner and Intermediate lessons, plus one large social event:
 - New asks this quarter
 - Guided Practica (weekly): \$200 per session for a leader + \$50/session for snacks.
 - Advanced Workshop & Choreography (weekly): \$250 per session to prepare a performance for the year-end “Where Fun Comes to Dance” showcase and potential off-campus tango events.
 - Current operations
 - Two classes per week (Beginner and Intermediate).
 - Revenue model: pay-per-quarter or pay-per-class. First class is free for newcomers.

Q&A:

- Caitlin: Last week we were confused about member dues. Can you re-explain how you collect revenue?
 - Rep: Students can pay by the quarter or per class. Community/alumni/affiliates have higher rates. This quarter we collected \$817 total (includes quarter fees and class fees).
- Fred: Do some pay annually?
 - Rep: No annual plan, either quarter or per-class. First class is free.
- Cambron: How are dues collected and deposited?
 - Rep: Cash. We usually deposit once per year (last spring).
- Fred: Class volume this quarter?
 - Rep: 2 classes/week (Beginner + Intermediate) ≈ 20 sessions in a 10-week quarter. We plan to add a weekly guided practica.
- Fred: Headcount?
 - Rep: We have 22 paying members listed this quarter (plus ~4 committee not on that list). Attendance varies: Beginner sometimes 20–30, Intermediate 10–15; many try one free class; community participants come sporadically.
- Fred: Breakdown students vs community?
 - Rep: Mostly students; about 4 community members; ~3–4 affiliates/staff/postdocs total.
- Fred: Can members attend both classes?
 - Rep: Experienced dancers may do both; new dancers stay in Beginner for a quarter before moving up.
- Addison: What exactly is the Guided Practica vs Advanced Workshop?

- Rep: Guided Practica is supervised practice to apply lesson material; a teacher circulates and coaches mixed-level pairs and Advanced Workshop & Choreography: separate, performance-oriented sessions to build a set routine for Where Fun Comes to Dance and potential campus tango events.
- Fred: Instructor pay rates?
 - Rep: Current lesson instructor: \$200/class (not \$250). The new Advanced Workshop ask is \$250/session; Guided Practica leader is \$200/session. Practica snacks \$50/session.
- Fred: Milonga?
 - Rep: A large social dance, often with a short performance; common across tango communities.
- Fred: Do you track who pays quarter vs per-class?
 - Rep: We keep a spreadsheet; most this quarter chose quarter memberships. We showed the sheet.

Deliberation:

- Members reviewed the adviser's spreadsheet notes: cash-based intake, single annual deposit, and \$817 reported this quarter. Prior confusion came from inconsistent numbers shared last week (different officers). The committee reiterated the need for consistent tracking of quarter vs per-class revenue and timely deposits to university accounts.
- Adding two more paid sessions weekly (Guided Practica + Advanced Workshop) would raise weekly instructional spending by ~\$600/week on top of existing Beginner/Intermediate costs, while the club lists 22 paying members this quarter and only \$817 collected so far. Multiple members flagged a mismatch between capacity/revenue and the proposed instructional load.
- Members agreed Beginner/Intermediate lessons are core and currently funded in annuals.
 - Advanced Workshop & Choreography has a clear tie to a public deliverable (Where Fun Comes to Dance) and external/community engagement, arguably mission-integral.
 - Guided Practica is pedagogically sensible but reads as a third weekly instructional slot; with current size/finances, it risks becoming a high-cost benefit for a small group.
- The committee cited SGFC guidance on external professionals: allowed when integral and when student instruction options are not viable; however, SGFC is not bound to fund at maximum frequency. Paying multiple pros weekly for a small roster raised sustainability concerns and precedential risk ("lessons for pay" model creeping upward across RSOs).
- Multiple options were debated
 - Fund Advanced Workshop only (as recurring, halved): supporters argued it enables a campus-wide performance, may grow membership, and has clear outcomes.
 - Partial pilot (e.g., 5 advanced sessions lump-sum): a compromise to test uptake without committing to 10 sessions.

- Fund both new asks: rejected as too expensive relative to membership and current revenue.
- Fund nothing now; ask them to return near the showcase with updated membership and deposits: favors fiscal caution and better data.
- Committee eventually came to the following consensus:
 - The club already has two weekly paid classes.
 - Evidence of growth and deposits needs to firm up before adding weekly advanced/pro practica spend.
 - The committee is open to an Advanced Workshop tie-in to Where Fun Comes to Dance, but wants a right-sized proposal (likely fewer sessions) and closer to spring once performance roster is confirmed.
- Addison: I move to fund \$0 now, on the basis that the proposed weekly expansions don't match current membership or revenue. Invite Tango Club to reapply closer to the Where Fun Comes to Dance showcase with an updated plan (fewer advanced sessions tied to the performance), cleaned revenue tracking, and recent deposits.
 - Fred: Second.
 - **Passes Unanimously**