



Finance & Budget Committee

2018-2019 Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 30, 2018, 11:30am
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

PRESENT:

Robby Perkins-High – Treasurer; Committee Chair, Evans School
Jasmine Chan - Budget Specialist, Staff
Zhiyun Ma, GPSS Senator
Alex Thompson, GPSS Senator
Maneesha Sivalingam, GPSS Senator
Ted Cohen, GPSS Senator
Shane Schrader, GPSS Senator

NOT PRESENT:

Varun Kao, GPSS Senator

Robby called the Meeting to order at 11:33am.

OVERVIEW

Robby gave each member an agenda and a package of minutes from the 11/9 and 11/16 meetings. Also present were copies of three Special Funding Allocation applications.

1. Call to Order

a. Approval of agenda

Robby moves to move Approval of Minutes to after the BSU presentation.

Robby moves to add Budget Restructuring after BSU presentation.

Zhiyun moves to approve agenda as amended by Robby. Ted seconds.

2. Special Allocations Funding. Black Student Union: Legacy Soiree

Presentation:

Legacy Soiree originally a fundraising event to create an endowment to generate a scholarship for black students on campus. Last year, BSU raised \$25,000 and created an endowment producing a \$1,000 scholarship. The continuing goal is to increase the endowment to fund more scholarships. Various students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty or staff, community member, and high schoolers are honored at the event. Event is 6pm until 9pm with keynote speaker, performers, band, and dinner. Ticket sales and table sales serve as the fundraising mechanism.

Alex asks who the keynote speaker is. Presenters respond: Shaun Scott, Democratic Socialist potentially running for Seattle City Council District 4.



Ted asks for specific details regarding event promotion method. *Presenters* say: save the date email sent in the upcoming week, graduate student advisor with access to graduate student listservs, promotional videos sent to departments, and flyers on campus.

Robby asks about graduate student participation with Black Student Union. *Presenters* respond that BSU is dominated by undergraduate students, but graduate students attend various events and meetings held by BSU throughout the school year.

Robby asks for the undergraduate versus graduate student attendance at Legacy Soiree 2018. *Presenters* do not have access to this information from the previous year's board. Some graduate student attendance in support of the graduate students being honored at the event. Paid attendance at the event limits undergraduate participation.

Alex asks what band is going to perform, as the funding from GPSS is to be used for the band. *Presenters* are in discussions with two options: a band from Legacy Soiree 2017 and a musically talented fraternity brother.

Robby informs presenters that the committee will now deliberate and will either make a decision today or reach out seeking increased clarification.

Deliberation:

Ted inclined to fund at the \$600/\$650 level, recognizing that this is higher than normal for these types of events because the event is in support of the generation of a scholarship.

Robby mentions that the event was funded last year at \$750.

Alex comments that it would have been nice to know exactly who GPSS funding requested money would go to regarding the band.

Robby conflicted because it is good to fund events supporting underrepresented groups, and it is even more attractive with the scholarship fundraising, but the outreach plan was not convincing. Perhaps the students are looking for help reaching graduate students and they just don't know how.

Ted moves to fund at \$650, \$100 less than last year as a penalty for the lack of involvement of graduate students.

Zhiyun seconds.

Vote is called: 5 in favor. *Robby* and *Jasmine* abstain.

Maneesha asks for clarification on what qualifies a good proposal for outreach to graduate student body. *Robby* mentions that groups detail graduate-specific groups to email to and groups that have graduate students on the planning team.

3. Minutes Approval



Committee reads over meeting minutes from November 9 and November 16 meetings.

Shane adds clarification on rationale for funding CDO event. *Jasmine* updates the minutes.

Alex moves to approve both minutes. *Maneesha* approves.

4. Budget Restructuring

Robby informs committee that the 2018-19 budget includes Husky Sunrise as a line item. However, Husky Sunrise was replaced with Resource Fair this Fall.

Robby proposes taking money out of the line items Husky Sunrise and Husky Sunset to evenly distribute these funds across Fall, Winter, and Spring Event budget lines.

Ted moves to approve. *Shane* seconds.

Zhiyun point of information: Are we still doing Husky Sunset? Do we want to keep a separate budget line for this?

Robby responds that the Events team already has the money set aside to fund Husky Sunset. This budget line item change will not change the event.

Vote is called: 5 in favor. *Robby* and *Jasmine* abstain.

5. Endowment Fund

Robby gives background on the Endowment Fund. In FY13, GPSS had a lot in reserve funds and created an endowment by transferring \$100,000 out of the reserve fund and into an endowment fund. The interest money has not been touched since creation, leading to two questions the committee will need to address:

1. How do we spend the money distributed thus far that has not yet been spent?
2. How do we want to earmark the funds for future use? -- Currently, the interest is supposed to go into a GPSS Organization Fund and Travel Fund with no context regarding what the Funds' purposes are.

Alex asks if we can create a scholarship like BSU has. *Robby* responds that this is possible, as a scholarship cannot be given with SAF funding but can be with endowment interest.

6. Special Allocations Funding. Stage Notes: The Drowsy Chaperone

Presentation:

Stage Notes is a musical theater RSO on campus. Its membership composed primarily of undergraduates and some graduate students. The mission is to present musicals that are fully developed and conceptualized by students, but not written by students. Stage Notes needs to purchase rights and royalties to the musicals. Royalties for The Drowsy Chaperone are relatively expensive.



Ted asks about funding contingencies if Stage Notes does not receive full funding from ASUW and GPSS. *Presenter* says that the group is always looking for funding from businesses in the community. This is a continuous effort, and will be made a priority should other funding applications fall through.

Ted asks if there are grad students in the play. *Presenter* clarifies that casting has not yet occurred and that graduate students have participated in the past. Many graduate students return to musical theater after undergraduate studies.

Zhiyun has two questions:

1. How are proceeds from admissions charges used?

Presenter: Proceeds are spent on parts of production that cannot be funded through other means, for example props and items on the set that are used in the production. Door sales often fully cover these costs. An additional use, if possible, is to save to help secure future productions.

2. Can you clarify what the funding request will be used for?

Presenter: All funding requested of GPSS will be spent on purchasing royalties for the *Drowsy Chaperone* (\$750)

Ted inquires about plans for advertising, specifically to graduate students. *Presenter* mentions social media, online resources, Ethnic Cultural Center, posters on campus and on the Ave.

Ted asks for a ballpark estimate for graduate student participation in Stage Notes. *Presenter* clarifies that membership fluctuates since the primary deliverable are performances, but guesses that $\geq 10\%$ of participants are graduate students with variation between quarters and years.

Deliberation:

Alex comments on the budget for printing: \$50 for posters and \$200 for programs just seems so much. And royalties and performance materials are steep!

Shane provides context for musical production budgets: medium-level production is minimum \$500 for the set and \$750 for royalties doesn't seem like overpayment. Stage theater is a lot cheaper than musical cheaper.

Ted thinks not fully funding the event is acceptable given the group has not considered all other funding opportunities that exist.

Robby in favor of partial funding. Graduate participation outreach is good, but not exceptional. They probably will be able to get funding from other sources and door sales.

Zhiyun mentions that door sales can cover a lot.

Shane says that door sales will likely be used to cover the $> \$1000$ production cost that ASUW and GPSS cannot fund.



Robby mentions that Stage Notes applied for funding last year and was awarded \$500.

Shane emphasizes that securing royalties is the biggest hurdle for a musical. He supports taking out the question of affording royalties but can support funding at a lower level now.

Alex asks if there is a possibility to make funding conditional on Stage Notes securing a particular number of graduate students that will participate and/or attend event. *Robby* worries that this will introduce a weird dynamic between funder and fundee.

Ted is comfortable with funding at \$500 again and acknowledges that the group is asking for a lot of money from ASUW. *Ted* moves to fund at \$500.

Shane seconds.

Vote is called: 5 in favor. *Robby* and *Jasmine* abstain.

Committee waits for the final presenter to arrive.

Robby notifies group that there will be no meeting next week, December 7.

7. Special Allocations Funding. Women in Informatics: Hackathon

Presentation:

Event is a Hackathon (theme: A World of Difference). The mission of Women in Informatics is to empower women and underrepresented groups in informatics. The Hackathon was first hosted in 2012, and has been hosted annually since. The Hackathon is 12 hours long, free admission, and intended to encourage students interested in technology to participate. Winners receive prizes. Industry mentors available to help students during the hackathon. WINFO provides food. The event is also a networking event for students. 8% graduate student participation rate. Other funding resources include industry sponsorship. Open to all students and community members regardless of gender or department. Most of the requested amount is to pay for room rental, as the HUB ballroom increased \$2000 from last year.

Zhiyun asks for a strategic plan to reach out to graduate students to increase participation. *Presenter* responds that the plan is to use the Department of Informatics to reach out to graduate students.

Robby asks for information about other funding sources. *Presenter* mentions Informatics School.

Shane asks how WINFO will get information out to other programs across campus? *Presenter* references the Facebook event, posters in the HUB and residence halls, and event promotion through existing networks.



Ted inquires about the decision not to charge for the event. *Presenter* emphasizes WINFO desire to keep the event open to anyone who is curious and to reduce barriers for participation.

Zhiyun asks for detail on outreach for empowering young women in the field. *Presenter* mentions additional events WINFO hosts, as well as sponsorship of officer(s) to Grace Hopper Women in Computing conference and outreach to high schoolers.

Robby asks about a plan for resolving funding gaps. *Presenter* mentions that they will continue soliciting industry sponsorship, and that there is only \$1,000 leftover funds from the previous year that are potentially available for use.

Maneesha leaves the meeting.

Deliberation:

Robby expresses concern about how the dollars are going to work out for the event, but that this isn't our job to figure out.

Shane understands the rationale for removing an admission to decrease barriers to entry.

Robby notes that the group was awarded \$3,000 from the Informatics School out of the requested \$14,000 figure.

Zhiyun is not in favor of fully funding. WINFO's goal is interesting, however GPSS's purpose is to support graduate students. There is a smaller reach for graduate students, and the outreach plan is broad.

Shane says he would have wanted to hear more about how to reach out to similar programs or other departments with potentially interested students.

Ted in favor of supporting the event, now in its seventh year, and suggests funding at a higher level than normal because of their difficulty in finding funding.

Robby wonders if GPSS could help advertise the event.

Jasmine worries that the timing of the event, the first Saturday of Winter Quarter, is not conducive to reaching a wide variety of students.

Ted moves to fund at \$650. *Alex* seconds.

Zhiyun counters with \$500 and GPSS assistance with event promotion.

Robby comments that this is the first year WINFO has applied for funding.

Ted amends his motion to \$600. *Zhiyun* seconds.



Shane is initially interested in funding \$650 or more because this is a 7th year annual event. And, he wants to include help with event promotion.

Ted amends his motion to \$650. *Shane* seconds.

Vote is called: 4 in favor. *Robby* and *Jasmine* abstain.

8. Adjourn

Robby thanks each member again for attending the meeting and wishes members a good end to the quarter and a restful Winter Break.

Zhiyun moves to adjourn the meeting. *Ted* seconds.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:32pm.