Finance & Budget Committee
2017-2018 Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2018
5:30 P.M.
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

PRESENT:
Chase Kania - Committee Vice-Chair, Foster School of Business MBA
Jacob Ziegler - Chemistry
Ted Cohen - Molecular Engineering
Audrey Motta-Wurst - Speech and Hearing Sciences
Adam Tahir - Aeronautics and Astronautics
Duong Phan - Budget Specialist, Staff

NOT PRESENT:
Brad Copenhaver – Treasurer; Committee Chair, Foster School of Business MBA
Sameer D. Meshram - Mechanical Engineering

1. Call to Order

Chase called the Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Chase asked for motions to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2018 meeting. Adam moved to approve. Jacob seconded, all in favor.

3. Presentations:

   1. Special Allocations presentation:

      Request SP2018-06 (RSO: Taiwanese Student Association, TSA), presenters: Zachary Hsiao

      Zachary introduced himself to the committee and described his organization's event. UW Night Market is an annual event of TSA which will be held in Red Square. The purpose of this event is to bring Taiwanese culture to the UW campus. The event will include games, cultural performances, and food.

      Adam asked how TSA figured out how many people attended the event from last year as TSA noted that 7000 people attended last year in its request. Zachary said that they did a survey to collect this number.

      Jacob asked if Zachary knows how many graduate students are involved in TSA activities. Zachary said that a few graduate students are members of TSA.
Chase asked how TSA would advertise its event. Zachary said that they advertise the event through Facebook, radio stations, and posters. They will also put event posters outside of the UW campus, such as in the International District and Downtown.

Chase asked if they received funds from GPSS last year. Zachary answered yes.

Chase asked how many years they have held this event. Zachary said that this event has been held for a long time.

Ted asked the reason why TSA did not mark on their application that they would return 15% of the net profit of the event to GPSS. Zachary answered that they did not make a profit before and that they had to ask for funding to cover their net losses. They do not think they will have a profit to return to GPSS, therefore they did not mark on their application that they agreed to return 15% of their profits.

Duong mentioned that it is a requirement of the GPSS Special Allocations Funds to agree to return their net profit even if they will or will not generate profit from their event. Zachary said he did not know this, but he agreed to return 15% of the net profit if they have any.

- Request SP2018-07 (ROS: Foundation for International Understanding Through Students), presenter: Simran Bhara

Simran introduced about herself, the Foundation of International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS), and its upcoming event, Global Gala. This is an annual dance party which will be held at Kane Hall. The purpose of this event is to celebrate cultural diversity on campus, including among undergraduate and graduate students.

Chase asked what activities they would arrange for this event. Simran said that they planned to decorate and build activities with a theme of America in the 80’s. The event also includes food and games.

Chase asked if the event also includes educational activities. Simran said that their event promotes a diverse culture with dancing, music and food. There is no educational focus.

Jacob asked if FIUTS has any advertising strategy to attract more graduate students to attend the event. Simran said that they have Student Board members and graduate representatives who would introduce their event to graduate students. FIUTS also uses social media to advertise the event.

Ted asked Simran to explain more about the ticket prices. Simran said that they charge UW students $15, and non-UW students $18.

- Request SP2018-08 (ROS: Hui Hoaloha ‘Ulana), presenters: Ireland Castillo

Ireland introduced her organization and its upcoming event. This is a cultural event that is held annually to bring together the Hawaiian community at UW to celebrate their cultural traditions. The event is open to all UW students, faculty, and staff. They will provide Hawaiian food, a DJ, cultural performances, and flower decorations.

Jacob asked if graduate students are involved in setting-up the event. Ireland said that graduate students play a large part in helping and arranging the event.
Chase asked how would they obtain the money for the event as their event’s budget is about $20,000. Ireland said that they have requested funds from ASUW, HUB funds, Diversity funds, Well Fargo Funds, and GPSS Special Allocations Funds. They also generate revenue through selling admission tickets and receive money from sponsors.

Ted asked why floral arrangement cost $2000. Ireland said that they receive free flowers from Hawaii from their sponsor, but they have to pay for shipping to deliver the flowers to Seattle from Hawaii. It costs $2000 for shipping.

Chase asked why the HUB rental costs almost $12,000. Ireland answered because they rent the HUB ballroom for 3 days to set-up and hold the event.

2. Departmental Allocations presentations:

Request DA2018-03 (Department: Earth and Space Science), presenters: Carolyn

Kalen introduced herself and told about her department’s request. Her department would like to request $750 to offset the cost of lodging at the ESS Graduate Retreat Weekend. The retreat is open to all graduate and professional students in the ESS. The purpose of the retreat is to build the camaraderie of the department and to establish a connection among the ESS graduate student community.

Chase asked how they would acquire money to arrange the retreat if they do not get fund from GPSS. Kalen said students would pay for themselves if they want to attend.

Chase asked how many students would attend. Kalen said that there are about 45 graduate students.

Adam asked if they go to the same place for the retreat every year. Kalen said that they go to the Friday Harbor labs every year as it is convenient.

Ted mentioned that the GPSS Departmental Allocations funds are not to be used for funding food. Kalen said that they know this rule, they will not use the funds to purchase food.

Request DA2018-04 (Department: Biology), presenters: Zoe Kulik and Jordan Cloytor

Zoe introduced Jordan and herself, as well as her department's request. Her department has requested $750 to offset the lodging costs for their graduate student retreat at Wallace Falls State Park in early February.

Audrey asked what would they do there and if there will be any activities with an educational purpose. Zoe said that they arrange speeches, hiking and research talks. The purpose of the retreat is to connect graduate students with each other, to get to know their peers better, and to share their research.

Chase asked how many people would attend. Zoe said that there are about 35 students and that they are all graduate students.

Chase asked if they do not receive funds from GPSS, how will they fund their retreat. Zoe said that the students would pay as they could not apply other funds.
Audrey asked if they had asked their department for funds. Zoe said their department’s budget for their retreat is only $100.

Chase asked if students had signed up already. Zoe answered that they had.

Ted noted that the funds may not transfer to their department before the retreat occurs and asked if this would affect them. Zoe said it would be fine.

4. Discussion and Voting:

Jacob mentioned that the RSOs should arrange events that would include more graduate students and have a better advertising strategy to attract graduate students. The Committee would be more willing to approve the requests that are more beneficial to graduate students. The Committee would like to recommend that the SAO advisors speak with the RSOs to make sure their events include more graduate students.

After the committee considered and discussed regarding the Special Allocations requests, Chase asked for motions to approve to fund $500 for the Taiwanese Student Association’s UW Night Market event, $500 for the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students’ Global Gala event, and $500 for Hui Hoaloha ‘Ulana’s Lu’au 2018 event.

Ted moved to approve these funds, Audrey seconded, all in favor.

For the Departmental Allocations requests, the committee suggested that they reduce the funding amounts for the requests that have received the GPSS funds for many years in a row. However, the committee were also concerned that if they reduce the funding amounts, the students would have to pay more by themselves. Finally, the Committee agreed to fund $750 for the Biology department and $500 for the Earth and Space Science department. The reason that the Committee decided to fund $500 instead of $750 for ESS is because they requested funds from their department. The Committee suggested that the departments should look for more funds to apply for beside GPSS grants, to reduce their reliance on GPSS.

Chase asked for motions to approve to fund $500 for the Earth and Science department and $750 for the Biology department. Jacob moved to approve, Audrey seconded, all in favor.

Chase motioned to adjourn the meeting, Adam moved, Ted seconded.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.