



AS Finance Council

June 1, 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), Sargun Handa (AS Senate Pro Tempore), Ranulfo Molina (AS VP for Diversity), Kaylan Rocamora (Activities Rep), Daniela Rodriguez (ESC Rep), Selam Swier (AS Student Senator), Nichole Vargas (SAIRC Rep) **Absent:** Brandon Lane (Student At-Large)
Advisor: Raquel Vigil, Viking Union Organization Business Manager
Secretary: Cindy Monger, Viking Union Organization Fiscal Specialist
Guest: Susanna Schronen, VU Business Services & Planning Office

MOTIONS

- FC-21-S-25** Approve the minutes of May 18, 2021. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-26** Approve the minutes of May 25, 2021. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-27** Approve the Outdoor Center Excursions Grant for a total of \$14,000 for FY'22. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-28** Approve the Queer Guild Grant Proposal for \$8,000 total (\$4,000 per year) ending in FY'23. **Passed**
- FC-21-S-29** Approve the Carry Forward Request for FY'22 as stated in Doc. 3. with adjustments based on end of year balances as necessary. **Passed**

Noemi Bueno, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION FC-21-S-25 by Rocamora
Approve the minutes of May 18, 2021.
Second: Ford Vote: 6-0-2 Action: Passed

MOTION FC-21-S-26 by Ford
Approve the minutes of May 25, 2021.
Second: Vargas Vote: 5-0-3 Action: Passed

III. Revisions to the Agenda

IV. Public Forum- Susanna Schronen thanked the council for letting her listen in and learn. In her position in Business Services & Planning she uses the information about the changes to positions that are reviewed by the council.

V. Black Student Demand Updates

Every Wednesday evening there is a group of students, staff, and the Black Student Coalition Specialists. Last week the BSC Specialists shared The Black Paper which is essentially a charge and charter as well as some description of the groups. Ford will send out the finalized version when it is completed sometime in the next few days. He is in charge of aesthetics for the paper and will make it beautiful. Molina said the working group was able to tour the temporary spaces for the Black Student Space options [in person or via

video chat], they will be talking about their thoughts at the next meeting with the hopes that this will be ready by Fall with the temporary space. Molina is looking forward to seeing the final version of the Black Paper, so much work and mindfulness has gone into it. In reflecting on the time that people have put into the group and people who have been involved from the beginning, he is very proud of the work this group has done. They will continue to do good work after this academic year. Vargas said that it is also the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the destruction of Black Wall Street in Oklahoma. It is important for this group to recognize how accessing funds has been used to set back Black people in America, they can either reverse that trend or continue it. She thinks it's important to look at how financial access has been used to set back Black people in America. The power that money has in race relations and economic oppression and social oppression. This council actually has power in allocating funding. How can people's positions and this council play into the legacy of Black Oppression. Bueno said that finances are a barrier for many things in life, she hopes they can continue to try to promote equity work in their allocation and use of funds. Bueno wants to ensure that they don't lose Black student representation with the students in the working group that are graduating.

VI. Action Items

A. Outdoor Center (OC)- Increasing Access + Equity for OC Excursions- Grant Proposal

There were no questions, the item had been seen for two weeks. Doc. 1

MOTION FC-21-S-27 by Rocamora

Approve the Outdoor Center Excursions Grant for a total of \$14,000 for FY'22.

Second: Molina Vote: 7-0-1 Action: Passed

B. Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Centers (SAIRC)- Queer Guild Council- Grant Proposal

Doc. 2

Due to Covid-19 the Queer Guild was unable to assess their grant over a two-year period. They are requesting to start the pilot over for two years at \$4,000 per year. On the first day of Pride the council was happy to approve this funding.

MOTION FC-21-S-28 by Molina

Approve the Queer Guild Grant Proposal for \$8,000 total (\$4,000 per year) ending in FY'23.

Second: Crandall Vote: 7-0-1 Action: Passed

VII. Information Items

A. Carry Forward Requests Doc. 3

Summer Concerts requested \$1,225 be carried forward as when they submitted the proposal it was unknown if they could have concerts, they now have confirmation that concerts will be happening. Vigil said that \$945 is all that is available as of April 30, 2021 and this would be available for carry forward.

Black Student Coalition funding of \$8,125 was transferred from several areas and Vigil requests carrying it forward for use next year.

ESC Retreat 2 nights \$4,180 Grant carry forward because the retreat did not happen due to Covid-19 restrictions. This would support BIPOC students.

OC Trip Leader Training is requesting carrying forward their remaining balance as traditional trips were canceled for 2020-2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Blue Resource Center is requesting carrying forward their remaining balance as they were unable to do much programming due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Western Food Pantry is requesting their balance be carried forward to continue to support needs of students.

Vigil said that she would love to support the Western Hub of Living Essentials. Typically, you would only be able to carry forward for the same use as the grant was awarded. In this case, it was for a student employee. Historically funding for wages would not be repurposed for goods & services. Via chat Deysher Fernandez confirmed this funding would be to supplement summer hours for special projects and they will be hiring someone to start soon.

Bueno moved this item to an Action Item (as this is the last meeting of the year) by acclamation. There was no dissent.

MOTION FC-21-S-29 by Ford

Approve the Carry Forward Request for FY'22 as stated in Doc. 3. with adjustments based on end of year balances as necessary.

Second: Crandall Vote: 7-0-0 Action: Passed

VIII. Other Business

A. Services & Activities Fee Updates

The S & A Fee Committee voted on an increase that they justified due to the Cost of Living increase. There was some discussion about how the percentage distribution of the S & A Fee should be. The base used in FY 20 will be used and added to that would be the impact of the COLA on the constituents. Vigil said that it looks like the AS getting a small increase of a tenth of a percent, Athletics increases a small amount. They didn't get to the discussion about the projections. They stand the same as moving forward. It appears that the AS will be about \$230,000 short in revenue. Vigil thinks that they will receive more than that and be more towards \$75,000 short at the end of the year. Bueno doesn't anticipate the shortfall to be as great as projected. She said they have already seen that S & A Projections aren't accurate and tend to be conservative. She believes that things may change dramatically with the campus opening. Bueno has been looking at some potential changes to S & A Fee in terms of the representative allocations. Athletics makes up 32% of the budget but only have one rep, but other areas at 16% get two reps. Also having whoever the chair is should not be a voting member. There could be representation from students a-large positions since everyone else is part of the constituencies. Bueno would also like to have a faculty member representative. The committee was not excited about this. Molina said the decisions came from a lot of back and forth conversation, centering students in this year of the pandemic and the national burden to our students and family. A 1.25% increase feels like a small win in

consideration of the 4% increase that was proposed. Molina and Bueno tried to have a zero percent increase. He is not worried about any of the constituents managing the allocation they requested. He is more than confident that each area will be able to do what is needed with the money that has been allocated, if the increase is signed off on by the administration. Molina said that Vice President Huskey has not approved the fee increase he is not sure what the process would be. Vargas thanked our AS reps for advocating for a zero percent increase and really looking out for students. Vigil thanked Molina and Bueno “for holding your ground at not increasing fees to students post pandemic. 1.25% to cover COLA increases was as frugal as you could support. Even though I see the AS savings of over \$70k in temporary reductions...and an increase of \$100k for Representation... coming forward as an issue next year.” Vigil said “Praise very much needed for these two advocates. Who happen to be students of color and representing the AS...it felt like we entered the space with two strikes against us every meeting. It was really hard.”

B. Reflections on 2020-2021 AS Finance Council

Bueno asked if there were any thoughts on this year’s process. Handa said that it was draining to meet so often. Bueno would like to have the council start earlier in the fall to allow for training, values and rubrics review before Budget Proposal request go out. Vargas said “I think the length of the meetings and the time has been draining, but the committee members make it so much better! My longest but most enjoyable meeting every week.” Handa said “I loved how well u did this Noemi ♡.” Bueno congratulated all of the graduates in the council- Ford, Molina, Handa, and Vargas. The council was thanked for their service to the students and for their kindness and dedication. Vargas summed it up saying, it’s been amazing to work and grow alongside y’all !! ♡

IX. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.