

9/16/24 Student Forum

6:30 P.M. MPR

## BUDGET FORUM

### I. CALL TO ORDER

*Speaker Chris Schwartz calls the meeting to order at 6:09*

### II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

David Ferguson, - Advisor to the Student Government - **Present**

Chris Schwartz - Speaker of the Student Body - **Present**

Emily McCaffrey - Treasurer of the Student Government

Blake Millwood - Archivist of the Student Government - **Present**

Nitya Goyal - Chair of the Student Life Committee

Ela Bosworth-Tetikoglu - Chair of the Educational Policies Committee

Gavin Hersey - Chair of the Fiscal Committee - **Present**

Suliman Zafarkhil - Chair of the Multicultural Diversity Committee

Emily Huang - Chair of the Socially Responsible Investment Committee

Thalia Grandinetti - Chair of the Student Judiciary Board, Co-Chair of the Constit. Court - **Present**

Marisol(Mari) Thompson - Chair of the Peer Review Board, Co-Chair of the Constit. Court - **Present**

### III. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Convocation Fund: \$500,000.00

Student Government Reserves: ~ \$250,000.00

Allocated this Semester: \$105,801.26

Allocated to Charters this Year: \$316,964.00

Allocated to Spring Fling: ~ \$80,000

**Total Allocated: \$502,765.26**

### IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

**David Ferguson** explains slide comparing student activities fee to other colleges, differences

in their spending.

**Chris Schwartz** explains budget spending history at Bard, why we have a reserve, how the reserve is declining. Because of inflation, the current convocation fund is not enough. This is why we are voting to increase the fund to \$675,000.

## V. DISCUSSION NOTES

### Questions

- Impact of tuition increase on the convocation fund.
- Whether a percentage of the increase should go back to the Student Government and then to the clubs.
- If a tuition increase will occur this year.
- Why does this have to come from student tuition?

Input from **Gavin Heresy**:

Proposed increase would allow clubs more spending flexibility.

Admin's reluctance to provide additional funding; tuition as the simplest solution.

### Suggestions

- Discussion about distributing funds evenly between charter and regular clubs.
- Proposal to publicize club spending to evaluate if an increase is justified.

**Motion for itemized public ledger**

### Discussion

- Concerns about privacy and criticism; need for respectful evaluation.
- Proposal for shared lists of resources among clubs instead.

Input from **Chris Schwartz**: Fiscal Committee's role in auditing clubs; BSG's limited capacity for this work.

**Motion for public ledger passed by majority.**

## VI. AMENDMENTS

### Details of Allocations:

- **Fantastic Tales**: Received money
- **Summer Camp Club**: Received money
- **Chem Club**: Received money
- **SCALE**: Received money
- **Spectra**: Received money
- **Magic the Gathering @ Bard**: Received money

- **The Community Project:** Received money
- **The Dime Store:** Received money
- **Election @ Bard:** Received money
- **BELL:** Received money
- **Bard Games:** Received money
- **We Keep Us COVID Safe:** Received money
- **Musician's Wellness:** Received money
- **Chinese Music Club:** Received money
- **Gilson Place:** Received money
- **Bard Mural Initiative:** Received money
- **SMOG:** Received money (by BSG)
- **WOCU:** Received money
- **Christian Club:** Received money
- **Chinese Student Org:** Received money
- **Cassette Club:** Received money
- **Bard Big Bad Bass:** Received money
- **Bard Kollage:** Not given money
- **BRAD Comedy:** Received money
- **Being at Bard:** Not given money (no representation)
- **Ukrainian Solidarity Club:** Received money
- **Pre-Health Club:** Received money
- **Bard Bollywood:** Received money
- **Bard Collage:** Received money
- **Bard Black Arts Collective:** Received money
- **Figure Drawing Club:** Received money
- **Bard Outdoors:** Received money
- **Natural Pigments:** Received money
- **Kpop Dance Club:** Received money
- **Bard Air Quality Initiative:** Received money
- **8mm and 16mm Film Club:** Received money

## VII. APPROVAL OF BUDGET

**Resolution to Increase Convocation Fund:** From \$500,000 to \$675,000, thereby increasing the student activity fee from \$257 to \$350 per student.

**Vote Result:** Passed with 88 (66.7%) in favor and 44 (33.3%) opposed.

**Resolution for Approval of the Budget:**

**Vote Result:** Passed with majority voting in favor.

VIII. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS / COMMENTARY

Skipped

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:51pm