

**SUFAC Minutes
November 19, 2015**

I. Call to Order

SUFAC Chair Eric Kissinger called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

II. Roll Call

- a. **Members Present:** Eric Kissinger, Allison LeMahieu, John Landrum, Lea Truttman (OFO), Milton Byers, Erica Kuehn, Noelle Poppe, Penghan Yi, Samuel Welhouse, Reed Heintzkill, Hannah Stepp, Thomas Gentilini, Nathan Rousseau
- b. **Absent:** Janae Due (excused), Nik Austin (excused), Gretchen Klefstad (excused), Marc Minani

III. Recognition of Guests:

Kress: Jeff Krueger

Athletics: Brendan Gildea, Mary Ellen Gillespie

Facilities: Paul Pinkston

IAM: Sydney St. Clair, Heather Kostelnik, Michaela Hogan

German Club: Sara Lveth, Taylor Dynes

SGA: Sami Dannhauser

IV. Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Eric entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Han Motioned. Reed Seconded. Voice Vote. Agenda passed.

Eric entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the November 12th meeting. Han motioned. Samuel seconded. Voice Vote. Minutes passed.

V. Reports

- a. **OFO:** Committed funds amounts to \$31,632.53 and org start up are \$1453.37.
- b. **Liaison:** N/A
- c. **Senate:** N/A
- d. **SGA Exec:** We went to RHAA to request funding for our app. Their budget isn't due until April so they will get back to us. We are still working on getting a new dining provider. Next week, Senator Ron Johnson will be speaking on campus. We are still working on childcare. We have a pool of seg-fees for the plan and right now we have established an internship to do research on how many student parents we have and gather real data to support this decision. We are going to be requesting about \$7,000 less in our SGA budget. We want to take one of the four computers in the student org office and put it in the SUFAC office so that they do not have to share the one. There are very rarely 3 of the computers used at a time so we want to change it to 2 computers to save money. Our travel expenses were changed. We are also not going to pay for the phones in the SGA office anymore since they are not used. We are also changing honorariums, specifically the hourly wages.

- e. **Vice Chair:** We will be sending out an org budget schedule next week. We have off next week for Thanksgiving. Our first meeting back from break, we will start student org budget presentations.
- f. **Chair:** Budgets are due November 22nd at 11:59pm.

VI. New Business

a. German Club Contingency Request

Last year, we had 8 members that attended this trip. This year, we want to bring 15 people and stay for one night. When we presented this to the members of the German club, we had 24 members that signed up to go. We also want to get a bus. We were originally planning on taking personal vehicles but it was difficult to find enough drivers. We also think it is safer than having 5-6 individual vehicles driving down there.

Questions/Comments:

- Eric commented that they were approved an amount during last year's budget cycle so they are asking for an additional \$800 because more members want to go. They are still within the guidelines and contributing 33%.

b. Innovative Arts Management Committed Contingency

The main point of the class is to come up with an art project for the semester. We are putting in a permanent fire pit and we are going to put it in Phoenix Park. We have spoken with public safety and other people to approve the project. We are narrowing down the locations and working on the artistic component. We want to create a communal space as well as recognized gathering space on campus. The pit will also beautify the campus.

Questions/Comments:

- Hannah asked what parts of the project aren't included in the budget? Labor and installation.
- Hannah asked if they have a plan on financing the project? They are reaching out to RHAA.
- Samuel asked about their ideas to cut costs by collaborating with other groups? We have a lot of support and we are working on the artistic component right now. We want to make a geometric design in the shape of Phoenix and we have a company that is willing to give us a quote for this design. We proposed this budget to SUFAC and we were under the impression that they would help us with the remaining budget that we can't gather the funds for ourselves. We don't have solid numbers yet and our advisors are willing to help us with fundraising.
- Reed asked if the IAM with the arts department is responsible for the design but the installation is being hired externally? Yes. Reed asked if

the students would be doing the work? They are still trying to work through those plans. The company is helping us with the ideas about how to get students involved.

- Samuel asked about the possible safety concerns with the student involvement? The students would not be involved in the installation but we are thinking that students would paint the stones that would eventually be installed by the contractor.
- Han asked what they would do if they are not able to raise the amount of money that they are expecting? From our conversations with Phoenix Park, we were under the impression that they would be able to help us and we are presenting a lower budget based on things that we need.
- Milton asked about the regulation of the use of the firepit? Phoenix Park will be responsible for the regulation. They were talking about a reservation system to make sure that students cannot spontaneously start a fire whenever they please. We also have a woodshed in our budget to provide wood to students, which would require a storage system.
- Reed asked them to characterize the relationship between this project and the connection to the class? Are people getting credit for this? It is a seminar class for 2 credits that was originally supposed to be separate but grew larger. We currently have 10 students that want to create a public art piece. We want to create a communal space that is aesthetically pleasing.
- Eric asked if it is required to be in the class to be a part of the planning process? Currently yes, but we want to open it up to more people be involved.
- Nathan asked about the unveiling in spring of 2016 and where the funding for the snacks will come from? We are planning on focusing on those aspects after we finish the planning and we will raise the funds.
- Eric asked who would keep the woodshed stocked? The Phoenix Park will be responsible for that.
- Eric confirmed that they are confident in the suspected funds from other organizations? Yes.
- They do not need immediate action.

VII. Budget Hearings

a. Facilities

The maintenance is designed to maintain the daily upkeep of the building, including the grounds, electric, etc. We are requesting the same request as our 2015-16 budget in order to help out the seg-fee funding situation that we are currently in. We have our standard fringe benefit increases that are consistent with Dick Anderson and the rest of the offices. I did not include special purpose allocations.

We will request a minimum of 3% in every fiscal year and 4% in the year 2020 to help with the deficit. Our custodians usually work 3rd

shift (11pm-7am). We also have on the original side of the building, which is funded with general-purpose dollars, which is undertaken by two custodians. We have concerns about the transient nature of the third shift because we are constantly losing people. We pay about \$3-\$4 less than other facilities in the area so this becomes a temporary position that they use to get experience before transferring elsewhere. We want to see if changing to a 1st and 2nd shift model will help with this problem. There would be some savings based on weekend (\$0.40) and night (\$0.60) differential. We try to keep a \$50,000 reserve balance. We are trying to save money on light fixtures, which are numerous in that building. The Dick Bennett gym has been on our radar to switch to more efficient lighting.

b. Kress Center

On November 4th, we hit our millionth swipe visitor at the Kress front desk. We had a record year in terms of usage last year. With intramurals, we have continued to maintain or exceed participation. Our climbing wall usage is starting to rebound as well and we have more people climbing again. There was a study done on 38 college campuses that said that 75% of students on campus use recreational facilities and there is a lot of data about retention. Our total revenue is made up of membership, swim programs, vending, facility rentals, concessions, miscellaneous personal training & locker rentals, and lastly investment earnings. The 102 fund and 128 budget make up our total budget. The 102 fund pays for staff and salaries. The state picks up on the fringes, which saves us money (an estimated savings of \$55,000 for next year). The 128 revenues make up the rest of the budget. Being in a negative operating margin for years has depleted our reserve balance. Total expenses include fringe benefits, equipment, maintenance, vending products, university assessments (reservation system, etc.), and administrative (copying, first aid supply, etc.). We are one of the more high-risk areas on campus. Student wages comprise mostly of building coverage, which depends on our hours. Fringe rates are rising and we also have more people going on family plans. Ideally we want to keep our reserve balance in the 10-15% threshold.

Questions/Comments:

- Reed confirmed that the capital items are not being accounted for at this time.
- Milton asked if the 3% to 5% increase is necessary? Our budget has been frozen for a considerable amount of time due to the usage and campus needs but the 5% is needed for balance as we project out.
- Allison asked if a new fitness coordinator has been hired? We have a temporary hire and we are exploring with Prevea about filling that position down the road. This position is accounted for at this time but no

decision has been made. We have an individual that is doing a great job and helped our student leaders with their training and fitness programs.

c. Athletics

We are at 31 straight semesters where our student athletes have maintained over a 3.0 GPA. We also have a department apparel contract, we signed with Adidas. Previously, a lot of athletes were buying their own equipment so we now have the ability to provide our student athletes the same way that other Division I institutions are. We are the host for the conference tournament in this coming season for women's basketball. We have a variety of teams with player of the week honors. We moved our ticket operations in house to try to generate more revenue. Prior to this, the union was covering some of the ticket sales. We took this in house to put in more effort to generate more money and call out to increase sales. We have four funds that we have revenues and expenses in. The 102 fund is predominantly for the salaries in our department. There is also the 128 fund. The 187 fund, which represents a 50% decrease to where we are currently operating due to budget cuts from Governor Walker. The 233 fund is where the expenses happen for the gift revenue that we bring in that helps us with our day to day operations. The expenses include scholarships and tuition waivers for student athletes and travel to competitions. We take pride in the fact that we do more in the Horizon league with less than everyone else has.

We are presenting for the 2018-19 year according to the university policy that we have to present three years out. A lot of what we do on a day-to-day basis is subject to increased costs such as hotel rates. There are many things that are outside of our control. In prior years, we were putting gift receipts in our 128 fund but the university informed us that we need to be using the 233 fund.

Fundraising and ticket sales are the major areas where we can increase revenue. We have really been putting in a lot of effort this year to increase gifts. We are bringing in the sales component of ticket sales in the Kress and eliminating the union as the middleman. We trained student staff, which provides employment opportunities, to bring the revenue-generating piece in house. We are trying to put pressure on Madison and Milwaukee schools to bring in more revenue through these games. We are regionalizing our team travel outside of basketball. It may hurt competition level but we are trying to make sure that our teams are not going anywhere that is more than a 5-hour radius. We have worked with cities that Horizon Leagues are in and reached out to those hotels in those areas to arrange a bid situation to settle on a reduced rate to try to decrease expenses. We are not reimbursing staff for travel at the level that the state recommends in order to cut expenses.

Questions/Comments:

- Milton asked what kind of funding is going towards minority students? For our multicultural student athletes, we have a good working relationship with the AIC and with Justin.
- Allison asked where the waived seg-fees for athletes are shown? In the support for tuition.
- Hannah asked if the GPA requirement differs between sports? No, it is a 2.0 GPA minimum.
- Reed commented that we have significantly less students at this school compared to other Horizon League schools, which is the reason for the lower operating costs. The smaller student body size is a limitation.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. Aux budget review: University Union and Tonight's Presentations

Reed commented that the previous years the boards have voted to keep the budget flat for Athletics and they have been able to survive so they can continue to seek outside sources to fund themselves. Others such as Milton and Reed commented that there is decreased interest in sports on this campus for such a high portion of the segregated fees to be directed at athletics. Milton believes that these are excessive funds.

Hannah commented that she feels it is a biased view that there is no interest in sports on campus since the student sections are often jam packed at games that they are trying to find ways to expand it so that more students can come. Also, some organizations require more funding than others to accomplish their purpose, much like SGA compared to other student organizations. It is commendable that they have been able to seek other sources of funds and that should be recognized. Hannah doesn't see the neutrality in this discussion and she doesn't feel that the argument that they are successful and are already funded at such a high level that they do not need SUFAC support.

Nik commented that some organizations need more money than others but since the segregated fees affects all of the students and enrollment is down then an increase may not be wise.

Samuel commented that these organizations all have a common purpose of benefiting the school. These organizations are asking for more money with the intent of doing more for the university and the students. They are trying to grow and improve, which requires more money.

Dick commented that we need to focus more on how they are spending their money rather than how much money they are spending.

Allison commented that Kress has excellent student opportunities and Mary Ellen really came through on her promise from last year that she would get more external funds for athletics.

Eric tabled the discussion until the next meeting and projected SUF will be presented at the beginning of the next meeting.

IX. Action Items

a. German Club Committed Request:

Eric entertained a motion to approve German Club's request in full. Han motioned. Samuel seconded.

Allison commented that it is really great that they increased student involvement from 8 students to 24 students this year. Han commented that the trip from a few years ago only had a few students so they needed help from outside organizations. This is a big improvement.

Allison called the question. Roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0-0.

X. Announcements

Org budgets are due Sunday and there is no meeting next week because of Thanksgiving break.

XI. Adjournment: Eric entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Samuel motioned. Han seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sarah Batten
SUFAC Administrative Assistant