

University of Chicago Student Government

Student Government Finance Committee

January 29, 2026

7-9:00pm

Summary:

RSO Name	Event	Requested	Recommended
Dirt Red Brass Band	1. Mixer and Bag 2. Speaker 3. Dirt Red Brass Band in New Orleans 2026	1. \$147.89 2. \$796 3. \$8127.65	1. \$0 2. \$475.63 3. \$2242.85
Voices in Your Head	Boston Sings [Boss] A Capella Event	\$8734.12	\$2823.53
The Black Graduate Coalition	Black History Month Gala	\$3021.67	\$935
International Student Organization	Lunar New Year and Holi Celebration	\$800	\$800
Furries at UChicago	Study Breaks	\$153	\$33
Kreyòl Club	Haitian Heritage Month	\$1685	\$1216
Undergraduate Law Magazine	ULM Winter SGFC Funding Request	\$270	\$270
Tennis Club	Club Tennis Sectionals Tournament	\$3652.72	\$1927.22

Occam's Razor	Occam's Razor Annual Retreat	\$3495	\$0
Outdoor Adventure Club (Texas/New Mexico)	Big Bend National Park, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands	\$7915	\$1007
Outdoor Adventure Club (Colorado/Utah)	Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde, Canyonlands, Arches	\$7214.38	\$777.6
Outdoor Adventure Club (Michigan/Wisconsin)	Michigan: Upper Peninsula and Sleeping Bear Dunes)	\$2577.36	\$588.58
Argentine Tango Club	Where Fun Comes to Dance Choreography Workshop	\$3000	\$1875
UChicago Space Program	PULSE-A Work Session Food	\$300	\$300
Writers' Workshop	Funding Request for UChicago Writers' Workshop Write-In Events	\$300	\$0

Attendance:

Name	Attendance
Caitlin Mooney - Chair	Present
Liya Luk - Vice Chair	Present
Cambron Bice - CLI Advisor	Present
Andy Lin - Member	Present

Addison Marshall - Member	Absent
Grace Beatty - Member	Present
Kevin Guo - Member	Proxy
Leonardo Quai - Member	Present
Fred Lee - Exofficio	Present as Proxy
Carsten Chow - Member	Absent
Nikolay Kopaliani - Member	Present

1. **Dirt Red Brass Band**

A) Mixer (Line item 3) and equipment context

Presentation:

- Request included a mixer and a speaker replacement
- They've had 2 speakers for a long time. One recently broke and the other does not work properly. So they need money to replace it

Questions:

- **Fred** asked about remaining RSO funds that they have allocated toward instrument repair and whether either of their capital expenses would make sense to be contained in this allocation/earmarked amount
 - **Response:** They said it is an emergency fund used for small items like cables
- Fred asked if the \$2,000 that was discounted from the New Orleans trip is coming their RSO accounts balance
- Response: They said yes that amount is how much they will be contributing and the remaining 468 is saved in case any instruments breaks
- **Grace** asked how the speaker replacement differs from the money on their account already allocated toward instrument repair
 - Response: They said use repair funds to repair the stuff they already have rather than purchasing new ones. So to buy a new item like a mixer, they usually just come to SGFC first
- **Fred** asked how they plan to use transportation listed
 - Response: Streetcar is local New Orleans transportation. Rental cars are for getting to New Orleans and carrying instruments. Some members may take the train with the rest of the instruments
- **Caitlin** asked if they fundraise
 - Response: They said yes, throughout the year. They make money from performances. They have not done a bake sale
- Fred asked if they considered everyone taking a rental car
 - Response: Yes, they have done it before, but driving safety is sometimes a

concern

- Fred asked if the car rental is only for transportation or if its being rented for the whole duration of the trip
 - Response: It is for the whole duration
- Grace asked how long the duration is
 - Response: Fred stated about 10 days
- Fred noted the cost of the car is cheap

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$0 for the mixer (line item 3), given they have \$468 in their account allocated toward fixing
- Grace stated they should take \$468 out of the capital fund and seconded the motion

B) Speaker replacement

Motion:

- Motion to fund \$475.63, on the basis that \$475.89 (the remainder amount on their account from previous SGFC funding) got subtracted from the total amount asked for speaker replacement

C) New Orleans travel

Discussion:

- Caitlin noted 20% of total student travel cost is to be funded according to the new amendments to the cost guide and food must be cost guided to \$15 per person per day
- Andy asked if travel includes the rental car
 - Caitlin said it is up to everyone's interpretation of the new amendment
- Fred noted they do have to take instruments
- Liya stated she does not think they should include the car in travel
- Grace stated the travel amendment should include lodging, and transportation
- Liya stated the car is necessary so they should not include it in travel discount
- Fred referenced the new rule: only 20% of travel is funded

Motion 1:

- Fred motioned to fund \$1,800
- Motion failed

Motion 2:

- Liya motioned: food (line item 3) is covered by fundraising, rental car (line item 5) funded in full as it is a necessity with instrument transportation, and fund 20% of line items 1, 2, and 4
- Amount stated: Liya motioned to fund \$2242.85
- All in favor, motion passed

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2. **Voices in Your Head**

Presentation:

- Request to attend a competition and conference in Boston with industry professionals
- Requested funding for attendance fee to participate in workshops, flights, and Airbnb

Questions:

- Caitlin asked if they have fundraised
 - Response: Event is in spring, they have not fundraised yet. Plan to do a bake sale, with an estimate of 200-300 in revenue
- Fred asked estimated fundraising revenue
 - Response: clarified to \$200

Discussion:

- Grace said food needs to be cost guided
 - In response, Fred said only \$540 of food can be funded
- Liya proposed taking 20% of line items 1, 3, and 5 under the new amendment of 20% of student travel outside of conferences and competitions are to be funded
- Grace believed to fund line items 1 and 5 as they fall outside of travel expenses

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$2,823.53 on the basis that 20% of line items 1, 3, and 5 are to be funded and the remaining items are to be funded in full
 - Nikolay seconded
- Motion passed unanimously

3. **The Black Graduate Coalition Presentation:**

- They are hosting Annual Black History Month Gala
- Calculations from line items based on last year's expenses
- They did not apply to annual allocation, and their account funds are needed for other events like Black graduation in spring
- They stated they will cover about \$1,000 of the event. (500 from their account and the other 500 from another org)

Questions:

- Fred asked to confirm audience is for grad students based on the sheet
- Grace asked if undergrads can join
 - Response: Yes, open to everyone
- Grace asked how they will advertise
 - Response: Their social media, blueprint, listhost

- Liya asked how they plan to distribute alcohol
 - Response: They will have a bartender
- Fred asked how they will control age limit
 - Response: Wristband system
- Caitlin noted some items were not on the request, including the aforementioned wristbands
 - Response: Yes, items not listed are what they plan to pay themselves
- Caitlin asked how many things are not listed
 - Response: Some alcohol and decorations and the wristbands

Discussion:

- Fred said he was unsure if he felt comfortable funding this
- Leo clarified whether alcohol would be funded
- In response, Caitlin said no alcohol or other drinks are to be funded on the basis that SGFC does not fund alcohol and other drinks are to be considered within the per person food budget in the cost guide
- Grace said decorations should be cost guided to .50 per person
- Grace proposal: fund item 1 in full, not fund the DJ and advise them to have a student DJ, do not fund alcohol or bartender, cost guide food to \$12/person, and cost guide funding to the per person amount of \$75 for decorations

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$935 on the basis that it was the amount totaled to from Grace's proposal
- All in favor, motion passed
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- 4. International Student Organization presentation:**
 - They are celebrating Lunar New Year and Holi Celebration in Hutch
 - It's a 3 parts: workshops, a show with dressed-up performances, and celebration with food

Motion:

- Leo motioned to fund in full based on the fact everything is cost guided

Vote:

- Everyone agreed
- Abstained: Grace and Fred. Funded in full
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- 5. Furrries at UChicago presentation:**
 - They are requesting funding for their study break funding for the rest of the quarter. They plan on meeting biweekly, and one portion of the fund will be for food, the other for

games

Questions:

- Liya asked if these are the only 2 study breaks they have for rest of quarter
 - Response: Yes
- Liya asked if the game is reusable
 - Response: Yes

Discussion:

- Andy Lin motioned to fund in full
 - Liya asked if this is a general body meeting
 - Grace said she would consider it as a general body meeting
 - Liya motioned to fund \$33 on the basis that general body meeting food is not funded, but the game is viewed as a capital expense
- 6. Kreyol Club presentation:**
- They are hoisting their Haitian Heritage Month event
 - Request for food, water, utensils, DJ (estimated a similar to last year)

Questions:

- Fred asked what they are ordering for food
 - Response: food from a Haitian restaurant
- Leo asked how they calculated expected attendance
 - Response: Based on last year attendance, but they are expecting more this year because of a collaboration with ACSA
- Grace asked if the DJ is a student
 - Response: No
- Fred asked where the event will be
 - Response: Logan Center

Discussion:

- Fred said drinks and DJ will not be funded as drinks are included in the per person food cost guided amount and they need to find a student DJ
- Liya said food and drinks needs to be cost guided to \$15 din as it is cultural food

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$1,216 on the basis that the food/drinks are cost guided to \$15/person, cost guiding the utensils/napkins per person, cost guiding decor, and funding the venue in full
- Liya seconded, motion passed unanimously
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7. Undergraduate Law Magazine presentation:

- Funds requested for socials and food. They want to foster a tighter community and have more public presence. They said the money they currently have is allocated toward Food was to incentivize their writers to come to their event
- They said the current money in their account is for other expenses such as printing, and adobe subscription.

Questions:

- Grace asked how if they are incentivizing their own writers
 - Response: They said yes their own writers and other students
- Caitlin asked how they are advertising
 - Response: Primarily instagram and through a list host
- Liya asked if the request is for one social
 - Response: Yes

Discussion/Motions:

- Liya motioned to fund \$270 (food cost guided)
 - Motion failed
- Grace motioned to fund \$0 because she does not food is necessary given their stated basis for their requesting food
 - Motion failed
- Liya motioned again to fund \$270 (food cost guided per person)

Vote:

- 6 in favor, 1 abstained
- Funded \$270
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8. Tennis Club presentation:

- Travel to tournament
- Bringing 5 men and 5 women to compete with top 32 teams
- Requested car rentals and Airbnb (bus/hotels more expensive) and food for the day

Discussion:

- Caitlin mentioned their bylaws have been formally altered this winter quarter such that competition is no longer a part of their organization
- Fred said USG cabinet has discussed an agreement to fund them through the end of the year because this event was partially funded during AnnAlls and they were asked to come back for the remainder of the request
Caitlin clarified that while USG cabinet may have discussed this, SGFC is entitled to make their own decision on the request, as SGFC is an independent, autonomous committee

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$1,927.22 on the basis that food is funded in full as it is cost guided and hotel and car are funded in half according to the new amendment regarding competition travel
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- **9. Occam's Razor presentation:**
- Visiting a local college to perform
- Requesting funding for accommodation and transportation

Questions:

- Fred asked if the presenter wrote the request
 - Response: No
- Fred asked for clarification on whether the request is accurate in its statement that the event is only open to members and not advertised publicly in any sense
 - Response: yes, it is not an open event. It has been held in the past as a closed event as well.

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$0 on the basis that it is not open to the public based on the wording of the request and confirmation by the RSO's presentation
- Caitlin asked whether committee is open to funding 20% vs \$0 given it is not open to everyone
- Fred stated based on wording it should be \$0
- Fred motioned to fund \$0 (restated)
- Motion passed unanimously
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- **10. Outdoor Adventure Club spring break trips**
- The Outdoor Adventure Club presented its annual Spring Break Trip Program, which has run consistently for many years
- The program is intended for students who are unable to travel home during spring break, including international students
- Each year, the club typically runs three outdoor trips during spring break, usually lasting about a week
- Trips are to national parks and outdoor destinations across the country
- Typical trip size ranges from 12–16 participants per trip
- This year, the club is running two larger, week-long trips and one shorter, partial-week trip to Michigan/Wisconsin for students who do not want to travel for the full week
- The club described the program as a signature experience that many participants cite as a highlight of their time at UChicago, often fostering long-term friendships

A) Texas/New Mexico presentation:

- Trip will visit at least three national forests, one state park, and potentially a national park

- Total request approximately \$7,915
- Coordinators emphasized cost consciousness while maximizing the variety of outdoor experiences

Trip Structure:

- Participants will fly round-trip from Chicago to Dallas to maximize time on the ground
- Rental cars will be picked up at Dallas–Fort Worth International Airport
- Group discount secured for car rentals
- Itinerary includes:
 - Big Bend National Park (approximately four days)
 - White Sands area, with proximity to Carlsbad Caverns
- Activities include desert hiking, canyon exploration, cave visits, and kayaking

Cost Breakdown Highlights:

- Car rentals at DFW Airport for in-state transportation
- Groceries to feed participants throughout the trip
- Campsite fees for overnight lodging (approximately \$40 per campsite per night)
- Equipment (sleeping bags, pads, etc.) provided by the club
- Kayaking included as an experiential activity

Clarifications:

- Camping was described as the most cost-effective lodging option for the trip
- **Discussion and motion:**
- Fred stated lodging cost guided at 20%
- Groceries cost guided to 15/person/day according to the cost guide
Grace clarified that gas is not to be funded according to the cost guide
- 20% applied to flight, rental, and lodging for the amendment on student travel
- Everything else funded in full as they are cost guided
- Fred motioned to fund \$1,007 on the basis that lodging, rental, and flight are cost guided to 20% of the original cost, food is cost guided per person per day, and the remaining items (besides gas) are to be funded in full subtracted by the fundraising amount
All in favor

B) Colorado/Utah Presentation:

The trip will be driven rather than flown, as driving was determined to be more cost-effective

The group will use one personal vehicle and rent additional cars; car rentals and gas were identified as major costs

The trip is larger than usual, with approximately 22 participants and three trip leaders

Due to weather and elevation differences across sites, the itinerary includes:

- Two nights at a motel secured at a discounted group rate
- Additional nights camping, with campsite fees as lodging costs

Other costs include groceries, firewood, and national park entrance fees

The trip does not include premium or optional activities; expenses are limited to transportation, lodging, food, and park access

The club emphasized overall cost consciousness, noting that typical per-person costs for spring break trips range from approximately \$450–\$500, with participants contributing \$150–\$250 and SGFC contributing approximately \$300–\$400

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Discussion and Decision:

- Fred stated that 20% would be applied to car rental and lodging
- Gas and tolls would not be funded
- Grace stated that tolls should be funded as they are not clarified in the cost guide
- Liya stated that tolls should be considered part of travel costs under the 20% rule
- Fred clarified that food would be cost guided to \$15/person/day and park entrance fees would be funded in full

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$777.60 on the basis that the food is cost guided to \$15/person/day; relevant fees, gas for cooking, and firewood are funded in full; and 20% rule is applied to car rental and lodging; and the fundraising is subtracted from this amount

Vote:

- All in favor

C) Michigan/Wisconsin

Presentation:

- The Michigan/Wisconsin trip will be a shorter Spring Break option, approximately four and a half days
- The trip follows a loop around Lake Michigan, focusing on the Upper Peninsula
- Transportation will be by car, with two rented minivans serving as the full capacity for the trip
- The trip is smaller in scale, with approximately 12 participants
- Lodging will be in lodges and cabins for most of the trip
- Major costs include rental vehicles, gas, and cabin or lodge accommodations

- The group plans to visit Mackinac Island in northern Michigan
 - Transportation to the island would be via a state-subsidized icebreaker ferry
- Additional costs include groceries for group meals
 - The club noted that they cook all meals and do not fund restaurant food
- The itinerary also includes admission to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
- The trip is open to UChicago students

Questions:

- Liya asked if they fundraised
 - Response: ticket sales, membership fee, are their biggest ways of fundraising. They mentioned that they also offer financial aid to some students

Discussion:

- Fred stated 20% on car and lodging according the amendment of 20% of non-academic/professional student travel
- Fred said gas and tolls will not be funded according the cost guide and past precedent
- Grace questioned whether tolls should be funded
- Liya recommended tolls should count under travel cost for the 20% rule
- Fred stated food should be cost guided to 15/person/day, park entrance funded in full

Motions:

- Fred motioned to fund \$588.58 on the basis of funding 20% of travel costs, cost guiding the food to \$15/day/person, and admission is funded in full subtracted by their fundraising efforts of \$900
- (Vote: all in favor)
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11. UChicago Space Program presentation:

- Weekly meetings for subteam updates has led up to the event which they are asking for
- Upcoming design reveal event with formal presentations from everyone
- Request for food, expected attendance about 50
- Open to UChicago students and everyone else in the community

Questions:

- Liya asked if anyone from UChicago can go
 - Response: Yes
- Caitlin asked how long the event would last
 - Response: about 2.5 hours

Discussion:

- Liya said food should be cost guided to lunch

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund in full, as the amount requested fell into the cost-guided amount for lunch

Vote:

- All in favor

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12. Writers' Workshop presentation:

- Writing collaboration event, community-building
- Last quarter was successful, expecting more attendance this quarter

Questions:

- Fred asked how often this event happens in the quarter
 - Response: once
- Caitlin asked about leftover funds in their account
 - Response: saved for other events

Discussion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$0 on the basis they have leftover funds from the result of last year's rollover and SGFC funding from last quarter were not earmarked toward anything or given back to the committee funds
- Caitlin noted they were funded for 3 events last quarter but only hosted 1 in clarification of the rollover funding amount from last quarter

Motion passes. All in favor

13. Argentine Tango Club

Attendance:

- Did not show up

Discussion:

- Fred asked if costume is cost guided
- Caitlin said it is

On the basis of past precedent and treatment of recurring events, Fred said that the committee should fund the first 2 events and half the costs of the rest of the events

Caitlin noted that the first event will have passed by the time the funds would be transferred and this the committee cannot fund the first of the 10 events

Motion:

- Fred motioned to fund \$1,875 on the basis that the initial event has passed and cannot be funded, but the following two events can be funded in full and the rest of the events halved; costumes are to be funded in full