

Research Council 22 Oct 08  
Houston Hall, Bodek Lounge

Attendees:

Stephanie Milk, SAS	Esther R. Penkston, Nursing
Wenting Li, SAS	Carla Cué, SAS
Casey Bohrmarr, SP2	Lee Solomon, Medicine
Tim Shokair, SAS	Jacqui Simonet, Medicine
Allison Sullivan, SAS	Olga Shebanova, SEAS
Kamula Alexander, Nursing	Carolyn Chernoff, GSE
Henry Friedman, Wharton	Leslie Anne Warden, SAS, Deputy VC
Susan Haas, Annenberg	Jonathon Lukens, VC Research

1. Approval of minutes, sent out by Jonathon via email:
  - a. Susan motioned to approve the minutes, Henry seconded the motion.  
Approved unanimously
2. Academic funding grants:
  - a. Chemical Biophysics Mini-Symposium series
    - i. Diana Cabral, PhD student from Chemistry Dept, financial coordinator of the symposium, presented the request.
      1. It is a student run, one-day event held three times a year.  
Up to four speakers invited from other schools (profs, post-docs, grad students). Each symposium lasts for full day and includes meals.
      2. ~150 people attend through the day
      3. Cost: \$4500-5500 for EACH of the three events
      4. Asking for \$1200 from GAPSA
    - ii. Tim Shokair: Will you come back for funding next semester?
    - iii. Diana: summer is funded through another grant, so only need funding for the fall and spring events. I think we try to only ask for funding (from GAPSA) once. We usually try to get corporate support, but this year we are getting a lot of “nos”.
    - iv. Olga: Does the dept sponsor this event?
    - v. Diana: Chem and BMB each give \$3000 a year. This is needed on top of that.
    - vi. Henry: What’s our (GAPSA Research Council’s) total budget?
    - vii. Jonathon: We will address this during our discussion
    - viii. Carla: The SAS money that you get, does this go to this as well? Through SASgov?
    - ix. Diana: I’m not sure where the Chem money comes from...
    - x. (Reminders to apply for money through SASgov – departmental or interdisciplinary – follow)
  - b. PGWISE
    - i. Esther Yu, PhD student in Bioengineering, presented the request

1. Bringing in Jorge Chan from PhD comics (want to bring him in '09 – last he was here was '05).
  2. Chan asks for \$2300 honorarium for one hour lecture. PGWISE is trying to cooperate with Drexel; each pay \$1700 and each split hotel and plane.
  3. GSEG give \$1000, BGSA \$500, GSC \$750, Career Services \$200, Nursing pending, SASgov pending, Bookstore supporting not with money, but bringing books for sale before and after, added advertisement with them.
  4. Cohen G17 (seats 300), thinking pizza because catering costs too much. Beer? Also too expensive.
  5. Asking GAPSA for \$1000.
- ii. Carla: What would he talk about?
  - iii. Esther: “The power of procrastination.”
  - iv. Christa: This (the request) is covering not just the honorarium?
  - v. Esther: No, dinner, cab, airfare, etc...
  - vi. Susan: Is there any opportunity for Q&A?
  - vii. Esther: Yes, there will be a Q&A at end. Book selling before, lecture, Q&A, and then book signing. Still thinking about possibility of dinner afterwards... but it's too expensive.
  - viii. Henry: Are you going to be able to put a video up online after? Will there be a hard contract?
  - ix. Esther: I am not sure... I think he recycles this talk and charges all schools this amount. No hard contract, so I guess we could just put up the video... but this isn't the best option.
  - x. Susan: Are there any constraints about student newspaper access to him?
  - xi. Esther: No, he is open to meeting students. We're even thinking about doing a combined happy hour with Drexel where students can interact with him.
  - xii. Susan: This honorarium seems high, but it's actually quite low.
  - xiii. Leslie: Can you move to a bigger space?
  - xiv. Esther: We'll look into it.
  - xv. Olga: How successful was it in '05?
  - xvi. Esther: Very. The room sat 100, and they had to turn people away.
- c. Discussion:
- i. Jonathon: Right now, we have about \$3500/semester to spend this year. We do not have to split it evenly. Last year, we spent about evenly both semesters. (*Third Request is handed out, from Political Science Dept. There is no representative presenting the request, so it's details are somewhat absent from the minutes. They requested \$500.*)
  - ii. Kamila: What will we fund, what won't we?
  - iii. Tim: Last year, we spent a lot of time talking about funding this (the PoliSci request) because of the controversy of the award. We

also like to look at how broad the appeal is – is it specific to only one department, or more?

- iv. Jaqui: We also thought a lot last year about how much they were asking for and how many people that money would reach.
- v. Susan: Do we have to fund academic events?
- vi. Jonathon: That is something we should think about.
- vii. Re: Chem Biophysics Request:
  - 1. Tim: If we have roughly \$3500 semester, funding all three things will cost us \$2700.
  - 2. Jonathon: We can also fund these at less than the amount they are requesting.
  - 3. Henry: I'd be happier funding PGWISE if the speaker was available to everyone and they streamed.
  - 4. Tim: Everyone has an equal chance to come to the event... if they're on campus.
  - 5. Lee: I'd like them to be in a bigger space.
  - 6. Jonathon: We can make that a requirement
  - 7. Olga: Can we compare all of these requests?
  - 8. Susan: It seems like as a research council we fund research events. The PhD comics guy doesn't quite fit in.
  - 9. Tim: It's the sort of thing we might normally fund, but that's a third of our budget.
  - 10. Tim, Jonathon: Chem Biophysics: can we fund them just 500?
  - 11. Christa: I don't understand why you're saying the budget went down this year when the research council is the only entity where the budget went up. The extra money spent last year came from the old GSAC surplus.
  - 12. Jonathon: I'm looking at the bottom line on the budget sheet.
  - 13. (Side conversation between Jonathon and Christa: the academic event funding is \$4,700 this semester.)
  - 14. Tim: Can I move that we fund BioChem for \$1000 as we did last year?
  - 15. Susan: second.
  - 16. Passed unanimously.
- viii. PGWISE
  - 1. Tim: I think we fund them fully. Everyone loves PhD comics.
  - 2. Lee: Everywhere they go, the audience gets larger and larger.
  - 3. Stephanie: If we make them get a bigger space, we might be increasing their budget since they will have to pay for space.
  - 4. Jonathon: We can make the recommendation without making the money contingent upon it.

5. Tim: I motion that we fund it for \$1000 with recommendation that they find a larger room and webcast if possible.
  6. Allison: Second.
  7. Approved by all but one member in attendance. Henry abstains.
- ix. Political Sci: Scott Nearing Award
1. Tim: There was a lot of discussion on this last year. And we discussed it, and discussed it, but in the end decided it was a good idea.
  2. Christa: I think we added a line that the views expressed are not necessarily our views.
  3. Henry: (Looking at the budget for PoliSci's event.) That's an expensive lunch!
  4. Leslie: \$400 for 5 people.
  5. Henry: Can we look into this lunch thing?
  6. Lee: Can we go to lunch, too?
  7. Leslie: Can we stipulate that this is only for the honoraria – not the lunch?
  8. Stephanie: They have \$1500 secured of \$3000. I don't know where the rest is coming from.
  9. Henry: But the \$1500 doesn't square with numbers 2-4 above it.
  10. Carla: It looks like not everything has been secured.
  11. Jacqui: Motion that we fund it \$500 with the stipulation it is to be spent on the honoraria?
  12. Stephanie: Second.
  13. In favor: 12. Two abstentions, one opposed.
- d. Adjourned.