May 30, 2008

Dear Student Governing Board,

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 SGB and, thus, the service you are providing to the Columbia University community.

F@CU has decided to give SGB an allocation of $189,620.62 for the 2008-2009 year, which represents an increase from your 2007-2008 allocation of over 19%. This budget increase reflects directly the growth of SGB’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. As such, we were forced to cut certain initiatives and programming in your proposed budget. However, we appreciate the stringent guidelines that you held your clubs to during your review of their budget requests, and in effect, did not make any further cuts to that portion of your proposed budget. Below please find a complete explanation of all cuts F@CU made to your allocation request.

The Community Builder Speaker Event with the speaker panel or big name speaker was cut from your board programming allocation to encourage student groups to organize and run the event in SGB’s place. We feel that this event would be an excellent opportunity for similarly-focused groups to promote community through collaboration. The expenses for this event could then be offset by SGB’s appeals and co-sponsorship funds, if needed.

The smaller, discussion-oriented Community Builder Speaker Event was also taken out of the final allocation as the intended mission of this event seemed identical to that of the community building dinners. We feel that it is not necessary to have a speaker present for community building to take place.

The food and catering expenses for the Career Fair was cut, as food seemed unnecessary to have at this event. The goal of the event is for students to speak and network with different company representatives, and having food present will not further this mission.

For further clarity, we would like to provide you with the break-down of the cuts we made. The total amount we cut from your request was $5,555.00. Specifically, we cut the $2,410.00 request for the Community Builder Speaker Panel, the $2,545.00 request for the Community Building Speaker Discussion, and the $600.00 request for food expenses for the Career Fair. The difference between your request of $195,175.62 and our allocation of $189,620.62 can be accounted for in those areas.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We can be reached at facu@columbia.edu.

Sincerely,

The F@CU Committee