Finance & Budget Committee
2019-2020 Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 17, 2020, 11:30am
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

PRESENT:
Becky Tran - Budget Specialist, Staff
A.J. Balatico, GPSS Senator
Jared Canright, GPSS Senator
Julia Overfelt, GPSS Senator
Ted Cohen, GPSS Senator
Colin Trobough, GPSS Senator - Proxy for Danielle Brown

NOT PRESENT:
Shane Schrader – Treasurer; Committee Chair
Danielle Brown, GPSS Senator
Terrence Pope, GPSS Senator
Simon Crean, GPSS Senator

OVERVIEW

Becky gives each member an agenda, copies of last week’s meeting minutes, Special
Allocations Applications: Diversity in Clean Energy’s Strategies for Cultivating Inclusion in STEM
event, Women in Chemical Engineering’s Introduce a Girl to Renewable Energy event, Black
Student Union’s Legacy Soiree, and the Taiwanese Overseas Student Association’s Timeless
Taiwan budget sheet.

1. Special Allocations Presentation: Diversity in Clean Energy - Strategies for Cultivating Inclusion
   in STEM

Presentation
Their RSO is focused on helping students gain professional development. This year is the
second time this event has taken place. It is primarily organized by graduate students in
collaboration with the Institute for Protein Design and the Clean Energy Institute. They use data
driven strategies that UW could use to improve energy use in labs. Their original budget was
$15,000 but through a lot of sponsorships, they only need $1,200 now. The event has three
featured speakers, luncheon, discussion sessions, grant writing workshop, and a networking
reception.

Questions and Answers
Becky informs the Presenter that the max GPSS Finance and Budget committee is able to fund
is $750.

Julia asks about the current gap in funding.
Presenter explains their current gap is $1,200. Their food budget has increased by about $1,000; the ASL interpretation services are being discontinued but they will still provide live time closed captioning services; the marketing cost increased to around $500, and they increased the honorarium/travel amounts. All in all, these shifting of budgets still balanced out to $15,000.

Jared explains that GPSS funds cannot go towards food and drinks, and asks if there’s a line item/budget our funds would go towards. Presenter says that GPSS funds would go towards the real time closed captioning services or facilities costs.

Julia asks how did they track the number of undergraduates, graduates, and professionals. Presenter answers that they had an EventBrite registration where attendees clicked which category they fall under.

Ted specifies that since they have guest speakers who are also speaking at different events, GPSS funds would not be able to go towards speaker/traveling fees. Presenter says of the three speakers, one is a local UW faculty and one is not speaking elsewhere. There’s only one speaker who is not able to be funded.

2. Special Allocations Presentation: Women in Chemical Engineering - Introduce a Girl to Renewable Energy

Presentation
This event’s overall aim is to introduce young students (of any gender) to science. It was originally aimed towards Girl Scouts to introduce them to different science topics through hands on activities. The way that the event works is that people pre-register ahead of time for different event slots. At each event slot, parents and guardians walk their children through a variety of different hands on activities that specifically focuses on a science topic. Last year’s theme was Data Science and Coding, this year deals with Renewable/Clean Energy. There are a myriad of STEM student groups who are involved with this event. Over the past 4 years, there have been over 500 people attend. Most of the funding was done by one graduate student who started this event and passed it last year. So, it was started by a graduate student and was completely graduate student led until last year. 60-70% of the volunteers are graduate students. It’s also a place to walk to young students’ parents about funding in higher education where volunteers shared their undergraduate and graduate school experiences. The event’s total budget is around $5,000 - they’ve requested $2,500 overall from various avenues.

Questions and Answers
Ted asks what part of their budget would GPSS funds contribute to? Ted retracts his question because it looks like GPSS can fund anything on their budget.

Ted follows up by asking how they are promoting the event.
 Presenter answers that their promotion across campus is via different listservs. As for the broader community, they email PTSA’s across the greater Seattle area. This event has been going on for the past 5 years, so they have a compiled list of schools they regularly reach out to.

Becky asks what the graduate student involvement is. Presenter says 60-70% of the event is made up of graduate students, not just as volunteers but also as activity builders.

Jared asks if any graduated students have used the experience they gained from this event for their professional lives. Presenter gives an example of one undergraduate student who did graduate and created another event similar to Introduce a Girl. But to the best of their recollection, all graduate students who started this event are still graduate students.

AJ asks about how they make this event sustainable and follow up with the elementary students after the event. Presenter answers that their organization has 2-3 outreach groups that reach out to elementaries to follow up. But before they leave the event, they hand out information about next year’s event already to retain that population.

Julia asks if the organization gets repeats. Presenter explains that each year, there is a specific patch that is created for the event. Every attendee who comes, leaves with a patch. And there are students who show up with a collection of multiple patches.

Ted asks what their other funding sources and options are. Presenter answers that they would turn in internally towards Women in Chemical Engineering for the funds. They do hold big fundraising events every year; so they do have the funds if they need. But ideally, they would like their funds to go back into the department because it is the students’ money.

Ted calls the Meeting to order at 12:04pm.

3. Call to Order
   a. Approval of Agenda

      Jared moves to approve the agenda. AJ seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

b. Approval of the Minutes

      AJ moves to approve last week’s minutes. Jared seconds. No objections. Motion passes.
Becky expresses that she would feel comfortable fully funding this RSO because they were prepared, knew what the graduate student involvement is, has already reached out to numerous funding sources already and got approved.

Julia asked if we funded them last year. Ted answers that he does not think they applied for funding last year. Becky confirms that they did not apply for GPSS Special Allocation funds last year. They might have been funded through a different GPSS Committee or got funding years ago.

Jared moves to fully fund at $750. Julia seconds. No objections.

**VOTE: 5 vote YES. None OPPOSED. 1 abstains.**

Special Allocations Presentation: Women in Chemical Engineering - Introduce a Girl to Renewable Energy - Discussion

Becky reiterates that they have a 60-70% graduate student involvement.

Julia mentions that they see a large repeat of students.

Ted says that they did not request funding last year either.

Colin asks if there are any implications to them stating “TBD” on their funding approvals. Jared explains that these funds may just not have coalesced yet.

AJ moves to fully fund at $750. Jared and Julia seconds. No objections.

**VOTE: 5 vote YES. None OPPOSED. 1 abstains.**

4. Special Allocations Follow-Up Discussion: Black Student Union - Legacy Soiree

Discussion

Becky recaps that BSU presented on December 6, 2019 and the committee did not come to a funding conclusion. The committee wanted more information about their previous year’s ticket sales and a clearer game plan on how they were going to reach out to graduate students.

The committee discusses their budget sheet.
Julia asks if we’ve funded them before. Becky answers we funded them last year at $650.

Ted asks the committee how they feel about fully funding this event. The need is high.

Jared is concerned that the focus of the event applies to a very select few - as in it’s a closed off guest list and the awardees are a small number. There’s also a concern that maybe those who are selected as awardees are the most involved members in the organization.

Julia asks if this is a competitive scholarship, based on their community involvement, or based on the BSU organization’s involvement?

Becky clarifies that it is a community recognition, for community leaders who are active in their community and have done meaningful things for the community. And they mentioned that only one graduate student is getting awarded this year.

Ted makes a point that they are awarding undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and high school students. And that they are awarding black high school students - this is aligned with GPSS’s missions because it is promoting higher education to an underrepresented community.

Julia asks if we clarified if their speaker is only speaking at this event. Becky confirms yes, and that the speaker is a Seattle local.

Jared questions how they utilize and handles their endowed funds, and if it’s something that benefits graduate students as well.

Jared moves to fund at $750.00 and waive the 15% net profit returns back to GPSS. AJ seconds. No objections.

VOTE: ALL vote YES. None OPPOSED. None abstains. Motion passes.

5. Announcements
The committee reviews the Taiwanese Overseas Student Association’s (TOSA) budget sheet for their Timeless Taiwan event per our $400.00 funding stipulation that they provide us with this complete information. The committee reviews that budget sheet and approves to move forward with funding TOSA at a total of $400.00.

6. Adjourn
Jared moves to adjourn the meeting. AJ seconds. No objections.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:28pm.