

Research Council Minutes
4 Mar 09
6:00-7:00 pm
Graduate Activities Suit, Houston Hall

Attendees:

Jonathan Lukens	Vice Chair for Research Students
Leslie Anne Warden	SAS, Deputy Vice Chair for Research
Carla Cue	SAS
Allison Sullivan	SAS
Tim Shokair	SAS
Raleigh Martin	SAS
Henry Friedman	Wharton
Sasan Haas	Annenberg
Jacqui Simonet	Medicine
Lee Soloman	Medicine
Caroline Chernoff	GSE
Corbit Brown	Nursing
Olga Shebanova	Engineering

1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

?? : Motion to approve

Lee: Seconded

Approved by a unanimous vote

2. Funding: Academic Funding Requests

Jonathan: we have about \$8000 to spend on academic events that has been budgeted, plus about 7000 left over from travel grants. I'd prefer to spend this money on Research Council stuff versus the rest of GAPSA. We have three academic requests today. The first is from the Linguistics grad group in SAS.

Bob Lannon (Linguistics): The event is the 33rd Penn linguistics colloquium, organized and put on by grad students, with peer reviewed submissions from US and France. The event takes place over 2 days and includes all of our subfields. Over the past 5 -6 years it's become a more and more well-known conference. Started as a grad student conference (with papers by dissertating students and post docs) but now we run the gamut – younger grad students through tenured faculty. We've submitted a request for funding to host the colloquium again, including paying for two rooms in Huntsman and the MBA lounge, technology costs, party and refreshments.

Allison: How many people attend?

Bob: Last year 96 people attended.

Tim: Were any of the attendees from outside of linguistics?

Bob: Outside of linguistics... I'm not 100% sure, but maybe up to 30-35 people.

Mostly people from outside the university

Jonathan: The request is for \$3766. If we can't fund it all, do you have other ways to get the money?

Bob: There is a registration fee, and we think we are close to recouping the costs. We got \$1500 from GAPSA last year and we assumed we can get that this year, so that's what we budgeted for.

Susan: Is it free for our own students?

Bob: The maintenance of the conference is part of our club dues. The grads have already contributed, this year only \$20. If it costs as much as last year's, we would have to increase the club's contribution, so we cut down the budget this year.

Carla: Did you apply for SASgov interdisciplinary funding?

Bob: We did for a separate panel, attached to this program but not part of this budget.

Leslie: If you asked for \$1500 from GAPSA and budgeted for less, why are you asking for over \$3000?

Bob: it will cut down the costs to our students.

Susan: How much of this is fixed costs?

Bob: Most of these figures are confirmed and not adjustable by number of attendees. The only real adjustable cost we have is refreshments.

Henry: I'm a little unclear on your budgeting... you budgeted for say \$1400 from GAPSA, so you're saying \$2300 would be made up by your students?

Bob: Students and registration fees.

Henry: What did you charge last year for registration fees?

Bob: We raised them last year, but this year: \$30 students, \$40 for faculty. 90 of 96 who registered last year were students.

Susan: Let me clarify... Jonathan: If we gave them the whole amount and they didn't spend it, we would reimburse them less?

Jonathan: Not is it were journaled, which is easier than handling receipts. In that case, they would still get all of the money.

Henry: Is it invite only?

Bob: Not at all.

Jacqui: Just to clarify... you're asking for \$1500...?

Bob: I gave \$3600 on the application because that's what it will cost my dept.

Jacqui: I'm confused when you say you only budgeted us to contribute \$1500...

Bob: The rest will be made up with registration fees and emergency dues paying.

Raleigh: If you got \$3700, students wouldn't pay dues and the conference wouldn't have a registration fee?

Bob: That's absolutely possible.

Leslie: How much revenue are you anticipating from registration this year?

Bob: We're anticipating at least \$1000... we won't know until end of pre-registration. 96 people attended last year, and attendance has been climbing the last few years.

Bob is thanked for his presentation and leaves to all the Research Council to deliberate

Tim: The max we allow is \$2000, so they're really asking for \$2000.

Jonathan: The other requests we have are \$1000 and another \$1000 request. Right now we have \$8000 allocated to academic event funding.

Susan: What was the pace of applications last year?

Tim: I want to say we got the majority early in the semester.

Jacqui: We [Medicine] have one; it will be something like \$2000. He'll present it next time.

Tim: What's the date of this event [the Linguistics conference]?

Jonathan: 28-29 March

Tim: If it was in April we could partially fund them and then give them the rest if we have extra money... but their event is too soon and I think they would want to know how much money they have.

Jonathan: They budgeted for us to provide \$1500

Tim: I move that we fund them for \$1500 with the note that they can come back if they run up, up to \$500.

Jonathan: Only if we have it available

Caroline: second

motion carries unanimously

Jonathan: Our second request is for an event in early Oct 2009.... From Vet and SAS "Dialogues on Animality"

Olga: Do we start meeting early enough in Fall semester to deal with this?

Jonathan: Yes. We'll save it for next year's VC Research.

Application is tabled until next year

Jonathan: Our third event: Lambda grads are coming to GAPSA for \$1500. We figure because of the surplus discussions it would be hard for them to get that money. Nikki is giving them \$500 from the Student Life budget. Lambda grads is a longstanding group and we can fund them \$500, \$200, whatever.

Tim: What is the nature of event?

Jonathan: Cheryl Jacque, LGBT activist and former Congresswoman, is coming to speak at Penn. Event total is \$2500, they're asking \$1500 from GAPSA. She's charging \$2500 for her honorarium plus travel. We're just paying part of their fees.

Esther Agbaje, Vice Chair for Equity and Access: As far as I know, Lambda grads talked her down to \$2500 honorarium and \$100 for travel expenses. They're asking for \$2000 from GAPSA, Nikki gave \$500, I gave \$500. It's her speaker fees.

Leslie: What is the cost of rest of event?

Esther: They are going through the LGBT center and other LGBT groups in the area.

Allison: They're asking for over half from GAPSA?

Jonathan: Yes. I've had experience with some Lambda grad events, and they put on a good event with good attendance.

Carla: Is the finance committee helping them with something?

Esther: If finance is helping them, then it was something operational.

Susan: When is this event?

Jonathan: 23 March.

Caroline: Motion to Fund the full \$1000.

Susan: Second.

Tim: My only concern is that if we fund them more than the other committees – I'm fine with funding them – this goes to non-research students too. I think \$500 is a good amount and am not opposed to \$1000, but sorta opposed because this isn't just a research event.

Susan: We funded the PhD Comics thing.

Jacqui: But that's a research event.

Henry: Can someone explain to me how this appeals to research students? I remember from Esther's presentation last meeting that this is very business, professional student oriented.

Susan: At Annenberg, we work with who is heard. LGBT, voices being heard, how change happens, is all of research interest.

Jonathan: In SP2, everyone targets marginalized populations, so for people in my program or PolySci, it would be of interest. I personally endorse funding the full \$1000; I'm not worried about the research student attendance. I understand the point, but I don't think it's a concern.

Tim: Can we split this with the professional council? I want them to get all of the money, but...

Jonathan: I haven't seen Matt at a meeting in months. I think that would be ideal, or funding with the GA, but without quorum or Matt, that's impossible. Lambda grads need the money now and we have the resources.

Susan: What's our average for events?

Jonathan: \$1000- \$1500

Caroline: How do we draw the line about how what's interesting to research or professional students?

Tim: We tend to fund events that are specifically research organized.

Corbit: I think we should full the \$1000 with the intention that we will get the professional students to put \$500 in, and/or the GA.

Jonathan: Is that a friendly amendment?

Caroline: Yes.

Henry: Can I make another friendly amendment that we encourage them to get research students involved? I just think they don't know to target us.

Susan: Based on my school, I think they're assuming it's research, too.

Henry: I disagree. Their grant was all about politics and ignored research students. I think they should reach out to us since RC is funding so much.

Jacqui: Through advertising?

Jonathan: Put flyers up to research schools.

Caroline: Maybe give the speaker research topics we study to have her focus?

Tim: We don't need them to change their agenda, but just ask them to reach out.

Jonathan: We can talk to their rep tonight. I would like to see notification to PhD granting schools. It is sorta an odd request for us. It's not quite what we normally do, but I didn't want to see this event fall through the cracks.

Leslie: Is that a friendly amendment?

Caroline: Yes.

Corbit: How do we get the professionals onboard?

Jonathan: I'm going to shame them in the GA.

Allison: So we're paying more than half of this event?

Leslie: More than half of the speaker costs, but we are not paying for the rest of the event.

Allison: What are the other costs?

Leslie: Room reservation, organization, etc.

Motion carries unanimously

3. Funding: Reallocation of leftover travel grant funds

Jonathan: Do we want to sponsor another provost award? Do we want to go halves with the Provost on another one?

Henry: I'd rather get a sweeter coffee machine in the Grad Center.

Susan: Are we going to be talking about that today? I'm just thinking the economy sucks and funding one more person would be a good thing.

Jacqui: I still want it to go to a research student.

Jonathan: I don't have a big problem with that.

Tim: If we're funding it, it makes good sense.

Corbit: It's too bad we can't get the Professional Council to match us.

Susan: Motion to fund an extra GAPSA Provost Interdisciplinary Award for a research student.

Tim: I second.

Henry: To be chosen after the first six?

Corbit: Instead of stipulating, can we just suggest?

Susan: I don't know... Not taking it as a friendly amending.

motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned