



# AS Student Enhancement Fund Committee

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

9:00am

VU 460

**Members:** *Present:* Tiffany Ng (Student Enhancement Fund Facilitator, Chair); Marya Rybalka (AS Business Director, Vice Chair); Grace Heller (student-at-large); Julia Phillips (student-at-large); Daniel Gallegos (AS Club Representative); Emma Caro (ESC Clubs Representative).

*Absent:*

**Advisor:** Raquel Wilson (Finance Manager)

**Secretary:** Chrissa Browder-Long (Board Assistant for Internal Committees)

**Guests:**

**Motions:**

SEF-17-S-4 Approval of Samantha Kao for \$278 for her application. *Passed.*

*Tiffany Ng called the meeting to order at 9:09pm.*

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

## II. DISCUSSION ITEM

### A. Samantha Kao's Application

Tiffany Ng stated that Samantha Kao is going to a math summer camp at Northwestern University. According to Kao, the program is extremely selective and it would help her get into her graduate program. It would be a great opportunity for a woman to attend a STEM summer program and it would bring more exposure to Western students. The camp is very academic based; it would improve her mathematical analysis for graduate school as well as enhance her CV. Ng stated that Kao's budget is only \$278 because the program covers most of the travel costs. Kao only needs funding for shuttles to and from the airports. Ng stated that since the program covers some of the meals, the total amount for per diem is \$153 for the 3 days. Ng stated that Kao is an individual applicant who is representing Western and is attending a selective event. In regards to academic/educational value or impact, Ng strongly agrees because it is only an academic event and is valuable to her career as a master's student and all members strongly agree. Marya Rybalka stated that she knows this person but she does not feel any bias towards them. For the fourth section of the rubric, positive change to student communities, all group members feel neutral. For the fifth section, visible impact to WWU, Ng agreed, even though it is just a camp and not a competition, Kao is still representing Western at a large university like Northwestern. Ng clarified that the group is in the neutral to agree range. For the section on personal and professional development, there is overall strong agreement from the group. Ng stated that overall it is a strong application even though it is quite individualistic. The shuttles cost a total of \$125 and everyone is comfortable giving the full amount for the shuttle expenses. The per diem for nine meals costs \$153 and everyone agreed to give the full amount.

*MOTION SEF-17-S-4 By Ng*

*To approve Samantha Kao for \$278 for her application.*

Vote: 6-0-0

Action: Passed

### **B. Eric Lawrence/Socialist Alternative Club Application**

Ng stated that Eric Lawrence is representing the Socialist Alternative Club at the same event that Loren Parish applied for previously. Lawrence went to Activities Council but he was redirected to SEF. Ng stated that Activities Council said they would only be able to give \$100 and Lawrence would have had to go to SEF anyway. Rybalka stated that she would check with Raquel Wilson about whether Activities Council has enough money to fund Lawrence. Ng stated that in the event that either the Socialist Alternative Club or the Dead Parrots Society go back to Activities Council for funding, they would each only get about \$100, which is nowhere near the amount they need. Rybalka and Grace Heller thought it would be weird if they funded people going to the same conference drastically different amounts of money. Ng stated that Parish received \$600 of funding. The three applicants are not asking for per diem, so they only need registration and transportation. Ng stated that they used club funds to purchase the plane tickets and SEF would be reimbursing them for that. Emma Caro stated that she does not feel comfortable with that because that means they have money available to them. Rybalka stated that Ng should ask them how much they paid out of pocket and then SEF could reimburse them for that. Heller also wondered how many members of the club are not going to the event. She stated that she would feel all right about reimbursing the club funds if there were other members of the club who aren't going to the event, but if the club is only the four people going to conference, she wouldn't feel comfortable reimbursing the club funds. Caro stated that usually the people doing the fundraising are the people going on the trips. Ng stated that the total cost is \$2,299.21 for three people.

### **C. Dead Parrots Society Application**

Heller stated that she knows most of the Dead Parrots Society but she does not feel any bias toward them but she could abstain if anyone feels uncomfortable. Ng stated that the event is the Del Close Marathon in New York, New York. It would help boost their reputation and would be good outreach for their club. The event is a 56-hour Improv Comedy Festival and they were selected to perform. Ng stated that they could learn about different improv styles from other groups, bring that knowledge back to Western, and enhance the quality of the shows they do at Western. They would also be taking workshops by improv professionals. Ng stated that the cost is \$590 per person plus a \$250 cushion per person. The total expense would be \$9,036. Registration is free because they were invited. The per diem is \$2,556 total. Three of the seven people get a higher per diem because they are Western Employees and the other four get the regular student per diem. Caro asked if they had any funds from fundraising. Heller stated that they spend a lot of their money to bring other teams to Western. Ng is going to ask about that. Rybalka stated that she does not feel comfortable voting. She stated that with such high per diem, she wouldn't feel comfortable funding all the per diem. Daniel Gallegos thought that if they needed more money, they could do more fundraising for the money they do not get from SEF. Ng stated that they could fund for a certain number of days. Rybalka added that she thought the different rates for Western employees seems unnecessary. Heller stated that she would expect the Dead Parrots Society to distribute the money equally if they were given their total per diem. Everyone felt comfortable funding for the hotel but did not feel comfortable funding \$2,000 for food for six days. Ng stated that if they approve this application most of the

SEF budget would be used up. Ng thought they would cut off the applications in August. The summer applications would come out to about \$2,000 but Ng stated that Amber Hilton's application does not seem very legitimate because it is a concert. Ng told her to rewrite some of her justifications and elaborate on her application. Heller stated that if they approve the Dead Parrots Society application and the Socialist Alternative Club application, they would not be able to fund anything else. They might have enough for Amber Michaelis.

### **III. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

### **V. ADJOURN**

*Ng adjourned the meeting at 9:46pm.*