



BOARD MEETING: SEPT. 15TH 2009

Presided over by Jared Wigdor. Minutes by Bryan Kam.

MEETING DETAILS

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 15th 2009

Time: 8:00 PM

Venue: WLH 202

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Wigdor, President

Filip Savatic, Vice President

Sebastian Serra, Treasurer

Bryan Kam, Secretary

Rachel Wolf, MUNTY Head Delegate

Bryce Scanlan, SCSY Secretary-General

Natalie Kotkin, YMUN Secretary-General

Jharrett Bryantt, UNCSY Co-Secretary-General

Elizabeth Breit, Outreach Chair

Swati Yanamadala, Speakers Committee Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- Bryan explained that Natalie had submitted changes regarding the section referring to YMUN expenses, which he had incorporated into the minutes.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- Jared explained that every Board member should have become used to the department updates, and have read through them already; as such, there was no need for a long discussion on these updates. Jared asked if there were any questions.
- Jharrett asked why ice for the happy hour had been obtained from the basement of Jonathan Edwards College instead of Saybrook; Bryan explained this was because Saybrook had run out of ice.

4. BUDGET

- The Board first considered the income side of the budget:
 - Sebastian explained that the main changes he had made from the draft budget presented at previous meetings were the result of YMUN and SCSY having changed and cleaned up some of their incomes and expenditures.
 - Bryce explained that the budget he had been working off the previous week had not been recently updated, and that he had worked with Jon Koch (USG Conference) and Rachel Fabi (USG Admin & Services) to update the budget. He explained that some costs which had been very high, such as those for printers, had come down. He also explained he had altered revenue projections considerably to reflect a “worst-case” scenario, which assumed 350 delegates; he said this was a conservative estimate but that this was possible, although already 265 delegates from 24 schools had registered by the priority deadline; he did not wish to misrepresent the potential for profit by using the high number of delegates that previous years’ SCSYs had been able to attract; Sebastian explained this revision reduced the SCSY projected income by \$8,000.
 - Natalie explained she had revised the YMUN budget by taking out income from busing, for which the Secretariat had charged some delegates last year; Sebastian explained this brought in several hundred dollars less in income. Natalie explained that other than this, there were no significant changes in income projections.
 - Jharrett explained that income for UNCSY had changed because UNCSY had received \$550 in advertising income from the International Security Studies program. He said he was still expecting \$1,000 from the MacMillan Center, but that they had said they were being squeezed tight by budget cuts. He then further explained that UNCSY was almost fully self-funded, and that it was only using an additional \$300 from the YIRA budget.
- The Board then considered the expenditures side of the budget:
 - Sebastian said Board expenses had not changed.
 - Sebastian then presented several large expenses, including \$3,500 allocated to each Banquet, and \$250 per month for happy hours.
 - Rachel explained that projected MUNTY expenses had been revised down by \$400; she explained these adjustments mostly reflected lower-than-projected spending on recruitment. She also explained that bus expenses for UPMUNC were greater than the original projection and that she had adjusted the projection accordingly.
 - Lizzie said her expenses largely had not changed, although she said she would need an additional \$1,000 allocated if Outreach decided to send kids to Connecticut College for a Model UN conference.
 - The Speakers Committee expenses remained the same as previously.
 - Sebastian explained that he had subtracted alumni costs from the budget; in total, this brought YIRA’s profit for the year to \$4,823, which was significantly lower than forecast due to the conservative SCSY estimates. Bryan asked how much YIRA’s profit would make if the number of delegates was the same as last year; Sebastian explained this would be \$13,000.
 - Fil then noticed that actual recruitment expenditure was not as high as projected, as all necessary spending on recruitment had essentially been spent. He also noted that the current estimates did not take into account use of Quickbooks and the Slice Server. Sebastian revised the budget to reflect these costs.
 - Natalie asked about whether costs for using the Wufoo service for UNCSY had been taken into account; Jharrett said he would look into the matter.
 - Fil then asked what the budget line “infrastructure” referred to; Sebastian said this referred primarily to costs of Town Hall meetings. Fil adjusted that projection downward to \$90 per month (\$900 altogether excluding June and July).
- Jared explained that the Board had now verified that YIRA had roughly \$36,000 in the bank account; he had looked into the account online.

5. MEMBER BENEFITS

- Member benefits within the budget were itemized for review. Without these member benefits, the budget showed a \$35,000 profit for the year.

- The Board discussed and settled on a procedure for reviewing these member benefits to determine which should be included in the final budget.
- Discussion began on the item “international trips,” but was interrupted for the fall trip presentation.

6. FALL TRIP PRESENTATION

- George Bogden proceeded to present a proposal for the Fall International Trip application he had submitted with Fenanda Lopez. He presented on the Trip’s objectives, benefits for YIRA and Hondurans, issues of security, visa information, the tentative schedule, costs and eligibility.
- The Board asked several questions:
 - Fil asked what organization the Supreme Tribunal for Elections was, and if it was a government-affiliated organization, whether YIRA members would therefore be working for a corrupt organization.
 - Sebastian explained that mostly electoral systems in Latin America worked this way, whereby these organizations were government-affiliated by largely independent; George affirmed this.
 - Rachel asked whether George understood that YIRA had only subsidized \$250 for Fall Trips the previous year; George explained he did, but that he thought the Trip should receive \$500 funding; he explained that the circumstances surrounding the Board’s decision last year to fund less had been radically different and that there had been specific reasons why the Board chose to limit funding.
 - Sebastian asked where Trip participants might potentially get other funding to cover the Trip costs; George explained that, due to security concerns, Honduras was in a category of travel whereby Yale College was unlikely to provide funding; he explained he was in touch with several Law School students who were filing a grant request with the Law School, which might potentially help fund some of the miscellaneous costs, as well as the cost of the post-trip reception he wanted to hold.
- Jared thanked George for the presentation.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM.