Ayn Rand Study Group

Final Recommendation: $39,285

Appeal Decision: $81,885

Vote: 1-0-2

Majority Rationale:

The majority of the Appeals Committee accepts the appeal of the Ayn Rand Study Group and recommends the Initial Recommendation of the Student Services Fees Committee. The majority believes that the cuts made in the final recommendation (except those made for the initial recommendation) were made due to a judgment that the group “didn’t really need those things,” because they were a new group. This is not a fair standard to base funding on and did not comply with the viewpoint neutrality asked of the committee.
Black Student Union

Final Recommendation: $0

Appeal Decision: $54,992

Vote: 5-0-0

Majority Rationale:

The committee was very appreciative of the compilation of correspondence and audit selection support, as well as the clarity of information provided. We encourage BSU to continue implementing the better financial procedures and practices and enforce them next year as well. Furthermore, the committee would like to note that changing leadership is a non-issue and that BSU should make a point of smoothing the transition from year to year, especially if past leaders are still on-campus. With that said, the following deductions were made from BSU’s initial request for $65,000.

- $6500 in food costs for the Leadership Conference
- $2000 in half the travel costs for the Leadership Conference
- $1250 for carryover discrepancy
- $258.25 in unresolved audit selections ($30 gas money, $86 bank statements, $42.25 fliers, $100 grant)
Campus Atheists, Skeptics, and Humanists

Final Recommendation: $6,420

Appeal Decision: $8,000

Vote: 3-0-0

Majority Rationale:

After CASH explained where the Student Service Fees revenues were allocated, the committee voted to increase the funding recommendation to $8000. CASH demonstrated that the previously recommended funding decreases during final deliberations for member-only events, conference travel costs, and T-shirts are funded by donations, grants, ticket sales and dues. To prevent confusion in the future, the committee would like to see an outline – similar to the one presented during appeals – of revenues and their corresponding expenses.
Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA)

Final Recommendation: $330,705

Appeal Decision: $369,450

Vote: 3-0-0

Majority Rationale:

The committee voted to add back the previously recommended deductions but keep the deduction of $3550 for half of the amount requested for conference/retreat travel. GAPSA explained how the $2000 for the McEvoy award serves the entire graduate student body, so the committee recommends restoring that funding. GAPSA presented a clearer budget, explaining sources of the discrepancies that were in question. In the future, the committee recommends that GAPSA provides an additional budget breakdown that demonstrates in which accounts certain funds are held.
**Saint Paul’s Outreach**

Final Recommendation: $35,000

Appeal Decision: $78,725

Vote: 3-0-1

**Majority Rationale:**

The majority of the Appeals Committee accepts the appeal of St. Paul’s Outreach and recommends the Initial Recommendation of the Student Services Fees Committee. The majority agrees with the claim made in the appeal that the cuts made in the final recommendation were based on the fact that the group had not received Student Services Fees in the past.
Queer Student Cultural Center (QSCC)

Final Recommendation: $0

Appeal Decision: $0

Vote: 3-2-0

Majority Rationale:

The majority recommends zero dollars in funding because item #12 in the Minimum Requirements for applying for Student Services Fees is "All groups applying for student fees must comply with all deadlines established by the Student Services Fees Committee. Requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing and received at least two weeks prior to the deadline for submission. Exceptions require approval of the Student Services Fees Advisor and the chair of the Senate Committee on Student Affairs." This minimum requirement was not met, and therefore, the Queer Student Cultural Center is not eligible for funding.

Minority Rationale:

The minority on the Appeals Committee believes the penalty of zero funding defeats the purpose of the fees committee. The minority believes the appeals committee exists to use its discretion to recommend appropriate funding on behalf of the student body to better serve the University of Minnesota community. While the minority believes that not meeting the deadline violates a requirement, we maintain that failing to meet this particular requirement shouldn’t necessarily result in zero funding. Requirements are not necessarily black-and-white issues, which have been demonstrated in the appeals committee’s deliberations and recommendations for other groups.

That being said, the minority does believe a reduction should have resulted from QSCC’s late application. The minority proposed the following reductions, which are in line with the reduction criteria the fees committee set during deliberations: half of all conference expenses, all of conference food expense, carry forward and operational reserves in excess of 10% of operational expenses. The items are as follows:

$1000 from the Supportive Experience
$440 from the Midwest College Conference
$475 from the QSCC Officer Leadership Training ($200 for food and $275 for other conference expenses)
$2148 from the operational reserves
$9875 revenues in excess of expenses

These reductions from the initial recommendation of $50,000 totaled $36,062. The minority would then have decided on a percent penalty reduction for the late application (ie 50%, recommending a final of $18,031).