



July 17th, 2009

Dear Governing Boards,

We wanted to follow up this year's F@CU meeting with some thoughts on the overall process. This year's F@CU meeting brought to light several problems that we only see worsening in the future if left unaddressed. It is our hope that this letter will not only explain our decisions, but also outline the direction we see for future F@CU meetings.

- The amount of money that each governing board is requesting from F@CU has increased annually at a rate that is unsustainable given F@CU's limited increase in funds. We have to make difficult cuts yearly and can never fully satisfy a governing board's requested allocation as a result of these increases. Please refer to the Excel attachment "Governing Board Allocations History."
- The amount allocated to governing boards, especially over the past three years, has fluctuated severely. It is hard for both the governing boards and F@CU to plan sustainable long-term growth when such fluctuations occur. Please refer to the Excel attachment "Trends in Governing Board Allocations."
- Cosponsorships dispensed for recurring events have also been increasing. It is our view that groups should be able to put on recurring events within their initial allocations. This year, we tried to include last year's council co-sponsorships for recurring events in this year's allocations; we plan to reserve co-sponsorships for only new events in the next year.

We have not had to address these issues in the past two to three years because there have been fortunate surpluses found in one governing board or another. These surpluses allowed us to spread the extra funds to the other governing boards. However, we did not have surpluses to work with this year and cannot plan to have them consistently in the future.

While the growth and expansion of your student groups is clearly beneficial to student life, the limited financial resources available to F@CU unfortunately means that increased growth will result in less spending per student. Therefore, we encourage the governing boards to consider the financial consequences when making decisions on expansion. Some governing boards have already taken a lead on this, but one concrete way to resolve this problem is to strongly encourage and help quickly-expanding groups in holding revenue-raising events and initiatives.

Our aim going forward is to allocate consistently within a reliable range and we ask that governing boards be responsible in not having surpluses or deficits. In the next F@CU, we are hoping to see a request near what was allocated for the 2009-2010 year, barring any major changes in the composition of your groups. To ensure the stability and success of

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future F@CU processes, this really needs to be a collaborative effort between the student groups, governing boards and councils.

In the interest of transparency and more effective communication, please feel free to share this letter with your clubs. And, of course, don't hesitate to send us an email at facu@columbia.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

The F@CU Committee