 

**MEETING MINUTES**

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**Date: 2/11/22**

**Topic: Public Meeting**

**Present:**

**- Voting members:** Erin Boas, Noah Robertson, Sean Terrey, Claire Kelling, Schönn Franklin, Megan Minnich, Latisha Franklin, Xiaoru (Tony) Shi, Warren Sipe, Nora Van Horn

**- Nonvoting members:** Yidi Wang, Alexa Clayton, Kate Rutter, Barry Bram, Jolinda Wilson

**Absent:** Najee Rodriquez (excused), Jake Snyder (excused)

**Agenda:**

1. **Call to Order and Opening Roll Call**

*Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m.*

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

*Motioned, seconded, no objections.*

1. **Adoption of the Minutes (January 28, 2022)**

*Motioned, seconded, no objections.*

1. **Public Comment**

*No public comment.*

1. **Old Business:**

*No old business.*

1. **New Business**

*No new business.*

1. **Topics of Discussion**
   1. **University Park Allocation Committee Hearing**

Alexa Clayton: Mission is to allocation a portion of the SIF income toward events, experiences, equipment, and other items requested to enhance student life and improve the education climate. Some programs include concerts, organizational speaker (ex. Lion Pride event, graduate women in science. and movies in the HUB). Started funding international travel (ex. Singing lions spring break performance, ASHA convention). Expenses for media (ex. valley magazine, phroth, etc.). We fund equipment (ex. No refund theatre, vole, etc.). The operational expenses include advertising, office supplies, etc. Standing allocations of requested funds (Movin’ On is our largest allocation). Wages, security, coper expenses are also included. Proposed budget for travel, 2.1 million, equipment 175,000, media 67,000, operational 5,000, standing 700,000. Total allocation is a little over 4.1 million. Due to the pandemic, uncertain about continuation of travel and in-person programming. Students are in a transition period from the pandemic. Based on funding from previous years, we feel confident that we can allocate this amount of money (in comparison to 2018/2019). Covid-19 support includes accommodating any unforeseen expenses or increases in pieces, educated students and guiding them through the funding process. We now use org central rather than paper based like in the past. We publish meeting minutes monthly.

Latisha: Any idea on the demographics and organizations asking for funding from UPAC?

Alexa: We have a diverse set of organizations requesting from UPAC (black caucus, lion pride, no refund theatre, viola society, graduate organizations, etc.)

Yidi: Can you explain the comparison to 2018/2019

Alexa: I wasn’t here but it could’ve been because the travel experiences didn’t happen.

Warren: I noticed a 8% increase, will that be integrated?

Alexa: Yes

Tony: In earlier meetings you mentioned the requirements for the organizations fill their forms. How are those questions being formatted?

Alexa: It is for next year. Will be the same form that offices have to fill out. Its not required. There will be a place for organizations to ask for specific questions

Claire: Question about internal operations. Can you talk about what the 3,000 mean?

Alexa: We pull from the beginning of the fall and spring semesters that focus on leadership development, empathy training, etc. UPAC is a family, and we try to form that through the committee development money.

Claire: Who knows what a new normal is going to look like. Do you think that allocating all the money this year is a part of the new normal?

Alexa: We can allocate money toward travel expenses in the future. A lot of organizations re requesting travel funding. We will see a large increase in students requesting travel. This year was a big transition for treasurers which might lead to an increase in programming

Yidi: How do you plan to improve diversity

Alexa: We are looking for a new member to do exactly that

Claire: Right now, it’s one standing allocation. Do you expect any more?

Alexa: Not so far

* 1. **Sustainability Institute Hearing, New Fee Request**

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: Our role is to integrate sustainability into all aspects across our colleges, campuses, communities, and state of Pennsylvania. We want to engage students increase sustainability literacy so you can have the capacity for leadership when you leave Penn State. Exposure, experience, and expertise are our focus for students. Exposing students to how these things interact (ex. Sustainability showcase series, intersections film series). Experience examples include Friday Night Lights Out, EcoReps, etc. Expertise is to develop requisite literacies and competencies to identify the social and environmental issues. Looking to increase the amount we can pay our speakers. Undergraduate interns: $25,600. Overall request is $90,500. We want to pay our speakers what they deserve which is why the allocation request is now $30,000. Did not have ADA accommodations when we started and is why we request $4,500 to bring in ADA accessibility. The interns will help coordinate relevant student and communication experiences and partnerships.

Peter Boger: There is a moral exigence for students to obtain a sustainability education to prepare them to be impact citizens during unprecedented times. These issues interconnect with Black Lives Matter, gender equality, etc. In a recent survey more than 1500 Penn State students said 73% of them said climate change is a threat to humanity but only 10% think Penn State is preparing them for their climate future. We have a proven track record of successfully exposing students. 7 fulltime members and some interns. Number of campus cosponsors have been declining because organizations are tapped out. We want speakers that can come in and work with students for workshops instead of just keynote speeches. In the future they are more opportunities. We want to do more assessments of efficacy, develop additional programming focused on student skill-building and leadership, and create a sustainability literacy assessment.

Schonn: What outreach to student governments and organization to make sure your message gets out?

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: 5 years ago, we were very active in bringing together RSOs. We have a new colleague 2 years ago but is on leave until June so there is lost momentum but want to revamp it in June. On the student government end, we have become a institutionalized body and I have focused working more with student government. We want to bring all the undergrads of college councils along with UPUA. Goal is to have that council running by the fall.

Schonn: If the goal is to have it by august, reach out in March and April. Have you reached out to DI focused student organizations?

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: A lot of conversations with the PRCC. Last May we looked at our speakers and saw they were very white and male. We want our programming to reflect our community. We are reaching out to organizations and make them of our evolving programming. We want other groups to come and share their message at our events.

Claire: Internships have to be open to grad and undergrad students. Have you pursued additional funding from the university?

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: We have. It has been a conversation over the last few years. Covid hit the university pretty hard. We always asked for more funding and haven’t gotten it, but we plan to keep trying. We had no budget this year. Spend and we will tell you if you can spend or not from the university.

Warren: Are you adding additional interns?

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: You are adding additional positions. We have the number of interns we can pay with our standing money so far. Planning to go from 2-4 interns

Claire: Does that apply to the programming? We are not adding to the university funds.

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: Yes. This is in addition to, not in placement of.

Schonn: A lot of organizations have people who are interested in stuff in this. Grad organizations are also interested.

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: I appreciate you highlighting that graduate students want to be involved. We work with every college on campus for sustainability councils. 12/13 colleges have sustainability councils. Looking for the students to be on those councils

Latisha: I’ve been followed SI since it first started, and I appreciate where it has come to.

Yidi: Give an example of sustainability speaker information

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: Last week we had Amber Lee to talk about overlooked contributions of black men and women. We have Amy coming today about the HUB gallery. Connections with the Center of Performing Arts and more on the website.

Yidi: Are there more ways to reach out to students?

Peter Boger/Doug Goodstein: We do a marketing push each week in addition to our website. We want the interns to help us come up with ideas to expand.

* 1. **EcoAction/Sustainable Landscape Hearing, Environmental Sustainability Fund**

Derek: Celebrating our 50th anniversary this year. We are partnering with the Office of physical Plan’s landscape design and management staff. The amount request is $75,000 with a contribution of 100,000 from OPP for a total budget of $175,000. Partnering with you guys shows student support for making our campus more ecologically healthy. In Penn State early days, we had woodlands from the HUB to the Nittany Inn to the Arboretum. Campus development cleared most of the forest. We have three main project goals, replace high maintained landscapes like lawns with low input landscapes, increase awareness of sustainable landscape types, identify actionable implementation strategies. Students will have a big part in our project. Restoring vegetation, wildlife in a cost-effective way and help mitigate climate change. Restoration will save the university time and money. Plans to advertise SFB through our social media website, Onward State if we are chosen and at any of our tabling events. We want to have a sign if we are chosen to show the purpose of our project and its benefits to Penn State and its student. The sign will also have an appreciation for SFB and anyone supporting this project. The environmental benefits include increased biodiversity, sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and it will give students more space outdoors. Any Penn State students knows outdoor spaces are full. Will make the students livelier and provide students will more outdoor spaces. Student benefits also include more educational opportunities and more opportunities to spend time outside. Two separate budgets at OPP, one for campus beautification and another for landscape renewal projects would be tapped to share costs with SFB. Recently the Arboretum had 621 students and community volunteers for a total of 1800+ labor houses and saved about $51,372. We want to have a longer-term relationship with the SFB.

Warren: You touched how much lawn there is on the campus. Do you have a figure for how much lawn you plan on replacing?

Derek: We don’t know that exactly yet

Latisha: You mentioned student volunteers. Have you thought about how you would reach out to other organizations?

Derek: Looking into having a table at the HUB and looking for students who need community service hours. We have student groups request student activity on campus to our landscape group. We want to have an organized fall planting.

Claire: Would you request new funds under a subsequent ESF?

Derek: The long-term goal is to work on this every year. Some financial commitment would be great, and we are willing to come back every year.

Claire: Are there internal funds?

Derek: If OPP contributing $100,000 to the master plan, the SFB would fund the first phase.

Claire: Are there OPP funds for subsequent funds?

Derek: It depends on how the master plan and first phase go. We keep chipping away and this master plan will show that the students think this is important. It’s much easier to hop on a mower then thing about the ecology.

Claire: So the master plan is 18-24 months. How long would it to complete the first phase?

Derek: I am hoping the entire project takes 18-24 months. The goal is by fall 2023 to have the first project done but if not then the spring because plants are seasonal.

Latisha: Considering this is a campus wide initiative, have there been conversations from graduate students or students with color.

Derek: It is the type of project there everyone is welcome, and we have plans to reach out to news outlets where the message is clear that we are welcoming all students.

Nora: I think what is cool is the continuation between the folks graduating. Folks have graduated and knowing there is a sustainment around that is amazing.

Claire: We appreciate student feedback and appreciate which is clear in this presentation. We will wrap up hearings in February and in March we do deliberations until the end of March. April 1st is when decisions are made and brought to the vice president.

* 1. **Student Disabilities Resources Hearing, New Fee Request**

Leah Zimmerman: We want a one-time allocation for facility renovation for $1.6 million and a standing allocation for a salaried position for $65,000. We are in 101.102 and 105 Boucke Building. We are renovating because we have an inaccessible student center space and insufficient resources to support cocurricular programming. We help all students who have disabilities. We are serving 1/20 students with disabilities. Nationwide that number is 1/5. We want to impact 20% of the students here. Total request is $1.6 million and OPP funding recommendation is $1.5 million. There are professional fees (86,750), construction ($752,150) contingency ($100,000), equipment ($21,100) and furniture ($125,000). We know we will run into things we don’t expect as you do with every renovation. Swipe card access and wireless equipment are ideas. The one-time fee allocation will go to remove walls to increase accessibility, improve structure, provide furniture, offer an accessible kitchenette (Cub Pantry location), meeting pod/gaming center (in honor of a student) and accessible student meeting room. No private room to talk and meet. The standing allocation is $65,000 which would go toward a $45,744 annual salary plus the 34.21% fringe which is about $15,000. Effort to bring in a full-time salary position to oversee SDR’s student center and programs, grow SDR’s ability to support the out-of-class experience, introduce peer meetings, etc. Did a focus group pre-pandemic and liked the idea of having a meeting space to talk about and get through college with a disability. People want to come but don’t want to come to the existing space because its inaccessible and uncomfortable. I don’t have the staffing to get this programming and focus groups together. We have to rely on others to make these things happen (need for a salary position). We want students with disabilities to have a space they deserve like other marginalized student organizations. We don’t have the funding and no foreseeable funding. We have recognized a gap because there is not counterpart on campus helping those with disabilities. Want them to have the same accessibility and space like other students on campus.

Sean: Do you have any plans for renovation funds for outside of the building? We are considering places for wellness centers; would you be interested in taking space in one of those projects or want your own space?

Leah Zimmerman: We love our location at Boucke. We have a lot of inaccesible offices in there even for employees. Students can’t go up the front of Boucke and they have to go through the back. Pipes in the front. How can we make the back entrance look grander and budget has put that on hold? I don’t know enough about the wellness center, but we like where we are positions. We are just looking for accessibility, so we are open to ideas.

Warren: What is the timeline? If it is a couple years, is there possibility to pay for a plan and come back with a more specific number?

Leah Zimmerman: The talk with OPP, if the funding is accepted, we would look to start right away. The hope is let’s do this and how fast can we do this. After people look at it, we will have a better number.

Claire: Do you know how long the project would take?

Leah Zimmerman: No, we don’t know that yet because they don’t know what they are going to get into in Boucke because its notorious bad when you rip things up. Definitely 1+ but not the tail end of 6

Nora: Would you be able to move any sections? Would anything stay in Boucke if you guys move 5 years from now? Is it better to wait on our investment?

Leah Zimmerman: 5 years we will have gone through a whole cohort of students. We have a space that students can’t use that we say is there. 5 years seems pretty far away. We are grateful for anything wherever we end up as long as we help our students. Most of it is moveable.

Nora: I would encourage more dialogue about the wellness building so you’re able to plan so you can make things more mobile

Leah Zimmerman: There isn’t a lot of talk about the wellness building and the reality is we stay in Boucke

Sean: A definitive timeline will help us in the decision-making process

Yidi: Clarify 115 isn’t in the plan. How do you reach out to students?

Leah Zimmerman: 115 not in this plan. We have presentations, posters, social media, and tables at the fairs. 1/20 is with us and 1/5 could be out there and we are constantly trying to get the word out there.

1. **Subcommittee Reports**
   1. **Facilities**

*L. Franklin: No report*

* 1. **Environmental Sustainability**

*N. Van Horn: No update*

* 1. **Standardization**

*S. Franklin: No update*

* 1. **Communication**

*N. Robertson: No update*

* 1. **Zero-Waste**

*Nora: No report*

* 1. **Equity Fund**

*Najee: No report*

1. **Chair Report**

*C. Kelling: Gender equity center has invited our members to tour their space. Might help us understanding future requests better. Make up hearings if you have missed any. You need to make up the meeting to vote at the end of the semester. Meetings on 14, 19 and 21. Don’t forget to work on initial recommendation slides due on Feb. 28. New fee request will be very informative next week.*

1. **UPAC Chair Report**

*Alexa: We are allocating money to Movin’ On next week and adding international travel*

1. **Communications Intern Report**

*Kate: Creating survey graphic with a QR code*

1. **Comments for Good of the Order**
2. **Closing Roll Call**

*Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.*