

GPSS Finance and Budget Committee

2023 – 2024 Meeting Minutes

Friday, Nov 3, 2023, 11:00am SAO Back Room

Present:

- Jon Choi: VP of Finance; Committee Chair
- Linh Pham: Budget Director
- Maleen Kidiwela: GPSS Executive Senator
- Charles Bugre: GPSS Executive Senator
- Joseph Rogge: GPSS Senator
- Hannah Shipman: GPSS Senator
- Franco R. Carlos: GPSS Senator
- Rene Y. Singleton: GPSS Advisor (Ex-Officio)
- Carrie Moore: GPSS Advisor (Ex-Officio)
- A.J. Balatico: GPSS President (Ex-Officio)
- Santiago Pereda: Presenter from MBA Association

Not Present:

- Tiya Farah: GPSS Senator
- Ardhra Sivasankaran: GPSS Senator
- Amanda Yapp: GPSS Senator

VP of Finance called the Meeting to order at 11:02am.

Overview:

VP of Finance gave each other the agenda. Quorum was reached.

1. Call to Order – Approval of Agenda

- Joseph: I motion to approve the agenda
- Franco: I second
- Jon: No objection, we'll approve the agenda

2. Approval of Minutes:

- **Jon:** There was a minor correction requested by Charles B. from the past meeting (10/27/2023). In the attendee list, Charles was not recognized as one of the Executive Senators, that was corrected. Charles also added a point of information whether brainstorming for funding was for GPSS to receive fundings or for GPSS to let constituents know about funding opportunities; the minutes have been updated to reflect this conversation. We now open to receive motions to approve the meeting minutes
- **Franco:** I motion to approve the minutes
- **Joseph:** I second
- **Jon:** The minutes have been approved.

3. Review for Special Allocation

- **Jon:** Santiago, for the actual presentation, you have about 3 minutes followed by 7 minutes when the committee will ask you some follow up questions. They are mainly interested in knowing about how this event is going to involve and benefit graduate students
- **Santiago:** Thank you everyone for listening to me today. I am here on behalf of the International Fair team within the MBA Association. We came up with an idea of hosting a Bowling Friendsgiving for international students, who are left here and do not have the traditional experience during Thanksgiving in the United States. Therefore, we are hosting this event, just as the name suggests, for those students to play bowling, have some food. We are going to host this event on Nov 26 and plan to have 50 people. This requires us to rent the bowling alley, which costs about \$250 per hour, and we aim to rent 2 hours, so that'll require a funding of \$500 that is currently not existing. Ideally, we'll sum up our current funding with the GPSS funding to cover food and beverages as well as alley rental, total would be \$1150.
- **Jon:** We'll move on to the Q&A session, but since I am part of the Foster School and the MBA Association itself, I am recusing myself from the Q&A session and voting.
- **Maleen:** Has this kind of event been hosted before or is it the first time?
- **Santiago:** This is the first time, and we are aiming to create this opportunity based on feedbacks from students
- **Maleen:** You are expecting 50 students?
- **Santiago:** That's correct
- **Maleen:** What is the size of your MBA program?
- **Santiago:** This event is aimed for both cohorts: 2024 has 96 people, 2025 has 116 people, and about 40% of them are international students.
- **Hannah:** Will you specifically be inviting and advertising graduate students to this event, or including undergraduates?
- **Santiago:** No, this is advertised to graduate students, specifically within the MBA Community.
- **Hannah:** Do you expect people primarily from outside MBA community to come?
- **Santiago:** Many people from the MBA, not limited to current students, but also faculty and staff.
- **Maleen:** As you said, this event is for international students, so how many international students are there?
- **Santiago:** 40% of Class of 2024 is about 36, 55% for Class of 2025 is about 60 of them. So overall, approximately 100 international students
- **AJ:** What portion of your membership is not MBA student, but students in general who are interested in business or Foster? Do you have the kind of data?
- **Santiago:** We do not hear of those who are interested and because we advertise mainly through the internal channel, so I guess 99% of membership will be the current MBA community.
- **Hannah:** Do you plan on hosting more events this year of this size?
- **Santiago:** Yes, but next year, some events are supposed to take place and aim at the entire MBA community, both domestic and international students. Domestic students are invited to participate in this upcoming bowling night as well, but they are typically not around
- **AJ:** You do have the option of lowering it down to \$400, we could potentially redo this event in the future or do you still want to keep it at \$500. You could also consider going up to \$750 if you have other things you would like to add to the budget

- **Santiago:** We could not consider it as it's not a deal here, because the purpose of this event is to celebrate Thanksgiving with international students as they do not have friends or family here to have the same experience
- **Jon:** Thank you for giving us a chance to learn more about your event and organization. We are moving on to the voting session, and for that I request you to exit this meeting. I'll let you know the decision of the vote by the end of the day.
- **Santiago** left.
- **Jon:** Does anyone have any points that we would like to discuss about whether to fund the event or not?
- **Charles:** I want to verify that after GPSS funds this event, is it accessible to other students or still limited to only the RSO. Because I know for STF if they fund, they want the events to open up for other students that are interested, so what will that be for this Friendsgiving event?
- **Maleen:** I don't think so because this seems to be a very departmental specific event that they are organizing. Even so, there are 100 international students inside the MBA but they only requested for around 50, so pretty sure they are trying to keep it minimal.
- **Charles:** That is reasonable, so I think it's a valid request for me.
- **AJ:** Another way to think about this is \$500 for 50 students means \$10 per student, which is reasonable. The other thing is when we put this event in comparison with similar ones, the Student Bar Association does the same kind of event twice, opening it up to Pre-law and prospect students but it also includes their staff, faculty, and current students. The decision to advertise mainly within the Foster's program makes sense for the scale of this event, but generally if someone goes to the event, they cannot deny their entry. Theoretically GPSS F&B members can attend the event if we want to.
- **Jon:** That's a contingency we can add to the approval of the event. Before we move on to the voting, I want to make sure all committee members are satisfied with the context of the event.
- **Maleen:** As discussed in the last meeting, we can ask them to share photos of the event so that we can put on GPSS websites as the event is funded by GPSS
- **Jon:** Linh, just add a condition to the approval that they send some pictures from the event. The other option that was discussed is sending a couple of representatives from the F&B to attend the event, as part of the approval
- **Franco:** Do all the conditions of funding on the form have to be filled out?
- **AJ:** No
- **Jon:** We are officially moving on to the voting phase
- **Maleen:** I motion to vote to approve the Special Allocation for \$500, with the condition that the event crew will send pictures of the events for GPSS to use
- **Charles:** I second
- **Jon:** Are there any objections? Hearing none, the motion passed

All vote yes, no abstentions, or no's. We have a 5-0-0 vote.

4. Special Allocations Trend Review

- **Jon:** I was able to pull the history of Special Allocations we have received from Fall 2022 up to May 2023. You can see that some organizations, such as the American Red Cross at UW, have received allocations both Fall 2022 and Winter 2023. We have allocated a total of 24 in those two academic years. Rene mentioned in the last meeting that typically a lot of the allocation requests come in during Winter and Spring quarters, which you can see is the case here. There's 1 activity for Fall 2022 but none for Fall

2023, 2 for Winter 2022, 6 and 9 for Spring quarters. I will make sure to share this deck with you so that you have this information handy, and if you are interested, I can share the raw data as well.

- **Jon:** Moving on to the actual amount we have granted. You can see that, for example, the First Nations at UW, we have awarded them twice and \$750 each time, so they have received a total of \$1500 over the last 2 academic years. The total we have awarded for all these RSOs was \$15566. We don't always have to award the maximum amount each time.
- **AJ:** You can also point out that the scale of these events is drastically different. A lot of the budgets are going towards room rental, not necessarily programming. Something we discussed last time to mitigate costs was maybe looking at alternatives for academic buildings that RSO have access to.
- **Jon:** Another thing I want to mention as a reminder is that even though we state that our funding cap per event is \$750, we can award more permitting our budget allowance, if we strongly feel that the impact on Graduate students is worth more than the typical \$750 stated. However, that has to be approved through the Executive committee as well.
- **Franco:** How much can we go over \$750?
- **AJ:** \$1000 will trigger the executive agreement, but we must pay attention to the timeline.
- **Jon:** Point of information, the RSO that presented today plans to host the event on Nov 26, so technically if we want to fund more and since the Executive meeting is next Wednesday, that might work out. But what AJ wanted to say is sometimes it might take another week.
- **Jon:** This table here shows when the RSO apply for the funding and get approved versus when the events take place. So you do not necessarily have to apply for fundings during the quarters you plan to have the events, as long as we have all the paperwork in order. You could put in your request for the following quarter, but it has to be in the same academic year. This is something we could think about when we promote the funding opportunities; we do not have to say only think about the events that are coming this quarter, they can plan ahead, and we can always work with them early to have that paperwork ready.
- **AJ:** Another thing that always comes up is that whether we feel comfortable with a line item that is directly towards security. This comes out of the discussion we constantly have related the relationship GPSS has with UYPD or other safety entities on campus. Bigger events must have security in some ways, especially when they are open to public, but then it presents us a question that whether GPSS wants to be associated with UYPD. Other situations in which whether we should fund a group becomes a big discussion are regarding religious organizations doing things that are not strictly practicing religions, or do we support certain events that are focused on talking about specific governmental topics around the world?
- **Jon:** This table separates out the allocations by the academic year, specifically 2021-2022 we allocated \$6216, and previous year we allocated \$9350. This is just point of reference. Moving on to the next table, I organize the events that we funded along with the RSO that hosted those events. If anyone is interested in learning more about a particular event, I am happy to share more details with you.
- **Franco:** I wanted to ask, for example, in the case of Graduates of Color in Astronomy and Physics, the amount dropped from \$750 to \$600. Is there any documentation regarding why the fund got changed for a specific RSO?
- **Jon:** That is typically in the emails we send out to the RSO after we vote

- **AJ:** That could also be found in the minutes. Sometimes, it is just because they only ask for a specific amount of money, just like in the presentation today. Another context to consider is ASUW funds up to \$2500 this year, so a lot of RSO especially those of smaller scale, they can just get all the funding in one round from ASUW, instead of coming to GPSS to get \$750.
- **Franco:** Should we ask them if they have come to ASUW first, as part of the interview process?
- **Jon:** I think that is always a good question to ask, especially if that RSO covers both undergraduate and graduate students. For today's RSO, the MBA Association primarily caters towards Master's students, so they most likely did not go to the ASUW first.
- **AJ:** Wells Fargo fund used to be another source of fund that RSO can go before coming to GPSS, but it is not existing anymore.
- **Carrie:** Yes, that ended back in 2021, but we are looking at reapplying for that grand. Do you typically ask RSO where else have they applied for fundings?
- **AJ:** Usually, they have to lay that out in their budget allocation.

5. Adjournment

- **Jon:** That's all I have in today's agenda. Are there any last-minute comments? Hearing none. Now we are open to receive motions to adjourning the meeting
- **Charles:** I motion to adjourn
- **Joseph:** I second
- **Jon:** Hearing no objections, we will adjourn today meeting at 11:41AM.

VP of Finance thanked each member again for joining the Committee and attending the meeting.