Associated Students of Claremont McKenna College

Senate
February 23rd, 2014

Highlights: *(Find the matching color within the minutes for more information)*

- Devon – Wedding Party
  - Went over strengths and difficulties of the event
- Election Committee Elections
  - Mica Laber and Sam Peterson
- Bar Renovation Concept Presentation
  - Shared plan for renovating the “party zone”

Call to Order: 9:04pm

1. Approval of Minutes
   - Approved

2. Board Updates/ASCMC Election Schedule
   - Monday 3/2 speeches, candidates currently getting signature

3. Devon – Wedding Party
   - This event has been in the works for the past 2-3 months to get it off the ground and make it successful. While some things went wrong, we think it was overall very successful.
   - The things that went wrong were a few small issues that compounded into bigger ones.
     i Ticket system clunky, communication issue with camp sec and ASCMC about event capacity. DOS saw that if we moved tables and chairs we would fit everyone. Asked Ben to get ASCMC to help move tables and chairs. Students standing in line then pushed forward barricades and rushed forward into the event, so the event was shut down for a few minutes. Cut off the music to try and get some control of what was happening at the front. Realized that inside the event there were no problems, so literally opened the gate enough to let in one student at a time, and then everything was up and running fine again. Then we got a call from the Claremont police that they had gotten a call about the event getting out of control. Based on the content of the call, there was a strong likelihood that the call was from a student or guess – because the description of what they were told has to have been by someone laying eyes on the event. Then we continued the event for about 20 minutes, and got another voicemail with a noise complaint.
     ii Reaching out to talk this through with the Claremont Police Department, and to help us understand what we can do about noise. Live bands typically get us in trouble, because we get really fancy sound systems. The troublesome students at the entrance were a big cause of the issues. The space holds 1900+ people, and we did not sell out that many tickets.
     iii Questions
       ▶ You said you called Ben Tillotson. At an event like this, is it the president or event planner's position?
         • Usually you need a group of 5 students for something like this. Ben was the one who contacted me about the capacity issue. Since he brought it to my attention, I was working with him to get it resolved. That said, there were many other students who were pivotal in working to get this stuff to be figured out.
       ▶ How are we going to address the music issue in the party zone?
         • We have to be realistic about how loud the music can be. At past schools I've worked
at, we sent out mail to the nearby neighborhood letting them know about what's going on. Also have to orient the band in a direction toward campus instead of an Upland neighborhood. 2-3 years ago Monte Carlo was in that space and it was shut down also for noise.

▷ What relationship does DOS have with specific CPD officers, especially when we have to directly interact with them?
  • Right now the relationship with campus safety is a little bit strained because of differing views of what we want to see. Campus safety needs to tell us when they're getting nervous about capacity. There are officers we see recurring at events, and before the event we do a “huddle” to try and get on the same page. Stronger dialogue is absolutely needed, it’ll be interesting to see how the new event planners – since there are more – interact with this. Definitely need more extensive walk through before event.

▷ ASCMC seemed to have planned things very reactively. No good way to check tables, check in.
  • Who’s role is it to make sure that check in goes well?
    • Student: I think it’s ASCMC. When I came in, I noticed tables everywhere and was confused about how they were going to move the tables, and it was ineffective. Student and campus security were not very good about handling it. Planning was ineffective, and there need to be more thorough walk-throughs, it would solve a lot of problems. It feels like DOS, ASCMC, campus security are on different pages.

▷ Christine and Mo put in countless hours into the event. They also had weird variables thrown in their direction at the last end. They’ve had to plan an event in 4 different possible location spaces, the tent was only decided 2 days before (thought it wasn't going to rain). It may not seem planned out, but there is a lot of thought that goes into it. There are a lot of fires that go on at these events even when they go very very well. A lot went into it so that they felt like problematic issues when they could have been worse.
  • These issues all coming together at once made a not bad situation get bad really quick. It was also the first time having such a large event in this space, so it’s stuff we have to consider. Also the ticketing system scanning was too slow.

▷ I think the issue was more the students' reactions rather than the planning issues. There were so many people pushing, even pushing event planners back as they tried to hold the barrier. How can we better create communication between event planners and students in the front? If they had simply said “we are closing down the event for 10 minutes to move tables” it would have been better – it sounds like students outside weren't told about that.
  • At last night exec board's meeting last night, we discussed implementing a megaphone system to help with communication.
  • If there are students who are repeatedly problematic, you should talk to them if you know them about them being at your events.

▷ Did the people you were using as points of contact attend the party as a guest or host?
  • The time frame for how things were supposed to happen: 10 when gates opened for others to come in. A lot of people got comfortable thinking that everyone was there. Next thing you know, 50 people at gate who want to get in at the same time. Planners relaxed and were ready to enjoy.

▷ CSC – those with yellow jackets seem very hostile, aggressive, not willing to help. A friend needed help and these have not been helpful
  • DOS has not been notified about issues with the CSC staff. We need to be notified, and if there's someone going above and beyond, we can request that they no longer staff our events in the future. We cannot witness every individual interaction, so if there's an issue you need to come tell us. The reason there are outside security members is
because in the search for a director, we lost a lot of camp sec officers and they've had to “rent” from the outside.

▷ None of the people in Devon, Amy, Mary, or Kari’s position in past years would have come to the event themselves and defend our event. It's a huge help as an event planner when there are thousands of dollars on the line and people are complaining.

▷ The planners have also been great. Devon has never seen a wedding party before, so the planning approach will obviously be very different next year now that we understand better.

4. Election Committee Elections
   A. Students running for student body positions cannot hold a position on election committee, there are 7 members, 2 vacancies. These positions are temporary for the election. Once elections are over and applications go out for appointed officials, the positions reset with new people.
   B. Running: Mica Laber, Sam Peterson, Campbell Streator
   C. Election: Mica Laber and Sam Peterson will be temporarily appointed to Elections Committee

5. Bar Renovation Concept Presentation
   A. Committee of students working on renovation plan. Some things:
      i  L-shaped bar, couches, heaters, bases to guide the entrance to give some direction, installing a speaker system on each corner of event space, stream lights, sun shades, potential wall divider if we don’t need that much space. Outdoor carpets. Trying to invest in weather-resistant furniture just in case of rain issues. There will be a storage box to put things away if necessary.
      ii Fully-functional bar, a grill, want to have this as an alternative event space.
      iii Left some open space for stages
      iv Thinking of murals on walls, ping pong tables.
      v Having sound-deadening things instead of the open walls might help with noise complaints
      vi Is this open open for parties?
         ▷ Discussing weather to open it during the day for studying or a coffee lounge, good meeting space with seniors
      vii Would the bar be removable? No, looking like it's more permanent.
      viii Currently planning on storage box being pretty permanent, it also has an electrical switch that controls the lights.
      ix What about having a tent in the entryway that might block off the noise.
      x Is there any plans to make the storage box look more attractive?
         ▷ Haven't discussed it yet, definitely something to consider.
      xi We have a lot of support from DOS.
      xii Is the idea to force every event to happen there?
         ▷ We don't want TNC to leave main campus in its entirety, thinking more of an alternative event space rather than the usual type in lounges, but not every week.
      xiii Moving toward negotiating with architects, hoping for spring break renovation.

6. Senate Fund
   A. Still have $5000 to spend in the next 2-3 weeks.

7. Brainstorm
   A. The band room in Marks is still not soundproof, it's not that expensive.
   B. New pool cues for the hub
   C. Allocating part of it to DAC/SAC for making some other spring parties even better.
   D. Extra money in the rainy day fund
   E. Phillipbuster: senate rager!
F. Any leftover money toward soundproofing the party zone bar
G. Last semester people gave ideas to Mo, talk to him he might have unused good ideas

8. Open Forum

9. Funding Requests
   A. None

10. Closing Remarks

Adjourn: 10:01pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mica Laber
Secretary of the Senate