USG Finance Committee Minutes
Meeting: 27 September 2018
Senate Session Corresponding: 9 October 2018

VP Finance: Maggie Palys
Recorded by: Olivia Johnson

Design For America (DFA) Budget

Total Requested: 75

- 25 Office Supplies (Post-it Notes)
- 9 Office Supplies (Pipe Cleaners)
- 12 Office Supplies (Tape)
- 6 Office Supplies (Glue Sticks)
- 22 Office Supplies (Poster Board)

Presentation Details:

- Club mission is to solve problems on campus through design thinking
- Working through Feeding America to help the food desert problem in New Orleans
    - This would be for the first step in design thinking; supplies are to make models and prototypes of solutions in their club meetings

Debate Details:

- Everything seems reasonable

Voting: **Fund in Full: 75, 8-0-1**

- **75 Various Office Supplies**

National Organization for Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS) Travel Request

Total Requested: 3608.25

- 1943 Transportation
- 960.33 Hotel/Lodging
- 705 Registration Fees

Conference Details:

- National Conference (2018 NOMA Conference Unbounded); Chicago, IL;
    - Conference: October 17, 2018 – October 21, 2018
    - Travel: October 19, 2018 – October 21, 2018
- Workshops, seminars, design competition, networking opportunities
- 3 students
    - All undergrads
    - 1 senior, 2 sophomores

Presentation Details:

- Their chapter represents all student chapters of NOMA across the nation
- Participated in design conference in the past three years (last year was independent study); they are competing to win; they need 2 undergrad students to win
- They are expecting transportation to be cheaper
    - They are looking for lower rates for everything
    - We don't fund Ubers/local transport for travel
- Why does Saturday cost more than Friday hotel?
    - No idea
- They are actively looking for outside funding to help subsidize

Debate Details:

- We see lower airfare into O'Hare (Midway is more expensive)
    - Round trip 274

- Appreciate that they only requested for undergrad students going
- They said that they need two students to go; they are requesting for three
  - Going from three to two wouldn't change hotel, but it would change travel
  - However, these three individuals have been working on the design competition together
- Their hotel seems a little bougie
  - It is very nice and next to Millennium Park
  - Best Western is 389
    - Lodging would be 778 total with Best Western (389/night * 2 nights)
  - This saves 180
- With cheaper hotel and no Ubers, total would be 2323
  - 840 transport (ask less Ubers)
  - 778 lodging
  - 705 registration
- Was 2500
  - 840 transport
  - 960 lodging
  - 705 registration

Voting: **2323 9-0-0**

- **840 Transport**
- **778 Lodging**
- **705 Registration**

<u>Best Buddies Budget (Late)</u>

Total Requested: 2000

- 500 Food (Pizza) (two large events)
- 600 Other – Miscellaneous (Tables, Chairs, Cups, Plates, Napkins) (two large events)
- 100 Other – Miscellaneous (Arts and Crafts) (two large events)
- 480 Food (Pizza) (eight small events)
- 320 Other – Miscellaneous (Arts and Crafts or Other Supplies) (eight small events)

Presentation Details:

- Best Buddies is an organization that provides opportunities for young students to have a mentee in college
  - Events, activities, mentorship for a younger buddy
- There is a required set of events (1 per month) that they need to have to qualify for a national chapter
  - They need supplies for all of these to make them engaging for the buddies
  - All 10 events will have food and crafts
  - 8 events will be small (budgeted 80 each), 2 will be large (budgeted 600 each)
- Why late?
  - Best Buddies had a budget previously, but they weren't spending their money
  - It went inactive, but they were a registered
  - Once they became active again, they weren't sure if they needed to apply as a new budget or existing club

    - Once they found out how they should apply for funding, it was in the late budget period
- Priorities:
    - Big events (food and crafts) to have enough supplies for buddies
- Can they be a national org if they aren't fully funded?
    - It is doable, but they will have to increase dues
- How many buddies (mentees) are there? 10

Debate Details:

- Big events are 250 for pizza, 300 for cups/napkins/paper goods, 50 miscellaneous
    - The 300 is VERY large
- Previous budget, 2015-2016: 450
    - We have a precedent to stay close to previous funding numbers
- What do we feel is good for a top line?
    - 500?
        - Some committee members feel this is a little low
    - 600 would fund food and crafts at both large events
- 600
    - Foods and arts and crafts at both large size events
    - They can choose to spend this at other events, if they want to
    - Club members would pay dues

Voting: **600 8-0-0**

<u>Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Travel Request</u>

Total Requested: 2852

- 666 Transportation
- 991 Lodging
- 1195 Registration

Conference Details:

- Biomedical Engineering National Conference; Atlanta, GA
    - Travel: October 16 to October 20
- Students in attendance:
    - 2 presenters at conference (2 seniors)
    - 2 attending the conference (1 senior, 1 grad student)
        - Grad student was approved for funding

Presentation Details:

- Asking for extra 200 for travel just in case flights get more expensive
- Advance for registration is due on October 3rd
- Flying to Atlanta
- Would it make sense to bring younger people?
    - These are the people that want to go
    - No younger students have expressed interest

Debate Details:

- They factored in 200 in the case of flights
- One person is driving and does not have any lodging? Is he from Atlanta?

    - He could be going home or to a friend's house for Fall Break (a personal trip)
        - We do not fund people to go from their home/personal trip to anywhere, including back to Tulane
        - That is a cost that he would incur in any circumstance
    - If he has a car that is driving to Atlanta, why is everyone else not in his car?
    - This person is the only oral presenter at the conference
- This trip is during Fall Break
- All three undergrads are seniors? Would it be better for younger people to go to the conference to bring back knowledge to the club for a longer time period?
    - These are the only people that expressed interest
    - Do we want to fund all four people?
- The only girl going on the conference is just an attendee, not a presenter
    - Is it our job to take these things into account?
- Numbers:
    - 2652
        - 466 Transportation
        - 991 Lodging
        - 1195 Registration
        - Full fund minus 200 "extra fee in case of price change"
    - 2560
        - 374 Transportation
        - 991 Lodging
        - 1195 Registration
        - Full fund, less 200 "extra fee in case of price change" and 92 personal travel expenses for driver

Voting: 2560 8-0-0

- **374 Transportation**
- **991 Lodging**
- **1195 Registration**

<u>Tulane Organization of Global Affairs (TOGA) Travel Request (UPMUNC)</u>

Total Requested: 4054.98

- 2784 Transportation
- 1570.98 Lodging
- 900 Registration

Conference Details:

- University of Pennsylvania Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC) 52; Philadelphia, PA
    - Travel: November 8 – November 11
- 8 students attending

Presentation Details:

- They have deducted the pre-agreed upon dues for each member (150)
    - This is why the request is less than the total amount of the trip
- 8 delegates that tried out for spots

- One of the most competitive conferences that they can go to this year; they have a good track record
- Does this go in accordance with their capital planning?
  - They cut the amount of people to keep caliber high
  - Fees are a lot higher here, so they dropped from 12 people to 8 people
- Less expensive than what we allocated for in capital planning meetings

Debate Details:

- Numbers are lower than capital plan
- We are assuming that they are using the Dean's grant (roughly 4700) also

Voting: Fund in Full (4054.98) 8-0-0

- **2784 Transportation**
- **1570.98 Lodging**
- **900 Registration**

<u>Tulane Organization of Global Affairs (TOGA) Travel Request (DISCon)</u>

Total Requested: 4134

- 3792 Transportation
- 1032 Lodging
- 1110 Registration

Conference Details:

- Duke International Security Conference; Durham, NC
  - Travel: October 26 – October 28
- 12 students attending
  - This is a less competitive tournament than the UPenn one, so they can bring more students to give them practice

Presentation Details:

- They have deducted the pre-agreed upon dues for each member (150)
  - This is why the request is less than the total amount of the trip
- They are required to book through the travel agency, which costs about 20-25 per person
  - They were just made aware of this, so it is not factored into request

Debate Details:

- These numbers are below what they asked for in capital planning meeting

Voting: Fund in Full (4134) 8-0-0

- **3792 Transportation**
- **1032 Lodging**
- **1110 Registration**

<u>College Dems Travel Request</u>

Total Requested: 1450

- 250 Transportation
- 1200 Lodging
- 0 Registration

Conference Details:

- They are not attending a conference, they are going to campaign with Democratic candidates in Florida
  - Travel Dates: October 19 – October 21
- 25 students attending
- Students will be driving
  - Driving down on a Friday
    - Going to the headquarters on Saturday
    - Headquarters for first half on Sunday, leaving Sunday night

Presentation Details:

- Going to "Demsacola," a trip that gives the club experience working with high-profile campaigns doing canvassing, working in campaign headquarters, etc.
  - In Florida because it is the closest swing state and there are no competitive, high-profile cases (Senate, gubernatorial, etc) in Louisiana this year
- What can they bring back to campus?
  - They will be visiting a competitive gubernatorial race
  - Next year is an election year for governor in Louisiana, so they can bring their experience back to help re-elect John Bel Edwards
- Why an AirBNB? There is more liability with signing a contract, and it seems more expensive
  - A house would be cheaper than 13 hotel rooms (2 people per room)
  - Do you know that we typically do 4 people to rooms? This would cut lodging in half and make a hotel cheaper
  - They have budgeted: 75 per room (queen), 2 people in each room
  - They also saw rooms with 2 double beds for 100 each, 2 people in each room
- Have you considered Motorpool instead of private transportation?
  - They are trying to get private drivers approved to Motorpool but it will not happen in time
- Are the people going paying for anything?
  - Food
- Is Florida the only place they go?
  - This is the closest place for them to get national experience
  - They do races for school board and House of Representatives, but nothing high profile or contentious
    - They work with Tammy Savoy in the House of Representative race against Steve Scalise, but Scalise will win
- Itinerary?
  - What will their canvassing look like?
  - They have contact with the Escambia County Democratic Party
  - Driving down Friday
    - Headquarters Saturday
    - Headquarters for first half on Sunday, leaving Sunday nigh
  - Are you just going to be on the beach? It looks like we are just funding a beach trip
    - Supposedly, students are not expecting to go on a beach trip and do minimal work

        - They are expecting to work; Henry is expecting them to work

Debate Details:

- We see hotel pricing for rooms with two doubles for 84 per night
    - Seven rooms, 4 people per room (574) two nights (1176 = 84 per room, 7 rooms, 2 nights)
    - Six rooms, 4 people per room (1008 = 84 per room, 6 rooms, 2 nights)
- One person is most likely not going to go, so we think budgeting for 6 rooms is most appropriate instead of 7 rooms
    - With 7 rooms, the 25th person would have their own room, or some rooms would end up having less than 4 people in them each
    - This is not an efficient use of money
- They are using personal cars
    - Even though they aren't using Motorpool, the difference in price is only about 100 dollars
    - Between the gas, cost for Motorpool, etc. there isn't a huge difference in price
    - We are OK with students driving
- Numbers: 1258
    - Hotel instead of airBNB
    - 250 Transportation
    - 1008 Lodging

Voting: **1258, 8-0-0 contingent on Itinerary**

<u>USG Travel Request</u>

Total Requested: 2410

- 1680 Transportation
- 730 Lodging
- 0 Registration

Conference Details:

- Site visits to other student governments in Washington, D.C.
    - Travel: November 15 – November 18
- Brainstorming solutions to on-campus problems
- Visiting American University, Georgetown University, and George Washington University (a peer institution)
    - Chose Washington, DC because it is a compact area with multiple universities
        - Easy to travel to all three universities quickly
        - All site visits are scheduled
    - American University is the only student government that is similar in size, scope, etc. than us
    - Georgetown has similar student populations (socioeconomic status, etc.)

Presentation Details:

- Leave Thursday night
    - Campus visits Friday, Saturday, Sunday
    - Leave Sunday night
- Consideration on leaving Friday morning?

    - Cost of plane tickets was higher on Friday vs. Thursday (about 100 more)
    - Worked out to be cheaper
- Did you consider any places closer?
    - DC made the most sense because of the compactness of the city and the caliber of the universities
    - Other places we couldn't have as productive of conversations with multiple universities
    - Considered Atlanta: but only Emory, and could have gone to Georgia Tech, but those would not have been as productive of conversations
- Do you expect this to be every year?
    - Not every year, maybe every 3-5
    - See what kinds solutions are going to come out of this
        - Are they long term solutions? Are they short term?
    - Definitely not the same universities every year/repeatedly
- They are doing a practice site visit with Loyola to make sure that these trips go well
- Did you ask to stay on campus?
    - They didn't talk about it; no schools offered
    - They didn't ask explicitly

Debate Details:

- We don't fund local transport, so we aren't funding the metro cards
    - Less 180 from Transportation
- Transportation costs are higher than they were last year, but they are bringing more people
- It makes sense to go to a place with three different schools
    - Especially if this isn't a yearly trip
- Number: 2230
    - 1500 Travel
    - 730 Lodging

Voting: 2230, 8-0-0

- **1500 Travel**
- **730 Lodging**

<u>National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE) Travel Request</u>

Total Requested: 1926

- 1116 Transportation
- 585 Lodging
- 225 Registration

Conference Details:

- National Society of Black Engineers Fall Regional Leadership Conference; Dallas, TX
    - Travel: October 26 – October 28
- Attendance:
    - Executive Board, 3 people (2 junior, 1 senior)

Presentation Details:

- Their chapter has not been active until this year

    - This is a learning opportunity for their Executive Board to make their club thrive at Tulane
    - They will hopefully attend another conference in the spring
- Lodging info:
    - Hotel they included is discounted until October 10th
- Transportation:
    - They are flying because it is a long drive and they are getting to Dallas late
    - Since only three people are going, it wouldn't be feasible for them to make the trip safely
    - They requested a rental car - No
- Asked for two rooms
    - We typically put 4 in a room
        - If they aren't comfortable with this, this is not an issue

Debate Details:

- Subtract rental car price
- "We just didn't feel comfortable funding them for this much money for three people"
    - We can suggest that they put some money towards lodging if they are uncomfortable
- Lodging
    - There is a typo
        - It is 549 for Lodging, not 585
            - 119 per room, 2 rooms, 2 nights
        - That is 183 per person for Lodging if they wanted two rooms
            - Very high
    - One room is a king bed, and one is a double (119 for each, 2 nights)
        - We have always just funded four to a room, and the club has paid the difference
        - It did not seem that they had an issue with rooming together; they just didn't want to get into it
    - A 289 difference if we only fund one room
        - We are not sure if they are aware that two genders are allowed to stay in the same room
    - 275 for Lodging for 1 room
- This is the kind of conference that we would usually send two people to anyways
    - We are being generous with three people's flights
- There may have been some confusion if we promised them two rooms or not
    - With lack of clarity, are we inclined to go with a higher number?
- Numbers: 1817
    - 1043 Transportation
    - 549 Lodging (2 rooms)
    - 225 Registration
- Numbers: 1542
    - 1043 Transportation
    - 274 Lodging (1 rooms)
    - 225 Registration

Voting: 1817, 6-2-0

- **1043 Transportation**
- **549 Lodging**
- **225 Registration**