SSI FEE BOARD MINUTES | 2/14/14

DETAILS

Minute Taker: Rachel Tholl
Timekeeper: Rachel Tholl
Present: Tim Oravec, Brandon Trelstad, Jesse Pettibone, Cassidy Radloff, Jen Christion Myers, Rachel Tholl, Emily Bowling, Andrew Futerman, Patrick Mahedy, Olivia Poblacion
Absent: Elliot Finn, Andrew Spaeth

AGENDA

Travel Grant Application – Amy Kordosky, presented by Cassidy Radloff and Amy Kordosky
Travel Grant Application – Austin Williams, presented by Cassidy Radloff and Austin Williams
Budget Hearing Report, presented by Cassidy Radloff

MINUTES

TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION – AMY KORDOSKY

DISCUSSION

- Amy Kordosky answers questions that the Fee Board has asked
- Costa Rican organization contacts programs asking for volunteer assistance
- Amy Kordosky is part of an international organization that partners with the Costa Rican volunteer organization to provide more volunteers
- Community in Costa Rica decides where help is needed, volunteers never replace workers
- Feedback from program comes from the community; earlier groups will advise current volunteer group on what to expect and what to document
- Board asked for info about the sustainable aspect; volunteers are not in charge of what specifically happens, they are the labor and help instead of planners. Leaders are local.
- Difficulty in judging the applicant because the program does not inform the participants that well – there should be a training for students before departure
- Travel options are limited by the program students are in; the program doesn’t offer alternative transportation options
  - SSI should explain that air travel isn’t the best option and it’s important to consider other options
- Considering partial funding

DECISION(S)

- A specific discussion about the availability of alternative transportation to students should be had later on by the Board
  - Want to have a meeting to figure out specific category requirements for applications
  - Cutoff between zero and full funding currently depends on a few points – seems too harsh, want to find middle ground
Main lower scores were: 1. the impact on the larger student body at OSU, and 2. representation of OSU

Funding grant 50% decision – Cassidy Radloff, Tim Oravec, Jesse Pettibone, and Andrew Futerman vote yes; no negative votes

TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION – AUSTIN WILLIAMS (NICARAGUA PROJECTS)

DISCUSSION

- Trip will assist a community by teaching local children in Nicaragua about skills such as fishing, reading, writing; building structures; creating spaces for clean drinking water; sanitary septic systems for the community
  - Also teaching community/children about how to filter water
  - Success will be measured by a fully operational school building by next Fall
- Location has great excess of plastic bottles that need to be recycled
  - This is a major sustainable aspect
- Pre-trip training is also done through the previous trip’s members’ advice
- GIVE came to EWB at OSU because OSU is a strong engineering school
- Weak points were: not enough information about lodging, food, travel choices

DECISION(S)

- Movement to fund project entirely is made; Jesse Pettibone, Cassidy Radloff, Tim Oravec, and Andrew Futerman vote yes, no opposing votes. Application is approved and funded completely

BUDGET HEARING REPORT

DISCUSSION

- Hearing was brief and straight-forward, questions were supported by Emily Bowling and Brandon Trelstad
- Student fee of $4.08 approved
  - Once fund balance is lower, SIFC will be more comfortable approving higher fees
- GTA position funds will come from SSI fund balance

NEXT MEETING – FRIDAY FEB 21, 10AM – 12PM

DECISION

- The next meeting will be on Friday, February 21 from 10am to 12pm at SSI.
- Potential agenda items include:
  - Revised research grant evaluation matrix
  - Organic Growers Club project grant
  - Travel grant applications
  - Water treatment system
  - Update on GTA position interviews

Observers: Jen Christion Myers, Rachel Tholl, Brandon Trelstad, Emily Bowling, Patrick Mahedy, Olivia Poblacion

Notes: Rachel Tholl