

Activities Board at Columbia Letter Clarifications, 2007-2008

*Shown below are clarifications made to the Activities Board at Columbia (ABC) Governing Board Executive Committee after the FaCU allocation reasoning letter for ABC was written and delivered. These statements should be considered supplements to the actual letter, and **not** replacements.*

Clarifications via e-mail

Hey Dan,

Hope your summer is going well. I'm going to share with you my personal thoughts on the letter. Please note that these are not necessarily reflective of Paula's or anyone else's opinion, and I'm being frank since you asked and I would like to make sure we're on the same page going into next year.

I do appreciate your taking the time to write out the letter, and I of course accept the decision of the committee as foregone. That said, since you asked, the logic explaining the deduction from our appeals request doesn't actually make sense to me. Everything else is acceptable though.

The following paragraph from the letter misinterprets the accounting change of the Varsity Show as a justification for lowering the appeals budget. While there may be other reasons to lower the appeals request (council budget shortfall, a desire to limit ABC growth, politics, etc.), Varsity Show does not fully explain the committee's reasoning:

ABC's justification for the increase in Initial Allocations for 2007-2008 (Table 1, line 2) was the inclusion of the Varsity Show as an Emergency Allocation rather than an Appeal, as it had been in 2006-2007. Therefore, the FaCU committee found it to be reasonable for the Appeals budget for 2007-2008 (Table 1, line 5, column 4) to decrease from the 2006-2007 figure by the same amount that the Initial Allocations budget increased, calculated as follows:

(see Allocation Reasoning Letter)

Table 2: Calculation of '07-'08 Appeals Budget

As you show, we requested an additional \$34,819.96 in initial allocation. Moving Varsity Show over accounted for \$14,500 of this, meaning we requested a net \$20,319.96 increase in initial allocations, which the committee was kind enough to grant.

Our requested appeals budget of \$56,910.00, adjusted to include Varsity Show, would still be \$7,273.21 less than the 06-07 figure above.

That leaves a net requested budget increase of \$13,046.75 in appeals that the committee chose to cut.

Please note that in the same paragraph (Section C) of the cover letter where we explained the difference due to Varsity Show, we also noted that the appeals budget includes a net cut of \$6,000.00 (17+14-25) in our budget due to a new arrangement with Mock Trial (for which we still may have some debt liability potential if their fundraising is unsuccessful).

So if there's a rationale for the \$13,046.75 cut, I'd welcome hearing it. I am personally of the opinion that at least the \$6,000.00 voluntary budget cut we made should not have been removed from our next year's appeals budget, never mind the remaining \$7,046.75.

But again, no hard feelings, thank you all for all your hard work on this, and we appreciate that we have enough funds to work with for the year.

Best regards,
Jacob

Hi Jacob,

None of the cuts we chose to make were done so lightly. Everyone on the committee would have liked to be able to give every governing board what was requested. However, the student councils are working with a limited budget, and we did the best that we could to provide as much funding to each governing board according to its needs. At this point, the student councils' budgets are distributed to the governing boards in a way that really only allows for an increased allocation to one group to occur as the result of a decreased allocation to another, or the councils themselves. As a result, governing boards were limited to a 10% budget growth rate; ABC was given an increase of 9.2%.

The rationale for the specific \$13,046.75 cut you mention is the result of our own budget limitations, as well as a desire to manage governing board growth in a sustainable manner, and the expressed intent of ABC to allocate more money to student groups directly rather than through appeals. If this cut results in significant hardship for either ABC or its constituent groups, the student councils will, of course, do everything possible to try and alleviate the problem in a fair and efficient manner.

I hope this answers your question, and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

- Daniel

Hi Dan,

Thank you for the more detailed explanation of the committee's reasoning. As I stressed in my previous email, we very much sympathize with the difficulties of working within a limited budget, and the rationale you provide below is perfectly understandable within that context.

I am confident that we will be able to work within the budget we have, and I appreciate your clarifying its source. Looking forward to the coming year.

Best,
Jacob