



## 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 fee. 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 use 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 fund 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 facilitate 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.*