ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
CLEARWATER ROOM, PSU
5:30PM
DECEMBER 4, 2013

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Finance Officer Tingey.

ROLL CALL
ASISU Secretary, Zara Sivertsen, took roll. All Finance Committee Members were present except Senators Hall, Hudson, and James. MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 20, 2013. Jensen/Son. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED. MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE AMENDMENT TO ADD DEB GREEN TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE. Son/Bloxham. Unanimous called. MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIR’S REPORT
1. Senator Son did not have a lot to report. They are going to bring Bill 443 to the floor. He took it off the agenda last week to get loan details worked out. They need to get an application and forms made. He wants to put it in place for next semester.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE
1. Deb Green, Associate Director of Scholarships-It has been a while since changes have been made to the ASISU Scholarships. They were created in 1968. There are service, merit and discretionary awards. Currently there is a formula to award the merit scholarships. Discretionary awards are at the discretion of the committee. She thinks that it might be better to move to merit only. There is some unfairness with the discretionary awards. Some committees use it to look for need. International students are excluded since they cannot fill out a FAFSA. Some credit changes need to be made for pharmacy and undergraduate scholarships. There can also be a conflict of interest since senators can apply for the awards and then they are on the committee that chooses the scholarship recipients. They can also have friends applying for the scholarships. She feels that if they have a straight formula, they don’t need to have committees. The Scholarship Office could go strictly off the formula and present the awards to the senators for approval.

Many of the current rules are good as-is. President Bloxham wondered if there are some students that don’t receive a scholarship because of their GPA, even if it is a 3.5 or so. Deb noted there are some that are in the middle of the need and merit spectrums and don’t generally get considered for these scholarships. President Bloxham noted that student retention problems generally come from financial issues. Deb stated that there are many scholarships that are merit based, and students with need usually receive Pell Grants. They could perhaps split up the money into two GPA pools. Senator Son wondered about the conflict of interest, specifically if there was any way to replace names of applicants so the committees don’t know the applicants. Deb noted that they are moving towards an all online scholarship program which could help with this. The Graduate School doesn’t follow rules that were set by ASISU because they are outdated. She asked the senators to get recommendations directly from the Graduate School on this issue, but there are definitely changes that need to be made. Discretionary funds are used for traveling to conferences and such. She thinks it should stay the same since there is a big need for it in the Graduate School. The current graduate GPA formula needs to be changed. President Bloxham thanked Deb for coming and he agrees that there are changes that need to be made.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS
1. Matched Deposits- MOVE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MATCHED DEPOSITS: STUDENT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (SOTA) FOR $22.01, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY FOR
$162.34, AND NSSLHA MERIDIAN FOR $69.66 TOTALING $254.01. Jensen/Hall. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED. Three clubs so far have reached the maximum.

2. Incentive Points- There was some confusion on points for the retreat. Now each point is worth $1.08. There were 6,944 points total. MOVE TO APPROVE UPDATED INCENTIVE POINTS. Bloxham/Jensen. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Morgan Pitcock- He wanted to talk about the motion from last week about dues. Section VIII, Clause 1 in the Bylaws states that fund-raising is eligible for matched deposits. Dues are a way that students show commitment to the clubs. Some do rely too much on the matched deposits. Limiting them seems fine, but he feels that they should be counted. Senator Hall wondered if clubs impose dues just to get more money from matched deposits. Morgan doesn’t feel that most clubs would do this. The clubs need money to have activities and events. Clubs will probably charge dues anyways, regardless of if they count for matched deposits. Clubs are founded on certain interests. They are forcing them to go to events outside of these interests to get their money. President Bloxham noted that initial deposits are given to clubs, so they are not just relying on matched deposits. Senator Son feels that they are rewarding clubs with the matched deposits. Vice President Jensen noted that commitment to club should be rewarded, and he agrees with Morgan. Morgan is in support of lowering the maximum so more money can be passed to other clubs. Senator Hudson agrees with Morgan. They already cut funding this year and now they are limiting their funding again. Finance is asking people to do more and then giving them less. President Bloxham noted that he has intentions to move matched funds to incentive funds. He agrees with rewarding behavior. Incentive points are performance based. One reason students leave college is because it is expensive. Clubs imposing dues could impact those decisions. He is trying to get students to be involved and then clubs charge them more money. Vice President Jensen feels that most clubs know about matched deposits and not all of the clubs have dues. President Bloxham feels that just because a club attended the Finance Workshop, doesn’t mean that they know everything about club funding. He is confident that due-charging clubs would increase. Senator Son gave an example of one club who raised $3,500 in dues and only $85 in fund-raising so far this year. They are not going to apply for matched funding for dues. He feels that giving clubs money for dues discourages actual fundraising. He disagrees that collecting dues are actual fund-raising efforts. He asked what Morgan felt was a fair ratio for dues. Morgan stated fifteen percent. He feels the bylaw should be reworded. Senator Hudson feels that with 134 clubs, to have each fund-raise will exhaust the system. Some clubs aren’t concerned with fund-raising; they are just friends with common interest. President Bloxham doesn’t feel like giving a group of friends $300 off the bat is unfair. Some students couldn’t join one of his clubs because they couldn’t afford it. Senator Son noted that dues mainly go to national office for his club but a part of it goes to the on-campus club to increase their funds. Attending events helps promote the university, and he feels that the money should go towards that. Senator Johnson noted that some of the clubs that charge dues have the most involved students on campus. She agrees with not allowing the entire amount for dues but not with eliminating the dues completely. Idaho Falls Vice President Thompson noted that they give incentive points for clubs to have parties. In some ways, clubs are triple-dipping: they get money three different ways to do one thing. He couldn’t get clubs involved with the event he was planning, which was frustrating. They already have the rewards so they don’t get involved with other events.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

MOVE TO ADJOURN. Bloxham/Johnson. Unanimous. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.