

# Finance Committee 2014-2015 Minutes/Discussion Pertaining to Policy 201

April 10, 2015

## III. Action Items

a. Funding Proposal Review for:

i. Art History Society Funding Request – A Symposium in Homage to Linda Schele - \$1000.00, \$1000.00, \$1000.00

- ✦ Antonio Canzona explained to the committee that AHS originally asked for the total amount of funding for this event in one funding request, however if it was approved it wouldn't make it to the BOD before the event (The event is on April 10 (today) – 11). So the club sent in 3 different funding requests at \$1000 each so that each didn't exceed the amount for the request to be sent to the BOD. Essentially bypassing the approval of the BOD. He mentions that this finance committee has never been through a request like this, so it is hard to determine if it should be allowed.
- ✦ Intef Weser argued that this should be treated as one event, and that the committee could only approve one of the requests for \$1000.
- ✦ Shane Vera brings up a past example of how this finance committee approved a request (Statement Magazine) which had one event scheduled across different days with a total that exceeded \$1000 and was not sent to the BOD for approval since it was done on different funding requests.
- ✦ Dean Truong specifies that finance policy does not mention anything concerning this type of funding request, so there is no reason to disallow it. He also believes that the committee should remain consistent with what is approved. So, regarding the example that Shane Vera mentioned, we should approve these requests because it wouldn't be fair that one club gets to do this and others can't.
- ✦ Antonio Canzona mentions that if an amount over \$1000 is approved, the finance committee would subsequently be endorsing a viable loophole of bypassing the BOD since we are currently well aware of the implications involved (unlike the meeting in the example Shane Vera provided).
- ✦ Intef Weser believes that there should be consistency with what is approved, so these requests should be approved. However, this issue should be swiftly dealt with and now mentioned in our policies.
- ✦ Antonio Canzona determined that regarding the logic provided in Shane's argument, the indicating factor which would allow events to be separate is a 24 hour period. With this, the maximum amounts that we can fund are 2 of the 3 requests at \$1000 each, since the event is only on two days (April 10 – 11).

<b>Offered By:</b>	<b>Shane Vera</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>	<b>Diego Tinoco</b>			
Motion to approve Art History Society Funding Request – A Symposium in Homage to Linda Schele - \$1000.00 (April 10)						
<b>All in Favor</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Opposed</b>		<b>Abstained</b>		<b>Motion:</b> passed

<b>Offered By:</b>	<b>Shane Vera</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>	<b>Dean Truong</b>			
Motion to approve Art History Society Funding Request – A Symposium in Homage to Linda Schele - \$1000.00 (April 11)						
<b>All in Favor</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Opposed</b>		<b>Abstained</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Motion:</b> passed

April 24, 2015

## IV. Discussion

a. Policy 201 Article IV Funding

- ✦ Intef mentioned that this policy has been overlooked by the committee when approving a couple of the proposals in the past. It clearly states that each proposal that is more than \$1000 should automatically be forwarded to the BOD. It shouldn't be changed, we just didn't catch it and it created a gray area when the second club did the same thing of getting more than \$1000 for one event.
- ✦ Carina Kan stated that there has been a suggestion that since the finance committee could approve \$1000 without BOD approval, and any request forwarded to the BOD usually gets immediately approved since they trust the digression of this committee.

- ✦ Shane Vera argued that the forwarding of proposals to the BOD is burdensome to both the clubs and the BOD. It wastes time in the BOD which could be used to focus on other issues, and most of the finance committee is made up of BOD members anyways. He mentioned that an example when clubs had to wait a long time to get funded at a BOD meeting because there was no quorum. Since the BOD always sides with the recommendation of the finance committee allowing the finance committee to approve requests above \$1000 would eliminate bureaucracy and save time.
- ✦ Intef Weser stated that in order to do that the composition of the committee would have to be changed so that there is no student representation, because only board members could be vested with the authority of the board.
- ✦ Shane Vera and Antonio Canzona questioned that since this finance committee is currently made up of a few student appointees, what is the law that makes this committee have the power of approving requests of \$1000 and below, and what is it that makes anything over that amount a BOD decision.
- ✦ Intef Weser said that technically, everything that is done here is under the preview of the board, so the BOD can reverse an approval. So everything must be transparent and clear to the board, so they know everything that's going on. Even the approvals of \$1000 and below from this committee is not final and the BOD can still have it overturned.
- ✦ Dena Florez suggested that we adopt a method similar to appointing committee members at the BOD (Appointing multiple people at once). The BOD could get a report about the clubs requesting funding, and the VPF giving a brief overview of all the requests without necessarily having the clubs to attend. If any BOD member wants to review any of the individual requests, that would be available. Overall, the BOD would be able to approve all the requests in one swoop. This would give transparency to the BOD for them to stay in the loop of what's going on and save time.
- ✦ Shane Vera is still does not understand what makes student appointees have the ability to take action on amounts less than \$1000 and not over \$1000.
- ✦ Intef Weser mentioned that in the beginning of the quarter we were considering forwarding every request, even the \$1000 and below to the BOD for approval because of a recent law that passed, stating that committees were not able to make decisions on behalf of the BOD. After reviewing it with the lawyer, he said it did not pertain to this committee and ASI didn't have to change its method of approving funding requests.
- ✦ Diego Tinoco used today's agenda as a sample size of what usually happens, he mentioned that adding up all the amounts of \$1000 and below which were approved, they greatly exceed the few which were above \$1000. He doesn't see why the BOD must approve those amounts, when they don't need to see the lower amounts which add up to even more money.
- ✦ Antonio Canzona remembers that when asking Intef Weser about the new law that was passed, the lawyer's argument was that since the BOD already allocated money to the finance committee for club funding, approvals by this club it isn't considered taking action on behalf of the BOD. If clubs get approved funding, it is using money that had already been set aside by the BOD, and does not dictate any BOD power. By using this argument, the only thing that is stopping the finance committee from approving amounts of \$1000 and above, is our own policy which can be changed.
- ✦ Intef Weser believes that clubs going in front of the BOD isn't a bad thing and should the dollar amount be raised, decisions in the finance committee shouldn't be final.
- ✦ Shane Vera thinks that the finance committee should be able to approve the full \$3000, and a line should be added to the policy allowing the BOD to overturn a decision by this committee. It would reduce the bureaucracy, the number of meetings that clubs need to attend, time spent on requests, and paper that needs to be printed out.
- ✦ Frances Tsai thinks that another line should be added which states that Dena's idea of having a financial report of all the approvals would be forwarded to the BOD, would be in effect. In any organization the BOD has the most power and deserves full transparency of what is going on in any of the committees.
- ✦ Antonio Canzona brought up a possible situation in which the finance committee approves an event which happens after the finance committee, but before the next BOD meeting. Would a financial report for approval be necessary in this case?
- ✦ Intef Weser recommends that the finance committee should not fund those types of events with such close dates after approval.
- ✦ Carina Kan clarified that from this discussion, the committee is siding with not allowing final approval by the finance committee, however changing the dollar amount and forwarding everything to the BOD in a financial report for entire approval of all funding requests.
- ✦ Antonio Canzona stated that the only difference in that decision is that we wouldn't require clubs to attend the next BOD meeting.