Finance Committee Meeting  
January 20, 2016  
5:05pm

**Members Present**  
Marie Lina Excellent, Chair  
Heather Woods  
Orrin Stone  
Autumn McClellan, GPSF Treasurer

Lee Hong, Appropriations Committee member (Invited Guest)

**Minutes**

- Chair Excellent and Treasurer McClellan explained the purpose of today’s meeting: to review the current Treasury Laws and consider incorporating information from the Appropriations Funding Guidelines into the Treasury Laws.
- Member Julien Isnard was absent, but sent questions via email to discuss:
  - “…these are things with which I find issue.
    1. Eligibility: “your application must be endorsed by a current senator.”
    I think this is a road block that need not be. If it’s well crafted, it shouldn’t need an individual to vouch for it. Sure, that may be easy to do, but it’s an extra step.

    2. For events that are open to “many graduate students” or that are interdepartmental in nature, I can’t find anything about making sure it’s not just “open” to others, but “publicized” to others. For example, I could be holding an event and say “sure, anyone can come,” but if I don’t actually go out of my way to tell more than just my friends about it, is it really an multidisciplinary event?”
  - Lee Hong commented that only 2 of the 15 requests the Appropriations Committee has seen this semester have had any difficulty acquiring Senator support, but eventually did
- Treasurer McClellan stated that RSO Advisors can also “sign off” on an Appropriations Request.
  - However, the committee wonders what process actually occurs when a Senator or Advisor “signs off” – are these people actually providing an “extra set of eyes” on the application as intended, or do they offer their support without reviewing the request?
- Chair Excellent would like to know more about how Senators are interacting with their constituency
  - GPSF does not have a monitoring or enforcement mechanism in place that captures how Senators interact with their constituency
  - Woods: How can GPSF incentivize communication between Senators and their constituency? Also, Senator sign-off is not the biggest roadblock to requesting Appropriations funds; the amount of work required to apply and receive funds is major roadblock.
  - Stone: Why is Senator input more important than any other person? (regarding approval of Appropriations request)
  - Hong: Senator endorsement is an indicator of a well-prepared request
  - The committee is still undecided on the following issue:
- How do we incentivize GPSF participation without punishing those who don’t have representation?

- The committee believes that the Fundraising, GPSF Funding Guidelines, GPSF Cannot Fund, and GPSF Will Not Fund Groups That sections of the GPSF Funding Guidelines should be incorporated into the Treasury Laws (see Figure 1 below)
  - Add $50 Honorarium limit, and change “speaker fees” to “speaker honorarium”
- Should GPSF incorporate Social Appropriations into the Senate Appropriations?
- The Committee is still undecided as to how to incentivize GPSF participation in awarding funds, but how to avoid penalizing groups that are unable to participate
  - The committee will present this information to the GPSF Senate and seek their input
- Cancelling the January 27 meeting

Figure 1: Excerpt from GPSF Funding Guidelines Document; to be added to GPSF Treasury Laws

**FUNDRAISING**: Money can be borrowed from GPSF for fundraising activities; this money must be paid back to GPSF. Please specify in your request if you are applying for *appropriations or fundraising* money.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPSF FUNDING GUIDELINES</th>
<th>GPSF CANNOT FUND</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hotel fees are capped at $90/night</td>
<td>• payment to an ex-employee</td>
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<tr>
<td>gas and mileage can be reimbursed only up to the IRS standard mileage rate for charitable organizations ($0.14/mile)</td>
<td>• individual gain (t-shirts, gifts, prizes, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>printing costs cannot exceed $0.03/page for black &amp; white copies; color copies, brochures, and posters will be considered on a case-by-case basis; for advertising projected at over $100, two signed quotes are required</td>
<td>• third-party fundraising (expenditures that result in tangible gain for any organization that is not eligible for funding through GPSF)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• alcohol</td>
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**GPSF will not fund groups that:**
- discriminate in violation of the GPSF Treasury Law
- are not officially recognized student organizations
- do not have the signatures of a GPSF senator and a Faculty Advisor
- apply retroactively
- do not have a SAFO account
- do not have a certified treasurer
- have not submitted a previous Post-Budget report (if applicable)
- do not agree to acknowledge GPSF as a contributor to any event/program that is funded