



## Finance & Budget Committee

### 2019-2020 Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 31, 2020, 11:30am  
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

#### PRESENT:

Danielle Brown, GPSS Senator; Committee Vice Chair  
Becky Tran - Budget Specialist, Staff  
A.J. Balatico, GPSS Senator  
Ted Cohen, GPSS Senator  
Terrence Pope, GPSS Senator  
Simon Crean, GPSS Senator  
Drew Byron, GPSS Senator, Proxy for Jared Canright  
Marianne Mork, GPSS Senator, Proxy for Julia Overfelt

#### NOT PRESENT:

Shane Schrader – Treasurer; Committee Chair  
Jared Canright, GPSS Senator  
Julia Overfelt, GPSS Senator

*Ted calls the Meeting to order at 11:32am.*

#### OVERVIEW

*Becky* gives each member an agenda, copies of last week's meeting minutes, Special Allocations Applications: Stage Notes' Mamma Mia! Stage Notes Spring Musical, Bioscience Careers' Adam Ruben event, Persian Circle's 11th Annual Nowruz Event, and Indonesian Student Association's Karaton 2020.

1. Call to Order
  - a. Approval of Agenda

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

- b. Approval of the Minutes

*AJ* moves to approve last week's minutes. *Drew* seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

2. Special Allocations Presentation: Stage Notes - Mamma Mia! Stage Notes Spring Musical

#### **Presentation**

Established in 2011 and have produced 11 full scale musical productions, fully run by students. They are requesting funding for Mamma Mia that will run from May 21-31; this is



their first ever 2 weekend production. In order to put on a production, they have to pay for script rights, theater rental, sets, costumes, technology, props, etc... Stage Notes has a larger budget this year because they are expanding it to two weekends and theater rental fees have increased. They were able to negotiate the theater price down. They start theater tech on May 15/17 and will have 11 showtimes. The Ethnic Cultural Theater has a max capacity of 160 and they expect 1,100 students (\$5) and 150 UW staff, faculty, family members, and community members (\$10) for an estimated total of 1,250 attendees - this is a low end estimate. In the past, they've had 750 attendees for 5 showtimes so this 1,250 estimate does not feel ambitious. In the past, there have held waitlists and had to turn people away. Cast size will be around 30-34 people. Currently in the audition process and they have advertised auditions to undergraduates, post-bacs, and graduates.

## Questions and Answers

*Simon* asks, based on ticket sales projection, does Stage Notes think they will break even?

*Presenter* says that usually they do not break even. They tend to do a higher production value so this is their expectation and want to stay realistic.

*Simon* mentions GPSS has a stipulation that if an RSO makes a profit on their event, that 15% of their profits, up to the max amount funded, will need to be returned to GPSS to promote the continuation of this program.

*Presenter* states if they make a profit, Stage Notes has no hesitation to return funds.

*AJ* mentions our max is funding is \$750, less than their \$1,000 requested.

*Presenter* says that in the past they have put \$1,000 and their SAO did not know what GPSS's max funding amount was.

*AJ* asks how far in advance can audience members buy their tickets, if there's any discount(s) for purchasing tickets early, and where can people buy them?

*Presenter* says ticket sales open about a month prior, there are no discounts for purchasing tickets early, and it can all be done online.

*AJ* follows up on whether they have any information on who is a graduate student versus a general public attendee.

*Presenter* explains that for those involved with the production, during the application process, applicants check off what year they are.

*AJ* specifies attendance / audience members.

*Presenter* answers that when people purchase tickets, Stage Notes asks if they are undergraduates, graduates, alumni, professionals, etc...

*Danielle* asks about the graduate student numbers actually involved in the performance.

*Presenter* answers each year, they have 3-4 per show with an average cast of 20-25.



*Ted* asks if Stage Notes has looked into the Wells Fargo sponsorship or any other funds.

*Presenter* answers yes; they have secured Wells Fargo funds.

*Ted* asks if they have heard back from ASUW.

*Presenter* says yes and ASUW granted Stage Notes \$3,000.

*Ted* also asks if any of the money from GPSS will go towards any materials/items they plan to use from year to year (i.e. costumes, sets, etc.). *Ted* is asking because GPSS is not allowed to fund capital equipment.

*Presenter* answers no, they intend to use any GPSS funds towards the theater rental.

*Ted* asks if they have an estimate of the theater rental increase from last year.

*Presenter* answers about 30-40%.

*Ted* asks if Stage Notes as a contingency plan of GPSS doesn't fund this event.

*Presenter* explains that they would have to reevaluate their budget and maybe ask cast members to bring in costumes and props.

### **Discussion**

*Simon* likes this application and event, they have good graduate student involvement.

*Ted* agrees and adds that he likes they are expanding to run the show for two weekends even though rental costs have increased.

*Becky* informs that Stage Notes applied for funding last year and was granted \$500.

*Ted* says he is interested in funding them more this year because they really showed how graduate students are involved and they're expanding the event.

*Simon* moves to fully fund at \$750.00. *Becky* seconds. No objections.

**VOTE: 7 vote YES. None OPPOSED. 1 abstains.**

### 3. Special Allocations Presentation: Bioscience Careers - Adam Ruben

#### **Presentation**

Their committee is based in the School of Medicine (SOM), any life sciences PhD student can join, and they run a seminar series called "Bioscience Careers" aimed for PhD candidates who do not want to go into academia. For PhD, it's hard to get this kind of career advice because they are in the academic environment. There are nine committee members, all PhD students, who each choose a local speaker they want to invite to give a talk, one



speaker each month. Seattle is hosting the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) conference in February and their speaker, Adam Ruben, will already be in town for the conference. Ruben is based in D.C., he's a scientist, comedian, storyteller, communicator, and has been featured on Netflix and PBS shows. He typically has a \$2,000 speaker fee, which is beyond Bioscience Careers' budget. Although they are officially a new RSO, they have been functioning as a SOM student organization since their beginnings.

### Questions and Answers

*AJ* asks if the attendance for these talks are consistent or fluctuates depending on speakers. *Presenter* answers that it does fluctuate by event, but also by the time of year. On average, they do record about 40 students at each talk.

*Danielle* wants to ask that since they are a new RSO, what were they doing in the past - were committee members meeting regularly. And do they plan to keep their RSO status after this event and funding?

*Presenter* answers that their committee has been around since 2003/2004. They primarily work with the SOM. They do plan to stay as an RSO to better market themselves to a larger community, open themselves up to better funding opportunities to be able to bring in more diverse speakers.

*Ted* asks what the capacity for the room they're using.

*Presenter* answers 100.

*Becky* asks if GPSS doesn't fund this event, how will they make up the difference?

*Presenter* says they would have to reach out to the speaker and ask if Ruben would be willing to still speak for their regular honorarium rate of \$250. Usually the SOM pays for travel fees and \$250 for out of town speakers and \$150 for local speakers.

*Danielle* mentions that if we fully fund and the SOM pays \$250, that only adds up to \$1,000.

*Presenter* agrees and mentions that they have brought this up with the speaker and the speaker has alluded to being comfortable with a lesser honorarium.

*Ted* asks about Adam Ruben's role in industry.

*Presenter* shares that Ruben was in industry, and now he's a scientific speaker. He's also a writer and wrote a book titled: How to Survive Your Stupid, Stupid Decision to Go to Grad School. He addresses the quirks of academia.

*Ted* asks Bioscience Careers has already sent out all the promotional items for the event.

*Presenter* says yes. They've already sent out all emails and printed everything.

*Ted* asks if the committee is solely comprised of graduate students - are there postdocs?

*Presenter* answers that in the past they have had postdocs, but none now.



*Becky* asks about their relationship with the SOM.

*Presenter* answers that the SOM handles the administrative side and budget. Everything around organizing the event is up to the graduate student committee.

*Simon* mentions Bioscience Careers should start building a student organization presence for this speaker series. It would also open further funding opportunities in the future.

*Ted* asks if the speaker would be willing to put the GPSS logo on their presentation slides or giving a verbal acknowledgement to GPSS for funding.

*Presenter* answers yes.

### **Discussion**

**Meeting time ran over and the committee will vote on a funding decision next week.**

#### 4. Special Allocations Presentation: Indonesian Student Association (ISAUW) - Keraton 2020

### **Presentation**

This is their biggest event of the year. They are a non-profit cultural organization at UW aimed towards promoting the Indonesian culture in the greater Seattle area. Currently, their organization has 41 active members. In more recent years, Keraton has had a turnout of around 8,000-10,000 attendees. This year, their budget is \$44,000. They will have a lot of different Indonesian food vendors, stage performances (including a famous Indonesian Youtuber), and traditional games. Other activities include kid activities and coffee tasting. Their budget this year is much greater than before because they want to be more environmentally friendly by buying reusable decorations and having food vendors hand out biodegradable plates/utensils. They also showed their corporate sponsorship packages.

### **Questions and Answers**

*Ted* asks to review their sponsorship packages.

*Presenter* clarifies that these sponsorship packages are meant for corporations.

*Simon* asks how they will bridge the funding gap if their budget is \$44,000 and they have requested \$13,500.

*Presenter* answers that they have corporate sponsorships, fundraising events (selling home cooked Indonesian foods at Red Square - each time they do this, they make a profit of \$3,000.00), Ivar's volunteer at Seahawk games, and Indonesian based corporate sponsorships, and international students' connections.

*Becky* asks about the graduate student involvement?

*Presenter* says they have connections with the Indonesian alumni and they're also trying to get international graduates in Seattle. There are about 50-60 Indonesian UW graduates who are planning to attend and bring their friends/coworkers.



*Simon* further clarifies that the committee wants to know about current UW graduate students in graduate programs (masters, PhDs, etc), not graduates of UW.

*Presenter* clarifies that when they talk about graduates, it refers to undergraduate graduates. But they are in touch with graduate students; they are also involved in Keraton.

*Ted* asks how they market to graduate students on campus.

*Presenter* explains that they don't market to graduate departments / programs but they physically go into classrooms.

*Ted* asks if ISA has heard back from ASUW yet.

*Presenter* answers yes, ASUW is funding them \$3,000.

*Becky* asks if ISA applied to GPSS's Diversity Funds.

*Presenter* answers yes, but they have not heard back yet.

*Ted* mentions that GPSS has a stipulation that if an RSO makes a profit on their event, that 15% of their profits, up to the max amount funded, will need to be returned to GPSS to promote the continuation of this program.

*Presenter* apologizes for not having checked this box on the GPSS application and says they will need to confirm with the president and treasurer but they do not have any issues with returning 15% of their profits back to GPSS.

### **Discussion**

*Becky* declares that she is recusing herself from this vote but gives additional information since she is in the Southeast Asian Studies (SEA) program. There is a big portion of Indonesian graduate students and Indonesian studies graduate students in SEA who were very involved in this event last year. Per *Becky's* personal experience, she can attest that graduate students were involved last year. She also informs the committee that GPSS did not fund ISA last year, and the year before last, GPSS funded them \$400.

*Ted* speculates we didn't fund them last year due to their numerous resources to get funds.

*Simon* moves to fund at \$100. *Drew* seconds. *Ted* proposes an amendment to bump up our funding to \$250. *Simon* seconds. No objections.

**VOTE: 5 vote YES. 1 OPPOSED. 2 abstains.** Motion passes.

### 5. Adjourn

*Simon* moves to adjourn the meeting. *Terrence* seconds. No objections.

*The Meeting was adjourned at 12:31pm.*