Services and Activities Fee Committee Meeting

December 6, 2024 | 1:00 PM | Husky Union Building 334

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Services and Activities Fee Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM on December 6, 2024.

Roll Call

- Present
    - <u>ASUW:</u> Haley Chee, Annie Chen, Jack Prichard, Aiden Reeder, Crystal Tran
    - <u>GPSS</u>: Alec Solemslie, Ryan Wicklund
    - <u>Advisor:</u> Kristian Wiles
- Absent
    - <u>ASUW:</u> Khushi Loomba (Unexcused)
    - <u>GPSS</u>: T Marzetta (Excused), Althea Rao (Excused)
    - <u>Advisors:</u> Lincoln Johnson (Excused)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for December 6, 2024 SAF meeting was approved. Motioned by Aiden Reeder, Seconded by Ryan Wicklund; unanimous vote to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the 11/8/24 SAF meeting were approved. Motioned by Ryan Wicklund, Seconded by Jack Prichard; unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

Public Comment [10 minutes]

Old Business

New Business

1. **SAF Capital Request Packet**

The SAF Committee Reserves total to about $400,000, which is significantly more than the Committee's operating costs of around $66,000. The SAF Committee Reserves aims to distribute around $100,000 and the SAF Capital Request Packet is one of the methods of doing so.

Haley asked for the Committee's thoughts on the arbitrarily set $33,000 limit for "limited capital request." She clarified that this Capital Request Packet is separate from the Committee Budget Packet.

- **Ryan** felt $33,000 is a lot of money for a Unit like GPSS, but this might be different for other Units.
    - o **Aiden** and **Alec** agreed that $33,000 is too much and proposed reducing it to $20,000, which a majority of the Committee supports.
- **Y** requested examples of what a Committee might be able to ask for with a $20,000 limit.
    - o Units can choose to use the requested maximum $20,000 for repairing broken items, buying equipment (where there is a possibility that SAF could partially cover), upgrading furniture, or addressing any other essential operating purchases.

On Page 3 of the packet, **Haley** asked the Committee to review her changes.

- **Alec** inquired what section "Capital Budget" falls under, as certain parts of an item, like technology, can determine the type of request that may be qualified to fall under a Unit like STF, or other organizations or departments.
    - o Ultimately, the decision is up to the Committee. If the SAF Committee determines a capital budget request is a better fit STF for example, then the request can be redirected appropriately. However, if the

Committee wants to make a specific stipend, she is open to adding it to this Capital Budget Request form.

- **Alec** suggests some wordings for a limited capital request related to technology and under $15,000, the request can be covered by SAF. If the technology-related request is greater than $15,000, the Units should be redirected to STF. In general, any requested amount over $15,000 is up to the Committee's discretion to review.

- **Annie** preferred if there was a question that asked exactly why the request would specifically be a one-time capital budget.
  - **Haley** agreed that the original example portion can be taken out and be replaced with a more detailed set of questions to better clarify the criteria for capital budget requests.

Haley asked for the Committee's thoughts on the "Justification & Question" section.

- **Ryan** wanted to ask a question about how the capital request will specifically benefit students.

With Unit Roundtables scheduled to start at 1:30 PM, Ryan Wicklund motioned to table this item until after the Roundtable, seconded by Aiden Reeder. The motion was unanimously approved to postpone the "SAF Capital Request Packet" new business item until after Roundtables.

After Roundtable, the Committee members made minor changes to the wordings of the new questions to the Capital Request Packet that were discussed earlier for better clarity.

The SAF Capital Budget Request Packet was approved. Motioned by Aiden Reeder, Seconded by Jack Prichard; unanimous approval (6-0-1) to approve the SAF Capital Budget Request Packet and send it out to the Unit leads.

Discussion

1. **Unit Roundtable**

Haley explained how the Roundtables will be led. Each Unit will have one minute to introduce themselves. Following that, each unit will be asked a series of three questions with two minutes to answer them:

1. Who is the primary audience for your unit and what outreach efforts do you make? If applicable, what can you do to increase engagement?
2. What collaborations do you take part in (RSOs, Departments, Other Units)?
3. Are you offering any new services this year or discontinuing any old services?

To ensure fairness, the start of each question will alternate between Units so a different Unit will start the question every time. If there is remaining time in the end, Committee members are welcome to ask any other questions directed at the Units, either towards a singular Unit or to every Unit.

1. **ASUW**

Speakers: Naomi Snow

Q&A:

1. ASUW primarily serves all UW students (undergraduate, graduate, and undocumented) and collaborates closely with GPSS. In terms of communication, ASUW has a team that oversees social media and supports ASUW staff. ASUW prioritizes their ability to delegate tasks with each ASUW board member taking responsibility for a specific area to ensure all types of students are represented. They want to make sure every student can find their people and community within a safe and fun environment. Students can get involved with ASUW through the Student Senate, ASUW-specific internships, and supporting ASUW's mission. ASUW hosts a variety of events, with each member organizing 1-3 events tailored to their constituency.
2. ASUW is one of the Units, like the HUB and GPSS, that collaborate with everyone. They have a lot of freedom with whom they choose to collaborate so their partnerships vary from year to year. This year, they are focused on increasing student engagement with cost-saving collaborations. ASUW partners with other student organizations, including GPSS, RCSA, Greek Life, etc. They also are working with administration to promote student healthcare services and collaborating with SAF and other Units to offer free printing services.

3. ASUW has been increasing operational costs to cover staff salaries and to increase RSO funding. They are discontinuing the UW Leaders Program, as demand has decreased despite its success post-COVID. Additionally, they are merging the separate Communication department with the =Outreach department into one branch for more efficient operation.

2. CAP

Speakers: Tim Wold

Q&A:

1. CAP's primary audience are students who have dependents aged from 0-12 years old. Of the allocation received from SAF, 92% directly goes back to students in the form of grants while the remainder goes to miscellaneous supplies. In addition to grants, CAP also offers childcare counseling for these student parents.
2. CAP's program is different from other Units since their main goal is to give as much childcare out to student parents. CAP's main collaborations are directly with the student parents themselves and working together to manage the costs of childcare, with infants and toddlers being more expensive, on top of paying tuition, housing, and food like any other college student. CAP also works and reaches out to the Counseling Center, HFS, Food Pantry, and other colleges that may have emergency programs, so the whole process becomes a student-based network of assistance to ensure students have all the support they need on this campus. Through the childcare-assistant program, there is a lot of direct referrals and assistance, minimizing the need for students to navigate to many offices and repeatedly having to explain their situation.
3. CAP is not planning to discontinue anything this year. Their new initializations are more about finding more ways to increase their outreach efforts, looking for more funding sources, and giving or redirecting the best resources available to student parents.

3. Counseling Center

Speakers: Natacha Foo Kune

Q&A:

1. The Counseling Center serves students facing mental health issues, ranging from minor to more significant concerns, by offering short-term counseling. A secondary audience includes involvement with the campus community itself and becoming a more self-aware space, as students often turn to trusted individuals on campus when facing struggles. Therefore, it is important for people on campus to be knowledgeable about the Counseling Center's services and refer students in need. As a way of outreach, the Counseling Center uses social media, campus events, and ensure there is always a diverse staff in the Center who can share their experiences and connect with students.

2. Counseling Center tries to collaborate with anyone they can. For example, through their *Let's Talk* program, the Counseling Center staff directly visits different locations, partnering with spaces like ECC, CIRCLE, and others, to offer informal, one-on-one support. They also work with the UW academic schools and provide embedded counselors funded by the school, who then can directly create tailored outreach and events within their own program. Other collaborations can be seen with LiveWell with their suicide prevention program, or the Q-Center to respond to the student needs after the election results, and many others.

3. The Counseling Center has noticed many students experiencing psychological and suicide-related concerns. To address this, the Counseling Center has partnered with an agency called *Mission For Michael*, which was founded by a parent who lost their child and is dedicated to providing hospitalization and counseling services. This new partnership allows the Counseling Center to collaborate with AppleHealth to offer scholarships for some participating students. Additionally, the Counseling Center provides gender-affirming care and works with social therapists from ECC's Leadership Without Borders and the Intellectual House to support students' diverse needs.

4. Food Pantry

Speakers: Rachael Carter

1. Food Pantry serves any active member of the UW community facing food insecurity, with around 90% of the users being students and 10% is a non-student (e.g. UW Staff). Outreach consists of tabling, class presentations, and working with other student groups on campus, social media, and traditional media (like in the Daily). The Food Pantry has recently launched a newsletter to expand its outreach, with both physical and online copies available to the community. who visits but most are online copies.

2. Food Pantry collaborates with local organizations and stores, particularly to address the challenge of accessing fresh food and produce in the area. They have also collaborated with ASUW, WashPRIG, and others with events like food drives, events, and tabling. Another big partnership the Food Pantry does is with a food coalition, a collaboration amongst other college campuses to share resources and strategies. The Food Pantry also participates in research and interviews about food pantries, contributing to studies that extend beyond UW and into broader media, such as advice on food storage (e.g., how long certain foods can be kept in the fridge), proper food safety, and more.

3. The Food Pantry is not discontinuing any services. The only new addition is the newsletter. The Pantry is working hard to meet the growing demand and the increasing diversity of its unique customers each year. They hope to extend their hours to better accommodate different student schedules, even if it means offering full shopping and collection options. Additionally, they are exploring new initiatives and aiming to build capacity to support more students. The newsletter is a key part of this effort, connecting students to a broader range of food options.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Alec – how do you collect feedback and implement that back into your services?

- **ASUW** has anonymous online forms but mostly get their feedback through direct conversations with students. Because every group within ASUW in constituency on campus, ASUW spreads out so that all organizations and services are supported and are in contact with at least one person in ASUW. They have also hosted town halls to get direct student opinions and organize

elections every spring quarter, which help align ASUW's work with student interests to reflect student needs

- **CAP** mostly tracks feedback with daily interactions with current students they have already supported. They have done surveys in the past and will probably try again this year. Overall, it depends on year by year.
- **Counseling Center** creates a client satisfaction survey every year with specific parameters to assess the impact of counseling on students' academic, relationship, and overall well-being. There is a lot of well written feedback but overall, the most common constructive feedback is to receive longer counselor sessions. However, due to resource limitations and funding, this isn't available. Additionally, the Counseling Center has an advisory board to address ongoing issues and improve services.
- **Food Pantry** conducts a visitor survey every autumn, including questions about dietary restrictions and other aspects of food. There is also a dropbox available for written feedback. To encourage participation, they're working on offering small incentives for those who complete the survey since student feedback will help guide decisions on the types of food the Pantry should offer to better meet the needs of students.

Ryan – Do you have any program or intentions for graduate students, and any plans to create new programs?

- **Counseling Center** serves many graduate students, with several programs specifically catered to them. These include group sessions that are designed to feel less intimidating and provide social support. At the beginning of each year, the Counseling Center offers targeted programs for graduate students, including those who are teaching assistants, to highlight mental health resources available to them and for students alongside other resources they can access throughout the year.
- **Food Pantry** shared that the majority of their visitors are graduate students. There isn't specific being done inclusively for outreach to graduate students but if that is something the Food Pantry would be interested in the future.
- **ASUW** serves all students including undergraduates, graduates, and doctoral students so they can't really discriminate between one group over another. However, ASUW does discuss and share governance with GPSS.

- **CAP** primarily targets students with dependents so they're aiming to reach the right audience overall who can benefit from their support rather than targeting a certain group.

Alec – From your Unit's perspective, what are the greatest needs of the students and do you, as Unit leaders, feel like you're meeting the needs?

- **CAP** – The cost of childcare is a big obstacle, especially with how much more expensive it is for infants and toddlers than any other age group. CAP would love to fund a greater percentage if they could and are planning to host a finance party to offer additional support for student parents facing financial insecurity.
- **Food Pantry** will continue focusing on costs and improving access to food. Students can visit the Food Pantry once a week but it's often a struggle to provide enough food for the people who do visit within a week, especially for nutrients that are staples for a well-functioning body.
- **ASUW**'s biggest challenge is with costs and the bandwidth of their employees. With increased funding, ASUW could allocate more money to RSOs and expand employee support.
- **Counseling Center** – The greatest need lies in mental health support, specifically focusing on systemic issues and a transition away from rational thinking. The Counseling Center will continue prioritizing accessibility and outreach so that students know about and can easily access counseling services when they need them.

Annie – When focusing on one part of the student population as your primary audience, you will tend to get a large number of repeated students. Do you have any other ideas to involve other student groups that might not typically interact with your services?

- **ASUW** - From an external perspective, engaging with RSO leaders and other student organization leaders is key. Internally, it's about shaping the culture and promoting values like inclusivity for all groups to reach a broader audience.
- **CAP**: Outreach is the biggest priority for connecting with new student parents. Since the need for childcare assistance can vary each quarter, CAP

requires students to apply for childcare support every quarter. To better serve student parents, CAP is working on creating a more robust communication system to reach new students because the main way currently, is through Financial Aid notifications.

- **Counseling Center**: The Counseling Center uses social media, its website, and the Husky Help Line to reach students, with around 70% of users last year having never accessed these services before. Given the size of the campus, there's a constant need to find new ways to engage students and ensure they know mental health support is available.
- **Food Pantry**: The Food Pantry sees many one-time visitors but also has a consistent range of users. To build community connections, the Food Pantry relies on student volunteers, which is around 75 each week, who help facilitate interactions outside the classroom. Additionally, other student groups have supported the Pantry by hosting food drives, even if they don't plan to use the pantry themselves. Due to the Pantry's location, which is far from major student groups, there are efforts to encourage departments to set up mini-pantry stations to make food access more convenient for students.

Announcements

There is no meeting next week due to finals but the first SAF meeting in winter quarter is the first back on January 10, 2025 where budget presentations will be starting. Y will create a document to record any questions that may arise during presentations.

Adjournment

The SAF meeting was called to adjourn at 2:56 PM. Motion to adjourn by Ryan Wicklund, seconded by Aiden Reeder; unanimous vote to adjourn.