



Finance & Budget Committee

2018-2019 Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 26, 2019, 11:30am
HUB 314: GPSS Board Table

PRESENT:

Robby Perkins-High – Treasurer; Committee Chair, Evans School
Jasmine Chan - Budget Specialist, Staff
Ted Cohen, GPSS Senator
Zhiyun Ma, GPSS Senator
Varun Kao, GPSS Senator
Alex Thompson, GPSS Senator
Sierra Abibi, Finance Director, Diversity Committee

NOT PRESENT:

Shane Schrader, GPSS Senator

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

OVERVIEW

Jasmine gives each Committee Member meeting materials including agenda, minutes from April 19, and application materials for each presentation.

1. Call to Order

a. Approval of Agenda

Varun moves to approve the agenda. *Alex* seconds. No objections.

Agenda is approved.

b. Approval of Minutes

Varun moves to approve the minutes. *Alex* seconds. No objections.

Minutes are approved.

2. Departmental Allocations: School of Environmental and Forest Sciences Capital Purchase

Presentation

Presenter begins by thanking the Committee. The School of Environmental and Forest Sciences is a small department and it is difficult for students to feel connected to the rest of the school, so GPSS activities are helpful to help foster this connection. A long-term



struggle for the graduate program has been providing opportunities for graduate students to come together and hang out. This has hurt recruiting, retention, diversity and inclusion efforts, and research. The students recently created a graduate student council of elected officials to organize socials and advocate for changes in curriculum or student experience. Last year, a lot of students expressed a desire for a place to meet and hang out outside of an academic setting. Other spaces on campus have fun things to do in them. In order to enhance graduate student space, they have decided to install a ping-pong table to provide a fun and physical activity.

Alex inquires if the graduate student council considered a foosball table. *Presenter* states that they did consider a foosball table, but mobility is limited for this option.

Robby asks for information about who will take care of the ping pong table. *Presenter* responds that there is a group of students called the Dead Elk Society who have been responsible for social events and will watch over the ping pong table.

Robby seeks information about where the ping pong table will be housed. *Presenter* explains that the table will be housed in the Dead Elk Room in Anderson Hall. This Room is specifically designated for student use. The table will be stored at the back of this room and the Dead Elk Society will store the paddles and balls.

Varun inquires about whether they will be buying ping pong balls. *Presenter* states that the funds remaining from the purchase of the table will be used to purchase paddles and balls.

Varun seeks confirmation that the graduate student population was surveyed about the choice of a ping pong table. *Presenter* replies that the idea was presented to and approved by the graduate student council.

Ted observes that he has been in the Elk Room before and that this Room is open to the public. He asks if the Presenters foresee problems with storing the table in a public space. *Presenter* states that the table will be stored folded up alongside other items stored at the back of the room. The table is not expected to be easily available.

Robby states that GPSS will need to see evidence of the cost of the item and that the Presenter should send these to Jasmine.

Robby states that per GPSS funding rules, the capital purchase must be installed at the end of Fall. *Presenter* confirms and states that with GPSS funding, they will be get the ping pong ball immediately.

Robby inquires if they will place a Funded by GPSS sticker on the item. *Presenter* confirms.

Presenter asks what the purpose of the Departmental Allocations fund and what types of distributions do they approve. *Robby* states that the purpose of the Departmental Allocations fund is to support graduate students in general. The applications received are for capital purchases and student retreats.



Presenter inquires about the timeline regarding when the department will be able to eligible to apply for funding again. *Robby* states that the goal is to be able to distribute the funds to different departments, but are not explicitly forbidden from applying. Funding will be less likely so as to ensure that funds are disbursed through a variety of departments.

Discussion

Robby states that the Committee should consider the funding based on the assumption that the amount needed for the purchase matches that listed on the application.

Varun expresses concern for the maintenance of the item.

Ted comments that the Room will be filled with ping pong balls.

Varun moves to fund this capital purchase in full. *Ted* seconds. No objections.

VOTE: Ted, Varun, Robby, Alex, and Zhiyun vote YES. Jasmine and Sierra abstain.

Robby provides an update regarding the Special Allocations fund status: There is currently \$1,429 left. The only remaining Special Allocations presentations are this afternoon and the total of their applications is less than the amount remaining in the account.

Robby states that because the Committee does not have any presentations scheduled after this meeting concludes, the next time the Committee meets will be to greet the new Treasurer.

Robby strongly encourages Committee Members to attend Elections on Wednesday, May 1 because this Committee will have many detailed questions to ask of the candidates.

3. Special Allocations: Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority 12th Annual Stroll Competition

Presentation

Sigma Lambda Gamma is a multicultural sorority. Each year, they host a strolling competition. Strolling is a performance in a line that is dancing in an advancing line. Fraternities and sororities have their own unique stroll. This event is an opportunity for fraternities and sororities to showcase their organizations and enables collaboration between groups. There will be teams from all over the Northwest competing. This year, the event will be hosted in the HUB and in the Spring, rather than in Kane and in the Fall as is traditional. Participants are from different multicultural organizations consisting of graduates, alumni, and undergraduates. The mix of participants varies every year depending on who is competing. Funding sources: \$1000 from the ECC Student Diversity Fund going to the HUB. The HUB Ballroom reservation is \$1769. The estimated total cost of the event is \$3249. GPSS funds would be used to pay the HUB Ballroom reservation. All other costs will be covered by fundraising.

Alex inquires about graduate student involvement. *Presenter* states that they reach out to all people on their list and a lot of undergraduate groups ask their alumni to compete with them. The event itself is hosted in tandem with Sigma Lambda Gamma alumnae.



Ted asks how many graduate students are members of the organization. *Presenter* responds that on UW campus, the only RSO members are undergraduates, but the event is coordinated with 15-20 alumnae.

Sierra inquires if any of the alumnae are current graduate students at UW. *Presenter* confirms, but is unsure of the number.

Varun inquires if the RSO received funding from the UW Alumni Association. *Presenter* states that by the time they applied, the funds had already been depleted.

Varun asks if this is the same case with the Wells Fargo fund. *Presenter* confirms.

Varun seeks information about how the 50-person increase in attendance expected this year over last year will be achieved. *Presenter* states that because the event is being held much later in the academic year than previously, the organizers were able to develop a marketing plan and strategy.

Varun inquires if there is anything in the marketing plan for graduate students. *Presenter* states that graduate students are aware of the event through connections to graduate chapters or through undergraduates.

Varun asks if there are current revenues from ticket sales. *Presenter* states that they have not started selling tickets yet and that most sales come from pre-selling at Red Square and through a reservation service online.

Varun seeks information about the expected revenues from fundraisers. *Presenter* states that they expect to gain around \$200 to \$300. There will potentially be another fundraiser closer to the date of the event, but details are still being sorted out.

Sierra notes that the application states that the event is hosted to fund the Women of Distinction Award and asks how much the scholarship is and where the funding for the scholarship comes from. *Presenter* responds that fundraising for the Award happens throughout the year and that chapter funds help to cover the cost of the venue and the scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a 1st or 2nd year woman and is \$250.

Ted inquires if all the profit from this event will contribute to the scholarship. *Presenter* states that the profits would go to either next year or this year's scholarship as well as funding sisters that go to national retreat.

Ted states that 15% of the net profits from the event should be returned to GPSS. *Presenter* confirms that the organization will return this.

Sierra clarifies that there may be no profits because of investment in the scholarship. *Ted* agrees.



Ted comments that judging by ticket sale estimations, the organization looks like they will make around \$5,000. *Presenter* states that this is assuming that they are sold out.

Alex inquires about the number of teams who will be competing. *Presenter* states that last year there were six or seven teams. There currently are four confirmed teams.

Discussion

Sierra expresses disappointment that budget proposals seem very incomplete on the application forms. *Robby* states that budget proposals are supposed to be vetted by the SAO advisers, but that the advisers have been really busy lately and haven't been catching everything. Typically if there is one that is too incomplete, the Committee will table the vote until the next meeting.

Sierra states that the group does not list ticket revenue under their expected funds. *Varun* may need funding prior to the sale of tickets for reservations or printing or marketing.

Alex observes that expenditures are not called out consistently.

Ted is not in favor of funding the event. They currently have \$1000 for the event, club funds, and fundraisers to pay for upfront costs. It also seems they will have enough from ticket sales to more than makes up for these costs.

Sierra shares that Diversity Committee received an application from this RSO and decided not to fund the event because there were no graduate students involved. The purpose of GPSS funds are to support graduate student engagement.

Varun inquires if the Committee can send a clarification email about the number of involved alumni versus the number of involved graduate students. *Robby* states that this is an option.

Ted states that regardless of the answer to graduate student involvement, his vote against funding the event would not change.

Sierra agrees. With expected attendance of 100 graduate students, most of which it sounds like will not be UW graduate students and the presenter being unable to distinguish between an alumnus versus a graduate student, it is unclear how valid this number is.

Zhiyun is in favor of low to zero funding because the financial need is pretty low and the graduate student involvement and outreach are not impressive.

Ted moves to not fund the event. *Zhiyun* seconds. No objections.

VOTE: *Zhiyun*, *Ted*, and *Alex* vote YES. *Varun* votes NO. *Sierra*, *Robby*, and *Jasmine* abstain.

4. Special Allocations: Planning Student Association Transportation Policy Roundtable



Presentation

The goal of the Transportation Policy Roundtable event is to have big names in the region all on stage together. Dow Constantine, King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci, Peter Rogoff CEO of Sound Transit, WA State Senator Steve Hobbs, and Celeste Gilman of WSDOT. The moderator will be a student. The purpose is to ask questions about transportation policy in the real world. The transportation focus of the event is because there are three sponsors: Planning Student Association from the Urban Planning Master's program, Institute of Transportation Engineers UW chapter, and the American Public Works Association local organization. The event is open for all and the organizers are specifically inviting Evans School students to attend. The expected attendance is between 100 and 150 people or mostly students, but there will be professionals invited as well to provide a networking opportunity. The GPSS funding request will go to covering the rental of Intellectual House. If the event has more than 150 people, then they need to pay for special recycling bins in addition to the base rental cost. Food will be covered by co-hosts ITE and APWA and may provide for catered food.

Sierra inquires if catering by Bay Laurel is required at the Intellectual House. *Presenter* states that it was required. *Robby* states that typically, for on-campus locations, there are approved vendors that can occasionally be used.

Ted asks if the organizers plan to make a profit on the event. *Presenter* states that this is not likely. The hope is that by next week, they will know the funding situation and can set ticket prices based on what will be needed to cover the cost of catering. The remaining overage would go to partner organizations and GPSS.

Varun inquires if civil engineering students will be invited. *Presenter* states that the schools that will be targeted are: Built Environment, Engineering, and the Evans School.

Varun asks for detail on how these students will be reached. *Presenter* responds that they will be postering in the different buildings that house the schools, as well as provide mailers for each school to send out with their weekly newsletters.

Robby seeks confirmation that none of the speakers are currently running for office, as GPSS funds cannot be used in association with political parties. *Presenter* confirms.

Alex notes that the expected attendance is mostly graduate students. *Presenter* confirms that the majority of attendees will be graduate students and a significant portion of attendees will be from the professional space.

Alex notices that there are undergraduates who are also expected to come. *Presenter* states that various undergraduate majors are also within targeted schools and that the APWA organizer is an undergrad. Otherwise, the Evans School and Planning are graduate students.

Robby clarifies that the requested amount is \$625. *Presenter* confirms.

Discussion

Varun moves to fund in full. *Robby* requests *Varun* rescind his motion so that the Committee may discuss. *Varun* withdraws his motion.

Ted states he would like to fund the event in full. It is specifically for graduate students with an impressive set of speakers lined up.

Robby asks the Committee if there are any reservations.

Varun moves to fund the Roundtable in full. *Zhiyun* seconds.

Ted inquires if the Committee need to include anything about the recycling bin. *Robby* states that the Committee need not worry about this.

VOTE: *Ted*, *Varun*, *Zhiyun*, *Robby*, and *Alex* vote YES. *Sierra* and *Jasmine* abstain.

Robby moves to add “Remaining Special Allocations Budget” to the agenda. *Ted* seconds. No objections.

5. Remaining Special Allocations Budget

Robby states that the Committee has \$124.50 remaining, excluding bonus money previously approved by the Committee. There are two options: leave the funds here or increase funding for any previously not-funded-in-full and not-yet-passed events.

Varun requests that *Robby* read off events that have not happened and that were not funded in full.

Robby lists: Indonesian Student Association, Taiwanese Student Association, Seva UW, Hui Hoaloha ‘Ulana, Filipino Student Association, Khmer Student Association, Tango Club, and Stage Notes.

The events are: Night Market, Turban Day, Luau, Filipino Night, Khmer New Year Show, Practilonga, and performances of a play.

Ted states that, relying on memory, he is most interested in funding Filipino Night.

Robby reiterates that currently, the Committee should decide whether or not to grant additional funding. If so, then the Committee will need to hold an additional meeting.

Varun states that if the Committee decides not to provide additional funds, the remaining funds will go into the General Fund. *Robby* confirms.

Robby states the choice is between leaving the money where it is now or having a short meeting next week to discuss giving the remaining \$125 to an RSO.

Ted comments that in order to decide distributing the remaining funds, the Committee should follow-up with each group to see if they need more.



Jasmine reminds the Committee that the decision is whether or not disburse the additional funds to previous applicants.

Robby states that the Committee has access to up to \$804.50 in funding with the 4% increase approved by the Committee last week.

Ted notes that the Committee may still get Special Allocations request.

Ted moves to leave the money where it is. *Alex* seconds. No objections.

VOTE: *Ted, Alex, Varun, and Zhiyun* vote YES. *Robby, Sierra, and Jasmine* abstain.

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

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.