



**73rd Student Senate
Resource for Travel Allocations Committee
March 22nd, 2021**

Call to Order: 5:18 PM

Members Present: Chair Randall, Victoria Kwiat, Gigi Berrouet, Sarah Schuminsky, and Judd Williams

Members Tardy:

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Kapil (E)

Guests: Chair Rudolph, Parliamentarian Rowan

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.
- Members
 - None.
- Guests
 - Chair Rudolph: Happy to be joining the committee tonight and meeting more of the committee members.

Committee Business:

- Organizational Fund
 - Chair Randall met with Laurel to discuss removing the requirement that the Org Fund be limited to RSOs who have received A&S fees. She said that it can be updated in the financial manual during the annual revisions this summer.

- Per Gigi's request, Chair Randall emailed SBT Hall regarding the restrictions on the organizational fund. SBT Hall said:
 - To my understanding, SGA Accounting manages the Organizational Fund. I'm not sure why certain restrictions are set in place but that has been the precedent for many years. It is likely a safeguard set in place to ensure that funds are going to organizations that have a demonstrated history of fiscal responsibility.
 - For your specific issue, I would recommend an account transfer from RTAC to Sweepings or Senate Projects. That way, RSOs could come to these entities and request funds without the same barriers that RTAC experiences.
- The only mention of the organizational fund in statutes is 807.7 which says, "There shall be an account named "Organizational Fund" in which organizations may apply for initial funds at the beginning of each fall semester." The Org Fund is also mentioned in the Financial Manual on page 23.
- Chair Randall talked with President Harmon about the Org Fund last week. Harmon said to keep any potential increase below \$250 per RSO to ensure that we aren't infringing on PAC.
- Chair Randall said that typically the fund is given \$5000 to fund 25 RSOs and is depleted by November.
- Roundtable Discussion
 - Berrouet: Remove A&S fees requirement
 - Schuminsky: specifically advertise this to new RSOs
 - Rudolph: I would like to see if we can find what orgs used the money for. We should either fold the money into PAC/RTAC or reserve it for less high performing or newer RSOs.
 - Williams: I see the point of the A&S fees requirement because otherwise we might just be giving out random RSOs. Can they just take the money and use it for personal stuff? What is the check on this system?
 - Chair Randall needs to ask Laurel to pull some of this year and last year's requests to see what the money is being spent on.
- Zero-funding based on retroactive requests
 - Chair Randall talked to Laurel about this and she said that it is the policy of SGA not to fund things that have already been paid for.
 - Chair Randall recapped the current reasoning in the financial manual. Because RSOs cannot receive anything from a vendor prior to receiving a purchase order from SGA Accounting, they can't fill out a Nole Central or RTAC request.
 - Chair Randall will work with Laurel to make this more clear in Statues and the SGA financial manual.
 - Chair Randall noted that SBS 802.3 is only waived in cases where RTAC funded an RSO, but the RSO didn't get the forms in on time.

- Reach out to RSOs who may be interested in attending events in April, May, or June.
- Victoria Kwiat
 - None.
- Gigi Berrouet
 - None.
- Sarah Schuminsky
 - None.
- Judd Williams
 - Williams: how long does financial certification take?
 - Chair Randall said that an email should be sent within 2 business days telling the student whether or not they passed the exam.
 - Williams inquired about the possibility of funding an event on 4/24.
 - Chair Randall will ask Laurel if we can still hear an in-person request for an event on 4/24 that is under the 30 days requirement.

Adjourned at 5:58 pm