Student Budget Committee (SBC) Meeting

03-09-2015, 12:00 PM


Also present: LaJana Paige, LeeAnne Sipe

*Member was tardy and may not be reflected in all voting results.

DEASON: Let’s begin by setting some ground rules. One person may speak at a time. Let’s treat each other with respect. There will be no proxy votes in this committee. As a reminder, the rules and regulations for the SBC are different from the other committees.

PAIGE: We have $388,000 total to budget with for allocations and administrative budgets.

SIPE: We’ll also have to set some aside for the executive account. Just a reminder that in SG Law, it outlines that if an organization or department received funds last fiscal year, we can only reduce their funding to 80% of what was approved last year.

1. CHI ALPHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Open Discussion

AUCOIN: The cookout takes place the first weekend after move-in, located in the Pontchartrain Hall courtyard. Lots of people attend because they have nothing else to do.

PAIGE: Why did they ask for $399? Let’s round to $400.

Vote to approve the budget request for $400.

6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

2. CHILDREN’S YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY

Open Discussion

None

Vote to approve the budget request for $550.

6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

3. JAZZ AT THE SANDBAR

Open Discussion

DEASON: Last year we allocated $12,000 to this, the same amount as last year.
Vote to approve the budget request for $12,000.

6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

4. LEADERSHIP CABINET
Open Discussion

DEASON: In 2014-15, we allocated $14,370 for this.

CHRISTOPHER: Last year they had requested more, but the SBC reduced their allocation.

BALLARD: It looks like they’re asking for the cost of the retreat site and catering for the ceremony.

AU COIN: That’s a lot of money.

CHRISTOPHER: I’ve looked at the numbers. These programs are really important to retention.

BALLARD: If we reduced their allocation, it could be down to $11,496. It’s just over another $1,000 to give them what they’ve requested.

DEASON: They are requesting $13,698.33 out of a total of $24,270.00 in expenses.

Vote to approve the budget request for $13,700.

6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention

**NOTE: There are 13 requests, totaling $86,136 in requested funds.**

5. MUSICAL EXCURSIONS
Open Discussion

DEASON: The music department is requesting $10,000. Last year they received $10,000; the year before that they received $5,000.

PAIGE: Is there information on how much they give in scholarships or what students get from this?

Tabled to request information to see how many (if any) students received scholarships from this program in past years.

6. NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
Open Discussion
DEASON: NSO is requesting around $8,900. They received about $5,000 last year and $11,000 the year before.

CHRISTOPHER: Last year they requested more and the SBC allocated them less than they requested.

AU COIN: Don’t they always have food leftover? It seems wasteful.

SIPE: No. In fact, the amount SG budgeted last year was short—even with NSO supplementing the catering, the food ran out at freshmen summer orientations.

CHRISTOPHER: We can’t really cut much more from what they’re requesting.

SIPE: I suggest that we budget in SG Marketing for large vinyl banners to post at events that we sponsor to help make it clear that SG provided funding.

BALLARD: I support that idea.

CHRISTOPHER: We could contact UNITY to see where they purchased their banners that SG paid for.

SIPE: They are roughly $600 each.

Vote to approve the budget request for $8,907.23.

8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

CHRISTOPHER: Question—does Musical Excursions offer scholarships? It’s not on their website. They only discuss the artists, but no scholarships.

PAIGE: I remember there being mention of scholarships in their past budget requests. I will have to follow up with Missy (Bowen).

7. PEP BAND

Open Discussion

DEASON: They are requesting $4,000 for a new drum set, transportation, and supplies.

GUIDRY: I don’t know where they’re getting these supplies from—I don’t know where they could get these things or what a reasonable price for a drumset is.

BALLARD: That seems low for an amplifier.

GUIDRY: Maybe they’re putting a mic from the PA system to the amps?

CHRISTOPHER: They say that they have a connection that they have a relationship with—so I’m sure that they’re getting a super good deal.
PAIGE: We do not do “miscellaneous expenses.” We need quotes for every item requested on a budget request.

BALLARD: That’s a big budget for “miscellaneous” and they rounded up almost $100 on their request. I suggest we roll that back down.

PAIGE: Who is responsible for the equipment? Music or athletics? They did not complete the request correctly. It’s up to y’all, but you could deny this request altogether because they did not attach quotes like it says on the instructions.

SIPE: Should we table this until we find out more and see quotes? Or just say no? It’s up to you (the students).

BALLARD: Let’s see if we can get more information.

DEASON: So I should contact them to make them aware of the reduction and to ask them to provide quotes?

PAIGE: Yes. And be sure to include a deadline.

Tabled to request quotes for equipment.

8. PRIVATEER CAMP

Open Discussion

DEASON: They are requesting $7,549.00, with $6,093.55 in expenses being covered by Student Involvement and Leadership and the Office of Enrollment Services.

????: How many people attend?

CHRISTOPHER: They had 155 people last year, with 100 participants.

DEASON: The costs include the camp, bus, Aramark, shirts, supplies, registration fees.

AUOIN: It’s just so much money.

SIPE: But you have to remember that this expense is for 155 people for lodging and all meals.

BALLARD: It looks like they’re just requesting Camp Westley Pines and that’s it. They’re covering the rest.

CHRISTOPHER: This is a worthwhile program. Their retention numbers are great.

SIPE: Yes, the retention from first to second year is in the 80% or 90%. It’s definitely higher than for students who don’t attend.

AUOIN: What are these “supplies” listed here? I want to know what those are.

BALLARD: Does it make a difference if we’re not paying for it? They’re only requesting the retreat site.
CHRISTOPHER: I don’t need to see that.

GUIDRY: Y’all know more about this than I do. If you say it’s worthwhile, I’ll defer to your experience.

Vote to approve the budget request for $7,549.00.

7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

9. SAILING CLUB
Open Discussion

DEASON: Looks like they’re requesting $400.00 for racing activities.

AUCoin: They’re asking for dues for their sailing association so that they can race schools in the region.

PAIGE: It must be a university membership and not individual memberships for us to be able to do this. The University doesn’t even provide professional organization dues.

????: Why are they requesting $400 when the dues are $600?

AUCoin: They can provide $200 themselves. Currently they race unofficially against Loyola and Tulane. They beat Tulane sometimes and Tulane does well in competition, so this group could do well in competition.

SIPE: We need to know more information about the type of membership.

PAIGE: They should have attached the registration form.

DEASON: So I should request to see the application so we can determine if this is an individual or institutional fee?

Tabled to request information regarding the membership and dues.

10. SERVICE COALITION
Open Discussion

DEASON: They are requesting $2,855.57. Let’s make it $2,860.00.

AUCoin: Are Aramark lunches really that expensive?

SIPE: Yes. The quotes are attached.

PAIGE: Wait, are the recycling dumpsters on here?

SIPE: No, they’re a line item.

BALLARD: What’s a line item?
SIPE: For requests that come year after year, we—this committee—can choose to make them line items and determine a line item so it’s something we budget for and that folks don’t have to put in requests year after year.

PAIGE: How much were they budgeted for last year?

DEASON: $2,000.00

PAIGE: Oh, that’s not enough. It’s about $3,600 a year.

SIPE: We can adjust that for this year.

PAIGE: I will bring the PO next time.

AUÇOIN: So do they need more recycling bins? I don’t even know where they are on campus. I only know about here and Milneburg.

SIPE: A number of offices have them as well—IDS did, OES did. But the dumpsters have been gone for a while, so many of the bins are out of service.

PAIGE: I know they’re always getting requests for more bins.

AUÇOIN: I’d like to know where they will go.

Tabled to request information regarding bin locations and where the new bins would be located.

11. TOCQUEVILLE PROJECT

Open Discussion

DEASON: They are requesting $8,000.

CHRISTOPHER: This is the same amount that’s been covered by the Senate.

?????: Is this just for the honorariums?

CHRISTOPHER: Yes. Also, they’re requesting the same amount but they’re increasing their number of programs from 8 to 22. They’ve been very successful and the senate always passes their bills.

PAIGE: Yes, I’ve been impressed. They get a lot of students involved with this.

BALLARD: So what happens to this money if there is some leftover?

PAIGE: They decide how to fund it. We set aside the money and they negotiate the honorariums. If they get a speaker who is big time and wants more money, they’ll need to negotiate a contract.

SIPE: They are requesting funding for [honorariums for] 8 speakers. If any money is leftover after that, the money rolls back to Student Government.

BALLARD: Thank you.
Vote to approve the budget request for $8,000.00

7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

12. UNITY
Open Discussion

DEASON: They are requesting $1,000.

CHRISTOPHER: Why are they requesting $1,000 when their total expenses are $1,160? I say we give them $1,160.

BALLARD: I agree.

PAIGE: Wait, this isn’t the Gay Ol’ Prom anymore?

AU COIN: No, because some people had an issue with the name, they changed it to Second Chance Prom.

BALLARD: People had problem with the name?

AU COIN: Yes, when they came to the Senate, there were senators who didn’t like it and said it was exclusive and offensive.

PAIGE: I thought it was just a play on a gay ol’ time. I thought it was cute.

BALLARD: Why wasn’t this a bill this semester?

AU COIN: I reached out to them and they didn’t get back to me.

SIPE: Well, why would they when they had such a negative experience in the senate chamber? Let’s not ask them to bring this through as a bill.

CHRISTOPHER: These are great events. How was attendance?

AU COIN: Yeah, they’re good. Attendance wasn’t as high as we wanted for the spring, but it was good.

Vote to approve the budget request for $1,160.00

7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

13. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION
Open Discussion

DEASON: This request is for $10,680 for International Night stage, food, rental, sound and lighting, and HPC rental fees.

GUIDRY: Is this a big event?
CHRISTOPHER: Yes, around 1,000 people go every year.

BALLARD: Didn’t this come through the senate?

SIPE: Yes. It typically has been on the budget, but they had to go through the senate this year.

GUIDRY: It passed, right?

BALLARD: Yes, the senate passed it.

CHRISTOPHER: Yes—they only had to go through the senate on a technicality. They are always on the budget. It’s a great event.

AUČOIN: It can’t be in the ballroom?

CHRISTOPHER: No. It’s too large for that.

Vote to approve the budget request for $10,680.00

7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

DEASON: Next meeting we will discuss the operating budget, the executive account—I’ll send out an agenda in advance.

LESHE: When are we meeting?

DEASON: I’ll send out a doodle. It will have to be on Mondays or Fridays.

Adjourned, 1:17 PM