Finance & Budget Committee
2018-2019 Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 18, 2019, 11:30am-12:30pm
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

Present:
Robby Perkins-High – Treasurer; Committee Chair, Foster School
Jasmine Chan - Budget Specialist, Staff
Varun Kao, GPSS Senator
Alex Thompson, GPSS Senator
Zhiyun Ma, GPSS Senator
Shane Schrader, GPSS Senator
Ted Cohen, GPSS Senator

Not Present:

Robby called the Meeting to order at 11:34am.

Overview

Robby gave each member an agenda, meeting minutes, and copies of each application present at the meeting today.

1. Call to Order
   a. Approval of Agenda

   Shane moves to approve the agenda. Varun seconds. Motion to approve the agenda passes.

2. Special Allocations Funding Request from Japanese Student Association Matsuri 2019

Presentation:

Matsuri is an event that is open to the public to showcase the diversity of Japanese culture through games, performances, and food. Ticket sales are charged for food and participation in games, but there is no entrance free. The event is open to everyone in the community with the goal of bringing Japanese people together to celebrate and share their culture. Most other JSA events are catered to undergraduates. This event, JSA reaches out to its graduate membership community (around 50 people), graduate Asian languages programs, FIUTS, and other cultural RSOs. $750 application amount is to go toward the HUB ballroom rental fee, the remainder will go toward other events.
Zhiyun asks for elaboration on outreach, i.e. what is the plan to advertise this event toward graduate students. Presenter responds that they will use all social media platforms, which is inclusive of the alumni network. They will also use UW advertising with sandwich boards on campus, a banner on Kane Hall, promotion at language exchange practices and tabling. JSA will also advertise volunteer opportunities.

Alex seeks clarification on the $1500 figure for marketing. Presenters note that Kane Hall advertising is $150, they are advertising in Asian newspapers (in the stands near Uwajimaya in C/ID), and they plan to us Facebook boosting.

Zhiyun comments that Uwajimaya advertising would be aimed primarily for the Japanese community and wants to know what other methods will be used to advertise to other cultures. Presenters mention that they have good connections with other cultural RSOs and will ask them to reach out to their networks as a show of solidarity.

Varun asks how many graduate students attend the event. Presenters say that they do not specifically ask attendees of their student status, but that they have started more deliberate efforts of reaching out to graduate students and that last year some of their volunteers were graduate students.

Discussion
Varun asks if we are allowed to give groups recommendations for how to reach out to graduate students, e.g. through departments.

Robby states that the best way to provide that feedback is to tell SAO that this is something that RSOs can do to reach graduate students.

Alex notes that this event is expensive. Robby responds that the HUB ballroom is very expensive!

Robby mentions that the graduate student outreach is more specific than the Committee normally hears.

Shane likes that JSA, a smaller RSO, is reaching out to other RSOs that have greater reach.

Robby mentions that the Committee funded the event last year at $400 (requested amount was $750). Robby calls for a motion for funding level.

Alex moves to fun din full at $750. Then withdraws his motion for discussion.

Zhiyun requests elaboration on why the event should receive $750.

Alex responds that the prices are high and the group had thought through things regarding outreach.
Jasmine reminds the group that other RSO event funding bodies are out of resources except for ASUW and GPSS. Robby notes that the Committee may ask Senate for more money allocated to Special Allocations.

Ted wants to fund in full because GPSS is the only option they have. Even with $750, funding will be difficult.

Robby notes that the Committee has fully funded only 1 event this year. Cultural events are typically funded at a lower level.

Shane points out that JSA is a smaller group and this is a big event. Prices are going up and if the group wants to keep their outreach up, they need to have a big event like this. He supports full funding.

Alex moves to fund in full. Varun seconds. No calls for debate.

Robby calls for a vote.

**Vote: Alex, Ted, Zhiyun, Shane vote Yes. Robby, Varun, and Jasmine abstain.**

Motion passes.

3. Approval of Minutes 1/11

Zhiyun objects to a line in the 1/11 meeting minutes and requests an amendment.

Robby proposes amendment to remove the line. Shane moves to approve. Zhiyun seconds. Motion passes.

4. Presentation Schedule for Winter Quarter

Robby announces that the Committee schedule is very full due to an influx of allocations applicants with tight turnaround times. He asks if it is possible for Committee members to stay 10-15 minutes after the scheduled meeting time ends. Varun, Ted, Zhiyun mention they are open to staying.

Varun asks if the Committee should be concerned about funding decisions for this year. Robby has not run the numbers, but Ted recalls that this Committee is funding at a higher level than last year. Robby mentions that the Committee has had more applications, HUB reservation fees are increasing this year and next year.

Robby concludes by saying that we will try to stick to at most 3 presentations in an hour, and select just 1 meeting where the Committee stays an extra 10 minutes.

5. Special Allocations Funding Request: Micronesian Island Club MIC Night

**Presentation**
MIC Night is hosted every year, this year it is on Saturday May 11. The event hosts 350-400 attendees. The purpose of the event is to spread cultural awareness of Micronesian culture and how to create a home away from home for people coming from the Islands.

Shane asks how many graduate students are in the club. Presenter states 5 graduate students come routinely. Robby asks about how many are included in the group in general. Presenter says about 10 graduate students come to the events. Jasmine seeks clarification about graduate student participation. Presenter clarifies that there are many from the graduate student community that come to the events and contribute to the events.

Ted inquires if there are backup plans for funding. Presenter mentions that there is a broader, Seattle-area community that could be asked for funding, but ideally MIC would not need to ask them to allow those funds to be put to other greater community events and initiatives.

Varun asks for greater clarification on the ticket prices. Presenter says tickets are $15 for UW students and $18 for the broader public. For people who cannot afford the ticket prices, there are volunteer opportunities that they can participate in that will result in a free ticket. Varun mentions that ticket sales are estimated to be close to $6,000, covering almost 80% of the cost. The requested funds are around $6,180. In total, this is almost $12,000. What will MIC use the excess funds for? Presenter clarifies that the excess funds will be used on graduation gifts that are imported as well as other cultural events. Ted brings up that any profits a group makes on an event has to participate in a return amount to GPSS. Presenter confirms knowledge of this policy and have given that percentage amount back to GPSS. MIC views this as giving thanks.

Robby asks about marketing plans. Presenter states that MIC will launch their FB page at the end of January, they will include flyers and Instagram publicity. There will be guests from Portland, OR because of the performers at the event. Shane inquires about the placement of the flyers. Presenter mentions HUB, ECC, dorms (upon approval), and promotion at other events.

Zhiyun asks about the attendance and involvement of graduate students and whether MIC is intentionally increasing engagement. Presenter notes that graduate student involvement increased this year from last year (3-4 students to 10-15 students). This happened through social media and personal connections.

Discussion

Robby opens discussion with a reminder that the funding request from MIC is $750.

Zhiyun is leaning toward funding at a relatively high level. MIC’s status as a smaller community and their efforts in doing things and promoting themselves and their branding support that.
Ted is leaning away from funding at a high level because they charge ticket sales. MIC does not need the money as urgently as other RSOs need. MIC also has other options for funding.

Robby mentions that the graduate student outreach is lower and agrees with Ted.

Alex likes how they knew how many graduate students are engaged.

Varun agrees with Ted, stating that graduate student participation is a lot more than just being there for attendance and almost 80% of the event is coming from profit. Asking for so more is too much.

Ted mentions that if MIC gets profits, GPSS also makes some money. Robby states that this rule is something the Committee needs to talk about and that Executive Senate would need to change. This piece is not something we follow through on.

Alex points out that the DJ is $500.

Varun moves to fund at $250, then withdraws his motion. Ted mentions he was thinking more toward $500.

Alex moves to fund at $500 and amends the motion to $400. Zhiyun seconds and asks if the Committee wants to tell them anything in addition to giving funding. Ted asks if the Committee is suggesting a conditional funding allocation. Zhiyun clarifies that the funding allocation is not conditional, just that she wants to include recommendations. Ted asks for specifics. Zhiyun mentions two directions: 1) More specific strategies for outreach to graduate students and 2) More information on how MIC calculates their admission charge. Ted asks if the Committee wants to vote after finding out more information about how they charge tickets. Robby asks if this information would change the prevailing opinion of the Committee. Committee expresses general lack of opinion change upon access to more information.

Vote: Ted, Zhiyun, Alex, Shane vote Yes. Varun, Robby, and Jasmine abstain.

Motion passes to fund the event at a level of $400.

6. Departmental Allocations Funding Request School of Oceanography tOASTER

Presentation
The Oceanography All Student Educational Retreat to Friday Harbor Labs are for community and professional development. Retreat activities include hikes, trivia night, and other activities to bring people together to have fun. Professional development occurs through student presentations and faculty presentations about career path. Funds requested are to decrease the cost for the students to make the event more accessible. Without funds, $137/person. They have received $500 from a student travel grant. The target cost per person is $75.
Robby asks for the expected attendance at the retreat. Presenter says 39 students are currently committed. If the retreat is cheaper they anticipate a few students will come. The event is next week (1/25). Robby asks if there are 67 graduate students total in the department. Presenter confirms.

Varun asks if the price subsidized for guests. Presenter says that guests pay $10 more than students pay (currently 14 guests are signed up).

Robby asks about steps for advertising the retreat. Presenter says they are advertising to everyone. They created an RSO for their department to be able to apply for funding to be able to increase the number of students that can attend. If someone cannot pay, then they may make a ticket price exception. This has not been brought up to the planning group.

Shane asks if the event is a drawing point for students coming into the department for recruitment and retention. Presenter clarifies that the event is attractive for admitted students and that incoming students look forward to attending the event. In addition, the department is split into four disciplines. As soon as a student enters a discipline, they do not see students from the other three disciplines. This retreat helps facility intradepartmental and interdisciplinary bonding and communication.

Zhiyun asks if it is okay to add maybe a second tier of admission for sponsors or professionals for recruitment purposes. Presenter states that that is a possibility for the future, but that they would need to limit the number of people who can do the professional recruitment since the purpose of the retreat is for students to bond.

Varun asks if all the students in the department are doctoral students. Presenter says that in the department, a lot of students are PhD students with a few Master’s students. The program takes on a combined Master-PhD program, but there are a number who leave the department after obtaining their Master’s degree. About 5 students are Master’s only.

Alex asks why the retreat is at Friday Harbor. Presenter responds that a lot of Oceanography students have a connection to Friday Harbor. It is more accessible than other options potentially available.

Shane excuses himself for another commitment.

Alex asks about whether the other funding sources are secured. Presenter states that the funding from the Oceanography Department was in full, and that they were awarded $500 from HUB events.

Discussion
Robby notes that the Committee has $5,000 for the year in the Departmental Allocations budget (capital items or student retreats on state property). In the guidelines, Executive Senate has noted that preference is given to groups who have not received funding in the past three years and that Oceanography has applied and received funding for the last three years.
Alex asks how people know about Departmental Allocations funding. Robby says that some posters have information about it, but this is definitely not well-publicized.

Robby shares some of Shane’s thoughts: Shane is in favor of funding in full because the event is well thought out and supports their program that also helps retain and gain talent for UW.

Alex agrees.

Ted moves to fund in full. Varun seconds. Robby calls a vote.

Vote: Ted, Varun, Zhiyun, and Alex vote Yes. Robby and Jasmine abstain.

Ted moves to adjourn the meeting. Alex seconded.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:31pm.