Student Organizations,

Over the weekend, (March 8th) COF met for annual budget hearings. For 9 hours, members toiled over 59 budgets submitted by a variety of student organizations. Though not the highlight of our year, we determined our recommendations for budgeting in the most professional manor possible. Following certain standards across the board, nearly all organizations had funding cut.

Though COF would love to approve all logical requests, due to unexpected costs and lower enrollment, it is impossible to fund organizations as they have been in the past. CCSI now charges for their accounting services, which brought on a new $100,000+ fee to be included in our overall budget. Our budget is now smaller than in previous years, with more costs than ever. Consistent cuts across the board had to be made, and they were.

COF's main focus became superfluous costs, and how we could remove them from the budget. After debating possible cuts, food and out-of-region travel were found to have the largest effect lowering the budget, while taking the least away from student organizations. Though not an indefinite policy, currently our budget doesn't allow for lavish travel to benefit small groups of students. The same idea follows for reception, banquet, and recruitment food allocations. COF understands how this will affect the approach organizations take next year, and we encourage you to get creative!

Many organizations will notice their budgets were not entertained during budget hearings. These organizations failed to meet basic requirement for advanced budgeting, including SGA. The start of the fall semester will be your first opportunity to apply for funding. You will not be given the luxury of appealing COF as you failed to fill out paperwork correctly or meet SGA's basic requirements for all organizations on campus, such as completing community service, fund raising, or providing programming. When certain organizations take the time to fill all requirements, it is improper to afford organizations who failed at the process the same opportunity.

For organizations that have had their budget entertained, you are welcome to appeal to COF. This process lasts 10 days from the date of this memo. If you fail to apply within that time frame, you will have to wait until the fall semester to deal with your budget for next year. Next year is also a welcome opportunity to apply for programs denied this year. COF hopes student enrollment will stabilize and more money than expected will then be available.

Thank you, and please speak with Jason White, Dr. Bridges, or Dr. McEvoy with further questions.

COF