

2/12 SGFC Meeting Minutes

Summary:

RSO Name	Event	Amount Requested	Recommended Funding
The Shady Dealer	Distribution Party	\$0	Denied
Hindu Sangam	Holi Cultural Celebration	\$450	\$450 Approved
Latin Medical Student Association	Conference in Milwaukee	\$3104	Deferred
Medusa	Album recording	\$9300	Deferred
Moda Magazine	Launch party	\$0	Denied for resubmission
Partners in Health	5K fundraiser	\$0	Denied
Arab Student Association	Fast-breaking cultural event	\$1145	\$1145 Approved
African and Caribbean Student Association	Cultural show	\$0	Deferred/Denied for resubmission
Kappa Theta Pi	Series of events	\$0	Denied until clarification

Opening Remarks

Caitlin: We have funding for Spring, but it is also very probable we are going to get money from the discretionary budget of Cabinet. This would be meaningful, but wouldn't happen immediately. It is probably best if we dip into our Spring, with the idea that we would be "reimbursed" through the discretionary fund.

Kevin: As a rule of thumb, I think we should try to limit each meeting's allocation to 10k per meeting

Girl: So we only have three meetings in the Spring. So the amount we have left right now is about 70K. We would have 10K per week.

Kevin: Me saying this is the hope that we go into Spring with the money we need, plus maybe a little more from Cabinet, but they haven't decided on the exact amount yet.

Caitlin: I asked for lower than what Elijah was considering giving us, which would still be meaningful. The only way we could mitigate that issue is not meeting week 9. We cannot pick and choose who we let come.

Kevin: I'm not saying quota, just be mindful in general starting from the beginning. I think we have been doing great at maintaining financial discipline

Cambren: I do want to say, it is your job to use all of the money, and on the SGFC website it says it is first come first serve.

Kevin: I'm saying to cut down on frivolous spending. Not frivolous, but the cost per person is too high

The Shady Dealer

Presentation

- Request: Funding for distribution party for upcoming issue: printing and snacks.
- Issue: currently facing big budget deficit, they have decreased number of issues published and copies printed to mitigate

Discussion

Fred: Why are you having a budget deficit?

Presenter: Allocated insufficient funds last year, we struggled to fund current issues, also haven't made back overhead from fundraiser

Fred: I am confused as to why you are having funding issues because we have funded issues 2-6? What is the main reason why you need more money?

Presenter: We have no more money to print overall, we typically print nine issues per year and have had to reduce to 7. I can share with you our budget sheet. We have had a greater influx of submissions and are struggling to feature all.

Fred: When does issue 7,8, and 9 come out?

Presenter: Usually in the Spring.

AnnAll document is Opened

Kevin: Can you take a look at Annall from last year? What have you spent more money on than expected? Is there anything we didn't fund that you spent money on?

Caitlin: Is it possible that you just had a deficit running over from last year?

Presenter: No.

Kevin: It seems like you guys had a request for an open-all social that we didn't end up funding. It seems like this was an event last year that was only partially granted but we didn't give any money for it this year.

Caitlin: Did you fund another social event this year?

Presenter: No we haven't done one this year

Kevin: The question is, we funded \$1450 in total for issues 2-6, and I am just not sure as to why you do not have enough money to fund issue 4.

Fred: If it helps you, in general we don't fund things that have already been funded through AnAll. If you guys could articulate a reason for why this request is coming back up again we could consider funding.

Presenter: I am a little confused on how we are understanding funding.

Fred: Let's quickly take a look at the budget and see if it makes sense. I assume there has to be an extra line item on your budget that was either partially funded here or not accounted for.

Nothing was found in the budget

Caitlin: If you like we can see you again at the end or we can just discuss it. If we have any questions we can email. Otherwise if we reach our decision I can email you the final funding amount. We might run our own budget sheet and then send it to you.

Presenter leaves the room

Liya: She looks really sad, but we cannot fund this event.

Kevin: We can tell them to come to us with issues 7, 8, and 9.

Fred: I kept asking questions because she seemed really sad and it seemed like she had a real problem with deficit.

Kevin: But we should tell them they do not have a problem with deficit, they should be coming to us with later issues, not issue number 4.

Fred: Yes they do not have a problem in deficit.

[Denied post-meeting for reasons relating to the fact that budget is not up, funded this through AnnAlls]

Hindu Sangam
Presentation

- Request: Funding for Holi

- Issue: We did not get a lot of funding for Holi last year. We are currently not using student government for the t-shirts, but we cannot get the colors without your help. Every year we have a shortage of colors for our 300 student attendance, and we have no backlog.
- Need: \$150 minimum, I can show you that this is the precise amount I need and is the cheapest option

Discussion

Caitlin: Does anyone have any questions?

Liya: Yes, at the bottom of your request there is a minus 500 from funding from other sources

Presenter: That is the food. I thought that SGFC and RSO allocation were technically different accounts. So that is the allocation we were given at the very start of the year.

No more questions. Presenter steps outside

Caitlin: So I can tell you why they were not funded for colors. I can assume that the previous committee thought it was a handout, which again we do not fund. That is up to you on if you agree that it is a handout. And I think we need to consider the speaker and handheld microphone as separate things because they were not on the AnAll from last year.

General Consensus that this is not a handout

Caitlin: What do people think about the microphone and speaker?

General Consensus that microphone and speaker are okay

Motion to fund by Addi in full \$540 on the basis that the colors are in capital expenditure and integral to their event and speaker and handheld microphone are cost-benefit, seconded by Nikolai. Motion passes unanimously

Latin Medical Student Association

Presentation

- Request: \$3104 to support us going to a regional conference in Milwaukee. It is more important we go this year specifically as they cover topics such as immigrant health. The event is open for pre-meds, graduate students, and medical students. We have some limited supplemental support from the Pritzker office which is the equity office, but will not be enough to cover everything.

Discussion

Caitlin: Have you done fundraising for this event?

Presenter: No.

Fred: Can you explain to me what the gala is?

Presenter: Every conference has the main event with the posters and everything, and then has the gala at night where you can meet the doctors and find mentors.

Caitlin: Has your organization been to this event previously?

Presenter: Yes.

Caitlin: Why haven't you guys requested this event through AnAll?

Presenter: I am actually not sure why the previous years have not.

Kevin: How are people selected for the trip? Are you guys going to do outreach to undergrads?

Presenter: It is open to anyone who wants to go, we are connecting with the undergrad students for outreach and hoping to cover.

Presenter Leaves Room

Caitlin: So they haven't done any fundraising, but their event is such that we can defer them to when they do fundraising.

Liya: Are we then agreeing to dip into Spring?

Caitlin: Pretty much, but we are just deferring their request, we are not making any sort of motion for Spring funding yet.

Motion to defer their funding. There is a second, and motion is passed.

Cambren/Fred: Comment on how the Spring, Summer etc. is just an internal distinction. Like before this meeting I did the math and split everything we have left evenly across the meetings we have left, we have about 11K per meeting

Medusa

Presentation

- Need: We really want to share our music and want to record our album in the Spring quarter. All budget requests are based on this plan.
- Request: \$9300, taking into account every step in the album recording process and subtracting the amount made through ticket sales (\$150) and fundraising (\$220).

Discussion

Fred: So the alumni that is coming to help you guys, is this to pay for her work?

Presenter: No, it is to cover the cost of equipment. She is optimal cost-wise. We are only paying for service because their service comes with a cost (in regards to people they are working with).

Kevin: How many tracks are you guys recording?

Presenter: We wanted nine but we have put down five because they are a lot of money and just want to kick this off.

Kevin: Can you explain the travel reimbursement?

Presenter: I think it is cost per flight and rideshare costs. I can ask for a more detailed breakdown of this. The last time we did an album was four years ago. The reason we are asking for funding this year is that we asked for it last year, and we were encouraged to reapply for it this year.

Kevin: Can you help me understand the current RSO balance? There is some money unaccounted for.

Presenter: The remaining money is being used to repair equipment, rent space in Logan, and rent equipment. We don't really see much of a difference between our balance year to year because we usually have to save for concept expenses and competition each year.

Fred: Do you plan to do a bigger fundraiser in the future to make up about 4-5K dollars?

Presenter: It is really hard to make a substantial amount of money from fundraisers on campus.

Fred: Would you consider sponsorships and grants?

Presenter: It is really hard to do that, Medusa is relatively small. We do not regularly compete in national competitions to give us a reputation. This would depend on alumni relationships we can continue in the future.

Presenter steps outside

Caitlin: So we would only consider funding 50% of the album per the cost guide.

Leo: If they fund the other 50%.

General consensus here

Liya: I think we should defer it until the very last time that we can.

Motion to defer by Liya because they did not meet the fundraising requirement, seconded by Addi. The motion passed unanimously. Amendment to deny for resubmission on the basis of insufficient fundraising and need to breakdown travel expenses. Motion passes unanimous.

Moda Magazine
Presentation

- Request: We want to attract people to come to our launch party through Cinnabon and tote bags + fabric markers for the anticipated 100 members. We haven't had a release in a while and want to promote this well

Discussion

Fred: Is this the only food being had at this event?

Presenter: We are also doing the free catering from the dining hall.

Kevin: How did you guys get to these expenses?

Presenter: just from past even turnout and people cycling through Hallowed where the event will be. Also given club membership.

Caitlin: Are you a new RSO?

Presenter: We are listed under Moda. We are not an official RSO.

Caitlin: Do you guys know what Moda's account balance is?

Presenter: We operate separately so we are not entirely sure what moda's balance is off the top of our head. We have not been given login yet for the Blueprint.

Presenters step outside

Caitlin: The reason I was asking about Moda's account balance is because I was pretty sure it is insane and it is—it's 33K. They got about 7K through AnAll last year.

Kevin: Can we defer?

General debate about if this is considered a giveaway or not

Move to deny the request so they can re-request and better explain their account balance by Kevin, seconded by Liya. Motion passed unanimously.

Partners in Health

Presentation

- Issue: We are doing a 5K meant to be a fundraiser for the larger organization PIH and that is the expectation of us as a chapter. It is meant to be low-intensity and accessible, intended for students, staff, alumni, and friends of UChicago PIH.
- Request: Supplies for 5K including bibs, ponchos, popsicles, cooler, water jug, tape, finish line, and cornhole game. We are hoping these are one-time purchases that will be used for this recurring event.

Discussion

Fred: How much will the tickets be? Will fundraising go to the parent national organization?

Presenter: Yes, funding goes to the parent organization. We are planning to do \$15 per ticket, for a goal of \$1000 for whole-year fundraising. We will also do personal fundraising by this is our group fundraising as a chapter

Caitlin: Can I ask if you have applied to CSF? They fund more stuff like this, giveaways, than we do. I would encourage you to look into this after our decision.

Fred: how much are you supposed to fundraise for your parent organization?

Presenter: So it depends and is quite low for UChicago compared to other chapters. Our goal is \$1000 for the whole year, this is split amongst personal member fundraising and group fundraising. In terms of dues there is no cost to be a part of PIH, but there is an expectation of fundraising. We are a new RSO from last Spring so this is our first year. We did not get a chance to submit AnAll.

Fred: From the expected revenue of fundraising, how are you planning to use the rest of the money beyond the total amount you have planned to raise for Partners in Health?

Presenter: depends on what events are planned for the rest of the year, but most likely goes back to the parent organization

Presenter steps outside the room

Fred: Can the purpose of your organization be just to raise money for your parent organization?

Kevin: I think this was approved through CORSO last year.

Caitlin: Regardless of what happened with CORSO, I think you need to evaluate this within itself.

Addi: We are essentially just giving \$635 to the parent organization.

General Consensus Here

Cambron: Note about CSF, they might take issue with the amount of community members expected to participate in this event, which is less than half.

Liya: I do think we should consider their ticket sales to be ticket sales, regardless of non-profit parent organization. I think this is also a confusing matter because the amount we are funding to them is indirectly a donation to the non-profit by the University.

Fred: That is what I am not okay with.

Cambron: However the money we fund will be under the title of “for the 5K”, so its intention will be that. Yes they will generate money from this that will go to the parent organization, but we as a committee

would not be giving money directly to the organization. So that has got to be different. Also, the purpose of this committee is not to dictate which RSOs can or should exist within this university. We need to think about if this is integral to the goal of the organization, and if the organization's objective is to raise money for said nonprofit, then this funding is seen as integral for it.

Fred: My thing is that we usually subtract ticket sales, we do not consider them fundraising.

Kevin: In the cost guide SGFC funds up to \$300 per quarter for fundraising efforts; we could do a similar thing here.

Caitlin: That was made with the intent for something of like an album and we would fund something like buns for their bun sales.

Kevin: I know what the intention was, but this seems very much like a fundraising event to me, and so I would be okay funding it \$200 under the fundraising grant permission.

Addi: If we include ticket sales which we always do, that would go in the negatives and we cannot fund this.

Fred: Working under the fundraising grant permission does not address my concern of money being directly given to a non-profit

Addi: My problem is still the ticket sales.

Motion from Addi to deny, with second by Nikolai. Three in favor, two abstaining, two against, motion is passed.

Further lingering debate about whether members would fund it or not.

Arab Student Association

Presentation

- Event: Joint event with two other organizations, catering food from Cedars (13.95 per person) for this fast-breaking event, Hutch has been booked, expecting 200-300 people in total
- Request: \$1145 for their portion of the food for about 100 ASA students

No questions are had, and presenter steps outside

Discussion

Addi: The food and utensils is cost guided

Ticket sales are deducted by members because they previously were not

Motion to fund in full by Nick, seconded by Liya, motion passed unanimously

African and Caribbean Students Association

Presentation

- Request: Catering for the annual cultural show, which is more expensive this year, and the amount of food ordered has been increased for expected attendance.

Discussion

Kevin: It seems like there was some catering funded through AnAll, is this the same show?

Presenter: Yes. And for context we are waiting for multiple payments from OBS, have had multiple cuts in funding due to last year mistakes on previous president, and will be conducting fundraisers.

Caitlin: So can you explain why last year you requested Mandel Hall and are now asking for Logan.

Presenter: Miscommunication between space reservations led to a switch to Logan to save money. Expecting 200 ticket sales, presale at \$12, and then increase to \$15, with day-off tickets being \$20. Invoice for the catering can be sent, the rationale behind pricing is somewhat confusing.

Presenter steps outside room

Kevin: I think we should consider AnAll, but we should also consider that tickets were already accounted for in AnAll. My proposal would be that however much increase in ticket price it was from AnAll, I would consider funding the things that weren't funded in AnAll like the performers.

Back-and-forth discussion on if student performers from other schools have been paid before

Kevin: Verbage in guidelines simply says any current student shouldn't be paid, doesn't specify from UChicago.

Math conducted by members with discussion around what specifically will and won't be funded (makeup, professional performers, extra food, etc.), considerations for AnAll, ticket price increase, and lack of fundraising. Attempts were made at setting a threshold for fundraising required of RSO.

Adi motions to defer/deny on the basis that they have not hit their fundraising goal, second to motion, 5:1 abstention (by Kevin): 0.

Kappa Theta Pi

Andy: What they have for food listed on their sign up form is significantly different than the food they had submitted

Fred: This could be grounds to deny and defer given they do not have a representative to explain.

Kevin moves to deny it given they don't fund alumni and that the food they requested is materially different than the food on the form. Someone seconds, and the vote is unanimous in favor of denying.

On the Topic of Gavin's Proposal

Context: Gavin is a first year in College Council, who wants to have a conversation in College Council about something concerning SGFC.

Caitlin: His recommendation is that he is interpreting our cost guide in a fundamentally different way than the way we have been interpreting it. His interpretation of what we do is not correct and the percentages he provided cause some confusion.

Kevin: I spoke with him and told him that the committee generally does not consider funding requests that do not have fundraising attached to them, but can consider deducting the fundraising. I think he went into this with the understanding that SGFC consistently subtracts the fundraising amount. After I communicated this to him, it was his opinion that SGFC should not defer requests based on fundraising, and adopt a consistent policy of either consistently deferring or consistently deducting fundraising. I think his thing is that he believes the committee should as a matter of standard practice subtract whatever fundraising is required.

Caitlin: I think it would be very helpful if we talked—him and I—because what he is asking to do is against decades of past precedent which is something I would say he doesn't really have the ability to do within this context.

Addi: Can you please detail what is the current perceived issue with what we are doing.

Kevin: His issue is that we defer requests if they haven't fundraised sufficiently, he believes we should directly deduct the amount they need to fundraise from the final allocation we give them.

Liya: This table he provided is also not a correct use of percentages.

Addi: What is the procedure for if we disagree with this as a group?

Caitlin: Yes, we do not implement this. We mentioned earlier the possibility of him altering the bylaws to control how we fund.

Kevin: So my opinion is that he has the ability through College Council to alter the cost guide, but SGFC also has discretion in following the cost guide. From his position on the College Council, he can then move if he wants to change specific allocations.

Cambren: I think a conversation between Caitlin and Gavin would be very helpful to understand his view. I think a conversation also needs to happen between the leadership of College Council and the leadership of SGFC to make really clear who has ownership over SGFC's cost guide. I think right now we won't reach the place we want to be in this conversation.

Kevin: Student government is governed by the bylaws. From his position, Gavin can move to change the bylaws, perhaps in a way to clarify the relationship, but not in a way SGFC prefers. I don't know if he can get the votes.

Verbage is pulled up for reference of bylaws

Leo: Can College Council make bylaws that counteract SGFC?

Kevin: My personal opinion is that if you look at the USG constitution it says all authority within USG is exercised by the College Council, so my opinion is yes. That being said, I don't think we need to get to that point yet and a conversation would be very helpful.

Kevin moves to defer this decision, Addi seconds, unanimous vote.