

USG Finance Committee Minutes
 Meeting Date: 2020.02.14
 Meeting Time: 7:00 pm
 Meeting Location: LBC 208
 Corresponding Senate Session: 2020.02.18

VPF: John Harris Alexander
 Recorded By: John Harris Alexander

Attendance:

Name:	Role:	Attendance:
John Harris Alexander	Vice President for Finance	Present
Olivia Johnson	FSG Senator	Present
Michael Chen	SLAG Senator	Present
Raj Maity	SSESG Senator	Proxy Present
Koustubh Pareek	Senator and/or ASG Senator	Present
Kenichi Yamaguchi	Senator and/or PHUSG Senator	Present
Raymond Baltz	Senator	Present
Deja Wells	Senator	Present
Jane Rushing	Associate Director for Administration and Finance	Present
Dean Miller	Freshman Leadership Program	Present
Janaki Sundaresan	Freshman Leadership Program	Absent
Zach Rubin	Freshman Leadership Program	Present
Danny Levin	Student At Large	Present
Ryan Kosson	Student At Large	Present
Marlene Rees	Student At Large	Present
Parshva Vakharia	Student At Large	Absent
Zoe Ortiz	Student At Large	Present

Finance Committee Agenda:

Climbing Club- Reserve Fund Request

7:05pm

Discussion/Debate

Request is to receive budget matching what Reilly is matching – 150k. Funding to build 40x70 foot climbing wall located next to basketball courts. Climbing club has increased in numbers – 300+ people; hosts competition and day trips. Club is available to all sports/activity levels and skills. Having a space on campus would be a physical experience located where everyone can access. Currently only 1 climbing gym in NOLA – small, not inclusive. Opportunity is to provide climbing for all members of NOLA and Tulane communities. Likely that this will cause an influx of community members getting Reilly memberships. Events already exist that provide climbing for Tulane, but they have to rent the wall. Outdoor Adventures partners with other on-campus orgs for events relating to climbing. Notre Dame’s wall has been very popular. Would the Reilly Center be willing to fund more than half? They are already paying for the renovations for the facility to make sure that it is safe, supervised, and secure for the climbing wall (total about 50k on top of the 150k committed for the wall itself). Competitions cost money to compete for club members. How much does renting a wall cost for Rock the Rec? about 2k, and is pretty low quality. This wall would be able to host many types of climbing. Construction will be done either during the summer or next winter break. Reilly is currently working on pools. Club fundraises, but not to this scale. Wavestarter was not considered as fundraising for the project. Club has a budget currently, roughly 3k in 9 and 2 accounts. has anyone outside of the club shown interest? Yes, but it costs money to get a local membership, purchase gear, so there is inherent

inequity in the current system. Labor costs included in total price. Are upgrades required? Those are not included in the request, but the lower tiers are also acceptable. What is usage of comparable schools' walls? Notre Dame has about 75 people per day. Funding would occur up front for labor and construction, but total funding wouldn't take place until after an on-site appraisal takes place. If Climbing Club does a tournament here, who gets the money? Since this is technically an Outdoor Adventure piece of equipment, money would likely go to them. Reilly is getting the most perks, so should they pay more? Tournament fees usually are used to pay costs. Is this going to displace other equipment? The current equipment isn't getting used in the front atrium, so that equipment will be redirected towards other areas of the gym. There wasn't enough money for it, how would you move forward? The total sum is being asked for because this equipment would be state of the art/leading in this area of LA. If not funded in full, would likely be pushed down the list of priorities. Currently Reilly memberships are ~90/month, so does this solve the accessibility problem? That fee also covers access to all of Reilly, so they are getting more benefits than just the climbing wall. Have you considered getting money from other companies? Builder was chosen because they are an industry leader in building climbing walls, and would last longer (with standard maintenance, which would be covered by Reilly). Are LSU numbers actually comparable? The student body that participates in the outdoor programs at LSU are more comparable to Tulane than the entire student body as a whole. On memorandum, says that Climbing Club would be involved in "maintenance." This means that OA would be employing Climbing Club students to change routes on the wall, etc.

There isn't another facility in the city? So why shouldn't the city pay for it. There are people willing to pay for more attractions/culture in the city. This is hard because it is in Reilly, because you have to have a membership. Should we look at this just through the lens of the student body. Their point about the accessibility and equitability is more about disabilities, but if students want to climb, they have to pay on top of that. Right now, the club has to cap each meeting at 15 people, so would a 300k investment have a strong ROI? Did they say how much larger this would be relative to other walls? Is LSU a strong comparison? How do other campuses feel about climbing walls? Generally strong, but these are not peer institutions. What about the revenue aspect? This seems like it could bring in competitions that TU could make money off of. Concern: no students here for the summer, but the rest of the Tulane/NOLA community that can use it during that time. Is it ok for the Student Activities Fee to pay for this? If the membership fee is going to Reilly, Student Activities Fee will not be seeing any of that income? We think the wall is great, but what part of the wall should the SAF be paying for? If half of the student body uses this, think of this as the funding we give per club? If we are getting 50% involvement in a rock climbing wall, isn't that pretty good relative to the funding we are getting for club budgets. If we do not give them funding in full, this will fall down to lower priority. For us, as a finance committee, is this our priority right now, or can we reevaluate later? It seems that this will not happen for Reilly until later. It is not necessarily our job to fund facilities upgrades. We need to consider precedents that we set, and how it impacts student experience. This is something that might bring students into Tulane as a differentiator. If this is important to students, this will cause students to consider TU more seriously. During the summer when TU students aren't climbing, could youth camps be made? Could we take a percentage of this revenue towards SAF. Would we like to see an additional cost associated with Reilly, a portion of which gets filtered back to USG funds? This is a positive for student experience, but there is potential revenue here. If we are giving 150k to Reilly and give them opportunities (membership and financial), it may make more sense to give them a lower number proportionally. Can we table until whether Reilly can give us a portion of revenue – how would you go about dividing it? Are you willing to divide it? If they do not like the idea of dividing revenue, if we weren't to do that, would a lesser sum contributed by USG be a possibility to make the wall still happen? Table to committee after we get the answers. Other fundraising strategy?

Vote on order of voting:
Table → numbers 11-0-0

Voted on first: Table with answer to highlighted question, next committee 11-0-0

Never voted on:

Fund in full

50,000

None

Item	Amount Requested	Amount Funded
Reserve Fund- Climbing Wall	150000	
TOTAL	150000	

Requested:

Approved:

Vote:

Black Student Union- Reallocation Request

No Cords and Stoles

Requested Reallocated: 24330

Approved Reallocation: 21830

11-0-1

Discussion on Budget Season Procedures/Expectations/Goals