



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

**Call to Order:**

**Members Present:** Chair Bevis, Vice Chair Vandermeulen, Members Jose Collantes, Avery Cronin, Lydiah Gracia, Senator Goldstein

**Members Tardy:**

**Members Absent:** Kory Gehring, Mario Zeron, Lauren Mayo (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:**

- Arnold Air Society at FSU
  - Application Link:
  - Name of Event: Arnold Air Society/Silver Wings National Conclave
  - Preliminary Remarks:
    - Asking for
      - Registration: \$3060

- Car Rental: \$0
  - Mileage: \$0
  - Airfare: \$5400
  - Lodging: \$0
  - Other: \$0
  - Total: \$8460
  - Date of Event: 3/29/24-4/2/24
- Number of Active Members: 19
- Number Traveling: 9
- RSO Presentation:
- Questioning/Notes
  - AAS is a professional, honorary, service organization comprised of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets
  - One of our biggest goals at the national level is community service
  - In Tallahassee, we have hosted a 5k and done forest cleanups
  - We are all trying to be air force officers, so we work on professional development to become better at leading people for our careers
  - It's important that we understand how important national defense is and that our student body is educated about it
  - National Conclave (NATCON) is used as a central means of determining the policies of both AAS and Silver Wings, which is the sister association to AAS; it's a great networking opportunity
  - We looked at the five major goals FSU has for students, and the one that stuck out to us was ensuring student success on campus and beyond
  - NATCON is building tomorrow's leaders on the air force and the civilian force
  - We can implement these ideas to events for the student body when we get back from this; perspectives from leaders and other students
  - Goldstein: I just heard a presentation yesterday from the VSU for the budget request and they were saying how they're wanting to go to NATCON more frequently and organize a full NATCON trip. Have you spoken to them?
    - Rep: We have not. But I will definitely write that down and get in contact with them. I had no idea VSU was interested in that.
  - Gracia: How much of the money that you fundraised is going towards this trip?
    - Rep: We fundraised a majority through a snack bar, which doesn't have a huge markup. We've made around \$500. We plan to hopefully pay for one person's membership with that and do so based on a merit system. That covers only a fraction of the cost for one person. So, if we were to send more people, we would need more money from you, which is why we're requesting. And we appreciate you hearing us.
  - Goldstein: Looking at your application, is that \$940 per person or is that total?
    - Rep: That would be per person.
  - Collantes: How did you publicly advertise this event?
    - Rep: All AAS and Silver Wing members are afforded the opportunity to go to NATCON. Specifically, for our squadron, everyone in the organization knew about it. If we are to get

funding, it would be based on merit system. NATCON has an Instagram, which I can share with you.

- Bevis: How much money does your organization have in its account?
  - Rep: We just put up the snack bar again. Right now, we have around \$150, but once that snack bar starts to sell items again, that money will come back up. As soon as we restock it again, that value goes low. We're not trying to make a ton of money on the snack bar, so as not to rip off our own cadets. We don't make a lot of profit off that.
- Vandermeulen: If you were not able to get fully funded by us, what area would you like us to prioritize between the airfare and the registration fee?
  - Rep: We do realize we're requesting a lot of money. I would say, from what I've heard from people about out-of-pocket, if we do not get fully funded, then the airfare because it's the most expensive part of the trip. That would help us send more people. More people would be willing to go if the airfare is covered to San Diego.
- Gracia: Are you receiving any external funding for this? And if not, what would happen if you're not able to get the money you're requesting tonight?
  - Rep: There is something called the monthly involvement program where national staff at Michigan Tech sends us tasks to do. We are the top-scoring squadron in the nation for that. They mentioned that we might be getting scholarships based on that. We don't know anything about that and won't know until we get closer to the day of NATCON. I believe that would cover partial membership costs for a couple members. If we don't get funding from you, we may be able to send one or two people. But that would not be nearly as much as we could send if we were to get funding from you.
- Bevis: If you don't get full funding, what is your plan to be able to go on this trip?
  - Rep: If we weren't to get full funding, we would select who would go with the funding we received on a merit-based system. We'll try our hardest to get fundraising and send as many people as we can.
- Bevis: Is this trip open to the entire student body?
  - Rep: Unfortunately, no. NATCON is military only. So it's only AAS and Silver Wings members. I've never heard of an average student being able to go to NATCON. I believe what's important is we can bring these ideas back to the student body despite it not be open to the student body. Silver Wings is primarily a civilian organization, so there are plenty of civilians that go to NATCON. But one would have to be a member in Silver Wings or AAS.
- Motion: Goldstein motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Collantes seconded.
- **Deliberations:**
  - Goldstein: I say we fifty percent fund them on each line item.
  - Bevis: I've had talks with advisors about funding trips that aren't open to the student body. I know they are okay with it. I just wanted to put that out there, but I can't predict how Senate is going to respond.

- Goldstein: I will add that in the statutes there is a subclause to the rule about not funding trips that aren't open to the student body. It says that if we believe it can benefit the image of FSU, then we can still fund it. That's up to RTAC's and Senate's discretion.
    - Collantes: That subclause definitely clears it up for this decision.
    - Bevis: Can you show me where that is? Honestly, they convinced that there will be benefits to this. I don't think the rule makes a lot of sense for travel anyway.
    - Gracia: I was looking either to fully fund just airfare or going half on each like Jonus said. If we fully fund airfare, it would be \$5400.
    - Bevis: That's a good suggestion, maybe fully funding one of the categories.
    - Goldstein: I found that clause under PAC and RTAC guidelines, under G it says "The Committee shall not fund for events which are likely to only have group members attend and have no general benefit to the student body." So it's up to us defining whether we think there's a general student body benefit. The rule can be waived by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of our committee.
    - Bevis: Basically, you would all need to vote "yes" and we can fund this.
    - Goldstein: I'm down to fully fund their airfare or half fund it. I think half funding would be cheaper overall.
    - Bevis: I just want to put it out there that we have probably three meetings left. We need to maintain longevity, but RTAC will be over soon.
    - Goldstein: I think it would be around four grand if we half funded the total.
    - Vandermeulen: Yeah, it would be \$4230.
  - Motion: Collantes motioned to half fund. Gracia seconded.
  - Motion: Goldstein motioned to call the question the line item. Collantes seconded.
  - Vote to half fund
    - Yay: Collantes, Gracia, Cronin, Goldstein, Vandermeulen
    - Nay:
    - Abstain:
    - **PASS**
- Themed Entertainment Association
  - Application Link
  - Name of Event: Universal College Leadership Program
  - Preliminary Remarks
    - Asking for
      - Registration: \$500
      - Car Rental: \$0
      - Mileage: \$0
      - Airfare: \$0
      - Lodging: \$830
      - Other: \$665 (general park ticket)
      - Total: \$1995
      - Date of Event: 4/5/24-4/6/24
    - Number of Active Members:
    - Number Traveling: 20
    - RSO Presentation
  - Questioning/Notes

- We're not funded by the actual TEA, we're just a nonprofit organization
- We professionally develop students to go into the themed entertainment world in places like Universal and Broadway
- Lots of industry overlap like hospitality, engineering, graphic design
- We did this once, but we want to go back to Universal because we did a career leadership program a couple years ago and we managed to get the twenty people to come and get industry tips from workers
- To make the trip comfortable, we want to make it one night since we have a person from ETC, a lighting company, who offered a free tour
- The park ticket is \$117 and the Universal ticket for the event is \$25 per person
- The hotel we were looking at, the best of three, was the Hampton Inn which had \$166 for one night; it's most conveniently located because it has a shuttle, which makes it cost efficient for the students going; we are taking on the cost of parking ourselves
- Here is a tentative list of people who would be interested in going
- Everyone's carpooling because that's what worked for us before
- We have a lot of Disney workers that sometimes communicate with us
- We're trying for cost effectiveness because most of those in our group are people of color and of low income; so we were hoping to get two thousand funded so the price could stay at \$85, which isn't the least that people can pay but it's the most comfortable
- Goldstein: You said you wanted \$2000, is that for just one of the line items and do you still want the \$3695 request?
  - Rep: I don't know why it went that high when I typed it in. I remember typing in \$2000. We showed you the overall cost and then the \$2000 is what we would need.
- Bevis: I just want to make sure I got it too. The \$3695 is the total it will cost and the \$1995 is just what you need from us, right?
  - Rep: Yes.
- Goldstein: Were the people going on this trip already selected? How does the selection process work?
  - Rep: It's going to be first come first serve. We have been posting on our Instagram story mainly before we have a final post that lists a price. We don't anyone to be caught off guard with a price that is different from what they were told. We've also been saying it at our GBMs and posting it through surveys on our GroupMe and Instagram links. The link to sign up will cap at twenty people. Whoever does it first, gets in. It's easier that way to get commitment.
- Goldstein: As a follow up, are you dropping that link publicly on your Instagram or the GroupMe, how does that work?
  - Rep: Publicly on the Instagram.
- Vandermeulen: Going off your presentation and what you were just saying, are some names on that tentative list not going to end up going if you're capping it at twenty?
  - Rep: The list that we have is at twenty because that's what Universal caps it at. When we ask for people to see who can come, it's more about if we will have twenty people by the time

that it gets to it. Some of the people on the list have said “it depends.” Some are committed and others are 50/50.

- Vandermeulen: Oh, I guess I didn’t count the number of names. So basically, that just means there’s a possibility it goes down a little?
  - Rep: Yes.
- Gracia: Are you planning on only having FSU students on this trip or is it opening up to the public?
  - Rep: We are planning on only FSU students. If it so happens that we don’t have enough FSU students interested, we would reach out to TEA chapters in other universities to see if they were interested. That’s what we did before, and some of them were and some came. It’s usually students at UCF, just because they live there and are under the same chapter. It ended up being maybe an extra one or two people just because we couldn’t get that twenty cap that we wanted. But this year, we’ve been better at advertising it early because we want people to be aware of it and keep an eye out on our Instagram just so they can actually come. We’re pretty convinced that it will be mainly FSU students.
- Gracia: If we can’t fund this whole thing, what is your organization going to do to make it up or will you even be able to go on the trip?
  - Rep: It depends on the extra quantity that we would have to pay. So if it’s a payable quantity, the group members would just contribute more money because we’re willing to do so. But in the case that we aren’t willing, we would probably have to talk about actual fundraising. We have possible ideas for that. It is a little difficult because of how new we are as an organization.
- Motion: Goldstein motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Collantes seconded.
- **Deliberations:**
  - Goldstein: I think fully fund.
  - Bevis: I agree, fully fund. I appreciate when RSOs don’t have a ton of financial need.
  - Goldstein: They’re also charging their members \$85 each. I actually kind of want to go on this trip honestly.
  - Bevis: These are like the perfect RTAC requests. They have financial need and it’s for such an ideal amount. We just have to decide how much of that \$1995 we can give in each category.
  - Goldstein: Can we ask them? I just don’t know what line items they go under.
  - Vandermeulen: Would a park ticket fall under the registration fee column?
  - Bevis: Okay, they want the park ticket and lodging. So it would turn out to be \$830 for lodging, \$500 under registration, and whatever is left would go under travel expense.
  - Vandermeulen: So that would be \$665.
- Motion: Goldstein motioned to fund \$830 in lodging, \$500 in registration, and \$665 in travel expense. Collantes seconded.
- Motion: Goldstein motioned to call the question the line item. Collantes seconded.
- Vote to fund \$2071 in lodging and \$0 in both mileage and registration
  - Yay: Collantes, Gracia, Cronin, Goldstein, Vandermeulen
  - Nay:
  - Abstain:

- **PASS**

**Closing Announcements:**

- Chair
  - Please let me know if you can't make a meeting at least a day in advance. People did better with that this time. Shoutout to Jonus for being here to meet quorum. We don't have a lot of meetings left, but there will be one after spring break. Also, be nice during election week.
- Vice Chair
  - None
- Members
  - Gracia: On Wednesday, Union Board is having Union Palooza. It's like an open house for the student body to be able to engage with the Union department. It's at 3 so everyone come out to the Union. There will be giveaways.

**Adjourned at** 8:09pm

Signature of RTAC Chair: *Parker Bevis*