

DRAC Meeting: 4/20/2022

Location: [Zoom](#)

Attendance:

Alec Newton
Allison Mazurek
Amy Lazzell
Anne Melo
Caylee Caldwell
Christa Shultz
Darren McCroom
Erin Emry
Ichi Kwon
Jack Herring
Jeanne Gaffney
Jeff Newcomer
Johnathon Lyons
Lisa Beard
Lyd Haindfield
Mallory Schaeftbauer
Mary Piekarczyk
Megan McGinnis
Nicole Larson
Patrick Roulet
Quin Wilder
Rebecca McLean
Rich Brown
Shona Carter
Michelle Strangey
Travis Cram

Agenda items:

- 1) Approval of 3/9/22 meeting minutes. Minutes approved as presented. Motion to approve by Darren McCroom. Second by Mary Piekarczyk. Nine approve, one abstention.
- 2) S&A Committee Updates
 - a) Athletics and Campus Recreation previously presented their budgets to the S&A Fee Committee. DRAC and the Associated Students are scheduled to present their budgets at this week's meeting.
 - i) Athletics requested an increase of 3.4% to fund mandated wage increases and graduate student positions in the weight room and sports training program
 - ii) Campus Rec did not request an increase but has asked to keep their proportion at 7%. They have a large carryforward due to pandemic-related restrictions which will be used to offset Club Sports expenses so students won't have to engage in the usual fundraising activities for nearly two years.

- iii) DRAC is requesting a 2.2% overall increase but a 0% increase for the academic year and a larger increase over the summer as Theatre gets closer to more normal operations.
 - b) Travis invited Rebecca, Mary and Quin to share their feedback
 - i) Quin noted that DRAC activities are multidimensional. Some are travel oriented and others like music, student publications and theatre, are built into the operational lifeblood of WWU. It is important for all types of groups to have consistency within the budget. DRAC needs to operate with some stability of funding beyond S&A Fee increases.
 - ii) Mary agreed that DRAC operates in an academic sphere that presents unique opportunities to students and tries to eliminate the burden of expenses related to travel, conference fees, etc.
 - iii) Rebecca stated the total requested increase is under \$28,000 and contained entirely in the summer budget, for a total increase of 2.3%. The primary reason is due to Theatre resuming more normal operations, but this level of funding is less than they have traditionally received during the summer. This needs to be emphasized because \$28,000 may sound like a lot but they used to put on close to 5 productions whereas this year it will be only 3 or 4. We also need to underscore to the S&A Committee that a lot of the activities DRAC students participate in are unique pre-professional opportunities.
 - c) Travis opened it up for questions.
 - i) Patrick mentioned the Music Department recently received a request from Admissions to have the Viking Band participate in a Saturday activity to add energy to the campus during a prospective student event. This is an example of the community-wide impact of the activities DRAC provides.
- 3) Electing New Vice Chair
- a) Nicole Askarian graduated winter quarter and DRAC needs to elect a new Vice Chair. The position is responsible for running the meeting if the Chair is unavailable. Travis opened it up for nominations.
 - i) Lyd Haindfield nominated herself. Lyd is now Forensics full-time DRAC student rep.
 - ii) Travis asked for additional nominations; there were none.
 - iii) Lyd was approved as Vice Chair; 7 approved, 2 abstentions.
- 4) Equipment Reserves Request - Music
- a) Johnathon Lyons requested a DRAC reserves request of \$10,000
 - i) The \$10,000 will partially fund a rebuild of a 9-foot Steinway grand piano, used continually since 1970's. After many decades of use it is no longer in top playing condition and no longer suitable for concerts. After the rebuild is complete, the piano would be moved to PA16 a dual-purpose space for rehearsals, master classes, student concerts, etc. A new Model D piano list price is approximately \$130,000.
 - b) Michelle Strangey from the Music Dept introduced herself and shared some photos of the piano.

- i) The piano was overhauled earlier by the previous instrument tech who replaced bigger tuning pins. Michelle reported it is getting more difficult to tune, there is more string breakage and a harsher sound. The hammers need to be replaced because they are giving the piano a harsh tone and other elements need to be replaced because they are causing a buzz on some of the notes.
 - c) Patrick mentioned that the total cost to rebuild is close to \$20,000 and Music will use self-sustaining and FY23 DRAC allocation funds to make up the difference.
 - d) Travis summarized the request as follows: Approximately \$20,000 will be required to rebuild the piano and Music is requesting \$10,000 from DRAC reserves to support the rebuild.
 - e) Travis invited members to ask questions of Music; there were none.
 - f) Vote to approve Music's \$10,000 reserves request. 9 votes to approve, 3 abstentions.
 - g) Rebecca asked for the Reserves Request Form; Patrick will resend to Rebecca.
- 5) Spring Meeting Timeline
- a) Travis indicated that many programs will need to request earmarks. DRAC needs to find a date that will allow enough time for budget staff to prepare the requests and enough time for DRAC to consider and approve them.
 - b) Rebecca said spring distributions should come in soon so recommended meeting in two or three weeks to consider reserves requests.
 - c) We will schedule our next meeting May 11 and meet again June 4 if needed in response to the S&A Committee.
 - d) Travis also mentioned we are nearing the end of Racing's third probationary year, and need to finish their probationary review. Travis will review the Charter and share what is needed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36am

Next meeting: May 11