

Fall 11-4-2013

## Appropriations and Audits Committee Meeting Minutes 11-04-13

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University of South Florida  
Student Government Fifty-Fourth Student Senate

Committee on Appropriations and Audits  
FALL SESSION  
November 4, 2013

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

**First Roll Call**

Present: Kattih, Odeh, Abraha, Romero, Lopez, Larkins, Hernandez, Oliver, F. Fernandez

Absent: Rodriguez (unexcused)

Chairwoman Kattih: In the gallery we have Ms. Katherine Burkhard from SGATO, as well as Masha Galchenko from ASBO and Adam Aldridge, our Pro-Tempore.

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

Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have additions, deletions or changes to the agenda. Are there any motions? In the email I sent out, I said we might be adding some more interim budgets, but I didn't send them out to you guys in time, so we'll do those next time. Are there any motions?

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

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing no objections, this agenda is now accepted. Next, we have approval of the minutes. Two sets of minutes were sent out. Are there any motions?

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

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing no objections, minutes are approved.

**Open Forum**

Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have open forum. Anyone have anything to say?

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Composite pictures are tomorrow. Make sure, again, if you have to sign up for a time, make sure you check the times and make sure you know it. If you've not signed it yet, make sure you go by Adam Kowalski's desk in SGATO, which is just across the hall. Make sure to go by after the meeting to put your name on there. Obviously, tomorrow will also be the presentation from Ms. Sandy Lovins from Administrative Services. It will probably be dress a little more formally than usual. Other than that, I have nothing else.

B: The instructions for what to wear, was that sent out?

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Yes. Not Friday, the last email, but the week before's email, that information was sent out. I know I sent a couple different emails, but if you happened to look in the reports from about ten days ago, it will be there with instructions.

Chairwoman Kattih: Let the record also state that Mr. Fernandez is present, and we have Ms. Vicky McNeal from ASBO and Abdool Aziz in the gallery. Are there any additional announcements for open forum?

## **New Business**

### **1. Off-Campus Request**

#### **Accounting Society at USF**

Chairwoman Kattih: With that, we can move onto new business. First, we have an off-campus request from the Accounting Society at USF. They want to visit the Crow Horwatch—I can't say that—firm, which is downtown Tampa. They want to take a tour. They want to rent a Bullrunner to go there. They are taking about seventeen to twenty people with them. Do you guys want to talk about it? Kind of how this works, for our new senators, who haven't seen off-campus requests before, off-campus requests have to be approved because A&S money has to be utilized for events that are open to all students. It's easier for an event to be accessible to all students if it occurs on campus. When it's occurring off-campus, they have to get special approval from the Appropriations and Audits committee. The example I like to give is if the snorkeling club wants to go snorkeling in the ocean, we don't provide that on campus, and it's directly relevant to their organization's mission statement, so something like that is very likely to be approved. Whereas if a geography club wants to go bowling, it's not really relevant, and it depends on how they reach out to students, whether or not we will approve it. Keeping that in mind, that the accounting society is the organization and they want to visit an accounting firm, so you know. It will be up to you guys to affirm that decision.

Senator Abraha: The \$185 is covering for...?

Chairwoman Kattih: It's covering the bus rental, the Bullrunner.

Senator Romero: How do we judge, I guess, since it's usually when we talk about food, we say like it is like per person, it's what we're doing. Here, it says seventeen people, and they are being allocated possible \$185. How would that work if the estimated attendance was three people, or fifty people? I don't know how we really take that into account.

Chairwoman Kattih: It will be a case by case basis. In this case, it's kind of travel, and they want the means of transportation. You take that into account. So if they have three people, they would want a car. If they have seventeen, they need one Bullrunner. If they have fifty, they probably need two.

Senator Romero: Okay, I see what you're saying.

Chairwoman Kattih: I wanted to pull up the mission statement of the organization. Are there any additional questions in the meantime? So the organization's purpose is to reach out to upcoming accounting majors and give them an overview of the opportunities related to accounting, I'm assuming on campus and elsewhere.

Senator Larkins: This is a question. Usually, how much does it cost for students to get Bullrunner services? Does it range for how long they need it?

Chairwoman Kattih: To rent them?

Ms. Galchenko: It's a per-hour charge.

Chairwoman Kattih: Do you know what the charge is per hour?

Ms. Galchenko: Not off the top of my head. I can tell you that whenever the Bull Blitz, that invites comes out to be about three to four thousand dollars, for however many buses go back and forth.

Chairwoman Kattih: I don't know if I can find it online. It's there.

(inaudible chatter)

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: How long did they say they will be going? Or did you ask?

Chairwoman Kattih: I did not ask for that information, but I'm assuming...that will be something I can ask and convey to Masha. The reason—this was kind of time-sensitive request because they have to put in their requests ten business days in advance. They've actually already put in their request for the Bullrunner. With ASBO, they have to put their request in seven business days in advance, which is probably today or tomorrow.

Senator Larkins – *Motion to vote, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are you guys okay with this enough to vote? Are there any objections? Seeing no objections, we are now going to vote.

YES: Abraha, F. Fernandez, Larkins, Lopez, Romero, Oliver, Odeh, Hernandez

NO:

**8-0-1, Accounting Society at USF off-campus request is approved.**

## **2. Interim Budget Requests**

### **National Science Teacher Association at USF**

Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have interim budgets. First we have the National Science Teacher Association at USF.

Senator Larkins: I don't really remember—yes, it was this one.

Chairwoman Kattih: They requested \$1,197.80. They were recommended \$159. Their first event already passed, so it could not be funded. Their community service project...I see what you're saying. All of their events have already actually occurred. The reason I funded the community—the back to school barbecue social has already occurred and cannot be funded, and their St. Pete science festival event has already occurred and cannot be funded. Then they have a National Science Teacher conference. Because this falls under the travel category, we don't fund it as interim. The reason I left the community service project for t-shirts was because the materials they were asking for was t-shirts. I communicated to the organization that they couldn't just get officer t-shirts. They had to get t-shirts for the organization. They said they would get—actually, let me check. Actually, scratch that. It's only officer t-shirts here. It's up to you guys want to fund that or not. We've never seen a case of just officer t-shirts being funded.

Senator Romero: I'm not seeing what you're saying. They are saying official club t-shirts. Were these t-shirts specifically for the community service event? Because A, the event has already passed, and B, we don't fund community service, and C, if these are just—are these—was anything going to be date-specific or related to this event, or was it just going to be t-shirts for them?

Chairwoman Kattih: It was just t-shirts. They weren't going to specify it for that event.

Senator Lopez: And they told you it was just for their officers?

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes.

Senator Lopez – *Motion to zero fund community service materials, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: One option is to zero fund. The other option is to fund them for more t-shirts. With your motion, are there any objections? If there are no objections.

Senator Abraha: I have a question. I was fine with the motion. When did you meet with this organization?

Chairwoman Kattih: August 29<sup>th</sup>. They didn't complete their constitution changes until last week.

Senator Abraha: And their events and (inaudible). Because their whole budget is going to pretty much be...

Chairwoman Kattih: Because there are no fundable events, this budget is obsolete. We can move on to the next budget. But yes, because it wasn't submitted—all the necessary submitted in a timely manner, they can't receive funding for the events they requested.

### **International Youth and Students for Social Equality at USF**

Chairwoman Kattih: Next is IYSSE, which is International Youth and Students for Social Equality at USF. They requested \$2,544, were recommended \$1,007. They have the Tsar to Lenin Film Showing. All of their events are actually speaker fees. I recommended that they be funded our standard for all of their events, which is four. They have a Tsar to Lenin film showing in the fall and one in the spring. They also have an attack on the constitutional rights speaker event and a decline of capitalism speaker event. Finally, they requested money for a club banner and oracle advertisement, so \$150 as our standard for a club banner, then \$200 as our standard.

Senator Larkins: Has it been a precedent before of how many you give them?

Chairwoman Kattih: When the organization is asking for more than eight events, we usually do two of the speaker events. However, I don't think we've seen a case where all of the events have been speaker fees.

Senator Abraha: The Tsar to Lenin film showing is occurring twice?

Chairwoman Kattih: One in the fall, one in the spring.

Senator Abraha: Is it going to be the same speaker coming?

Chairwoman Kattih: He said it was going to be a different speaker.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: I thought the standard was that if there was anything over \$150, you could fund it up to half of their request.

Chairwoman Kattih: Because we haven't really been following that precedent in committee, I don't know if that can be called a standard. We can establish that as a standard now. In past committees, it's been possible to fund up to half of the speaker fee requests in total. In this case, it would be up to \$1,000. If you guys want to start doing that, we can do that, or we can continue with our \$150 as precedent. Are there any motions or discussion points from committee?

Senator Hernandez: Just to clarify, where did that \$150 that you just pick—? Did you just pick \$150?

Chairwoman Kattih: It's a standard. What are standards? I actually sent this out to you in the first committee email. I can send it out again. We have a set of standards that we usually use in terms of specific events and specific items. So speaker fees, just to be fair across the board for all organizations, we make sure to fund \$150 for a speaker fee, or \$200 for an Oracle ad, or \$150 for a banner. That's just something we do across the board. It varies in outstanding circumstances, but it's in line with our proviso and our rules. Does that clarify?

Senator Odeh: Point of clarification. What did you mean by \$1,000? I thought you could fund half of it, so wouldn't that be \$250?

Senator Abraha: For all of them added up.

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes, because there are four speaker events, and each of them is \$500. That's a total of \$2,000. Funding half of them would be funding \$1,000.

Senator Abraha: We can fund two of them up to half and the rest we can keep up to \$150. Just so we don't go up too much. But for the ones that seem similar, we can keep it at \$150 for the attacks on constitutional rights and the other one we can do \$250.

Chairwoman Kattih: do you want to formally motion for that?

Senator Abraha: I was just bringing it up, if they wanted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Ms. Abraha is suggesting we fund the attack on constitutional rights and the decline of capitalism for \$250 rather than \$150.

Senator Romero: I'm not understanding the reasoning that you want to do that. I'm just wondering the thought process for going that route versus the route we're at right now.

Senator Abraha: We have the ability to do either/or. I was just bringing it up as a discussion.

Senator Romero: I was wondering if you have a preference for some reason.

Senator Abraha: It's just that when they do request, we usually subsidize. They look at the total amount and the people attending. It's up to you guys.

Senator Aziz: Is the Tsar to Lenin the same movie they are showing twice?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think the movie is the same, but it has different speakers, so it is a different event.

Senator Odeh: Do they have the licensing for the film they are going to show?

Chairwoman Kattih: Thank you for bringing that up. I did not ask that. Previously, in committee, when there was a film showing—because if we fund it, we are responsible for anything that goes wrong.

Senator Abraha: Quick question.

Chairwoman Kattih: Because we're responsible for anything that could go wrong. The safest way to do this would be to zero fund the film showings and increase the subsidy to the other events. But yes, we do take that into account. Thank you for bringing that up.

Senator Abraha – *Motion to table to inquire further about film events.*

Senator Abraha: Just on the fact that we didn't ask them how they are showing this. I don't think we should zero fund them on that ground.

Chairwoman Kattih: Also, let me bring up the point that it won't really make that big of a monetary difference if these events were zero funded and these other two events were increased in subsidy. But again, it's up to you guys. Just think about the implications of, for example, just increasing this to a significantly larger amount and zero funding these. That way, we avoid any of that. Or, of course, we can ask them if they have the rights to that movie. Do you want to rescind your motion so we can discuss a little bit more?

*Senator Abraha rescinds.*

Senator Abraha: I have a question. It's not they have the rights, is it the resources they have to get the rights. They can still get it from the library, correct?

Chairwoman Kattih: They have to have the rights to show it to a large amount of people because it's not a home showing. They have to receive the rights to show a film if it's in a large group of people. Correct me if I'm wrong, Masha.

Senator Abraha: But in this event, they are showing the film and the speaker is talking about it?

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes.

Senator Abraha: So there is a film being shown. Because it says the speaker is speaking about it.

Chairwoman Kattih: From my meeting, they will have the film and then have the speaker speaking about it.

Senator Odeh: If we zero fund the events, do they still happen, or is it not approved for them?

Chairwoman Kattih: The organizations have flexible spending. Our budget is simply what we suggest they should spend money and how much money they should be spent on. But if an organization wants to spend \$150 on the film showing, then they have the option of doing that. If they have the film rights, then it's approved by the A&S business office, et cetera. So as long as it's not violating proviso, they can have any event they want. Are there any additional questions, motions or points?

Senator Hernandez: What would be the time period to be able to meet with them and ask them the whole licensing thing?

Chairwoman Kattih: I can email them as soon as we get out of here and get that confirmation of it. But because next week is Veteran's Day, we won't be meeting. It will have to wait until the 18<sup>th</sup>. This one won't

be able to be funded, because I don't think that will be in time. Or it will be, actually. I don't know how quickly they will be able to put in their request with the A&S business office.

Senator Romero: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe in previous committee, I don't remember but I believe we zero funded the events that we did not have enough clarification on, or did we go back and speak to them, previously in committee ?

Chairwoman Kattih: It depends. I think it's a case by case basis.

Senator Abraha: I just wanted to point out that it's not they didn't clarify enough. Maybe they don't know what they need rights for. It's up to us to ask them for the rights.

Senator Larkins: I'll go back to the motion to zero funding the movies and funding the other two.

Senator Larkins – *Motion to zero fund Tsar to Lenin films and double fund the other two events.*

Chairwoman Kattih: You want to zero fund the Tsar to Lenin film showings and then fund these for \$250 for the attacks on constitutional rights and the decline of capitalism for \$250? The grand total difference is \$100, because we're at \$901. Are there any objections to that motion?

Senator Romero: I don't have any objection. Would you let the organization know why those two events weren't funded?

Chairwoman Kattih: Because organizations don't receive this what we've funded and what we haven't, they get the bill of how much materials and how much food was funded. I don't think it would matter.

Senator Romero: Just for their information?

Chairwoman Kattih: I can let them know. If you suggest that, that's definitely something I can add into the email.

Senator Abraha: Well, actually, I motion to table it. It's not going to make an impact even if they don't get it, it's not going to make an impact on the first event, because they are not going to get funded. Even if they have those rights, they are not going to get funded for the first event anyway.

Senator Abraha – *Motion to table interim budget.*

Chairwoman Kattih: So Ms. Abraha with a motion to table. Are there any objections?

Senator Romero: Well, you had her motion, you have to see if there are objections.

(inaudible chatter)

Chairwoman Kattih: There were objections. Do you want to rescind your motion?

Senator Larkins: She objected against mine, so now we have to vote.

Senator Abraha: You didn't motion to vote. You motioned to change it.



Chairwoman Kattih: She's okay with her change. It's a new motion. Are there any objections to tabling it until we have time? So, to Ms. Abraha's motion to table this despite the grand total of \$901, which has already been accepted.

Senator Larkins: Just clarification, because a lot just happened. If we do table this, and they do say they have the license for the movie, then would we go to change it for the movies?

Senator Abraha: We can change it however we want.

Chairwoman Kattih: Once it returns back to us in committee, it's up for in discussion. You can change whatever you want.

Senator Larkins: Also, you said it was possibly different speakers, but it seems like it's the same description. It seems like it's the same group coming to talk about the same film.

Chairwoman Kattih: When I met with them, they said it was a different speaker. I specified that just to make sure it was different events. With that, we are back into Ms. Abraha's motion to table this. Are there any objections to tabling it to until 18<sup>th</sup> of November? Ms. Larkins?

Senator Larkins: I want to, but...I don't know.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Can I have a question?

Senator Romero: People have to rescind their motions.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: For a question?

*Senator Abraha rescinds.*

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: The difference in whether or not they have the rights to the film showing is \$100.

Senator Abraha: No, because that one can reach.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Initially, you wanted to fund them \$150 for each of them. Let's play this out. If they say that they have the film rights, are you going to go back to how you initially had it, where it was \$150 for each event?

Senator Abraha: Well, I was going to make the motion that she did for \$250 anyway, but it doesn't—my point is like when you're telling them that they will not be funded for this, it should not happen unless they actually had that discussion. You see what I mean? Because right now we're only shaping it so they can get this much amount of money—but they are not getting the clear clarity of where we are funding to what. We're just trying to give them a little more money here so they can—since they have flexible spending—but I actually want to get to where we're funding as opposed to just kind of...you see what I mean? I hope that makes sense.

Senator Romero: I think that it's not—the burden of proving that they have the ability to show this movie isn't on us. I agree we're supposed to help because we are the most informed on being able to get those things, and them showing us they have those proofs. But at the end of the day, it's not our job to walk their hand through everything. That's why they are an organization. They need to know how to—they didn't know the rules when they come and ask for funding. That's what we try to provide, to give them things to do that.

Chairwoman Kattih: Mr. Lopez, did you have something to add?

Senator Lopez: I'm good.

Senator Abraha: My question is so why did we raise the \$150 to \$250?

Chairwoman Kattih: Because we have the option to funding them up to half of their request.

Senator Abraha: But we only increased that because we took out the other. It's okay, we can fund it. I just don't think we're keeping up with...

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any additional motions? If everyone is clear in what is happening in this budget, the two options are we fund them with \$901 as the final amount with the two speaker events funded and the two film showings not funded or the other option is to table it as was suggested previously.

Senator Lopez: If we do approve this, and this is what they get, do meet with them and you let them know the whole deal with the movie? Would they know that or do they just get what they got?

Chairwoman Kattih: Usually most student organizations receive a copy of the bill, which states the material and food amount in bulk. It doesn't specify line item by line item. Because Mr. Romero has suggested I let them know, I will definitely let the organization know that they need to have film rights to show a film.

Senator Lopez: I feel like it's a lesson learned for following budgets.

Senator Odeh: Does it say anywhere that they need the licensing? Just because it came up twice in committee in the past two weeks. Do they know that they need licensing?

Chairwoman Kattih: Adam, is that in proviso?

Ms. Galchenko: Anytime you watch a movie, there's a federal thing in there that says to show the mass audiences, you have to have a license to do so. As a movie watcher, you should know that.

Chairwoman Kattih: It's a federal law that overshadows Student Government. With that, are there any other motions?

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Let me just clarify, but she's talking about anything that's copyrighted. So if this was something that wasn't copyrighted, then they could have used it. But it's applying to everything that's copyrighted, that the movie company submits it for approval. If this one was not, if it's a documentary or something that does not have any department that has copyright, they can still use it.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any additional motions or questions or points?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to vote, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: There is a motion to vote. Are there any objections to moving into voting? Seeing no objections to voting, we are now in voting procedure for a grand total of \$901.

YES: Abraha, Fernandez, Larkins, Lopez, Romero, Oliver, Odeh, Hernandez

NO:

**8-0-1, International Youth and Students for Social Equality at USF budget is passed.**

Chairwoman Kattih: That concludes our new business for the day.

**Announcements**

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any announcements? I got feedback on the audit system from Mr. Romero and some of the other senators from the ASRC committee. I'll be working with the A&S Business Office to come up with a list of events that have actually gotten funding for the week and maybe I can provide that list to you, depending on what happens with the A&S Business Office. That's kind of in the works. Other than that, I have nothing. Are there any motions?

Senator Abraha – *Motion to adjourn, accepted.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Any objections? Seeing none.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:37 PM.**

*Transcribed by Senate Committee Secretary, Stacy Dolan.*