Minutes: Official Meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate
Executive Committee
September 24, 2014

GPSS Secretary Natalie Gordon
GPSS President Alice Popejoy
GPSS Treasurer Doug Taber
GPSS Vice President Alex Bolton
Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
Executive Senator Eddie Schwieterman
Executive Senator Evan Firth
SAO Adviser Rene Singleton
Communication Specialist Cynthia Chang
University Affairs Director Ashley Sonoff
Office Manager Kerstin Hudon
Event Coordinator Angela Liu

Called to order 5:32

A. Approve agenda & Amend minutes

Alice: I move to approve the agenda for tonight

Evan: so moved

Alex: second

Alice: we have an agenda; second I will entertain to approve our meeting from last meeting, which Natalie has sent out to you

Doug: so moved

Eddie: objection

Alice: shoot

Eddie: I think there are some parts in section C and D where it says Evan but it's really me, because I disappear for a bit.

Evan: section C, the first Evan I think is actual Evan

Alice: let's have Natalie go through this

Eddie: I think the second Evan is me.

Alice: further emphasize the point that was made earlier that we should identify ourselves for the recording but also having Cynthia present at the meeting to take notes also helps. But I think Doug is the only one the diligently raises his hand so let's try to stick to that... So are those all the errors? And the last page... Alive should be Alice

Evan: and also there are a few evens that should be Evan.
Alice: if there are no other changes I will entertain the motion to approve the minutes of last meeting as amended.

Doug: so moved.

Evan: second.

**B. Introductions**

Alice: any objections? We have approved minutes from last meeting. Before we go into Husky Sunrise de-briefing, because that's kind of what we called everybody here for, I would love for us to go around the room and just do introductions, so we know who everyone here is or what your title is. And maybe just one fun fact about yourself. Because I think it's really cool to have executive and staff to get to know each other. I know from being a executive senator from last year, we didn't really know who the staff were, and I think it kind of hinders our ability to feel tight in the organization. So I will start. I'm Alice, I'm the president of GPSS, if you don't know, I'm also a parkour instructor and I am teaching middle schoolers.

Alex: I'm Alex, VP of GPSS. I have been to every Washington County.

Doug: hi, I'm Douglass Taber, I'm the Treasurer. I was dead for four minutes when I was four years old, and I was revived.

Evan: Evan, Executive Senator. I grew up most of my life surfing. I grew up in South in California. My zero birthday present was an 8’ long board.

Cynthia: Cynthia, Communication Specialist, and I just ate two burritos last night and I'm still really full.

Ashley: I'm Ashley, I'm the University Affairs Director and I ran my first marathon this year.

Angela: I'm Angela, I'm the Event Coordinator, I traveled around the Olympic peninsula this the summer for the first time.

Eddie: I'm Eddie, I'm an Executive Senator, I have a bunch of fresh water aquaria.

Kerstin: I'm Kerstin, I'm the Office Manager, and I have been a part of professional ballet company and a hip pop group, and a belly-dancing group in the last 6 years

Natalie: I'm Natalie, I'm the Secretary, I love kickboxing.

Yasmeen: I'm Yasmeen, I'm an Executive Senator. I have been in choir since I was in kindergarten.

Rene: hi, I'm Rene; I'm your advisor. And I just finished doing a lot of dental work this morning and so I'm not in my right mind tonight…. Or I wouldn't be here tonight, because I am crazy...

(Laughs)

**C. Husky Sunrise**

Alice: so now that we all know who we are, I am going to let Angela… First of all before I let Angela dig into the detail of the Huskies Sunrise debriefing, we sort of did this right after that event, but not everyone was there. So I would just like everyone to quickly go around and say something that they thought went really well about it in something that I thought could've been improved about the event. Does anyone want to go first?

Rene: I think it's absolutely remarkable that you guys pulled this off. And on behalf of the University of Washington. So give yourselves some applause.

(Applause)
Rene: Something that can be improved. Probably just use plastic glasses, because people are happy to get either... Because we ran out the cool kind, but people are more than happy to get mimosas in either. Oh so if we use that space again, we need to do a giant banner that go across the entryway and also I have it on both sides to direct people.

Alice: All right who's next?

Kerstin: I thought registration went to super smoothly. All the volunteers did an excellent job getting people in line and preventing having too many lags. What I would improve, and I already checked with Angela about this, would be the meeting we had right before the event. Instead of it being everybody gets their report, I think it would have been better if we had one cohesive list like "this is what we're doing and okay Alice this is your task " and just to have it more itemized and a little bit more structured that day. Because I think it will reduce a lot of the stress and you can see a solid picture of what is needed to be accomplished. And it will be great for us as a team-planning event moving forward.

Yasmeen: I can go next. I think something that we really well was advertising. I think it's a really awesome that 700 people showed up, and more then it was expected. Particularly for an event that.... I don't know, breakfast with the Deans is fun but it doesn't sound thrilling. But the point is that I think advertising is really awesome. And I think something that can be improved is communication. I just felt super left out of the loop. I didn't really know we had a meeting at 7 AM, I didn't really know what's going on at all, we just kind of make stuff up as we went. But that may be because no one knows what was going on. But I think part of it was also that some people did, but we weren't able to get a hold of them.

Eddie: I think getting graduate student contacts was amazing. I think this event raised awareness of GPSS more so than pretty much anything that has been previously done throughout the entire year. So many people know about who we are now. What I think what I would change is we got a lot of interest cards, I think it's really cool. I think if we had delineated the volunteer positions before hand, we could have had someone working at a table earlier. Because when I got to the table there was someone from ASUW do all the registration, but she was at the GPSS table and didn't know a lot about GPSS because she wasn't involved in it. I think we should have someone in there to start when people are asking about us.

Evan: I really like that we gave the graduate and professional students a welcome to UW event because I could tell by everyone walking in, that you have students that are new and returning students that are both seeing this as an "oh my God, I finally have a will come to UW event to attend, like all the undergraduates do and graduate schools in the entire world" so that was really nice. It seem like a no-brainer that we should have had this for graduate students too, but it never happened for grad and professional students. One thing I would change is just to make sure that, I know we don't run the sound tech, but to ask the sound tech to turn up the speaker because I heard him checking before hand, and he spent 30 minutes checking out by still somehow didn't realize that the speakers were whisper quiet. That's why everyone was trying to talk over half the deans that were presenting.

Natalie: First of all I thought it was amazing how well we all came together there in the morning. Following up with the sound thing, I totally agree. I asked the sound guy to turn up the speakers half way through, I think we all should also stop the resource fair while people are speaking, and somehow find a way to get people at the table, and just stop talking when the president of the university and the Provost were speaking. We had a lot of feedback that it was very rude.

Rene: The speakers there are not the kind of speakers we need for that space. Next time I would totally recommend that we get Morgan sound studio speakers. Because of the pitch in that room, that ceiling is high, and it carries the sound. They had all of those speakers going in one direction because if you put them in two directions, it back whips. So just write down Morgan sound professional speakers and sound system. And not the inexpensive ones we own at the University. And you'll be fine.

Alice: It seems like the sound was funneling from the boc to the front. So we were hearing a lot of voices going on.
Evan: But I think the reason why everyone was talking over the deans and provost was just because when I walk in to where they were at, it was a whisper quiet and you couldn't hear them. So they were like, if I can't hear what was being said, I might as well just chat.

Alice: Also there weren't enough tables so all those people were forced to stand. So they were talking. So we should have seats for all of our attendees

Rene: well, you guys were over capacity.

Ashley: I want to echo all of the positive feedback, everything went smoothly. I love how everyone came together and we had a great turnout. The fact that we had enough food was great. I received a lot of positive feedback from everyone that I talked to that attended. The feedback that I did receive was confusion on what the event...what the purpose of the event was. Like not so much that they didn't get it was a welcome, but the structure of the event-Is it a resource event... Is it a meet and greet... is it a formal presentation. And so I have feedback from someone who has done event coordination as a career and she suggested that we send out an agenda on the email invite so people would know that the President and the Provost and the Dean of the Graduate School are going to be speaking, so they can be prepared for that. Or maybe put an agenda at each table, just so they know what to expect. And in a similar vein to that, there is a graduate school student that thought it was a drop in event so ... We were wrapping up and there wasn’t much of the food left but she was very disappointed. So more clarity and structure and the marketing about what to expect.

Kirstin: we can send a formal program out when people RSVP. Have a little bit more content to that thank you for RSVP-ing email.

Evan: I just want to point out that we should write down what you did for advertising. Because it worked tremendously. But I heard a lot of feedback saying I don't know how you guys advertised that. I got one email, and everyone showed up. And I was like yeah you're right; I don't actually know how we magically got the word out. But whatever combinations of things that we did to advertise this, we should write that down so we could do it again next year.

Alice: Okay for the record, I think the first thing that we did that was amazing was entirely due to Cynthia's artistic genius. Because that invitation that she made was beautiful and people love it and I got people specifically saying how much they like the look of the invitation and thought it was pretty and welcoming and good. So that's one thing that if you don't work here next year, we are all screwed. Unless they can like get templates from you. Another thing is that SriHarsha and Ashley sat on either side of me as I painstakingly worded everything on those invitations to make it long enough that it had some sort of content but not so long that people would not read it. And also sending it out to all the Deans, sending all the save the dates to the Deans way ahead of time, like a week before it went out to graduate students, and ask the Deans to forward it to their students. And also going through the Provost and having the Provost RSVP to us and/or telling the Deans to send it to their students. And some people didn't get anything from me, but they got a forwarded email from their Dean, and through the Graduate School, the Dean also sent an email to the all Graduate School email, so some people who didn't get it from me got it from the Graduate School. And also Natalie sent it out to all the senators and asked all of the senators to forward it. So I talked to some people and realized that yeah some people got it from their senators.

Natalie: We also announced it at their GPAs kicked off event and I sent an email to the GPAs asking them to promote it.

Doug: We also mentioned it at the orientations, and really pumped people up about it. And it was really cool because they were people like "yeah I heard about it…"

Ashley: I think getting it from whatever venues we were sending it out to incoming students, like the Facebook page for their particular program was the key. So it could have been the Deans sending it out or the Provost...
Alice: Awesome. So it sounded like it was just an all hands, and entire group effort. Because they all knew what it is about, they had access to that invitations and PDF form and there was a map that I put together for the "where Rainer vista was", and also having a Dawg Daze flier in addition to Husky Sunrise invitation, so people got that information as well. All the different outlets that we just sort of figured out. So that's another celebration in and of itself, is seems like it wasn't just one strategy, or advertising that worked. It was everyone thought of everything in every possible way that we can reach out to people and it worked. So that's awesome!

Kirstin: And I think they've been definitely got people thinking about GPSS. Because when I was working at the organization fair booth today, people were coming up to me and like you're the group that put on the breakfast right? "Oh, I'm interested in being senator."

Yasmeen: I've got to mention that we are at the time limit so we've got to wrap this up.

Alice: I think this is important so I will entertain a motion to extend and you can specify.

Yasmeen: I am going to move to extend time by five minutes.

Doug: Second

Alice: Any objections? Okay, let's move on.

Ashley: I received comments that the speeches were good but maybe they were too long. So maybe shorten them, more like welcome we are here for you and we're excited for you and more to come rather than full on speeches.

Alice: We also didn't have to have all the people speak, I think that was more of a political move to make everybody feel included. But now that we have done that in seeing that, that it might be a little bit unnecessary, next year we don't need as many speakers and we can specify it's going to be shorter.

Doug: I thought luckily the arrangement from before was utilized magically by the three volunteers we had there organizing everything and from Bay Laurel Dana was there for hours after she needed to be there. She could have left four hours previously but decided to stay and just help us set up linens, and they show us how to do it professionally. Another example of just all hands, collaborating experience. But other than that I don't have anything negative to think about that. Oh, the most successful thing that kept students there, we all noticed, was the t-shirts. People were going crazy for those shirts, us included. So that's just something to note there were free shirts, which really grabbed a hold of our audience and captivated them for an extra half hour where as everyone else went away fairly quickly. So just something important to note. Because I was kind of sad when the drum line and Harry the Husky showed up at 10:40 and we already down to about 100 people left. So it was a very quick that everyone left after they got their food, so maybe just think about it.

Alice: Well we also ran out of food so people who show up at 10 and left probably would have stayed. Also at the end of the speech I was like enjoy the mimosas and food without knowing that the food was already gone. So people were leaving, and I could've just explicitly said we have a special thing coming at 10:30 please hang around and go to the resource fair and go mingle with people and talk with your Deans etc. Or maybe like someone said before not have the resource fair at the time, just like breakfast short program and then mingle so maybe people will stay longer. There were a bunch of things that we can do programmatically to make people stay longer, but I will say I was on a run in Sacramento when I got a call from Karen at the bookstore to talk about this. And I could have ignored her call but I was like I need to talk to Karen about the bookstore, so I stopped running and was trying to catch my breath and I talked to her for about 45 minutes about this and she was like yeah do you think graduate student with even want free t-shirts? And I was like, yes. So we are going to continue to collaborate with the bookstore for the rest of the year and I will talk more about that later. But I think we have a blossoming relationship with the bookstore that could eventually lead to something like free backpacks or free water
bottles or something that actually says GPSS on it from the bookstore, so they will collaborate with us so we can explore that this year.

Doug: So if you want to do something like backpacks, we can just have one of those things where we spend a wheel and you went to random things so there is a chance to win something really cool but we can give them stickers and water bottles also, so we don't have to spend a lot of money, but there is still that drawing. Like we are giving away awesome backpacks.

Ashley: One last thing I had students telling me that they really like Harry the Husky there. They would like to see them there earlier at the beginning.

Alice: So we have a lot of stuff to talk about that's specific, but for right now I just want to give everybody a chance to give one positive thing and one negative thing before we move on to the rest of debriefing and we can keep that short.

Alex: Positive turnout was just amazing. I think moving forward with branding maybe try to emphasize the branding of Husky Sunrise or maybe have a hash tag thing on social media. Or even come up with the logo now that we can just set up for the future.

Angela: I just really enjoyed our spirits we all were in high spirits, I think that made us look really good for the administration and for the student body. So I feel that moving forward with our diversity forms and other events, that they will come out and express what they're interested in and what they want from us. I do have a bunch of negatives. Shorter program, no talking during the formal part of it, such as before and after. Apparently some students got rowdy and she has suggested that maybe not as much champagne be distributed. So I think that should be taken into account.

Yasmeen: I think while we are on the champagne and for the service, I don't think it was clear what was going on the trays were mimosas. It looked like orange juice to me. And Patricia and I talked about it after because there are a lot of people came in and said they don't want alcohol. But they may have gone for orange juice, and nobody told me when I went for mine, that it was a mimosa. And it wasn't very clear, so I think it is very important labeling what everything else is too.

Alice: The major idea that we had for how to serve it was to have it with food and glasses at every single table with orange juice. So everyone can have orange juice and then servers came around with champagne at each of the table and at the champagne to the orange juice. And that was our idea and I pushed for that but at the end of the day that's what happened. But I agree with you. If we have a glass of juice for everybody and servers came around with champagne that would solve all of our problems. Because you would have to be see that to get the champagne, you know you can have orange juice, you see the bottle of champagne when someone ask you and check your stamps and that was solve all of our problem. So that's one idea on how to do it next year. But noted.

Evan: For what it's worth a lot of the servers were saying no this one is a mimosa I can get you orange juice if you want and they were being upfront and clear about it.

Angela: Yeah I spoke with them and asked them about what happened to the orange juice just chilling on the table, and they say yeah last minute we just decide that we wouldn't place it at the center.

Alice: We have 30 gallons of orange juice left over.

Alice: Motion to extend the agenda time. I need an executive member to move to extend time

Doug: so moved, by 5 minutes.

Alex: second

Alice: Again I do want to have everyone to have the chance to speak. Natalie have you gone yet?

Natalie: Yes

Angela: Can I say two more things, I just want to thank the person who ran the card reader in the Odegaard basement. And also Douglass for watching our tents, we couldn't have done it without you,
there was no security I don't know what happened there, but you stepped up and I really appreciate it. You were able to watch the tent for us.

Yasmeen: Wait all night? That's crazy but good job!

Alice: I will go. I was sitting in front of the room with the President of the university and he just looked out at the crowd of people sitting down and everything and he said "when you see something like this, you know you filled the need" and I think that was the biggest achievement and biggest positive of the day and just realizing back graduate students, if you provide what they need, they will show up. Free food, free stuff, recognition, togetherness, and community. That's what they want, and that's what they need. And I think GPSS has a real opportunity with that in mind to actually feel the need of graduate student as opposed to holding the same events that we hold every single year using the same communication styles and still not getting any results. So that to me signals opportunity to be way more active in the way we do business by focusing on the need rather than just what we have always done and complaining when no one shows up. I have a couple things but I'm just going to focus on a couple. The first thing that came mine was actually my fault and that was the greeting of the VIPs. I apologize that I wasn't here at seven, that's something I would have changed. So we just all need to be aware of who the VIPs are next year and hopefully the President and Vice President are more present at the beginning of the event to make sure that they get escorted to their table. But we all should know who we the VIPs are and what they look like but frankly not that many showed up so it wasn't that big of a deal. But I saw President Young standing by himself not really knowing what was going on with no name tag, no nothing. And I just went up to them and say "hey hi, here is your table…" it's fine. It's not a big deal. But I definitely think next year we can have a better understanding of who everyone is and I will take responsibility for not communicating and not explaining more effectively. Obviously the talking thing and then honestly I can't think of anything else. I'm just so impressed and so happy and so amazed that it went as smoothly as it did. Given the amount of pushback and doubt and feedback that we got from administrators that thought it couldn't be possible to pull it off and the fact that we did it almost without a hitch and people were excited about GPSS including two previous GPSS presidents who were both there who expressed to me both envy and surprise that we were able to put this off. Thinking back to everyone's time and our agenda I think we should move on but I definitely think there is more debriefing to do within the office as we put together a binder for people to focus on next year and as we said this is a learning experience for all of us on how to work together and what our styles are and what kind of things we need to repair and communicate. So thank you so much everyone, especially for Doug for stepping up, and Angela, and all the staff who were just kind of thrown into the fire and still part of this incredible event. It's amazing to me and I think it speaks of value to the quality of the people we have right here. We are going to move on to your next agenda item, which is the bylaws discussion, and action plans.

D. Rene on voting
Yasmeen: Would it be helpful to have René speak first? I am going to move to amend the agenda to put René to speak first

Rene: second

Alice: any objections? Fantastic.

Rene: I thought I was spontaneously talking about how we will need to have a voice in the meeting really quickly. People are afraid to voice their opinion… Is that what this is about?

Alice: This is just a discussion on how we do voting and being in compliance with OPMA, and making sure that what we decide, when we are presenting back to the Senate that we are also presenting a method by which they will be voting for the entire year.

Rene: I will recommend two things. First on OPMA, they sent me a link that I'm supposed to giving all the members of the executive to go online and take a test and pass it. So you guys are all going to get this but I am not going to do it this week. The other thing is your Senators that are coming probably don't
need to hear all this stuff on the first day. This topic is a little bit boring and so maybe it will be good see if there is a need to talk about it and voting and that kind of things. But I think having a handout that talks about how we vote in GPSS, what our philosophy is and encourage people to take a risk and share your opinion. This is a forum for you. And I have you guys bring it out and if there's comments and anything like that I'm happy to welcome them and spontaneously say something about that. But I think you can give them a cheat sheet to start with. And flip-flop that over to talk about your philosophy of wanting people to vote and express their opinion. This is a chance for us to hear from everyone and all voices matter and we like people to challenge each other. All those kind of things and see if people have question about it. I think Yasmeen was bringing up the comment about a particular Senator that did not want to express herself...

Yasmeen: Yes. It's not only her but I have heard it before and recently that people don't necessarily feel comfortable expressing their opinion particularly when it goes against the majority opinion, or they think it goes against the majority opinion. In the Senate, particularly because we have the Parliamentary structure of you raise your hand and you say something. And if you object to 50 hands, and now you're going to object to something and you're the only one standing up. So that's the concern that I have heard, and is from someone who doesn't like conflict. So they see it as a conflict causing thing rather than voicing or expressing. So we can change the way that's done or perceived.

Alice: I think part of that can be addressed through the Senate culture. I think sometimes I see meetings go really into the way the chair wants them to go, particularly when that person has an opinion on the issue and the purpose of parliamentary procedure is to provide a democratic mechanism for his agenda so ideally, the structure favors the minority and favors against the majority and offers them opportunity to engage in an event that might persuade the majority over to their side. And while that's not an easy thing to do, that's the reality of government. It's a two-way street. On one hand you have to create an atmosphere where people feel welcome and they feel prepared to do that, we have to give them the tools and part of that is going to be doing a parliamentary procedure cheat sheet that Natalie has already done. So that will help facilitate the mentalities and I will be sure to say at every meeting that something along those line to address those particular concerns but it's also got to be up to them. Which is why we want to have Rene say something about it, still someone other than me can say "your voice needs to be heard "and you need to have confidence to step up and say or even if it's scary because that's how democracy happens.

Doug: A comment. Last year at the very first meeting, I have a suggestion that we put all of these things that probably happen every year all online on our website digitally. Because people like me often loose stuff, but it's on the website I can go online and read it and I can read it everywhere I what the procedure is. So I think that's also good because it will be consistent throughout the year. So if you want to reprinted we can just print it from the website. So put it on the website.

Alice: And that's also the idea behind the wiki. That supplements the inflexibility of our website. So we can have all these documents and things that we want to direct people to and those they can have access to it easily. Because we're kind of stuck with what we got on the drop-down menus and stuff. We can change the drop down menus the basic structures is set but we do want to integrate links to the wiki and pages on there. Through our website. So it's kind of like a back-and-forth. And it won't seem to the users that it's two different or difficult but if you have ideas maybe we can have a little chat. So I think if you don't have more on that we can move on. So Rene if you can come on the first meeting or at some point if we have a big vote, before we go on our first resolution or something like that, is that we have that procedure set in place on how we do voting that's in compliance with OPMA, and also a presentation in emphasis on speaking up and the reasons why we have to do that.

Rene: If you want to do clickers we can definitely look into that, but we need to do that before December and all that stuff. I can help you do that if you want to do it that way.

Alice: Doug if you want to work on the STF clickers it I think that would be fantastic. Thanks Rene! And thank you so much Rene on everything on Husky Sunrise. So next on our agenda are our bylaws discussion and action plans.

E. Bylaws and action plans

Alice: I am going to let Yasmeen take over
Yasmeen: First thing about bylaws, has anyone has a chance to look at the Google document with the changes? I haven't changed anything since the first time that I put up with the changes. The only thing that changed since then are just spelling mistakes, which there are a lot of. And grammar. We can start going over the things we talked about before. I can go over the lines and tell you what section and article that is, will that be helpful? Okay so if you go to article 3, section I, Senators assist GPSS on the reviews. So I think the thing we talked about adding in there was possibly that the President or University Affairs Director or whoever is in charge of doing this. Because we have heard feedback that we haven’t been following through with this in the past, and it is unclear about who is in charge of departments you review, and hopefully we can be slightly more specific on who is in charge of doing that.

Evan: Did we already go through and double-check that it’s not described somewhere? Article 5, section C or section F.

Alice: So provide the Graduate School survey, including general seating is in the department of the regular schedule ever read about… Yeah I thought it was under the President because I met with the Graduate School early on and…

Evan: Section C, clause 2H

Yasmeen: That's the President's?

Alice: I think we need to have a separate structure conversation about the realistic expectations of all the officers. Because I am probably biased, but I feel like the president has a lot more duties and responsibilities and time commitment than all the other officers. Like far and beyond. And that's not to say that the other officers don’t already have a lot on their plate but when you have a previous president telling you about to do a good job it is 80 hours a week, not including your schoolwork. It's somewhat unreasonable, and frankly I haven't been able to do that. And part of it was Husky Sunrise but relationship building on top of the regular meetings that I have to go to on top of graduate program reviews on top of everything like committee appointments, it's just helpful to have staff to help with all those things. But even just coordinating my schedule is a full-time job, and that she say something about the time that's required. So if there is another way to think about doing program reviews that doesn't directly under the president I think that would be appreciated by the future generations.

Evan: So I think historically the thing is past presidents when anything new comes up just offered to take it in the executive committee. That's how it has always been for all that have been here. That sometimes when something doesn't have an assigned officer, the president just steps up in a meeting when no one volunteers and say I guess I will do it. And that's presumably how that long list has gotten longer. So with that in mind I think at some point it would be smart to kind of go through the duties and try to reassign them if any of them need to be reassigned. But possibly in a separate discussion. But it's very fair.

Eddie: I would just like to say that if we take the individual suggestion that Yasmeen is making, and I think your point is very valid, but I think for this discussion if we take everything and turn it into a discussion, we will never get these bylaws done. I think we should look at the points individually, in the context of what are the bylaws now and try to compartmentalize further discussion on forming the bylaws there. So probably compromise this specific part with the part with GPSS President.

Yasmeen: Or perhaps... -- there is a Graduate School Review Committee.

Alice: But they are not active.

Yasmeen: Right. But they're in the bylaws. So we can either make them active or we can assign this task, perhaps given father discussion, to academic affairs. Or some committees that make sense to do this. So if we want to consolidate we can also do that.

Alice: So a couple things. First of all, my personal contacts have told me that neither the Program Review Board nor the University Affairs Committee for the Academic Affairs Committee has ever been
active in GPSS. So that maybe we might just want to get rid of it entirely. Especially since for the program review they clearly state they are the responsibilities of senators from those departments.

Yasmeen: No it says that they can assist GPSS. Literally says that. So they are assisting not in charge of. And clearly there is someone else involved. So we might want to say who else is involved.

Alice: But what I'm referring to is in the degree granting units, in which their register. Meaning, that the senators are responsible for helping the president contact reviews. That just means they sent out surveys to their constituency. And they organize meetings of people and students in their program who would like to have input in this process. I have a suggestion and I want Natalie's honest opinion on this. And I feel like because of the relationship with the graduate program advisors as well as the direct relationship with all of our senators, that it will be a roll for the Secretary to be involved with. I don't know how you feel about that. As far as coordinating.

Eddie: I was just going to clarify GPSS senators from different departments reviewed that's how it's supposed to be. Senators from astronomy talk to the senators. But the actual reviews are written by the company. When I was a first year.

Yasmeen: I'm going to throw this out that I feel like the Secretary also has a lot of responsibilities. Internal responsibilities.

Natalie: There are a lot of responsibilities for the Secretary that aren't necessary outlined in the bylaws so once their school year starts I need to work on those, because I haven't even have the chance to start on them yet. But I'm also in charge of all the documentation, and making sure all of our records are accurate in the mind of OPMA. My focus I think should really be building the Senate and internal stuff that would be more of my focus. One suggestion to be have the University Affairs Director spearhead it, and kind of just report to you. But you don't have to organize everything. Because that is something that fits really nicely under University Affairs. I will be more than willing to help out however I can, but I don't know if it directly fits.

Alice: That makes sense. Making the external and internal distinction.

Eddie: I think it might be fair to say that all officers are at capacity or overcapacity. More like with the amount of jobs. But that's kind of the thing, the president takes on the most work. Secretary takes the second most amount of work. Not really the Vice President because it's assumed that the vice president is usually not here for large chunks of time. So that's totally fair. And the Treasurer has to maintain our budget and I think it's a big worry to overwork the Treasurer with the danger if you put too much on the Treasurer that we won't have money next year. So I've seen a lot more staff hired. I've seen staff hired, I think is a good direction to keep on going. That it's okay to go under your jurisdiction but it's also under your jurisdiction to hire more staff.

Alice: I like having Eddie's perspective on this because it's good to know that there is their strategy that's actually working. And all my expression has been talking to the Graduate School about this is that there has been a spotty history of our level of commitment in the process. But I agree with Natalie, and I was actually something I was thinking about that was a having the University Affairs Director coordinate. And I'm happy to have that continue. Maybe we can have something set in the bylaws, I don't know how much in the bylaws that we refer to staff. But I believe the University Affairs Director pays a key role in this because I could not do it without someone like that and I think last year what happened was the University Affairs Director and a lot of roles of other officers who were also over tasked. And I just want to say I never meant to imply that other officers aren't overburdened but I think that overburdened-ness of the President has led us to not doing anything. Because it's just too much, and there weren't enough coordinators and volunteers.

Doug: Finding someone that is excited to do this work and perhaps in the future they want to be University Affairs Director after next year and want to get involved in the office, this is one of the ways that you can get more involved in GPSS administration.
Yasmeen: So I want echo Eddie’s point on we spent 10 minutes on discussing one bullet point. So I’m going to make a suggestion, and perhaps I don’t know how to do this. Are we actually trying to vote on this or trying to make a suggestion tonight? This conversation obviously needs to happen, the question is when.

Eddie: Can I make a suggestion? I think we should split this up into chunks and come to the Senate with different chunks. I think even for the first meetings, fixing typos is something that we can just get it out-of-the-way. And bring it up, it would just be a way to demonstrate parliamentary procedures. I don’t see how anyone would have an objection on fixing typos. To get to that now, then do substantial points and it would also get people to think that the bylaws discussion is coming without discouraging them from the onset.

Evan: I like that idea. I just want to make sure that before we bring that to the Senate, that we don’t want to have the Senate have to adjust the same bylaws issue twice. So if we change this for to the President, and one looked through the rest, we would have had that discussion again, and we go like...." actually..." so we should break it up into chunks, but we should be two or three steps ahead of what we are taking to the Senate.

Yasmeen: So I think the two things that are important for the next meeting will be fixing the typos, and Executive Senator elections. So let’s go down to that section. Article 6 section A. So if you have a copy of it let’s just read over the first, sorry, clause 1B. So last year’s president suggested just declaring the Executive Senator position open and encouraging senators to run, nominations are taken from the floor. So basically like officer elections, with exception of without the election committee. So is there a reason that we wouldn’t do that?

Evan: It can be just to ensure that we have nominees.

Yasmeen: But we can nominate people from the floor though.

Eddie: I think the reasons why the officers have nominated for Executive Senators is just because it was hard to get enough interest at one point to be on the Executive Committee. So basically the officers took it upon themselves to find individual senators who have been involved and bullied them into going to Executive Senate, nominating them at the meeting, and having election.

Yasmeen: So I think we can make that process less formal personally, and just change our bylaws into some other wording. Should I write up what the new wording is? I don’t think we should put that many words in. There are a lot of words.

Evan: So there are a lot of unique points and we might want to split it into more points. Things that stood out to me that were important were that senators should be advised of the duties and responsibilities of executive senators. That’s something we should probably keep. And then if an Executive Senator misses one or more meetings without approval they may be removed. I think part of the reason why it’s so long is because it’s covering things that would normally be many different parts. One thing I don’t see in here, it might be because we removed it, is we used to be vetted by the Executive Committee. Maybe not nominated. Nominated was independent. But there was this kind of expectation that you will be interviewed and vetted by the current Executive Committee. And I am not sure where that went.

Eddie: There’s another point here going to what everyone was saying, I think that the reason why it can’t be official is because Senate has the ultimate power. In practice I think the fact is that Executive Senators, there wasn’t enough interest for it to ever be contentious. But there’s another point here that we have to consider. Executive Senators chosen shall be concurrent with their Senate term. I don’t think we ever enforce that. And I think that’s a problem because we nominated or brought it on when positions opened. So some of them decide to step down, but it seems like our bylaws say is that we have to have an election at least once a year for every position. And is not clear to me that whatever the Senatorial term runs from beginning of the summer to the end of spring or from beginning of the fall through the summer.
Alice: So when I talked about Executive Senators pretty recently, I heard that every Senator needs to be reelected every year. And that's what this is saying, and I think that's away has been done previously. But we haven't been doing that.

Evan: I remember this language used to say because this seems like different language and I remember what it used to say, that it's a once a year thing. I think it actually explicitly says the term of Executive Senators is one year. It used to explicitly say that so this might be a more recent edit. But I think its in line with what I was saying that regular Senatorial term is unclear because Senators are in elected independently by the GPAs. We don't control the Senate election process. So we probably shouldn't base and put it in our bylaws.

Natalie: It talks about this in article 2 sections B, so I know a lot of senators who can stay. Some departments do it every year, but some departments say your term is until you graduate. So if that's the case then Executive Senator can just stay.

Alex: what do we want?

Eddie: I think what we should do is make Executive Senator elections concurrent with the officer elections and that would just soft other problems. And we have to process rights for the open positioning for an executive committee. If we do the re-election every spring and we are guaranteed to have executive senators who want to be there in summer, and I will be another huge benefit for doing that. Plus we take care of everything officially without having to do extra elections.

Evan: I like that idea but I think one of the downsides is that it has always been an expectation that the Executive Senators are there to help with the transition from old officers to new officers. And so if you get all new Executive Senators at the same time as you get all new officers… Alice: Or we could do Executive Senators elections at the last meeting every year or something. We have officers. Elections at two months before the end of the year and then have Executive Senator elections at the end, but some people are gone so...

Doug: So currently let's say Evan leaves in the middle of the year, and someone else comes in, and they only have half a year to be an Executive Senator, and then the election is up right? That they will go full round.

Alice: They would just stay on

Evan: So I don't know who said this but someone has a good point of saying "what do we want right now" and I think possibly what happened way before all of our times is that there were a lot of the long-lived executives that didn't leave the company, and that kind of prevented the new blood from coming in. But this could be something that we don't want to touch. Right now we're getting plenty of new senators and fresh turn around. And I think that's what I was say what we want. Which is a good balance between people who have been here for a long time and new blood. You don't want one or the other to win out. So if that's what we all want, maybe we can leave this.

Eddie: So just to clarify, we want the Executive Committee to be a continuing pool of senators so that there is no set date when their term expires... I was operating under the assumption that we have to have fixed term.

Natalie: What if we make it a separate point that your responsibility as the Executive Senator aligns with your department's senate term. That separates and just say following a vacancy we can elect. There is also this secret ballot thing that we have to fix.

Alice: I think we should wait for working on this, I think for the purposes of this discussion and to keep moving forward we should talk about substantive concepts such as what do we want. And then we can do wordsmithing later. And to answer your question from earlier. Are we voting? No. We're not voting. But the decision is an ongoing process, and I don't think we should bring up the bylaws at our meeting next week.
Yasmeen: But we are doing Executive Senator votes a week after.

Alice: I think we need to dedicate an entire weekend for an Executive Committee meeting and an hour and a half or two hours even, to go through this painstakingly and wordsmith, and change things. I would be happy to spend a whole day going through and wordsmithing and just have the whole Executive Committee go through where are the changes and then we can go through the changes and if people disagree then we can talk about it. Is everyone agreeing we can just about on in? And it will go more quickly. Because we don't need to spend this time wordsmithing right now.

Eddie: To clarify, the whole Senate has to approve all the changes before do anything to act on the bylaws. For example Yasmeen was trying to bring up how we need to elect one Executive Senator, and that we really need to get these bylaws. And just this one. So we have the authority to conduct that election the way we want to.

Alice: Actually I disagree with that. So I know for the last time we talked by changing the bylaws in the first meeting to have it be exactly what we want, and actually going through that process, as in demonstrating that it can be done. But at this point I think it's more important for us to get an Executive Senator on board then have the bylaw being changed. We can still conduct it however we want to.

Yasmeen: But we can't. Because the bylaws say is that we have to nominate them.

Doug: Motion to extend time by 10 minutes

Alice: Any objections? The reason why I haven't been entertaining motion to extend time is because we are so far over at this point, that we have not been able to keep track of how much father we need to extend time to maintain in compliance with the bylaws, so I will just say maybe for the duration of this meeting, if you can move to stop the discussion and move on to the next agenda item but for all intents and purposes, we will try to be as brief as possible.

Eddie: I just disagree. We cannot get executive elections how we want to. We have to follow the bylaws. If they want to change it we have to vote on it.

Alice: For the purpose of not wanting to rush through changing the bylaws just for the purpose of having an executive election...For the last at least three or four senators who have been elected cause we haven't really done it this way, even though that's what the bylaws say. Because we just sort of fundamentally disagree with this without having have to go through.... I was suggesting that we announce the opening of the Executive Senator and our first meeting, invite people to come to our next Executive meeting in between the next one. Talk to about it at the second one because were not going to be able to have all of our senators, and then if in that process we have come to an agreement in on the details are worked out in our bylaws and we are ready to fall on it, we can vote on the bylaws right before our actual Executive Senator election. So we can do it in the same meeting. But I think we should give ourselves a little bit more time working on the bylaws, and a little bit more time working on the executive elections. And if we don't have perfect bylaws by the time we need to vote that Executive Senator in, we can just suspend the section and say that this is perfect example of why we need to vote on the bylaws because we need to suspend them in order for us to do a democratically election for our Executive
Senator election. And it's not as big of a deal. I think it will be nice. I would rather not rush through to get perfect Bylaws just so we can have an Executive Senator on board.

Yasmeen: Okay that makes sense, I just want to express that I'm a little bit frustrated at the pace of the bylaws revision… I feel like I have been working on it since the second meeting of summer and I would like to get something done before we actually have to use the bylaws. So it will be really awesome if everybody can just look at them between our meetings and then if we can actually make a decision it'll be great.

Alex: I'm worried about the process … Looking at them doesn't do anything we have to discuss them as a group, or at least a group needs to discuss it. So I don't know if we want to bring back our own group… Just thinking about something.

Alice: What if we do it another one of those retreats situation… A few hours separate from executive meeting, just to go through the bylaws

Doug: We're going to spend so much time on bylaws during the Executive meeting, maybe you'll benefit to have two hours and some other time to go over, so we can finalize this at the Executive meeting. So we all spent 40 minutes talking about this. And it needs to be done but...

Evan: We can also do whatever OPMA says the acceptable thing is to do... Just set up a meeting that specifically about discussing bylaws.

Alice: How about you and I set up a separate time to meet and go through things? Or do my suggested changes and comments or just put it in a word document and do track changes in your ranking then have a meeting about it. Once we reconcile on our recommendations in Chris's stuff then we can have another meeting that I will have Patricia organize with all the Executive Senators who actually want to be involved in this process, to come together with that reconciled version, and we will go over it before the record, the Executive meeting process completion.

Evan: Sounds like you're trying to compartmentalize what's missing out and do more substantial overarching changes? Because that sounds like a great idea.

Alice: Because we haven't really finished this discussion I would entertain the motion to table this for now pending the future revision of the bylaws, and bring it back to the executive meeting as soon as possible.

Evan: moved

Natalie: second.

Alice: objections? Thank you so much. Next on our agenda is Alex who is going to talk about the legislative action plan.

Alex: Part of this is just some things we have heard from people, and things and issues for our advocacy and higher education and how we talk about it with external stakeholders. We want to explore the job aspect side of things, and try to partner with employers who need graduate students. They are not meeting the need locally, and they're trying to push more for that. And I will work with external stakeholders and legislators and try to figure out ways that we can add value to these companies that we would like to partner with. And I have a case for the idea of advocating for higher education overall. And I think it make a lot of sense for a different number of reasons. One, it comes out better. But also any funding that we don't get, the first thing is going to go up is graduate tuition. We are really in it all together and we need to emphasize and focus on our external effort. Alice came up with an awesome saying "focusing on K through jobs" regardless of where it ends, it's about employment and jobs, it's not just that, there are some other things that we all care about, just as far as how we get from it, it gives more attraction. Focusing on jobs. That's just kind of some of those early thoughts. Does anybody want to share any feedback or thoughts?
Evans: Just make sure that this right. Trying to get graduate students specifically for students who want jobs? Is that correct?

Alex: Some programs are just not producing high enough numbers of students in our state so they're bringing people from other parts of the country so that the idea is filling in those positions with more Washington people.

Evans: Is it to show the Washington State people on the value of basically at Master and PhD?
Alex: Yes to further build our economy.

Eddie: I see that utility part of partnering with business, these employers demand a certain degree, which can leverage legislators to increase funding. Just kind of want to know how broad it will be. We're coming in it from where? Because to me and I would think that partnering with the average everyone in graduate school already decided that graduate school is worth it. And we are advocating on behalf of them, so I think it will be bad if there are kind of implication that we are advocating behalf of these businesses. So that is just first thing that I thought about.

Alice: Can I just contextualize? This is the presentation that we got from the Board of Regents meeting, and operation budgeting outlook for the state of Washington. Basically these are all the promises that we already have in our state budget, but we get this new projected revenue, 2.6 billion dollars, so everyone is like "what's the big deal..." but what this is actually covering is all these maintenance and carrying forward the pensions, and employee health care are in the state of Washington budget or protective fund. So funds that we can touch: human resources, corrections so, prison, and higher education. So if you send a bunch of PhD students to Olympia and say "look at the value that we are providing to the states, please don't cut our funding" they are like ... "Talk to the hand, you are already a PhD student, I don't need to help you". And it's almost bad. I actually got direct advice that said basically don't waste your time sending graduate students to talk to legislators. Because they don't have any sympathy when you are advocating on behalf of yourself. Now what would be effective is if we have businesses in the state of Washington who need engineers who need people with master degrees going to the legislators and say "hey we need people to have higher education in the state of Washington so they can fill our jobs. This is an economic issue, this is a workforce issue, so please don't cut the higher ed, because it is our pipeline. So it would be them advocating for us instead. So there's two parts to this strategy-one is internal, us partnering with business. We are working with career center to talk about how we can get career mentoring outside of Academia set up somehow for graduate students. And the externally, through the building of those relationships with those companies who are reaching out to us and say "hey, you want access to the top engineers? Do you want to help show the value of this industry instead of academia, we have this mentoring program; you can get your pick. Hey by the way would you come down to Olympia and tell legislator how important it is and how important we are to the state." Rather than us speaking for ourselves. Sorry that was really long, but I needed to give a little bit more overview on what it really is.

Evans: I want to echo on the career mentoring thing-when I did the orientations, there were first year students tossing ideas at me, and at both the orientations people said that they want career mentoring. That was the common theme. Those were first year that already knew they want career mentoring. At least at my department at least.

Eddie: I see the possible benefit of the relationship but I'm not exactly sure how you are going to ensure to quick pro-quo lobbying in Olympia. Maybe you can explain that later. But something you said in the beginning, lobbying on our usual basis is not effective because they are not receptive to the needs of graduate students- I think I disagree with that. Because I have met with some of the Seattle legislators and they are receptive to graduate student needs. And I also think that in terms of going in and lobbying at Olympia, a lot of these legislators kept telling us that they don't get enough feedback from graduate and professional students. In fact, they don't hear a lot from undergraduate students who have a lot to lose like we do in terms of increased tuition. So I think there's still a lot of value in graduate and professional students to meet with their legislators, especially for the ones who don't live in Seattle.
Another thing is that, I agree with the whole STEM business, I think that's great because employers do need those. But what I am afraid of is the perception that we are cutting everyone else out. And not to mention that fact that we might be cutting everyone else out and GPSS is supposed to advocate on behalf of all graduate and professional students. So there's been a talk in legislators on having preferred degree- in terms of STEM. And that's the kind of policy I think would be very dangerous to pursue especially without the consulting of the whole Senate.

Alice: What do you mean preferred degree?

Eddie: So basically, taking some universities around the state and cutting out programs.

Alice: Can they do that?

Eddie: I think they can.

Alex: They would have to have someone go along with that, they control the string, they got some swing.

Doug: But yes, UC Davis program got cut completely... So they are saying "we are not cutting anything, we are just shaking things around by moving funds around"

Alice: One other thing to offset those differences is differential tuition, for different programs. So I agree with you and I appreciate your input on this. I didn't mean to say that we shouldn't send graduate students to go down and talk to legislators. But something like that would have a bigger picture. Like "don't cut UW at all..." because it's an economic engine. Then we can get them to speak for UW as a whole and we can try to shift it. I think it's important to focus on different types of fields but at the same time leverage those big money strings that they listen to, like Microsoft and Boeing and say, “please don't cut higher ed, because we need people to be highly educated.”

Eddie: We agree that Boeing has huge influence on legislators, if we are able to get a special session.... I am just afraid that scenario that if there's a whole bunch of lobbying on STEM and nothing else and that the legislature has an incentive to firewall around STEM and cut everything else. And that's what I am worried about, because I think even STEM people benefit from having a diverse, well-funded college.

Doug: So for non-STEM fields, is there a non-academia type of metering direction that would be good to go? In this case, that would be another reason to lobby for UW. So instead of it being negative that we are only lobbying for TSTEM, if there are other people who want anything from artist to educators, going on down the list on all the non-STEM fields that would be great. That would be great if we know someone who is non-STEM field, and see if they can get that kind of mentor.

Natalie: I think human services kind of organizations would be good, because they are into innovation.

Alice: But I mean even getting a company like Google that we can access through the business relationship and say that we need artists, innovators, and social media, we need people who know marketing, human resources. Big company that we have access through the STEM field, but if we give them talking points and they are on board with it to say that they need English PhD to do their writing, something like that where we can make sure their talking points focus on all the different type of skills.

Alex: This idea isn't new. This has been going around and part of what you see is that big companies come in and say "hey don't cut higher education", and you have a lot of legislator say “ok, we can tax you more” and basically the conversation stop there, and we are trying to move it somewhere. But it is basic history. It needs to be noted as well.

Alice: If there’s no further discussion on this, we can keep this an on-going conversation, and I really encourage that, I think in past years I see the legislative agenda come from the Vice President down to the Senate, and we can really benefit from people such as Eddie, who has had experience with the deliberating process as we are creating the legislative agenda. So I really like that Alex and I are working on this together. And we are also working with ASUW on it too. I think it would be great to have Eddie, and whoever else is interested in Senate and have that experience to get involved in the process through
the legislative committee and such like that. I think it could great to have them more active while shaping our agenda talking point, as suppose to just top down approach. Thanks for sharing. Moving on to scheduling our first senate meeting agenda. Did everyone get the email that I sent out last time with the outline that we came up with during the last executive meeting?

Natalie: Yep. September 17. Although only the elevator draft is there…

Alice: ok.

Yasmeen: Did you talk to the spot light person? Whoever said she was going to do. (Natalie nodded) I think also one suggestion is that I think an official timekeeper would be great. To get this meeting off a good time keeping start.

Alice: You know I think I am going to wear a watch during the meeting.

Yasmeen: It sometimes hard to watch your own watch. Doug is going to do it.

Doug: I will do it. I am the officer. I don’t think you are supposed to time your own meeting.

Evan: In the past I have seen the Secretary or the Treasurer on the phone with an alarm and it just kind of vibrates.

Doug: Who had the vibrating thing?

Evan: Yeah, they just set their iPhone alarm. And if you just sit it in front of Alice and get her attention…

Doug: Yeah, we won’t have to extend time every time.

Alice: How about we give me the benefit of the doubt that I will able to conduct the meeting in a more timey fashion. And If I am doing really badly, then Doug can be there as a second plan.

Doug: I just like the idea of being timekeeper.

Alice: So I would really like to write the agenda right now, unfortunately we don’t have anything.

Natalie: We actually need to because I have to send it out tonight.

Alice: I will share with everyone on Google Drive. It might just be in our Executive Senator folder. It’s called exec agenda. Do we have anything from last year that needs to happen? Approval of the minutes from last meeting? What was the date of that Senate meeting? I am assuming that was in June. It was the special meeting

Yasmeen: It's the 4th of June. So do we have to approve the agenda?

Alice: For the agenda for the first Executive meeting. So, here we go. The first thing before approval of the agenda, then can we do the icebreaker? Does anyone have idea for the icebreaker?

Eddie: I think we should say “Ice breaker” in the agenda and we have a week to think about it.

Yasmeen: Are we going to email this out also? We just need to approve the agenda.

Alice: I don’t like that I have to make this information or action, because it’s not either. It’s just fun. How long should it last? I just want to extend time. I think it’s going to take 15 minutes and I think we should make it 15 minutes. We are here to meet each other, we want it to be an interactive thing.

Doug: As long as the total time is under an hour and a half, we should be fine.
Evan: Do we also want Natalie to sponsor the spotlight? I think we talked
Maybe split up
Yasmeen: Can I
inter
like a minute
standing up
to talk about your role as an
Alice:
Evan: Yep, max.
GPSS?
what I
when each of us give an
Alice: Yes,
Evan: I remember we are going to do officer introductions, are those being built into those?
Alice: Yes, let's build those in. I thought was going to put that at the officer report at the end. Just like when each of us give an overview. It includes one slide of this is my job, and this is what I do, and this what I have been working on. So how long is this? Maybe 5 minutes for the structure overview and GPSS?
Evan: Yep, max.
Alice: Then Executive Senator opening. Could we have the three executive senators come up at that point to talk about your role as an Executive Senator? I think it would be great for the senate to see you standing up in front of everyone to talk about why you are here, just super brief. So 5 minutes total. So like a minute piece. But just to give it some context and just say that we have a seat, if you are interested, please come talk to us.
Yasmeen: Can I suggest that Evan is the sponsor of that? Because he has been here the longest…
Maybe split up who is sponsoring each agenda item
Evan: Do we also want Natalie to sponsor the spotlight? I think we talked about that in the last one too.
Alice: I think we should do the spotlight after our most important business, in case people leave or trickle out. I don't know if you guys remember the senate agenda from last year, but it was almost entirely Chris talking, almost the entire time. So that's why I want to have you guys stand up and say something.

Eddie: Can I just interject that I really have to go?

Alice: Alex, can I ask you to cover the voter registration report? Or is it separate? So we don't have a Judicial Committee, we have to form one in this meeting. Did someone want to sponsor the forming of Judicial Committee, or does it have to be me?

Everyone: Eddie.

Alice: I think if it is an action item I have to sponsor it, because I chair it. But Eddie, I can introduce you if you don't mind to talk about the judicial committee.

Eddie: I could. I mean Natalie sits on it... you are technically the Secretary. So Secretary actually ran the whole committee.

Alice: So the formation of the Judicial Committee, hopefully won't take longer than 10 minutes, we have 10 minutes for the spotlight, 5 minutes for the voter registration, the other item we have on our agenda was a small discussion on parliamentary procedures. Natalie, do you want to cover it at the officer report or do you want to have a separate information item. At the beginning of the meeting I can introduce you as a parliamentarian, and you can give a brief thing on this is how you speak, etc.

Evan: I would like to have it separate, and Natalie can introduce herself later on. Do agenda, do minutes, and do parliamentary procedures, and Natalie can explain.

Yasmeen: I feel like officer reports, they usually take more than 15 minutes.

Evan: hopefully this time they can just do introductions rather than reports. But normally they take quite a lot longer than 15 minutes.

Yasmeen: So the part where we say what we did this summer, which is on our list from last meeting, is not happening.

Alice: No, that is. That's what we are doing in our officer report.

Yasmeen: I think it will take longer than that.

Alice: It's only an hour so far. So let's give ourselves 25 minutes for officer report. I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

Doug: Second.

Evan: So are we doing introductions and what we did in the summer?

Alice: yes.

Evan: do you want to split that up into two chunks of the meeting?

Alice: I don't remember from last year, but do we need to separate out the officer report

Yasmeen: 89 minutes.

Evan: Is that with the 25 minutes with the officer report? (Yes) Are you guys going to do a rapid fire of introduction and just do a quick summary of what we did over the summer?
Alice: Yes. Well we are in the middle of a motion, he has an objection, he asked for a point of clarification, has your point of clarification been satisfied? As long as the officers only take 5 minutes. Is there any objection? Okay great, we have an agenda. We have our first senate agenda approved.

F. Executive senator report

Alice: If you guys have to leave right at this second, you can give your report and leave. But if Evan has something to say… Natalie do you want to give your report now so you can leave or do you want to just...
Natalie: Yeah, so the orientations went really well, we got a huge stack of feedback cards. And staff are helping me to categorize those into Excel, so we can compile an email list. So that's really good. I actually printed out a parlipro guide. This is the draft for the nametags. It has all the parliamentary things on the front and just kind of the vision and the thinking behind the parliamentary procedures on the back. So this can be folded in half to fit in the nametag. That's pretty much all.

Alice: Can we just give a round of applause for Natalie?

(Applause)

Natalie: Wait ok, so we have the RSO fair tomorrow, but all orientations are done. Thank you all for your help, I couldn’t have done it without your help.

Alice: Thank you so much Natalie.

Evan: So during my orientation, I managed to squeeze in enough time by kind of taking other people’s time to get some input from the first year, to see what they want out of it. I sent Alice these. A lot of the things that came up was actually the social events we were doing. It was something that they want to see more of, which is surprising because we don’t get huge attendance. But despite that, they are still very in favor of having these social events. They are very in favor of expanding it as well. Even just more sequential things, like bring live music into our events, or something like that, which was nice. A lot of people really like the freshman direction development already. And want to take them even further if possible. I had people wanting non-academia version of professional development, interaction and internships. As far as advocating wise, I actually got some interesting things that all kind of tie in with interactions we’ve had before but we never really pursued. So an example would be housing. They were like “yeah, could you advocate for cheaper housing for us?” And I was like that’s good point. People wanted more mental health advocacy, and so I talked to Chris about G3 so I can give you a little bit of an update on that too. People were really concerned about transportation, so I think it would be great if we stress that we are still involved with transportation and that it is an on-going thing. Because, the word got out last year about the work we are trying to do with transportation, and everyone this year is concerned about it too even the incoming freshman are concerned too. They see the scary sign on Metro bus about the change every single time they take the bus, so it's like “uh. I don’t know what is going on” So even if it’s like get the information out about what’s happened before for new incoming students, anything like that, that would be great. Textbooks was something that comes up too. It’s like graduate students still have to buy textbooks too, so I remember we talked about once, what could we do, and what could the book store do to help release some of those financial burden. I think there was a talk on “tax-free day” which I think is great but that’s it.

Alice: So a couple things, one we have the University Affair Director and I actually met some people from HFS to talk about housing, and in particular the housing trends for graduate students, so we are on that on the internal front. On the external front, we can talk about bookstores in a minute, but we have two full trustees on that. Because it is a corporation that started at Denny Hall, “by students, for students” and it remains such. So if there’s more student trustee on the board than any other type of trustee and if in the event of a tie, we also have students on our side. The tiebreaker is the CEO of the bookstore, who is obligated by their bylaws to work with students. So that we win. So if there’s something that we do want, we have leverage. But again, it’s communication issues of bookstore trustee not knowing what the heck
GPSS is and GPSS does not know that there’s a board of trustees at the bookstore and it is entirely student-dominated, so I think greater communication will help improve some of those issues.

Evan: Yeah, and people want us to safeguard student health insurance.

Alex: It’s gone for domestic, you have to go to the exchange at the state.

Evan: So they are worried about what’s happening, and graduate students too. And I think that would be important to talk about. And I know we did have a seminar last year.

Alex: There was, but it was after the deadlines. So …

Evan: It would be great if we keep on talking about that because I know that is a worry for a lot of people. This is from the orientation. I got a lot from the orientation, and getting information into them. I talk fast, so… I don’t think these are all things that we have to act on, but I just want to toss these out in case people want to. Because I know we talk about our officers are overburden, but there are more people than just officers here. So if you want people just start taking ideas and running with them, or assigning ideas that would be good.

Alice: Well, so again, we have committee positions on the new advisory board for the international student health insurance plan. I’ve met with Ann, and she is really interested in this issue, and has a lot of history and experience on this. And I got an email from the UAW today talking about negotiation about the graduate student insurance. And I connected Ann to those folks, and say hey if you’re interested in getting more involved with the health insurance stuff, connect with these folks. So we are relying on our members who have experience in that area, and perhaps connecting them hosting a focus group. For students who are interested in topics too, all of our committee representative are now called our GPSS executive liaisons, so maybe having focus groups of students who are interested in various topics could be a really cool thing.

Yasmeen: My Executive Senator report is one very small update for orientation. People seem really interested and excited, which was good to see. And the bioethics department which is mostly professional students aren’t really interested in parties or anything after school, but they are really interested in university committees, especially the IRB. So they all declared their intention to apply.

Evan: So I was wondering if you guys would hate me if I give you updates on G3. Ok, so I know it’s late. The difficulties seem to be where it sits. Chris wanted it to be interpreted into the school system entirely and just have it kind of dissociate from GPSS entirely to protect it from being forgotten when administration was turned over, which is a valid concern, but the problem is that it has a lot of support but no home now. There have been a lot of people who sound like they pledge their support to it, but it doesn’t have a place to live now. So I just kind of told him that it should live in GPSS for a couple years until it gets off the ground. It’s kind of stagnated over the summer, but it’s getting back on the ground now. It will mainly be getting out of Chris’s hands and into the two front men and women who should be leading this, and Krista who is very good at this. So that would be something to look for… that should be something that can be turned into a committee so it has a home, and has something to centralize it, because it needs support, and actual human time. Right now, I think there’s a lot of money pledge to it, but there’s not actual human time. Nobody has time to actually set up people to actually put mentee with mentors and get the word out, and advertise it and do all these things that take people to do. So it needs a home to do that. So I’m interested in that and I will help out where I can. Chris seems to think that the Esra and Ragan are going to be able to do that, but I think if we hear from them and if we push them to make this into a full committee and put it under GPSS’s wings for a year or two whole it gets off the ground would be great. Because right now it has a lot of potential, but it hasn’t gone anywhere yet. They have mentors, they have slightly trained mentors, but they don’t have mentees.

Alice: I have a meeting being scheduled with the Graduate School, Chris and Ragan, and others to figure out what’s the real commitment.
Natalie: We got a lot of interest for the mentoring on these. We are working on compiling the mentor list on this so within the next week, hopefully we will have a whole list of students who are interested in receiving metering.

Alice: Receiving mentoring or giving mentoring because some people are interested in either one.

Natalie: Yeah, most of these are first year students, so they are probably more...

Alice: I personally talked to a lot of people and they were like “oh, I don’t need mentoring, but I have a lot of professional experience, I can give mentoring.” Thank you Evan. Alex.

Alex: The biggest thing I want to focus on is, there is going to be a open space forum on October 7 which talks about what is happening with light rail. And look at what to do with the space next to UW tower.

Alice: I saw that and I deleted it. Do we need to go to that?

Alex: So I am going to go. So 7:00-9:00 at Alder hall commons, one of the new campus resident halls down on campus parkway. So if anyone is interested in that…I will bring it up during my senate report during the meeting. That's the biggest thing. A lot of good meeting, good orientations.

Doug: Working on a budget summary and an overall budget summary on Husky Sunrise event. Because we want to document it and have everything as clear as possible for next year. And we also want it to run through different scenarios if they change. Source of funding, charging students money…basically we want to set up a few different scenarios and have them all laid out, so if people bring them up, we can have the numbers ready. Orientations went amazing, people we really involved. Those slips are genius; they help us understand what people are interested in. Other than that everything is going as smooth as gravy.

Alice: Natalie do you have anything to report?

Natalie: No, although I am planning on starting to reach out to the different diversity commissions, so ASUW as well as GOMAP and talking about potential collaboration opportunity or just kind of unify our ways and plan this year on campus on the issue of diversity.

Alice: Natalie, who we have informally decided we are officially going to make her the Chief Diversity Officer of GPSS. Because up until now we just refer this to Secretary as that person that kind of work on diversity stuff, and we would like to give her an official title. So I don’t think we need an official procedure for that but if you put it in the bylaws, obviously we will have to vote on it, but I could like to name the secretary of GPSS and the Chief Diversity Officer, so it formalizes her role. Amber?

Amber: I don’t have anything in particular, because our first real meeting is tomorrow, so I don’t have anything yet.

Alice: I did want to tell you that I went to the UW Bookstore Board of Trustee meeting last night, and Christina and I were presented a traditional gift from the bookstore, and rather than opening it greedily and getting really excited about this I want to show everyone how excited I am and that we are all chairing this together, So I wanted to open this in front of you and share the moment of excitement with you. Symbol of leadership. Oh, and also Ubi, the UW bookstore mascot, they hired an official mascot company to make the head of Ubi, and Ubi will be showing up on campus relatively soon. So this is the engraved gavel. So GPSS Presidents get this every year from the bookstore, and I just want to thank everyone on the hard work on Husky Sunrise as well. I hope this is a symbol of how great this year is going to be.

Yasmeen: I move to adjourn.
Doug: Second.

Alice: Are there any objection. Hearing that, I official adjourn this meeting. 8:18PM.