Minutes: Official Meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate Finance and Budget Committee  
February 15th, 2013

I. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 9:02 am

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

Guests
Kristen Rogers for HIV Test

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

IV. Approval of the Minutes
Committee approved minutes from 2/8/2013 unanimously.

V. Consideration of Special Allocations
Chairman Schwieterman said the HIV Test Cabaret seems like a great event for teachers and graduate students. He appreciates the fact that it is set up by graduate students. This is stuff that the committee likes. He suggested that if the committee funded it at $1000 it would be legitimate and it covers just over half of the student breakdown. Treasurer Giampietro asked if HIV Test Cabaret had been funded in the past. Chairman Schwieterman said no.

Chairman Schwieterman observed that there is about $9000 left for special allocations funding. Senator Firth asked how much longer there is time to fund organizations, to which the chairman answered that the committee is already halfway through the grant year. Senator Firth asked if the committee was on track to spend this much or if it was expecting more. Treasurer Giampietro said it seems to be right on track, and that there are already have two requests for next week. Chairman Schwieterman assured that the committee would meet next week to discuss the budget as well.

Senator Leahy arrived at 9:06 am.

Senator Leahy, looking at the application, noted that the number of students they are expecting is 150. Chairman Schwieterman reiterated wanting to focus on funding groups that are mostly graduate students, put on by graduate students, etc., and that this is one of those events. Senator Leahy suggested if everyone likes it maybe it should be funded at a higher level. Chairman Schwieterman still wanted to ask about the type of performances, etc., and the treasurer wanted to check how they got their numbers. Senator Leahy observed that the figures look appropriate for Kane Hall. Treasurer Giampietro clarified she was talking about the number of people.
Senator Leahy wondered if the 50% indicated on the application is related to the audience, and how many people are in their department. Senator Kaufman told Senator Leahy that the school of public health includes dentistry, public health, medicine, etc.

Senator Bateson arrived at 9:13am.

**Special Allocation for HIV Test-A Cabaret: Reflections on HIV Testing**

Kristen Rogers came to present for HIV Testing. She said they are a completely student-run HIV testing referral providing education, testing, information, etc. They test once a week in various locations in Seattle. The idea of the cabaret is outreach for their organization and to make aware what they can do as students of the university. This was a great event last year with performances from choirs, musicians, etc., from several communities. Last year 300 students attended, of which approximately 15% were undergraduates and the rest graduate. They received a lot of good feedback, especially from the faculty. She also said they had met with ASUW and they had already agreed to fund 2/3 ($1250) of the request.

Senator Ipek asked who the group received funding from last year. Rogers pointed out that she was not president of the committee and was unsure. She did know they have support from other communities that probably provided funding. They were requesting this year partly because of the increased cost of renting Kane Hall. Senator Kaufman asked if they advertise the event around campus. Rogers said they had not yet; they wanted funding first in order to plan out the event. Senator Kaufman then asked what their plan is. Rogers suggested they were looking to use playbills, and that they had partnered with two undergraduate communities to help with advertising to upper campus. Treasurer Giampietro noticed they were not charging for the event, and asked what kind of refreshments they planned to serve. Rogers said water, soda, light snacks.

Chairman Schwieterman inquired if there was any further information. Rogers said the estimated attendance was 300, 30% being undergraduate and the rest graduate. Senator Firth inquired what the group is doing for sheet music costs, as they are expensive. Rogers explained that last year they preformed mostly show tunes and this year they were hoping for some more baroque style performances, perhaps with a tester experience depiction.

Treasurer Giampietro asked if they would be willing to announce that GPSS helped with funding at the event. Rogers accepted and asked if, like ASUW, there was an evaluation for tiered funding. Treasurer Giampietro described that it was very basic including an email with some pictures and brief description of how funds were spent.

**Senator Kaufman moved to fund the HIV Testing Cabaret at $650.**

**Senator Firth seconded the motion.**

Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Schwieterman emphasized that this is the type of event that we really want to fund, so next year please come back! Rogers hoped that they will be able to use this as an opportunity to increase events quality in the future. Chairman Schwieterman also informed Rogers that they can also help pay for transportation for speakers and equipment.

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**VI. GPSS Budget Update**
Treasurer Giampietro informed the committee that the budget and narratives will be resent today to Senators. Anyone can look at Google doc to see comments and questions.

Treasurer Giampietro restated that the comment period is open and will close next Wednesday so that the Executive Committee can have a final set of comments. She then asked for any questions on the process for approving the new budget. Treasurer Giampietro pointed out that as of the previous F&B meeting, the Regular Hourly Staff section had not been filled in and it is still that way. She informed the committee that there will be a meeting among officers over the weekend to discuss Regular Hourly Staff. Chairman Schwieterman added that there is also a Travel Grants meeting next Tuesday in HUB 314 at 4:15. Treasurer Giampietro summarized that this would include a matrix for the application process, approval, etc. and a discussion of the level at which to recommend reinstating the program. Senator Ipek wondered if the $0 reflected this, to which the treasurer clarified that it meant it hasn’t been decided on.

Chairman Schwieterman stated that Travel Grants started at $3000 and have ramped up ever since. There is always a need for travel grants, but there will always be a demand that cannot be met. Senator Ipek raised the question about the requirements necessary to get funding. Chairman Schwieterman informed her that successful candidates had been offered to talk at a conference, and that most people get denied because there is not enough money. The future Travel Grants committee needs to know they will be over extended. Senator Ipek asked if there is a maximum amount applicants can be funded, to which the chairman believed it was $500/person. Senator Kaufman suggested increasing the requirements for eligibility. Treasurer Giampietro ensured that it would be a part of the discussion. Senator Kaufman asked if Chairman Schwieterman was opposed to reinstating travel grants. He responded he was in support of funding them at $15,000 to ensure it was clear that this was a trial period. He thought funding at a higher level sets the expectation that the budget for it could increase. Senator Leahy agreed that it made more sense for GPSS to fund at a lower level. Chairman Schwieterman observed that $15,000 is higher than all but two years in the past. He also said that the committee could divvy up funds over the year, in separate application and award periods. The treasurer said this had been done last year.

Senator Kaufman asked if people could reapply, to which Chairman Schwieterman answered as long as they had not been funded before. He then asked if there was a copy of this report. Treasurer Giampietro responded it would be available next Friday. Chairman Schwieterman restated that it sends the wrong message to fund Travel Grants at the same level as before and encouraged more input from the Senate and the Executive committee. Treasurer Giampietro stated that some of the numbers are arbitrary and there is a need to have more justification for any particular number. Chairman Schwieterman explained that the GPSS budget is not growing, especially not at the rate that travel grants was.

Senator Leahy reiterated that the Chairman Schwieterman believes that the Travel Grants budget should remain stationary. Chairman Schwieterman stated that GPSS cannot withstand the types of recently sustained increases and for a fair evaluation it should be set as stationary amount of funding. Senator Kaufman said it seems unsustainable. Senator Ipek agreed but that it is fine; we can’t afford to support everyone.

Treasurer Giampietro encouraged reading the report for information on how to limit the number of people applying. Previously they were reading through over 80 applications per quarter. She also noted that people put in a lot of work applying, and lots of people were rejected.

Senator Kaufman asked if there were no comments, the Senate would pass this budget on the 27th, and send out a report. Treasurer Giampietro affirmed this and said the report would be sent immediately after the budget is passed. Chairman Schwieterman said applying to the
Innovation Plan should be a contingency. Treasurer Giampietro said that the President planned to take on this task. Chairman Schwieterman suggested if there was compromise from Daniel, and if we get funding from Innovation plan, we can increase the amount for Travel Grants. Treasurer Giampietro observed that even if it goes up by $6000 that has little impact. Chairman Schwieterman argued that the money funds a summit. Senator Bateson said this is an argument that needs to be presented carefully. Treasurer Giampietro said she will look at Daniel’s references first to look for recommendations.

VII. Announcements
Meeting next week.

VIII. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.