

GEOC Steering Committee
Friday, October 9, 2009
3pm, Conference Room

In Attendance: Devon, Phoebe, Nate, Jason, Carissa, Mark, Kate

I. Updates 3:00 – 3:25

a. Treasury (Devon)

The treasury is still active, but the payroll issue has not been fixed. Emails have been sent out on google documents so viewing the budget is available.

Devon has come up with a projected budget for the coming year, keeping in mind that this will be our first year with summer numbers. 40% full membership is what the numbers are based off of.

Per capita expenditures are very close to what we will actually spend with AFT Michigan. Previously we paid quarter time dues and we now pay half time dues. It is 80% half time.

Nate objected to the amount of the cell phone bill. Devon replied that our phone bill is fairly consistent. Mark is satisfied with the service and Carissa commented that we have reduced our bill from Jen's bill. Nate suggested Sprint. Carissa feels it is unreliable. Nate wants to check if we are making the best use of the cell phone. Devon stated that previous overages are the reason behind the current plan, and Carissa stressed that we want to always be able to contact Mark. Nate wants to assess the necessity of Internet on a cell phone. Devon stated that the budget must still go forward, though he agrees with the reassessing.

Nate also voiced an opinion about making the website through wayne.edu. This is potential for next year.

Travel awards are back. Parking is back. Nate feels that if parking is included for Steering, more demands should be made on their time. We are not committed enough, in his opinion, and it would be money better spent elsewhere. Carissa stated that our budget is not that tight that we cannot afford it, but Nate felt it was unnecessary, especially considering thoughts of investing and/or raising future dues. However, Carissa stated we should be able to cover any raised costs for dues. Phoebe stated that other unions in the state do pay and have bonuses for the Steering memberships and since we engage in volunteer positions, the Steering would have this as a nice reward. It would not be an enticement. Phoebe suggested we hold out on parking, and if at the end of the semester there is surplus, it is redistributed amongst Steering for parking. Nate re-stressed a different allocation of money. Jason inquired about a line item in the budget to readdress the issue at a later date. Carissa felt this would not be the best approach. Nate wants to present the money to the membership to see if they agree with giving Steering parking for them to vote. Mark likes the idea of the membership voting, and explaining the option that if the membership votes it down, it will go into travel grants and other locations. Jason stressed the importance of stating that whatever we do with the money, it will be efficient. Even the awards must be presented in a light that shows how it is useful to the membership. Jason asked if we could propose multiple budgets. Mark said we can do line items, and this issue could be one of them.

Nate also suggested a service award for a very involved member, like a Steward, in addition to the teaching/travel awards.

All other opinions: Phoebe would like the membership to vote on Steering having parking and leave the budget as is. Mark states that it is up to us but we need a budget soon. Jason does not think we should get parking because we do more than just GEOC work in a day.

On a separate note, several members need to be voted in officially to Steering at the next GMM (Carissa, Jason and Nate).

Carissa pointed out that members do have the option to sit and a question and answer session after the GMM.

There are two options: one budget, or one budget with three separate options. A vote was taken in regard to this issue with the result that budget with three specific line items will be included at the GMM and an explanation of what each one means.

For the future, Jason would like future budgeting well in advance, and Mark agrees. For the future, Carissa also suggested using these three options as the future three options.

b. Stewards (Phoebe)

- i. Rally Debrief: Our tables were not there on time but we improvised and it was a great success. The treats and Ryan Bates were wonderful and we filled our sheets with names. People were really supporting us. Carissa added that we had 15 individual thank you cards.
- ii. Other Updates: Meeting next Thursday, and after it will be bi-monthly Wednesday and Thursday at 1:30. There will be 3 Stewards per meeting, minus Steering in attendance. There is the possibility for 8 Stewards.

c. Grievances (Nate)

Good on everything, there is some trouble with Rachel getting back but she should be on the next pay period.

d. SEVIS (Jason)

In the upcoming student council meeting next week, Jason would like GEOC members to attend. Carissa stated that we have many international students to call upon to participate. Jason suggested asking at the GMM for volunteers.

e. Database (Mark)

The database should be completed within the next two weeks. Mark thanked Nate for the information he provided.

II. General Membership Meeting 3:25 – 4:00

a. Location? Arabic Room, Manoogian

Jason suggested a map being sent out with the location of the Arabic Room. A map of that and to Cass Café will be sent out.

b. Food? No

c. Social

1. Where? Cass Café
2. What do we want to order? Hummus, Chicken Strips, spinach and artichoke, egg rolls, nonalcoholic beverages (alcoholic available for individual purchases), so food will cost \$300 for food plus beverages

d. Agenda

Should include the rally. Carissa proposes opening with Nick for talking about the rally and bringing the poster boards as well. Phoebe would like time to recruit Stewards, and that will follow. Devon and Budget will follow. Carissa will briefly address the OEP. Next will come leadership (discussing how we needed to fill three new positions and then having the

membership vote on them), which Kate will describe. As for the voting process itself, Mark will facilitate the process and talk to the membership about the process. They will hand ballots to him and he will put them in the box. The social event will follow.

What do we need? Support allocation forms, ballots, visual aids of the budget, fliers ready for the next event, camera, t-shirts, buttons, pens, a copy of the newsletter if it is finished and the poster boards from the rally.

V. Strategic Spending

- a. Set Date for Conference Call with Alyssa: Tabled for the next meeting, however Jason suggested that Devon, as treasurer, while not necessarily attending meetings, should be the person the committee reports to. Devon will be asked.

VI. E-mail Conversation: Tabled for the next meeting, when more members are in attendance.

VII. OEP Committee

BGLAS is a social work organization made up of many graduate students. We were invited to a talk to pitch OEP. The meeting will happen on October 22nd from 3:30-5. Phoebe volunteered to go with Mark.

The week of the 19th of October is when the meeting with Steve Calkins will happen.

Carissa added, on a separate note, that there are roaches in Chatsworth and Deroy by the Undergrad Towers. There are many people willing to be involved in creating a petition for housing improvement and for voicing disappointment.

In December, Jason suggested presenting this issue at the Board of Governor's meeting.

VIII. Schedule Organizing sessions with Mark