STHSA Dean’s Meeting 9/26/12

**Those in Attendance:**

Dean Stone

Dean Moore

Dean Lightsee

Molly Nason

Joseph Kyser

Desi Sharp

Tommietta Green

**Budget:**

Tommietta explained the budget and the beginning of the year deficit. The deficit was the result of the end of last year’s deficit rolling into this year. This should be considered in light of the increase in students bringing the total needed for community lunch up considerably.

STHSA has a $14,781 budget after paying outstanding balances from last year.

Community lunch costs $8,575 for the year.

Each student group has $300 available.

This leaves us a semester balance of $1000.

SAO had a large transition in their office staff, therefore nothing was posted for 6 months, and we are still waiting to get an email answer to our funding questions. This could be related to the fact that the director position has yet to be filled.

The Student Activity fee was raised this year as well as having an increase in students for this academic term, so there should be more money available.

STHSA knows that there will be a future allocation of funds for the Spring semester as well as a third summer allocation, but we are unaware of whether or not the increase will be reflected in that amount.

Tommietta and Molly will go to SAO to ask about the availability of more funding for the Fall.

**Student Travel:**

Dean Lightsee’s office will be matching student travel funds. Tommie and the Dean’s office will coordinate how much we can provide.

KSA, Black Seminarians, and the Doctoral Students Association are the groups most affected by being underfunded.

Funding from the Dean’s office and Administration come from different sources. Dean Moore has a Discretionary fund that has up to $4,000 available for supplemental monies if it proves absolutely necessary. However this fund is also supplying the monies for the Community Center.

This might be an appropriate time to change the ethos for student funding. STHSA should be presented as the primary group that students relate to when they are funding their activities.

The Dean’s office and any other office that might contribute will still collaborate, but they will do so from behind the scenes.

When the Community Life Office develops an event Dean Lightsee suggests that it be co-sponsored by STHSA rather than being branded as its own organization.

**Graduation Celebration:**

Last year this event was approximately $10,000. This year it appears that there is no funding available. Are there funding resources that STHSA is unaware of?

Historically the Alumni Association has been active within this event, but they can no longer fund it. The Endowment they acted from has been transferred to Dean Lightsee’s office.

It is an endowment; there should be funds available. Dean Lightsee will check with Kevin about the specific amount. She needs a budget proposal to begin to work on this. Joseph and Dean Lightsee will partner on this.

Desi will send an email to remind Dean Lightsee to check with Kevin.

The Graduation Celebration will be on May 10, 2013 in either the GSU Metcalf Room or the Photonics Building. Either way there will be a facilities fee.

**Curriculum:**

Kirk Wegter-McNelly suggested that the STHSA offer themselves to help with the 1st Year curriculum review process. The primary help we offer is through the APPF representative. Sam Lyon and Jason Blakeburn are those elected to that position.

**Website:**

Website upgrades should be sent to either Dean Stone or Pippa. STHSA would like their website to be moved to the STHSA website for a more streamlined updated look and functionality.

Dean Stone and Molly will collaborate on this.

**Student Organizations:**

First Year Students hold the majority of nominations for STHSA Representative positions.

It was brought before the group that a new system of Student Organizations and Student Interest Groups be put into place, rather than every group becoming an organization automatically.

Each group that receives a budget should have a representative at STHSA meetings. This will keep us in conversation with one another.

STHSA is trying to brand ourselves differently. We are not just a funding organization, but also a group for conversation and outreach.

In conjunction with this the meeting structures have been changed. In previous years all of the meetings centered on money. We now do administration and stewardship meetings once a month. Once a month we do community service within BU, once a month we do community service outside of our walls, and the remaining weeks are forums for various student issues.

Meeting times are now Wednesday mornings at 9:00am.

**Spiritual Life:**

Spiritual Life is asking for funding from STHSA. However, they are not registered by SAO as a student organization. Last year STHSA covered breakfast funding for Morning Prayer and other funding that they didn’t have. This is no longer possible.

The Dean’s suggest that Student Life should not be funded through STHSA and they will consider some conversation around creative funding, such as talking to Panera to feed themselves and others in the mornings.

Those receiving budgets should strive to stay within their budgets instead of financing through various organizations.

STHSA is trying to create a positive environment even if we do not have the same budgets that we have in the past.

We should be promoting a Theology of Abundance, focusing on what we have, abundance and abundant stewardship rather than a Theology of Scarcity.

**Calendar:**

There is a Master Calendar through Community Life. Ways to update it are being explored. One option being considered is the feasibility of making it accessible to groups to upload their own activities. Another area of focus involves making the calendar easier to read at a glance. Small and large events are currently given the same space and font; it would be expedient to have a system of differentiation.

It would be helpful for Dean Lightsee, Tommietta and Ashley if student organizations will be sure to notify them of events in a timely manner. They are available to help with promotion and video taping of special events. If groups are doing something fantastic they would like everyone to know.

It was proposed that having monitors strategically placed around the school with scrolling announcements would be a great way to cut down on the amount of paper we use for advertising thins with fliers. This would be very informative and green.

Molly and Tommietta will explore doing this as a class gift for this year’s graduating class.

**Town Hall Meetings:**

These meetings should be co-sponsored by STHSA and Dean Lightsee’s office. The first meeting will feature Dean Moore as the key speaker.

**Good News:**

The Deans have collaborated with Dr. Larry Kotlikoff, a leading economist in the U.S. to lead a series of workshops on financial literacy in six one-day events.

Dean Lightsee will send Molly an email about this event.

Kudos are also due to the faculty, especially Dean Lightsee, which worked with the Debra Haffner Religious Institute to have BU recognized as a sexually healthy seminary. BU is now on a list of about 21 schools, and we are an example to other seminaries for our inclusive language statement. There will be an email going out to the wider community regarding this achievement.