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Appropriations and Audits Committee Meeting Minutes 11-18-13

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University of South Florida
Student Government Fifty-Fourth Student Senate
Committee on Appropriations and Audits
FALL SESSION
November 18, 2013

Call to Order by Chairwoman Kattih at 12:06 PM.

First Roll Call
Present: Abraha, Kattih, Larkins, Lopez, Oliver, Odeh, Hernandez, Rodriguez
Absent: Fernandez (unexcused), Romero (excused),

Chairwoman Kattih: We do have quorum.

Additions/Deletions and/or Clarifications to the Orders of the Day:

Chairwoman Kattih: Next item on the agenda is additions deletions or changes to the agenda. Are there any motions

Senator Abraha - Motion to approve the agenda, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to approving the agenda? Seeing none, the agenda is approved. Next is approval of the minutes. I sent out the November 4th minutes. Are there any motions?

Senator Lopez - Motion to approve the minutes, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to approving the minutes? Seeing no objections to approving the minutes, the minutes are now approved.

Open Forum
Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have open forum. Does anyone have anything to say? Seeing nothing, we shall move on.

New Business
1. Off Campus Requests
Women In Surgery Interest Group
Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have new business. We have two off-campus requests and four interim budget requests. Let’s begin with the off-campus request from Women in Surgery Interest Group. This organization is requesting to go to the Camels Institute. It’s a medical simulation facility. Let the record state that in the
gallery, we have Ms. Katherine Burkhard from SGATO as well as Masha Galchenko from ASBO, and Hiba Alqasemi, Chairwoman of Special Funding. So Camels is a simulation kind of lab that integrates technology and medical side of things. So this organization, which is a medical organization, they want to travel to the Camels Institute for surgical simulation training and equipment which they do not have at their facility. They are going to provide transportation for students who are interested. Any questions?

Senator Larkins: What does the $2,000-$3,000 cover?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think this covers the ability to use those simulations.

Senator Larkins: Are they a part of USF, or you didn’t know if they were a part of USF, you said?

Chairwoman Kattih: I don’t know. I think that one’s a technicality, more like, because they are not technically part of USF, but they are, so I think we still have to pay for it. This money is already allocated to this organization through the COMAC, College of Medicine Appropriation Committee, so they would be using funds that they already have. Their estimated attendance is about 100 people, and this will take place in January. You guys want to consider this? If you have more questions. If not, you guys can vote on it.

Senator Abraha: This is located in the USF campus?

Senator Larkins: It’s downtown. It’s close to Tampa Bay Times Forum.

Senator Abraha: Well, follow-up. Is the cost also covering transportation? Do we have some sort of breakdown?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think the transportation—yes, this is going to cover transportation as well. I think they are doing… I actually do not know what they are doing in terms of transportation, how they are going to transport. I do know they are going to provide transportation. Are there any additional questions? Are there any…?

Senator Larkins: So it doesn’t seem like they will use the Bullrunner. Are they allowed with the Business Office to get money to put gas in their car, or is that something completely on their own?

Chairwoman Kattih: Because they are considered an organization, I don’t think—we cover cost of gas? No. So that’s not something we would be covering. The only way for them to be using our money, or A&S money, for transportation would be through renting of a vehicle or renting of Bullrunners.

Ms. Galchenko: And why are you sure they are not using the Bullrunner?

Chairwoman Kattih: I’m not. I’m about to check that.

Ms. Galchenko: They can reserve a bus through Parking and Transportation.

Chairwoman Kattih: Do you guys have any other questions about this?

Senator Abraha: Did you find out?

Chairwoman Kattih: Waiting. We can come back to it. Hopefully they respond.

Senator Abraha: Do you have to meet with them when you do off-campus requests?
Chairwoman Kattih: No. It’s not a requirement. If they request one, I’m more than happy to, but it’s usually self-explanatory most of the time. I can take motions to move onto the next one and come back to this. Actually, it’s likely that they are going to be using Bullrunners from PATS. That’s according to Ali Antar, who is representing them from the College of Medicine. What I’m assuming is they are going to get one or two Bullrunners to take people to that location. That’s going to cover most of the cost. Any more questions?

Senator Larkins: Do we have to allocate them a certain amount between both of those, or is it we’re going to give them in between $2,000 and $3,000?

Chairwoman Kattih: We don’t specify. Usually, we don’t specify the amount. I don’t know if you guys would like to let the A&S Business Office know this is the amount we are allocating for this event, but usually, it’s pretty flexible because they already have the funds.

Senator Abraha: Could you clarify a little more? When they do this event, how much are they transferring?

Chairwoman Kattih: It’s not a transfer. It’s like having an event. This is like an off-campus event. If they want to use for $500 for a WOW event, we don’t stop them, we just recommend a certain amount. It’s the same way we do this. Any other questions? Is everybody comfortable?

Senator Hernandez – Motion to vote, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to voting? Seeing no objections, we are now in voting procedure.

YES: Abraha, Larkins, Oliver, Odeh, Hernandez, Lopez

NO: 6-0-1, Women In Surgery Interest Group off-campus request is approved.

Bulls Biker Association

Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have the Bulls Biker Association. This organization wants to host a meet and greet at the Bruce B. Downs Hooters. The reason they are requesting this venue is because they want a place where they can park their bikes next to the location. Again, scooters, motorcycles, you can’t park that on campus, you know? I was thinking Beef O’ Brady’s, but there’s nowhere near Beef O’ Brady’s where they can park their motorcycles, so they said that was their reasoning. They will use $80 and they will advertise to students in the area.

Senator Larkins: They can’t—there’s no way they can use the little road in front of the Marshall Center?

Chairwoman Kattih: There are parking lots—there’s a parking lot close to the Marshall Center on the other side. You can take that into consideration when making your decision. But their reasoning was because there was nowhere to directly park.

Ms. Galchenko: I’m sorry. What are they doing?

Chairwoman Kattih: They want to have a social, a WOW event meet and greet, and they want to have it off-campus because there’s nowhere to put all of their motorcycles right in front of the restaurant.

Ms. Galchenko: Why can’t they cater here?
Chairwoman Kattih: I did not ask them that, but it is something the committee can consider when it’s deciding on this request.

Senator Larkins: What did she ask?

Chairwoman Kattih: Why can’t they have Hooters cater here.

Ms. Galchenko: And the other thing is, that you might want to consider, is they are riding their motorcycles. They are supposed to have the USF tags, which you need on campus regardless. So why can’t they have this event on campus rather than doing it off campus?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think their reasoning was in terms of they are a biker association, and they want to showcase that their motorcycles are right next to their event. So that can be construed that way. Do you guys have any questions? Do you want to bring up? Anything you guys want to discuss amongst yourselves?

Senator Larkins: I feel like it can happen here. There’s a parking lot over there. There’s a parking lot over there. If they talk to upstairs and say, “We’re a club that wants to show off our bikes,” at least that’s what it seems like—I don’t know if they would, but they let people drive up and down this road here. They can give a little segment to park their bikes there and come up to the event.

Senator Odeh: I don’t think this is a very good idea, just because isn’t Week of Welcome meant for new people? So if they are freshmen, they probably don’t know how to get to Hooters, or where Hooters is, they probably wouldn’t feel safe going alone or with a friend.

Senator Larkins: And the Bullrunner doesn’t go to Hooters.

Senator Odeh: Right.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any additional points?

Senator Abraha – Motion to vote, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Is everyone comfortable moving into voting? Are there any objections? Seeing no objections to Ms. Abraha’s motion to move into voting, we are now in voting procedure.

YES:
NO: Abraha, Larkins, Lopez, Oliver, Odeh, Hernandez
0-6-1, Bulls Biker Association off-campus request is denied.

2. Interim Budget Requests
Bulls for Moffitt
Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we’re moving into interim budget requests. We have four. The first one is Bulls for Moffitt. This organization requested $392.20. They were allocated, after 25% deduction, $294.15. They have a fall social, a spring social, and t-shirts. Fall social, they requested $30 for 40 people. I recommended $30. Materials, $50 was what they requested. I recommended $50 again, because it’s within our $150, $25, $25 standard. Their spring social, again, I allocated $40 for 40 people, which is what they requested, and $50 for materials, again what they requested. The t-shirts, they were getting forty t-shirts for $5 apiece, which is our standard, so I allocated $200 which is what they requested. Their request was exactly what I recommended.
However, they do receive a 25% deduction, so the final is $294.15. Are there any questions? Are there any motions?

Senator Lopez – Motion to vote, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections? Seeing no objections, we are now in voting procedure on Bulls for Moffitt.

YES: Abraha, Larkins, Lopez, Oliver, Odeh, Hernandez
NO:
6-0-1, Bulls for Moffitt budget is passed.

**Student Committee on Black Affairs**

Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have Student Committee on Black Affairs. This organization requested $3,071.50. I’ve recommended $1,325. Their introduction event in the spring, with a 50 person projected attendance, I recommended $100 for food and $100 for materials, as per our standards. Black Heritage Month mixer, I recommended $150 for food, $50 for materials, again as per our standards for $2 per head and materials per event. They are having a prayer breakfast with about two hundred people. I funded it $400 for food and $25 for materials. Their study jam, I recommended $50 for food, $25 for materials, because the attendance would be twenty-five people. They requested t-shirts, forty t-shirts again at $5 per shirt, $200. The reason I did not fund up to the fifty they requested was because the total request amount was $200, so this organization believes they can get fifty shirts for this amount of money. Advertising, they want a banner, which I funded for $150 as per our standards.

Senator Abraha: For the study jam, they are doing goody bags. Are we okay with that?

Chairwoman Kattih: That will be up to committee to decide. When I met with the organization, I told them that we don’t fund handouts that type of thing. So the reason I funded it $25 was for general materials that would be used in conjunction with the food—plates, napkins, et cetera. It’s up to you guys. Just in line with standards. You can choose not to. Are there any motions?

Senator Abraha: They said snacks, so…

Chairwoman Kattih: Ms. Abraha, do you have a motion or a suggestion to discuss with committee?

Ms. Galchenko: Yes, I have a question. How does the prayer breakfast relate to the mission of the organization?

Chairwoman Kattih: Okay, so the organization’s mission. The purpose of the Student Committee on Black Affairs is to aid in the promotion of positive interactions between students and faculty at USF. When I met with the organization, they said that this prayer would build relationships between the faculty and students. So again, committee, it’s up to you guys to decide whether or not you think this is an event that is in line with the organization’s mission.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: If you want to think about it this way, usually an inaugural event will not have two hundred people at it. If you wanted to reduce it down to a dollar and a half—that way, there’s two arguments to make. One is that it’s an inaugural event and two hundred people is a high expectation. The second point is what Masha just brought up about it not necessarily being in their mission.
Senator Lopez: I feel like it might be better to remove it, because it is the inaugural—if we were to cut it out now, it would remove it for the future. They are obviously planning to continue this in the future. Since it is not in line with their purpose as an organization, we should remove it.

Senator Larkins: I don’t know if I can vote on it, but I am in the organization, and it’s the prayer breakfast is for students and faculty to come together. It’s more of a spiritual thing for us to celebrate in the prayer breakfast. That’s how it goes along with our mission, for students and faculty to come together. I don’t want to say religion, but it’s kind of a religious thing for us to come together and praise God at the breakfast.

Ms. Galchenko: So every organization technically can come and ask for a frame of reference whether it’s in their mission or not. That’s why the religious organizations are allowed to have these types of events. That’s why I asked for the mission of the organization. Secondly, you also said the faculty is coming. How much faculty are coming?

Senator Larkins: We haven’t actually invited them. We (inaudible).

Chairwoman Kattih: So that’s something that committee should consider. Mr. Lopez, was that an official motion on your part or just a suggestion to discuss?

Senator Lopez: No, it wasn’t.

Senator Abraha: Question. I thought non-religious organizations were allowed to have one holiday event. I thought that was the case. Maybe I’m wrong.

Ms. Galchenko: Unless they are a religious organization or are cultural, where it is pertinent to their culture. Prayer is relevant to all cultures, so a student association can ask for a prayer day or prayer breakfast and what not, then what other cultures coming to ask for a prayer day. So then all of the organizations come to you asking for the same stuff.

Chairwoman Kattih: Usually, we only fund religious organizations for prayers, particular prayers, which is why Ms. Galchenko is bringing this up. In line with that, I would suggest—actually, are there any motions? Does anyone want to talk about this a little bit more? Right now, we’re funding this event for $125. You guys can choose not to fund the event. You can choose to reduce the amount or—

Senator Romero: I might be backtracking, but I wasn’t here to understand what the issue being brought to the table is?

Chairwoman Kattih: To kind of catch everybody up, this organization is the Student Committee on Black Affairs. Their purpose is to aid in the promotion of positive interaction between students and faculty at USF. They are requesting a prayer dinner for a projected attendance—prayer breakfast, excuse me—they have a projected attendance of two hundred people. The point was brought up that we don’t fund student organizations that are not religious for religious events, or holiday events or stuff like that, because prayer is relevant to everybody, so any student organization can ask for a prayer breakfast and we would fund it all.

Senator Larkins: Okay. I guess I was wrong on the whole thing, but this is what I was told—it is bringing together of different cultures and backgrounds for this common event, and it will also allow us to share a piece of black culture with USF at the event.

Chairwoman Kattih: Thank you for that clarification.
Senator Lopez: I have a question. You said that there is faculty. Are you for sure that they will be coming to this? I feel like if you take that into consideration, it is in line with the purpose of the organization, because it did say to build connections with the faculty and the students. Just like you messaged these people for the first travel grant, seeing if they were going to follow up with the buses—even though it’s not included right there, there is evidence that there is going to be faculty there. So if you take that into consideration, it will be in line with their purpose at their organization. And it’s something they can consider in the future when they request this event again.

Senator Larkins: To put it in there?

Senator Lopez: Yes, because—I don’t know, reword the naming of it. Maybe less of the spiritual aspect and more of the connections.

Ms. Galchenko: How many of those two hundred are faculty?

Senator Larkins: They just put the number up there, but however much we invite, however much comes.

Ms. Galchenko: Well, what I’m getting at, you are asking for two hundred students to attend the prayer breakfast, but there is going to be a large amount of faculty included in the two hundred people.

Chairwoman Kattih: I think this number includes both faculty and students, but I’m not sure.

Ms. Galchenko: How many members are there in the club?

Chairwoman Kattih: Right now, there’s seventeen active members in the organization.

Ms. Galchenko: Seventeen? Well, then definitely faculty is included in that two hundred.

Chairwoman Kattih: They projected a lot more than their active members to be attending. So again, you guys have the options to fund this at the amount it stands, reduce the funds, or completely not fund the event because you don’t feel it’s relevant.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: I would suggest reducing the funds, but still funding part of the event. I understand that there’s a certain amount of cultural and religious ties in here that it is honestly, for someone who is obviously not on the Student Committee of Black Affairs, can still understand that this is in the mission of the organization. So yes, there’s probably going to be, I’d be honest if it was seventy-five to a hundred people in attendance, so you can fund something like $150 for food, $150 to $200 is a little more realistic. But I think to fund it in general, it’s still fitting within the mission of the student organization.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any more discussion points from the committee about this issue?

Senator Odeh: I don’t know if this stands or if it’s relevant or not, and I don’t mean any offense to the organization if it comes out that way, but wouldn’t a prayer breakfast isolate people that aren’t a part of that religion, or is it all-inclusive?

Chairwoman Kattih: The way it was described to me is that it’s more of a spirituality kind of thing. And there are religious elements to that, but it’s focused on spirit. I don’t think that’s something to—I think it will be open to all students. That’s not the consideration.

Senator Romero – Motion to fund half of the food for the prayer breakfast, accepted.
Kat: Are there any objections to funding the food for $200 instead of the recommended $400? Seeing no objections, they will funded $225 for this event. Are there any objections? Are there any additional questions, motions or points?

Senator Larkins — Motion to vote, accepted.

Ms. Burkhard: Since you’re in the organization, you should abstain.

Senator Larkins: Okay.

Chairwoman Kattih: The grand total is $1,113. Seeing no objections, we will go into voting.

YES: Abraha, Romero, Oliver, Odeh, Rodriguez, Hernandez
NO: 6-0-2, Student Committee on Black Affairs budget is passed.

Nursing Student Association @USF
Chairwoman Kattih: Next, we have Nursing Student Association at USF. They requested $2,453.90 and were recommended $1,738.40. They had a total of nine events. They have a welcome event. I recommended $150 for food, $15 for materials, which is what they asked for for materials. T-shirts, they are getting seventy-five t-shirts. I funded that $5 per t-shirt for $375. They are having a Nursing Student Association Week and they want funds for two days of that week, Monday and Wednesday. So that first one, Monday, I recommended $120 for food, $10 for materials, which is what they asked for, and again, the second day, $120 for food, $10 for materials, which is what they asked for. The healthcare career fair, I recommended $250 for food, which is what they asked for, for one hundred fifty people. I recommended $100 for materials. Then the end of the semester banquet, I recommended $150—I recommended $200...$225 for food and $15 for materials. Again, the materials was what they asked for. Then they requested an Oracle ad, so as per standards, I funded that for $200. They requested trophies and plaques, and we do fund that, so I funded that for $125, which is what they requested. Finally, I did not fund their summer kickoff because when I met with the organization, they said this was their less important event, and this totaled up to eight items to keep in line with our standards. Are there any questions about this?

Senator Abraha: In that career fair, I think we funded $250, and all of them are having for food is granola bars, cookies, food and water.

Chairwoman Kattih: Do you have any motions?

Senator Abraha: How much do granola bars and cookies cost?

Senator Larkins: You can get everything at Sam’s for—I don’t know about granola bars.

Ms. Galchenko: They can’t shop at Sam’s.

Senator Abraha: What is a good estimate, Masha?

Ms. Galchenko: I have no idea how much granola bars cost.
Chairwoman Kattih: If you are not comfortable with this idea, I would choose a number that’s kind of—maybe $100 because of the fact that this is just water, cookies, granola bars. They are trying to feed a hundred and fifty people, so it’s up to you guys.

Senator Larkins — Motion to fund health career fair food for $100, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections or friendly amendments to funding the health career fair for $100? Seeing nothing, they are going to be funded $200 for this event in total. Anything else? I’ll scroll through this.

Unknown Senator - Motion to raise food for career fair to $150.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to moving that amount, or do you guys want to talk about it?

Unknown: So it’s probably cheaper.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any other…?

Senator Odeh: Point of clarification. For the t-shirts, they are allowed to charge their members $6?

Chairwoman Kattih: They are not going to be charging for the t-shirts from what I—they are going to buy the t-shirts for $6 per shirt, which is why they requested this amount of money. If you are buying items with A&S money, you’re not allowed to sell it for a profit or for anything. Anything else?

Senator Abraha: What’s the standard we do for the materials? Just a quick reminder.

Chairwoman Kattih: What I was doing was $125, $25. I did the career fair for $150 because that’s what they requested, and in all the other organization’s events, they requested only $10 and $15. So overall, it’s in line with the trend we’re keeping. Also, keep in mind that all of these events will happen in the same semester as well. Are there any more questions? Anything else you want to look at, or any motions?

Senator Odeh – Motion to vote.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to moving into voting for the grand total of $1,658.90?

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: I know I shouldn’t object, but can you rescind for a question really quick?

Senator Odeh rescinds.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: Were we counting t-shirts as events?

Chairwoman Kattih: We count them as entities. We fund eight entities, items.

Pro-Tempore Aldridge: So we’re doing eight total, not necessarily four per semester?

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes. In line with what we’ve done in the past in this committee, we are doing—committee might want to reconsider for the upcoming semester, but that’s something for next semester’s committee to talk about. Are there any additional questions? If there are no more questions.

Senator Odeh – Reinstates motion to vote, accepted.
Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to vote on the total of $1,658.90? Seeing no objections, we will now vote.

YES: Abraha, Larkins, Romero, Oliver, Rodriguez, Odeh, Hernandez
NO: 7-0-1, Nursing Student Association @USF budget is passed.

Transfer Student Organization
Chairwoman Kattih: Finally, we have the Transfer Student Organization. They requested $4,399 and were recommended $1,121.20. They have a wild spring treats and sweets event, I recommended $120 for food, $130 for materials, $100 of those materials will be for t-shirts, because the organization requested this event to have t-shirts. For their heart to heart at Shriner’s, because it’s a fundraiser, I did not fund it. Next, they have a spring barbecue, $90 for food is what I recommended for forty-five people, $150 for materials. They requested $100 for a DJ, so I allocated that. It’s up to you guys. We’ve never allocated a DJ before. Then I did $150 for general materials.

Ms. Galchenko: You don’t need to allocate fees for DJ services, because that is provided for free by Bulls Radio.

Chairwoman Kattih: Awesome. So actually, my recommendation is $50 for materials for this event. Are there…? Okay. Never mind. Their general body meetings, again, we don’t fund general body meetings, so they were not funded. The reason why this is written here is because the organization submitted the budget weirdly and the allocation notes were stuff they put in, so just ignore that. They also wanted a Ft. Desoto beach trip, but it was off-campus, so I did not fund it. They wanted to have tailgating events at various basketball/volleyball games. They kind of specified here. They wanted to tailgate at these athletic events, so I recommended they get three tailgating events funded, $60 for each of the events for a total of $180, then I did $100 for materials in total. So they want to have a series of these birthday celebrations for the members of their organization. So I did not feel like this was relevant to the organization’s purpose, but you guys are more than welcome to refute that. They had a January birthday event, February birthday event, and then March birthday event, April birthday event, which I zero funded all of them. Then they had an acclimation dinner. I funded that for $90 for food, $100 for materials. Ignore those. The transfer career speed interviewing event, I funded that for $300 for food and $50 for materials, $300 for food because that’s what they asked for, and finally the chili cook-off, $100 for food and $25 for materials. Again, ignore the materials descriptions.

Ms. Galchenko: Two questions. How is the birthday celebration relevant to their mission--?

Chairwoman Kattih: I zero funded them.

Ms. Galchenko: All of them?

Chairwoman Kattih: Yes.

Ms. Galchenko: Okay. I didn’t pay attention obviously. And the tailgating event, how is that relevant to their mission?

Chairwoman Kattih: Their mission is to represent the needs of transfer students on campus, and they said that—I think from when they met with them, they said that going to tailgating as a group of transfer students
would help to build a sense of community with the university. Again, it’s up to committee to decide whether or not it’s relevant, but because—yes.

Senator Abraha: I was going to say, for this organization, it’s difficult to dictate what kind of event they can have, because they can say anything is relative to being a transfer student and making them feel welcome, aside from the birthdays.

Chairwoman Kattih: Do you have any motions to suggestions or things you want to talk about?

Senator Abraha: They can argue that it’s relevant, either/or, (inaudible).

Chairwoman Kattih: It’s up to you guys to decide whether or not this is, so think about it.

Senator Romero: So they are saying they want to tailgate basketball. Do they mean basketball or football games?

Chairwoman Kattih: I don’t remember exactly so don’t quote me on this, but in the upcoming semester—

Senator Romero: It says ten games, but it doesn’t really specify.

Senator Larkins: Most likely it’s basketball.

Chairwoman Kattih: But it’s probably basketball and volleyball—the spring sports.

Senator Larkins: For a lot of these events, though, because they are a student club, they have pizza and all, maybe chips—they have snacks for students before the games. So it’s like the school already gives them the chance to socialize before the events.

Senator Aziz: Could you scroll to the career fair? Is it just open to transfer students?

Chairwoman Kattih: They said it was open to all students when I met with them.

Senator Aziz: What separates it from the other career events that we have on campus?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think this one is specifically, though it’s open to all students, it’s geared toward transfer students. It was kind of the reasoning behind it. Again, it’s going to be up to committee to decide whether or not this was relevant or whether we should fund it, seeing as we do have another career fair going on.

Senator Aziz: (inaudible) are you referring to?

Chairwoman Kattih: The fall one—or the spring one. Is it New Student Connections?

Senator Aziz: There is a chili cook off with the Veteran’s Association and Dining Services.

Senator Abraha: If it’s New Student Connections or—were they charging them to enter? Because this is to enter.

Ms. Galchenko: As far as I know, there is no spring chili cook off. There is only one during the year, put on the Veteran’s Affairs and it already happened. And second, it doesn’t seem like it’s to enter, it’s rather to buy supplies to prepare their chili, which again, every single club on campus can request money for. Secondly, them preparing the chili puts on a huge liability on the university and you as Student Government.
Chairwoman Kattih: So I would actually suggest zero funding this as well, the chili cook off, if there are no objections. It’s in line with proviso. Are there any additional questions? This one is kind of a tough one. This is the gray area that we talk about and rarely see, but this is where we have to make the judgment call as a committee based on the mission and the event. It’s up to you guys. Anything else?

Senator Odeh: Can you scroll down to where the tailgating thing was? Did we do anything with that?

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any motions for that?

Senator Larkins – Motion to fund one tailgating event.

Senator Larkins: I feel like there’s opportunities the school gives them to socialize together. It’s for transfer students, but I think the purpose is for you to get into becoming a regular student, and after a while, you know you’re in with the USF community, so I see them as still trying to segregate themselves as transfer students.

Senator Abraha: Well, I’ve been to one of their events and—

Chairwoman Kattih: They are a new organization.

Senator Abraha: Are you sure? I’ve seen one…

Senator Larkins: New Student Connections has a transfer—

Chairwoman Kattih: They are a new organization.

Ms. Galchenko: They were not funded last year, but they are not a new student organization.

Senator Abraha: I’ve been to one of their events, and I walked in, and I told them—the way they do their events is—the one I went to, they brought in the Dean of Students, and he was telling them welcome here and this is the way you can fit in and stuff. So when they do these events, let’s not look at it like they are segregating themselves, but they are finding themselves a place here. If you are older, in the older generation, and you feel out of place, (inaudible) just coming in. That’s why I wouldn’t mind funding that.

Chairwoman Kattih: Ms. Larkins, do you still suggest funding only one tailgate? Do you guys have any motions?

Senator Romero: Can we go back and read their written statement one more time, please?

Senator Larkins: They made a lot of spelling errors.

Chairwoman Kattih: I’ll scroll back to the tailgating meeting. Are there any motions?

Senator Abraha – Motion to vote, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: Is everybody satisfied with the way the budget stands? Okay, so the total is $1,282.60. Are there any objections to moving into voting?

Senator Larkins: It’s really hard, because like she said, you can kind of argue it any way.

Chairwoman Kattih: Keep in mind—can you rescind really quick?
Senator Abraha rescinds.

Chairwoman Kattih: Just keep in mind that whether or not the organization can argue for something is not relevant in this case. It’s up to you as a committee to decide this. That’s why we’re here. So I guess make an executive decision, is this relative or is this not?

Senator Odeh: Can I give my personal opinion, what I think? I think this budget has a lot of holes in it and a lot of gray areas. I don’t feel completely comfortable voting on it how it stands.

Chairwoman Kattih: So do you want to—right now, we don’t have any issues with the events we’ve funded except the tailgating. Is that correct? So our problem right now as committee is deciding on the tailgating.

Senator Abraha: Can you tell me the hole you’re picking up on?

Senator Odeh: The tailgating would be one, and Aziz—what he said?

Chairwoman Kattih: So the career fair?

Senator Odeh: Yes, the speed dating. Not the speed dating, the speed interviewing.

Senator Abraha: Do you have any formal motions? Would you like to zero fund them? Would you like to decrease them?

Chairwoman Kattih: You can motion for it, and if someone objects and you want to hear their objection, you can rescind.

Senator Odeh: Well, I would motion to decrease or zero fund either interviewing one just because the Career Center puts on one for different majors and different people, so I feel like if this committee goes to it, or this organization goes to it, they might help set up one more formally through the Career Services. I just don’t feel like it’s their responsibility to set one up.

Chairwoman Kattih: So do you want to zero fund the transfer student interviewing because a similar one already occurs?

Senator Odeh – *Motion to zero fund transfer student interviewing.*

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections to that?

Senator Abraha: Question?

Chairwoman Kattih: Can you rescind for a question?

Senator Odeh rescinds.

Senator Abraha: Zero fund something on the grounds that a similar one occurs?

Chairwoman Kattih: This is on the grounds that this is a campus-wide event.

Ms. Galchenko: This is a campus-wide event, but it’s open to transfer students. So is it not open to non-transfer students?
Chairwoman Kattih: When I met with them, she said it was open to everybody.

Senator Romero: What is it exactly that they need money for?

Ms. Galchenko: Why do they need food at this?

Chairwoman Kattih: This event?

Senator Romero: They are going to the career fair that is already going to happen, what materials do they need to go and what food do they need to have?

Chairwoman Kattih: I don’t think we can assume that this is the same one that is already occurring, although it’s similar.

Ms. Galchenko: I don’t know where you draw the connection between the speed interviewing that they are doing and the career fair. I don’t know when the career fair is happening in spring. It might be in March. It might not be. But what they are doing is they are setting up a separate session to do speed interviewing with hiring managers to go—more like a training ground as far as I understand, rather than you actually getting the job. So the only problem is why they need the food. What is it they actually need the money for?

Senator Odeh: Can I ask a quick question? I know when you go to the Career Center, because I worked there before here at USF, and you have to pay a fee to come to a career fair from what I know. So would they be charging interviews or--?

Chairwoman Kattih: They are not allowed to.

Ms. Galchenko: No. Students are not charged for anything. Career fair, Career Services, charges employers to come and do this. You can look up the date, but I don’t see the connection between this and the actual fair.

Chairwoman Kattih: So I would consider this a completely independent event that they host here toward transfer students, but also open to everybody. I’m assuming they are just like any other organizational event. They are going to have food there for the people attending the event. In line with that, I think the current allocation could be okay.

Senator Abraha – Motion to decrease food to $200, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: State your reasoning?

Senator Abraha: I think about one hundred people will come to this event.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any objections?

Senator Romero: Do we fund any part of the career fair? What they are asking for is to work with the department on campus, is that what they are asking for? Or are they asking to bring in other people that they know?

Chairwoman Kattih: I think we can treat this as an independent event. They are having the event, they may bring in the Career Center, they may not.
Ms. Galchenko: The Career Center might help them reach out to these employers. That’s probably the only help Career Center will provide.

Chairwoman Kattih: Ms. Abraha, your motion is still on the floor for $200. Are there any objections?

Senator Romero: What was the reasoning for that?

Senator Abraha: I assumed about one hundred people would come, so $250 might be a little far-fetched.

Senator Romero: What are we basing that off of? What are you basing your numbers off of?

Senator Abraha: From what I saw when I went to the event.

Senator Romero: Okay, cool.

Chairwoman Kattih: So if there’s no problem with that one, we can scroll back up to the other problem area, which is the tailgating. Now, do you guys think this is relevant to the organization?

(inaudible)

Chairwoman Kattih: Is anyone not comfortable with funding the tailgating because they don’t think it’s relevant?

Senator Romero: For those of you who don’t feel comfortable, the only reason I’m okay with this is based off of what they put as their mission statement, one of the things is—whether we think it’s a good thing or not—which the mission statement is, is to connect other transfer students to one another. So this is an opportunity for them to do that. That’s the only reason (inaudible).

Senator Abraha – Motion to vote, accepted.

Chairwoman Kattih: If no one has any problems with tailgating, then we will vote. Are there any objections to voting? Seeing no objections, the grand total is $1,176.60. If there are no objections.

YES: Abraha, Larkins, Romero, Oliver, Rodriguez, Odeh, Hernandez
NO: 7-0-1, Transfer Student Organization budget is passed.

Chairwoman Kattih: That concludes new business for the day.

Announcements

Chairwoman Kattih: Next we have announcements. Does anyone have any announcements? Seeing nothing. Good job guys. This is very likely our last Appropriations and Audits meeting, because our appropriations bills rely on Senate, they have to be passed through Senate, so we can’t have any formal appropriation bills until Senate reconvenes in the spring. Other than that, if we have off-campus requests or transfer requests, we may meet, but for now, good job.

Senator Abraha: This might be a Katherine thing, but the conference, the application is due this Wednesday.

Chairwoman Kattih: Are there any additional announcements?

Unknown: I have a question.
Chairwoman Kattih: Sure.

Unknown: Is that allowed in announcement sections? Are we presenting those tomorrow.

Chairwoman Kattih: Who wants to sponsor—okay, what happens is we make sure their constitutions are up to date and in line with Student Government statutes. So if their constitutions are good, then they will be presented, so I'll take sponsors for these bills. Who wants to sponsor Transfer Student Organization? Okay. Student Committee on Black Affairs. Someone new. Bulls for Moffit?

Unknown: Is that the first one?

Chairwoman Kattih: The first one.

Unknown: I'll do it.

Chairwoman Kattih: Emily, do you want to do the first one, Bulls for Moffit?

Senator Oliver: That's fine.

Chairwoman Kattih: Then were you here at the last one? The Percussive Arts one?

Senator Larkins: People get (inaudible).

Chairwoman Kattih: You can do the last one. Then you can do Association of Percussive Arts, which we did two weeks ago. I'll send it to you. Are there any other announcements? Seeing nothing. I'll take a motion.

Senator Abraha – Motion to adjourn, accepted.


Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Transcribed by Senate Committee Secretary, Stacy Dolan.