



AS Finance Council

January 5, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Teams Online

Members: Present: Noemi Bueno, Chair (AS Business Director), Abdul Malik Ford, Vice Chair (AS President), Ben Crandall (Central Services Rep), Brandon Lane (Student at-Large), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Rep), Kaylan Rocamora (Activities Rep), Nichole Vargas (SAIRC Rep), Ranulfo Molina (AS VP-Diversity), Selam Swier (AS Student Senator) **Absent:** Sargun Handa (AS Senate Pro Tempore)

Advisor: Raquel Vigil, Viking Union Organization Business Manager

Secretary: Cindy Monger, Viking Union Organization Fiscal Specialist

Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Information Items

A. Training

1. Business Vocabulary- Bueno created a Business Glossary as a resource for some of the terms used by this Council.

2. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

The original budget created in June we requested 3.2 million and we reduced to 3.1 million. The budget reflected a deficit to begin with, but the deficit has increased. Vigil said that we took a \$15 reduction per student resulting in about a 7% reduction in the fee. This is in addition to the reduction in students. The AS has some possibilities for savings by 1) less spending on programs 2) some short-term salary savings (for students and pro staff).

Spending has not happened at the budgeted level. The AS is in a cost saving mode due to the pandemic knowing that we would not be receiving fee monies at the same level as projected. There have been position that were not hired and large programs that didn't happen.

3. COVID-19 Impacts- The projection of funding available as of September 30, 3030 shows a negative fund balance of \$237,367. The estimate for Fall Quarter Services & Activities Fee (S & A), and the expenses would allow the budget to have about \$125,000 available going into winter quarter.

\$300,000 allocated for Operating Reserve if the AS has significant losses in fee money. Vigil would like to keep any additional funding needed at \$150,000. (There was about \$250,000 used for the significant cut that the AS took in S & A fees. The AS reduced the S & A Fee by 85% spring quarter.)

4. Grant Proposals- there was a question if council members could bring a grant or if that would be an ethical issue. Vigil said that if a proposal benefits a member personally, it would be best for them to recuse themselves from voting.
5. Decision Packages- this is how people request additional funding for their areas. This year they will not be accepting decision packages. Instead their will be a future needs request forms.

III. Other Business

Values- The Council discussed possible values to set before budgets are reviewed. In the past, AS Budget Committee requested values from the AS Board and Student Senate. In the second year of AS Finance Council it would be good to review and discuss possible values/guiding principles. Last year there was an issue that there was a trip funded by the council that was perceived as a personal vacation. Someone on the council was funded to go on the trip and voted on the approval of the grant. At this point the funds for travel have been rolled into an

account for all AS Employees, AS Exec Board, and AS Student Senate to avoid the perception that there is a slush fund for the Board to travel that isn't available to all. Ford said that there was a call to abolish the funds available to the AS Board for travel as part of the Black Student Organization demands that emerged in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Ford also thinks that students need to come back and use their knowledge to enhance the community. In this case it only benefited themselves as they never came back and shared.

The council might consider creating a Rules of Operation document, including when members should consider recusing themselves from voting. Lane said that there was an issue in AS Elections and the Board passed very restrictive guidelines that has caused issues since then. Lane feels there should be guidelines that allow the council to work effectively and ethical.

Molina asked if they see an AS Grant that is not being used effectively, can they review the grant. Vigil said that they can review at the time it would be ending. She also said that due to Covid-19 there will also be grants that will not be able to be used this year. For example, around \$4,000 was allocated for the Ethnic Student Center Retreat, which did not happen due to Covid restrictions.

VIII. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.