

SFC Minutes

November 18th, 2019

1203 University Center

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call**
 - a. *Kash Dhanapal* absent
 - Excused
 - b. All other members present
- III. **Public Comment**
 - a. *Rachael*: Hello!
 - *Committee*: Hello, Rachael!
- IV. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. *Emily* motioned to approve the agenda
 - *AJ* second; approved unanimously
- V. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **11/11/19 Minutes**
 - b. *Emily* motioned to approve minutes
 - *Kaitlyn* second; approved unanimously
- VI. **Chair Report**
 - a. **Chairperson- *Greg Mihalopolous***
 - SFC has \$55,144.30 left, which is exciting.
- VII. **Advisor Report**
 - No faculty advisor report
- VIII. **New Business**
 - a. **Jewish Student Union - Survivor Cafe**
 - *Greg*: Welcome, Hope! Would you like to explain what you'd like to accomplish?
 - *Hope (Representative of the Jewish Student Union)*: What I'd like to accomplish is to bring Elizabeth Rosner here to Northern. She is the author of the book Survivor Cafe, which tells of her father's experience living through the Holocaust in the concentration camps. We'd like to bring her in to talk about this book and give a retelling of her father's story because we want to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. We don't want to forget about this thing that happened, even though it's something that's absolutely disgusting. So, we'd like to bring her in to help do that.
 - *Greg*: So, in your supporting documentation, for line item 7162, advertising, it says "JSU would like to put an advertisement in the Northwind, which will cost a total of \$410, but with contributions, we'll only need \$210 from SFC." On the other side, it says that you are only asking for 70 dollars.

- *Hope*: Oh, did I mess up on the math? I'm going to assume that I'm asking for \$70.
- *Sammi*: Are you still planning to hold this event on November 21st?
 - i) *Hope*: You betchya!
- *Sammi*: So, in three days?
 - i) *Hope*: Yes.
- *Greg*: Is there an ad in this week's Northwind?
 - i) [There was not an ad in this week's Northwind]
 - ii) *Hope*: So I guess we will not be needing that advertising anymore. I did not know exactly how the Northwind works.
- *Sammi*: Where are you getting your cost for printing?
 - i) *Hope*: Directly from printing services.
- *Greg*: Actually, about that, if I may interrupt, I actually managed to see the posters for this event today, and they look good. I just noticed one small thing. It already has the Student Finance Committee watermark in the bottom right-hand corner. Were you aware of this?
 - i) *Hope*: I was aware that we had to have the SFC logo on it. I wasn't aware that they were going up today.
- *Sammi*: Do we know when they went up though?
 - i) *Hope*: They were more than likely put up today. I know for a fact they weren't put up over the weekend.
- *Sammi*: Is Jamrich 1100 already reserved through CSE then?
 - i) *Hope*: Yes.
- *Greg*: Were you a part of the Jewish Student Union last year?
 - i) *Hope*: Yes, I was. I just didn't have as big of a role because Emma [JSU President] was doing the majority of things then. I wasn't on an executive board last year.
- *Greg*: During the actual day of the Elizabeth Rosner Survivor Cafe speaking event, would the Jewish Student Union be playing an administrative role? Would you be counting how many people are there?
 - i) *Hope*: Yeah, we'll count. We always count when people show up. We're expecting a larger turnout because the sociology department is teaming up with us on this because they are reading her book now as part of their curriculum. So, there is a chance that a larger turnout will happen.
- *Sammi*: What time is this going to be?
 - i) *Hope*: 7:00 p.m.
- *Greg*: So Hope, can you perhaps provide clarity as to why you guys thought you were a registered student organization when you weren't?
 - i) *Hope*: That was a miscommunication on Emma Fellows' part. She didn't realize that you had to re-register every semester, so because she was very involved with Hillel, which is an organization concerned with Jewish student rights, she didn't realize it.
- **SFC Deliberation:**

- i) *Greg*: Jewish Student Union, last year, held an event to host Benny Morris on April 8th, 2019. I'm going to read directly from the auditor evaluation last year.
 - [Auditor evaluation was read; if anyone would like to see this document, email the Student Finance Committee at sfc@nmu.edu or stop in the office, located at 1203 University Center]
- ii) *Greg*: In the budget, they said they expected 200 people for that event and actually had 125. From what Haley [auditor for JSU's past event] could count, attendance was approximately 70, with 33 students and 37 non-students. I'm going to read her short report on the back.
 - [Post-event report was read; if anyone would like to see this document, please follow the above protocol]
- iii) *Greg*: I can attest that this ["this" being the lack of involvement by the President of the organization, Emma] is the case this year as well. There have been numerous times where Emma has asked why she's been a part of email chains for this event. I have had more conversations with Hope than with Emma and I do not think that Emma knew that this event was going to happen.
 - [*Greg* proceeded to finish reading the post-event report]
- iv) *Greg*: I'm not saying this as an endorsement or as an attack, but what I would like to really emphasize for this committee is that we are not an administrative bypass for funds for faculty. We are for the students. If we cannot, in good faith, continue making sure these funds are used for students, I would question what we are doing here.
- v) *Sammi*: Their posters were put up today, when they should have followed the posting policy. Also, I'm really nervous because there are a lot of students that leave early for Thanksgiving break.
 - *Greg*: I know that the sociology department is offering credit for going to this though, so I don't think attendance will be an issue with this one.
- vi) *Sammi*: But the fact is that they're advertising an event prior to securing any funds to bring this person here. They could have figured out that they weren't registered anymore over two weeks ago and had time to rectify that by last week. I just think it's poor planning on their part, especially since they're advertising it in the sociology department as something they can get credit for when they haven't even secured the money to get them here.
- vii) *Kaitlyn*: I understand that they're advertising to the sociology department to get credit for attending, but I wonder how this is benefiting the rest of the campus; I don't think they have put a lot of thought into that.
- viii) *Greg*: I have actually heard Elizabeth Rosner speak, and she is great.

- ix)** *Kaitlyn:* I'm not saying the event itself wouldn't be of student interest, I'm saying their promotional tactics are geared mainly towards the sociology department when they should be geared towards advertising it to the entire campus.
- x)** *Emily:* You guys mentioned earlier about attendance; I have read her book and love Emily Rosner and all she's done. She's a wonderful human being, but I'm sorry to say I don't think we can have her here unless they can find a way to pay her, but I don't think we should.
- xi)** *Kaitlyn:* I'd love to have her next semester! If they came at us with the exact same budget, but for a different time and planned more in advance so that they weren't putting posters up so late, I would love to help them put this on.
- xii)** *Sammie:* If the sociology department has been reading her book and mentioning that students can get credit for attending this event at least a month prior, why is all of this just now getting done? That doesn't make sense in my mind. I don't know if they weren't planning to get funding from us in the first place or not. This sounds like it's in the curriculum for at least one sociology class, so why are they coming to us so late?
- xiii)** *AJ:* To kind of throw it back a little, we are a committee that has the same bylaws every meeting and there's a consistency to be upheld with these kinds of things. These exact reasons we're considering denying this budget for are things that budgets have gotten denied for in the past. That's just something we have to remember is that we have two issues here and we have denied budgets in the past for only having one of these two.
- xiv)** *Kaitlyn:* Plus, even if we didn't have a break, they would have still been advertising to students that possibly already made plans because they didn't start until three and a half days before the event was supposed to take place. Since there is a break though, not everyone can push their plans aside. A lot of people have rideshares home for the break that they can't reschedule to make this event, which is just another factor.
- xv)** *Sammie:* Yeah, I feel like our school is very dependent on rideshares in general, whether people are driving or riding along since a lot of people live so far away from the campus. Plus, even if the sociology department offers credit for going, that doesn't guarantee a large turnout.
- xvi)** *Greg:* I don't know that they are for sure offering credit, but I do know that JSU said this is something they've been working very closely with the sociology department on. Also, the numbers that SFC collected and the numbers they provided are very different.
- *AJ:* Yeah, there was a difference of 50 people between our numbers and theirs.

- xvii)** *Sammi*: And again, it's the fact that they already put the posters up with our logo on it before they even received a budget for us.
- xviii)** *Emily* motioned to deny the budget on the grounds of Section 11 Article A in reference to Section 11 Article D, Section 11 Article E, and Section 11 Article H
 - *Kaitlyn* second; passes unanimously
 - Section 11 Article A: The request does not meet one or more of the provisions set forth elsewhere in this document
 - (a) Section 11 Article D: There is reason to believe, or evidence to indicate, that the activity will not be of interest to a sufficiently large number of students to warrant the expenditure proposed
 - (b) Section 11 Article E: There is reason to believe, due to poor past performance of an organization in its execution of a program, that the requested activity will not be carried out effectively
 - (c) Section 11 Article H: The budget request and accompanying rationale show lack of dedication to the program on the part of the organization, the member(s) of the student organization submitting the budget appears inadequately prepared for the budget hearing, and/or the organization has not demonstrated adequate planning for the activity in question

IX. Old Business

- a. No old business

X. Good of the Order

- a. *Sammi*: Last time we handed out applications for SFC, we got about half of them coming back, and we didn't appoint everyone that came back, so I'm expecting the same thing to happen this semester.

XI. Meeting Adjournment

- a. *Emily* motioned to adjourn the meeting
 - *Kaitlyn* second; Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.