

Viking Union Organization Reserves

Reserve Policy part "H":

Stated purpose of Viking Union Organization Reserves: "for unique opportunities such as professional development, speakers, **etc.** Or for items unforeseen in the budgeting process **such** as statewide required salary increases."

Pertinent Questions, Considerations:

- 1) Does this give the Assistant Dean of Students/ Director of VU Facilities to full authority over this money?
- 2) What is the budget process they must follow to acquire this money? Must this follow the AS policy? Does it have to be approved by the AS Board?
- 3) **Concern:** By providing language like "etc" or "such" it could give full sovereignty over the budget to a non-elected/non-student employee.
- 4) Does the Assistant Dean of Students/ Director of VU Facilities come to the board when money is needed, or set a specific amount when they actually need to request it to the board (such as the 3,300 the business director has)?
- 5) There is a general consensus on financial responsibility in regards to spending down the reserves to utilize the student dollars while the current students that pay get their money's worth, **but is it responsible to assign complete financial authority to a body that does not consist of students?** See below for exactly how it is worded.

*Defining AS Reserves:

"Financial Fund Manager: A position granted financial authority over the monies allocated to a fund; **may** delegate further to Budget Authorities."

- a) What does "may delegate further to Budget Authorities" mean?
- b) How can students have a meaningful say in this?

*AS Reserve Policy meaning: Reserves accounts are established to ensure the continuous, safe, and efficient operation of Associated Student functions.¹

- a) Should we be editing this to saying Associated Students and VU?

Procedure of Policy II:

"Distribution of Residual Dollars is performed by the Business Manager"

- 1) Was this added to the policy? This could not be identified in the old one.

¹ AS Website, Reserve Policy

"After the closing of the accrual period, the business manager begins the process of distribution, in consultation with the Associate Dean of Students /Director of the VU"

- a) What is the rationale behind this?
- b) It states that we (students) should be giving priorities, but it could turn out just like budget committee and the board priorities: In other words, these priorities are advisory only, with no binding authority.

Same section (II): Viking Union Organization: Part 6

"Funded yearly: a percentage of the remaining residual dollars, after all other target amounts have been reached. This percentage shall be a portion equal to the percentage of the AS Operating Budget that is set aside for the VU organization"

- 1) This amounts to \$245,999.
- 2) Because this is a significant amount, are the board values shifting towards this direction?
 - **First, this policy is shifting the Associated Students values to a more professional development approach and away student representation. Second, this policy is making the values shift from student responsibility to non-student financial responsibility.**

"Rationale on the policy"²

- "If funds are re-distributed as proposed in this document, it will ensure that future AS Boards will have a check and balance in place in terms of reserve spending."
 - 1) Should the check and balance be the student senate? Or a non-student advisor?
- "The Financial Fund Manager/Director of the Viking Union already has it in their power to spend reserve dollars as needed. 0 This will just be a more organized way of keeping track of that spending."
 - 1) How is it a more organized way to keeping track of spending?
 - 2) The board should be able to keep track of their spending on their own.
 - 3) Does the Assistant Dean of Students/ Director of VU Facilities have this power? If so, what implications does this have for student concerns over autonomy and democracy within the AS?

² Reserve Restructure Proposal

- "Spending from the FXXVU part of Discretionary Reserves will be used for one-time expenditures such as: much-needed VU staff development opportunities, temporary staff, contracting, admin support systems, etc."
 - 1) Vague terminology creates possibility for full budget control.
 - 2) Why can't the AS Board approve this when needed?
 - 3) Is this the best way to positively represent and serve students?

- "This will allow for the Board to have a separate account within the Discretionary reserves for one-time large expenditures such as: ESC funding, not for yearly expenses."
 - 1) What is the benefit of having a separate discretionary account?
 - 2) Usually in budget committee they are discussing moving forward into consolidating budgets as much as we can for simplicity and organization.
 - 3) This is such a big change that it should have gone been through SPAC, or management council, business committee, or a special structural review processes such as what the ROP recently went through. Two or three meetings to decide this significant of a change seems inadequate.