Letter of Appeal to the SSFC Appeals Committee

Group: Pre-Med AMSA
Group ID#: 54

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The reason for this written appeal is that we believe there may have been a misinterpretation by the committee. This confusion was in part evidenced by one or two times during the initial presentation to the SSFC for funding where the committee asked questions that were answered in the budget sheets, but because of how they were printed, the cells were not expanded and a lot of information was cut off from the budget. For example, the narrative we wrote for the program we are appealing (and for all of our narratives) took up more space than is seen before expanding the cell. In the attached budget breakdown, the narrative has been expanded. For this reason we believe information may have been not fully communicated. We believe the main misinterpretations to be:

- What the SSFC thought to be the cost of the fleece for one of the social events, and
- Where the money for the fleece comes from

We host 4 social networking events a year and while some of them we generally do annually, such as the blanket-making social in the fall before finals, some change from year to year. For this reason we have a decent proportion of the money for this program budget in the “other” category. We would not like to lie to the SSFC and misguide what the money will be spent on since we can’t be absolutely sure. While this generally includes equipment rental and miscellaneous costs, we only specify the items we are sure to get (like fleece) in the parentheses of the “other” expense cell. We believe this may have led to the most significant misinterpretation: the cost of fleece. In both the initial and final funding rationales, one of the deductions says simply “$1500 deducted for networking blankets”. We would first like to point out that the fleece for this event DOES NOT cost $1,500. It only costs around $300-400 (documentation of this can be found in our ledger if need be). Therefore a deduction of $1,500 for networking blankets is not appropriate because it is far more than the fleece costs.

We would also like to express that we request money from SSF for the food, room rental, advertising, etc. of these events. SSF money is meant to be spent on Student Service Fees paying students and is not meant for donation, no matter how good of a cause. We understand this, and for this reason we only include items like fleece for donation blankets because we are purchasing it with money from other sources besides SSF. As can be seen in the budget breakdown, we get more than half of the budget for these events from other sources, mostly from internal grants and our partnership with Kaplan. This leads us to the second misinterpretation we would like to explain; the money that we have requested under Student Service Fees WILL NOT be spent on fleece. All of the money to fund the fleece will come from grants internal to the U of M and organizational contributions—specifically, our sponsorship that we have every year with Kaplan.

In a brief summary, $1,500 is much more than the fleece actually costs. The actual cost is around $300-400. Also, none of the money that we are asking for through SSF will be used to fund fleece. For this reason we believe there was a misunderstanding in the reasoning for the deduction, and as such we request the $1,500 back to properly fund our social networking events.

The budget form for the program for which the funding being appealed applies to will be attached to help clarify, with the narrative expanded.