

DRAC Meeting  
February 24, 2021  
Zoom

Attendance:

Travis Cram  
Vanessa Blackburn  
Rebecca McLean  
Erin Emry  
Patrick Roulet  
Kevin Harris  
Evan Shuster  
Darren McCroom  
Rich Brown  
Mary Piekarczyk  
Allison Mazurek  
Quin Wilder  
Keenan Kaeming  
Nikki Larson  
Amy Lazzell  
Ryan Meredith  
Jaya Flanary  
Erica Steele  
Jeffrey Newcomer  
Megan McGinnis  
Christa Schulz

Review of the minutes from February 17, 2021  
Evan Shuster to approve minutes and Kevin Harris second.  
All approved.

Evan Shuster presenting for Forensics (Debate) Budget Overview

**Regular Academic Year Request**

AY22 Budget Request: \$173,512  
AY21 Approved Budget: \$173,400  
Percent Growth: .1% increase

**Summer Budget Request**

Summer 22 Budget Request: \$8,927  
Summer 21 Approved Budget: \$43,200

Percent Growth: 107% increase

Program Highlights:

1. Expansion of regional student-centered form of competitive debate that balances intellectual and research rigor with accessibility and work/life/school balance.
  2. Continued national level participation in rigorous evidence-driven debate competitions that are well attended by major public and private research universities.
  3. Pursuing the globalization of debate curriculum through participation in international debate and argumentation tours and the World's University Debate Championship debate.
  4. Globalizing the debate curriculum by bringing the world to western.
  5. Regional leadership and campus engagement through hosting the 2022 WWU Pacific Northwest innovation in
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1. Assistant Director of Forensics small cost of living increase.
  2. Resuming participation in intercollegiate policy debates requires intensive research prep and increase the stipends.
  3. Personnel Costs, operation expenses, hosting and campus, speaker and performer expense, conference and event expense and travel.
  4. Supplies, computer and technology, postage, maintenance, software, dues and membership, teeshirts.
  5. Temporary Pro Staff \$72,000, fringe benefits \$11,186 and honorariums \$6000.00.
  6. Travel expenses:  
Fees and registration: \$8000  
In State lodging: \$14,000  
Out of state lodging: \$19,750
  7. Summer Budget increase: Director before Travis did parliamentary debate (topics change). Travis has shifted the program to pedagogical reasons – single topic for the whole year and very intense depths of research. Like a master's course of research on one topic. This adds to the coaches work and provide a healthier stipend that can compensate for the coaches' time.

Questions:

How do students get involved with the planning and preparation over the summer?

Answer: Quarter system starts way later than semester schools, so it is a large puzzle on how to match up. Most affects policy debates because the topic comes out in June. Innovated the format so a student can have a rigorous debate experience. We go into summer with a plan with file sharing, feedback throughout the summer and easy to involve students virtually. Students are supported for the debate work over the summer if they have to work so they can come back to campus.

Debaters are able to talk face to face with coaches. Research on files happens with you and your partner and happens on line even pre-COVID-19.

Policy research in person and communicate with the team is important.

Tee-shirts: annual tee shirt as basic team apparel. Students like the idea of getting swag and community bonding element.

### **Theatre & Dance Presentation:**

2021-22 Goals

1. Rebuild a strong on campus presence for students
2. Continue promoting inclusive and collaborative projects
3. To create and expand opportunity for student creativity and success
4. To encourage and refine growing expertise in our virtual presence.

### **Theatre and Dance 2021-2022 Season**

1. October – **No Exit** - DUG Theatre, Evan Mueller directing
2. December – **Cabaret** - Mainstage, Jim Lortz directing – collaboration with the Music Department’s Orchestra Studies students and faculty
3. Early Winter Slot 3 – Sonata, Female Latinx Guest Director TBD
4. Winter – **Winter Dances** - Student choreography
5. Early Spring – **New Works Reading Series** - Zoom or DUG live if allowed, Mark Kuntz & Kamarie Chapman producing, guest directors will collaborate with students
6. May – **Dance in Concert** - Faculty and guest choreography (previous guest choreographers include Liz Gerring Dance Company, Anya Cloud Choreographer, Bulgarian Folk Dance, West African Folk Dance)
7. Late Spring – **Men on Boats** - Mainstage, Rich Brown directing

**The Theatre and Dance Department will offer free admission for Western Washington University students to each of the highlighted productions above (performances in the mainstage).**

Theatre and Dance is asking for an increase to the AY DRAC request of \$5,000 per quarter. This will help set off the loss of ticket revenue by offering free admission to all mainstage productions for students. The budget consists of personnel (production manager and costume shop assistant), contracts, services, equipment, royalties, and student travel. The total request is \$240,00.

- 80k per quarter on the request, total DRAC funds request \$240,000. This represents about a 5k per quarter increase from our last approved amount of \$225,000

- All mainstage shows will be open to students, they will not be charged admission
- 2 permanent, part-time classified staff: our Production Manager and the Costume Shop Assistant
- Requested 17k in student wages for students working in the costume shop and scene shop, this slight decrease reflects the attention to room capacity we must focus on due to COVID
- Budgeted 35k in student travel funds, knowing that the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival will be in Spokane in 2022 which means a high student turnout because it is in state
- Budget included \$7,500 to repair and maintain our valuable production equipment and to purchase necessary projection equipment for the musical CABARET
- Reserve of 2020-21 funds: If the Theatre and Dance DRAC fund has a carry forward, the department will earmark the cost to rent our scene shop van which is just over 5k each year
- Theatre and Dance plans to produce two summer projects that will most likely be online streaming: Dance Film Project and Intersectionality in Theatre Project. Students will receive stipends

Increase of \$20,000 from the last year:

1. Student employees, Production manager, costume shop assistant (bringing on a full-time production manager and other pro-staff)
2. Goods and Services – rebuild some equipment and address some concerns.
3. Student travel will go up depending on competitions we go to. We pay for registration and hotels.
4. Contracts & Royalties

Theatre and Dance Summer 2021

Host two ONLINE projects this summer that any WWU student can audition for.

This is the first Dance Film Project:

Second is a creation/writing retreat/performance opportunity and specific on creating intersectional representation in theatre.

Increase we are requesting is \$5,000 a quarter so it is \$15,000 total.

Admission for students to be open for all students – main stage theatre only. Dug theatre is tricky because it is only 70 seats per show so those tickets will still be sold to students.

We are asking for the increase for the loss of ticket revenue, but we want to lose the ticket revenue so students can get in for free.

Questions: Is the general community getting in free?

Fee no longer charging students only, not the general community.  
Mainstage is easy to provide free seating.

Virtual archive of students work, to create a shared accessible, country wide international presence.

New works program was a direct result from COVID when we had to cancel our direct face-to-face programs.

We were able to work with guest artists. This was such a success it is going to be one of our performance slots. It could be live or streamed with zoom.

It is complicated because of contracts, we have to get rights to and the contracting across the country are adapting to theatre. It will be show specific. Broader release and also in pricing. We are trying to give more free shows and accessibility to allow everyone to see the work.

In person performances, socially distanced with masks, and then we record and film them for the audience until it is safe.

We are working on developing a hybrid audience. Covid has taught us a lot about flexibility and creativity.

Question: what is the \$15,000 increase work out to in a percentage increase? Answer: 6.6% from the previous year.

Question: Snapshot of the summer request putting forward? Answer: the summer budget includes stipend for students, directors.

Media services with Robert Clark. Royalties money paid. Production manager for the livestream production.

Equipment, projections and repairs. Total ask is \$20,000 for summer.

Still a significant decrease from what a typical year's ask is. Theatre is still requesting a huge reduction over a normal year due to COVID-19.

Question: how do you feel as an artist without normal theatre opportunities. Answer: it is difficult to be in theatre and it is also difficult for our audience. Everyone is desperate to get back to normal.

It is immersive when you are in person, but when you are on zoom it is now a part of our future but it isn't the same, and people are losing interest in doing it because of the lack of getting to do the work with others. We also want to build an audience and a university audience.

Doing these things at a fraction of the cost also produces a fraction of the experience. Plugs in to how audience connect and creates emotional responsiveness.

Adjourned: 9:46 p.m.