

GPSS Finance and Budget Committee

2023 – 2024 Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 26, 2024 - 10:30am HUB 307

Present:

- Jon Choi: VP of Finance; Committee Chair
- Linh Pham: Budget Director
- Maleen Kidiwela: GPSS Executive Senator
- Joseph Rogge: GPSS Senator
- Tiya Farah: GPSS Senator
- Amanda Yapp: GPSS Senator
- Ardhra Sivasankaran: GPSS Senator
- Carrie Moore: GPSS Advisor, Ex-Officio
- Christina Coop: GPSS Advisor, Ex-Officio
- A.J. Balatico: GPSS President, Ex-Officio
- Leah Matthews: Presenter from TedxUofW
- Leo Wang: Presenter from TSA

Not Present:

- Pratima K C: GPSS Executive Senator
- Franco R. Carlos: GPSS Senator

VP of Finance called the Meeting to order at 10:35am

Overview:

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

1. Call to Order – Approval of Agenda

- Jon: Anyone wants to add any items to the agenda?
- Maleen: I motion to approve the agenda
- Joseph: I second
- Jon: Hearing no objections, the agenda is approved

2. Approval of Minutes:

- Jon: The meeting minutes from last week was shared by Linh Pham in the calendar invite as well as in the slide
- Joseph: I motion to approve the meeting minutes
- Maleen: I second
- Jon: Hearing no objections, the minutes is approved

3. Review for Special Allocation (TedxUofW)

- Jon: You guys are planning to hold the event on April 13 at Kane Hall and asking for \$750. Anticipating a total attendance of 400, 250 students and of which 50 are grad

students. You are also charging ticket sales. That's the summary we created for our members and also included your presentation. You will have 3 minutes and 7 minutes for Q&A.

- Leah: I am the Finance Director this year for the RSO. Our RSO has been established since 2012, aiming to provide TEDx talks for UW students. Our team is 100% student run with a variety of majors, both undergrad and grad students. Our conference this year will be the 3rd in-person event since 2019. We plan to ask for ticket sales and also will be livestreaming the day of the event. In the past, after we uploaded our talks, we had hundreds to thousands of views. Every year we have a theme for our event, and this year theme will be Crossroads. We really want to dive in the intersection of ideas, overlapping of different concepts, and I think it is a very broad theme. Speakers can also have their own versions of what Crossroads means to them. We are currently in the process of selecting speaker and will be finalizing during this month. Our 6-7 speakers are all very diverse, and all their talks as of now connect the Crossroads very well. As far as interactions with grad students, a bunch of our audience are either interested in or currently in grad schools. The conference theme is very interdisciplinary, and we pride ourselves on the accessibility and affordability of our conference, so we do charge tickets but we do have options for people online. This year, we do have a graduate student volunteer on our team, which we have not done in previous years. She actually came to us and expressed her interest in helping out. We also want to open up possibilities for more grad students to join our club in the upcoming years. With the GPSS fund, we believe that it will help our event to become better but also expand our club. Our main expense this year is the cost to book Kane, which comes around \$4190. We applied for other funds as well, but the \$750 will go directly to cover that cost. We look forward to partnering with GPSS, and we will have your logo on our slides for the beginning and closing of our event as well as featured on our website.
- Jon: Thank you for your presentation. We will open up for Q&A
- Joseph: It looks like in the expense spreadsheet; a lot of items are listed without the cost. Are you still figuring that out?
- Leah: So something is still TBD; funds for this year are delayed in the processing. We do have some funds from last year we planned to use as well.
- Joseph: Do you pay your speakers?
- Leah: No, but we do offer them food the day off, pay for their parking. All of them are from Seattle area, so we do not have to pay their transportation. We will also prepare small gifts for them.
- Joseph: So do you how much did the total cost add up last year?
- Leah: I think it would be around \$5000. Excluding Kane, we do not have any other major expense. We do want to make tshirts this year, and that will be an addition of about \$500.
- AJ: In terms of speakers, what is the portion of community members vs UW people (staff & students)
- Leah: We don't have any students as speakers, but there are professors.
- Maleen: Why don't you open it up for student speakers?
- Leah: We never tried to, but maybe that's something we can look forward to. We want somebody to give us new ideas, especially from industry professionals. It's not that we are not allowed, but we do have a rigorous speaker selection, especially it's a huge time commitment.
- Maleen: I still think the RSO should try opening up opportunities for grad student in the future. It will benefit the community on professional levels, because I am pretty sure a lot of them could give better professional advice too. And for GPSS, we want to fund those events that involve and benefit our grad community.

- Leah: Yes – that’s something we will consider for next years. Unfortunately, we are in the last stage of choosing speakers for this year.
- AJ: Have you got feedbacks from audience to select speakers for your event?
- Leah: One thing we want to implement this year is a possible Q&A panel section at the end of our event. But also a lot of our audience members have been in the club already or are joining, so we definitely take feedbacks from them about what went well and what they prefer to be changed. We take the constructive feedbacks from our audience very seriously.
- Jon: Do you think the club might be open to having a short introduction to GPSS that benefits grad community?
- Leah: At the beginning of event? We are flexible and we can do that. In the past, we did announce sponsors at the event too.
- Jon: AJ, do you think you might be able to do a short intro?
- AJ: Yes of course, but you know, tabling outside also works too.
- Leah: Last year, we had tables outside of Kane too.
- Jon: The other question I have, for the funding sources, we did not list the ASUW?
- Leah: When we submitted this, we were not sure about that fund as we ran into some problem and our application got pushed back. But yeah as of now, it’s in process.
- Jon: Anyone with last minute questions from online?
- Hannah: I just want to second the great idea to promote GPSS in the event day of event. Just a small introduction or tabling will definitely help.
- Jon: Thank you Leah for your presentation. If we have any further questions, I’ll let you know.

4. Discussion of Committee Lunch

- Jon: I believe the next RSO will be able to come in at 11:05. We have about 14 minutes. I propose that we defer this for now and move on to other discussions that we might have left.
- Hannah: During last meeting, we were in the middle of discussing the committee lunch. When is that scheduled?
- Jon: You might have schedule conflict after our weekly meetings right?
- Hannah: Yes, I have class right after. I might not be able to attend unless we switch to Wednesday.
- Jon: Another idea I have is we can do an early dinner before the Senate meeting, but it might not make sense either, because the next senate meeting will have food prepared. Or we can any normal Wednesdays too, I just cannot do the upcoming week due to a schedule conflict with the Executive meeting. The only person that is not here today is Franco, but is everyone else here okay with Wednesday dinner around 5?
- Joseph: After 5 Wednesday would work for me.
- Amanda: Can you specify which Wednesday, given actual date and time?
- Jon: Not the 31st, but the Wednesday after that, Feb 7?
- Hannah: It seems like the Senate meeting will be on Feb 7
- Ardhra: What about other days that can work? Maybe you can just send a poll so that everyone can answer.
- Jon: So Leo is here from TSA club. Why don’t we table this discussion for later and go to his special allocation?

5. Review for Special Allocation (TSA)

- Leo: Hi, I am the VP of TSA, and I am here to discuss about our night market event. We’ve been doing this since 2001, and I believe this is the largest student run event at UW. We had around 7000 attendees last year, and probably same for this year. What

makes us stand out is the fact that besides from bringing out the Taiwanese culture, we encapsulate all cultures when we host this. This year, I am in charge of vendors, and we have vendors across Seattle area providing food from all countries. With UW Night Market, we just recently expanded to Quad to accommodate more space for food vendors or performances. We do bring a Taiwanese singer as well as performances from different RSOs on campus. You can see how the themes evolve throughout the years, and the Marketing team is still working on the theme this year. We also serve our own TSA food, which is a way for us to give back to the community. Of course, with TSA, as a club, we host events throughout the school year, but our main goal is to generate enough funding to afford this UW traditional night market event, as you know it's an expensive event that costs over \$40000. Regarding why GPSS fund matters, we need funding for on campus immediate expenses, including staffing, coordinating with different facilities, making sure the event is smooth. There are a lot of opportunities for grad students to be engaged with our event, such as attending, playing the game, enjoying the food, or they can always volunteer with us. As I mentioned, we include all cultural backgrounds from all around the world, not just Taiwanese. We want to have UW Night market as an inclusive space where everyone comes and enjoy one night together.

- Jon: We open up for Q&A now.
- Hannah: Do you expect to get revenue back from this event?
- Leo: Yes, in terms of revenue, TSA will be very transparent about finance as this is such a large-scale event. Our goal is actually to break even every year, and food is the primary way to do that. We are able to pay for purchasing the ingredients, and we are able to sell food to cover all the cost. We have food from so many vendors as well as food made by our own too.
- Jon: I was part of the F&B committee last year as well when you guys presented. You guys also asked for GPSS fund to cover UWPD security cost. I know one member raised concern about possibly GPSS associated with providing money for police force, keep in mind that last year was closer to George Floyd and all of the concerns with police brutality. I think that might be worth the members discussing, anyone okay with that? Otherwise, we can potentially ask TSA to move around with what they can do with GPSS money. But personally, I do not think that would be an issue
- Hannah: It's not an issue for me either.
- Amanda: Yeah, that was probably due to the time, but now it should be fine.
- Jon: I am curious. We have new grad members but also those who have been with UW for a while. Has anyone been to the night market?
- Maleen: Pretty good. There were so many people
- Carrie: I worked there last year. It was huge
- Jon: Seems like it's a familiar event for people. Last call for questions then we can wrap it up.
- Jon: Thank you so much Leo. Afterwards, we will have the discussion and vote on your application. I'll let you know the result

6. Voting Discussion

A. TEDxUofW

- Jon: Maleen brought up a concern, and I agree that as grad students, we did not really hear about this event. It does not seem like it is well advertised. I did not realize the fact that they are not allowing graduate speakers at the moment, which was surprising
- Maleen: Opening up for graduate students as speakers is a very big deal in my opinion. They can select their speakers, but at least give grad students a chance to talk.

- Jon: If you look at their officer decomposition, they did say it's all undergraduate students, with the exception of only 1 grad student who wants to join this year. So I think as they have their origin in the undergraduate programs, they might want to hear from industry professionals and network with them. But I don't think they really thought about the fact that graduate researchers can provide a lot of aspirational ideas too.
- Maleen: Especially we have a lot of great researchers here at UW. And the theme is Crossroads, so it can be a variety of things. I still think they should have included graduate student speakers, but I don't want to completely not give them money. I want them to seriously consider that next time if they are to receive money from us.
- Jon: One suggestion – the funding is conditional on the basis that starting next time, they secure slots for at least 2 graduate speakers.
- Amanda: TEDx usually has young speakers. The audience is smaller too. I do think it's a good idea to open for graduate student speakers, especially since it's what GPSS represents.
- Hannah: I'd be okay with approving a little less than what they requested this year. Or just say, next year, it'd be less if you do not bring in graduate & student speakers.
- Maleen: I don't think they tried to promote it at all. As a graduate student, I have never seen any information about this event until now.
- Jon: Based on what the presenter mentioned, I don't think they open applications to anyone outside. They probably just emailed industry professionals and see which ones are interested in. Have you heard of this event Carrie?
- Carrie: No, but I am not an expert – I can ask
- Jon: If you guys do not feel comfortable voting right now, we can postpone it till the next time we meet. That's an option too, but I want the committee to decide together.
- Maleen: I want to ask them a few more follow up questions.
- Jon: That's possible. Linh and I will collect questions, send to them and get their answers. In the meantime, you can also ask Coop for her opinion as well Carrie.
- Jon: Do we have consent to just defer this for now?
- Amanda: We can defer it for now, but there are some questions that if we can just look up online, it saves us time. I was just browsing their Instagram and found that the application was closed on December 17. It was advertised on Instagram at least, not sure elsewhere. It also looks like they have used this account for a few years.
- Carrie: 10 years.
- Jon: Seems like a good opportunity for GPSS to collaborate. This might be the first time they asked us for money. We have 2 options: first if we feel comfortable deciding on this, whether we fund this or not. Or if any members still have remaining questions, I recommend that we defer it. The event is on April 13, so we have time.
- Joseph: I am okay with giving them money and asking them to advertise to grad students and at least 1 grad student speaker in the future.
- Maleen: I am fine with funding them less
- Jon: Any idea what amount are we giving out?
- Amanda: I don't think we should give them less money. The point we try to convey here is participation next year for graduate students, so if anything, I think we should allow them to have the full fund, contingent upon if they'll fulfill the requirement for next year. Though they've never come to us, we do not have clarity on exactly some of the answers. We should wait, have them answer more questions, allow them to hold \$750 but that's contingent upon if they allow graduate student speaker for next year.
- Jon: We can give them funding, but in our letter to them say that it's our hope that they will change their format in the future and allow at least a few graduate student speakers.

Next year's funding maybe contingent on whether they are able to make that change for us.

- Ardhra: Maybe increasing grad student attendance this year can be a motivation.
- Jon: Yeah, we can ask them for some free tickets. We're running short of time, so I need a motion
- Ardhra: I move to approve TEDxUofW's special allocation request of \$750 under the condition that they show us something they can do to increase grad student participation
- Jon: Yeah, maybe we can ask them to offer around 20 tickets with free entry for GPSS to share with graduate students
- Maleen: Also add another condition that they select grad students as speakers for future events
- Joseph: I second the motion
- Jon: Can we have the show up hands? 7-0-0. I'll let you guys know how they answer our condition.

B. TSA

- Joseph: Seems like a fun event with a long tradition that is worth funding.
- Ardhra: I think we can go ahead with the approval.
- Joseph: I move to approve TSA's request for \$750
- Amanda: I second
- Jon: Can we have a show up hand for this one as well? I think Hannah had to drop off, so it's 6-0-0

7. Adjournment

- Ardhra: I motion to adjourn the meeting
- Joseph: I second

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31AM. VP of Finance thanked everyone for joining.