GPSS Executive Committee Meeting
January 9, 2013

Attendees
Adam Sherman, GPSS President
Evan Firth, Executive Senator
Kristen Hosey, GPSS Secretary
Larry Huang, Executive Senator
Michael Firth, Executive Senator
Vera Giampietro, GPSS Treasurer
Melanie Mayock, GPSS Vice-President (telephonically)
Rene Singleton, SAO
Michael Kutz ASUW

1) Call to Order
Adam: Call meeting to order at 5:35

2) Approval of Agenda
Evan: Moves to approve
Michael: Seconds

3) Approval of Previous Minutes
Michael: Moves
Larry: Seconds

4) General Fund Discussion
Vera: General Fund accumulates; $260,000 is the balance of the general fund. GPSS approved a budget to spend down the deficit, then $220,000 to spend down. SAF asks us to spend down the general fund. Difficult to ask for more funds, if we are not spending down the general fund. One recommendation is to use the general fund to create an endowment for GPSS. Lincoln can’t be here tonight.
Adam: Rene is a source of institutional memory. I sent out a memo that explains the
endowment idea and why I think it’s a good direction for us to move. Not sure much more to say, but would love to hear what questions you have about the memo.

Larry: Question about the GPSS alumni association. It might be easier for the alumni association of the individual department is better equipped.

Vera: Limit discussion to the general funds.

Adam: Any questions about the memo?

Vera: Generally speaking, Adam’s advice from Jenny, VP of planning and budget, to keep 20-30% of operating budget in reserve; keep 60K to 100K in reserve. Kristen recommends playing it conservative when spending down funds.

Kristen: I’m not tied to this recommendation. Just something to consider.

Michael: How dependent will the endowment be on donors? How confident do you feel that donors will want to contribute?

Adam: I’ve been in conversation with the graduate school. Figure on page 2 of the memo, look at the left column of the endowment model. The numbers assume no further investment except the re-investment funds. To get to the question of donors, this doesn’t factor in donors. In appendix A, I factor in donors, which changes the endowment in the long run.

Michael: It’s somewhere to put donated money.

Rene: If someone’s giving money, we take it 24-7. You can put it in immediately.

Adam: The distribution comes in only once a year. It’s endowed and reserved from that purpose. The interest is the only thing that we can touch, in terms of current use dollars, for the intended or stated purpose of the endowment.

Vera: So the four percent?

Adam: Can use the four percent.

Kristen: Can we use the money anyway we want? Like food for events?

Adam: The money has to be use for the stated purpose. It must be specific and general enough to attract donors and provide the flexibility for GPSS to accomplish its goals. I put in the GPSS purposes in the recommendation. Special allocations, child support, diversity, and student programming and services, and not for overhead of GPSS operations.

Rene: Inside these programs, there is an intended purpose, and the money is coming from
hardworking former students.
Larry: The money for the endowment can’t be withdrawn?
Adam: That’s correct.
Rene: There are more likely people to contribute.
Adam: Good that there is skepticism. My concern is that the fund that is growing is not going to students. If you look at the graphs, there are times we spend and grow the money. This has been a steady process of going up, but there are peaks and valleys, but steady trend upward, this is the reserve fund. Once we get to a certain level, we can continue to grow. But we want to make sure we maintain the balance.
Larry: Can you change the interest percentage?
Adam: I think so, but 4% may be the most you can take out. There are people who manage this and do well.
Larry: I’d invest in this.
Melanie: If we have a bad year and lose money, would we not use the money to spend on services? What do we do in a bad investment year?
Adam: This is not going to be a significant chunk of our budget. But this is on a year-by-year basis.
Melanie: We may not choose to take anything out if it were a bad market year.
Rene: If we didn’t use all the interest money, then we can use that the next year.
Melanie: If we use this for services, it depends on how we market, and how we plan for.
Adam: That’s smart, we need policies to determine how we distribute the money.
Vera: How long would it take for the endowment to spend down the general fund? How long would it take to accrue the money we put in the general fund? If we added up everything we got from the interest, eventually it will be the same as or greater than what we put away.
Adam: It would take 20 years for use to have made what we put away. We double the market value.
Vera: To me that is the most important than the principal.
Adam: The reason why the principal is important is the leveraging power.
Vera: To put it in consumable terms for the Senate, in 20 years we’ll have made enough money to pay this back.
Adam: This is making the assumption that we have the annual rate of return of 8%
Larry: After year 5, the amount of the return will change.
Adam: We should have a range of 20-50% to go into the fund. The general fund reserve is not very clear.
Vera: There was not actual statement of the general fund, it was estimated that we had $310,000; our latest statement says we have 260,000. The other thing to know about this, is that the operating deficit will take this down more.
Adam: How are we doing?
Vera: We have more spending to do, if you assume what is remaining is twice of what we spend, and then we’re fine.
Adam: We under spent on things like Fall social.
Vera: Personnel now are under. What we budgeted is to draw down by $47,000 then we’d have 213,000 left in the general fund.
Larry: This would be before we pull out the emergency fund?
Adam: Yes. I don’t understand what the number is, if we find this out, and then it will help inform what we can draw down. It is easy for me to adjust the initial gift, since I have this in excel.
Vera: SAFF – Committee and service committee, they gave us 309,000 dollars. We are in the process of drafting the budget for next year (2014). They will not give us an increase in our budget, unless we have a reason. They want to see that their money is being spent well, and that units are finding their own source of income. Thirdly, they want to see we are spending down our general fund. The endowment would fit in well with a request for more money. It would spend down the general fund by a significant amount.
Adam: This is a place where concerns should be heard. The next step is to put this before the Senate. I don’t want anyone holding back. If there are concerns now is the time to talk about. If there are not concerns.
Kristen: My concern is the amount.
Adam: The amount is dependent on what we actually have in the general fund. Here’s how much to pull out that leaves 20%, 50%. This would provide a range for the Senate, here’s a range of possibilities for what to pull out.
Vera: One of the main issues that could come up at the Senate is travel grants. We have a
deficit budget now, not a balanced budget. We need to find money somewhere for travel grants. If we are taking 100-150,000 dollars for the endowment that’s not being used for travel grants.

Larry: Can we ask SAFF for travel grants?
Vera: We are talking about this.
Kristen: Timeline wise, when do we have to have this done? If we do it in the next couple of weeks. Is there a specific timeline to have this done by?
Adam: We are making this decision in absence of information; we should have a decision before we submit a budget for next year.
Kristen: We may not know how much we get from SAF before we vote anyway about the endowment funds.
Adam: Yes, that may be. There is the discussion about asking Alaska Airlines to be a sponsor for travel grants.
Vera: Is the 100K minimum feasible with the current budget allocations?
Adam: The policy I have, if one year we don’t spend the amount, then if we don’t spend it all, the extra will go to the principal of the endowment.
Rene: Made the proposal that you would take the travel grants out. Think about other issues that people will have when they’re having their angst. It’s not the endowment part. First you’re going to have conversation about the regular operations. You may want to spend time, when you’re doing the general budget. But you will need to talk about this, you restructured. That 304,000 came from SAFF.
Adam: This was our general fund, 309K is the SAFF allocation. We have a reserve the same amount as our allocation.
Rene: You need to have a conversation with the Senate in how you’re operating.
Kristen: Does the travel grants committee know? Sounded like at the last senate meeting, they could get it back, but the money actually went to something else.
Vera: There were 17-18K increases in personnel alone.
Adam: We funded a few more.
Kristen: We don’t have a sponsor.
Adam: This is realistic, and hopeful. We spent enough time on this and move on. And ask for a motion to extend time for this discussion.
Vera: moves
Michael: seconds.

5) Strategic Plan Discussion
Adam: Ok. The strategic plan. Discussion of various sponsorships in place. We have not done a good job of thinking creatively about how sponsors might help.
Rene: We have been doing this for years.
Kristen: Marc Jaffrey did this when he was the Treasurer.
Rene: Formally, the institution is saying it is OK. And everything Adam is talking about is on target. You can use these things legitimately.
Adam: Establishing a close relationship with sponsorships will help them put together their packages of sponsorships with the UW. But this should not prevent us from going out to the local businesses.
Vera: There is an inherent conflict in having smaller entities be one campus, potentially they’d rather have Starbucks, for example, provide everything.
Adam: What you’re referring to is exclusive sponsorships. Since we are an undergrad population, there are no sponsorships for alcohol. I think it’d be great for Big Time or College Inn to sponsor our events. Any other questions?
Rene: The University gives you full discretion of what you want to do with the funds. Historically the predecessors fought to give autonomy. There are a lot of regulations on the funds.
Adam: We don’t have guarantees of getting money from sponsors. We shouldn’t do anything until we know what the ranges of responsibilities are. Any other questions on that section of memo? I know that Larry has questions.
Larry: I had questions how that would fit in. Every department has its own alumni. How affective would a GPSS alumni association be?
Adam: From what I know there hasn’t been GPSS alumni association in official capacity. I think that a GPSS social network is important for our institution. For previous officers and senators to come back and mingle. One of the biggest reasons is to create donor base.
Vera: Didn’t you talk to Lincoln about idea of cultivating donors and he said just make friends?
Rene: GPSS officers who sit in this room. There may be 10-12 people who meet weekly who are pretty close. Those people who came before you will be here, if solicited, in ten minutes. The problem is that what you are talking about is what people have tried to do for a long time. If you do this, past people will come here. You guys are the leaders of the student government. For those of you who went to meeting last year where mayor McGinnis came. He came back and was teary eyed. He thought “these are the guys where I started”. This is fantastic. Who else on campus has been an advocate like you?

Vera: We did have alumni event at the beginning of the year. It was well attended. There is a lot of interest.

Larry: In the past, what were the reasons that the officers chose not to do alumni association?

Rene: There have been many formal associations and events. It just didn’t happen because of circumstances. The same thing happened to the undergrads.

Adam: One of the things the grad school recommended is that you get an advisory committee with people and ask them what kind of program and develop a big strategic plan. Betsy Troutman has a group of people involved. We are pretty much ready to start this thing if we want to do it. There are three things the Grad School will help us with 1) managing our alumni list 2) professionalize our communications. 3) setting up a gift fund. I think partnering with grad school will make sure this goes well in the future.

Michael: Are you aiming to set up a way to connect careers with alumni?

Adam: I know that the alumni association has a link to connect you with people in a certain industry. Maybe we could put an extra GPSS tag there. We don’t want to recreate things from scratch. That partnering creates institutional memory. Any last questions? If you don’t have questions, feel free to come up to me at a different time.

6) YTD Spending Report

Vera: I’ve already handed this out.

Melanie: Can you email this to me?

Vera: Probably not because its in my computer in my office. I can email it to you after the meeting. There’s nothing earth shattering on it. It’s a snap shot year to date of expenses taking a few days ago. Where we’ve spent money and what we have left. We
are not expected to go over budget. We’ve spent half our budget on office supplies. Fall social was below budget. We have one thousand dollars left for small events. Student parent budget is left. This is something to know where we stand. There’s nothing to me that is alarming. Melanie you already saw personnel statement? That tells you that everyone is under except for one person. Questions?

Adam: Where do you see areas where we wont spend everything?

Vera: Personnel. Tuition waivers. We had an office manager who didn’t work all of her managers. Fall social was under. Lots of miscellaneous things. Discretionary funds. I don’t know if we will spend 4 thousand on student parent events.

Adam: What is tech recharge?

Vera: That is the one that Joe brought to our attention. I believe that is the item that charges per employee for phones and Internet, etc.

Rene: The University changed its technical formula.

Kristen: Is it different now because we are in the HUB?

Rene: It was instituted campus wide.

Kristen: We are at an operating deficit because last year we budgeted it that way?

Vera: Yes.

Larry: Why do they want to spend down general fund?

Vera: It doesn’t look good to have lots of money in reserve that we’re not using.

7) MLK Day of Service

Kristen: It's on Monday January 21st. GPSS is partnering with GOMAP. Everyone is invited. We have 3 sites were volunteering at. 1) FAFSA in Highline. That has the most volunteer space. You would be going to houses sharing information about funding. Giving out info about FAFSA. 2) I will be heading up Cannon House assisted living. We are painting the walls. 3) Northwest African American Museum. The UW is having a kickoff on that morning because there is lots of volunteer effort on that day. In the past we’ve had only one site. But this year I decided to partner with GO-MAP. If you want to sign up let me know. There will be alumni there and students. GO-MAP is organized in communicating with alumni. Any questions? The northwest museum you sit at a table and check in people, do odds and ends stuff.
8) Social Calendar
Vera: We have a page on the website. I’m going to hit the highlights. Social committee has been busy. PhD movie is next Tuesday in health sciences building 7 pm. We have a day of service. We have 2 speed dating events. They will be smaller capped at 120 people. Monday Jan 28 and Thurs Jan 31. There will be beer wine coffee and trail mix. They are heteronormative. There is an LGBTQ mixer on Thursday. We invent you to invite friends.
Rene: If there is feedback after speed dating, can you share that at next exec meeting?
Vera: Yes. Maybe we can send survey weeks later.
Kristen: Maybe we could put the GPSS input cards on events.
Vera: We are trying to put together family yoga. On campus and we would pay our instructor. Spring social is on Thurs Apr 25th. There’s talk of interdepartmental soccer event. Kristen: We do also have science and policy events coming up. Lobby is coming up.
Melanie: Lobby day is Friday Feb 15th. We are taking reservations through catalyst. Brian is our point person on this.

9) Science and Policy Update
Kristen: Science and policy, we are having two events before the lobby today for scientists learning how to talk about their research. Jan 29th and February 5th. We are on our way for planning the science policy summit in May.

10) Senate Meeting Agenda
Adam: Now we have to set agenda for next weeks senate meeting. We use an excel spreadsheet to plan our meeting agendas. Part of execs job is set agenda. Next meeting is Jan 16th. Right now we have standard stuff. How are temp readings going?
Vera: Good, I like reading the comments.
Adam: We have elections committee. We will ask for volunteers for this. Senate caucuses break out. Do you Melanie want to take this out or keep it in?
Melanie: Yes lets move it to the 30th.
Vera: Ten minutes for student regents might be conservative.
Melanie: I need a few minutes for legislative update.
Kristen: I think we should add a few minutes for events coming up. Instead of packing it in to information.
Adam: 8 minutes? Ok. Right now we have mostly stuff talking at them besides regents meeting. Desire to do break out session?
Kristen: I wouldn’t mind a break out session about where we are and how we’ve done so far. Not a committee report. A break out about committees and how we are doing with priorities.
Adam: What should we label it as?
Kristen: Priorities revisit? But leave it open because some groups say that some topics aren’t relevant to their group.
Adam: I think it would be good for people to get up and do this.
Melanie: Are we talking about the list we had at the beginning of the year? I think talking about department is better than about priorities. I don’t totally love idea of bringing back list of priorities.
Adam: I’m changing it to department issues revisited. Wording can be changed. Basically, you have a quarter under your belt, what issues have come up what has gone well. I have that for 15 minutes. After that we have UPASS discussion by Aaron.
Michael: Do you have facilitators for break out groups?
Adam: We have officers to go around if no leaders emerge in each group.
Kristen: One more thing. Thirty seconds to a minute working on the website. We want bios from senators.
Adam: “senator bio request” one minute. I forgot to mention we have Katherine Hall from housing wants to give update about grad school housing. Mercer court down by U bridge. I told her id give her five minutes. I’d like to put that at top because she is a guest.
Total for everything is 74 minutes. Everyone good? Motion to approve?
Evan: move
Larry: seconds

11) Legislative Update
Melanie: This week we had training from student lobbyists. Gregoire released balanced budget with no new revenue. Cut to higher Ed to total of 52 million. She released second budget with revenue measures with no cuts to higher Ed. She said, “if higher Ed funding is not decreased then tuition should not be raised”. The university said that is not possible because they have other costs. This week, the universities came out with plan that said if leg increases revenue then we will not raise tuition. I think it’s good that university put that out there, but that means that if they don’t receive new funding they will raise tuition.

In terms of graduate tuition, that isn’t being discussed. The bill is in 2014 because in 2013 there wouldn’t be enough voter turnouts. I brought up grad students tuition freeze and he said no. His response was that your best hope is Pay It Forward pilot programs. I asked Margaret Shepard about grad students and they are going to come up with figure to allow grad tuition freeze. It’s good that they are talking about it. I’m trying to bring attention to financial aid for grad students. There was a study completed about state sponsored student loan program. No one has seemed too interested in it though. Considering we just lost fed subsidized loans. The study talks about lottery based funding and getting credit unions involved. State work-study is trying to get cuts restored. How the growth in fee based programs and increase in cost. UW has put moratorium but I don’t think there are enough safeguards. Would it be good to have some sort of legislation on this? When I mentioned this issue to Larry Sequest he said that Washington student achievement council should study whether the state should support grad students. We have to determine whether we want leg strategy on this. Seattle Times reporter is working on an article on fee-based programs it will be in paper on Sunday.

Adam: I have a question. Is there any indication that Marcus Cochelli would get involved with an issue?

Melanie: I’m definitely hoping he can be a champion for something for grad students.

Adam: that it?

Melanie: that’s it.

12) Executive Officer Reports

Larry: What are the updates that you gave for SAF?

Adam: There will be a quarterly report but if you have something immediate you can
bring it up here.

Evan: I don’t have anything to report.

13) Officer Reports

**VP:** Melanie: That is my report.

**Treasurer:** Vera: My report is year to date and social events. Student life committee has made no progress. We have to submit our proposal to SAF in the next month.

Adam: When can exec see that report?

Vera: I hadn’t outlined a date. Maybe the first week of February. That’s it.

**Secretary:** Kristen: Diversity, we are collecting info on diversity groups across campus. We are working on adding diversity questions on course evaluation. We hope to get funding up it next couple weeks. As far as website, senator bios, science and policy page will have event info. Same as diversity page, we want it to be similar. Gen and I are working with the iSchool and other schools to get interns and students doing practicum work to get credit for improving our website. I have a few names from people from iSchool who are interested. It’s just a matter of setting it up. Finally, the bylaws there will be quite a few changes. Expect changes soon.

**ASUW:** Michael: Diversity requirement proposal in undergrad sphere is making progress. We are looking to make it so each student should have to take one class devoted to diversity. We are starting to get faculty involvement in this. It will be submitted to a faculty council. Another great update is house bill 1043. That is limiting differential tuition. It would make it illegal to do differential tuition at undergrad level. ECC opens this Friday at 5pm-7. Supersonics is back.

**President:** Adam: PACS update, we’ve finished up budgeting principles. College councils were working on admin policies to encourage deans to involve students in budgeting. There will probably be the regent’s report in April. I’ve talked about meeting with Steven Bell on sponsorships. Student fee transparency- office of budgeting is going to host a page about fees. It is in draft format right now. From there they will work on hyper linking fees from your tuition page. Staggered payment issue is totally stalled. It is too administratively intensive to stagger payments. Grad school is doing a study on all surveys sent out to students. Grad school dean is official. Dave Eaten. Gerry Baldesty is
working on international student fee proposal.

**14) Announcements:**
Adam: Any announcements?
Vera: Come to PhD movie and speed dating.
Motion to adjourn: Vera
Michael: seconds.