Student Finance Committee
Monday, Oct 27th, 2025
Fall 2025

I. Call to Order
   A. Tommy calls meeting to order at 3:01 pm
II. Roll Call
   A. Berkley is absent and excused
III. Public Comment
   A. Manny wonders how the silent auction went.
      a. Tommy went early in the day and it seemed to be going well, can talk about it more later during Good of the Order
   B. Comment from Ella that Culture Shock never did any advertising for their event last week, the Stop Motion show
      a. Comment from Mitchell that their advertising is often on the screens in the dining hall
      b. Comment from Ella that it wasn't on the HUB
      c. Comment from Cassidy that there is no way that they got their advertisement through Marketing onto the TVs within one week
      d. Question from Manny on what happens if they don't use the money for its intended purpose - does SFC stop giving them money?
         i. Gwen says it depends, did they not have the event, or did they just not advertise? This is why SFC audits events
            1. Ella says that she couldn't audit the event because she didn't know when it would be since they didn't advertise
         ii. If they don't use the money for the intended purpose, there are consequences outlined in the bylaws
      e. Tommy thinks it would be wise to audit their next event, ask how the previous showing went, ask about the advertising
      f. Question from Cassidy on whether it was made clear to Culture Shock that advertising the event was a condition of them getting the money

C. Kelly audited Make a Difference Day and the event was happening, what are the next steps?
    a. Tommy will print off more forms for everyone to have when they audit events

IV. Chair Report

A. Tommy gives update on SFC funds
    a. SFC balance is at $111,974.43
        i. This change is due to work by Emilia and others to recover funds not used by EFGs over recent years
        ii. SFC approved absorptions - Over the last five years, some of these absorptions did not occur due to frequent personnel changes and lack of knowledge
        iii. Absorbed over $30,000 from Platform Personalities, almost $30,000 from Campus Cinema, along with others to total an absorption of $88,191.80
        iv. Question from Minnie on whether SFC will announce to student groups that there are more funds available
            1. Tommy doesn't think it is necessary to announce that SFC has lots of funds, but he has made a poster to remind orgs that they can request funding
            2. Question from Molly on whether Tommy can send the poster to everyone to approve
        v. Comment from Gwen that this is similar to in Monopoly when the cards say "Banking error in your favor, collect $20"
            1. Groups were told that the carry-forward was taken when in reality, it hadn't been forwarded to SFC
            2. Last time SFC had a lot of money, the advice from the advisor was "Spend spend spend"
            3. Typically there would be no more than $20,000 in an account
            4. Warns everyone to continue to be careful with funding

V. Adviser Report

A. Gwen touches briefly on the conditions placed on Drag Show
    a. SFC has the right to place conditions on funding according to the bylaws

b. Reminds everyone that the role of SFC is to support open programming, not necessarily to tell a group how to run their event

B. Gwen is meeting with Jeff Korpi tomorrow to discuss having DSO as advisors
   a. From speaking with Rachel Harris, it may end up being like how ASNMU does their advising, with one from Academic Affairs and one from Student Affairs
      i. One advisor would likely be Anastasia, other advisor would likely be Academic Affairs to provide a balanced view

C. Comment from Minnie that she is confused about the wording "conditions". She was under the impression that SFC was just giving recommendations

VI. New Business

A. Drag Show Discussion
   a. Tommy prefaces the discussion with saying that SFC should have defined conditions more, what they mean, how they're enforced, how they should be expressed in terms of the funding request, and takes full responsibility for not clarifying that with the committee before sending the email to Q&A
   b. Wants to get everyone on the same page about what conditions look like, not only for this specific budget, but for any other group that SFC grants funding to moving forward
   c. Gwen gives her understanding of the situation
      i. When Tommy sent the email to Q&A, he used the word "contingencies", which is reminiscent of "conditions"
      ii. For Q&A, are these the conditions SFC has laid out, or are they suggestions for the future?
         1. Conditions mean that they can not have the event or get funding unless they do these things
   d. Cassidy thinks SFC needs to be clearer with what they are voting on when voting
      i. Need to be clear that SFC is voting on things that have been said as recommendations, or as conditions
   e. Comment from Kelly that she read the email, put it into ChatGPT to make it more clear what the email was saying because it was hard to understand

i. In the email, they said it is cheaper to do something this way versus that way, but this was not laid out in the initial proposal
    1. Was not aware that, if it's free for everyone, money would be saved
ii. When hearing the proposal, her interpretation was that community members need to be ticketed because she was not aware of the organizational thing

f. Question for clarification from Molly on contents of email
    i. Email seemed to talk in circles, hard to understand without insider knowledge
    ii. Email said if they ticket, they will be charged as an outside org
        1. They are ticketing regardless, do they mean if they ticket and charge people, it will cost them an extra $1,600?
    iii. Gwen clarifies that this has to do with programming
        1. Northern Center charges more if you have tickets for an event versus a normal student org event
        2. NMU Ticketing also charges to utilize their services, which are the required ticketing services if using NMU facilities
            a. Charge per-ticket along with a set-up fee
        3. Line about "reabsorbing" means that, unless otherwise decided by the committee, any ticket proceeds that a group raises comes back to SFC after the event
    iv. Molly requests further clarification: they have to ticket regardless of whether they will charge for tickets to find out how many chairs they need. Does this mean that they will be charged even if they don't charge admission?
        1. Gwen clarifies that they will only be charged for ticketing if they charge admission
g. Mitchell says that it was a mistake to not include SFC not reabsorbing any ticket proceeds in the original motion to grant funds

i. Original thinking was to make a recommendation that, since SFC can not fund some of Q&A's end-of-year events, this would be a good fundraiser for those
ii. Wasn't supposed to be a way to make the event cheaper or to gain money for SFC, or a condition that they must meet to get funding
iii. Gwen clarifies what the thinking was

h. Comment from Molly that she agrees with Minnie, that Q&A should have told SFC that if they don't charge for tickets, they don't have to pay extra $1,600 in their proposal
    i. Made it sound like not charging was just to be more inclusive, and this sounded to SFC like they were missing out on a chance to fundraise

i. Comment from Gwen that it all sounds like a big miscommunication
    i. Tommy thinks that part of the issue is the format of the meeting
        1. Emailing the results afterwards rather than talking through conditions and recommendations with them after deliberations may have something to do with communication issues
        2. Next time, bring them back in to go over everything with them
    ii. Question from Kelly on if SFC can ask Q&A to come back in to talk everything through
        1. Tommy will email them to invite them back
            a. Gwen suggests to say that it is for clarification - no change in funding

j. Gwen clarifies whether the ideas were conditions or recommendations
    i. Tommy says they were conditions, and will clarify that with them

k. Minnie asks whether SFC wants to adjust due to new information of them being charged an extra $1,600 for charging for tickets
    i. Mitchell thinks it would be a good idea to absorb the extra thousand, and explain to Q&A that the goal was to try to help them get funding
    ii. Molly does not think it is a good idea to pay an extra $1,600 for them to only raise $600

l. Molly asks for clarification on seating cap

    i. Mitchell clarifies that 60% of seats are set aside specifically for students and only up to 40% of seats could be taken up by community members, with students being able to take up those seats as well

m. Tommy asks for clarification on whether the committee would like to change the amount that SFC is funding, or whether they would like to change to no longer having a condition of having to charge community members
    i. Minnie would like to take out the condition of having to charge community members
    ii. Gwen clarifies that SFC can update conditions, but can not update the budget
    iii. Cassidy clarifies that SFC is still giving the conditions of tracking attendance, of giving students an extra two weeks to book tickets before it goes out to community members, and of requiring that they have a donation or fundraising component, and getting rid of the condition that Q&A needs to charge community members
n. Kelly thinks it would be a good idea for Q&A to table at the event to educate and to ask for donations
o. Gwen notifies everyone that the bylaw the email references is Section 7 F
    i. “Organizations must comply with all conditions set by the SFC ...” or it can impact their future funding
    ii. Gwen says committee members are doing well
p. Kelly would like to make the recommendation that Q&A table at the event to educate and talk about Lavender Graduation and other events that SFC can not fund, then if people want to donate they can
    i. Mitchell reminds everyone that the idea of having their Venmo up at the event for donations was discussed before but was set aside because tips go to the performers the night of the event
q. Tommy clarifies the current conditions again
    i. Change to have fundraising requirement be a recommendation, not a condition

ii. Cassidy suggests to specify that SFC would not reabsorb any money raised by fundraising/donations at the event
iii. Kelly suggests to make it clear that SFC was never looking to reabsorb those funds
iv. Molly suggests to clarify that SFC wants to hold student groups accountable in SFC funds go to activities that benefit all students
v. Gwen believes that there is a misunderstanding of EFGs and how they are different from other student orgs
    1. EFGs have more privileges, DAGs have no regulations
    2. Student orgs can petition for EFG status
    3. EFGs have to petition to keep their money at the end of the year, DAGs automatically keep their money, and student orgs don't keep their money unless dictated
    4. SFC is a DAG

r. Cassidy motions to vote that Q&A must give students a two week period before the community members to buy tickets as a condition, Manny seconds the motion
    i. Motion is approved unanimously
s. Minnie motions to vote that Q&A needs to track their ticketing as a condition, Cassidy seconds the motion
    i. Motion is approved unanimously

B. SFC Poster Discussion
    a. Molly comments that Tommy's poster looks beautiful, but would like to clarify the wording
        i. "To determine funding eligibility or to complete a budget request form, visit nmu.edu/asnmu/sfc"

C. Interviews
    a. Jack Belcher
        i. Jack is a junior Economics major pursuing minors in Math, History, and Political Science. He is the ASNMU representative from on campus apartments and serves as the Chair of Student Affairs. He is also in the SLFP and has completed all four of his edges for Superior Edge. He is

also the Vice President of the Honors Student Organization and sits on the NMU Honors Board. He is interested in SFC to help student orgs get the funding they need, and to continue to serve the community

ii. Question from Molly on whether Jack thinks he will be able to balance all of these commitments with his SFC commitments
    1. Jack is already in the office during this time anyway, will just have to shift his office hours slightly to be able to attend meetings

iii. Question from Ella on what Jack hopes to gain from joining SFC since he's so heavily involved in other orgs
    1. He believes that SFC will help with connecting Jack with other orgs beyond the orgs that he encounters within his academic programs or his student orgs
    2. He believes it would give him a wider reach on campus, and that it will help him increase his reach as the Chair of Student Affairs with ASNMU
    3. He is very passionate about serving the student community of NMU

iv. Deliberations
    1. Kelly motions to approve Jack's application to SFC, Molly seconds the motion
    2. The motion is voted on and approved

VII. Approval of Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes for 10.06
    a. Cassidy motions to table the approval of minutes until next meeting, Manny seconds the motion
    b. The motion to table is voted on and approved

VIII. Good of the Order

A. Gwen informs everyone of updates to the SFC drive
    a. Audit form, definitions, bylaws are now all in the drive and in the right places

B. Mitchell sent Tommy two audit forms, filled out

IX. Adjournment

A. Tommy adjourns meeting at 3:49 pm