

10/11/16 Minutes
Open Senate

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve: Esperansa (2020)

Seconded.

Apple Day raffle

\$25 gift card -- Madeleine Stout

\$50 gift card -- Sarah Mosinski

Appeals process is being put on hold. Erica Haynes presenting on changes to the Allocations process.

There were some unclear guidelines that were not completely explained when budgets were given out for the Fall. Some clubs feel like they haven't been given what they deserve. We are proposing that in the Spring, we re-do the budget. All the clubs will keep the money they got for the Fall but for money will be re allocated for the Spring.

It can be allocated two different ways. Once we get the allocations back into the pot, we'll have a certain amount, say \$17000. We could divide that number 30 ways. Or, we can do it how we did it this semester, and there will be some things that we cannot allocate for, for example alcohol, but we will

I'm not asking anybody to vote this week because I want you to take it back to the campus and ask the clubs.

Ny'Erica (2018): We're voting for the two options, isn't there any other option?

Erica: You could always keep it the same or propose a completely different method.

Ny'Erica: If it stays the same can you still go through appeals?

Erica: Yes

Rev. Scott: If you have the option to redo the budgets for Spring, when would that take place?

Erica: Before Christmas

Aaleyah: What about clubs that have already spent money?

Erica: Nothing is changing for the Fall. If you have spent any of your Spring money, that

Makela McRae (2019): What about appeals for Fall?

Erica: There will still be appeals for both semesters. Appeals were postponed a week because we want to give everybody at least a week to prepare

Tevanah (Senate Treasurer): Aren't appeals also being pushed because of money issues?

Erica: Yes, until we vote, we cannot be certain how much money we're going to be working with.

Aaleyah: Was asked to open discussion about the current process.

Erica: In previous years, there was a caps system. We categorize based on what you ask for. We put that all in a spreadsheet that specifies how much you ask for. In total, we were asked for \$80,000 but we didn't have that much (\$21,000). We tried to combine items into categories so that we could figure out the maximum caps for each category. We tried to be as fair as possible when we made specific cuts. We only looked at the numbers, not the clubs. That being said, we did not tell people what we would or would not allocate money for and that wasn't entirely fair. We didn't know beforehand so we couldn't tell people. This time, we will inform clubs what you can and cannot ask for.

Megan (SGA President): My question to everybody is whether the current policy is fair or whether you like it

Ayana (Treasurer of ASK): We've had events that are traditions to MB, and there has been issues with funding for these annual traditions

Erica: What was different was only the money we had to allocate. We tried to give more money to food versus supplies. We just figured that food would be more important but we understand that the system is not perfect. There have been problems every year, and we want to fix the system to work for you all. There has been some problems with paperwork but we've been working on fixing that and we want to clarify the process for the Spring

Shari (AVP Treasurer): I did not like the spreadsheet at all, I thought it was too complicated. I think that the spreadsheet needs to be more organized and easier to understand; it needs to have club specific information.

Diamonique Anderson (MCU): An issue has been communication. It would have been nice to know what we can ask for and what we cannot ask for. We also did not know that two clubs can ask for money for the same thing. For example, if both clubs ask for funding for a DJ and we're both allocated the \$200, then we can pool that and actually afford a DJ. Many clubs did not know this. There needs to be stricter guidelines in general. Until Senate votes, however, how do clubs proceed?

Erica: I would say that I would ask you to hold off on buying things for the Spring. However, continue as usual for any Fall events.

Rev. Scott: Concerns about the process for January. This year, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of Office of Inclusive Excellence. We have to be able to publish that to alumnae so that they can come to campus. If budgets are not provided in time, we will not be able to start working on all this. Traditionally, publicity for Black History Month has been done by November, December

Erica: To clarify, you would like to see the processes for the Spring finalized by Christmas?

Rev: Yes.

Kirsten Goodman (BSA Pres): Will there be a full board for the Spring processes?

Erica: There is no set minimum number. I have one board member but I am going to try my best to have at least one additional member. We need help, and we have been struggling with membership; if you can think of somebody interested, please send them my way.

Ayana (ASK Treasurer): Will there be any evaluations of your board members. I have heard things along the lines of members being biased against some MCU events, there may be a lot of judgments and opinions that come along with that..

Erica: Thank you for the question. I want to say that my board member and I were as unbiased as possible. We evaluate ourselves constantly, and this process is hard. We never made value judgments on clubs. I will be very choosy with who else I add on but I am very happy with who I have on the board right now.

Aaleyah (Senate Pres): I know that every club is given a \$200 "cushion." Will that be continued in Spring Allocations? We have 30 clubs, and as we keep approving clubs, that general pot available to the clubs will shrink. Can we think about implementing a system that recognizes the number of people each club caters to?

Erica: That is something that you all will have to decide as far as guidelines go.

Juanaysa (2019): Can you restate what we're voting on. And if we're voting on money to be put back into the pot and it be evenly distributed, how exactly will you handle the clubs that end up with less money?

Erica: That is something to think about before you vote. And there will be an appeals process. This is why I don't want a vote next week.

Amber Ocasio: This vote is for a fix for Spring semester because we've seen problems in the Fall. As appropriations, we will be making a proposal later on for senate to approve/disprove. We might even include things about membership and committees and evaluations in that piece

Erica: What you will be voting on is whether you want things to be categorized again (with strict, clear guidelines) or whether everyone will be given an equal amount and then go through appeals

Nikayla (2017): Is there any way that you can take all the money that you will clubs in the Spring, estimate how much each club would get, and then let the clubs figure that out?

Amber Ocasio: We could show you an estimate.

Megan Edwards (SGA Pres); For clarification, do the senators have to vote on a new system or can they also vote to keep the current system?

Erica: Yes.

Aaleyah: Senators, ask your class members what they think about this, particularly club members and officers. Encourage them to read the minutes.

Amber Keen: I would like to suggest that we clarify the voting options and email the senators.

Aaleyah: Can do. Will also email you the hypothetical number.

Aalyeah: Old business from last year is Greek Life, the Smoking Policy, and Diversity update. Regarding the smoking policy, there is already a policy in place and we're working on getting that enforced. Regarding Greek Life, after a vote last year, students voted that they wanted some aspect of Greek Life. Do any senators want to start working on this?

Ny'Erica (2018) - volunteering to work on Greek Life

Brenda (2020) - volunteering to work on Greek Life

Aaleyah: We are waiting on results from the Climate Survey. Senate board is working on implementing some kind of Diversity committee/team because we did talk about this last year. This could be campus wide/student life based, etc.

Amber Keen: We want to follow up on where we are on the formation of this committee. Our understanding is that the committee would take the results and follow up on that.

Rev. Scott: Is there not a standing committee on Senate regarding diversity?

Aaleyah: Not at this point

Amber Keen: We do not usually have any standing committees. This is something that we can talk about to rework our internal structure.

Shari Moody (AVP Treasurer): What is the smoking policy?

Aaleyah: There is a policy in place that specifies the distance that you have to be away from a building before you can smoke. It is not being enforced right now, and that's what we're trying to work on.

Shari: I really want to stress that it does need to be enforced.

Deija (Spencer RA): The guidelines need to be more

Mary Ruth (HC Chair): I know a lot of popular smoking spots are right outside buildings and the ash trays are placed in areas where people are not supposed to smoke.

Aaleyah: The policy is in place, we just have to start getting people to start enforcing that.

Amber Keen: The policy was drafted and passed 3 years ago, and there were all sorts of recommendations on the distance, creating the smoking receptacles, etc. We want to look into follow up action. You always have the option to write up an incident report as well.

Aaleyah: A concern for security has been manpower.

Rebecca Balzan (2020): Would it be possible to create a committee to make sure the smoking policy is enforced? Could we review the policy?

Aaleyah: Yes

Rev. Scott: We did a leadership workshop in the Fall, and I asked leaders to come and make their personal commitment to diversity on the board in Student Life. Leaders are yet

Esperansa (2020): Make a motion to set up a committee on Freshman parking. Heard a lot of issues, it's dark and a little dangerous.

Aalyeah: That's fine. Can the senators of 2020 in general work on this.

Tatiana Bryant (2017): Where are we on the Black Lives Matter banner?

Aaleyah: Want class of 2018 to look into how we could do this. Is there a design already in use, or do you have a

Juanaysa (2018): Would we make a manner or have a company make the banner?

Aaleyah: You would look into options for that.

Rev. Scott: Is this banner supposed to be in line with the other banner about leadership on campus?

Aaleyah: We have not hashed through those specifics yet.

Rev. Scott: Does this open the door to other banners being allowed to be hung around campus?

Amber Keen: The question was whether senate wants to get together as a group and stand by the initiative. The majority was yes. If other clubs have initiatives that they want senate's support, we would vote again.

Rev. Scott: I just want to make sure that people are fully aware about what they are endorsing and make sure to have that educational piece.

Megan (SGA Pres): If we get one banner, there will be more banners. Where will they go?

Aaleyah: To reiterate, it's about senate's support, and there will be a vote every time. When they come before senate, we will take all those factors into account.

Brenda (2020): Motion to adjourn
Seconded.