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Activity Fee Review Committee

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AFRC Hearing Minutes for Thurs. Sept. 27, 2012

In attendance: Robert Smith, Ellie Hofer, Lindsay Brown, Chase Gerold, Jessica Zabel, Bobby Miller, Haley Van Cleve, Dave Swenson, Meara Hove

1. At 7:37 p.m. Robert Smith called the meeting to order.

2. The classification of the funding requests began prior to the hearings. 7 requests were classified before the first hearing, which are as follows:

Psy Chi requested funds for a Fetchner Day Celebration in the La Fave House. CG moves to classify as E, which BM seconded. The classification was passed.

Foodlums requested funds for collaboration learning projects. The committee agreed to split the classification into travel and non-travel expenses. CG moved to classify the non-travel request as D, which LB seconded. LB moved for travel classification as 3, which was second by JZ.

Sigma Tau Delta requested funding for an October book reading. NK moved to classify as A, which CG seconded.

Soc/Anth requested funding for attendance of the Nobel Conference. JZ asked to split the allocations, which the committee agreed to. CG motioned D3 for travel expenses, which JZ seconded. CG motioned to classify non-travel expenses as B, which JZ seconded.

Bad Movie Club requested funding for films. CG motions to classify the request as A. LB proposes B. NK motioned for B, which CG seconded.

Disability Alliance requested funding for transportation to a show in Twin Cities. It was noted that the event would be out of town, and only for Honors students. CG motioned to classify the request as D4: D because it would be out of town, 4 because it primarily benefits the individual. NK seconded the motion.

The Finer Things requested funds for a fine dining experience. The committee agrees to look at catering sheet when they come for their hearing. CG motioned to classify the request as a B, which BM seconded. LB motioned for A because it would be a large event in Oyate. NK also motioned for A. The classification was taken to a vote, and voted as B (4-2).

3. At 8:00 pm the hearings began, which are as follows.

Psy Chi was represented by Kristina Grundmanis. Psy Chi is the psychology honors society on campus, and this year are combining with Psychology Club. They would like to celebrate Fechner Day, Oct. 22, because Fechner was a great contributor to the field of psychology. They would like to have a party/meet and greet for all Psychology faculty and majors. The purpose of this event would be to get to know professors and other students. Kristina

noted that the U of M, especially Morris, is proud of its research, and this would promote research projects among students and faculty.

JZ asked why they needed 2 rental fees for the LaFave House. Christina believed that she misinterpreted the website, and thought they needed 2 allocations for the time they wanted to book the LaFave House. One rental fee was allocated for the event.

JZ motioned for a \$175 allocation, which LB seconded.

Foodlums was represented by Laura Hunt. Foodlums works to get local food on campus, and aims to educate people about food, and to connect students to where food comes from. Their proposed event “To the Farm” would be a display of how farms are run and what happens at each. Participants would bike to the farms, so there are low fuel emissions. Carlton and St. Olaf would host a barn dance afterwards, and participants would be staying with students from those schools.

The mileage for the event was corrected from 975 miles to 400 miles round trip.

Upon examination of Foodlums’ budget, they were found to already have sufficient funds to cover the farm tours.

CG motioned to fund at \$0, which JZ seconded.

Sigma Tau Delta was represented by Cameron Cook. Sigma Tau Delta is an English honors society. It has traditionally hosted the Banned Books Reading, the Halloween Reading, and a celebration of Shakespeare’s birthday. The goal of the organization is to bring literature to the forefront at campus.

JZ asked how many truffles the group would be selling, and the price of each. Cameron said that they would be \$1 each, and the group planned on selling 25.

The amount requested was \$23.73. CG moved for \$24, which JZ seconded.

Soc/Anth Society was represented by Aaron Goeman. The organization was started last spring by Aaron and Marci Sanchez, with the goals of building relationships within the Sociology and Anthropology disciplines, and to gain knowledge in the fields by attending academic conferences. They would like to go to Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College. They also hope to host another grad school/internships night. As a group, their average membership is 20-30 people weekly.

As of now, the group believes they will have 5 people going to the conference. JZ motioned for \$96, which CG seconded. This allocation included registration, gas, food, and subtracts the group’s current funds.

Disability Alliance was represented by Amy Grant. Disability Alliance works to educate and increase awareness about disabilities on campus. They plan on going to Mixed Blood Theatre as a group, and only funds for transportation would be needed.

CG motioned to fund \$116 because they could use the amount they already had in their account. LB seconded the motion.

The Finer Things Club was represented by Ian Hall and Mitch Patzer. The club is new, and works to refine the public liberal arts education and work on proper professional conduct. The group would like funds to get the name of the organization out there this first year, and for a meal working on dining etiquette. The mugs the group sells are in exchange for \$5 “membership.” They hope for the meal to be at the end of semester, but it may be end of school year.

EH asked if they will sell mugs throughout year. Mitch replied that they need mugs to sell mugs. They can also only buy at increments of 36 after a certain point, so that is why they need 108 mugs.

JZ asked if they would be willing to sell tickets into the proposed dinner. They replied that yes, they would. However, each person would need to pay \$15 for meal, so the club wants to subsidize meal to make it more accessible for students.

LB asked if they knew the total price of food. Ian replied that they do not know exactly. They estimate around 50 people will attend because around 40 people show up weekly.

CG pointed out that the group has already come up with more than 50% of the total amount needed. He motioned to fund \$314 (full amount). LB seconded.

WWJD requested funds for travel and infrastructure. CG motioned to classify infrastructure as B, which LB seconded. CG motioned for travel to be classified as D4. LB motioned to classify travel as C3 because the service projects they planned would be out of town. This is a tricky classification because sometimes the events would be on campus and sometimes they would be off campus. JZ seconded D4. LB asks why 4. CG said it was because the activities would not be directly benefiting campus. There was some discussion as to how much the event is benefiting the group. CG motioned to kill D4. D4 was unanimously voted against. LB motioned C3, which HVC seconded.

[The committee momentarily digressed to discuss the purchase of a gavel for Robert.]

WWJD, represented by Kurtis Haider, is based on the “What Would Jesus Do” campaign from the 90s, and the group’s goal is to serve people in the immediate community. The group organizes work projects, assists Morris residents, and does service projects whenever they can, which include supporting charity organizations, hosting bake sales, participating in Operation Christmas Child, etc. The funds they requested would go towards tools for work projects in the community and other fundraisers. The group listed themselves as not getting funding because their funds go to other organizations.

JZ suggested asking Plant Services to borrow their tools. The group replied that because they will be a continuing organization, they want to have their own store of supplies to use for projects when tools are needed.

NK motioned to fund the full amount of \$444. CG seconded.

RS mentioned to the committee that having food at regular meetings is generally frowned upon. WWJD comments that the food is not for weekly meetings, which are for the core organizers of the projects, but for special info meetings about service projects open to the campus.

Paganism in Literature requested funding for outreach and special dinners throughout the school year. CG motioned to classify the request as B. BM seconded. LB motioned for C because the group meets off campus. CG argued that they do things on campus, even if they meet off of it. Voted as B (4-2).

Paganism in Literature, represented by Mara Facile, is a group that meets weekly to talk about all religions, especially those outside of the “main three” (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam). Some of the members are practicing Wiccans, so the group focuses interests in that area, but they also talk about other beliefs. They talk about common misconceptions and cultural aspects of Paganism, portrayal of Pagans in movies, and also provide social time with group members. Last year the group did outreach in the spring, and organized an Ishtar (Easter) egg hunt with info about the history of original holiday.

CG inquired as to whether the food allocation is for weekly meetings. Mara replied that it was only for holidays, and that the amount listed was for the whole year.

JZ recommended sending out more emails to increase members. The group is also hesitant to publicize where they meet because they are worried about visitors who would not respect the beliefs discussed in the meeting.

RS suggests fundraising. Mara said that the group is new and small. 3 of the holiday meals are next semester, so the committee could possibly just fund for the 2 dinners this semester, and have the group fundraise for some of the money for next semester. RS recommends coming back and asking again next semester for additional funding.

CG motioned \$225, which EH seconded.

International Relations Club requested funding for a model UN trip to Harvard in February. This event has previously been classified as C2.

JZ motioned classification at C2. CG seconded.

International Relations Club, represented by Andy Showalter and Elizabeth Caitlin, requested funds to attend a model UN in Harvard for 4 days. This would be a unique conference because of the demographics of the participants. They plan to drive to Boston in

two 7-passenger vans, and rent hotel rooms, and pay for parking, the delegate fee, the conference fee, and total mileage. They are planning to charge students \$75 each.

The group got \$86 from tailgating. If the committee funded 75% of total travel expenses, the allocation would be down to \$3083.

CG asked if the group was planning to have another event like this one. They plan on going to another Model UN Conference in the spring in Chicago, so that would be spring funding. The deadline for this conference is in October, so the group is asking for funding this semester. The committee previously funded this event at 72%.

NK motioned to fund at \$3083 because the committee has previously funded at this percentage. JZ opposes because of the group's low membership rates and its lack of presence on campus. JZ said that she has difficulty letting this much money be spent on a group of 14, and recommended more fundraising on the group's part. CG asked how many people would be going for the first time, suggesting that more new people go than old. CG motioned for funding the event at \$2500, which JZ seconded. LB and HVC mention that this allocation is less than 50%.

EH asked if the conference in Chicago was less expensive. Elizabeth said that Boston is more expensive for travel because it would take 2 full days of travel to Boston, and Chicago would be more expensive for hotel costs.

RS proposed a vote, which was passed (4-2). The conference was funded at \$2500.

Paintball requested funding for RFC use, new equipment, travel (to Alexandria to fill air tanks), and equipment upkeep. CG motioned to classify the supplies at B, which BM seconded. CG motioned to classify travel expenses as B2, which LB seconded.

Paintball Club, represented by Travis Moret, is requesting funds to ease the cost of equipment upkeep for their members. Most of things on the list are for using RFC facilities for playing paintball. The SCUBA tanks are for air for markers, and each tank fill lasts multiple weeks (the group has their own tanks). Supplies include batteries and marker lubricant to keep markers functioning. Equipment costs consist of masks and air tanks. The group has had such a rise in membership that they split people into two shifts to play, and the watching shift often lacks masks needed in order to safely watch the current game. The group wants more air tanks so that they can have CO2 tanks available to members rather than having to pay each week to buy CO2 in Morris. They would like funding for posters, t-shirts (which they hope to make a profit from). This year, because they have higher attendance, they would like to be funded accordingly. The funds requested are for this semester.

One person would travel to Alexandria for air tank refills. BM suggested asking the Morris Fire Department to fill up their air tanks.

JZ motioned to fund at \$210.

LB pointed out that \$50 per trip to Alexandria was a lot. NK motioned to lower travel to \$30 per trip, which was unanimously accepted.

LB motioned \$136, which EH seconded.

Invent Science Magic requested funding for elementary school science presentations. LB motioned to classify the equipment as B, which EH seconded. CG motioned to classify transportation as C1 because it would be off campus around Morris and only cost \$40. LB seconded.

Invent Science Magic, represented by Saesun kim, is a new group on campus whose goal is to get kids inspired about science through science-based magic tricks. The group also wants to get rid of the bad stigma about science. The group would like to go to Morris schools, and other counties if possible to perform. This would have a long-term effect on the Morris community because it would inspire the study of science in the younger members of the community. The group incorporates the Science, Elementary Ed, and Theatre departments. The largest costs are costumes and a special science tool to be used in presentations. The group expects to have around 20 people teaching. The initial costs are high, but they will not be repeated costs.

EH asked how many times they planned on performing at the elementary school. Saesun said this semester only twice, but next semester hopefully more.

JZ suggested using only half the costumes and tools and see how well they work. Saesun said that he has done similar events as this one before, and the costumes and special tools are very useful in engaging kids.

LB motioned to fund at \$500, which EH seconded.

AISES requested funds for an academic and cultural conference in Alaska. LB motioned to classify as E4, which CG seconded.

AISES, represented by Alexandra and Natasha Myhal, and Melissa Carnicle, would like funds for 7 plane tickets for a national conference in Alaska. It is a large cultural event, and a good opportunity for students to travel and see research. 5-7 people from Morris will be presenting research. The group is looking for external funds, and 7 students and are already fully funded by other means. The group has \$2700 left over from last year's fundraising.

RS mentions that E4 classification means funding at 25%.

NK motioned funding at \$1000. JZ seconded.

[After the representatives left, there was some discussion as to if the committee should have reclassified the group if it wanted to fund the group more. The committee has funded the event at \$1000 in previous years.]

Morris Femminists requested funds to attend a conference in Mankato. The committee struck meals from fund request. LB motioned for D3 classification, which CG seconded.

Morris Femminists, represented by Kaitlyn Macheledt, requested funds to go to a Midwest Conference for feminism. They have no other funding, and their large event is Take Back the Night. The conference would allow participants to network with other feminists and learn how to reach the school community about feminism issues. Later this year the group is planning a “slut walk” to raise awareness about a court case about sexual violence victim rights. The conference is fairly inexpensive, and will have a nationally known speaker.

CG motioned \$271, which LB seconded.

IVCF requested funds to help students attend a Christian retreat later this semester. CG motioned D4, which LB seconded.

IVCF, represented by Charlie Abraham and Jordan Leitzke, has grown by over 100% this year. The retreat is hosted by the larger national IVCF organization, and will be held in Alexandria. The group believes that the retreat would be beneficial to campus as well as participants. The retreat will also be good for networking and meeting potential speakers, and the group believes it will fill spiritual and social needs of participants. There will be training sessions that everyone will go to be leaders for other students. 35 students are currently interested. The cost is \$125 per person presently, with some possible compensation from another source, which would put the price at \$100 per person.

JZ motioned \$1500, which CG seconded.

Big Friend Little Friend (this request was not classified)

BFLF is an annually funded group, but would like ASG funding in order to do background checks on all the Big Friends to make sure they are adequate supervisors of Little Friends.

The university would feel more comfortable if they did background checks, but are not requiring them presently.

The question was raised as to whether this was an appropriate request for ASG, or if it should have been included in the group’s annual allocations. JZ suggested that they should include it in their annual requests. CG motions not to hear them. The committee voted to hear them, and explain the circumstances (5-1).

BFLF, represented by Maddie Olson, wanted to perform background checks because they had a complaint from a parent last year, and it seemed like a good idea to do checks. If the group used their usual funds to do background checks, they wouldn’t do any activities.

LB asks why they want to do background checks now when they haven’t in the past. The group replied that they don’t want to be liable for any mishaps. JZ suggested sticking with the waivers for now, and including it in the group’s annual funds request next time around.

There was also some discussion about taking it on a case-by-case basis to do background checks. DS suggested talking to Argie Manolis.

The committee put it to a vote on if it should be heard as an ASG request. It was unanimously opposed. The group will add the cost to its annual allocations, or talk it over with the administration to see if they will cover the costs.

Women's Rugby requested funds for equipment, medical costs, and travel for this semester's games. Travel and equipment costs were separated. JZ motioned travel for D2, which CG seconded. JZ motioned to classify equipment as B, which CG seconded.

The committee discussed their fiscal irresponsibility in the past year, and debated not letting them get money until their deficit is eliminated. AFRC agreed to see them in the meeting though.

Katherine Schemel, this year's new Treasurer, knows the group is over \$2000 in debt. Last year's team bought 400 t-shirts, and did not sell them all. This year the team plans on selling them at games to raise funds, in addition to other fundraising activities. Women's Rugby is a growing group and raising membership. This year the team coaches, which are new, and already they have helped the team's performance. This will help promote attendance at games.

DS mentioned that the team's account is currently frozen, and cannot access any funds the committee could give to them until the debt is paid off. The group recognized that this is the group's responsibility and they will work to be back in the black.

Shutting down the club effectively shuts down their ability to fundraise. The group is taking what measures they can to get out of the hole, but the account is frozen and the money can't be touched until they are out of debt.

The committee voted to table the request until the next hearing.

Floating World requested funds for the publication of their annual magazine, and for refreshments at a reading. NK motioned to classify the request as B, which CG seconded. JZ said that the committee has always classified this as A before. The exception this year is that the group also wants to print a magazine.

Floating World, represented by Cameron Cook, hosts readings and various writing and literary workshops throughout the year, but main thing is publishing the magazine at the end of the school year.

NK motioned to fund at \$1247.

RS asked why the group wants \$400 for refreshments - it seemed high. Cameron suspected a mistake and suggested \$150 instead.

JZ motioned \$997 total, which CG seconded.

The committee unanimously voted to table Bad Movie Club's request because the group never showed up.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 pm.