Minutes: Official Meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate Finance and Budget Committee
February 1st, 2013

I. **Call to Order**
Meeting called to order at 9:04 am

II. **Roll Call**
Chairman Senator Eddie Schwieterman, Astronomy
GPSS Treasurer Vera Giampietro, Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Senator Colin Bateson, Mechanical Engineering
Senator JD Ross Leahy, Marine Affairs
Senator Ipek, Physics
Senator Evan Firth, Oceanography

*Guests*
Sanoj Titus for Desi Dhamaka

III. **Approval of the Agenda**
Approval of the Agenda passed unanimously.

IV. **Approval of the Minutes**
Committee approved minutes from 1/25/2013 unanimously.

V. **Consideration of Special Allocations**

**Special Allocation for Desi Dhamaka**
Before the guest presentation, there was a discussion about the high cost of police enforcement at the event and why it was the first time seeing this item. Senator Bateson observed that the request was large for not many graduate students, to which Chairman Schwieterman commented that there are more people anticipated at the TSA event, and they did not make a request for police enforcement. Senator Ipek made the case that the committee has not funded them recently.

Senator Leahy questioned the $7000 rental charge and whether this is an accurate amount. Senator Ipek asked if the event was just one day or multiple days, to which Senator Leahy said it was only one.

Sanoj Titus, the Treasurer for Desi Dhamaka, made the guest presentation for the event. He said this was the 11th year of the event. Every year they try to put several Indian communities/cultures together and showcase as many as possible to the university and the outside community. This year they are looking for funding because last year fundraising was not very successful. In addition to this event, they host two other events, a comedy show, which they pay for, and the second event is a banquet afterwards. Approximately 250 attend the show, and 150 attend the banquet. They want to make the comedy show a free event, so requesting funding for Desi Dhamaka this year is in hopes of being able to spend more of their money on the comedy show.

Chairman Schwieterman asked Sanoj about the security for which they were budgeting. Sanoj replied that these events can get very hyped around a particular performance, and in the years past people are usually not entirely sober and they get very passionate about the event.
Security is there to help remove people who become too involved as well as help with back door security. Treasurer Giampietro then inquired about the about the costs for Meany Hall and why it was so high. Sanoj said that the costs to utilize Meany Hall have been increased.

When asked about getting approved for funding from other organizations, Sanoj did confirm that they were approved from the Wells Fargo Fund for $1000. Senator Ipek asked about selling tickets for the event and if they were funded, would ticket prices lower. Sanoj reiterated that they were still trying to recover from the undercut of last year. Currently, they have about $2000-3000 leftover from last year, but this is supposed to be used for all 3 events.

Senator Bateson observed that the organization has two other funding sources and ASUW. He then suggested the committee considers a leveled type of funding such that they are guaranteed a base amount based on the graduate student break down, and then some additional funding to help put on the event, and if it is profitable, then GPSS is refunded. Chairman Schwieterman asked how easy it would be for them to pay GPSS back. Sanoj replied that they anticipate refunding all of the money given to them; currently, they just don’t have enough to front the costs to put on the event.

Treasurer Giampietro asked what portion of non-UW attendees were related to the graduate students, to which Sanoj confirmed that most were related to students at the UW, but only some were families of the graduate students. Senator Bateson suggested funding 14% of non-UW students, to which Chairman Schwieterman suggested an even 20% of the guests, which would be funding them at $600. Senator Leahy expressed concern that funding extra money would be lost to the committee because there would only be about a week to get the funding back. Chairman Schwieterman noted that there would be time, but it would depend on the number of other RSO requests at the time. He then proposed funding them at $500.

Senator Firth moved to fund Desi Dhamaka at $500. Senator Bateson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Senator Leahy wanted to clarify if the committee was asking for the money to be remitted to which Chairman Schwieterman assured that it is in the by-laws and that if there is revenue made the committee can request the money back.

VI. GPSS Budget Update

Treasurer Giampietro presented on the budget update. She said that the Executive and Finance and Budget Committees have a defined schedule for how the budget process will unfold. There is a summit tomorrow for 2 hours in the GPSS office to discuss the budget. She noted that the committee is half way through the proposed schedule and nothing concrete has been established. She offered to send the recently submitted proposals to the committee members today, if they could take the time to look and comment on them for tomorrow. Chairman Schwieterman confirmed that the committee would be meeting next week.

Senator Leahy asked if there was still going to be a commenting period for the budget. Treasurer Giampietro assured that she thought F&B should have a comment period, but to reiterate there are two schedules, one requesting money from SAF (same as last year just particulars are changing) and then the one approving the budget with the Senate, but that this amount cannot change after the 20th. So as long as the total budget is known, then various options on how it is dispersed can be discussed. Chairman Schwieterman emphasized that this is a very short timeline between the next F&B committee meeting on the 8th and the senate meeting. This is a more important document than the other resolutions passed, so it deserves more time. Senator Leahy pointed out that there is time for two discussions. If the first draft is
sent out on Friday the 8th, then sent to Senate, who will have two days to look at it prior, they
can discuss it at the meeting and vote on it on the 27th. Chairman Schwieterman thought that
originally they wanted to vote on it on the 13th. Senator Leahy said there is still time if they did
not want to vote on it immediately. Treasurer Giampietro said that a budget must be turned in
to SAF on February 20th.

Senator Bateson suggested the use of Google docs where people can debate and comment on
the budget before the senate meeting, so that the conversation is more mature by the Senate
meeting. Treasurer Giampietro said she would request that there be a discussion about the
budget on the 13th. Senator Bateson said again, as long as everyone is ok with this total amount
of money, Senate can take as much time to debate the constraints within the budget. Chairman
Schwieterman felt Senate should have more war
ning and that the committee has the
opportunity to delay the vote until the 27th. He then requested that in Kristen’s next email to
the Senate, that she add a comment period from the 11-13th before the meeting for people to
look and comment on the document. This is a warning ahead of time so people know what to
look for. To confirm Treasurer Giampietro said this would be sent out on the 8th. She also said,
that for this to work, this is going to require a lot of email correspondence between F&B
committee members. Chairman Schwieterman reiterated that the draft proposal from the
Executive meeting on Saturday will need to be looked at and worked on by this committee
before next Wednesday and definitely by next Friday.

Senator Leahy asked that if after the meeting on the 6th, is it going to be more challenging for
to change the budget on the 8th since the Executive committee will not have a 2nd revote on the
issue. Senator Bateson expressed that the Feb 8th vote should be more of rubber stamp of
approval, as they are the ones that have been vetting the issue. Senator Leahy established
again that this is mostly an email conversation for F&B and time should be spent to ask
questions, discuss issues that need to be brought up, etc.

VII. Announcements
Senator Ipek said Physics just started buying stuff for the new lounge

Senator Bateson announced his candidacy for F&B chairman for spring quarter. The new chair
election will be announced on the 13th, and voted on the 27th by Senate.

VIII. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.