A Resolution to Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Accountability

Nick Benson (for himself, Ciara Ahern, AJ Babcock, Stacie Baker, Alok Bhatt, Igor Brin, Jim Cropcho, Laura Denning, Liz Evangelista, Andria Fuquen, Ajmeri Hoque, Brennan Howell, Meghan Innes, Larry King, Dan Klempay, Tim Krock, Ben Leland, Matt Luby, Nick Marconi, Nicole McCrone, Michelle Pineiro, Brad Reed, Stephanie Seger, Pat Sprinkle, Pete Steele, Elaine Yeh, Matt Dodovich, Charlene Chi, and Steve Miller) introduced the following resolution; which was passed by the Committee on Policy & Governance.

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Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students, and

Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government Senate is charged with monitoring, allocating, and controlling all student government funds in Article I. Section B. Subsection 1. a. of the USG constitution, and

Whereas, a budget is intended to be an itemized summary of estimated or intended expenditures for a given period, and

Whereas, the Undergraduate Student Government Senate has neglected responsibilities in overseeing and approving spending proposals as per the constitution in previous sessions, and

Therefore Let it Be Resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Government shall adopt into Student Statue the following guidelines to be followed regarding the budgetary process.

“A. Appropriations Procedures

1. All appropriations must originate from the Undergraduate Student Government Senate.

2. Once a budget has been adopted by the Senate, it shall serve as an advisory projection of spending for the session.

3. Monies granted to committees in the President’s cabinet shall be dispersed at the discretion of the committee if the expenditures shall be less than $1500. All elements of a given project, program or other expenditures shall be considered one collective expenditure and the Senate may treat the expenditure(s) as such. Multiple expenditures of a value less than $1500 towards one over-arching project, program, or other expenditures deemed to be components of one larger project, program, or expenditure may not be grounds for circumventing Senate approval.
4. All projects, programs and expenditures, not already a line item in the budget, and greater than $1500 must be submitted for approval by the Senate in the form of a bill sponsored by a Senator and must be accompanied with the following information:
   a. A report outlining the purpose of the project, program, or expenditure, explaining the need for the project, program, or expenditure, an estimated budget for the project, program or expenditure, and an estimated timeline for the execution of the project, program, or expenditure.
   b. The Chairperson of the Budget & Finance Committee may request additional information with a majority vote from the Budget & Finance Committee.

5. The purpose of this process is to examine the merits of the project, program, or expenditure itself and not the individual line-items within the budget for the project, program, or expenditure. The Senate may use the budget as a consideration in reaching a decision but is charged with making a determination about the merits of the project, program, or expenditure.

6. The Office Manager for the Undergraduate Student Government has the authority to circumvent this set of rules if necessary in the execution of his/her duties. Should unforeseen expenditures arise in the execution of the project, program, or expenditure, the Office Manager may discharge such funds as are necessary so long as they are not excessive or outside of the realm of the initial proposal.

7. The President, with the consent of the Speaker of the Senate and the Office Manager may circumvent this set of rules in emergency circumstances that may emerge that require immediate expenditures. The Senate may stop this action through a Senate resolution by a majority vote.

8. If the President should deem a bill described in these rules as being time sensitive and it is necessary to advance bills outlined in this resolution to the floor without consideration in committee, such bills may come straight to the floor with the majority consent of the Senate Steering Committee.

**Let it Further Be Resolved**, that this change shall be enacted immediately.

Floor Vote: Yea: 32   Nay: 3   Present: 5

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Suzanne Scharer         Nick Benson
President              Speaker of the Senate