



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

Call to Order:

Members Present: Chair Bevis, Vice Chair Vandermeulen, Members Jose Collantes, Lauren Mayo, Lydiah Gracia

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Avery Cronin, Mario Zeron, Kory Gehring, Kelsey Strigler (Excused), Tory Kim (Unexcused)

Guests: Senator Goldstein

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:

- Progressive Black Men Inc.
 - Application Link
 - Name of Event: Service Trip
 - Preliminary Remarks
 - Asking for

- Registration: \$0
- Car Rental: \$0
- Mileage: \$0
- Airfare: \$0
- Lodging: \$3600
- Other: \$12,400 (charter bus)
- Total: \$16,000
- Date of Event: 4/5/24-4/8/24
- Number of Active Members: 28
- Number Traveling: 56
- RSO Presentation
- Questioning/Notes
 - We are here to reconstruct the image of the black male and uplift people of African-American dissent through brotherhood, community service, humanitarian aid, etc.
 - The mission is to eradicate negative stereotypes of African-American people through academic excellence
 - We offer a dedicated organization committed to fulfilling its mission through multi-faceted approaches such as community service, volunteerism, and humanitarian aid; we also host events like seminars, developmental workshops, and awareness campaigns
 - The backbone of our funding is from dues (\$30 semester) and fundraising
 - Year-round fundraising like “Pie a Brother,” Krispy Kreme, Chipotle, and concessions during the football season
 - The service trip is meant to connect with areas not in local Tallahassee
 - Having hands-on engagement with other campuses would hopefully generate some positive change
 - We’re trying to immerse ourselves in others’ situations so we can make as big an impact as we can
 - We were hoping to get funding for traveling fees, but I know it is very limited on what we can get right now
 - We’re trying to do as much fundraising as we can to take the weight off our members
 - We were hoping to get a large Airbnb since it’s more reasonable than the hotel fees we found
 - We want to fit as many people as possible, so we were looking into bringing air mattresses and having people share beds
 - Collantes: How did you advertise to the public, to all FSU students?
 - Rep: The majority of advertising has been toward personal connections with organizations we’re associated with. We posted on our Instagram about an informational that we had in February. It was first come, first serve since there were limited spots. If someone attended the informational, they got first access to knowing whether or not they could attend the trip.
 - Vandermeulen: Considering we’re not able to fully fund, would you rather us prioritize the charter bus or the lodging?
 - Rep: Since the charter bus is something we might have to edit due to the demand of it right now, it would mostly be lodging for sure. It’s not as high so we would rather a focus on covering that.

Lodging would probably stay the most consistent compared to the travel in case we were to change locations.

- Mayo: Would the Airbnb be four people per room? If I could just get the specifics for that again?
 - Rep: I'll show you the quote. Here's the Airbnb information. There's a bunch of different bedrooms. Like I said, we're trying to host as many people within the overall trip. Each bedroom has a certain amount of beds but we hoping to invest in bringing air mattresses so that there's more room. People getting to sleep in their own bed wouldn't maximize the amount of people. There are eight bedrooms and there's also more space in the living room area for things like air mattresses.
- Mayo: You have 28 members and 56 are going. Since we can't fully fund, would you prioritize some members? How would that selection process work?
 - Rep: We are mainly focused on the current members within the organization, especially some that might not have been available in past years. We'd also make sure everyone with community outreach would have the opportunity to attend. Then we'd move on to alumni. After that, we'd look into anyone else who's available to come.
- Mayo: Out of these 56 people, are the additional people not in the organization paying those same \$30 dues for the trip?
 - Rep: No. So the dues are actually what the organization collects and uses at the beginning of the semester just to be able to fund typical events to prove who is an actual active member of the organization. We're trying to do as much as we can to limit the cost for the individual people, but that depends on how much support is provided.
- Bevis: How much money does your organization have in its account?
 - Rep: Right now, it's around \$3500. But we are waiting for round two of \$2500 more from Legends Hospitality, the concessions we did. There have just been some delays in getting the checks.
- Bevis: Are you planning on allocating any of that money to this trip or the rest of the semester?
 - Rep: The bulk of that money would probably go toward the trip and for the rest of the semester, we should be okay because we wouldn't be doing many other events requiring purchases. And for the fall, we'd be fine because of football season.
- Bevis: About how much have you raised from fundraising?
 - Rep: Somewhere near \$1000 right now, besides the concessions money. Due to demand and the timing of it all, we're looking to possibly downsize the trip because we don't want to have to take out anything else or borrow or anything like that. But we are opening to downsizing the trip. If funds are not able to provide that trip, we still want to be able to provide a trip even if it's not as large or far as a place like Houston.
- Bevis: Since you won't be getting as much funding as you were hoping to, what is your plan for still being able to afford this trip?

- Rep: We do still have money in our account. Our goal is to have the best trip that we can have as long as it's a decent distance from Tallahassee and we're making a big impact. We were looking at other options for other areas and houses. We knew that was a large fund to ask for.
 - Mayo: In the other places for, I guess, your backup plans, are the lodging prices roughly the same and do you have those numbers?
 - Rep: Prices everywhere are little bit up right now because of the spring break timing. We were looking at other areas like Destin, where house and hotel fees are about the same. We are trying to be cost efficient. The Houston house was about \$3000 and the majority of these other houses are between \$2000 and \$4000 also, for houses that we're trying to fit as many as we are. If we do drive a shorter distance, we're willing to do that because we do want to maximize the amount of people who show up. We are looking at options beyond Destin, and also basing it off community service opportunities, which can depend on college presence. There's also Savannah, GA and New Orleans.
- Motion: Collantes motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Gracia seconded.
- **Deliberations:**
 - Mayo: I feel like if they had a registration fee, that would help them, if that makes sense. I know they're trying to offer it to people. I just wish if they had a number for a possible fee, they gave that to us. Since they know we don't have enough money, I think we'd get a better idea of how much they need if that makes sense.
 - Goldstein: Are we allowed to fund Airbnb?
 - Bevis: We are, I checked with Laurel and it's all good. Technically the only regulations for lodging are put on hotels, so we can get around it anyway.
 - Gracia: I'm fine with funding lodging even if they don't have a registration fee. Their lodging is more than anybody else's. If we're able to fund at least one section for everybody, at least for this organization, I would say lodging.
 - Bevis: I think it would be fair if we fully funded lodging, and maybe give even a little bit for travel expense.
 - Vandermeulen: I just want to make sure that the line items are correct and that I'm looking at the right thing with the quote, because the values seem a little higher based on what I saw in the presentation and what I saw in the link to the quote. For both lodging and travel expense.
 - Bevis: All of these numbers here are what we got on the application.
 - Vandermeulen: Right okay, that's fine. It's just both the quote and the presentation seem to have both those numbers a little bit higher, but I guess that's alright.
 - Mayo: I'm not sure if this matters, but I think there might be a little inaccuracy with their presentation because I'm looking at the form they submitted, and it probably doesn't matter, but I believe that they said the dues are at \$30 and here they're charging more for their dues. I'm not sure it makes a difference, just wanted to point it out.
 - Goldstein: I see what you mean. It says like \$50 for dues on the form. There's like a \$20 discrepancy.
 - Bevis: Sometimes people will put one thing and then say another when it comes to the presentation. That happens a lot.

- Goldstein: I think, as far as numbers go, it might be good to fund them for about \$75 per person, so that would put us around \$4200. That would fully fund their lodging and then give them some toward travel expense, as Lydiah was suggesting. We'd be helping them out a little bit and also covering lodging.
 - Bevis: Yeah, I was thinking along the lines of fully funding their lodging and then funding one or two grand to the travel.
 - Goldstein: I just wanted to make sure we have a little left over for the next organization. If we did anything over \$75 per person, then it would leave almost a thousand for the next one.
 - Bevis: Thanks for considering that. We can keep in mind, though, that RTAC is first come, first serve. If we do run out or don't have a lot left, it's not our fault. I did my best to warn them. If you do want to save money, that is all good. But we can remember it is first come, first serve. If we don't have a lot left over, it's perfectly okay.
 - Mayo: I agree with Lydiah and Jonus. I think covering their lodging and a little of their travel expense would be good.
 - Bevis: What number are we thinking for travel? My head was at \$1000 to \$2000.
 - Goldstein: I was thinking a little less than a thousand since that would put them at \$75 per person. But we can do \$100 per person.
 - Bevis: So we're talking about fully funding lodging for \$3600 and then the rest of the \$5600 (\$2000) would go to travel. That what you said, Jonus?
 - Goldstein: Can we actually do a little less than that, \$90 per person? That would be \$3600 in lodging and then \$1440 in travel.
 - Motion: Goldstein motioned to fund \$3600 in lodging and \$1440 in travel expenses. Mayo seconded.
 - Motion: Goldstein motioned to call the question the line item. Collantes seconded.
 - Vote to fund \$3600 in lodging and \$1440 in travel expenses
 - Yay: Collantes, Mayo, Gracia, Goldstein, Vandermeulen
 - Nay:
 - Abstain:
 - **PASS**
- Pi Sigma Epsilon
 - Application Link:
 - Name of Event: PSE National Convention
 - Preliminary Remarks:
 - Asking for
 - Registration: \$4250
 - Car Rental: \$200
 - Mileage: \$0
 - Airfare: \$1500
 - Lodging: \$2842.20
 - Other: \$0
 - Total: \$8792.20
 - Date of Event: 4/9/24-4/14/24
 - Number of Active Members: 48
 - Number Traveling: 10

- RSO Presentation:
- Questioning/Notes
 - This is our biggest event of the year, giving a variety of opportunities to the members to compete in the competitions and to network
 - Industry leaders and potential employers will be there
 - It's also great for boosting morale and getting the chapter closer together and being able to meet with other chapters
 - Competitions like Sell-a-Thon, Interview, and Case Study
 - There are also top chapters for certain categories, and we are in the running for Top Silver Chapter, which is amazing because we're so new
 - It's a unique opportunity to showcase both FSU and PSE talent
 - Since last year, we've gotten a lot more people, which is why we're expecting 6-10 people
 - If we drive to St. Louis, we have a breakdown for what it would look like for ten people versus six people, depending on funding; it would be \$8587 total for ten people whereas flying would be \$8562
 - We know funding is limited at this point but it's important to get as much as we can so we can expose our chapter to these competitions
 - Vandermeulen: Of the advertising that you've done, was any of it directed toward the general student population?
 - Rep: Our interest form was open to the public, on our Linktree in our Instagram. We also chalked around campus, advertising both the chapter and the national convention.
 - Collantes: How much money does your organization have in its account?
 - Rep: From dues this semester, we got around \$2200. That doesn't include other projects and events on campus.
 - Bevis: Have you done any fundraising?
 - Rep: Yes, we have done share-its with Madison Social. We've done a couple of Market Wednesday fundraisers. There were some that were not specifically Market Wednesday, like "Pie a Pi." We plan to do a lot more.
 - Bevis: Do you plan on using any of that for the trip or the rest of the semester?
 - Rep: We plan on using a portion of it for the trip, but largely the money that we fundraise goes toward buying more inventory for the next fundraiser or professional development events, networking events, socials, etc. We also have a policy within our bylaws stating that any money we raise from unexcused absence fines goes toward funding for the national convention.
 - Bevis: It looks like the most expensive parts are the hotel and travel expenses whether that's gas or flights. If you had to choose, which one of those would you want us to prioritize?
 - Rep: Driving to St. Louis wouldn't be very fun, so probably flights.
- Motion: Collantes motioned to enter roundtable discussion. Vandermeulen seconded.
- **Deliberations:**
 - Collantes: I'd say fully fund their travel expense and then put the rest toward lodging.
- Motion: Collantes motioned to fund \$1700 in travel expense and \$290.32 in lodging. Goldstein seconded.

- Motion: Goldstein motioned to call the question the line item. Collantes seconded.
- Vote to fund \$1700 in travel expense and \$290.32 in lodging
 - Yay: Collantes, Mayo, Gracia, Goldstein, Vandermeulen
 - Nay:
 - Abstain:
 - **PASS**

Closing Announcements:

- Chair
 - Shoutouts
 - If you are an at-large member or are terming out and would like to stay on RTAC or join PAC, you may apply at the beginning of next Fall
 - I won't be running for reelection to my current position
 - Come out to inauguration if you want
- Vice Chair
 - Big thank you to our fearless leader, Parker Bevis
- Members
 - None

Adjourned at 8:22pm

Signature of RTAC Chair: *Parker Bevis*