

15th Meeting of the 17th Financial Board FY23

Meeting Room: CC Chairs Room

September 7th, 2023

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Present: President Gabriella Rios, Treasurer Katie Bowles, Vice-President Victoria Cormier, Accountant Lauren Abraham, Chair Theo Barnes-Cole, Chair Michaela Cluett, Senator Rayna Jacob, Senator Vivek Kasireddy, Senator Connor Chartier, Senator Benjamin Antupit, Senator John Peabody, Senator Aidan Eldridge, Senator Marc Rich, Senator Nathan Willemsen

I. Call to Order

II. Treasurer's Remarks

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

Appropriations Committee:

A.24.3 BCB (\$17.00) – PASSED

A.24.4 MSA (\$191.13) – DENIED

A.24.5 Men's Ultimate (\$175.00) – PASSED

A.24.6 WECE (\$16.99) – PASSED

A.24.7 Biomedical Engineering Society (\$100.46) – PASSED

A.24.8 Pickleball (\$40.36) – PASSED

F.24.7 Mens Club Rugby (\$1500) – PASSED

F.24.8 Art and Design (\$401.50) – PASSED

F.24.9 SFS (\$590.02) – PASSED

F.24.10 FiGSA (\$479.50) – PASSED

F.24.11 IISE (\$810) – PASSED

F.24.12 Bowling Club (\$9675) – PASSED

F.24.13 Cheerleading (\$975) – PASSED

F.24.14 WiCS (\$3260) – PASSED

F.24.15 Outing Club (\$449) – PASSED

V. Questions, Comments, and Ideas

VI. Adjournment

A.24.3 BCB (\$17.00)

Purpose of Funds:

Printing advertising materials.

Presentation:

Printing various items for career fair event promotion.

Total: \$17 for printing for flyers, pamphlets, and brochures.

Questions:

N/A

Discussion:

Pro: Fits the purpose of the club.

Pro: Allows for great marketing.

Pro: Helps BCB majors, a small minority on campus, to get useful information.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.

A.24.4 MSA (\$191.13)

Purpose of funds:

Tye-dye kits and hijabs for workshop.

Presentation:

Date of event: 9/7/23

Retroactive funding requests for items already purchased cannot be approved.

Questions:

N/A

Discussion:

N/A

Outcome:

Denied.

A.24.5 Men's Ultimate (\$175.00)

Purpose of Funds:

Emergency/Medical Services fees.

Presentation:

Event will run from 8:00 am-11:30 am, September 17th at Alumni Field.

Event is a one-day Ultimate Frisbee tournament.

Total requested: \$175.

Questions:

N/A

Discussion:

Pro: People need to be safe.

Pro: Needs to be there for safety concerns - frisbees are surprisingly hard.

Pro: Fits the purpose of the club.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.

A.24.6 WECE (\$16.99)

Purpose of Funds:

Branded tablecloth.

Presentation:

Total requested: \$16.99.

Tablecloth to use for table-sitting.

Questions:

N/A

Discussion:

Pro: Great publicity for the club.

Pro: Stays within the club.

Pro: Will last for a long time and be used for years to come.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.

A.24.7 Biomedical Engineering Society (\$100.46)

Purpose of Funds:

Tie-dye shirt event.

Presentation:

Destress event.

Total requested: \$100.46.

Amount is for shirts & dye.

Questions:

Q: How do you spell Tie Dye? A: T-I-E D-Y-E.

Discussion:

Pro: Used to help advocate wellness.

Pro: Fits the purpose of the club.

Pro: Low cost.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.

A.24.8 Pickleball (\$40.36)

Purpose of Funds:

Balls for club use.

Presentation:

Club requires new balls for practice.

24 balls, 2 packs of 12.

Total requested: \$49.35.

Questions:

Discussion:

Pro: Essential to the club

Pro: Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation, we should give students the chance to play!

Pro: Pickleball has ball in the name, so they need balls.

Decision:

Passed in Full.

F.24.7 Mens Club Rugby (\$1500)

Purpose of Funds:

Training equipment.

Presentation:

Club was shut down during COVID, so they currently have no funds or budget.

Somehow ended up without a budget this year, so equipment is needed.

Total requested: \$1500.

Need shields (rucking wedge) to practice hitting.

Need tackle dummies for other contact.

Questions:

Q: How many people are on the team? A: 35 at last practice, 40 active.

Q: How long will equipment last? A: At least 10 years.

Q: Is there a place to store the equipment? A: The pads do have a space, need to talk to Ann McCarron about the dummies.

Discussion:

Pro: After being hit by COVID they need help getting back. The equipment fits the purpose of the club.

Pro: Org is growing rapidly, good to invest in so it continues to grow.

Pro: Items are crucial to practice, helps keep people safe.

Con: Storage is a concern.

Q: Do WPI sports need to go through a specific supplier for sports equipment? A: No.

Outcome:

Passed in full.

F.24.8 Art and Design Club (\$401.50)

Purpose of Funds:

Bob Ross On The CC Lawn event.

Presentation:

ADC's purpose is to bring people together to do art, regardless of skill. Art time is very relaxing and a good social opportunity.

Meetings are Fridays 5-7, larger events (art fair) several times a year. Meetings are different art-related themes, all supplies are free every meeting.

Bob Ross On T CC lawn event, will be free and publicly available.

Event is September 15 from 7-9pm, using big screen plus speakers and lighting from LNL.

Previously hosted event successfully in 2020, had a lot of success even with COVID.

Expecting good turnout, good way to build community through art.

Late-night program!

Total requested: \$401.50.

Questions:

Q: What are your advertising plans? A: MyWpi, active instagram, fliers.

Q: Is there a rain plan? A: The event will be canceled in the case of rain as Riley commons are booked.

Q: How many people are expected? A: 50+ people, will be more advertised and easily available.

Q: Will there be a RSVP process? A: Will have a set amount of canvasses so yes, an RSVP system will be needed.

Discussion:

Pro: Event seems fun, should be well attended.

Pro: Seems like good use of funds.

Pro: Good location planning.

Outcome:

Passed in full.

F.24.9 SFS (\$590.02)

Purpose of Funds:

Magic: The Gathering draft tournament.

Presentation:

The MTG club is a part of the Science Fiction Society at WPI.

Meetings are twice a week.

Requesting 3 boxes of cards & proxy sleeves.

Equipment stored in SFS locker.

Event will be free.

3 MTG card boxes + dragon shield sleeves

Total requested: \$590.02.

Questions:

Q: What is the club's attendance? A: 10-20, for this event 14-15 max due to card availability.

Q: Is this a tournament you're hosting? A: Yes, all of the supplies are for the tournament.

Q: What is the selection process for attendance? A: First come first serve.

Q: When will the tournament be? A: During normal meeting time.

Q: How often are new packs bought? A: About once per term.

Q: When will it be hosted? A: September 16.

Q: Are the cards staying within the club? A: No, they will be drafted and stay with the drafters.

Discussion:

Pro: Despite cost, this function of the club will be on the SFS budget soon.

Q: Will cards be brought home? A: Yes.

Pro: SFS always has great attendance & attracts a different crowd than most social events. Event has previously been funded.

Q: Has this been funded before? A: Yes, regularly.

Pro: This is a tight-knit community, worth supporting them.

Pro: Good for first-year students with an interest to help come out of their shell.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.

F.24.10 FiGSA (\$479.50)

Purpose of Funds:

Supplies for two craft events near midterms week.

Presentation:

Requesting funds for a tie-dye event and tote bag event during midterms.

Club's purpose is to support first-gen students through education & community building.

Activity will consist of tie-dyeing shirts & decorating tote-bags.

Event will teach students how to use the vinyl cutter.

Tie-dye night and vinyl crafts are separate:

Tie-dye: September 13th.

Vinyl crafts: September 20th.

Total requested: \$479.59.

Questions:

Q: Is the \$479.59 including materials already possessed? A: No, this is specifically new funds .

Q: What is the predicted attendance? A: Expecting 25 people per event.

Q: How will you be advertising the event? A: Instagram & MyWPI.

Q: How many people can the resources at each event support, how is it decided who gets them?

A: First-come-first-serve based on an RSVP form.

Discussion:

Pro: Good for new first-gen students.

Pro: Reasonable amount of money.

Pro: Helps teach students to use on-campus resources.

Pro: Tie-dye!

Outcome:

Passed in full.

F.24.11 IISE (\$810)

Purpose of Funds:

Transportation costs for trip to IT & consulting firm.

Presentation:

IISE is the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers.

International organization with many parts, but locally supports industrial engineering & business school through education.

Event is a trip to IT/consulting firm called Accenture.

Will provide insight into internal workings of this type of company.

Targeted toward business school, but open to anyone interested.

No public transit available to location.

Total requested: \$810 for a bus.

Questions:

Q: What's the selection process for attendees? A: An interest form, then first-come first-serve.

Q: Is this a trip where students are able to interact with recruiting? A: Yes.

Q: How many people have gone in the past? A: This is the first time doing the trip, unclear.

Q: When is the trip? A: Sept 20th or one of the two following Wednesdays.

Q: How many people tend to go to employer visits? A: This is the first time doing any trip, unclear.

Q: How is this being advertised? A: Instagram, fliers, and business school.

Discussion:

Pro: Only asking for bus service, very good for job opportunities and education.

Pro: Good supplement to career fair.

Pro: Great opportunity, even if 1 or 2 students possibly get a job from it.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.

F.24.12 Bowling Club (\$9675)

Purpose of Funds:

Transportation and registration costs for WPI bowling league.

Presentation:

Ongoing league at Bowlero Auburn every wednesday.

Club had 250 members by C/D term, currently at 300 total.

Large amount of people want to go weekly, looking at approximately 35 people each trip.

Running a WPI league, with the goals of both having fun and improving skills.

Weekly leagues with teams of 3 helps improve participation and competition, additionally reduces price.

12-13 fully rostered teams are currently registered for the league.

20 additional people can sign up to sub or play solo.

Total requested: \$9675 over the course of 9 weeks, largely transportation costs.

Questions:

Q: How do you choose who goes? A: Weekly form asking for teams or sub, teams get to go every week, with subs having a lower priority.

Q: Of 35, how many are rostered? A: Currently almost at max, but there will also overflow.

Q: Do all teams go every week or does it cycle? A: Every team can go each time, can handle up to 45. 35 people are predicted on average.

Q: Is there a specific timeline for subbing in time? A: Cutoff 24 hrs before, either for wanting to sub or not being able to play.

Discussion:

Pro: They have actively made improvements to the league, and got a contract to make it more affordable for the students.

Pro: Helps with growth & legitimacy for the club.

Pro: Money is distributed over long period of time.

Outcome:

Passed in full.

F.24.13 Cheerleading (\$975)

Purpose of Funds:

Presentation:

27 person team cheers at home football/basketball games & competes at a national level.
Need to practice off campus as the team is unable to get approval for additional practice mats.
Total requested: \$975 to practice off-campus.
Team currently practices twice a week, need to practice more frequently to be competitive.
Request is for 2 practices (over a weekend).

Questions:

Q: How many people are on the team? A: Practices are mandatory for all 27.
Q: Have you consistently had to practice off-campus? A: Yes, as the team is not allowed to purchase new mats.

Discussion:

Pro: Right thing to do, it's unfortunate that they are forced to do this.
Pro: Powers that be are not budging, so it's appropriate for us to step in.
Q: Why isn't school funding this? A: It may be appropriate for SGA to fund it as it could help reduce overall costs.
Pro: Clearly fed up with not being able to practice in their own gym, it's reasonable to help them practice as they are a WPI team.
Q: Can we have them FR for new mats? A: The FR still may be declined, as storage space is one of the primary concerns.

Outcome:

Passed in full.

F.24.14 WiCS (\$3260)

Purpose of Funds:

Transportation and registration costs for Grace Hopper conference.

Presentation:

Grace Hopper is Sept 26-29, an inclusive conference for women & other communities in CS and adjacent fields.

Club previously acquired full funding from CS department & ODIME, this year it is only partial funding.

Previous trip was 7 members plus a WPI chaperone, *all* members that attended got an internship or full-time job, and *all* members were given a consecutive return offer or full time job afterward.

Provides excellent networking opportunities!

Conference includes tech workshops, a hackathon, and panels for women in technology.

Trip will include 6 members and WPI staff member (CDC employee as mentor + chaperone).

Why go? This is the largest celebration of women in computing, with over 129 companies.

Members that go will also return and relay information learned to help other people in the WPI community

Total requested: \$3260, mostly various transportation costs.

Questions:

Q: What was the selection process for attendees? A: Interest & most involved club members, with priority to seniors.

Q: Where did the other funding go? A: The CS department had other things to fund, so only \$200 per student, ODIME can give \$2500 total.

Q: So the request is for \$3260, and other necessary funds come from CS and ODIME? A: Yes, and Dean King.

Discussion:

Pro: They *all* got internships or job offers last time they attended.

Pro: Incredible opportunity with spectacular value for attendees.

Pro: Club has done other fundraising, seems very organized, has clearly done lots of long-term planning.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.

F.24.15 Outing Club (\$449)

Purpose of Funds:

Budget increase for A-term whitewater rafting trip.

Presentation:

Due to some funding technicalities, this is taking the form of a budget increase.

Whitewater rafting trip:

Company does a safety presentation at the beginning; the trip is guided; halfway through there is a snack and at the end lunch is provided.

Service is very cheap and high quality, this is the same company used previously for the trip.

\$3699.72 original request has been changed to a budget increase of \$449.

Additional costs are due to the trip being in-season.

Questions:

Q: How are people chosen for the trip? A: On a first-come, first-serve basis.

Q: Why is this now in A-term instead of D-term? A: Interest has been so high that two trips are being run to help accommodate more people. The club will be making a funding request for a spring trip as well.

Q: What is the deadline for someone to say no to the trip? A: About a week, a swim test is administered early to everyone who wants to go such that people can be swapped in at short notice.

Discussion:

Clarification: This was originally a funding request, it is now a budget increase and a separate funding request for the spring.

Pro: Presentation was well put together, event will be beneficial for the club.

Pro: The small price increase is well balanced for the amount of value they get.

Pro: A second trip helps include more members.

Outcome:

Passed in Full.