



**76TH Student Senate
Resource for Travel Allocations Committee**

Call to Order:

Members Present: Chair Bevis, Vice Chair Vandermeulen, Members Lydiah Gracia, Tory Kim

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Kory Gehring

Guests:

Opening Remarks:

- Chair
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - The Student Government of Florida State University acknowledges that it is located on land that is the ancestral and traditional territory of the Apalachee Nation, the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, the Muscogee Creek Nation, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to their descendants and to all Indigenous people. We recognize this land remains scarred by the histories and ongoing legacies of settler colonial violence, dispossession, and removal. In spite of all this, and with tremendous resilience, these Indigenous Nations have remained deeply connected to this territory, to their families, to their communities, and to their cultural ways of life. We recognize the ongoing relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations maintain with this land and extend our gratitude as we live and work as humble and respectful guests upon their territory. We encourage all to learn about and educate others on the contemporary work of the Indigenous Nations whose land we are on and to endeavor to support Indigenous sovereignty in all the ways that we can.
- Vice Chair
- Members

Committee Business:

- Saxophone Association
 - Application Link:
 - Name of Event: North American Saxophone Alliance
 - Preliminary Remarks:
 - Asking for
 - Registration: \$0
 - Car Rental: \$1080

- Mileage: \$100
 - Airfare: \$5625
 - Lodging: \$2760
 - Other: \$0
 - Total: \$2239
 - Date of Event: 3/14/24-3/18/24
- Number of Active Members: 23
- Number Traveling: 15
- RSO Presentation:
- Questioning/Notes
 - We're open to anyone on campus and most of our members end up associated with the College of Music
 - Every couple years, there is a NASA conference
 - Each day is packed with presentations and performances from professionals ranging to amateurs
 - Our saxophone ensemble and saxophone quartet was selected to perform, from the audition video we submitted
 - Performing on a national stage makes people more aware of FSU
 - Gracia: To be clear, you're only asking funding for fifteen people?
 - Rep: Right, and due to the associated costs we're only requesting funding for those who are performing and need to be at the conference.
 - Gracia: If we were fully funding, how much would the members who were selected to attend be paying?
 - Rep: There would be a conference fee of \$75 and the total cost per person would be anywhere around \$500 before funding.
 - Kim: Is this event only for people in your organization?
 - Rep: Yes. We've been advertising this throughout the fall semester at our meetings.
 - Vandermeulen: The airfare request in your application is just over \$14,000. Does that reflect a typo?
 - Rep: When we made that initial request, that was before the Southwest flights were available. The prices in our presentation are the most up-to-date.
 - Bevis: Has your organization done any fundraising?
 - Rep: In the past, yes. Our previous president and treasurer did not keep the best books, so I couldn't tell you exactly how much we've raised. But we have done share-it nights at Chipotle.
 - Bevis: Were these in the last fall semester?
 - Rep: These would have been last fall. At the earliest, it was most likely a year prior to that.
 - Bevis: How much money do you have in your account?
 - Rep: It's like \$200.
 - Bevis: If you're not able to get any funding from us, do you have a plan to be able to attend this conference?
 - Rep: The next step would be trying to look into the College of Music and see if they're able to get us any supplemental funding.
 - Bevis: It sounds like if we're not able to fully fund you, you would want us to prioritize airfare?
 - Rep: Yes, absolutely.

- Bevis: How many people will there be per car?
 - Rep: This is for a ten-person van.
- Motion: Vandermeulen motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Gracia seconded.
- **Deliberations:**
 - Gracia: It's honestly a lot of money, even for fifteen people. And I'm trying to find where it says the distance you can travel for airfare. It said it was sixteen hours of driving, and in order to do that, they would have to stop at a hotel.
 - Kim: Do you have the breakdown of the line item?
 - Bevis: Yep, I brought it this time. I'll share the CR on my screen. If we gave them everything they requested, it would be just under \$18,000. Actually, it would probably be cheaper based on the airfare they just showed us.
 - Gracia: They're taking 15 people and not 23.
 - Kim: Isn't the cap for the hotels \$150 per night?
 - Bevis: It's actually \$300. I checked the student body statutes this morning.
 - Vandermeulen: I don't see, realistically, fully funding.
 - Kim: I feel like a lot of RSOs pay for travel themselves. I think we can fund a portion of their travel so that members don't have to pay \$500 per ticket but maybe around \$200. We can probably make lodging closer to \$1400.
 - Gracia: We can cut down their travel expenses a lot. And for lodging, maybe pay less than half.
 - Vandermeulen: For the travel expenses, I missed what their updated number was.
 - Gracia: They just said \$375 per person for fifteen people.
 - Kim: For the lodging, I think we can give them \$1416, because that's two nights with also four rooms to accommodate the 15 travelers. Didn't they say the College of Music might cover lodging or travel?
 - Gracia: They said the College of Music, in the past, has covered their lodging. So if we cover a little more of their airfare, they could be okay.
 - Kim: I think we should cover \$200 of the airfare.
 - Bevis: If this is the decision y'all want to make, I will get up in front of the Senate and defend this.
 - Kim: The only thing that concerns me is that the College of Music might fund a lot of their lodging.
 - Bevis: What do we think about lowering lodging to \$885? And we have airfare at \$3000.
 - Vandermeulen: I think this would be really hard to sway the Senate, specifically for the airfare part.
 - Gracia: If we pay \$125 of the airfare, that will be about \$1900.
 - Bevis: Yeah, it would come out to a total of \$2760.
- Gracia motioned to fund \$1875 in airfare. Vandermeulen seconded.
- Vandermeulen motioned to fund \$885 in lodging. Gracia seconded.
- Vandermeulen to call the question the line item. Gracia seconded.
- Vote to fund \$1875 in airfare and \$885 in lodging.
 - Yay: Gracia, Kim, Vandermeulen
 - Nay:
 - Abstain:
 - **PASS**

- Student Academy of Audiology at FSU
 - Application Link
 - Name of Event: American Academy of Audiology Conference
 - Preliminary Remarks
 - Asking for
 - Registration: \$360
 - Car Rental \$0
 - Mileage: \$200
 - Airfare: \$0
 - Lodging: \$2141.22
 - Other: \$0
 - Total: \$
 - Date of Event: 4/17/24-4/20/24
 - Number of Active Members: 30
 - Number Traveling: 8
 - RSO Presentation
 - Questioning/Notes
 - This conference offers education, networking, and lectures to anyone with a passion for audiology
 - Each day has a schedule from 8am to 6am, so we are going to get a lot out of this through participating for three days
 - Some of the sessions will include leadership development, rewiring the brain and hearing loss, advancing research in audiology
 - A lot of will be first-time attendees, and there will be an orientation for that
 - FSU is a unique undergraduate chapter, making the AAA free for us with the SAA being an extra \$45 registration fee
 - The Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park is where we'll be located, but there are nearby hotels that are cheaper to stay
 - The cost of hotels is our big hurdle since Atlanta is close enough to avoid any flight costs
 - Gracia: You said it was free for undergraduates. Is that only for students that are in your club?
 - Rep: Anyone can join the club. We've advertised this as an interest form to get people's emails on our social media to keep it open to anybody. Someone would have to sign up to be an undergraduate associate member through the greater organization in order to go.
 - Gracia: To go, you would have to sign up to be a member of the club to be considered free?
 - Rep: It would not be a club. You would register to be part of AAA with the governing board for it to be free. I would have to look into it because they don't give a price for non-members to go. From the research I've done, it's free for everybody.
 - Gracia: To clarify for your lodging, you said that was about \$1000 per night?
 - Rep: No, a thousand dollars total for the three nights.
 - Gracia: And you said you're only taking two cars to drive to Atlanta?
 - Rep: Yes, if we did eight people, we would need to take two cars. So four people in each car.

- Bevis: To clarify, how many nights are y'all staying?
 - Rep: It would be three nights. We would stay on the nights of the 16th, 17th, and 18th.
- Bevis: Has your organization been doing any fundraising?
 - Rep: Yes we have. We've had two fundraisers this year. For one of them, we partnered with Lucky Goat to sell coffee.
- Bevis: Do you know about how much y'all have raised from the fundraising you've done?
 - Rep: I think Lucky Goat fundraiser got us around \$200.
- Bevis: Where exactly are y'all allocating that money?
 - Rep: We haven't put the money anywhere. It would depend on how much funding we got for this conference. Or if we didn't end up going, it would be put toward something else.
- Bevis: If you were to not get funding from us, would you be able to attend this conference?
 - Rep: I don't think it would be in the cards. It would be up to the individual members if they want to split the cost of the hotel. It would be about the price range for the majority of people who showed interest.
- Bevis: If we are not able to fully fund you, are there areas you would like us to prioritize our spending?
 - Rep: The lodging is the most important. We could possibly cut one day out if necessary, or cut down the amount of people that can go. We would tweak the number of beds we're looking for.
- Bevis: If were able to give, say, half for lodging, would you still be able to attend this?
 - Rep: It would just have to be less people. Four instead of eight.
- Motion: Vandermeulen motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Gracia seconded.
- **Deliberations:**
 - Kim: Can I see the breakdown for their funding?
 - Bevis: Pulling it up now. I think it is a little cheaper because they did say lodging would be a little over \$1000.
 - Kim: I think we can definitely fund the lodging and then not so much the registration fee since it's \$45 per person and it sounds like an add-on.
 - Bevis: I would definitely recommend prioritizing the lodging.
 - Gracia: I agree with focusing on lodging, especially since their using to cars for the mileage reimbursement. Actually, it makes sense in my head so I'd be okay with the mileage reimbursement.
 - Vandermeulen: It seems straightforward overall. My only thing is that it's eight people going.
 - Gracia: Something I wanted to know is if they receive full funding, are they paying nothing?
 - Rep: The only thing we would have to spend is gas money to get there and food while we are there.
 - Gracia: You said that's only if we pay for lodging?
 - Rep: Yes.
 - Bevis: I noticed you gave a little different of a lodging quote in your application. How much total are you seeking for lodging?

- Rep: I have it for \$1035.54 for the one room for the entire stay. So two rooms would be \$2071.
 - Vandermeulen: They said they would be paying for gas. In general with these requests, is there any difference between paying for gas and paying for mileage?
 - Bevis: I always saw them as the same thing.
 - Vandermeulen: Okay. I just got a little confused there for a second.
 - Gracia: I think we can fund \$0 in mileage reimbursement. That would be \$25 each they would have to pay for gas.
 - Bevis: What are we thinking about the registration fee?
 - Kim: I think we can get rid of it since it's an add-on that's not necessary.
 - Bevis: I agree. What are we thinking number-wise for lodging? Do we want to fund one room with four people? Or fund two?
 - Gracia: For each person, it would be \$259 with the price they gave us. I think we can fully fund lodging.
 - Kim: I agree with fully funding going off of their cheapest price of \$2071.
 - Motion: Kim motioned to fund \$0 in mileage, \$0 in registration, and \$2071 in lodging. Gracia seconded.
 - Gracia motioned to call the question the line item. Kim seconded.
 - Vote to fund \$2071 in lodging and \$0 in both mileage and registration
 - Yay: Gracia, Kim, Vandermeulen
 - Nay:
 - Abstain:
 - **PASS**
- The National Society of Black Women in Medicine
 - Application Link
 - Name of Event: Emory Medical School Tour
 - Preliminary Remarks
 - Asking for
 - Registration: \$0
 - Bus rental: \$3731.95
 - Mileage: \$0
 - Airfare: \$0
 - Lodging: \$0
 - Other: \$0
 - Total: \$3731.95
 - Date of Event: 2/16/24
 - Number of Active Members: 93
 - Number Traveling: 56
 - RSO Presentation
 - Questioning/Notes
 - We'll get to learn more about post-undergrad opportunities
 - Will be touring Colleges of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing
 - The bus company we found was able to give us the lowest price for the most amount of people
 - We didn't want this to be an out-of-pocket for anyone wanting the opportunity
 - We've been in contact with Emory and they agreed to host a panel for us
 - Been heavy on advertising through Instagram and Market Wednesday

- Kim: Is it just a one-day trip to go to Atlanta and back?
 - Rep: Yes, and we'll be leaving around 6 in the morning and getting back pretty late around 11.
- Kim: And is that 500 miles for round trip or just one way?
 - Rep: To go and then come back, so yes, for round trip.
- Gracia: It says that you asked for money from Sweepings. Could you tell us about where that money has gone?
 - Rep: We got around \$5000 from Sweepings, used money to get and MCAT prep book, shirts and lab coats, and we wanted to make this trip available to everybody.
- Gracia: Considering the money you're asking for, besides the bus, what are the people going on this trip paying for?
 - Rep: If we get the RTAC funding, we're hoping to make it free by using our funds to pay for one meal for each person. We don't want to ask people to pay, but if that were the case, they would mainly be paying for the bus. Options are limited because we were able to fundraise through concessions, but now we can't do that because football is over.
- Gracia: It says you got \$8000 from fundraising. Is any of that going to be used for the trip?
 - Rep: Yes, it will be used to provide one meal for those attending. A lot of what we fundraised is unfortunately gone now, from spending on events.
- Bevis: How much money does your organization have in your account?
 - Rep: Currently I believe we have about \$3700 in account.
- Bevis: Are you planning on spending any of it for this trip?
 - Rep: Most of our account will go toward paying for one meal for everyone.
- Bevis: How are you planning to use the money from Sweepings if you haven't already?
 - Rep: We were hoping to purchase lab coats, t-shirts, MCAT and GRE tools so members will have access to those for years to come. Currently, we want to save it for all that.
- Bevis: If you don't get any funding from us, do you have a plan for getting to attend this tour?
 - Rep: We would end up having to fundraise more since we don't want to have to make the members pay. We will look for other avenues of fundraising.
- Bevis: If we were able to only partially fund, would you still be able to afford to go?
 - Rep: If we were able to get half, it would probably be a lot more difficult for us.
- Motion: Vandermeulen motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Kim seconded.
- **Deliberations**
 - Kim: Back to the mileage, isn't there a cap for how much someone can travel in one day?
 - Bevis: I think you're right.
 - Kim: I think it was like 400 or 500.

- Bevis: I think if it is that, they can probably reach Emory before they hit 500. It looks like Emory is 230 miles away. The way I see it, I would say they would be okay since it's a day trip.
- Kim: I'm just worried about what Senate and Finance Committee will say if they work out the exact number and end up wanting to do lodging.
- Bevis: Let's see. To Emory and back is about 532 miles. I'm searching the Finance Code to see what I can find. I'm not finding anything but I'll check the Financial Manual as well.
- Gracia: It says in the manual that to ensure adequate rest time, drivers are not allowed to exceed 500 miles per day.
- Bevis: But they're taking a bus so not really driving themselves. Does that more apply to vehicle rentals or if they're driving themselves.
- Gracia: There's a section for bus services but it doesn't specify that part.
- Bevis: It looks like that if they get a bus, they would be fine. That's at least how I interpret the manual.
- Gracia: There's a part in here that seems like it implies bus drivers could be an exception to the 500-mile rule.
- Bevis: Also, since it's a day trip, it would be hard to do lodging. I would definitely allow giving them funding. And it is benefiting a lot of people. It's a pretty good cost for 56 people.
- Kim: Did they say that's the only thing they're funding? Like they're paying for everything else with what they have?
- Bevis: They made it sound like they're going to be paying for one meal for everyone.
- Kim: Okay. I think we should fund them for travel, but since it's over \$3000, we should lower it a little bit for Senate.
- Bevis: Maybe give them something like half, two-thirds, maybe something in the middle?
- Vandermeulen: Maybe like 75%.
- Gracia: Yeah, 75%. It's only about \$66 per person. So if we lower that to \$45, it would be \$2500.
- Bevis: Okay, it would come out to \$2520. You all like that number for travel expense?
- Motion: Kim motioned to fund \$2520 in bus rental. Vandermeulen seconded.
- Vandermeulen motioned to call the question the line item. Gracia seconded.
- Vote to fund \$2520 in bus rental
 - Yay: Gracia, Kim, Vandermeulen
 - Nay:
 - Abstain:
 - **PASS**

Closing Announcements:

- Chair
 - You all did an amazing job participating tonight. Is sending a Google Doc with all the funding requests working for you all? I can also send a mock consent resolution prior to meetings.
- Vice Chair
 - Let me know if I can help with the RTAC minutes template.

- Members
 - None

Adjourned at 8:24pm

Signature of RTAC Chair: *Parker Beris*