Meeting November 18, 2009

6:25 meeting

Lauren Parsons, Treasurer
Alex Benestelli
Will Roslak
Jack Cleghorn
Lauren Snyder

Guests: Anthony Baron, Daniel Garrick

Alex: What did Lauren Parsons explain exactly to the President of BHA?

Lauren reviewed email that she sent Nadia.

Alex was trying to clarify if BHA’s decision to move forward with the Latin Night event was an honest mistake or a reaction made ‘in a huff’

Lauren: I think it was a mistake, but still should not have happened based on previous incidents.

The SFB reviewed that the initial fund request was approved, but stipulation of Playhouse as location was made. SFB did not want it confined in the Dining Commons. Options for location were forthcoming from Mare and Lauren, to be communicated to SFB in the future.

Last Friday Nadia said that she was in communication with Carren Klenke.

Klenke sent Lauren email yesterday explaining BHA could not use Playhouse because of opera rehearsal.

Lauren talked with Nadia yesterday, who had to give Mariachi band the answer, and had booked the band. This prompted email to SFB trustees.

Alex’s questions:

-What was the exact budget approved? We approved (couldn’t get internet in Robinson Room, but later determined it was 1935.00)

-Therefore, since the band is booked, it is 900 not to have the event, 2,000 some TO have the event.
Alex & Jack ask, ‘is it better to waste the 900, or use it to benefit the student body?’

Interested in hearing BHA’s understanding of the stipulation. If we stipulated Playhouse, what was optional in their understanding? We were just through this for the African Dance Workshop.

Limited advertising considering context that the event is tomorrow.

Anthony said it was his understanding that the Treasurer/Executive board was ‘working with ADOS to ensure interaction occurred before and where events are approved.’

Communication has been sufficient, and BHA, Executive Board, and SFB are all on the same page as to how this situation transpired:

Form for event approval was brought to Mare on the 4th, and SFB met on the 1st. Mare looked at this form around the 1st, and the form was placed on hold immediately after Lauren contacted her. Communication was thorough.

Alex cited Article 9, Section A of the by-laws regarding posters, that they have to mention funding by SFB/Student Activities Fund.

Disorganization is an issue. Is it possible to have an A-class event by tomorrow, with such little preparation?

Event catered in the dining commons conflicts with Aramark agreement?

Aramark now catering drinks and dessert, while other food will be brought in from the outside companies initially discussed in the proposal.

Lauren Parsons only facilitating and mediating.

Nadia Endara, Asa Vaughan, Samantha Lawrence, Jonathan Edwards, Arcia Stokes from BHA join the meeting.

Lauren asks “how much did we budget you?”

Nadia approximately ‘fifteen hundred, in the thousands.’

Lauren ‘just double checking, no internet.’

Alex to Nadia: What was your understanding of original approval?
Nadia: That the request was approved, but the SFB preferred the event occur in the Playhouse. It seemed that the dining commons would be sufficient, if the Playhouse was not available. Lauren mentioned that ‘we would like to try having it in the Playhouse,’ but Klenke said ‘no (because of opera conflict).’ I didn’t know it was an either/or situation; it was not clear. Approving the band was based on ‘if it can happen in the Playhouse,’ but it was unclear of how the approval was conditional. The procedure of booking the bad was not to intentionally spite the decision made by the SFB.

Lauren: That could just be a misinterpretation of my correspondence of the SFB’s decision.

Lauren cited Dan’s previous motion, and intended that if any changes were made by BHA, they would come back to the SFB first for approval.

We talked to Klenke yesterday, noticed discrepancy in end of opera rehearsal (done at 7:30), even thought the event starts at 8:30.

Nadia: Klenke might be worried with safety issue if the BHA event occurs in the Playhouse where the opera set, props, and staging is established.

Alex: How much of the planning has taken place for this Latin Night event?

Nadia: We have put in the order at the Spanish restaurant, Aramark, and mariachi band is booked.

Lauren Snyder: The poster should say something about funding, were you aware of that?

Nadia: I am unaware, but I will re-do or reprint all signs. I want to be on the same page with the SFB. I want to reach the student community through programming, not just put on events for my friends.

Alex: We want to support you, but also follow procedure and set an example for other RSOs.

Nadia: We will eagerly change the signs, and educate ourselves about the governing documents.

Alex: What other forms of advertising are you planning, or intending?

Nadia: We were starting to print flyers on Monday, which is where the initial miscommunication occurred. We held back, and now it’s finally Wednesday. We wanted to advertise, and sent in a listserv earlier this week, but couldn’t send it out once this issue of funding was brought to our attention. We have had personal
contacts with students, and making it word of mouth. Told professors, and are excited for the event.

Arcia: Feels like BHA is a discrepancy or issue, despite our best efforts and detailed proposals. Feels events are overlooked or that there is always an issue. Thought we were aware Latin Night was intended for this semester.

Nadia: Emphasized need of being on the same page. Emphasized interest in learning the governing documents.

Alex: Was the only exposure to our decision the email from Lauren?

Nadia: Yes, plus a little discussion informally.

End of discussion

Lauren: I will be in touch [with Nadia] via phone.

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Alex: Was not surprised at their excitement for event, and innocent oversight in booking the band.

Lauren: Clarified decisions and communications that she clearly explained the SFB’s decision to Nadia, and said anything else would come back to the SFB.

Alex: Written record exists in email.

Lauren: I can email minutes of the SFB meetings to the RSOs/individuals who submit proposals in the future?

Lauren re-read her email for clarification.

Alex: In the future we should consider more standard, formal responses to prevent this type of miscommunication.

Lauren: If we have to push the event, we can push it to next semester.

Anthony: The email is very clear.

Daniel: The email and motion of the SFB still communicates that the SFBs wants the event to go on, though.

Anthony: Perhaps the fact that the Treasurer and Mare intended on meeting should not have been included, as it was independent of the SFB’s decision of conditional approval of event.
Will: Referenced Alex’s email to the board earlier in the week, stating that there are lots of Mariachi bands. Is this the only band? Could they get someone from Philly?

Alex: I found the BHA board to be very genuine in their response.

Lauren: They are following through. They are passionate. This is a good event.

All in agreement about that.

Jack: Because it was approved, they still thought that they had the reign to spend the money.

Lauren: Maybe the SFB should not be so rigid and conditional in approvals in the future.

Alex: The SAF has responsibilities to do something for the student body, we are trustees of the fund though, which has rules. Those rules were not followed. I don’t think they’ll (BHA) make this mistake again.

Lauren: Consider workshop about budgeting for entire BHA board so that the proposals will be better organized and rules can be adhered to? Issue stems from previous President with little delegation or training for new board members.

Alex: Turnover exists rampantly, this should not be an excuse.

Lauren: Do we approve the funds for tomorrow night?

Alex: Do you think if they had the event tomorrow it would be a worthwhile experience for the student body at large?

Will: How much would it cost to not have it?

$900

How much will it cost to have it?

Approximately $1500.

Anthony: Cancellation charges from caterers should be considered.

Alex: Arcia was genuine, but numbers didn’t add up, and the proposals were disorganized - more disorganized than other RSOs.

Jack: We still approved previous disorganized budgets from BHA.
Alex: Numbers about seating in the space could have been researched by BHA. Either they followed the rules or they didn’t.

Jack: What do we do about the poster? I’m sure she’s out changing them now.

Lauren: Explicitly made known at training day that the posters had to adhere to the guidelines in the governing documents.

Jack: We shouldn’t have to babysit RSOs at the end of November.

Alex: Idea – hypothetically I could see supporting a situation where we consider allowing them to have this event, and then freezing their funds until training completed.

Jack: Can we suspend funds like that?

Lauren: Last year cash advance privileges were taken away from BHA.

Alex: Different board, but not entirely.

Dan & Lauren: Previous board completely managed by Will Floyd, with no training and delegating for the team.

Jack: I’m not crazy about it, but agree.

Alex: If I thought that BHA’s decision was a trick, or somehow unethical, it would be different, but it was simple unawareness of the rules.

Will: It won’t happen again.

Alex: Any other RSOs who missed the initial training session?

Lauren: Not particularly, but I was hoping to do a full budgeting and event planning workshop in the Spring.

Alex: Could workshop include constitutional review for all RSOs in preparation for December 10 deadline? We want to help these organizations, not penalize.

Lauren: Yeah, I could do that.

Alex: You could require attendance for all RSOs?

Lauren: Can’t require across the board, but could for BHA if that was conditional in tonight’s Latin Night approval.
Jack: [training session] Doesn’t necessarily have to be a mass thing, but could be open to anyone.

Lauren: Yes, not required for everyone, but available and encouraged for everyone. I have sent out the deadline of December 10 in the email.

Snyder: I don’t like the lack of advertisements, or the unfortunate position in which the SFB is in, having to make this decision twenty four hours before.

Alex: I have been asking students if they are attending Latin night, and have been getting the response ‘What’s that?’

Lauren: Listserv could go out tomorrow, it’s already in the system.

Alex: Does anyone feel that we shouldn’t have the event?

Lauren: I feel that we should.

Will: I feel bad, because they didn’t advertise too well, but it might be better just to have it. Should have stronger advertising for the Mariachi band appeal.

Snyder: I feel this would be different if this weren’t such a personal campus.

Alex: Are we concerned about any other RSOs being in the same boat?

No.

Jack: I really don’t think we should approve it, but I think that would do more harm than good.

Snyder: Is there any way we can stipulate more advertising?

Alex: The very fact that we are thinking about approving will be encouraging to them.

Lauren: I can suggest and recommend advertising techniques, but cannot mandate it.

Alex: It is fair to ask at the least.

Lauren: Note that funds are already approved.

Alex: Motion to approve Latin Night for $1,935.00

Snyder: second.
All in favor, unanimous.

Jack: Motion to freeze the funds for BHA for all future events. Recommendation that BHA executive board attend the budgeting and informational workshop by Treasurer Parsons.

Second by Alex.

All in favor, unanimous.

Adjourned at 7:15 PM