



Finance & Budget Committee

2019-2020 Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 29, 2020, 11:30am
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

PRESENT:

Shane Schrader – Treasurer; Committee Chair
Becky Tran – Budget Specialist, Staff
Danielle Brown, GPSS Senator; Committee Vice Chair
Julia Overfelt, GPSS Senator, 2020-2021 GPSS Treasurer
Ted Cohen, GPSS Senator
Jared Canright, GPSS Senator
A.J. Balatico, GPSS Senator
Terrence Pope, GPSS Executive Senator

NOT PRESENT:

Simon Crean, GPSS Senator

Shane calls the Meeting to order at 11:35 am.

OVERVIEW

Becky provides each member an agenda, copy of last week's meeting minutes, and copy of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY21) Guidelines.

1. Call to Order
 - a. Approval of Agenda

Jared moves to approve the agenda. *A.J.* seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

- b. Approval of the Minutes

Julia moves to approve last week's minutes. *Danielle* seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

2. Highlights + Recaps

Shane says that through the beginning of March, we had funded 26 Special Allocations, 4 Departmental Allocation, and a whole bunch of Travel Grants. By March, we had spent a little over half of our budget for special allocations and we had enough interest coming in that we probably could have spent the rest of it. So, it was looking good but unfortunately, the system worked against us. We reached out to funded groups and individuals and asked them to return unused money so we can allocate it towards the relief aid. We can also



earmark the money for them next year so there would be a shortlist to get these previously funded groups for funding again; but this will be up to next year committee's if they want to do that. With that being said, Shane opens it up for any comments or thoughts on this proposal.

A.J. asks how much money did we take back?

Becky answers for Special Allocations, we took back \$4,700 from 13 RSO groups. For Travel Grants, we took back \$7,326.50 from 19 TG recipients. At the end of our Winter Cycle Travel Grants, we spent \$14,486.91, which was about 58% of our budget. We had to take back \$4,700, which means we've spent about 40% of our Travel Grants for this year since not many people have applied for Travel Grant funding since coronavirus. For Special Allocations, we're not spending much money there either because most of the events we funded were in Spring. When we left at the end of Winter quarter, we funded \$12,165.64, which is 55% spent. We've had to take back about \$7,326.50, which leaves us at 22% spent.

Ted asks who plans on serving on the Finance and Budget Committee again next year, besides Julia.

Jared, A.J, Danielle, and Ted confirmed they will be back.

Ted asks of the people who are planning on returning, what do people think about having these RSO's go through an abridged process, or do we treat their funding applications as normal?

Shane says he's discussed this with Becky and they were in favor of the abridged version. But that's something Julia, next year's Treasurer can decide on.

Becky says that for her exit notes for next year's Treasurer and Budget Specialist, she's going to provide a list of previously awarded Travel Grants and Special Allocations members.

Shane thinks it is especially important for Travel Grants recipients that those folks have an opportunity because it's a more of a difficult and longer path to get money.

Jared wonders regarding Travel Grants that we took money back from, had any of those recipients already spent money on flights or hotels or what have you.

Shane says we had a couple cases where they had spent some money, especially one international case where they weren't going to get reimbursed for a lot of things.

Jared adds that even if the airline gives them credit back, it's not useful.

Shane says that on the good side, GPSS has been able to provide a lot of funds towards the Financial Aid Emergency Funds without dipping into our reserves.



Ted is in favor making RSOs doing the full application because he's interested in seeing how next year's RSO executive boards will present the event, compared to this year's executive board

Shane says that maybe we could add a question to the application asking if they had been awarded Special Allocation funds but had to return it due to COVID. Moving on, Shane recaps that this week, Senate approved the final budget by reducing Special Allocations for next year from \$25,000 down to \$22,000. Shane mentions that for next year, GPSS will need to find people to serve on STF and SAF. Currently, SAF is full but there's room for one or two more graduate students in STF.

Jared and Terrence both express interest in serving on STF.

Shane says there's an application, which is just a quick form, they have to fill out, submit to Julia, and then Julia has to bring it to Exec for a vote. Shane says that the GPSS Treasurer is the only person in the entire university to serve on both STF and SAF. It's a great way to look at how the rest of the university spends student money.

Ted says if there's a spot on SAF, he'd be interested in joining that committee.

Shane says that he's not sure Kenneth is coming back. Jeremy will still be at SAF.

Julia informs that Sarah is leaving, so her spot is available.

Shane says there should be at least one, maybe two, available seats. And anyone can go to meetings. GPSS has certain spots for voting members but anyone can sit in on a meeting. It's a great opportunity to learn about debt and bonds, and structured public policy.

3. Farewells

Shane says he's liked F+B a lot. In his first year, he was a senator and enjoyed the experience. He's appreciated getting a lot of opinions, good feedback, and conversation through everyone at F+B; it's been a highlight of his GPSS career. It's been wonderful to get a community built around the best way to serve students. He appreciates everyone in this group and acknowledges it's been a lot of work for everyone and it's not always easy to get schedules aligned. If we were on campus right now, we would be having some kind of lunch and or coffee. Shane appreciates all the work everyone has put in and their commitment to the committee and doing what's best for grad students. Thank you all very much.

Terrence thanks Shane for all his hard work.

Jared thanks Shane for a great learning experience.

Ted thanks the community F+B has given him this year. He feels that F+B's personality changes every year and this one was pretty vibrant and exciting. He thinks we have made



some really good decisions and had great conversation and hopes to see everyone next year.

4. Announcements

Julia says that she received an email from Olivia, an Executive Senator, regarding UPASS and how it's not happening this summer. There's a concern that a lot of students are essential workers who were planning to work this summer and were relying on UPASS. Julia wonders if we could set up a sort of emergency fund that we could provide for graduate students for UPASS assistance. Julia asks Shane if Exec would be able to set something up over summer, or would it need to get approved through a special process.

Shane says he's responded to Olivia. This is a very clear case of students needing to get money for something like the emergency aid grant, especially when we've earmarked \$25,000 for grad students already. Shane suggests not double dipping with the relief funds, so Shane doesn't want GPSS to take from the reserves over summer when there's not a committee or Senate to overview the process. Furthermore, it's hard to set money aside specifically for a type of purchase like UPASS. We can't give money easily; it has to come from compatible budget numbers and then paperwork needs to be processed to reimburse the student. The quickest way to be efficient with getting money to people would be through the Financial Aid Grant.

Becky asks if the Financial Aid Office publicizes how many (graduate) students they have funded.

Shane says we don't have the actual numbers. He just knows that they were hurting with funding people before but with the CARES Act, ASUW, GPSS, and other money has helped them.

Jared has concerns over not knowing if graduate students are getting access to the funds they need.

Shane reassures Jared that we have a pipeline with Financial Aid that we can talk to and tap into if we need to ask questions. The way university budget numbers work is that they are assigned project codes; the money we contributed is allocated specially to a project code specifically for graduate students.

5. Adjourn

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

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.