

# 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 an 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 payed 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.<sup>1</sup>

- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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”<sup>2</sup>

- “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. ☒ 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?

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<sup>2</sup> 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.