



Finance & Budget Committee

2020-2021 Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 30, 2020, 11 am
Online: Zoom Meeting

PRESENT VOTING MEMBERS:

Julia Overfelt – Treasurer; Committee Chair, Evans School
Danielle Brown, Department of Geography
Ted Cohen, Molecular Engineering Institute
Terrence Pope, Department of Psychology
A.J. Balatico, College of Education

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Stephen Lee – Budget Specialist, Staff

NOT PRESENT:

Jared Canright

Julia calls the Meeting to order at 11:07 am.

OVERVIEW

Julia gave each member an agenda and a copy of the last meeting minutes.

1. Call To Order

- a. Approval of Agenda

Terrence moves to approve the agenda. **Danielle** seconds. Motion passes.

- b. Approval of Minutes

Ted moves to approve the minutes. **Terrence** seconds. Motion passes.

2. New Business

- a. Welcome + Overview

Members introduce their names, year, department, and hobbies.



b. Parliamentary Procedure

Julia confirms that parliamentary procedure will not change much since the last meeting. F&B meetings will utilize an informal style of parli pro. Meetings about the budget and special allocations hearings may require more formal parli pro because there may be more questions.

Julia confirms that **Stephen** is not a senator and, therefore, cannot make motions or vote.

Ted asks if **Stephen** can serve as a proxy.

Julia says that only senators can serve as proxies.

Ted says he remembered that the Budget Specialist could serve as a proxy, and says he would go back through the bylaws to confirm.

c. Logistics: Emails, Shared Drive

Julia says that everyone should have access to the shared drive. Communication for the committee will come in the form of emails from either the Treasurer, **Julia**, or the Budget Specialist, **Stephen**.

Ted was not aware of a shared drive because printouts or emailed documents were the norm in past meetings.

Julia says that, because F&B meetings and other business will be done online, access to the shared drive will be important to have. **Julia** says she will give **Ted** access to drives and folders. **Julia** also says she wants to continue updating the website with meeting minutes.

d. Budget Overview

Julia says that the budget really has not changed and asks if anyone would like an overview.

Terrence asks if there were any budget items that were put off from the last meeting that could be recapped.

Julia says there were unanswered questions about if we were going to donate more to the emergency fund, but these items were to be discussed this year and not on the current meeting's agenda.

Julia says that there is money in the general fund. She says that SAF had its first meeting and says that she would reach out to Nina and make sure **Danielle** is on the email list. **Julia** also said she would forward the link and agenda to **Danielle**. **Julia** says that SAF is doing well with its current funds as enrollment



has actually increased. However, she does not know how much funding SAF will direct to us since enrollment will most likely decrease in the Winter and Spring quarters. **Julia** anticipates that we may be able to put more money into the emergency fund if that was decided.

Ted asks how much money we gave to the emergency fund.

Julia thinks she remembered that we gave \$25,000 to the emergency fund. **Julia** also notes that there was an additional \$25,000 that was not voted on and remembered that we took some money out of Events.

Ted notes that there is money in Fall Events that could be redistributed elsewhere.

Speaking of the general fund, **Ted** remembers working on a resolution regarding procedures in withdrawing from the general fund and asks if the rule about only progressing on COVID essential business was still in effect.

Julia confirms that the rule is not still in place and it is business as usual.

Julia comments that she would like to see the SAF fund before making any decisions regarding the general fund. **Julia** reiterates that she would feel more comfortable getting projections on enrollment before distributing big portions of money. **Julia** asks if anyone had opinions on discussing options for the general fund or the endowment sooner rather than later.

Danielle asks how much money is in the endowment.

Ted says that there's \$100,000 in the endowment right now and remembers talking about adding more to the endowment and general fund before the COVID pandemic. **Ted** agrees with **Julia** that we shouldn't make decisions regarding the general fund or the endowment and that we should be prepared for the worst financial outcomes to happen.

Danielle also agrees. Because of her experience working in SAF, **Danielle** advises that GPSS hang onto its general fund and endowment in case GPSS is hit financially in the next couple quarters.

e. Review of Historical Proposal

Ted brings up the resolution regarding procedures in withdrawing from the general fund. He plans to propose it for the next Senate meeting. **Ted's** final clause enforces senate permission on withdrawals from the general fund over \$5,000, a rule that is not currently enforced. **Ted** says that the resolution is an urgent issue especially because, with the current projections on SAF funding, GPSS may need to withdraw large amounts of money.



Terrence agrees with Ted and his resolution. He says that it makes sense to make the limit at \$5,000 to still allow GPSS to be flexible on certain issues and bring larger amounts to the Senate.

A.J. writes in the chat that he agrees with **Ted** and that the timeline that **Ted** gave seemed reasonable. **A.J.** writes that the resolution would've been passed if it was brought to the Senate.

Ted also notes that he did bring this resolution to the attention of the executives. The executives knew that GPSS would need to spend large amounts of money around in the summer when there is no Senate or other committees to give permission, and they were concerned about the resolution limiting that ability. **Ted** adds that he would introduce an exception in the resolution for the summer and for any emergency situations GPSS may run into. He says that the exception may require a write up justifying why the expense had to happen in such a limited period of time.

Terrence agrees with Ted and highlights that the language regarding the exception would need to provide full accountability for the exception.

Julia asks if everyone saw **A.J.**'s comment in the chat and reads his comment.

Ted says that he would work on adding the exceptions and would add in any Senators in the call that wished to sponsor the resolution through email. **Ted** confirms that he would reach out to **Jared**, who couldn't make the meeting.

Danielle asks **Ted** to add her as a sponsor for his resolution. **Ted** does.

Danielle asks for clarification on when a resolution would need to be submitted so that it could be added to the agenda. **Danielle** says that she was approached by the international student working group within the union about submitting a resolution to GPSS to support the creation of an international student task force, especially with how the international community was affected by the recent government announcements.

Julia says that main motions and resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary at least 2 weeks in advance of the regular GPSS meeting at which they are to be considered.

Danielle asks if the next meeting would be on the 18th because the 11th was cancelled.

Julia confirms that the 11th date was cancelled due to Veteran's Day.

Terrence says that he has been working with the international student working group and with Logan on the resolution.



Ted and **Danielle** confirm that November 18th and December 2nd are the last Senate meetings of the Fall quarter.

Ted moves to extend debate 5 minutes longer. **Terrence** seconds. No objections.

Julia asks if we want to change the bylaws for the limit on special allocations, since room rentals have increased. The current limit on special allocations is \$750, and the F&B committee had previously discussed increasing it to \$1,000.

Ted agrees that the bylaws should be changed regarding special allocations, but says that bylaw amendments are more difficult because they have to go through Judicial review. **Ted** asks if there are other bylaw amendments that people are interested in making so that the bylaw amendment regarding special allocations could be a part of a larger amendment document.

Julia notes that there were plans for bylaw amendments regarding E&A, but she would have to confirm that with the committee.

Ted says that the special allocations limit is not a hard limit, and if GPSS plans to use more than the \$750 limit, someone would simply have to notify the Exec committee. **Ted** says that maybe the bylaws should include a hard limit on special allocations spending.

Julia notes that there are some bylaws regarding the F&B committee that could be amended, but that they are not time-sensitive. **Julia** says that it would make sense to “piggy-back” the various bylaw amendments into the E&A bylaw amendment.

Danielle says that the first draft of a resolution needs to be submitted to the GPSS Secretary by 8 pm on the Sunday 10 days before the scheduled Senate meeting.

Julia says that’s not what the bylaws say.

Danielle says she got the information from a memorandum on the GPSS website, and that the information looks inaccurate.

Julia pulls up the most recent bylaws and shows that the information on the memorandum differs from the bylaws.

Ted asks **Danielle** what year the memorandum was made.

Danielle says 2016. **Danielle** pulls up the memorandum, highlighting what she read.

Julia says she will email Logan about the issue and will CC **Danielle**.



Ted says that the bylaws supersede the memorandums, so for now, we should adhere to the bylaws' schedule.

3. **Q&A**

- a. **A.J.** writes in the chat if anyone had any thoughts on the Student Tech Committee, since we have \$10 million available and there's no way that we would reach that this year. **A.J.** enters the call and reiterates the text, stating that the STF committee is currently at 20 proposals and that the committee would be falling a little short of the committee's target this quarter. He asks for any thoughts on the STF committee in general. The committee cancelled the UPass funding last year because of limited use.

Ted says that he doesn't think students should pay the STF fee because it is consistently under-requested. **Ted** says maybe the fee shouldn't be erased altogether, but it should definitely be reduced.

A.J. reports that the STF committee received half the amount of submissions as usual and, even if the committee funded everything, it's nowhere close to the amount of funding the committee has.

Julia says she would reach out to the Student Tech Program to see what more they could do with everyone staying at home. She would like to see the funding spent on extra monitors for people to take because of how helpful an extra monitor could be. There's also the argument of if they want to make that kind of investment on tech items if the items won't be needed for the long-run.

A.J. agrees with **Julia** and says that the committee has invested in more computers for different departments, but that the current problem is the lessening amount of storage space for the extra tech items.

4. **Adjourn**

Julia entertains the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ted moves to adjourn the meeting. **Danielle** seconds. No objections. Motion passes.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am.