

Student Government Enforces Finance Rules

February 12th, 2006 - The Student Government of Ferris State University's general assembly met this past Wednesday to vote on a resolution as well as introduce a new one, review progress from committees, and to hear an issue regarding funding with the student activity fee. Associate Vice President of Finance Libby Schmidt presented an error on behalf of the Finance Division that incorrectly allowed Entertainment Unlimited/Leadership SPOT office's Speaker Series program to pass the division without meeting the correct time constraints. As stated in the Rules of Appropriation and Allocation (RAA), applications for requests for funding over \$7,000 must be submitted 6 calendar months before the date of the event or beginning of the use of the funding. The division did in fact pass the application, which was supposedly submitted within the last month, and realized the error after-the-fact. As stated in the RAA, the general assembly must approve an allocation recommended by the division before funding can be disbursed.

The general assembly discussed the various options available to not only keep the rules intact in the division and avoid an incident of special consideration, but to assist the Speaker Series in still being able to continue in some capacity this semester. It was eventually decided by a large consensus of the general assembly that funding would be denied. The Speaker Series committee now has the option of resubmitting their application and request less funding, and will likely be able to still have speakers come to Ferris this year. When asked about the decision, cabinet members of Student Government expressed the desire to remain steadfast and apply the rules of RAA to every application, regardless of the "importance" of a group requesting the funds.

"The application, very simply, was turned in too late for consideration. RAA expresses the amount of time something like this has to occur, and it wasn't met. We're sorry we cannot fund this worthwhile event on campus, but the division must be fair to every group regardless of who they are. Equality is an inherent right to everyone in this division, whether it's a group that asks for funding often, or barely at all," stated Associate Vice President of Public Relations Zack East.

In other news, Residence Hall Association (RHA) representative Joelle Sawisch introduced a resolution at last week's meeting regarding the standardization of accessible door openers on campus for disabled students. Sawisch cited the reason for standardization was a result of inconsistency in door opening buttons versus heat sensor door openers on campus. Heat sensors do not allow easy access for service animals and can be a strain on disabled persons with limited strength. The resolution passed unanimously in the general assembly, and will be sent to the administration to encourage adoption of the suggestion.