Boston University School of Theology Student Association  
Meeting Minutes  
25 October 2010  
RM 115  
5:00pm - 6:00pm

Board members present: Debbie, Dan, Nathan, Maya D., Insung Ko, Soren H.  
Student Attendees: Jen Q, Jeff R., Meredith H., Michael B, Amanda H.  

Dan - centering moment

1) Meeting Times: Students discuss desire to remain flexible while allowing for greatest participation possible, convenience, will be taking attendance to judge whether Monday evenings are better time.

2) Doctoral Group Budget Request - Revised budget of $2100
   1) AAR Lunch 250
   2) Spring Event 100 - getting presenters abstracts together - event where students could meet doctoral students; accountability for student presenters
   3) Conference/Travel Support 1500 - Money to be allocated for students presenting at conferences; extra $50-100 per student;
   4) Fellowship/Community Building 250 getting doctoral students together one time per semester to get to know one another

Discussion: concerns raised regarding the conference/travel support - while conference participation (presentation and attendance) is a greater necessity (professional expectation) for doctoral students - STHSA has already committed to providing funds for conference attendance and has also committed to additional funds for students who present at conferences - hesitancy to allot funds for conference just for doctoral student group when it has been denied other student groups - STHSA has commitment to talk about specific concerns of doctoral students as this issue is brought up to faculty and administration

Jen - motions to approve $600 for doctoral student group, with stipulation to work and encourage CELL committee to give special concern for the needs and professional expectations of doctoral students preparing for academic and professional participation - Maya seconded - motion approved by majority - Soren abstains from vote - $600 approved

3) Conference Funding Requests
   Michael Brown - request for participation at professional development conference with the Christian Science Association - asking for $100 for conference fees - has submitted all required information to STHSA - however has already participated in event.

Discussion:
Jeff - issue of setting precedent - sponsoring students after their attendance
Jen - hearing the concerns - but we can't determine all the financial restraints
Nathan - raises issue of seeing conference proposals - what information is required to approve funds
Maya - we're still working out policy - what if we structure a grace period until the end of semester - start new next semester - with firm deadlines about applying for funds
Jen - two weeks grace period - information is required right now for emails
Jeff - issue now is setting precedent - not just this approval
Michael - issue about what qualifies as "professional" student
Amanda - overriding concern is to hear about what the experiences are that students are attending

Point of order raised by Soren - Move to approve $100 for Michael and then work out policy - seconded - unanimously approved

4) Conference funding requests cont'd:

A. Issue of approving funds for participation after participation
Soren - motion to approve requests within 30 days of attendance for all applicants until the end of the fall semester (approx Dec. 20th, 2010) - Beginning next semester (approx. Jan 18th, 2011)- motion to require applications to be submitted prior to the start date of conference in question; seconded

Jeff - unsympathetic to students who don't read emails
Maya - set the rule now - more flexibility than 30 days - we agree that till the end of the semester we be flexible
Soren - we need to have something in writing - we need to adopt a policy and live into that

Move to vote on initial motion - unanimously approved - All requests for conference assistance must be submitted within 30 days of conference attendance through Fall semester 2010, beginning with Spring semester 2011, all conference fund requests must be submitted in writing with appropriate documentation to STHSA prior to the beginning of the conference in question.

Note: appropriate documentation includes the following - confirmation of registration at conference, evidence of travel arrangements, and if presenting, student must submit documentation from organization evidencing the organization's request of their presentation

B. Issue of demonstrating professional nature of conference
Debbie motions to set additional requirements for consideration of travel and participation to professional conferences other than AAR/SBL - If student wishes to participate in a conference not hosted by AAR or SBL a written request demonstrating the relevancy of the student’s participation to their professional/academic development must be submitted in addition to the above documentation. This will assist the STHSA in determining the appropriateness of allocating conference funds; seconded.

Vote taken - all approve - passed unanimously
C. Issue of setting a limit or cap to funds allocated from STHSA budget for conference proposals

Discussion:
- Soren - setting caps is issue of leverage for discussing further financial support from administration - asks about budget from CELL committee
- Jeff - student rep to Cell committee - only discussing current issues of programming - will look into budget information by next week
- Jen - CELL is running springboard funding - potentially springboard would be the pool of money CELL would be drawing on to fund conferences
- Meredith - Concern that faculty administration use funds that are already delineated for student use, instead of creating new fund specifically for student conference participation
- Debbie - Concern for establishing exact dollar amount to prove to administration the commitment of STHSA
- Maya - what if we commit certain percentage of budget (i.e. 10%) for student conference funds
- Jeff - Concern that administration be paying for student interest in conference - this should be something that we encourage the administration to pay for alone, without STHSA funds which should be used for community building on campus
- Maya - is this something that admin should offer?
- Soren - peer institutions are offering funds to their students
- Jen - raises interest in alumni developments
- Maya - reasserts concerns about dollar amount
- Jen - ballpark dollar amount to pitch to admin, will be used not only to safeguard against negative effects if STHSA budget shifts, but also to set a minimum for administrative support - specifically looking for funds outside of CELL
- Jeff - something that admin should work into budget
- Soren - point of order - this conversation is taking up too much time

Jen - motions to cap STHSA funds allocated for conference attendance tentatively at $4000 - passed by majority

Jen - motions by next week to have executive committee and students to put together formal petition for administration - tell them about the caps and requests - Soren seconds with motion to assign committee - all approve unanimously

Soren move to make Jeff chair of committee, set meeting time for student discussion and draft to administration, draft petition to submit to STHSA meeting next time; seconded; all approve - Jeff abstains

Three requests for conference funding still pending
  - Brice Tennent $100 - motion, seconded, all approve
  - Anne Hillman $100 - motion, seconded, all approve
  - Xochitl Alviso $250 - motion, seconded, all approve
5) Outstanding Business:

Jeff and Weslyan student association - put in contact with Ko for signatures/procedures

*Partakers Budget - presented by Jeff Rickman - request for $200 for food/drink and $500 for transportation for cars to/from prisons- total of $700 - Move to approve - seconded - $700 approved unanimously*

Issue of Agenda - for meetings

*Constitution - hard copies handed out - newest revision online - will review at next meeting Move table discussion of constitution till next week - seconded - week - approved unanimously*

*Motion to send update via email and blog - seconded - approved unanimously*

*Move to announce voting procedures at beginning of meeting - seconded - all approve*

Update on Registration of Student Groups - Jeff Murphy to facilitate in SAO - this week they will have process to do this - very little that Soren can do - will update student groups as soon as information is received

Meeting adjourned