



Spring 2017 GPSA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 2017 January 17

Location: Student Union Building, Sandia Room

Presiding Committee Member: Travis Scholten

Present Committee Members: Travis Scholten, Brian Mackie-Mason, Hahn Nguyen

Absent Committee Members: Joe Raborn

1 Opening

Meeting called to Order at 1001

Roll call of committee members was taken.

Agenda Approval: Rep Scholten moved to add an agenda item, 3d, to specify the February meeting. Rep Mackie-Mason and Nguyen concurred. Agenda item added.

Approval of Minutes: The FC unanimously approved the minutes of its 2017 November 28 meeting.

2 Preliminary Business

2.1 Media and Gallery

No media and gallery.

2.2 Chair Reports

No Chair reports.

2.3 Budget Revisions

No budget revisions were discussed at this time.

3 Business Items

3.1 Appropriations Request: SP 2017-001 - Student Organization for Latin American Studies (SOLAS)

SOLAS presented a request for funding to help the group hold its *Sin Fronteras* film festival, in conjunction with the Guild Cinema in Nob Hill, from February 24 through 26. The Guild will be charging them \$500 to rent the space. The group has received funding from other organizations to help pay the licensing fees for showing the films. The film festival will be open to members of the public, at no charge.

Rep Nguyen inquired as to how many students are in SOLAS. SOLAS indicated there are approximately 10 “active” members, and some other graduate members, plus a handful of undergraduates. Rep Nguyen observed that GPSA members’ fees should be paid to activities which benefit graduate students, not just the general public. SOLAS replied that many graduate students in the group, plus other groups, do in fact attend.

Rep Mackie-Mason asked whether SOLAS had considered renting out the SUB theatre. SOLAS replied they had not.

Rep Scholten asked whether the cost of the rental was \$500 exactly, or if the cost was greater. SOLAS indicated the Guild is charging them \$500 exactly.

Rep Mackie-Mason moved to approve the request as requested; Rep Nguyen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3.2 Determination of the Spring Budget Process timeline

Rep Scholten told the FC that the time had come to coordinate the Spring Budget process timeline. The GPSA Bylaws specify when certain events must be undertaken; at this time, the FC needed to come up with exact dates, in consultation with SGAO, for workshops, hearings, and deliberations.

Rep Scholten asked the FC whether they would be comfortable with him working with SGAO to set the dates and times of the workshops, an event where student groups learn how the process works, and receive documentation and a budget packet. As these workshops are run by the FC Chair or Vice-Chair, and not the FC, Rep Scholten said it would be prudent for the FC to allow him to make that schedule in conjunction with SGAO. Reps Mackie-Mason and Nguyen agreed.

The FC agreed to set the deadline for applications at the maximum allowable by the Bylaws, which is 2017 February 17.

Regarding the budget hearings, the FC determined that they shall take place on February 27 and 28, and run from 0900 to 1700 both days. The format of the workshops shall be that indicated in a budget packet from the 2015-2016 process. (Documentation shall be updated by Rep Scholten, and provided to groups attending the budget workshops.)

For its deliberations, the FC chose March 6, from 0800 to 1800. This date gives the FC Chair sufficient time to prepare their presentation to Council during its March meeting.

3.3 Update FC Standing Rules

Rep Scholten brought to the attention of the FC several inconsistencies and errors in the FC's Standing Rules, and asked that the FC review them. These changes included:

- Re-naming the title "Spring 2017 GPSA Finance Committee Standing Rules"
- On page 4, line item 13c, changing "February 29" to "February 28"

Reps Nguyen and Mackie-Mason agreed such changes are in order.

Rep Scholten also brought up some issues surrounding the line item "Travel". Citing the FC's actions during the Fall 2016 semester, Rep Scholten proposed adding clarifying language stipulating the FC may consider funding requests whose "Travel" line item could be more appropriately covered by SRG/PDG funding. After discussion, the FC agreed to add the sentence "The FC may consider funding such requests at its discretion." after the sentence "Appropriations are not intended to cover travel which can be covered by SRG or PDG funds." on page 4.

The FC also considered whether including explicit references to mileage rates and UNM Foundation surcharges made sense. In particular, Rep Scholten pointed out that such numbers are determined by UNM policy, not the FC, and so, it would be prudent to simply indicate in the Standing Rules that the policies will be followed. Reps Mackie-Mason and Nguyen agreed, and the FC decided to delete the phrases "for 2016 academic year this is set at Fifty-six cents (\$0.56) per mile." and "Currently, the surcharge is 0.5%." on page 4.

Rep Scholten will forward the modified Standing Rules to the Council Chair, for Council's consideration and approval at its next meeting.

3.4 Determination of 2017 February meeting

The FC agreed to next meet on 2017 February 14, at 1245, room to be determined. Rep Scholten will work with the GPSA Chief of Staff to find a room for the meeting.

4 Discussion Items

The FC discussed several topics, detailed below. As discussion items are for discussion only, no official committee action was required.

4.1 Update on GPSA Finance Working Group

Rep Scholten briefed the FC on the status of the GPSA Finance Working Group. Rep Scholten indicated momentum had stalled, in part because of the winter break, but that he was optimistic further progress could be made on providing a sound framework for managing GPSA's finances. Of particular interest is the determination of whether the FC should have the authority to manage a consolidated budget, which would include all revenue streams into GPSA. The FC agreed this would be a wise choice, for sound management of the Association's finances. Rep Scholten said he would take this message back to the Working Group.

Additionally, Rep Scholten inquired as to whether the FC knew who had the statutory authority to authorize new scholarship programs within the Association. The FC agreed the matter was unclear, and indicated the Working Group may wish to address such questions for transparency's sake.

Citing an increased academic workload, Rep Mackie-Mason indicated he would not be able to further partake in meetings of the Working Group.

4.2 FC web presence on the GPSA site

The FC discussed some about its web presence, an initiative lead by Rep Scholten last semester.

5 Closing

5.1 Chair Comments and Future Meetings

No comments. The next FC meeting is scheduled for 2017 February 14, at 1245, room to be determined.

5.2 Committee Member Comments

No comments.

5.3 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1124.

6 Appropriations Summary

At this meeting, a total of \$500 dollars was requested, and spending in the amount of \$500 was recommended by the Finance Committee. From correspondance with SGAO, the most recent estimate of the General Fund's balance through 2017/06/30 is \$41,745.89. This estimate was computed as of 2017 January 19.