Minutes: Official Meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate Finance and Budget Committee
January 11th, 2013

I Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 9:03 am

II Roll Call
Chairman Senator Eddie Schwieterman, Astronomy
GPSS Treasurer Vera Giampietro
Senator Seyda Ipek, Physics
Senator Finis Ray, Landscape Architecture
Senator Evan Firth, Oceanography
Senator Colin Bateson, Mechanical Engineering
Senator JD Ross Leahy, Marine Affairs
SAO Advisor Rene Singleton

Guests
Elisabeth Smith, LSRJ
Yasmeen Hussain, Biology
Jade Chang, Jimmy Chen, and Ted Chen, TSA
Bruce Yu, CSA
Wan Lin, CSSA

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

IV Approval of the Minutes
Committee approved minutes from 12/7/2012 unanimously.

V Consideration of Special Allocations

Special Allocation for LSRJ (Law Students)
LSJR is the UW chapter of a national organization. They are hosting a regional conference, and are supported by the national organization. LSRJ students are doing all of the logistics, and planning for the event. Three regionally/nationally known speakers are coming to the conference, who are all specialists in reproductive health, rights, education, etc. Currently, there are two confirmed speakers and the 3rd is mostly confirmed. They anticipate 35 students from LSRJ at the UW campus will attend and other students from other schools are also anticipated. They are advertising to Health Sciences, Nursing, and other programs to extend it to the greater campus. Right now, the total cost of the event is $4300. Thus far, they have $700 from National, $1000 from Law School, and $600 from the Gates foundation. If GPSS grants the full request, the amount requested from ASUW will be reduced. They are meeting with ASUW on Monday. LSRJ would like to use GPSS funding for honoraria for the speakers, as well as cleanliness of the facilities that will be paid to the Law School. As well, they want to use it for transportation for the guest speakers who are here specifically for this event, and only this event. The food budget is accounting for about 80 people right now.

Chairman Schwieterman clarified that GPSS can’t fund transportation unless this is the speakers’ only engagement. He also commented that this event is more focused on graduate students so even though ASUW has more money, it is more related to GPSS students, and should demand more of GPSS funding.
Treasurer Giampietro inquired as to who had been advertised to. Elisabeth said mostly graduate students, but that she was hoping to expand to undergraduate students through flyers, and the newspaper next week. Treasurer Giampietro then asked if LSJR would be willing to announce that they were funded by GPSS to which Elisabeth ensured that yes, they could either put GPSS in the program folder with a personal statement, or make an announcement at the event.

**Senator Bateson moves to approve LSRJ for $1000.**
**Treasurer Giampietro seconds the motion.**
**Motion passes unanimously.**

**TSA-Night Market**
Jade Chang, a student representative of TSA, said this is an annual event, that usually has more than 5000 people attend for Taiwanese food, dance, crafts, etc. at Red Square. They estimate that 20% of the attendees will be graduate students. TSA is requesting $1000 for the facilities and stage activities. They plan to have student and outside performers. TSA wants this event to get students to experience Taiwanese food and culture.

Treasurer Giampietro noted that last year, this event had $30,000 in revenue and asked where it went. Ted Chen, another TSA representative, said very little was kept as the money went to vendors, performers etc. TSA takes a cut of the revenue but this money goes to tent rental, facilities, etc. He said this event actually lost $2000 last year. Senator Leahy asked what are the vendors like, to which Ted described that there are 10-12 commercial vendors, from their own restaurants, shops, etc., and 2 are volunteer organizations. Most vendors also lose money from this event. There are also students who come and cook at the event. Chairman Schwieterman then asked if the performers were students to which Ted confirmed that most of them are. Chairman Schwieterman inquired what would happen if TSA wasn’t funded the whole amount. Ted Chen said TSA would start making cuts to performer fees, and other non-essential items for the event. Senator Bateson asked about TSA’s advertising plan. Ted Chen said they are looking to get into the newspapers, The Daily, outside Chinese community, schools, programs, etc, and at the anticipated vendors stores. Ted also mentioned that last year, TSA made requests with another organization (TOSA) and received $1000 in funding.

Senator Leahy asked if the funding should be based on a percentage of the total $4300 being requested from GPSS and ASUW, which is slightly less than the $1000. Chairman Schwieterman said it was possible but that there are lots of other areas that they could qualify for funding, as well non-UW students should be considered as well.

**Senator Bateson moves to fund TSA for $1000.**
**Senator Leahy seconds the motion.**
**Motion passes unanimously.**

**CSA- Lunar New Year**
Bruce came to represent the CSA. He said CSA is the oldest Chinese RSO, and this year they are hosting the 45th annual Lunar show. This is targeted to both graduate and undergraduate students. Total, CSA expects 650 people to attend the event. The show is a series of acts, dances, drumming, etc. to ring in the Chinese New Year and celebrate Chinese culture. CSA gets funding from various other sponsors for this event. This is the first time they are requesting funding from GPSS.
Chairman Schwieterman asked if they have requested funding from ASUW, and suggested that possibly they request a slightly higher amount. Bruce said they are requesting $1000 from ASUW as well at the meeting on the 21st. Treasurer Giampietro asked who the non-UW attendees will be. Bruce responded that they were mostly families of the performers, and graduate students. Senator Leahy asked what the difference is between CSA and CSSA. Bruce described that they are more internationally based and CSA is more locally based, though it attracts a lot of international attention too.

Treasurer Giampietro asked if this event has ever made money. Bruce said that the event has never been profitable, mostly because it is free to students and, $2-4 for non UW attendees. Treasurer Giampietro then discussed that based on the percentage breakdown; GPSS could fund CSA for $500, maybe $650 to account for non-UW attendees and graduate student families. She encouraged them to request additional funding to make up the difference from ASUW. Bruce said that CSA was also requesting funding from Wells Fargo Fund. Lastly, Treasurer Giampietro asked if CSA was willing to put the GPSS logo in the advertisement for the event. Bruce said they would speak on behalf of GPSS, or allow a GPSS representative to speak.

**Senator Bateson moved to fund CSA for $600 dollars.**
**Senator Leahy seconded the motion.**
**Motion passes unanimously.**

**CSSA-New Year Gala:**
Wan Lin described that this is an annual event. This is the most important event for Chinese students and is a traditional festival. CSSA invited over 700 students, and faculty. In the past, CSSA requested $4300, but this year only $3300 from GPSS and ASUW. Specifically they are requesting $1000 from GPSS for the Kane Hall rental where the event will be held. She also said CSSA was requesting funding from the Ethnic Culture Center. CSSA is still deciding on ticket prices in order that the event help cover the total cost.

Chairman Schwieterman asked if the change in venue will affect the attendance. Wan Lin said there will be about 200 fewer guests, but that full capacity is anticipated. Senator Leahy asked how ticket pricing worked. Wan Lin said they have a maximum price of $5, last year it was $10, but they want to make it as low as possible. Chairman Schwieterman clarified that GPSS grants requests based on a percentage with ASUW to which Wan Lin pointed out that last year the ASUW funded CSSA the $3300 and GPSS funded at $1250. Rene suggested that they also look into the Wells Fargo Fund. Chairman Schwieterman then asked for the committee’s thoughts on whether or not it wanted to fund the full $1000 or $825, which is based on the percentage of graduate students attending. Senator Leahy pointed out that they are having a more expensive event, so it does make sense to fund it at a high level.

Chairman Schwieterman also mentioned that there was a question about the audio and video rental. He noted that the amount is substantially higher than other groups have requested. Wan Lin said the previous venue had an excellent audio system, but that Kane Hall is only equipped for lecture, so CSSA has to rent from an off campus organization. They are renting from AB Pros.

**Senator Ipek moved to fund CSSA for $825.**
**Senator Firth seconded the motion.**
**Motion passes unanimously.**

**VI Consideration for Departmental Allocations**
Departmental Allocation for Biology

Yasmeen, from the Biology Department, said they are requesting funding for a Biology graduate student retreat to Wallace Falls. This is a completely student run event with the purpose to increase the social community among the graduate students. There are about 100 students in the department. They have 50 students signed up so far. Last year there were 80. They believe that this is because cost in higher. Currently, it is about $90/person. The plan is to go up on Friday, where they have a lodge rented out for communal events. A poster event, potluck, and meals will be held there. Overflow lodging will be in the surrounding area. The funding would go towards transportation, and the payment for the cabins. Students are paying out of pocket for the event and travel right now is approx $0.56 per mile. It is 90 miles to Wallace Falls.

Senator Leahy asked if GPSS was the only organization Biology was requesting money from. Yasmeen said they had requested money from the department, but their budget is tight. Treasurer Giampietro asked if they will have the event regardless of funding, to which the guest said yes, they just wished to have more than 50 students. Also, they will be prepared to take pictures for the GPSS website. Senator Leahy asked how the funding will reduce the cost. Yasmeen said it may not necessarily reduce the cost, but hopefully it will keep the price the same and allow for more students to come. As well, it will give more refunding for carpools.

Senator Ipek moved to fund Biology for $350.
Senator Leahy seconded the motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

Announcements

Chairman Schwieterman confirmed that everyone can make the new meeting time. Rene said she would always be late.

Rene clarified that contractually, guest speakers are not allowed to present elsewhere within 2 weeks of the event on either side. This is to protect you as a primary sponsor. However, it first comes down to what you are comfortable funding.

Treasurer Giampietro announced the PhD movie on Tuesday. Please take posters to your departments and put them up. Also we have a speed dating event at the end of the month.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 am.