



AS Student Enhancement Fund Committee

Friday, February 2nd, 2018

9:00am

VU 460

Members: *Present:* Daniel Gallegos (Student Enhancement Fund Facilitator); Grace Heller (Student at-large); Julia Phillips (Student at-large); Jose Rios-Sanchez (AS Business Director).
Absent: (ESC Representative); (AS Club Representative); Chris Sowers (AS Club Business Director).
Advisor: Raquel Wilson (Finance Manager)
Secretary: Chrissa Browder-Long (Board Assistant for Internal Committees)
Guests: Christina Holt

Motions:

- SEF-18-W-6** Denial of funding for Elizabeth Rice's Digital Storytelling application.
Passed.
- SEF-18-W-7** Approval of \$500 for The Young Democrats of WWU on the condition that a) the Activities Council has reviewed the application promptly and has decided not to provide funding and b) the Activities has decided to review it on Monday, February 5, 2018. *Passed.*
- SEF-18-W-8** Approval of to follow through via email on motion SEF-18-W-7 for a final vote on the decision to fund \$500 on the two conditions named.
Passed.

Daniel Gallegos called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Christina Holt's Application

Christina Holt stated that the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Conference is a two-part conference; one is on writing programs and the other centers on creative writing. All of those who want to attend the conference are teaching assistants or graduate students at WWU. The teaching assistants run the English 101 classes, so the information they learn at the conference will be brought back and implemented into the English 101 classes. Holt added that they are planning to have a round table after the conference to bring that information to Western's community. Holt stated that one person dropped out, so they are now requesting for five people, which totals \$3,450. The English department does not fund conferences unless they are presenting at the conference, so none of the applicants have ever been to the conference. Going over the budget, Holt stated that they are requesting \$400 for the plane ticket to Tampa, \$200 per room for 3 rooms, and \$65 per person for registration. Holt noted that the plane tickets are already at \$475, so they are paying out of pocket for that. They have applied to AS Activities Council for funding and are hoping to receive more funding through a book drive. Daniel Gallegos noted that they funded \$600 to Alyssa Quinn to attend this same conference. Holt stated that Quinn was partially funded by the English department because she is the Assistant Managing Editor for the Bellingham Review. Holt clarified that the conference goes from Thursday to Saturday. Raquel Wilson asked what they would do if they received partial funding. Holt stated that

each of the applicants is willing to pay \$200 but they are already paying out of pocket. They are going to try to make it work either way but it depends on the amount they are given. Activities Council has not agreed to fund anything yet but Holt is hopeful that they will. Gallegos stated that he discussed the application with Chris Sowers who sits on Activities Council. Sowers stated that Activities Council would be willing to fund half if SEF would fund the other half. Sowers stated that he would want to fund less than half, at most \$150 per person. Wilson asked how many of the attendees will be returning next year as teaching assistants. Gallegos stated that he was not sure but he will ask Holt. Wilson stated that she does not think SEF can afford funding these five applicants the same as Quinn. Heller stated that Quinn was going to the same event but for very different reasons and was participating in a separate part of the event. Gallegos stated because of that, he feels that they can fund Quinn more than they can fund the other five applicants. Gallegos and Heller agreed that partial funding would be best. Heller stated that she would be comfortable funding registration and lodging. Wilson stated that Activities Council does not like to fund reimbursements, so it might be best for SEF to provide funding for transportation instead of registration or lodging. Gallegos added that he is sure that Activities Council is going to provide some funding. Gallegos is going to check with Holt about the lodging cost because they are not sure whether one room is \$200 per night or if the Air B&B has four rooms in it. Heller clarified that if the \$800 total for lodging were correct, the Activities Council funding would cover that. Wilson stated that they could fund \$400 towards the transportation expenses.

B. Sarah Cannon's Application

Gallegos stated that Sarah Cannon also wants to attend the AWP conference. Cannon does not live in Bellingham but she is doing an online English program through Western. Wilson asked whether the program Cannon is in considers her as a full fee paying student. Cannon told Gallegos that she is a full-time student. Wilson stated that she asked that because the SEF funds come from the SNA fee, so they should only fund students that pay the SNA fee. Wilson will check whether she pays the SNA fee. Heller stated that she is already concerned about change to student communities since Cannon only takes online courses. Gallegos stated that Cannon hopes to learn about the publishing process at this conference and that she hopes that she will have her book published by this time next year, which would be some visible impact to Western. Gallegos stated that Cannon is a graduate level student but she is not a TA. Gallegos stated that it seemed that the school Cannon is doing at WWU is for enrichment because she has an MFA from another college. Gallegos stated that he would be comfortable funding Holt's group more than Cannon even though Cannon expressed financial need. It seems that it would not have as much positive change to Western. Cannon is requesting over \$1,000 for herself, which SEF would not be able to fund fully. Going through the rubric, Gallegos stated that Cannon is an individual applicant representing Western at the event. For academic/education value, the committee feels neutral, the conference does not correlate well with the certificate she is receiving from Western. For positive change to student communities, there is overall disagreement. For visible impact to Western, there is overall neutral to disagreement. For personal development, there is overall agreement. For professional development, there is overall agreement. Gallegos stated that the consensus is that the application is quite neutral except for personal and professional development. Gallegos stated that Cannon barely qualifies for SEF funding. Gallegos stated that next week when they discuss funding, he does not think they should fund more than \$300-\$400 if they decide to provide funding.

C. Approval or Disapproval of Elizabeth Rice's Reimbursement Application

Gallegos stated that last week the committee decided they would be comfortable partially funding Elizabeth Rice. Rice is hoping to attend the Digital Storytelling conference in Seattle. Rice has already attended three of these marketing courses and wants to attend three more. They decided that they would only want to fund one. For the one event, the total Rice is asking for is \$415. Gallegos stated that he and Heller felt comfortable not giving Rice funding because she is going to go to all three events even if SEF does not provide any funding. Wilson stated that her initial concern is whether the program she is in is a degree-granting program. She wondered whether Rice would be receiving some kind of certificate after attending all these events. Heller stated that after going to one of the events, they will not receive a certificate, but they are not sure whether they will after attending multiple. Gallegos stated that it does not seem like it is a certificate-granting program. Gallegos stated that if they are to grant funding, he suggests only funding registration. Gallegos noted that they could return to this application at the next meeting. Heller stated that she would be fine not funding this application. Gallegos and Rios-Sanchez stated that they would be fine with not providing funding. Phillips stated that she would be comfortable not funding, especially since Rice will be going even without SEF funding.

MOTION SEF-18-W-6 By Gallegos

To deny funding for Elizabeth Rice's Digital Storytelling application.

Second: Heller Vote: 4-0-0 Action: Passed

**D. Approval or Disapproval of The Young Democrats of WWU (Nyle Ramos')
Application**

Gallegos stated that Nyle Ramos is representing the Young Democrats of WWU but they submitted their application quite late. Gallegos stated that the club wants to send 12 people to the Young Democrats of Washington Convention taking place in 3 weeks. The group needs around \$1,100, which means that SEF needs two weeks to vote on the application and that would not leave enough time for the group to work out the logistics for the trip. Gallegos told the group that if the group requested funding from Activities Council as well, SEF could vote on the application in one meeting. Gallegos explained that Ramos is requesting \$600 for two rooms at the Red Lion Hotel (the location of the conference), \$340 for gas money, and \$140 per person for registration. Gallegos stated that there are several possible workshops at the conference. Rios-Sanchez asked if they are allowed to fund a partisan group, he wondered if there is any possible consequence of that. Gallegos stated that historically that has not been a problem, for instance, they funded the Socialist Alternative Club last year. Wilson added that the Young Democrats of WWU is an authorized AS club. Gallegos stated that they provided a tentative list of those who will be speaking at the conference and possible programming workshops. He stated that he is surprised they only provided a tentative list since the event is taking place so soon which makes him think it is not a well-organized event. One of the applicants went to this event last year; they said that the conference had some positive effects for her. Wilson asked if the group has applied for funding from Activities Council. Gallegos stated that he told the group that they should apply but let them know that it is very late in the process to apply. Gallegos stated that another reason he was motivated to reduce the SEF request was that they have limited club funding. Going through the rubric, Gallegos stated that the applicant is a representative of a group and an AS club at the event. For academic/educational value, there is overall neutral. For positive change, the committee is neutral. For visible impact, there is overall neutral to agreement since there is a large group will be attending the event. For personal development, the committee is neutral. For

professional development, there is overall agreement. Gallegos stated that the group is eligible for SEF funding but the application is not very strong. Heller stated that she is inclined to fund them even though it was not a very strong application since they are sending 12 people. Rios-Sanchez stated that he agrees that it is cheap per person but he thinks that this kind of funding should come from the Activities Council fund, not from SEF funding. Gallegos agreed that this is the Activities Council domain but they have funded clubs like this in the past. Wilson stated that they could make a motion that they would provide funding but they request that the club goes to Activities Council first but she does not know if they can force Activities Council to hear the request. Wilson stated that she would like SEF to have the ability to push applications to Activities Council first but because of the timeline, the application came to SEF instead. Rios-Sanchez asked if they could tell Activities Council that they will fund this application if they also fund the application. Gallegos stated that his only concern is the timeline issue because if Activities Council decides not to fund the application, he would have to wait until Friday to let SEF committee know. Rios-Sanchez suggested having a vote over email. Gallegos stated that he thought they could motion on a conditional amount today based on how much the Activities Council provides. Gallegos stated that he would be comfortable with \$500. Rios-Sanchez and Phillips stated that they would be comfortable with \$500. Heller stated that she would be comfortable with \$300 to \$400.

MOTION SEF-18-W-7 By Gallegos

To approve \$500 on the condition that a) the Activities Council has reviewed the application promptly and has decided not to provide funding and b) the Activities Council has decided to review it on Monday, February 5, 2018.

Second: Heller Vote: 4-0-0 Action: Passed

MOTION SEF-18- W-8 By Gallegos

To follow through via email on motion SEF-18-W-7 for a final vote on the decision to fund \$500 on the two conditions named.

Second: Heller Vote: 4-0-0 Action: Passed

E. Approval or Disapproval of Adam Vincent's Application

Gallegos stated that Adam Vincent originally requested \$1,100 for himself, but Gallegos told him that SEF would not provide that amount. Vincent is now requesting \$734. Gallegos stated that Vincent is requesting funding to attend the Society for Photographic Education. The conference registration fee is \$500. Vincent is requesting \$100 of the registration fee. Heller stated that the registration fee is so expensive because those who pay the registration fee can have curators go through their portfolio. The conference lasts for four days and is in Philadelphia, PA. Gallegos stated Vincent did not mention his portfolio in their one-on-one. Heller stated that it was odd also, that Vincent did not mention that part of the conference in his answer to the question on how attending the event will influence their professional future. Heller stated that she would want review the rest of the application at the next meeting. Wilson wondered how Vincent is involved in the SPE club on campus. Gallegos concluded that they would look over the rest of the application at the next meeting.

F. Looking Ahead

Gallegos stated that he has continued to receive more SEF applications. He hopes that they can review four or five applications at the next meeting. Gallegos stated that they

spent about \$6,000 last quarter, this quarter they have spent about \$3,000 and have \$25,000 remaining for the rest of the year. He added that so far they have received \$52,000 in requests.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

IV. ACTION ITEMS

V. ADJOURN

Gallegos adjourned the meeting at 10:25am.