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## Appropriations Committee Meeting Minutes 10/10/2011

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty-Second Student Senate

FALL SESSION  
October 10<sup>th</sup> 2011

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**Meeting called to order by Vice Chairwoman Christy Brinkworth at 2:01PM.**

Brinkworth- First item on the agenda is roll call. Okay. Chairman Gao?

Gao- Here.

Brinkworth- Mr. Castaneda?

Castaneda- Here.

Brinkworth-I'm here (Ms. Brinkworth). Mr. Sloane?

Sloane- Here.

Brinkworth- Mr. Colon?

Colon- Here. Present.

Brinkworth- Mr. Rodriguez?

Rodriguez- Present.

Brinkworth- Ms. Torres? Mr. Thomas?

Thomas- Here.

Brinkworth- Mr. Aziz?

Gao- He's excused.

Brinkworth- Is excused. Ms. Marc is unexcused. Ms. Hughes is unexcused. Alrighty. Oh, Ms. Toro is here as a guest...but, oh...Ms. Toro?

Toro- I believe Alix Torres has requested to not be on this committee. I got an email from Rachel.

Gao- I didn't get an email from Rachel.

Toro- Oh, okay.

Brinkworth- And as guests we have Mr. Hassouneh, Ms. Toro and Ms. Jessica Morgan. Okay, next we have additions/deletion to the agenda. Any motions at this time?

*Motion to approve the agenda by Senator Rodriguez.*

Brinkworth- Any objections? Seeing none. Agenda has been approved. We have sets of minutes that went out from 9-26 and 10-3. Hopefully you guys were able to look through them. Are there any motions?

*Motion to approve the minutes.*

Brinkworth- Any objections? Seeing none. Oh whoops. The minutes are approved. Up next. Open forum.

Gao- This year we have the vice chair for today's meetings. Should be okay. I'm going to try to rotate everybody at least once or for a little bit in meetings as chair to see how it feels. As you can tell it's a different feeling when everybody is staring at you.

Brinkworth- Anybody else? Mr. Rodriguez?

Rodriguez- My fraternity, Lambda Upsilon Lambda is holding an event this weekend here at the Marshall Center so it's pretty cool. We're going to be having a guest speaker on Saturday. I guess I can get that information to Jeff and you can email it out to the committee or something. We're going to have a few parties later on this week. So, if any of you wanted to be a part of our national convention weekend.

Brinkworth- Cool. Anybody else?

Morgan- Tonight is the town hall with the mayor Buckhorn in the oval theatre. Senator Aziz has been working very hard on this and it would be great if you could come out at 7 o' clock in the Oval Theatre.

Gao- If she doesn't call you by your last name, please say your last name, because Theresa could not be here today. So, it would be easier for her to transcribe the minutes.

Brinkworth- Anybody else? Okay. We're going to move onto new business. Up next is the Senate Secretary Position bill. We have the memo here. We can look at together. Hopefully you guys were able to read through it. Okay. I'm going to read it:

Attached is a request to this committee, and accordingly The Senate, to fund a new Senate Secretary position. Over the past several weeks, we have come to the realization that the volume of workload generated through our numerous committee and subcommittee meetings exceeds our current transcription capabilities. Furthermore, we recognize that in several weeks the Activity and Service Fee Recommendation Committee will commence with its day long meetings and as such, compound this

workload even further beyond our capability. This additional position will allow us to meet the standards of transparency and accountability which we have set for ourselves and have become accustomed to providing. It is my opinion that without this additional position, the Senate will not be able to continue to meet its obligations as dictated by the SG Public Records Act and the Florida Sunshine State Law. I have attached the request for your review. The total request was formatted in accordance with the currently funded Senate Secretary position. The position consists of 15 hours a week at a rate of \$9.55 an hour for a total of 32 weeks. The Total request is \$4,859. I appreciate your support in this matter and as always, am available to any questions you may have.

*Senator Marc enters at 2:07PM.*

Brinkworth- And we have the bill. Is that it? Yeah. Does anyone have any questions? Ms. Toro?

Toro- This question is for Mr. Gao. With this bill, I am in support of it. I have seen the minutes needed to be taken. I'm just wondering what, I know I learned there is a 60/40 rule for interim; you can spend up to 60% in the fall and in the spring. What percentage are we at as of now?

Gao- I can give you a quick calculation of the percentage and if all the bills pass today and in senate, we will be at roughly \$110,000 left in the interim account. Just give me a second and I'll do the math for you. Currently we have roughly 73% left of the \$150,000.

Brinkworth- Are there any more questions? Are there any motions? Mr. Sloane?

*Motion to vote by Senator Sloane.*

Brinkworth- Are there any objections?

Gao- Hold on roll call vote please.

Brinkworth- Okay we are motioning to vote by roll call. Any objections to voting? Okay. Seeing none. Do I have to like write it?

Gao- I'll write it. Just call out names.

Brinkworth- Okay. Oh no. Oh right okay. Mr. Castaneda?

Castaneda- I vote yes.

Brinkworth- Mr. Sloane?

Sloane- I vote yes.

Brinkworth- Mr. Thomas?

Thomas- Yes.

Brinkworth- Ms. Marc?

Marc- Yes.

Brinkworth- Mr. Colon?

Colon- Yes.

Brinkworth-Mr. Rodriguez?

Rodriguez- I vote yes.

Brinkworth- Mr. Gao?

Gao- Yes.

Brinkworth- And I abstain. So, what are we? 7 to 0 to 1. This is approved. Passed. Okay. Up next we have an interim budget from college of medicine and wellness council. Okay. Mr. Gao is going to present this to you guys.

Gao- Okay, so they requested \$2,024.50. My recommendation, hold on one second, well I had a recommendation on there but...my recommendation was \$742. I recommended funding for the wellness challenge introduction, for food and the lunch meetings and I did not with all the lunch speakers, they have roughly four, but they also requested Zumba and yoga classes throughout the year and I said they offer it for free at the rec center so I zero funded it. Everything is based on standard \$2 per head at the event. That is no materials and no travel. They didn't need to request any travel; it's a total of \$742.

Brinkworth- Are there any questions?

Colon- You said that was for food for four meetings?

Gao- Four speakers?

Colon- Okay.

Brinkworth- Anymore questions?

Toro- What were their materials requests for?

Gao- As you can see from the materials for yoga and Zumba classes. They requested six or eight of them throughout the year.

Brinkworth- Are there any more questions? Ms. Toro? Oh, Ms. Marc?

Marc- So, the materials were the \$20 for the classes?

Gao- Yes.

Marc- So, it would be \$20 to pay for a class?

Gao – I think they wanted to teach them at the medical college. So I said you can go to the rec center and do it for free.

Brinkworth- Are there any more questions?

Toro- Can you scroll slowly please and can you say what the allocation was Mr. Gao?

Gao- \$250 for the wellness speaker for food. No. \$240. Hold on one second. Here we go. \$240 for food. \$80 for food. \$100 for food for 50 people. No Zumba class. Another speaker. \$80 for food. And \$100 for food. And that's pretty much it.

Brinkworth- Are there any more questions?

Castaneda- Motion to approve the budget.

Brinkworth- Are there any objections? Alright, seeing none. It's been approved. Up next is unspoken thoughts interim budget.

**Gao -** They had \$1,481. My recommendation was \$1,107.70. Their events were all in line but some of their items could be used again. The food is pretty fully funded. So, the first event, they only requested \$20 for food. It's a workshop I think. Yep.

Brinkworth- Mr. Gao, could you explain what you meant by some of them could be used again so you didn't fund them.

Gao- They can be used for future events.

Brinkworth- Meaning they requested it multiple times.

Gao- Open mic. night. Food for your soul. Open mic. night with smooth jazz. They requested \$130. I requested \$2 per head. Showcase, so pretty much almost like an Italian show. They requested \$200. I allocated \$200 and \$50 for materials. My lips are slammed. A poetry slam. \$50 for food. The café an event for this semester, kind of an end of a year event. I recommended \$100. Welcome back to the arts. It's their first event of the year. You can see the recommendations here. March of remembrance. African American history. It's going to help do black emphasis month. This is their big production play. They requested, this is a majority of their request from materials, I felt that the materials could be used from above so I funded half of the materials.

Brinkworth- Are there any questions?

Colon- How many total events is it?

Gao- Ten.

Brinkworth- Any other questions? Are there any motions? Ms. Toro with a question?

Toro- Question yes. Or comment. The budgets very put together but it looks like they have an event every two weeks. Which I don't think it's going to happen. There's no reason for us to be stingy because we're only at 27% but it looks like they have an event every 2 weeks and it's a lot of food. I'm just throwing it out there. If you'd like to change it go ahead. If not you guys can go ahead too. Just putting it out there.

Castaneda- Say as Ms. Toro said if some of the events don't actually happen, with the Programming and Audits Committee see that?

Gao- We allocate money based on this but they can spend it on whatever they want. They can spend more money on the last event. You can tell that I didn't allocate the first big play and they can save all this money and say that money is spent on the last event, that's up to them. Allocated on the request, not what they can spend it on because you're trying to predict the future with this budget and sometimes that's not gonna work.

Brinkworth- Any other questions or comments? Are there any motions?

*Motion to pass by Senator Marc.*

Brinkworth- Okay, there's a motion to approve it. Are there any objections? Seeing none. It's been approved. Can I get a sponsor for this? Mr. ~~Cole~~Sloan? And can I get a sponsor for COM? Bypass that. Can I get a sponsor somebody? Colon. Thank you. Okay. Okay. Up next we have emerging green builders. Mr. Gao?

Gao- As you can see, their request is a large sum. They do have however a 25% penalty because they submitted it late. So, they will not get any travel from here. That was one of their big things. They wanted to travel to a green build conference. Beginning of the year fundraiser. There's no way I will recommend money for a fundraiser. Conserve a bull. They do a competition between dorms on how much water you can save in a certain month. They measure how much water each dorm saves and food is for volunteers and party. They want to do raffle gifts, but I said no gifts. They want to join a competition to design a city, like what a city layout could be for Tampa. The materials are used for that. No food because it's a really long span. I don't think \$100 will suffice anyways. They just ended materials to build the thing. They want a party. There's no number. They roughly get 60 to 70 but it's an end of the year party so its \$3 a head. They asked for \$200 so I said here's \$200. Beach cleanup. No travel. Materials are garbage and anything else they might need. Food is for their students. I asked if they need \$200 but they do need at least \$100 so that's what I recommended and that's pretty much it. Six events. As you can see, I funded four of those six.

Marc- Are they doing that with a company or are they just doing it for themselves?

Gao- I think they are planning for themselves so they are not doing it with a company. They didn't specify if there is a company. They just said they needed funding for trash bags, gloves and I think they are going to use the clip things to pick up the disgusting stuff without using their hands.

Brinkworth- Are there any other questions or comments? Ms. Toro?

Toro- Could you please scroll up to the top?

Brinkworth- Anything else?

Gao- Keep in mind that is before the 25% deduction, so if you guys want to see the actual number. This would be the actual number, \$1001.70. After the 25% deduction.

Toro- Could you go back to the itemized budget and it looks like the bulk of the materials...could we see where the materials are going.

Gao- The bulk is going to the conserve a bull competition among USF dormitories. They told me they were going to use it for water meters to measure the water use by dorms to see who wins.

Brinkworth- Any other questions? Are there any motions? Ms. Marc?

*Motion to pass the bill by Senator Marc.*

Brinkworth- Are there any objections to passing this budget? Seeing none. And we need a sponsor, Ms. Marc how do you feel about it? Great, I'll take that as a yes. Moving along we have down and dirty making. I'm sorry.

Gao- As you can see they have a very modest request. They understand that they can't get fully funded for everything. There is a few things that they cut because some of the materials can be used again like ink and I said I am not going to fund it again. Paper collection is just food for the members to come. That's just food to have for the event. Screen making. This is a workshop. Again they asked for five dollars for water. Yeah. So, they're probably going to get water for like one of those jug things. Materials are for the supplies for the screen printing. This is print making. This is another I believe form of print making. He tried to explain it to me but it was pretty hard to understand the difference so I'll take his word for it. Food is pizza for members. Another print making. No idea how this works. I might have to Google it. Materials are for ink paper, plexi-glass. This is apparently one of the bigger events. This is the end of the semester thing where they get all the members to make something from what they learned previously and it's called \$1 print party. They sell it after they make it but I told them they can't sell it so they are going to just give it out. This is where I made the only cut because some of the materials like the plexi-glass, water colors, ink and brushes can be used again so that's why it was that small of a cut.

Brinkworth- Are there any questions?

*Motion to approve the budget by Senator Castaneda.*

Brinkworth- There is a motion to approve the budget. Are there any objections? Seeing none. It's been approved. Can I get a sponsor? Anybody that hasn't already gone. Mr. Castaneda. Okay. Let's see. Now we're on game developers network at USF.

Gao- As you can tell, they have a humongous budget request. Their total turned out to be \$20,044.75. As you can tell, it's a pretty big cut of \$2,121. They're a new organization. The first one is their biggest thing, game developers conference. It is not E3. It is a specialized conference for their members to learn



about developing games. I saw the budget breakdown. It's kind of scary. All day pass, costs \$900 per person. This is covering partially for flight and whatever else they might need to use. This is normally what we do for national conferences. They probably won't be able to send 10 people. This is just to subsidize the cost of two airplane tickets and maybe partial of the registration fee. Game library; they explained they want to buy video games and game developing books. Video games no. Books. You have three days and you have to return them to the library. I gave them money to buy books. I hope the A&S business office does not approve them buying books. Just partial books to get started on their game library. Game tournament fall. They have a lot of game tournaments. One in the fall and one in the spring. I didn't fund prizes. This is just for the food for their attendees. Apparently they have had this before and they had 75 to 80 people there. They had six TV screens plus the projector. They had a whole room of video games. They requested one for early spring and late spring please not too many game tournaments. This is for magazine subscriptions which kind of falls in this game library so I didn't fund that. Speaker this is already booked; they are having this speaker come from a company in space and a Microsoft speaker and an EA speaker. These are all in the fall and I only funded once in the fall and once in the spring. Giving the option to put speakers in the fall and the spring. They have a game jam, January, February and March. I looked through this and only funded the March one. The game tournament plus one of the speakers or two of the speakers depending on how they want to allocate the money. And that's it. There's another trip that they added at the last second but they chose the first trip over this one. Yeah.

Brinkworth- I have a question. Why did you decide to cut all of their speakers for this? Why can't they have speakers for both the fall and the spring?

Gao- They have speakers for both events if they have three speakers in the fall and another four speakers in the spring, there will be a lot of speakers so I told him you already have on in the fall and fall is pretty much over and it rolls into November and you have one speaker max. This is based on the time line. Then they'll have the other two speakers in the spring.

Brinkworth- Ms. Marc?

Marc- For the part where they ask for \$175 and we gave them \$100...inaudible.

Gao- Which are you talking about? This one? \$2 a head.

Marc- Oh, okay, sorry.

Brinkworth- Any other questions? Ms. Toro?

Toro- For the books, can you explain what happens when A&S allows an organization to buy the books.

Gao- I would love to. They have 30 days to review everything. They will turn it into the A&S business office and they will turn it into the library. Any student can check it out. Am I right? Okay.

Toro- So then a video game, I'm sorry a library could never happen if they can only keep it for 30 days.

Gao- An actual library of their own can never happen. Game developer books in the USF library will happen because there is a lack of game developing books in the library.

Brinkworth- Any other questions or comments?

Toro- Can we go back to the top and look at the total numbers? My comment is just that food is almost half their budget. And I don't know how I feel about that.

Gao- Well, the thing with that is most of their events, the materials they need are game consoles, video games and things like that and normally we don't fund that and they bring it from home so we can't really fund the materials and that's what the bulk is. So, what else we need is food for the events. They really don't have the choice of picking materials over food because they can't buy XBOX 360 consoles because that's...I'm trying to think of a good way of saying it but my personal opinion is everyone can't have access to it. It belongs to the A&S business office. I don't know what the A&S business office has to do with an XBOX 360 so...

Marc- That would be cool because then everyone can have access to an XBOX 360. I'll talk to the A&S business office about the items that organizations often request.

Toro- This is just a general question, are we allowed to look at previous years expenditures in making our allocations for the future? Like that organization's previous expenditures? Are we allowed to do that?

Gao- Yes, in ASRC we are allowed to look at what we allocated before and what they spent before. Not for this, this is a new one so there's no really reference.

Brinkworth- I have a question, can you go back to the travel at the beginning. I know that standards wise, we fund \$1,000 for national conferences. Because that seems like a giant cut.

Gao- Proviso is \$7,000 max that we can fund. They added one at the bottom so that's where it's at.

Brinkworth- I mean I'm just having a hard time with that.

Gao- The reason why I SAID \$1,000 is because it's a norm and they are trying to send 10 people and that will cost me...that will be plain cost and they will have to...they already have to put up \$800 to go to this conference before they cut and now they just have to fork over the membership fee to the two people that can go.

Brinkworth- Are there any other questions or comments?

Marc- Inaudible. So, they want...so we're giving them enough money for one person or two?

Gao- They can buy tickets for two people plus lodging which is \$30 per night. That's the max. So, two people would probably be the consent with lodging and travel and they would have to pay for their registration fee which is a lot.

Marc- For the five a night, that's \$1,500, so that's lodging, right? Okay, okay.

*Motion to approve the budget by Senator Castaneda.*

Brinkworth- Are there any objections to approving this budget? Seeing none. It's been approved. I need a sponsor for this. Mr. Rodriguez? Awesome. Okay. Alright, now we have an off-campus request from Club Creole. Okay. This is their 17<sup>th</sup> annual Ms. Haiti cultural pageant on 11/5. They are estimating 1,200 people. Annual pageant to showcase Haitian culture. In the past years, we've encountered an overflow of guests. We have the capacity of the Oval Theatre. Unfortunately the stage was not as pageant friendly as the oval theatre and only two of the three years were available. There are no available spaces on campus on the date needed. That's why they need the university community center. We have the space for free. The pageant has been held off-campus before. We used unallocated funds for sashes and trophies. It says it will still happen if it is denied. It has been funded before. They are using about \$600 for the sashes and trophies described above. That's about it. Are there any questions or comments?

Gao- To my knowledge, this event has not been funded off campus before. I mean I have been in this committee two years and I have never seen this one. I can go back and look but they have never been funded off-campus to my knowledge.

Marc- I was just saying it was their 17<sup>th</sup> annual so it could have happened before any of us were students.

Gao- The records go as far back as I think three or four years and I believe three or four years ago the records were not good. So the off-campus requests were not kept as well as they were today. I can look back two years but nothing past that.

Toro- I have a couple comments. They used to pay for trophies? Okay and I usually don't like off-campus requests at all but I do like this one. I do like this one; I think this one is actually legitimate.

Castaneda- I feel the same way. It feels like it is nearby, it's not that far from campus and it seems like it's pretty serious event for actually just the whole Tampa Bay community.

Brinkworth- Mr. Gao?

Gao- We can only fund events that benefit USF students.

Marc- Just a general comment. Last year I tried to go to the event and I couldn't get in because the Oval Theatre was packed.

~~Senator~~ Rodriguez--We are not taking any money. I've been to a few club creole events as well and they always have quite a bit of people. I do truly believe they will have 1200 people and they do not have room in the Marshall Center. I have tried to organize events where the Marshall Center ballroom is not open and the big rooms, 2708 and 3707 won't be open either. I can't speak for the event having been funded before and I don't have that knowledge but that's just my opinion.

Brinkworth- Okay, any other comments or questions? Any motions?

Motion to approve the request by Senator Rodriguez.

Brinkworth- Are there any objections?

Gao- Are there any exemptions?

Brinkworth- Seeing none. This off-campus request is approved. Are there any announcements?

Gao- you guys did a great job today. She is a great chair. We have on and off weeks. We have like five or six to look at. I'll get food when there are lots.

Brinkworth- Are there any other announcements? Any motions?

*Motion to adjourn by Senator Colon.*

Brinkworth- Are there any objections? Seeing none.

**Adjournment called by Vice Chairwoman Brinkworth at 2:42PM.**

*Transcribed by Senate Secretary, Theresa Rivera.*