

Proposal: Creation of the A.S.I. Funding Committee

Background:

In recent years there has been an increase in student clubs/organizations requesting A.S.I. funding. This increase in demand has posed a burden on the Finance Committee, which had been and is currently tasked with taking primary action on funding requests. Other than addressing requests for funding, the Finance Committee is also charged with the important task of thoroughly reviewing the ASI budget for quarterly and the final yearly approvals along with updating and maintaining jurisdiction over Finance Policies (the largest amount of policies among any other committee). The burden of being the only committee tasked with addressing funding requests coupled with the increased demand of funding requests began to drastically impede on its ability to spend ample time on discussing and taking action on the larger budgetary and financial legislative needs of the organization. The need to maintain student club/organization funding as a priority poses a serious dilemma on the Finance Committee. For club funding to be kept at a priority, the Finance Committee would have to spend the vast majority of its time and resources hearing each funding request and focusing on one line item of the entire budget. This would take away its ability to properly review top level budgetary and legislative issues in order to make robust recommendations to the B.O.D. as it concerns to the finance unit of the organization. This would be against the purpose of the committee, the members of which are tasked with having the expertise and depth of knowledge about the organizational and campus wide finances. This led to the reopening of the Vice Chair for Finance as an A.S.I. officer position in order to aid the V.P.F. so that he/she can remain focused on the high level tasks as CFO of the organization (The approval with supplemental information can be found here: <http://asicalstatela.org/meeting/201507965>). This finally led to the proposal of creating a sub-committee which could manage the approval of funding requests so that the Finance Committee can remain focused on large scale finance decisions, the Funding Committee (The discussion can be found on page 6 <http://asicalstatela.org/sites/default/files/content/attachments/2016/09/finance-committee-meeting-minutes-may-13-2016-draft.pdf>).

Authority:

The Funding Committee will only be granted the authority to approve funding requests. Although discussion items may be placed on the agenda, the committee is granted no formal ability to perform recommendations for policies, budget allocations, or any other items (other than the funding requests it is allowed to address). The committee must follow the finance policy bestowed upon it by the B.O.D. in conjunction with the Finance Committee and Bylaws Sub-Committee.

As is the nature of a sub-committee; the Finance Committee, and ultimately the B.O.D., have the power to reverse or change any action, or supplement for any lack of action, taken in this committee. The subcommittee shall also submit a report to the Finance Committee of all actions taken in the subcommittee for review and approval.

This will be similar to the authority given to the Scholarship Awards sub-committee, by which it is authorized to select winning candidates and expend the budgeted money allocated to scholarships as shown in Policy 209, section 5.1. The main difference will be that the funding committee will be meeting on a regular bi-weekly basis to address requests for funding.

Membership:

Quantity of voting members:

The membership will consist of 9 voting members. This is meant to keep the quorum requirement as low as possible (5 members) in order to have the highest probability of conducting meetings and serving student clubs, while allowing ample involvement in the decision making. At a minimum, the membership of the Funding Committee will contain of the majority of its members (5 members) already sitting on the Finance Committee, with a possibility of 100% of the Funding Committee members also being members of the Finance Committee. These key members will allow proper oversight of funding decisions along with having the experience and expertise to bring concerns to the Finance Committee for it to recommend and take action on policy changes/updates in regards to funding requests.

Chairperson:

The Chair of the committee will be the Vice Chair for Finance. With the recent reopening of the position, it had been granted the added task of "management of club and organization funding proposals with the oversight of the V.P.F." as shown in Policy 201, Article II, Section 4, C. The responsibility of chairing this committee will concur with the very reasoning why the position was reopened. The V.C.F. will have the autonomy of being in contact with clubs and managing funding requests by creating and posting the agenda with requests for funding to be considered. This will take the burden off the V.P.F. of having to handle funding requests along with all his/her tasks of being an executive officer and CFO of the organization.

The V.C.F. receives the same compensation as Academic Senators, B.O.D. members, and the Chief Justice who chairs both the J.R.C. and Bylaws sub-committee. With being an A.S.I. officer without the requirement of sitting on the B.O.D. and other standing committees; the task of sitting on the Finance Committee as the Vice Chair, and Chair in the absence of the V.P.F., along with

sitting on all Finance sub-committees, taking minutes for the Finance Committee, and handling all the funding requests as chair of the Funding Committee would more than properly equate to fair work compensation.

This setup also concurs with the added task stated in Policy 201, Article II, Section 4, C. whereby the V.P.F. will provide oversight in the form of having a required voting seat in the Funding Committee coupled with the granted ability, as Chair of the Finance Committee, to post action items for consideration on its agenda as it pertains to actions taken in the Funding Committee. This set up will complement the ability of overriding or supplementing for any Funding Committee decision deemed questionable by the V.P.F. or Finance Committee members.

Appointments:

The only title specific members will be the A.S.I. President, Vice President for Finance, and Vice Chair for Finance as they are the key members of the organization as it pertains to funding requests. The rest of the members will be chosen through appointment by the B.O.D., with reservations for types of A.S.I. officers. However, different types of A.S.I. officers can be considered in other reservations; for example, an executive officer can be appointed in the spot reserved for an executive officer, a B.O.D. member, or a Finance Committee member. The same as an academic senator or commissioner can be considered for appointment in the position of non-A.S.I. B.O.D. member. This is different from the title specific positions required in the Finance Committee, whereby all the executive officers are required to sit on the committee. This set up will ensure that members who will be sitting on this committee willingly choose and are interested in sitting on a committee which only addresses funding requests. This will also ensure a greater degree of attendance since the time for attending the committee will be noted in the individuals' schedules when applying for appointment.

Vice Chair of the Funding Committee:

This position will be bestowed upon a voting member of the committee. Unlike A.S.I. officer positions (example: V.C.F.), this position will be given to an interested member to be the vice chair of the committee, chosen by the committee, whereby the selected member will act in the capacity of the chair in his/her absence. This position will also have the task of taking minutes for the committee and will be given service hours.

Non-Voting Members:

The same non-voting A.S.I. Pro Staff, with the exception of the Director of Government Affairs, who are members of the Finance Committee will also be sitting as non-voting members of the Funding Committee. Their experience, expertise, and

advisement will be an essential contribution in compliance with policy and successful vetting of funding requests.

As for the external non-voting members, they will be entirely different from the ones in the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has designees of the University President and the University Vice President for Administration and Finance & CFO. These designees are more tuned for providing shared governance as it pertains to the high level finance units of campus wide/A.S.I. Budgets and Finance Policies. It is not in our and their best interest to waste the resources that these designees provide to the Finance Committee and direct them to hearing student club/org funding requests. The members which would be more suitable in addressing student club/org funding requests would be the following: a C.S.I. representative, since all funding requests must have an event registration form signed off by this division prior to requesting A.S.I. funding; the Dean of Students, since C.S.I. is headed by this administrator; and the Vice President for Student Life, since the Dean of Students falls under the department of Student Life. These members or their designees would have better knowledge and insight into the events which clubs would be requesting funding for. This setup will provide increased shared governance and collaboration between the University Administration, student clubs/orgs, and A.S.I. as it pertains to club/org funding requests.

Premise:

With the constant development of our organization and campus it is crucial that we as student leaders continue to adapt and improve our support structure in order to better serve our growing and diverse student base.

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