The Council on Student Affairs

OVERVIEW

Purpose

The Council on Student Affairs (CSA) is broadly responsible for overseeing the student experience from a co-curricular perspective. CSA serves as the principal link between students, the student governments, the faculty and administration to encourage a sense of community and improve the quality of student life on campus. Primary responsibilities include:

- Review, allocate, and administer the Student Activity Fee
- Review the Student Code of Conduct
- Administrate rules and regulations surrounding student organizations
- Initiate reviews of any issue that is relevant to the student co-curricular experience
- Advise the Vice-President for Student Life on the services, programs, and administration of the Office of Student Life
- Keep the best interest of all students at the forefront of the Council's mission

Membership

There are 18 voting members of the Council on Student Affairs:

Ten Students
- Stephen Post, USG (Chair)
- Andrew Jackson, USG
- Shawn Knecht, USG
- Tony Buss, USG
- Erin Donnelly, USG
- Matthew Hamrick, IPC
- Virgil Vulvara, IPC
- Alex Wesaw, CGS
- Amanda Montoya, CGS
- Tracey Walterbusch, CGS

Six Faculty
- Jacob Risinger
- Carolina Lopez-Ruiz
- Amy Darraugh
- Laureen Smith
- Scott E. Denison
- Kevin McClatchy

Staff Members
- Bowen Marshall
- Justin Khol

Non-voting Members
- Dr. D'Andra Mull
- Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston
- Doug Koyle
- Matt Couch
- Lindsey Marx
- Noah Bidna (OUC Chair)
- Yvonne Dulaney
- Kyle Boyle (allocations)
- Mike Natalizio (allocations)
- Katie Dziabis (allocations)
- Jacob Catron (allocations)

Serving Alternates
- Anneliese Antonucci
- Julie Dentzer
- Anthony Long
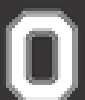
ISSUE/PROGRAM REPORTS

Overview of Topics Addressed

The Council on Student Affairs came in knowing we had some pre-set issues to address including an existing reconciliation/carry forward reserve, the Student Activity Fee Review, and the Student Code of Conduct. Other policy changes were addressed including the Student Organization Funding Guidelines and CSA's Operating Procedures. Student issues that CSA discussed included mental health, free speech on campus, and student transparency.

Reports Heard by the Council

The Council routinely hears reports from various University entities and committees based on the interests of the Council and the need for input on various Student Life policies. The Council heard reports from the following entities:

- Counseling and Consultation Services
- Recreational Sports
- Ohio Union Council
- Ohio Union Activities Board

SUBCOMMITTEES

Issues Subcommittee

The Issues Subcommittee devoted a large portion of time this year to reviewing the CSA Operating Procedures and passing Student Organization Funding Guideline changes with the help of the Allocations Subcommittee. They outlined changes that streamlined CSA's processes and made certain policies clearer. These changes passed unanimously through the Council on Student Affairs. Further, the subcommittee discussed issues facing students on campus including mental health, free speech, diversity, student transparency, and student safety. The Issues subcommittee remained cognizant of the formal University passing of Code of Student Conduct changes approved by the 2016-2017 CSA; while they continually pushed for Senate approval, the Code remained stagnant waiting for the President's and Provost review that was reliant on pending Title IX changes by the current Federal Administration.

Allocations Subcommittee

The Allocations Subcommittee met on the alternating weeks that the Full Council did not meet. Additionally, five adhoc meetings were held on 9/20, 11/15, 12/6, 2/22, and 3/7 to complete review of programming applications. The group reviewed Programming Requests for 861 events from 445 unique organizations. Of these requests, 630 were granted approval to host Student Activity Fee sponsored event. See the table below for Programming Funds information broken down by funding period. As of April 13th, 2018 approximately 273 applications have submitted completed audits. Average funding per event per organization was approximately $1256.77. Average reimbursed funding per event per organization was approximately $928.68. Applications came from a variety of different types of student organizations: 563 applications came from 305 undergraduate student organizations, 185 applications came from 93 graduate student organizations, and 113 applications came from 47 professional student organizations. Operating Funds (up to $200 per year) cover administrative costs for student organizations. We have received 505 operating funds requests from 350 undergrad, 83 graduate, and 72 professional student organizations.

Of these applications 491 have been approved. Average requested operating funds were $170.41. We do not yet have enough information to provide average reimbursed funds. Total allocated costs for operating funds is $86,057.

Funding Period	Event Dates	Number of Applications	Approved Applications	Allocated Funds
Summer	6/1 – 8/15	24	15	$21,802
Fall First Half	8/16 – 10/15	166	116	$124801.21
Fall Second Half	10/16 – 12/31	180	131	$128,551.49
Spring First Half	1/1 – 3/15	252	192	$241,642.27
Spring Second Half	3/16 – 5/31	239	176*	$274,970.06
Total		861	630*	$791,767

Recommendations:

This year the allocations subcommittee tested a pre-review process for programming applications. After a funding window closed allocations committee members were assigned a subset of the applications to review. Applications that were unanimously endorsed or opposed by at least 3 members of the committee were compiled and voted on as part of a slate at the next allocations committee meeting. This process added time for committee members outside of the meeting, but drastically reduced the number of applications needed to be reviewed individually. In Fall 17 - Second Half, 34 applications were approved through slate voting (20% of applications). In Spring 18 First Half, 35 were approved and 4 applications were denied through slate voting (15%). In Spring 18 Second Half, 56 applications were approved and 4 applications denied through slate voting (25%). I recommend continuing using a similar system. It increases the committee members familiarity with the applications, increases the amount of time we have in meetings to discuss the more controversial applications, and comments from the online review can be used to facilitate discussion.

The Fiscal Year 2018 Student Organizations Budget was $466,924, whereas this year we've allocated $877,824 in programming and operating funds (188% of the budget). This over allocations is not unusual this year but rather reflects a regular occurrence for Student Organizations. The current procedures for the CSA Allocations subcommittee do not provide any system for ranking or choosing among programming applications to fund, but rather evaluate each application individually, and approve it if it meets the criteria outlined in the CSA Guidelines. I recommend that the future CSA Allocations Committee work with the CSA Chair and Administrator to consider alternative methods for selecting applications, so that Student Organization funding is not regularly going over budget. Methods for ameliorating this issue could include reducing the total programming budget for student organizations, implementing a first-come first-served policy for each funding period, or selecting programs based on criteria independent of the program content (e.g., cost per student).
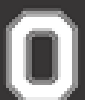
# REVIEWS

Student Activity Fee Review

Chair of CSA Stephen Post established the Ad Hoc Committee during Spring Semester 2018 to address issues surrounding the distribution of the Student Activity Fee. The Ad Hoc Committee members were:

- Sterling Clemmons (Undergraduate)
- Anthony Long II (USG)
- Andrew Jackson (USG)
- David Bowers (CGS)

- Muhammad Soofi (IPC)
- Dan Huffman (Ohio Union)
- D'Andra Mull (Student Life)
- Stephen Post (Chair, USG)

The Ad Hoc Committee met numerous times throughout Spring Semester to review the allocation of the student activity, which included the budget levels of existing SAF funded entities, operating budgets of existing SAF funded entities, and staffing. The Ad Hoc Committee evaluated each of the currently-funded entities. The Ad Hoc Committee evaluated the mission and charge of each funded entity and the likely expectation of the new programs which the Ad Hoc Committee is recommending for SAF funding. With this information, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended budget changes to better serve students and more effectively utilize the SAF. Overall, the Ad Hoc Committee realized that the fee was not meeting the demand of the beneficiaries of the fee as well as the demand of the students. The Ad Hoc Committee wants it to be noted that the student activity fee is getting increased over the next 3 years by 2.50 per semester, $5 per year, which equates to about a $35,000 increase per year, which allows for a small increase in allocations across the board.

After deliberations, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends the following:
- Moving Signature events into Fixed Allocations and raising its allocated funds to $255,000
- Increase in funding for Staffing by $70,000
- Increase in funding for Resource Room by $35,000
- Continuation of the current funding allocation Graphics and Video
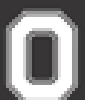
- Reduction in funding for Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB) and D-Tix
- Increase funding for Buck-I-Serv
- Increase funding for all the student governments, specifically extra funding allocated to Inter-Professional Council
- Designate all extra funds from Strategic Programing Grant to be sent back into the formula which the first 100,000 put towards Student Organizations and the rest of the funds will go towards the formula to be redistributed amongst the other beneficiaries.

A full report can be found here: https://osu.box.com/s/nzmds0tcw87ds7jtu4aacc9eg2za7kjp

Signature Events Review

In February of 2018, a group of 8 individuals (Appendix I) representing various constituencies across student life were charged by the Chair of the Council on Student Affairs, Stephen Post, to complete a comprehensive fiscal programmatic review of the Student Activity Fee funded Signature Events. As a result of this process, the Review Committee has developed a recommendation for the allocation of Signature Event dollars over the next three years. All current Signature Events and any current University wide events were invited to apply Signature Event funding. A total of thirty-two applications were submitted. The Signature Events Review Committee approved this allocation distribution unanimously.

A full report can be found here: https://osu.box.com/s/fluos787zdjfbcx1hgiwqyf4qniws8st
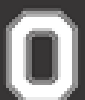
STRATEGIC PROGRAMING GRANT

Background

Coming into this year, the Council on Student Affairs had an accumulated Reconciliation/Carry Forward surplus of $918,000. This surplus existed for a few key reasons. First, over the past 2-3 years, an increase in the number of enrolled students caused our "Anticipated Student Activity Fee (SAF) Income" to be lower than what CSA actually received. Second, carry forward from this surplus that went unallocated previous years had accumulated including from other SAF beneficiaries like Signature Events which was allocated a set dollar amount for the past 2 years, but was given a percentage of the SAF which had increased over those same 2 years. Lastly, this past year the budget office overpaid CSA a greater margin than was collected from the SAF.

Process

Of the $918,000, $300,000 was approved to cover a shortfall from Student Organization funding last year, and ensure that there were adequate funds to cover the growth of requests in the 2017-2018 year. With the SAF Review happening this year to change the SAF allocation, the Council elected to open a one-time, Strategic Programming Grant (SPG) application to distribute the remaining $518,000.

Impact

Programs supported by SPG dollars were to be primarily facilitated by students for the benefit of students. The SPG funding was made available to support the diverse interests and backgrounds of the OSU student community, and this grant was meant for programs and events that initiate or continue opportunities for student growth. Ultimately, SPG funded programs and events were open to any university department as long as it was submitted in collaboration with an active, registered student organization and enhanced or created the student experience at Ohio State. CSA was able to allocate $474,796 to over 50 different programs/events that involved the work of 100's of student organizations. From small group speakers to massive signature events on campus, the Strategic Programming Grant was able to impact 1000's of students

A full list of SPG funded programs can be found here:

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