

Student Organization Resource Fee Board

36th Membership
2013-2014 Academic Year

14 November 2013
Resolution 2013-16
Vote: __/__/__

WHEREAS, the Board has a process for considering appeals of decisions of the Board and/or its members; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has received a number of appeals which have been categorically denied; and,

WHEREAS, the Board believes the appeals process should be revised to both better inform RSO treasurers and give the Board additional flexibility in hearing appeals; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board amends the appeals process, as formally outlined in the SORF Manual to reflect the accompanying changes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers and advisor of the Board are charged to undertake these amendments and may take any reasonable action necessary to do so; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amendments shall take effect upon approval of a two-thirds vote of the Board and concurring approval of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shao-Hai Guo
Chairman

Attest – Matthew Stuart, Board Secretary

Appeals Process

The SORF bylaws provide all registered student organizations with the right to appeal on any allocation decision, or to have the full Board review a decision of the SORF chairperson pertaining to their specific allocation(s).

All registered student organizations are entitled to an appeal of SORF allocation decisions, so long as the appropriate requirements are met. (Bylaws, V(A)1)

All registered student organizations are entitled to an appeal of decisions made by the SORF chairperson pertaining to their allocation, so long as the appropriate requirements are met. (Bylaws, V(A)2)

The following are the appeal requirements:

Each appeal must demonstrate at least one of the following grounds for appeal: An appeal must contain one or more of the following grounds for the appeal:

- a. ~~Lack of communication from the pre-reviewer to the treasurer. However, this will not be a basis for sustaining an appeal unless significant change results in the SORF allocation decision such that information that would change the decision of the Board was not made ~~un~~available to the Board. A failure of the treasurer to provide information is not itself grounds for an appeal.~~
- b. ~~The SORF allocation decision regarding the application was not based on substantial information. That is, whether there were facts established in the application or RSO presentation that, if believed by the SORF Board, were insufficient to establish a funding decision based on an incorrect application of the facts or SORF policies existing at the time of the Board's decision.~~
- c. ~~There were clear extenuating circumstances which prevented the treasurer from following SORF policy.~~
- d. ~~New information or other relevant facts clearly not available at the time of the SORF application or allocation meeting because such facts are now available.~~

If the appeal meets none of the grounds for appeal, then the Board chairperson may deny ~~or move the appeal to the Board for discussion~~ the appeal without consideration of the Board. All appeal decisions and denials of appeals are reviewed by and subject to the approval of the Chancellor or his/her designee.

The SORF bylaws provide all registered student organizations with the right to appeal and request a second hearing on any allocation decision, or to have the full Board review a decision of the SORF chairperson pertaining to their specific allocation(s).

Submission of a new application is required to fund a different item or expense not included on original SORF application. This process is to give RSOs an additional opportunity to present information to the Board that they believe proves that the application in question should have been funded under SORF policy.

Comment [GSJ1]: General explanation of change. The Board believes these changes are necessary to eliminate the need to consider appeals with insignificant merit amongst the full Board and to give guidance on how to structure an appeal to RSO Treasurers.

Comment [GSJ2]: Moved from below.

Comment [GSJ3]: Moved to above.

In order to file an appeal, please email SORF@illinois.edu with the following information and “REQUEST FOR APPEAL – [Organization Name]” in the subject line. If the appropriate information is not provided, the Board chairperson is under no obligation to move your appeal forward.

1. Organization Name and applicable SORF Application Number(s)
2. Treasurer Name and Email
3. President Name and Email
4. Funding Period of the Original Request

5. Description of Original Request

~~5.~~6. Ground(s) for Appeal

~~6.~~7. Brief description of why an appeal is sought based on the ground(s) for appeal

Once reviewed by the SORF Board chairperson, the Treasurer and President will receive a return email response specifying any additional information that might be needed, as well as the next steps of the process.

If the RSO meets the appeal requirements, submits all of the requested information, and clarifies any questions, the Board chairperson shall schedule a hearing for the full Board to discuss the appeal. The appeal may be heard during a regularly scheduled Board Allocation Meeting, or at a special meeting called by the chairperson.

The RSO requesting an appeal may submit whatever documentation they would like to the Board that they believe would justify a reconsideration of their allocation amount/the chairperson’s decision. Additionally, the RSO may give a short presentation to the Board (during the RSO Presentation period), and/or be on hand for questions when the Board discusses the appeal.