**Script for MESA Diversity Theater**

**At the Joint Planning Conference hosted by Raytheon**

**Friday August 3, 2012**

**Godfrey**: introduces characters:

**Characters:** **Thelma** *Junior, very popular,* Newly Elected President of SSE (Student Society of Engineers)

**Theresa** *Senior, Deans list Engineering Student*, Treasurer of SSE

**Marvin** *Sophomore*, new Member of SSE

**Rafael** *Senior, Athlete,* Member of SSE

**Eric** *Junior,* *easy to get along with, single Dad,* Member of SSE

**Advisor** (played by **Marvin**)

**Narrator** (played by **Godfrey Duke**) …Skit #5 (setting the scene)

**MC** (played by **Godfrey Duke**)

**Godfrey Duke: The following skits take place at a local university**

**Godfrey introduce: Skit 1 – Obtaining Funds**

**Characters:** Thelma (Treasurer)

Theresa (President)

Marvin (Advisor)

**Situation:** THELMA over promises to the team without an understanding of the challenges in raising money

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*THELMA speaking to the group*

**THELMA**: …and this year I will guarantee that the organization will cover all expenses for all to attend the national conference in Las Vegas!

*THERESA approaches THELMA after the meeting, MARVIN is standing there as well*

**THERESA**: THELMA, you can’t make promises like that to the organization. Where do you think we are going to get money like that to cover everyone’s expenses?

**THELMA**:What do you mean? There are plenty of companies out there that would be more than willing provide donations. My brother told me the other day when he was president he got tons of donations from all bunch of dot com companies. And all he had to do was ask.

**THERESA**: THELMA, have you watched the news lately. Companies don’t have slush funds like they used to.

**THELMA**: Well, I am going to make some calls, it can’t hurt to ask.

**MARVIN**: THELMA, let me offer some advice. THERESA is exactly right, companies just don’t have extra cash like they used to. If you are looking for donations, I would recommend you draft up a formal letter requesting donations that details what the funds would go to. Companies need that information so they can justify the value to their business.

**THELMA**: hmmm, ok, thanks…maybe as an organization we need to think of some other fundraising ideas as well.

**Godfrey*: Freeze!***

*What were the issues? THELMA has a clouded view of the challenges that organizations face in getting donations from companies. $ are not as easy to come by these day.*

*How could this have been handled differently? THELMA should have not over promised to her org. She could have made it a goal and discussed with the group how they could help.*

*What happened in the end? THELMA goes off and drafts up letters and submits them to companies. In the end she is successful in getting some funding but not enough to fulfill her promise*

**Godfrey introduce: Skit 2 – Ethics**

**Characters:** THERESA (Treasurer)

MARVIN (Member)

RAFAEL (Member)

**Situation:** MARVIN, in a pinch, is convinced by THERESA that its “ok” to “borrow” organization funds

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*THERESA and MARVIN walking in the room*

**THERESA**: …Yes, it was a great meeting….we are in really good shape and I think we’ll be able to help out so much with community projects this year

**MARVIN**: I am really impressed with the group and really glad that I joined. I think I might even consider taking a leadership position possibly next year.

*RAFAEL walks in*

**RAFAEL**:Hey you, two!! How is it going? Sorry I missed the meeting…..had a class I had to get to. ….BUT..…*(to MARVIN)* Good news for you!! *(Proudly says☺…)* It just so happens that I found a copy of that book you needed for that Materials Engineering class you are taking…last one and I found it cheap.

**MARVIN**: Great! That would be awesome…Can I… *(RAFAEL cuts her off)*

**RAFAEL**: Erik wants it too, but you get first dibs since we’re buds. But I need $20.00 ASAP…Gotta go…..give me a call as soon as you’re done so I can get the money. I know you need it for your team project tomorrow. See ya!

**MARVIN/THERESA**: Ok see you later!!

**MARVIN**: *(looking troubled)* Oh, Brother…I don’t have the cash with me and my bank account is nil right now. I wonder if he can wait until Friday when my funds get deposited. I neeeeeeeeed that book for tomorrow’s class or I am up the creek!

**THERESA**: Didn’t sound like he could wait, though. I’m sorry! Hey! I have an idea – let me take it out of the petty cash account here….you can give it back to me on Friday. That way everyone one wins, you get your book that you need, he gets his money and you get the money back to me on Friday. Piece of cake!

**MARVIN**: …Hmmm can you do that? I mean it’s petty cash for the association. Won’t you get in trouble?

**THERESA**:No…not at all. No one will even know because it will be put back in a couple of days! I am the keeper of the keys, after all! Piece of cake! It is done all the time!

**MARVIN**: ….Are you sure? It seems a little*………….(gets cut off by THERESA)*

**THERESA**: *Shaking her head*

Look. I have been the Treasurer for two years now and I have had to do it every now and again… no one knows, we balance every single time! I am sure all the groups do it to help their members. Please let me do this for you as a friend.

**MARVIN**:Well….., okay if you think so. It would be a big, big help.

**THERESA***:* Just leave it to me! And *(winking)* next year, when YOU are Treasurer, you can return the favor! Just between us! *(Chuckles)*

**Godfrey: *Freeze!***

*What were the issues? “Borrowing” funds from the association, dragging another member into the web of deceit, allowing oneself to be brought into the web, not standing up for what instinctively Student believed was probably not right, believing the story, suggesting that I scratch your back and you can scratch mine sometime*

*How could this have been handled differently? Student could have pushed back and said she’d find another way to resolve. Borrow a book, call a classmate. Negotiate with the BookSeller on payment. Student could have planned more effectively to meet school demands and needs and not been in this situation to begin with.*

*What happened in the end? One Scenario – Student did pay on Friday and Treasurer put back into petty cash, but another member witnessed the discussion and confronted them. Treasurer was fired from position. Another scenario – someone overheard the conversation and blew them in to the association’s President. Treasurer was fired from position.*

**Godfrey introduce: Skit 3 – Authority**

**Characters:** THELMA (President)

THERESA (Treasurer)

MARVIN (Advisor)

Members

**Situation:** THELMA is having authority issues with her members, in particular, THERESA

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*THELMA and MARVIN are standing talking*

**THELMA**: I just can’t get THERESA to pay attention during our board meetings. I think it’s because she’s being influenced by ERIC.

**MARVIN**: Well, let’s not jump to conclusions, let me observe your meeting today and see what’s going on.

**THELMA**: Ok

*President begins meeting…all members and MARVIN sitting around a table*

**THELMA**: Hi everyone! Today we’re going to assign chairs for who’s going to be in charge of what for the conference.

*THERESA is distracting everyone else and talking to them about random things*

**THELMA**: Here’s the list of committees that we need chairpersons for….Fundraising, Social, Alumni Relationships….any volunteers?

*THERESA still distracting others*

**THELMA**: THERESA, did you want to sign up for a chair?

**THERESA**: No, I’m good.

**THELMA**: How about a committee member at least?

**THERESA**: I said I’m good.

**Godfrey: *Freeze!***

*What were the issues? THERESA is setting a bad example during meetings. She is distracting others and is also not pulling her weight. THELMA is having a hard time getting support from THERESA and others since she has no real authority over her*

*How could this have been handled differently? THELMA may need to get the organization together and discuss this issue. The success of the organization is dependent on all of its members not just the president.*

*What happened in the end? THELMA got frustrated with the members and ended up stepping down from presidency, organization fell apart due to lack of a president and committed members*

**Godfrey introduce: Skit 4 – Diversity / Inclusion**

**Characters:** THERESA (Treasurer)

MARVIN (advisor)

RAFAEL (Member)

ERIC (Member)

**Situation:** The class has been divided into groups for a class project. RAFAEL is having trouble accepting the fact that he has been placed in a group with “those people” and a single Dad

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*MARVIN is standing at the front of the room all others are sitting*

**MARVIN**: Ok class you are now in your groups. I expect your projects to be completed by next week.

*THERESA, talking to her group members ERIC and RAFAEL*

**THERESA**: Alright this should be a really easy project. Before we get started on brainstorming I am going to grab some water. Anyone else want some?

**RAFAEL**: I will take one.

*THERESA walks off and the other two members begin to chat.*

**RAFAEL**: Can you believe we have her on our project? I do not want to be on a project with her. I heard that her was stealing money from our clubs petty cash. How are we expected to work with someone that is not even honest? You know how people like that are?

**ERIC**: How what people are?

**RAFAEL**: How “they” are bad with money, and hang out at the Casinos.

**ERIC**: They? Are you saying what I think you are saying…That is just…

*THERESA returns with water and hands to RAFAEL*

**THERESA**: That is just what? What did I miss?

**ERIC**: Nothing… I need to go to the bathroom…*(Gives RAFAEL a look)*

**THERESA**: Okay. So what did you guys come up with?

**RAFAEL**: Nothing really. You know I have been thinking… ERIC has a kid and sometimes it makes it hard for someone in that position to make commitments. I mean he will probably have child care issues so we cannot set any firm due dates. I think that between the two of us we can get the project done.

**THERESA**: How do you know? We have not even started the project?

**RAFAEL**: Trust me….

**Godfrey: *Freeze!***

*What were the issues? RAFAEL is possibly stereotyping THERESA because of her ethnicity. He is also jumping to conclusions that because ERIC is a single Dad she will not live up to his commitments*

*How could this have been handled differently? The group members should be open and honest to each other and not talk behind others back. If they could not resolve the issue themselves they could meet with the advisor.*

*What happened in the end? In the end THERESA was not comfortable with the comments that were made and confronted RAFAEL. ERIC arrives back at the table and is told about the comments that were made about him. ERIC lets THERESA know about comments that were made previously. THERESA asks for a meeting with the advisor. The advisor splits up team members into new groups. RAFAEL is reprimanded for disparaging remarks from the Dean.*

**Godfrey introduce: Skit 5 – Taking on too much Responsibility**

**Characters:** THERESA (Treasurer)

MARVIN

RAFAEL (Member)

ERIC (Member) single Dad, part-time Student

MARVIN (Member)

GODFREY as Narrator

**Situation:** The group has assembled for the first time to meet regarding the fundraising for the organization.

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**GODFREY:**

ERIC, our single Dad and part time student, missed the meeting to pick the chairperson of the month long fundraiser.

Nobody wanted to lead the effort, so ERIC was unanimously chosen to lead the task. Being a pleaser, ERIC accepts the position and shortly after, his child gets sick. ERIC now has to juggle a sick child, an upcoming exam, his full time job, and his new duties as chair.

Used to being super Dad, he is not used to delegating and this is his first leadership position. He has difficulty getting his committee to follow his lead.

**ERIC:** I really feel overwhelmed. Timing is really bad. I have an exam on Friday, a sick child at home, and haven’t had time to call a meeting until now. We’re nowhere near our fundraising goal for week after next.

**THERESA :** This is the first time we’ve gotten together to discuss the fund raiser. You didn’t assign anyone duties for the drive.

**ERIC:** It’s my first time at heading a project, and I wasn’t sure what to do. I was afraid to ask for help because I didn’t want to look bad.

**MARVIN:** Well, if we don’t reach our goal, we’ll all look bad.

**RAFAEL:** You shouldn’t have agreed to lead us if you didn’t have time.

**THERESA:** Stop bickering, none of us wanted to do it in the first place. That’s why we chose ERIC. If it doesn’t come off, it’s all our faults.

**ERIC:** We still have two weeks. That should be plenty of time if we all take a task and run with it!

**Godfrey: *Freeze!***

What were the issues? ERIC didn’t refuse. ERIC didn’t have time to meet with the team until 2 weeks into fundraising time. ERIC was afraid to ask for help.

How could this have been handled differently? ERIC could have appointed a co-chair to pick up the slack until he had time to meet with everyone. ERIC and co-chair could have come up with the tasks and the co-chair could have assigned the tasks at the beginning.

What happened in the end? ERIC met with the team, admitted his shortcomings, the team came clean about handing off the challenge to ERIC and they moved forward to get the job done.

**Godfrey introduce: Skit 6 – Lessons Learned**

*(Members enter the room and are talking; ERIC has a pen & paper in hand to write down the lessons learned)*

**ERIC:** Hi Everyone! I just want to congratulate and thank everyone for making this event successful, although we didn’t reach our goal of $250, we did manage to raise $185 with the two weeks of planning that we had. The reason why we’re having this meeting after the event is to talk about the lessons learned about how it all came together. So what are some of the things that we could improve on?

**MARVIN:** Well, don’t be afraid to ask for help even if you think you can handle it by yourself, it never hurts to get some help. Plus when we work together we become more comfortable with each other and can get more done.

**THERESA:** Don’t take on too much and make sure to delegate or assign duties to the other members especially if you’re chairing the event. That’s what we’re here for and it’s easier for us to help you if you just tell us what you need to be done.

**RAFAEL:** Communicate, communicate, communicate. We should all be on the same page about every detail and know what’s been done and what still needs to be finished.

**ERIC:** Ok good, good this will definitely help us later. Now what about the things that we did well?

**THERESA:** Having the enthusiasm to push forward and having faith that we could pull through this event definitely helped the morale of the group.

**MARVIN:** Listening to everyone’s opinions about the event helped us figure out our end goal.

**RAFAEL:** Checking in to see how we were doing was helpful because we made sure to stay on track and you also knew what we were doing.

**ERIC:** Thank you everyone for all your suggestions and input and I know that what we’ve learned from this experience will help us grow in the future.

**Godfrey:**

Please give a round of applause for our actors.

My name is Godfrey Duke, I enjoyed being your MC for the Diversity Theatre.

Here is Rafael with our next steps and conference closing points.