



May 30, 2008

Dear Community Impact,

Thank you again for your thoughtful F@CU packet as well as your informative presentation. We thank you all for amount of time you dedicate to CI and, thus, the service you are providing to both the Columbia University community and our neighbors in Harlem, Morningside Heights, and Washington Heights.

After careful consideration, F@CU has decided to give CI a \$79,917.15 allocation for the 2008-2009 school-year. This allocation represents an increase from your 2007-2008 allocation of over 7%. This budget increase reflects directly the growth of CI's programming over this past year.

While this budget does represent an increase over last year, we understand that this amount does not include the entirety of the budget you requested during the F@CU process. The student life fees upon which these allocations are based unfortunately limited our committee's ability to provide each governing board with their requested amount. The limited funds required a critical review of CI's spending. As such, we were forced to cut certain initiatives and programming in your proposed budget that were inconsistent with the funding directives to which we hold every governing board accountable. In addition, this year the F@CU Committee determined a maximum amount of acceptable surplus for each governing board's budget: 5% of total allocation. Below please find a complete explanation of this funding guideline and all cuts made to your proposed budget.

The line-item for a "Make-up Retreat," in the amount of \$200.00, was cut as the materials that required funding for this make-up retreat should have been paid for in the line-item for in the earlier "Coordinator Retreat." Based on your proposed attendance rates at both events, the number of attendees at the make-up retreat should be able to use left-over materials from the first retreat.

The give-a-ways for the "Earl Jam," amounting to \$726.00, were taken out of the final allocation. This type of expenditure was determined to be an inappropriate use of the student fees and was removed from the budgets of all governing boards' board programming.

The \$300.00 expenditure for "Study Breaks" was also cut as the intended mission of these events seemed identical to that of the "Town Halls."

The price of the Fellowship Dinner was cut \$50.00, because according to CI's stated standards, the dinner should only cost \$10.00 per person. We held all governing boards to similar, if not lower-priced, per person standards for dining events. Similarly, we understand the unique and necessary nature of the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (VAD), which requires a larger budget than other dining events. However, the increase in the requested amount for this year, as compared to your 2007-2008 budget request, does not reflect a similar increase in attendance. Thus, we are holding the per person food costs to \$20.00/person, the same amount requested in your 2007-2008 budget request. This represents a cut of \$5,100.00 from your requested 2008-2009 budget. In your presentation, you specifically mentioned that the high costs are related to what the Columbia Dining Services charges. As a piece of advice, an event is not necessarily bound to use Columbia Dining Services in the Low Rotunda. You are required to get a "quote" from Columbia Dining



Services. However, if you can demonstrate that an outside vendor will charge less, you are permitted to use them.

Another piece of advice from the F@CU Committee relates to your Open House banner. The Committee asks that the banner be printed in a way so that it can be re-used each year.

Finally, we feel that every governing board should be permitted to have some amount of money left in their account at the end of the year as a contingency fund. This year, F@CU determined that 5% of allocation should be the permitted amount of surplus for this contingency. 5% of last year's allocation (\$74,223.00) is \$3711.15, but this year's surplus amounted to \$8,019.00. Therefore, we also deducted the difference between those numbers (\$4,307.85) from your request, as we would like you to spend some of that leftover money next year.

This might be confusing, as your request of \$90,601.00 was already less the surplus. To correctly serve our role as the F@CU Committee, we must also make use of previous years' data when determining allocations each year. To do this, we must assume that governing boards use the same accounting principles from year to year. The fact that you had over 10% of your allocation left at the end of this year tells us that we over allocated you, based off of last year's request. Specifically, we over allocated you by the \$4,307.85 previously mentioned. Therefore, we are preempting the likelihood of a similar situation occurring this year by further removing that amount from your request. At the end of this year, we project that you should have 5% of your allocation left in your account, specifically \$3,995.86.

All of these cuts sum to \$10,683.85, which is the difference between your request of \$90,601.00 and your allocation of \$79,917.15. Please let us know if you have any questions. We can be reached at [facu@columbia.edu](mailto:facu@columbia.edu).

Sincerely,

The F@CU Committee