



LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL
STUDENT BODY
FALL TERM
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR



RESOLUTION NO. R.-24-002

AUTHORED BY: Mike Kelly

A RESOLUTION TO: CLARIFY AND RESTRUCTURE THE GOVERNANCE AND ALLOCATION PROCESS SURROUNDING STUDENT ORGANIZATION FUNDING.

THE STUDENT BODY OF LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL HEREBY RESOLVES:

I. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

WHEREAS the SBA historically internally tracked and observed all student organization spending, relying on accurate and timely information about funding to plan events, initiatives, ensure proper fund allocation, protect student interests, and prevent misuse or misallocation, and

WHEREAS Lewis & Clark Law School has centralized funding previously allocated to the SBA for student organizations, resulting in SBA lacking full transparency into student organization funding structures, and

WHEREAS a transparent budgeting process enables the SBA to advocate for diverse needs and ensure equitable resource distribution, fostering trust between student organizations and the administration.

II. FUNDING COMMITTEE STUDENT REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS the current funding committee consists of two (2) staff members and one (1) student: the Associate Director of Student Affairs, a member of the Student Events team, and the SBA Treasurer (hereinafter “the Committee”), and

WHEREAS the Committee reviews all requests for supplemental funding (hereinafter “Supplemental Funding Requests”), and

WHEREAS the Committee is responsible for approval or denial of Supplemental Funding Requests submitted by students and student organizations, and

WHEREAS increasing the amount of student representatives would benefit students generally by ensuring student-centered perspectives, as students best understand the needs and priorities of student organizations.

III. APPEALS PROCESS

WHEREAS there is an absence of an appeals process in the current student organization funding structure, which limits students' ability to challenge and seek review of funding decisions, and

WHEREAS the decisions of the Funding Committee have a significant impact on the ability of student organizations to fulfill their missions and serve the student body, and

WHEREAS an appeals process provides a structured and fair mechanism for addressing concerns, potential errors or biases regarding denial of funding, ensuring that each denial of funding is subject to review, and

WHEREAS a fair and transparent appeals process would allow students and student organizations to be fully heard and to advocate for their needs, aligning with due process ideals, thereby fostering greater trust and confidence in the funding process.

IV. INEQUITIES IN FUNDING PROHIBITIONS

WHEREAS the current Supplemental Funding Requests process specifically [prohibits](#) the use of baseline allocation or supplemental funding towards “travel expenses,” and “honorariums or speaker fees,” and

WHEREAS the SBA has exhausted its annual travel budget over the past two years, allocating \$3,898 of a \$4,300 budget in AY23-24 and \$2,999 of a \$3,000 budget in AY22-23, during a period when student groups had access to their baseline funding to support their own travel expenses, and

WHEREAS these prohibitions may disproportionately impact student organizations, particularly those focused on legal fields that require accessible travel, thereby restricting opportunities for certain groups to fully engage in campus life and contribute to emerging or less represented areas of law that lack local presence, and

WHEREAS student organizations are best positioned to understand and determine how to allocate their funds in a manner that aligns with their goals, values, and the interests of their members, and

WHEREAS granting student organizations more financial autonomy fosters creativity and ownership, and supports the idea that student organizations should have the freedom to allocate their resources towards more diverse and impactful events better-aligned with their missions.

RESOLUTIONS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Student Body calls upon the Administration to be fully transparent with respect to all funds apportionable to students and student organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two additional student positions be added to the Funding Committee to achieve a more balanced and inclusive composition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an equitable appeals process be established, including the following elements:

A clear and accessible procedure for students to submit appeal requests, including deadlines and required documentation,

A designated appeals committee comprised of the Dean of Students, the SBA President, and the SBA Treasurer,

The right for students to provide additional information or clarification during the appeals process,

A timely and transparent decision-making process with written explanations of the outcome provided to the student organization.

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that restrictions on honorarium and travel spending by student organization funding be lifted.

PASSED IN THE SBA EXECUTIVE

BOARD: August 22, 2024

VOTE TOTALS:

 6 YES

 0 NO

 ABSTAIN

PASSED IN THE SBA GENERAL

ASSEMBLY: September 8, 2024

VOTE TOTALS:

 18 YES

 1 NO

 ABSTAIN