



Blanket Tax Standing Committee 2015-2016
Report on Review of New Blanket Tax Application
Rice University Splash

Abstract

Rice University Splash is a registered student organization with the aim to promote and develop the education of Rice University students and middle and high school students of the Houston community. Through an annual Splash event, the organization will allow undergraduate and graduate Rice University students to teach an approved class of any topic of their choosing. These classes will be taught to local middle and high school students with the goal of enriching their education and fostering a passion for learning. The Blanket Tax Committee has reviewed Rice University Splash's application and recommends the Student Senate **not approve** Rice University Splash's request for subsidiary status.

Evaluation

X.A.4.c and X.A.4.e of the Student Association Bylaws establishes criteria for the Blanket Tax Standing Committee to consider when reviewing an application for the creation of a new blanket tax. The Committee must find that an organization's proposal satisfies all of the criteria in order to recommend approval of that proposal. The Committee presents its findings with regard to each criterion below.

1. Would the requested funds benefit the student body and the Rice community?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that the requested funds would not benefit all of the student body and the Rice community. Rather, the funds are non-Rice oriented for the most part and the organization seems to cater to a very specific form of outreach.

2. Would the requested funds contribute to the organization's mission, purpose, and goals?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds the funds will contribute to the organization's mission, purpose and goals by contributing to the funding of their annual Splash event.

3. Does the organization have a strong financial need?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rice University Splash has a strong financial need.

4. Have all other reasonable means of acquiring funding been exhausted?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rice University Splash has not exhausted all means of acquiring funds. The committee recommends Rice University Splash investigate further in this regard. Possible sources of funding include the Initiative Fund for financial assistance.

5. Is the organization's financial need long-term and annual?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rice University Splash's financial need is long-term and annual as they are growing every year in size and event capacity.

6. Proper Budgeting

The Blanket Tax Committee finds Rice University Splash's budgeting appropriate and reasonable.

Conclusion

As thoroughly discussed above, the Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that the Rice University Splash proposal to be a subsidiary organization with access to blanket tax funds does not satisfy all of the review criteria. This alone is sufficient for a recommendation to **not approve** the proposal.

As such, formally, The Student Association Blanket Tax Standing Committee for the 2015-2016 academic year hereby recommends that the Student Senate **NOT APPROVE** Rice University Splash.

Respectfully submitted, Sai Chilakapati
Chair, Blanket Tax Standing Committee

Rice University Splash Formal Response

No Formal Response Given.

Blanket Tax Application, Rice University Splash

1. Rice University Splash, (founded during the 2012-13 year), Bailey Tulloch (President, bct4@rice.edu), Catherine Levins (Treasurer, cll2@rice.edu), Danial Syed (Vice President, das17@rice.edu), Dr. Robert Lundin (Faculty Sponsor, robert.a.lundin@icloud.com), 76 teachers currently signed up.
2. The aim of this organization is to promote and develop the education and of Rice University students and middle and high school students of the Houston community. We will have at least one annual Splash event a year. It will allow undergraduate Rice University students to teach an approved class of any topic of their choosing. These classes will be taught to local underprivileged middle school students with the goal of enriching their education and fostering a passion for learning. These classes will additionally serve as a means of inspiring the children to attend college one day. They also provide Rice University students with a unique learning and service opportunity.
3. Attached separately

4 and 5

Splash Budget 2014-15	
Funding Source	Amount Obtained
Rollover Money	300
Organization Recommended by Exchange Student	200
SAPP	200
Donations	200
Total	900
Uses	Cost
Lunch	500
Rocket Class	200

All other classes	200
Total	900
Splash Budget 2015-16	
Expected funding from SAPP	200
Expected funding from SA Initiative	400
Funding from other programs/donors	100
Total:	700
Expected costs:	
Lunch	500
Classes	200
Total	700

6. Rice University Splash requires funding for providing class supplies and serving lunch to all participants. As we have no internal source of revenue, such as charging admission, we require a regular source of external funding in order to stay in operation. The more funding we receive in a given year, the larger our event will be; we hope that access to blanket tax funding will, in the long term, help us expand and become one of the nation’s leading Splashes. In the short term, it will allow us to bring more students onto campus and fund higher-quality classes.

7. We have applied for SAPP funding and the Rich Family Endowment Grant.

8. This year, Rice Splash has undergone some major organizational changes. Our sole administrator last year did not keep detailed receipts of Splash expenses, nor did he preserve or keep track of our 2012-13 year budget. Starting this year, however, we will have a treasurer (appointed annually) to manage finances and maintain detailed records of Rice University Splash’s expenses and funding.

9 and 10. Rice University Splash is an annual program that is currently expanding (from roughly 200 middle school students last year to an anticipated 500). As our program continues to grow, we believe it’s crucial for us to have at least one consistent source of funding. Funding from the

aforementioned programs may vary (or may not even be guaranteed) from year to year. Access to Blanket Tax funds will be necessary for our program's long term security. It will allow us to fund higher-quality classes and a larger student pool without fear of having to significantly scale back in a later year.

11. After review of the SA constitution Section IX.A.4, we have concluded that no amendments need to be made. Should this turn out not to be the case, however, we are willing to modify our policies regarding elected leadership to match the SA's requirements.

12. As mentioned previously, Rice University Splash offers Rice University students a unique service and learning experience. It gives them the opportunity to inspire students from low-resource middle schools, simply by teaching them a subject they're interested in. Additionally, the act of teaching and designing a lesson plan helps Rice University students learn to communicate ideas and organize their thoughts on a subject. A larger, higher-quality, and more visible Splash program will improve these benefits. Moreover, it will let all Rice students, even those who aren't involved with the program, see and appreciate Rice University's ties to the Houston community.

13. N/A

Rice University Splash

Last Revised Friday, September 19, 2014

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be "Rice University Splash."

Article II. Mission Statement

The aim of this organization is to promote and develop the education and of Rice University students and middle and high school students of the Houston community. We will have at least one annual Splash event a year. It will allow undergraduate and graduate Rice University students to teach an approved class of any topic of their choosing. These classes will be taught to local middle and high school students with the goal of enriching their education and fostering a passion for learning.

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. to give Rice University students the opportunity to teach a class about something they are passionate about.
2. to enrich and broaden the education of middle and high school students

Article IV. Primacy of the Student Association

This organization shall recognize the primacy of the Student Association Executive Branch, the Student Association Senate, and ultimately, the Student Association.

This organization shall be bound by the requirements of the Constitution of the Student Association and any associated rules and regulations.

This constitution and any bylaws or policies adopted by this organization are subordinate to the Student Association Constitution.

Article V. Members

There shall be three classes of members: student members, community members, and honorary members. To become a member, a signed member information form must be submitted to the Secretary and dues must be paid to the Treasurer.

1. All current students of Rice University shall be eligible for student membership and membership privileges, including voting and holding office.
2. All others shall be eligible for community membership, although they shall not participate in voting procedures.
3. By a majority vote from the Administrative Team and student members, honorary memberships may be granted. Honorary members shall have none of the obligations of membership, but shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except of voting, of making motions, and of holding office.
4. At no time shall fewer than half of the organization's members be student members.
5. Eligibility: Only student members who are not on Disciplinary Probation through the Office of Student Activities within one business day of their receipt.
6. All members must attend the meetings for this organization.

Should a member of the organization act in a manner unbecoming of the organization the member may be called before the officers and sponsor of the organization to present their side of the story. After hearing this, the officers and sponsors may vote to remove the member. A majority vote and support of the sponsor are required for removal. The member will be notified of their removal either in writing or by phone within 48 hours of the decision.

Article VI. Officers

The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The officers shall perform the duties listed in this constitution and in the parliamentary manual adopted by this organization.

Officers shall be selected by plurality election from the student members. Officers shall serve until a replacement is elected. Elections shall be held at a regular meeting at least once per year, in April.

No member may hold more than one office at a time. No member may be elected to the same office more than twice in a row.

Should an officer of the organization act in a manner unbecoming of the organization or fail to uphold their duties as outlined by this constitution, the officer in question may be called before the other officers and sponsor of the organization to present their side of the story. After hearing this, the officers and sponsors may vote to remove the officer. A 2/3rds vote and support of the sponsor are required for removal. The officer will be notified of their removal either in writing or by phone within 24 hours of the decision.

Article VII. Duties of the Administrative Team

1. The President shall:

- a) oversee all the meetings and activities of this organization;
- b) ensure that, at all times, this organization is abiding by the rules and regulations of the Student Association.
- c) collaborate with the other members of this organization to create a functional Splash program

2. The Vice-President shall:

- a) assist the President in the execution of his or her duties;
- b) collaborate with the other members of this organization to create a functional Splash program

3. The Treasurer shall:

- a) maintain a correct balance of this organization's funds;
- b) manage this organization's funds;
- c) make available, when requested, a current breakdown of the organization's income and expenses.
- d) Collaborate with the other members of this organization to create a functional Splash program

4. The Secretary shall:

- a) take minutes at all meetings of the membership and of the Executive Committee;
- b) distribute said minutes to the membership or the officers;

- c) maintain the membership list, any mailing lists, and the organization web site;
- d) accept membership information forms from new members; and
- e) manage the correspondence of this organization.

Article VIII. Meetings

Regular meetings of at least 3 members of the Administrative team of this organization shall be held at a time and place that is convenient for the membership. The membership may, at its discretion, change the time or place of meeting. Regular meetings shall be held at least monthly. A reminder shall be given between 24 and 48 hours in advance of each regular meeting.

Meetings of the Administrative team and the student members shall be held monthly beginning in January until the Splash event in April.

15% of the student members shall constitute a quorum, although student members must contact the administrative team within two weeks in the case of a missed meeting so that they receive necessary information to participate in the organization.

The rules regarding electronic communication in the parliamentary authority shall be followed, unless this organization acts to make special exemptions.

The members of the Administrative Team are expected to attend all meetings.

Article IX. Club Funds

The Administrative Team will monitor organization funds. The treasurer will primarily monitor budget and expenditure and will deliver monthly reports on budget status.

Any purchase requests made by teachers shall be presented to the Administrative Team and must be approved by a majority vote by the Administrative Team.

All funds and donations collected by the organization must be deposited into the club account through the Office of Student Activities within 24 hours or one business day of receipt.

The sponsor shall refer to the relevant University office any member reasonably suspected of spending club funds without authority, failing to deposit club funds appropriately, or otherwise misusing or abusing club funds.

Article X. The Administrative Team

The officers shall constitute the Administrative Team.

The Administrative Team shall have general supervision of the affairs of this organization between its regular meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and perform other duties listed in this constitution. The Administrative Team shall be subject to the orders of this organization, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by this organization. As such, The Administrative Team shall be authorized to spend this organization's funds.

Article XI. The Faculty/Staff Sponsor

The Faculty/Staff sponsor shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Administrative team by a majority vote, and must meet the training criteria set by Student Activities. The Faculty/Staff Sponsor shall serve until a replacement is selected. This organization must have a sponsor who is a member of the Rice faculty or staff and who plans to be at Rice for the full academic year. Any updates to the club Faculty/Staff sponsor must be made through Student Activities. If the sponsor resigns, is replaced, or is otherwise unable to continue serving as the sponsor for the remainder of the academic year, the organization shall select a new sponsor and notify the Office of Student Activities of the change within 15 class days.

Article XII. Titles and Section Headings

The article and section headings contained in this constitution shall not be deemed to govern, limit, modify, or in any manner affect the scope, meaning, or intent of the provisions of this constitution

Article XIII. Nondiscrimination Requirement

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of, but not limited to, any of the following: race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status.

Article XIV. Anti-Hazing Policy

This organization will not tolerate any form of hazing activities to members or potential members. Hazing activities are defined as, "Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off university premises to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule." This organization shall not engage in any form of hazing, as defined by the Code of Student Conduct and any other applicable Rice University rules and regulations.

Article XV. Conflict of Interest Policy

The business of the organization shall not be conducted in any manner that creates a conflict of interest or the reasonable appearance thereof.

Article XVI. Approval of Contracts

No commitments or contracts shall be made by any member of this organization on behalf of this organization without the approval of both the sponsor and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Article XVII. Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to the organization's constitution can only be adopted by the membership by a 3/4 vote with prior notice having been given at the previous meeting.

Amendments approved by the membership shall be submitted to the Student Association Parliamentarian for approval. Amendments may not take effect until they are approved by the Parliamentarian or the Student Senate in accordance with the Constitution of the Student Association.

Upon approval of the Student Association Parliamentarian, amendments will be submitted to the Student Senate for approval in accordance with the Student Association's constitution and bylaws.

The Date of Last Revision on the title page of this constitution shall be updated to reflect the date of approval by the Parliamentarian or Senate.

Amendments will take effect upon approval by the Student Senate.