



**76<sup>TH</sup> Student Senate  
Resource for Travel Allocations Committee**

**Call to Order:**

**Members Present:** Chair Bevis, Vice Chair Vandermeulen, Members Lydiah Gracia, Jose Collantes, Kelsey Strigler, Avery Cronin, Mario Zeron

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent:** Lauren Mayo, Kory Gehring (Excused), Tory Kim (Unexcused)

**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:**

- Alpha Epsilon Delta
  - Application Link:
  - Name of Event: Medical Missions Trip – Maximo Nivel Program
  - Preliminary Remarks:
    - Asking for
      - Registration: \$0

- Car Rental: \$0
  - Mileage: \$0
  - Airfare: \$1800
  - Lodging: \$0
  - Other: \$0
  - Total: \$1800
  - Date of Event: 3/10/24-3/16/24
- Number of Active Members: 171
- Number Traveling: 12
- RSO Presentation:
- Questioning/Notes
  - This year's trip will be in Costa Rica in the middle of March
  - We are dedicated to pre-professional health scholarships including medicine, dentistry, veterinarian, etc.
  - This is volunteerism with the medical campaign program, so we'll help the small communities with less access to healthcare, roughly 15-20 hours of volunteer work
  - The people going will be giving direct patient care that will be supervised by doctors, as well as getting the cultural experience
  - We are flying via Spirit at Fort Lauderdale because a lot of people on our team live close to there and it is the cheapest quote
  - We started a GoFundMe page and have had two raffles
  - We are requesting less than a third of our total flight cost, but we wanted to make sure it was affordable for our students
  - Vandermeulen: In terms of the \$1800, is the remainder of the airfare going to be mostly out-of-pocket or from the fundraising you've done or a combination of the two?
    - Rep: Most of our fundraising, if not all, will be going toward that airfare cost. Our students have already paid for the airfare. We just want to make sure they'll be able to afford other things, such as lodging in Fort Lauderdale for the people who don't actually live there. We are just looking for a portion of the flight cost.
  - Bevis: How much money does your organization have in your account?
    - Rep: This year, I think with our budget, we have \$11,000. And that budget only goes toward this trip and general events for the society.
  - Bevis: How did you advertise for this trip?
    - Rep: We had a flyer that I can share with you. We posted flyers on our Instagram and at our general body meetings. There are also email lists, a module in Canvas, and general announcements in our GBMs. I also created an interest form just to get a broad range of who's going and any questions people had about the trip before we actually started selecting people for it.
  - Bevis: If we aren't able to give you all the funding you want, what is your plan for being able to afford going on this trip?
    - Rep: Our plan is to continue fundraising. We have an email template that we are asking our AED student body to send out to family, friends, and businesses. That way, we can keep getting our excursion out there so that people know about it and so we can

raise more money. I will also reach out to local Tallahassee businesses for their financial help.

- Motion: Gracia motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Vandermeulen seconded.
- **Deliberations:**
  - Vandermeulen: What do we know now that we didn't know last time?
  - Bevis: Now we know that we can reimburse flights if they already bought them. The feeling I got from the committee was that y'all wanted to zero fund. But if it were my call, I would have probably given them the money anyway.
  - Gracia: I don't think there's anything wrong with \$1800.
  - Strigler: I want to agree with that since it's not a lot compared to our budget and it's for a good cause.
  - Bevis: I just calculated it and it's about \$150 per head that we would be paying.
- Motion: Vandermeulen motioned to fully fund. Gracia seconded.
- Motion: Gracia motioned to call the question the line item. Vandermeulen seconded.
- Vote to fully fund
  - Yay: Gracia, Collantes, Strigler, Cronin, Zeron, Vandermeulen
  - Nay:
  - Abstain:
  - **PASS**
- Multicultural Marketing Student Association
  - Application Link
  - Name of Event: Hispanic/Latino Media & Marketing Conference
  - Preliminary Remarks
    - Asking for
      - Registration: \$0
      - Car Rental: \$0
      - Mileage: \$0
      - Airfare: \$1020
      - Lodging: \$0
      - Other: \$0
      - Total: \$1020
      - Date of Event: 4/4/24-4/7/24
    - Number of Active Members: 200
    - Number Traveling: 3
    - RSO Presentation
  - Questioning/Notes
    - We are a student-led organization that is a direct affiliate with the Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication
    - We provide diverse membership through experiences, networking, resources and tools to succeed in the realm of multicultural marketing
    - Typically we seek outside conferences but we like to also bring in industry professionals to give information sessions of different career paths
    - Funds will be allocated to our plan to promote our identity and provide expanded knowledge on marketing in the multicultural sector

- We have been reviving our organization for the past couple months and have been doing really well; currently affiliated with HLSU
- This will help our members with development skills and potentially bring more members into our organization
- Planning to attend the ALMMACR conference, which looks to create a network of industry professional students who dedicate their work to the Hispanic community in the U.S.
- The students attending will all be presenting research, which will really help their CV and their professional career development
- Benefits to the student body include networking opportunities, strengthened professional development, and expanded knowledge on different types of marketing research opportunities
- We're specifically asking for airfare to be covered since we're thankful that the Center for Hispanic Marketing Communication will be providing housing and transportation
- Checking every day, the prices have been fluctuating from \$320 to \$340
- Strigler: How did you advertise this to the student body?
  - Rep: We have mentioned it in our general body meetings and we also are working on flyers for our social media channels. We also table at market Wednesday every week.
- Zeron: Have you tried fundraising in any way that would help?
  - Rep: We have actually been very fortunate because most of the expenses are being covered by the Center for Hispanic Marketing. So in terms of hotels, conference registration, transportation, we are set. But for the flights, we have not been able to get funding for that.
- Bevis: How much money does your organization have in your account?
  - Rep: Are you asking for our off-campus account or our SGA funding account?
- Bevis: How much do you have in both?
  - Rep: Currently, I think we're looking at \$150 in off-campus since we just started it with a fundraiser. Looking at SGA funding, we had \$2000 but we are currently working on a purchase order for shirts.
- Bevis: How much money did you get from Sweepings and what's that going toward?
  - Rep: Money from Sweepings was way before we found out about the conference so it went toward paper materials for Market Wednesday, shirts, tote bags, and different activities/events.
- Bevis: If you're not able to get the full funding you requested tonight, do you have a plan to be able to afford this trip?
  - Rep: The students attending know that everything is covered other than airfare. We're looking to do more fundraisers. It's out of pocket if we can't find funding.
- Vandermeulen: Since this trip is in April, is the number of travelers liable to change or is that determined?
  - Rep: Acceptance letters for the conference have already been sent out, so it's closed. I think they had an extended deadline but I think it's coming up around now.
- Motion: Gracia motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Strigler seconded.

- **Deliberations:**
  - Gracia: I think this is reasonable.
  - Vandermeulen: This probably shouldn't affect our decision, but I'm just a little thrown off by the small number of attendees.
  - Bevis: It's pretty small. But personally, I don't care a lot about that part.
  - Vandermeulen: Right. Over time, I've paid less attention to that part.
  - Collantes: I feel like the money is not too much. If it was advertised to the student body, I don't see any reason to not fund them.
  - Bevis: This might be the smallest request we get all semester.
- Motion: Zeron motioned to fully fund. Strigler seconded.
- Motion: Vandermeulen motioned to call the question the line item. Gracia seconded.
- Vote to fund \$1020 in lodging and \$0 in both mileage and registration
  - Yay: Gracia, Collantes, Strigler, Cronin, Zeron, Vandermeulen
  - Nay:
  - Abstain:
  - **PASS**
  
- Sigma Tau Delta Rho Epsilon Chapter
  - Application Link
  - Name of Event: Sigma Tau Delta Centennial Conference
  - Preliminary Remarks
    - Asking for
      - Registration: \$324 - \$1688\*
      - Food: \$2088
      - Mileage: \$464.58
      - Airfare: \$795 - \$3710\*
      - Lodging: \$1884
      - Airport Parking: \$210
      - Total: \$5765.58 - \$10,044.58\*
        - \*contingencies related to SCURC funding
      - Date of Event: 4/3/24-4/7/24
    - Number of Active Members: 80
    - Number Traveling: 14
    - RSO Presentation
  - Questioning/Notes
    - It's a professional convention we've been promoting since last Spring after the last one passed
    - This is a space for professional writers in both creative and critical sense to present their work and to meet with peers and talk about a variety of subjects in the English sphere
    - FSU has one of the best public English programs in the country
    - Thankfully there were a lot of acceptances this semester
    - We are applying for funding through SCURC, but from our understanding they only cover flights and registrations, and we haven't heard back from them
    - We've thrown everything together into this spreadsheet with SCURC funding and differences between graduate and undergraduate students
    - We have one member being funded through the Honors college, so that's separate

- Bevis: How did you advertise the trip?
      - Rep: We advertised the conference since last Spring through monthly emails to our general body of about 200 members. They all receive emails about opportunities like this and we always talk about conferences and whatnot in our general body meetings.
    - Bevis: Have you done anything else like maybe flyers or social media?
      - Rep: I do not think so. We have been sticking to our bubble in the Williams building because that's the general focus of our organization.
    - Bevis: Did you submit a quote to us for lodging?
      - Rep: I think so. Since I submitted the form, we have had four new people committed to going. That's why they say 10.
  - Motion: Gracia motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Vandermeulen seconded.
  - **Deliberations**
    - Bevis: We can't give them any funding.
    - Gracia: Is it too late to ask them to open it up?
    - Bevis: We can suggest that to them, but as of now I don't think we would be allowed to give them any funding.
    - Vandermeulen: Since this trip is in April, they have time, so we can definitely give them that suggestion.
    - Gracia: I agree with that.
    - Collantes: If they do end up coming back, what kind of questions should we ask?
    - Bevis: I would say questions about what they would like us to prioritize funding on, what fundraising they've done. There are definitely some great questions on the sheet Kelsey made, so I would definitely look at those. I can maybe get a sheet like that from the former RTAC chair.
  - Motion: Vandermeulen motioned to fund \$0. Collantes seconded.
  - Motion: Strigler motioned to call the question the line item. Collantes seconded.
  - Vote to fund \$0
    - Yay: Gracia, Collantes, Strigler, Cronin, Vandermeulen
    - Nay:
    - Abstain:
    - **PASS**
- Dental Brigades
  - Application Link
  - Name of Event: Dental Brigades Service Trip
  - Preliminary Remarks
    - Asking for
      - Registration: \$
      - Bus rental: \$
      - Mileage: \$
      - Airfare: \$
      - Lodging: \$
      - Other: \$0
      - Total: \$3000
      - Date of Event: 5/5/24-5/11/24
    - Number of Active Members: 45

- Number Traveling: 45
- RSO Presentation
- Questioning/Notes
  - We'll be going on a service trip to Panama for a week
  - We partner with dentists there and give free dental care to patients, as well as hygiene supplies and education workshops
  - Panama was chosen because most people in the community we're going to live below the poverty line and have never been to a dentist
  - We also get to boost our resumes, for those going to dental school, and we're continuing our value of volunteerism
  - There were different options for flights and we chose the cheapest ones
  - Our organization has fundraised \$5000 on our own as of today
  - This is the total cost of everything we need to pay for, and of that we are asking for \$3000
  - Hopefully we can get partial funding since every penny matters and will help
  - Gracia: What does the \$3000 cover?
    - Rep: It would only be covering a partial of all these things I showed before. It wouldn't be the full thing but we would be dividing it amongst the people going on the trip.
  - Gracia: Can you explain the lodging again? You said there's 45 of you and how many rooms?
    - Rep: Since it's a rather hostile situation, there are bunk beds that fill a couple rooms, one for the guys and one for the girls.
  - Gracia: Can you break down which part of the \$3000 would go into what?
    - Rep: We would probably put it toward our lodging.
  - Bevis: Can you walk me through what the registration fee money would be going to?
    - Rep: Global Brigades collects all of our money for this so that they can distribute it to the lodging. To be able to go on the trip, there's a certain donation goal and it includes this lodging and our food. But I didn't include the food in this.
  - Bevis: Is there more than four people per room?
    - Rep: Yes, because it's not a typical lodging space.
  - Bevis: If we were to fully give you \$3000, would you be okay if that went toward your airfare?
    - Rep: Yes.
  - Rep: How does that get distributed to us if you were to do the airfare?
    - Bevis: Honestly, I'm not the expert on that. That's more of the SGA accounting office. I can get you in touch with Laurel McKinney. She's SGA's business manager. We can work something out for you.
  - Bevis: What kind of fundraisers have you done?
    - Rep: We've done share-it nights, tabling on campus like Market Wednesday, and we partnered with Volunteer Tallahassee and they paid us to help volunteer at their events.
  - Gracia: How much money is in your organization's account?
    - Rep: I couldn't tell you off the top of my head, but all the fundraising does go toward our trip. I know we had \$5000 that we fundraised.

- Motion: Gracia motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Cronin seconded.
- **Deliberations**
  - Bevis: Okay, so their presentation was a lot different from what they requested. So, they're asking for a total of \$3000. I'm not too sure if we can fund for lodging. I know there are special circumstances. And I don't think we can fund a donation goal. My personal recommendation is to focus it on airfare.
  - Gracia: I think we can do the \$3000 in travel expenses.
  - Cronin: I think that is really fair compared to what was originally asked.
  - Bevis: Definitely a lot more reasonable.
- Motion: Gracia motioned to fund \$3000 in travel expense and \$0 in registration and lodging. Cronin seconded.
- Motion: Gracia motioned to call the question the line item. Vandermeulen seconded.
- Vote to fund \$3000 in travel expense and \$0 in registration and lodging
  - Yay: Gracia, Collantes, Cronin, Vandermeulen
  - Nay:
  - Abstain: Strigler
  - **PASS**

#### **Closing Announcements:**

- Chair
  - Good job to our new members at large. I would recommend taking a look at that list of questions. I've been working on creating an RTAC orientation. I will talk to our advisor more about that. I was also thinking about getting together and coming up with limits on certain categories and how much we fund. I don't know how much we'll be able to do because we may run out of money by the first week of March. I'm going to find out if it's something that's still worth it to do.
- Vice Chair
  - Happy to welcome our new members and glad you got a feel of how the meetings work
- Members
  - None

**Adjourned at** 8:14pm

Signature of RTAC Chair: *Parker Bevis*