SSI Fee Board Minutes | 1/31/14

Details

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

Agenda

Budget Presentation Update, presented by Cassidy Radloff and Tim Oravec (10 minutes)
ORGS Resubmission Discussion, presented by Cassidy Radloff (20 minutes)
Travel Grant Applications, presented by Cassidy Radloff (1 hour)
Research Grant Materials, presented by Cassidy Radloff and Jen Christion Myers (30 minutes)
Next Meeting, presented by Timekeeper (5 Minutes)

Minutes

Budget Presentation Update – 10:08 to 10:35
Discussion

- Hearing was overall positive - generated support and recognition for SSI
- Lots of questions and interest were generated for the SSI
- Green Fee proposal denied
- Debate over whether SSI should have fund balance always ready, or only ask for project money when it is needed
  - Acquire projects first, then ask for the funds
  - Brings up issues over whether the funds can be brought up once we have the projects ready for funding
  - SIFC Contingency is another way to secure funds for projects in future years
    - Could be an extra source of funding for mid year projects
- SSI has been asked to reduce fee from 6.36 to 4.36
  - The difference will have to come out of SSI operational budget
- This year is especially different because of the SEC building
  - Additionally due to the budget SSI has accumulated, which is now being downsized since it is unspent money
- GTA Position being lobbied for; hope to keep it for at least 2 years to see how it works
  - February 13th, 6pm MU Ballroom - main hearing; SSI is second in line
DISCUSSION
- The issue was a deadline mixup - the organization thought that they had until the end of the day
- Tim Oravec voices that a deadline is for the SSI Fee Board to organize itself, and this mixup won't throw the Fee Board way off
- Cassidy Radloff voices that this is an exciting project
- Andrew Futerman voices that a deadline is important, but the project is exciting; make it clear that a deadline can't be missed again
- Emily Bowling voices that in most situations that people are late, they are penalized
- Jesse Pettibone voices that the Fee Board has standards; is potentially making a Fee Board shirt design about the saying “we have standards”
- The Blueberry project needs more clarification
  - Fee Board can ask again for more clarification or invite them to a meeting
  - Or Board can deny the project
  - Jesse Pettibone voices that coming to a meeting is a good idea
  - Curious as to why blueberries in particular
- Board is waiting on AABC funding decision on February 13th
  - Blueberry and Solar Vehicle Team may not be allowed to use SSI funding
  - Projects cannot generate revenue from the funds the SSI gives them

DECISION(S)
- Contact Al for input; if he agrees about blueberries, invite team to a Board meeting for more clarification

TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATIONS - 10:56 to 11:25
DISCUSSION
- Tyler McFadden’s application for his travel grant; Tim Futerman will abstain from vote because of personal relation to applicant
- Conference has two parts which decided to combine
- Question of if applicant sought out sustainable options to his travel and lodging choices
  - Debate over whether sustainable options for travel were available at all
- In future applications try to get applicants to explain why sustainable options were or were not available; make sure they attempted to find it
  - Air travel is discouraged

DECISION(S)
- Jesse Pettibones moves to approve, Tim Oravec seconded.
- Elliott Finn, Cassidy Radloff, Tim Oravec, Jesse Pettibone vote yes. Motion passed, travel grant approved.
  - Andrew Futerman abstain

RESEARCH GRANT MATERIALS - 11:25 to 12:06
DISCUSSION
- Whether or not to get materials ready for grants ahead of time, or get them as needed
- Marketing has not begun for research grants yet
- Confusion over participating members with the grant
  - One individual hasn’t submitted singular application yet
- Mainly asking for travel funds
- Applicants don’t seem to know enough about the organization (GIVE) they want to work
Board wants a higher level of detail; what is the project need in the community?

- Olivia Poblacion voiced that students should try to find the details the Board is looking for, such as the need for their project in the local area, cultural understanding of the area
  - Want students to be willing to write about their experience and send feedback to the program so it can improve
- Considering funding 4 tickets since entire group has other funding sources
- Questioning the students about the organization helps students understand more about grants, the organization. Preferable if students answer Board’s questions as a group to get more coherence among members
- Want to put out a list of sustainable transportation options for grant applicants to consider, to make it easier and more clear.
- Looking for examples of what the Board wants in applications, and a place to post them so applicants are more educated and prepared.
- Requirements - ask applicants how they will handle the following:
  - Pre-trip orientation
  - Take notes on the impact the project has on the community while the project is going on
  - Observe any lacking aspects of the project afterwards

DECISION(S)

- Table conversation until group gets more information to the Board - questions will be emailed to the group for more information

**Next Meeting – 12:06 to 12:06**

**Decision**

- The next meeting will be on 2/7/14 from 10am to 12pm at SSC.
- Potential agenda items include:
  - Research Grants

**Observers:** Rachel Tholl, Jen Christion Myers, Olivia Poblacion, Brandon Trelstad

**Notes:** Rachel Tholl