

SUFAC

Meeting Minutes for September 24, 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, Nate Rousseau, Penghan Yi, Noelle Poppe, Gretchen Klefstad, Nikolas Austin, Marc Minani, Thomas Gentilini
- b. **Absent:** Reed Heintzkill (excused)

III. Recognition of Guests:

IV. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Eric entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the revision of moving Viewpoint Neutrality Training to the next meeting. Milton Motioned. Nathan Seconded. Voice Vote. Agenda passed.

Eric entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17th meeting with the revision of substituting Greek life with Greek orgs. Milton motioned. Nathan seconded. Voice Vote. Minutes passed.

V. Reports

- a. **OFO:** Committed funds amounts to \$33,668.46 and org start up are \$1464.65.
- b. **Liaison:** A lot of student orgs are involved in the Color Run this weekend. There are going to be a lot of people on campus. Go check it out.
- c. **Senate:** Hopefully we will have some senators by next Thursday.
- d. **SGA Exec:** N/A
- e. **Vice Chair:** Gretchen and I met on the childhood alliance committee. We are looking forward to building awareness on campus.
- f. **Chair:** We will not be meeting October 22nd because of Food Day. We will have a few light meetings like tonight until our auxiliary budget presentations. There will also be budget-training session on the same week as Food Day so let other org leaders know. It will be in the 1965 room.

VI. Approval of New Members

- a. **Thomas Gentilini:** I'm a junior that is majoring in Human Biology and I'm also the vice president of Healthy Fork.

Questions:

- Marc asked why Tom decided to join SUFAC?

I decided to join because as the co-president, I thought it would be a good idea to understand how funds are distributed to the student orgs.

Eric entertained a motion to approve Tom as a new member. Marc motioned. Nathan seconded. Roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0-0.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Welcome to SUFAC

i. Introduction, Charge, & By-laws

VIII. Action Items

a. By-law revision

Eric proposed striking the language that Greek orgs can be funded by SUFAC under Section 5.05. Any requests that have been previously approved will be honored.

Allison clarified that events where the Greek orgs are associated, there can still be funding despite the connection because there are other campus orgs involved.

Milton feels that it is extreme to say we will never fund them again.

Allison commented that our policy was going against state policy, which has precedence over SUFAC guidelines. We do not want to get in trouble in the future.

Nik asked if we could still fund Greek events with a 2/3 vote? Eric asked if a 2/3 vote would override the state policy? Eric continued that state policy is the basis for SUFAC as an organization and there are UW-system guidelines that state that organizations cannot discriminate against members or exclude them from membership based on subjective criteria.

John commented that the leadership is stating that this is becoming an issue. What benefits the entire campus is up for debate based on differing perspectives. State policy and procedures state that we are not supposed to be making these exceptions for Greek organizations.

Nik argued that we could still fund the Greek orgs with a 2/3 vote. John argued that we do not have to fund them now, which is the reason for the argument. Eric commented that we would be falling in line with current state policy. It is ultimately up to the board to decide. Eric continued that what we do tonight will mold our decisions for the rest of the year and how we approach requests that violate state policy.

Nik asked how they have been able to get money in the past? Eric replied that Zeta Omega Tau has been the one exception made up to date because their event seemed

to benefit the campus. Other Greek orgs have continuously requested, which is the reason this by-law was added.

Nik asked if these orgs could still present their requests even if they go against the guidelines? John advised against it. Eric commented that we would not hear those presentations.

Milton argued that we are not considering this orgs Greek Life but we are making them take on the same responsibility by not funding them. John commented that their exclusionary nature is what the state objects to.

Nik asked why there are two points about the exclusionary guidelines including sex and social criteria? Allison explained that some fraternities/sororities exclude members based on sex but they also exclude prospective members based on their personal interests or characteristics.

Nik commented that SGA also excludes people based on GPA. Allison and John argued that it is a set policy that isn't arbitrary.

Marc asked if there would be an opportunity to invite a representative of the Greek leadership to present an argument for their request for funding? Allison replied no because they are breaking state policy. John commented that they do not have arguments against the state policy and exclusionary nature that would change the situation.

Milton clarified the reason we are voting against funding Greek orgs is because of the exclusionary nature and not because of the state policy, which has existed for years but they have still be considered despite those guidelines.

Allison called the question.

Eric entertained a motion to approve this by-law revision. Erica motioned. Nathan seconded. Roll-call vote. Motion passed 11-0-0.

IX. Announcements

Allison is the chair of the Ad Hoc committee of the multi-cultural orgs on campus so let her know if you would like to sit on the board and she will e-mail you the agenda.

X. Adjournment: Eric entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marc motioned. Milton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sarah Batten
SUFAC Administrative Assistant