Hostos Association Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2020 | 11:00am – 12:30pm | Zoom

Minutes

In attendance
- Nathaniel Cruz
- Charles Drago
- Kelvin Pineda
- Brian Carter
- Ken Acquah
- Sherese Mitchell
- Leana Santana
- Rosina Asiamah
- Johanna Gómez
- Jerry Rosa
- Muiz Agbaje
- Lusleidy Pérez

Call to order
- Meeting called to order at 11:09am. Quorum established.

Review of minutes
- Minutes for previous meeting not available.

Report about CUNY Board of Trustees SAF 25% refund vote
- All earmark line balances read
- Clubs & Organizations balance (not on print out) went from $74,642.47 to $55,981.85
- Question: What was the balance of the Clubs & Organizations line after the actual proposals?
  - Funds given out. Some transactions are still ongoing. Waiting to place some orders but need to confirm if Receiving can accept shipments.
- VP Cruz – could make a motion that the pending balances not be placed in Reserve, but rather moved to next year’s operating budget.
- Kelvin Pineda – we approved $500 for a hydroponic tank and that is still pending
- VP Cruz – would need to do a double vote (current SGA, next SGA)
- Motion that the pending balances after all purchases are made not be placed in Reserve, but rather moved to next year’s operating budget – Kelvin Pineda, Muiz Agbaje
  - Vote: 11, 0, 0 – motion approved
- VP Cruz – new SGA elect would have to endorse (propose motion again) and vote

Report about Spring 2020 Student Activity Fee referendum
- Dean Gómez – student body and SGA did an excellent job
- Board of Trustees will not be looking at any referendums this semester
- Will have to do process again in the Fall
- CUNY Central Office recommended proposing a higher increase (30% neighborhood)
- VP Cruz – Hostos followed every protocol
  - Much of the fault is on Central (poor communication)
- SAF increase has to be passed to cover Commencement expenses in the future
• Dean Gómez – Hostos exceeded expectations, but the climate is not good for an increase

Report about Budget Subcommittee allocations
• All proposals were reviewed (46 clubs, 9 non-student) and budgets were awarded for all
• Motion to approve Budget Subcommittee allocations (retroactive to 03/09/20) – Kelvin Pineda, Muiz Agbaje
  o Vote: 11, 0, 0 – motion approved
• Motion to reduce all Subcommittee allocations by 25% based on SAF refund vote – Kelvin Pineda, Muiz Agbaje
  o Vote: 11, 0, 0 – motion approved

Mail Diplomas Directly to Students Proposal
• Being proposed due to social distancing rules
  o Proposed by the new Registrar
• Funds are available (in the Commencement line) because the actual ceremony did not take place
• Question: Is the amount available in the line enough? Yes
• Professor Drago – not a good idea to mail them, students change address constantly
  o Students should pick up by appointment instead
• VP Cruz – Registrar could ask students if they prefer that the diploma be mailed or picked up in person
• Professor Drago – not safe to mail because diplomas do not fit in mailboxes
• Kelvin Pineda – could the diplomas be dropped off in person like the laptops were?
  o I volunteer and I am sure members of my team would also volunteer

Review of Fall 2019 Clubs & Organizations budgets to disencumber
• List of 32 student organizations that did not use all of their funds distributed
• Question: Are the numbers accurate (for the Reserve)?
  o Ken Acquah – these are the numbers for the 5% Contingency Reserve; also have a Special Reserve for Commencement
  o Special Reserve balance for fiscal year 2020 - $70,626 (no ceremony)
  o Special Reserve balance for fiscal year 2019 - $1,900
• Question: How many pools of Reserves are there and which ones can we tap into?
  o Ken Acquah – Special Reserve + Contingency Reserve = 15% of budget
• Question: How much money is in the overall Reserve?
  o Ken Acquah - $1,029.18 (2019) + $3,528.34 (2020)
• Jerry Rosa – the Special Reserve will need to be used for a traditional Commencement ceremony
• You should with the club funds that are being disencumbered
• Question: What can we use now?
  o VP Cruz – Define now. Are you talking about the current SGA or the SGA elect?
• Question: Given the transition to online instruction (and how that could affect SAFs), can we allocate funds to the next (SGA) administration?
  o VP Cruz – you already covered that with your motion
• Question: Where are we going to pull (funds) for Commencement?
  o VP Cruz – that is why we were doing the referendum
• Jerry Rosa – look at the Reserve as the “rainy day fund”
• Question: Will we have access to the pending balances?
  o Jerry Rosa – the minutes will reflect the motion that was made
  o VP Cruz – but the next SGA administration has to repeat the motion
• Question: Are SAFs being collected for Summer classes? Yes
  o Jerry Rosa – we will have the number in mid-July
• Question: How will the decision be made (about the use of those fees)?
  o VP Cruz – at the (Summer) Association Meeting
• Question: Can we set up an Emergency Fund with the disencumbered funds?
  o VP Cruz – when are you looking to use it? Between now and June 30th or after July 1st? Are these Emergency Funds to use during the Summer?
• Motion to allocate $10,000 to the SGA Emergency Fund – Muiz Agbaje, Levin Pineda
  o Vote: 11, 0, 0 – motion approved
• Jerry Rosa – need something in writing to indicate how the funds should be used
• Dean Gómez – send proposal to Mr. Rosa by tomorrow

Discussion about Association Reserve balance
• Discussed under previous agenda item

Assessment
• Middle States coming in 2 years
• Need to report all Association transactions to them
• Dean Gómez – will work collaboratively with SGA

Adjournment
• Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm

Minutes by Jerry Rosa, Hostos Association Secretary