

GPSS Finance and Budget Committee

2023 – 2024 Meeting Minutes

Friday, Nov 17, 2023, 11:00am HUB 238

Present:

- A.J. Balatico: GPSS President
- Jon Choi: VP of Finance; Committee Chair
- Linh Pham: Budget Director
- Maleen Kidiwela: GPSS Executive Senator
- Joseph Rogge: GPSS Senator
- Amanda Yapp: GPSS Senator
- Hannah Shipman: GPSS Senator
- Ardhra Sivasankaran: GPSS Senator
- Franco R. Carlos: GPSS Senator
- Simon Hans Edasi: Presenter from Earth & Space Sciences Department
- Max Perkins: Presenter from WGA Smash RSO
- Carrie Moore: GPSS Advisor

Not Present:

- Charles Bugre: GPSS Executive Senator
- Tiya Farah: GPSS Senator

VP of Finance called the Meeting to order at 11:03 am

Overview:

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

1. Call to Order – Approval of Agenda

- Amanda: I motion to approve the agenda
- Franco: I second
- Jon: No objection, this agenda is approved

2. Approval of Minutes:

- Maleen: I motion to approve the minutes
- Joseph: I second
- Jon: Hearing no objection, we'll approve the minutes and move on to the presentation

3. Review for Departmental Allocation (Earth & Space Sciences)

- Jon: Simon Hans is the GPSS Senator for Earth & Space Sciences Department. What they are requesting is \$1000 to cover purchase of capital item that will be used as an outdoor picnic table for the department patio.
- Simon Hans: Thank you Jon and members of the committee for hearing my request. So, once in an academic year, each department is allowed \$1000 to request. Our department talked about how we can maximize the benefits for everyone. We considered among things in people's offices, such as coffee maker or refrigerator, as well as things that the

department can also supply, such as power supplies in the study area. But something that everyone lacks is a comfortable place to sit outside and eat lunch together. This is the courtyard behind our building, that's the MoLES building, we share with them. There's nowhere comfortable to sit down, we don't have a good place in the backyard. For our front yard with Rainier Vista including the fountain, and in the spring we have cherry blossom. We have a beautiful patio that looks over this wonderful spot. The patio is currently empty with a rotting wooden chair. We have a beautiful view to the North of the cherry blossom, and a slightly view to the South of the fountain. We could have a patio with a table where we can all hang out under the sunshine. To summarize, a picnic table in a sunny secluded patio can provide a nice place to gather, which is something everyone lacks. This table is made of plastic-coated stainless steel, it costs less than \$1000 but with shipping and handling, it's just a bit over. However, our department can cover any residuals. Finally, one last benefit is that we will not have a mess with scraps and crumbs from people eating lunch in the common space anymore. So that's my proposal

- **Jon:** Now we're open to follow-up questions from committee people for Simon Hans.
- **Amanda:** We appreciate your presentation. You mentioned that this will combat the wrappers and crumbs from eating inside. How does that work outside?
- **Simon Hans:** Yes, it's not pictured here but there's an entrance to the building just inside with trash cans. We have a main hallway; there's an elevator to the left, and a door down there that leads to the patio. So it is not a thoroughfare, but it's secluded and only the people from the department know it is there.
- **Amanda:** Thank you
- **Hannah:** Just a little clarification on this space. There's an entrance to the lower floor but the patio is a part of the upper, so you have to walk over the patio, so it's very secluded as he said
- **Joseph:** Installing a picnic table seems like something you have to get approvals for or at least the department be aware of. Have you got in touch with admins about that or do you know if you need approval for that?
- **Simon Hans:** After we discussed with the grad students, I brought it up to the administration, who told me to contact the building managers to get approval from facility. What I heard back from the manager is that we are not installing something permanent, so we can go ahead.
- **AJ:** The dimensions of this are kind of fixed. There's a hole in the middle for umbrella. Is the space accessible by wheelchairs, for inclusion purpose. Is there modification or are there other alternate models?
- **Simon Hans:** There are models that are ADA accessible, but we did not price them though. I think they are around the same price
- **AJ:** That would be a consideration when you pick the final model. We can deal with any pricing differences.
- **Amanda:** Do you have actual dimensions of the patio space and with the table?
- **Simon Hans:** I do not have the patio's dimensions in front me now. It is definitely big enough to hold the table. As far the wheelchairs go, we could maneuver into a corner, so there's space for wheelchairs. There're gaps on the bench that someone could fit it
- **Jon:** One thing we would like to do at GPSS is to be mindful of the cost. So I am wondering if you or anyone from your department have looked into the UW Surplus Store to see if there are cheaper alternatives?
- **Simon Hans:** Actually we have not
- **AJ:** This is probably not a common object but you could take a look.

- **Simon Hans:** We do have restrictions on the table material. Our administration want the table to be fabricated steel, so that's why I did not look.
- **Jon:** Any last-minute questions?
- **Franco:** Do we have a frame of pricing for similar tables, so that we know if this is on the lower or upper end?
- **Simon Hans:** So I looked at the table for 8 people. There's another website that prices a similar table at \$1200. I found this one on Amazon that is much cheaper and about the same size. They will deliver the table to the loading, and we will build it ourselves.
- **Jon:** So thank you so much Simon Hans. If we have any follow-up questions, I will sure collect them and release them to you. If we can decide today, I will let you know as well.
- **Simon Hans:** Thank you

4. Review for Special Allocation (WGA Smash – Domino Effect 2023)

- **Jon:** This is Max. He is an officer for WGA Smash.
- **Max:** These slides are adopted from the deck that we sent to our partnership companies, so there are some differences that I have to account for and there is also a lot to cover in 3 minutes. Domino Effect is a climate action gaming event for the video game called Super Smash Bros. Since 2019, we have been at UW hosting some of the biggest regional tournaments in the PNW providing students with the high-quality competitive experience. In 2021, I decided to make it charity event due to my passion for climate change, and we donate all of our profit to a global charity organization. Our goal is to raise awareness for climate action among gamers. Since then, we have raised about \$16000. The charity organization is super grateful for our help. For demographics, we work primarily with undergrads, but we have a lot of staff members, including myself, who are first year grad students. A lot of our members now are also interested in grad school here at UW. Additionally, we have a pretty good reach outside of Washington tour, a lot of partnership on Youtube/Twitch. We have a couple of international players coming next month. I also want to talk about outreach on campus. We have flyers that we printed and our staff will try to hang them around buildings, currently getting approval for that. We have partnered with a lot of companies in the past, including the HUB or the UW Alumni Association. Here is our budget for last year that I could send this spreadsheet over if it is helpful. We collect ticket sales in the form of venue fee, about one-third of it goes to the venue cost, one-third for operating expenses, one-third for profit which we will donate all of that. With this fund through GPSS, it would decrease the amount of each person's venue fee that would go to covering the venue, and we could increase the operating expenses or the profit to make it a more high-quality event and donate more money. GPSS logo would be included in all of our posts, announcement, website, stream. We could integrate other partnership opportunities too if there's anything GPSS demand. That's about it, and I am open to any questions.
- **Jon:** In the application you sent over, the presale was more expensive than the outdoor sale. Would you be able to explain that?
- **Max:** So there are two types of attendees: competitors and spectators. Competitors enter the racket and have a chance to win. Spectators just come to hang out and watch their friends play. We require competitors to register in advance and tickets cost \$25. For spectator tickets, you can pay at the door.
- **Maleen:** So with this fund from GPSS, would you entrance fee be less?
- **Max:** We would keep the entrance fee the same, but more of the revenue would go towards improving the quality of the event and increasing the donation at the end.
- **AJ:** Did you also apply to ASUW?
- **Max:** Yes, I did submit an application but they opened theirs just this Monday, and it was too short of turnaround time to get back to me.

- **AJ:** When are you going to have another version of this event? Their allocation is \$2500
- **Max:** We are hoping to run another in January
- **Jon:** When you send the donation to charity, do you include all the sponsors?
- **Max:** I have not, just because the charity has not asked for that information. I could ask them if it is helpful for them
- **AJ:** Youtube and Nitendo's policy regarding this game. Have you all run through that?
- **Max:** I am very familiar with that. It has just come into effect and will not affect any events till the end of the year.
- **Jon:** I just want to give the chance for people on Zoom if any of you has any questions for Max.
- **Hannah:** Point of information – what is the amount of the allocation you ask for?
- **Max:** Full amount of \$750
- **Jon:** When it comes to sponsor placement that you guys can do, how receptive do you think your audience would be if we have messages about GPSS's funding opportunities? We have several grants: departmental allocation for students in specific departments, travel grants if grad students need some travel cost to go to some events/conference, etc.
- **Max:** That is the exact type of activation that we offer. We also have a lot of members who are currently actively seeking funds from GPSS, and I am sure they will be receptive towards that. We are happy to do that for GPSS.
- **Jon:** Do we have to provide the graphics or posters for you or do you prefer to design it?
- **Max:** For the graphics, you just need to send me the png of the logo and I can put it on everything. For the posts, you can send me the caption and I can post that.
- **Amanda:** So I acknowledge that you asked for \$750, but what are you going to put that towards? The donation or the other thing? Can you clarify?
- **Max:** About 1/3 of our revenue go to the venue, with \$750 it would go straight to the HUB to reduce the venue fee for us. When we restarted this event in 2021, the pricing structure in HUB was different. They have been increasing the price to keep the building open during weekend, so the funding would be an important part of the budget that would allow us to maintain the quality of the event.
- **Jon:** We might also ask when you get approved for the funding that if GPSS members are able to attend the event.
- **Max:** Yes of course. We can work that out
- **Max:** I also have a question that on the website, it said 15% of the revenue will go back to GPSS?
- **Jon:** It will be a part of the conditions, but I think given the proceeds of the event will be donated, it will probably not be the case. Do you have any thoughts AJ?
- **AJ:** Mostly voluntary, but we can talk about details later.
- **Maleen:** If you allow a few number of GPSS members to attend, I think you should specify the number who can come. And do we have to pay?
- **Max:** If you want to compete, you have to pay the price. Otherwise as spectators, you are free to come. We are happy to let you in, I just need a list of names.
- **Jon:** Time is up. Thank you so much for your presentation. We will a discussion internally and will let you know once the decision has been made.

5. Discussion of Allocations

- **Jon:** First, let's go over the allocation from Simon Hans. I open the floor up for anyone to provide any comments or opinions.
- **Joseph:** I think AJ brought a great point about the wheelchair accessible. I would support funding it, subject to making sure the patio and the tables are accessible for wheelchairs.

- **Amanda:** I need to see the dimension of both the table and the patio before we move on because scalability is a crucial part
- **Ardhra:** Are they going to check the surplus store?
- **Maleen:** I think they said they will not check for this thing specifically because they want more long-term, waterproof material.
- **AJ:** From my perspectives, I do not think the store will have this specific item.
- **Ardhra:** Would it be more beneficial to have 2 tables instead of just 1?
- **Amanda:** I think that is where dimensions really come into place.
- **AJ:** We could either postpone this until we have the dimensions or conditionally fund it. If you are all okay with the price that is around \$1000, pick the one that is most practical.
- **Jon:** He did mention a couple of alternative websites but they have higher price options. We could conditionally approve on the basis that the dimensions work out and it will provide equitable access for everyone. Or maybe we can ask the students from the department to do more shopping and pick the best one.
- **Amanda:** I am less concerned about the price because he seemed certain about that, he just did not have the dimensions on hand and the matter of accessibility will matter more.
- **Jon:** Another than we could do is to arrange a time with him so that we could visit that area to have a better idea of the dimensions.
- **Amanda:** As long as he provides the dimension, I think it is fine.
- **Jon:** Any other questions or we can move forward?
- **Maleen:** I motion to approve the allocation for a picnic table that costs \$1000 upon the condition that the dimensions are provided and the accessibility requirements are met.
- **Amanda:** I second.
- **Jon:** We have a 7-0-0 vote. Now we can move on to WGA Smash Domino Effect.
- **AJ:** This is a technical thing, but the reason why I asked what version of Smash they will be playing is because Youtube and Nitendo might take down the content with newer versions of the game due to copy-right issue. So if we sponsor and it gets taken down, we do not want to be associated with that
- **Amanda:** I think the presentation is very well prepared
- **AJ:** Yes, they have done this a lot.
- **Jon:** He has a really good reach. This could be a good chance for us to promote funding events as well as any other promotions you want to run for GPSS.
- **Hannah:** How would the promotion work? Obviously with the GPSS's logo included, but can we give them the advertisement materials?
- **Jon:** One option is we can conditionally approve, such that we have some posts that we want them to promote, or also 15-20 GPSS members can attend the event without the cost. It would be upon him to accept that or not.
- **AJ:** Point of information. We only have one additional F&B meeting on Dec 1st before the event, so it only gives the RSO office a little time. But if we approve it now, they will have enough lead time for them to decide.
- **Maleen:** He said he would be okay with that requirement.
- **Jon:** \$750 is a lot, but with the scope of this event, I think it is worth it. I am sure he can accommodate for a few promotions for GPSS.
- **Hannah:** He said HUB has increased the price for rental using the space? Do we have any ideas on that?
- **Carrie:** We have not increased the cost for students to rent the space itself. What has increased since 2020 is the cost of labor, which was about 18-19%. We did do a readjustment to match the cost of labor last year. I do not have the exact amount, but the

actual cost has not increased, but the building fees did to cover the labor cost during weekend.

- **Franco:** So is this a full or conditional approval?
- **Jon:** It is upon anyone to make the motion
- **Maleen:** We can go for a full approval given the time and the record.
- **Joseph:** I motion to approve the allocation for \$750
- **Amanda:** I second
- **Jon:** So we have another 7-0-0 vote, this motion passed. I will let Max know.

6. **Winter/Spring Scheduling:**

- **Jon:** AJ just reminded that the OPMA (The Open Public Meetings Act) require us to file for a regular meeting schedule. Otherwise, every single meeting would be a special meeting, which we have been doing for this quarter. Regular meetings give us a lot of flexibility, as in if we do not meet, we can cancel the meeting or alter the agenda. It also gives us more stability as a community. I looked at the room reservation, this HUB 238 room is mostly available for us to reserve at the same time we currently meet – Friday 11 to 12. I was wondering if anyone would not be able to come?
- **Joseph:** 11:30-12:30 would be better for me.
- **Amanda:** I think that is fine. If anything happens, I will just join on Zoom
- **Hannah:** Next quarter, I do have class from 11:30 to 12:30.
- **Amanda:** Can we go earlier?
- **AJ:** If it is just one quarter, you can proxy and still keep your seat.
- **Joseph:** I would be okay with 10:30 to 11:30.
- **Hannah:** That would work.
- **AJ:** So that's for winter and spring, and there will be 20 meetings you have to schedule.
- **Jon:** I will go ahead and check the room. Friday 10:30 to 11:30 pending room availability. I will send emails to everyone and notice the OPMA. And we are now at the end of the agenda.
- **Joseph:** I motion to adjourn the meeting
- **Amanda:** I second

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. VP of Finance thank you every committee member.