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Appropriations and Audits Committee Meeting Minutes 09-23-13

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Fourth Student Senate

Committee on Appropriations and Audits
FALL SESSION
September 23, 2013

Call to Order by Chairwoman Kattih at 12:06 PM.

First Roll Call:

Present: Abraha, Kattih, Devivo, Fernandez, Lopez, Romero, F. Fernandez

Absent: Larkins (excused), Myers (unexcused)

Chairwoman Kattih: With that we do have quorum.

Additions/Deletions and/or Clarifications to the Orders of the Day:

Chairwoman Kattih: Next item is additions, deletions or changes to the agenda. Are there any motions?

Senator Abraha - *Motion to approve the agenda, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing none, the agenda is now approved. Next item is approval of the minutes. No minutes were sent out.

Senator Lopez - *Motion to postpone approval of the minutes, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing none, the minutes are postponed.

Open Forum:

Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have open forum. Does anyone have anything to say? For the record, everyone is welcome to have donuts, since Mr. Gustavo Lopez has previously requested them.

Senator Lopez: With no milk.

Chairwoman Kattih: Does anyone else have anything to say? Seeing none.

New Business:

1. Interim Budget Requests

Pre-Vet Society

Chairwoman Kattih: We can proceed to new business. So we have seven interim budget requests again. We will start with the first one and go down the list. Ready? First one is the Pre-Vet society. This organization has

requested \$869.20. My recommendation was \$450.50. The first thing they requested was the first meeting of the fall semester, which could not be funded, because it already passed. Also, this is slightly a general body meeting and we don't fund those. Next is the Halloween social. I funded that \$40 for food and \$50 for materials, because that was the extent to which they asked for in terms of materials. Next is the annual banquet. I funded them \$100 for food, which is what they requested, and \$25 for materials. Then pre-vet materials, they wanted—I think this was a banner, which is why I set it at \$150 for one banner. Again, their first meeting of the spring semester wasn't funded because it was a general body meeting. Then their social event in the spring was funded \$60 for food because thirty people were attending.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: If they are only asking for the first meetings for each semester, why did you—not necessarily for the fall, but for the spring, why did you think it was a general body meeting?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think this was because of the way it was presented to me in the meeting as well as on the budget. Socials and general body meetings are very flexible, especially if they are only asking for one, so it's up to the committee to fund it if they want the spring one in particular. The fall one has passed, but the spring one is still fundable. I can take any motions if someone would like to fund that. Are there any questions? We can scroll through this.

Senator Abraha: Similar to what Mr. Aldridge said, can we treat the first meeting as a welcoming event that we have been doing for the other ones?

Chairwoman Kattih: We can. Do you have a motion?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to fund first spring meeting for \$100 for food and \$20 for materials, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to Ms. Abraha's motion? Seeing none, this event will be funded \$120 total for the meeting of the first semester.

Senator Abraha: For the banquet, for the food, you didn't...

Chairwoman Kattih: I did it up to the amount they were requesting.

Senator Abraha: But since we cut their first event, we can give what we usually give for banquets here. Not even for \$3, we can do it by \$2. It's up to you guys.

Chairwoman Kattih: That's up to you. The reason I recommended that, just so you guys are aware, was because they only thought they needed \$100 to fund one hundred people's worth of food for their banquet. It's flexible.

Senator Romero: Just a point of information, I think the only reason I wouldn't fund it is because we're assuming something of the banquet that we don't know. They say there are one hundred people attending. We don't know what type of food they are providing and how much for each person. Although we can assume they don't know what we are talking about in terms of how much food they need, that might not be the most fiscally responsible thing, because we don't know what they want to provide or how they want to provide it.

Senator Abraha: Well, let me clarify. I'm not assuming this is what they need. I'm saying up to standard, what we've been doing so far versus not. I'm not saying this is what they are going to have versus not.

Chairwoman Kattih: Just to clarify, standards are there as a cap and to organize the way we fund things. But in cases where an organization, for example, feels they only need \$10 for materials, we have the flexibility to only fund them \$10. The way they are asking for it that this is the limit they want and they know they can over-ask or ask less. We assume based on the budgets we get. This is the amount they want. This is the amount they are going to use. But again, I'll take motions to change that and we can vote if necessary.

Senator Abraha: It's up to you guys.

Chairwoman Kattih: If you guys don't feel this necessary...

Senator Abraha: I thought at least give them \$200.

Senator Abraha – *Motion to fund \$200 for food.*

Senator Romero: Aldridge wanted to say something. Can you rescind just so Aldridge can say something?

Senator Abraha rescinds.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: I would also point out one of the facts that throughout the rest of the events, the numbers of attendants is only fifty. This one is double of that. So I think, based on the students attending, I think it may be a little bit—the expectation may be a little too high. If it something that is more reasonable, compared to other events like seventy-five or fifty, that is more reflective of a \$2 per head. It may not be the \$3 per head that we typically fund banquets. I think once you look at it, the number of students is probably a little too high, so it's probably more like a dollar and a half per student, or \$2 per student, as opposed to \$1 per student.

Senator Abraha: That's fine. We can keep it that way.

Chairwoman Kattih: Is everyone okay with this budget as it stands?

Senator Romero – *Motion vote on recommended budget allocations, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing none, we are in voting procedure.

Ms. Galchenko: Can you state total for the record the total?

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes. For the record, the total to be funded for the Pre-Vet organization will be \$577.70.

YES: Abraha, Devivo, Fernandez, Lopez, Romero, Fernandez

NO:

5-0-1, Pre-Veterinary Society budget is passed.

German Culture Club

Chairwoman Kattih: Next item on the agenda is the German Culture Club. This organization requested \$3,180. They have five total events. Their Week of Welcome event has already passed, so again, it can't be funded. They have an Oktoberfest coming up for fifty students, so I funded \$100 for food and \$100 for materials. Winter fest, I funded \$60 for food and \$50 for materials. Carnival, which will be sometime in the spring based on my meeting for them, \$60 for food, \$25 for materials—or sometime in the fall. Then German day will be \$300 for food and \$100 for materials, because of their expected 150 attendance.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: How did they describe that event to you, the German Day event?

Chairwoman Kattih: So they said there will be high school students present, but I asked them—they said 150 USF students would be present. I didn't ask how many high school students would be present. This event will have high school students coming as well.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Did they say it will be on campus?

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes.

Senator Romero: Question for the German Day. You funded \$100 for materials. Did they specify what materials they would need? I assume cups and stuff.

Chairwoman Kattih: These materials would be cups, spoons, etc. I funded \$100 because I'm keeping in line with our standard to fund \$100 for the first event of each semester. This is the first event of the spring.

Ms. Galchenko: Can you elaborate on what is it they are doing for this event? It seems like the primary beneficiary would be the high school students.

Chairwoman Kattih: When I met with them—and we did discuss this, and I brought that up—they did say that the main point was to introduce high school students to German culture, but the way they made it seem like it would be plenty of USF students present, and the food would also go to USF students. They weren't very clear in our meeting, but from what I could understand...

Ms. Galchenko: It does not appear to be a direct benefit to USF students based on what you've described.

Chairwoman Kattih: If that is your input, then I would suggest zero funding it, because the point of the event is not for USF students. Are there any objections to doing that? Can I get a motion for someone to do that?

Senator Lopez – *Motion to zero fund German Day, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to zero funding German Day because it is not a direct benefit to USF students? Seeing none, this event is zero funded. We are now at three events total funded. Oktoberfest, winter fest, and Carnival. If there are no additional motions...this organization will also get a 25% deduction because they missed the annual deadline.

Senator Abraha: Can we increase their winter fest?

Chairwoman Kattih: You can consider it...

Senator Lopez: Move the materials up?

Chairwoman Kattih: That's possible.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: I think it would be more plausible that their next event, the Carnival, they are having a costume contest, so you could fund some money for a costume. You don't have to fund nowhere near the standard amount, but you can fund a little bit to help subsidize that cost.

Chairwoman Kattih: I can take a motion to fund costumes as suggested by Mr. Aldridge. Whatever you guys think. The standard maximum for costumes is \$500.

Senator Romero – *Motion to increase materials funding to \$150.*

Senator Abraha: Friendly amendment.

Chairwoman Kattih: Do you accept? Say your amendment?

Senator Abraha: \$250. What they are requesting for, materials.

Chairwoman Kattih: Do you accept that friendly amendment?

Senator Romero: Sure.

Senator Romero – *Motion to increase materials funding to \$250, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing none, this event is now funded a total of \$310. Are there any motions?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to vote on recommended budget allocation, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to moving to voting? The grand total is \$657.20 before the 25% deduction. After the 25% deduction, it is \$492.90. With no objections...yes to approve the budget, no to not approve.

YES: Abraha, Devivo, Fernandez, Lopez, Romero, Fernandez

NO:

5-0-1, German Culture Club budget is passed.

Black Student Movement

Chairwoman Kattih: Next item on the agenda is Black Student Movement. This organization requested \$959.30 for a total of six events. Their first event was a barbershop event to introduce their organization members to campus. This cannot be funded because it has already passed. Next is the MLK picnic. I funded \$80 for food. They did not request materials. Next event is Je Kewapo. I funded that for \$210 for food and \$15—which is the maximum they requested—for materials. That was actually all of their events. These are the two events being funded. Are there any questions?

Senator Romero: Did they specify whether the Je Kewapo would have ethnic food at it?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think it will. From what I remember, I think they did say there will be ethnic food. I did not write that down though. I do know at the MLK picnic, they are buying hamburgers. Easy food. So I funded this \$3 per head just as a consideration, because it was kind of end of the semester. That could take into account the fact that it is ethnic. Any motions?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to fund \$25 for materials for MLK picnic.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Can you state your reasoning for that, since they did not ask for any money?

Senator Abraha: I believe they will need some money for materials.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: While I completely understand the perception that they probably need forks or spoons for that event, it's one of those things that you can't really help them if they don't ask for it. They are

not asking for that. Frankly, it makes more sense to fund them \$20 more for food, for example, because they can reach more than forty people. But if they are not asking for materials, the funding doesn't justify why—there's no reason to justify why we fund them \$25.

Chairwoman Kattih: Ms. Abraha, do you rescind your motion?

Senator Abraha: No... one second. I would have to caution against standards limiting us, because standards are there for us to have a guide. They are not necessarily something we have to always adhere to unless they are outlined in proviso. I would say if you think this organization would need more money, materials or food, I would add it to the section that is most relevant to the event. For the MLK picnic, I would suggest adding more money to food. It is on the MSC lawn. A lot of people pass by there.

Senator Abraha rescinds.

Senator Abraha: We can do that. The reason I'm asking for that is not because of the standards, it's because we cut \$350 from their budget. I'm sure they can have that event. But if they can't have that event, I'm sure they're going to have another event and switch it over when we give them the funding.

Chairwoman Kattih: Just a point of information for everybody. Even if we cut events from an organization's budget, we look at each event separately. Event by event. Although they get it as a lump sum, it is event by event, so I would caution against cutting an event to justify substantially increasing funds to another event.

Senator Abraha: But we don't know if they've had the event yet.

Senator Romero: We can motion and see what...

Chairwoman Kattih: Do you have any formal motions, Ms. Abraha?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to allocate \$100 for food for MLK picnic, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to that motion? Seeing none, this is part of the budget. Now we are standing at \$344.50 before the 25% deduction and \$258.38 after the 25% deduction. Are there any motions?

Senator Lopez – *Motion to vote on recommended budget allocation, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to voting on this budget?

YES: Abraha, Devivo, Fernandez, Lopez, Romero

NO:

5-0-1, Black Student Movement budget is passed.

Improv@USF

Chairwoman Kattih: Next item on the agenda is Improv@USF interim budget. This organization requested \$1,113 for three events. Their fall showcase will be in November. They requested \$50 for food. I funded them \$50 for food. I funded them \$250 for materials because they requested a banner separately, the costs of which have not been included as per standard. Then \$100 for materials, which is what we've been doing. In the spring showcase, \$50 for food. I did \$110 for materials, \$50 for the actual materials and \$60 for A/V tech fees, which is standard. They wanted money for Bull Market table. I funded them \$50 for food, but I didn't

fund them any materials because it would be promotional items, and we haven't been funding promotional items. They wanted to make buttons and bracelets, and that's all stuff that could be done at Tech Smart. I suggested to the organization that they go seek out Tech Smart and get those buttons printed there.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: You can even use the rationale for the first event, the \$150 for banner can be put in the Bull Market since they can use it for their organization as well. From the outside, it looks a little awkward to see one event \$250 but you said flexible spending. Funding them a banner somewhere in the budget and not funding the rest of the promotional items seems legitimate.

Chairwoman Kattih: Does anyone want to formally...?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to fund banner \$200.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Standard is \$100.

Senator Abraha: \$200.

Chairwoman Kattih: That's the maximum.

Senator Abraha: Can I do maximum?

Chairwoman Kattih: How it is right now is the maximum for the banner is \$200. What we have been doing for the past twenty budgets that we've funded in the past semester, it has been \$150. I would suggest sticking to \$150 just because it's what we've been doing, and it wouldn't be fair if last week's organization gets \$150 for a banner and this week's get \$200. I just want to make everything as fair as possible. Do you want to change that to \$150 or...?

Senator Abraha: Since they are asking for \$215, I would rather keep it.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to...?

Senator Devivo: To what?

Chairwoman Kattih: To funding the banner for \$200.

Senator Romero: Are there any objections?

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes.

Ms. Devivo objects.

Chairwoman Kattih: Ms. Devivo objects. Do you rescind your motion?

Senator Abraha: Reasoning?

Chairwoman Kattih: I'm assuming because of standards.

Senator DeVivo: I don't know. I just don't think it's necessary. I feel like consistency is definitely good. If we are consistently giving \$150, we shouldn't give \$200 for an organization, just like you said.

Chairwoman Kattih: Ms. Abraha, do you rescind? I understand your reasoning.

Senator Abraha rescinds.

Senator Abraha: We are consistent with standards, but we kind of...

Senator Romero: We could vote on it.

Chairwoman Kattih: She did rescind, but let me just clarify. This sheet I gave everybody at a previous meeting outlines everything we've been doing for the past semester and what has been done in ASRC in 2012-2013. Based on that, every single budget we've funded so far has been \$150 for a banner, which is why for this one in particular, I would say be consistent. Like you said, standards are only there to guide us. At the same time, we want to make sure we have a reason to deviate from standards. And a justifiable reason. This leaves us at \$540.60. Are there any motions?

Senator Fernandez – *Motion to vote on recommended budget allocation, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing no objections, we are now in voting procedure.

YES: Abraha, DeVivo, Fernandez, Romero

NO:

4-0-1, Improv@USF budget is passed.

Ms. Galchenko: Can you state what the total was?

Chairwoman Kattih: The total was \$540.60. There is no 25% deduction.

Mexican American Student Association

Chairwoman Kattih: Next item on the agenda is Mexican American Student Association. This organization requested \$1,961 for four events, I believe. First one is a touch of Mexico. This event will not be able to be funded because it has passed. That leaves us three events. Dia de los Muertos, \$150 for food and \$110 for materials because they did request A/V tech fees. Actually, I would do \$160 for this, because this is no longer the first event. The first event, I had originally funded \$100 for materials. Because it's no longer the first event, I recommended that we fund \$160 for materials for Dia de los Muertos, \$100 for materials and \$60 for A/V tech fees. Then MASA week, \$200 for food and \$100 for materials, because they expected a hundred people. Then finally the MASA banquet, \$180 for food and \$25 for materials because even though they did request A/V tech fees, because we've been consistent in funding one A/V tech fee per event per semester, I left it up to you guys whether or not to fund that. Anything you guys want to change?

Senator Abraha: Did you have A/V tech fees funded in the very first one before you changed it?

Chairwoman Kattih: Maybe.

Senator Abraha – *Motion to raise MASA banquet to \$85 materials, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing none, it is now \$85. Any other questions?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to vote on recommended budget allocation, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Any objections to voting? The total for the Mexican American Student Association is \$927.50 before the 25% deduction. After the 25% deduction, it's \$695.23. We are now in voting procedure.

YES: Abraha, Devivo, Fernandez, Romero

NO:

4-0-1, Mexican American Student Association budget is passed.

Physical Medicine and Rehab Interest Group

Chairwoman Kattih: Next we have the Physical Medicine and Rehab Interest Group. This is a College of Medicine organization and they are a new organization. This organization requested \$1,102.40 for a total of four events. Their introduction to physical medicine and rehab, I funded them \$100 for food and \$10 for materials, which is the extent they asked for in materials, for about fifty students. How to successfully a PM&R residency slot, \$100 for food, \$10 for materials. Innovations and technological advancements in PM&R, \$100 for food and \$10 for materials. PM&R and the community, \$100 for food, \$10 for materials. PM&R, if you're wondering, stands for Physical Medicine and Rehab. It took me a while to get that. Their events are pretty consistent, so I funded them consistently.

Senator Fernandez: First event, it says it's going to happen in September. September ends in a week.

Chairwoman Kattih: With this, I would say they were very flexible in their dates. They gave me fall and spring, then the months were kind of flexible. I would keep it just A. September hasn't ended, and B. they could have it in the first week of October. Thank you for catching that. It's a really good thing to point out. Ms. Abraha, did you have something else?

Senator Abraha: Did they say anything about speaker fees?

Chairwoman Kattih: They did not. I did ask them about that. They said they will get their speakers for free. Any other questions?

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Did they—when you talked to them, was there anything about the spring events that they decided not to ask for? Since they are only asking for fall events?

Chairwoman Kattih: When we spoke, I told them this was for a whole year, and the interim funding was for the whole year, the whole fiscal year. These were the events that they asked for. Just for the record and to let everybody know, Mr. Ali Antar, the chair of Rules Committee, because he is a College of Medicine senator, and because he was the Appropriations and Audits Chair last year, has taken an interest in the College of Medicine organizations. He has looked over this and it looked good to him, too. There wasn't anything in particular that stood out that he wanted to point out.

Senator DeVivo – *Motion to vote on recommended budget allocation, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: For the total of \$466.40 for Physical Medicine and Rehab Interest Group. Are there any objections? Seeing no objections, we will now vote.

YES: Abraha, Devivo, Fernandez, Romero

NO:

4-0-1, Physical Medicine and Rehab Interest Group budget is passed.

Food Activists Revolutionizing Meals

Chairwoman Kattih: Finally, we have Food Activists Revolutionizing Meals. This organization requested \$657.55 for three events. They requested a monthly social. I funded them two, one in the fall and one in the

spring. They said 25 people would attend each. I funded them \$100, \$2 per head for twenty-five people times two, \$100. Then we have nature day. They did not request any food. They requested \$135 for materials, which was for buying activity-related stuff, like games. I did have a question about this. I don't know if Mr. Aldridge or Masha can answer this. Do we get canoeing at USF Riverfront Park for free? I think it's \$5, right?

Ms. Galchenko: Yes.

Chairwoman Kattih: I included that in there, because that is what they were requesting, the canoes and the activities. I funded them up to that amount that they requested. Finally, they had t-shirts. They wanted thirty t-shirts so I funded them \$5 per head times thirty, \$150. The reason I funded two socials rather than the seven they requested because it was in our standards to fund one social per fall and one social per spring.

Senator Abraha: Do you remember how many we funded for USF Hillel?

Senator Romero: Three. No, six. Six was what it was.

Chairwoman Kattih: I think it was six. Keep in mind that they only need \$37.19 for each of the socials, so that money, the \$100 can cover 3 ½ socials. But we can increase that funding. Do you have any formal motions, Ms. Abraha?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to vote on recommended budget allocation, accepted.*

YES: Abraha, Devivo, Fernandez, Romero

NO:

4-0-1, Food Activists Revolutionizing Meals budget is passed.

Announcements

Chairwoman Kattih: So, that is it for new business, and now we are in announcements. Does anyone have any announcements?

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Hopefully you got my email on Friday night on a bunch of things, but one of the things we included was the audit form. Hopefully you guys are able to use that Google doc and you can start auditing events for positive points.

Chairwoman Kattih: I do have something to say, I forgot. Audits. The other part of our committee is audits, because we are the Appropriations and Audits Committee. I would like each of you to do at least two audits per week. This week and next week, we can do two for the next two weeks. The list of events I sent out is the next two weeks. If you can do two events per the next two weeks, that would be great, just to kind of get things started. You get positive points, even if you're in this committee, for every single audit you do. The more audits you do, the more positive points you can get. The other thing is the list of events that I sent out, I tried to make all A&S funded entities and organizations, but if you have particular questions about some of them, you can definitely ask me or Adam, or whoever. With that—does that sound okay to everybody? Doable? I will check in with you guys next week. With that, I can take any motions.

Senator Devivo – *Motion to adjourn, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Any objections? Seeing none.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Transcribed by Senate Committee Secretary, Stacy Dolan.