



Finance & Budget Committee

2018-2019 Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 15, 2019, 11:30am-12:20pm
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

PRESENT:

Robby Perkins-High – Treasurer; Committee Chair, Evans School
Jasmine Chan - Budget Specialist, Staff
Ted Cohen, GPSS Senator
Varun Kao, GPSS Senator
Zhiyun Ma, GPSS Senator
Jacob Ziegler (Proxy for Alex Thompson), GPSS Senator

NOT PRESENT:

Alex Thompson, GPSS Senator
Shane Schrader, GPSS Senator

Robby Perkins-High called the Meeting to order at 11:31am.

OVERVIEW

Jasmine gave each member an agenda and copies of each of three Supplemental Allocations applications presenting at today's meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda

Varun moves to approve the agenda. *Zhiyun* seconds. No objections. Agenda approved.

2. Special Allocations Presentation: Polynesian Student Alliance 20th Annual Polynesia Day

Presentation

Polynesia Day is an event that has been going on for twenty years. It is a high school outreach event, but participation is over multiple generations. The event is conducted as mentorship to high schoolers and run by undergraduate and graduate students to encourage Polynesian students in their studies. There are not many graduate students involved because it is hard to retain Polynesian students who do make it to undergraduate university. Of the graduate students involved with Polynesian Student Alliance, all are involved with Polynesia Day. There are workshops that are run in the morning by graduate students and alumni. The event takes place on campus in a public space. It is an opportunity for Pacific Islanders to share with their community. ASUW has awarded \$1,000. Pacific Islander Student Commission awarded \$500. PSA needs about \$10,000 to cover the reservation, rental for rooms, and stage. The food cost is already covered. Any leftover amounts will go to reimbursing students for the regalia worn during the dancing portion of the event. The goal is to keep the pipeline open and strong for Pacific Islanders.



Two professors who are involved with Polynesian Student Alliance both attend Polynesian Day.

Varun inquires how many graduate students are on the council or board for the Polynesian Student Alliance. *Presenter* responds that graduate students participate by attending events. Undergraduate students take care of logistics for events while graduate students serve as mentors providing workshops for students and using their knowledge to give back to the high school population.

Varun follows up, asking how many graduate students are part of the event. *Presenter* states there are 20 participating in the event with ten graduate students confirmed to conduct workshops.

Ted asks for clarification about the total funding sources for non-food items. *Presenter* responds that in total, Polynesian Student Alliance has \$2,500 of non-food funding, meaning they need \$5,000. They received \$1,000 from ASUW.

Robby inquires about the funding sources they are still waiting to hear from. *Presenter* states they are waiting to hear from Campus Sustainability, UW School of Medicine, and UW School of American Indian Studies.

Robby asks whether the group has contingency plans in the event they do not receive enough funding. *Presenter* states that this is unknown so far and will have to consult with their RSO adviser. In the past, they have had enough to cover reservations but otherwise they possibly would cut programming.

Zhiyun inquires about whether the publicity for graduate students is primarily directed for Pacific Islanders or broader. *Presenter* states that the workshops are targeted for Pacific Islander high schoolers but that there are non-Pacific Islanders in the space because it is good to have other students and workshop leaders who are from different backgrounds. However, all the graduate students involved are Pacific Islanders.

Zhiyun seeks additional information regarding the promotion of the event on campus and specific strategies for recruiting graduate students to attend. *Presenter* replies that there are no specific strategies for recruiting graduate students to attend, just the general UW public. For participation in putting on programming, Polynesian Student Alliance relies on its existing network.

Ted asks for clarification regarding the amount Polynesian Student Alliance is requesting from GPSS. *Presenter* states that they filled out the form by stating the total amount applied for from GPSS, adding the Special Allocations request and the Diversity Fund. The amount requested of GPSS is \$750.

Ted inquires if Polynesian Student Alliance is scheduled to meet with the Diversity Committee. *Presenter* does not know. *Robby* states that the Diversity Committee doesn't typically have people come in to present and that he will check in with Amy.



Presenter states that while the event may not fit all of GPSS requirements, they decided to apply any way.

Discussion

Robby informs the Committee that the Chemistry Department presented before the Executive Committee for funding as their funding request needed to be heard prior to their event and there was a miscommunication with the SAO regarding their application. The Executive Committee awarded the Chemistry Department RSO in full at \$456.

Robby also states that ASUW is out of money.

Jacob notes that Polynesia Day has graduate student engagement.

Ted is inclined to fund in full because they have a high need for money and they have a good mission of encouraging underrepresented group to seek higher education.

Varun tends to agree to fund in full, but taking into consideration the funds remaining, the maximum award amount should be \$500.

Jacob comments that the Committee should think about how GPSS still has funds left while other organizations do not. It is not necessary that the Committee guarantee funding for all other groups. If the Committee were to run out, applicants would not be upset that funds ran out.

Robby states he is conflicted. In terms of cultural events, there is lower graduate student involvement but it is not an event for them as it is for high schoolers. The funding need is quite severe. In the outreach and promotion of this event, the long-term outcome is the promotion of graduate students at UW.

Zhiyun agrees wholeheartedly with *Robby*.

Ted states that is inclined to fund at \$750 because there will be other requests that will come before the Committee that the Committee will be comfortable funding at lower rates. However, if the Committee is close to running out of funds it can request additional funds from the Endowment Distributions.

Ted moves to fund the event at \$750. *Zhiyun* seconds. No objections.

VOTE: Ted, Zhiyun, Varun, and Robby vote YES. Jasmine and Jacob abstain.

3. Special Allocations Presentation: Communicating Science Conference PNW Organizing Committee ComSciCon PNW 2019

Presentation

The Communicating Science Conference is in its third year. The conference will be held next month, April 12 and 13. Forty graduate students from around the Pacific Northwest, half of the participants are from University of Washington and the other half are from



universities in the region. The conference is focused on helping graduate students in the sciences learn to communicate research in an effective way to a variety of audiences. This year, the focus is on using creativity and artistic methods for communicating science. Focus on using science communication for advocacy to inform policymakers and pitching ideas to writers and editors. The conference is free for attendees. The Organizing Committee covers venue cost, food for two days, and speaker costs including honoraria and travel expenses.

Robby asks about the speakers. *Presenter* states that speakers are mostly confirmed except for two. The keynote speaker is a graduate student who founded and runs a science communication website called Useful Science that is run mostly by graduate students who read through science literature who summarize everything in one sentence that gets posted to Twitter and the favorite post gets turned into a podcast. The speech will be about their journey about the idea and how it was turned into a website and podcast. Panelists for the panel about creativity and art include a professor of geology from Oregon State who brings artists into her group and organizes art that coincides with their field work; a former writer for Bill Nye who now writes children's books; and a graduate student who runs a superhero-based outreach for kids. The advocacy panel includes two speakers who have not yet been confirmed but who likely will be UW faculty who works on the intersection of science and policy, and faculty from WSU. There will be a workshop run by the Evans School and another workshop run by a writer's group.

Ted seeks clarification about the requested amount, as the application states \$500 in various places. *Presenter* clarifies that the amount requested is \$750.

Ted inquires if the group has heard from GPSS Diversity Fund or UW Aeronautics. *Presenter* states that they have not heard back from either source yet.

Ted asks if there is a contingency plan for funding the event. *Presenter* says that aside from the Diversity Fund and UW Aeronautics, there are a couple more organizations they can reach out to that have students who are accepted to the conference through their department's funds.

Varun inquires if they have been funded in full in the past. *Presenter* confirms.

Varun inquires if the group has previously received funding from the two organizations they have yet to hear back from. *Presenter* states that in the past, both organizations have provided funding.

Zhiyun states that currently, \$7,500 has been secured and that there is another \$2,750 pending that are possible. If the group receives remaining funding requests in full, then there will be slightly over \$10,000 while the total event cost is around \$8,000. The question is if the group ends up with more funding, what will be the plan for the excess funds. *Presenter* states that in the event that there is a surplus, the funds will be used to secure the next year's venue.



Ted inquires if the organization is willing to return 15% on any profits to GPSS. *Presenter* agrees.

Discussion

Jacob states that there are only forty students who can come because the event is limited and does not want to fund at the full amount of \$750.

Ted is considering funding lower than \$500 because it seems that the group has a lot of funds secured already and can pull from other universities' departments.

Robby notes that the event is for forty students, half of which are UW students and the other half are not. Because GPSS Special Allocations funding is sourced from UW student fees, it is not great to subsidize for GPSS to subsidize the non-UW students in attendance. On the other hand, this is a graduate student only event.

Ted states that this is a good cause and that communicating science is important.

Zhiyun notes that based on their budget planning sheet, the funding need is not significant. GPSS is one of many sources that the Organizing Committee can reach out to.

Ted moves to fund at \$400. No second. *Ted* withdraws his motion.

Robby states that a basis of funding can be set using the Departmental Allocations rate of \$15 per student, putting the funding amount at \$300.

Varun moves to fund at \$300. *Zhiyun* seconds. No objections.

VOTE: *Varun, Robby, Zhiyun, Alex, and Jacob* vote YES. *Jasmine* abstains.

4. Special Allocations Presentation: Tango Club Tango Classes

Jasmine emails the representatives at 12:03pm, 3 minutes past the original presentation start time.

Robby suggests the Committee address the next agenda item while the Committee waits for Tango Club representatives to arrive.

After the approval of the minutes, the Committee waits until the end of the meeting time as stated in the approved agenda to allow for representatives to arrive.

5. Approval of Minutes 3/8

Zhiyun moves to approve the minutes. *Ted* seconds. No objections. Minutes approved.

Jacob moves to adjourn the meeting. *Ted* seconds.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm without a presentation from the Tango Club.