GPSS Executive Committee Meeting
December 5th, 2012

Attendees
Adam Sherman, GPSS President
Evan Firth, Executive Senator
Trond Nielsen, Executive Senator
Larry Wong, Executive Senator
Melanie Mayock, GPSS Vice President
Ben Landsman, Student Insurance Review Committee Representative
Vera Giampietro, GPSS Treasurer
Elise Randall, University Affairs Director
Kristen Hosey, GPSS Secretary
Chris Lizotte, Executive Senator
Rene Singleton, SAO Advisor
Michael Kutz, ASUW

1) Call to Order
Adam: calls meeting to order at 5:30pm

2) Approval of Agenda
Trond moves
Evan seconds

3) Approval of Previous Minutes
Chris moves
Larry seconds

4) Budget Update
Vera: In working with the budget with Rene, it became clear that we approved a budget last year with an operating deficit of $40,000 but we have a fund that can make absorb this. I just wanted to bring this to everyone’s attention for consideration for next years budget. Rene made some recommendations for organizing the general fund.
Melanie: Can you say why that happened?
Vera: I can’t say why. I just know that there is more in expenses than the fund.
Adam: Does it relate to the fundraising budget?
Vera: That’s parts of it.
Melanie: I don’t remember approving a budget that had that large of a deficit?
Adam: I recall conversations in past about running budgets that were not completely balanced.
Vera: A separate issue is that the general fund is less than what we had anticipated.
Trond: We planned for a deficit last year. If it was down from $12,000 then this matches up.
Vera: I just wanted to say this because I thought people should know.
Melanie: Could you repeat the actual number?
Adam: When you account for the $26,000 deficit that seems like an intentional act.
Vera: I just wanted to say that Rene is concerned about it.
Adam: Is there something you want us to do now? In this in relation to us passing the future budget?
Vera: Yes that it is.

5) General Fund Discussion
Vera: This is the runner up for the first round of discussion for spending down the general fund. Rough calculations, there is $220,000 roughly in general fund.
Adam: I had a conversation with Lincoln today, but he said that if there was a discrepancy between what we have in reserve fund and what Jane found then Jane’s are probably more accurate. If everyone turns to first item in information packet it shows the general fund. You can see how much the interest rate is each year. It looks like at the beginning of fiscal year 15. I think regardless, we haven’t been spending down the general fund like other academic units on campus have been.
Chris: Is there a certain amount we want as a cushion?
Adam: I have a meeting with Paul Jennings to talk about this. From what I hear there is no rule on this. We will have to come up with this on our own. I want to ask him what that ratio or range would be and be intentional about it.
Vera: Rene do you have wisdom on this?
Rene: This conversation has occurred a bunch of times. In the past, people thought that if an earthquake happened, you would be able to cover your unit, and others said just your salary. It’s an old accounting philosophy regarding the general fund. Other year’s people have said we will use the general fund now and not worry about the future. The amount of money you have has been built up. You have expanded this year. The university system is slower than usual. When you get to look at new things on the horizon, the numbers will come out a little different. The concept was planned last year, but the implementation is hitting you guys now.
Adam: We are currently down on what we budget for personnel?
Vera: yes
Rene: The staff funding was lower than what you submitted. That gap is what we need to talk about. That’s what you guys will have to weigh in on. It’s something you need to think about because you are growing.
Adam: Vera do you want to have a discussion on this?
Vera: It’s been on the table to think about since the beginning of the quarter and so far I have only heard one suggestion. This would be a good time to offer suggestions
Chris: What was that one?
Vera: The endowment
Chris: I was thinking about the travel fund in an endowed way.
Adam: What does it mean in an endowed way?
Trond: It’s easy to say that it was to benefit current students. We shouldn’t be spending just because we can.
Vera: I don’t have particular bias but I do think letting it sit around while people who have fees seems wrong.
Trond: If there was a need for a program then that would be a good use.
Larry: Is there a set of criteria in terms of needs and wants?
Trond: Just think, is this a thing we would do irrespective of the fund?
Evan: Another criteria would be does it create benefits beyond that money?
Melanie: In terms of travel grants, the program administration was the problem. If there was a better way to run that program then we could fund that.
Chris: Would we need to consult anyone. If Daniel comes up with a good plan, should we tell them we have funding?
Trond: If they can justify the number of students helped. Is this actually solving a problem?
Melanie: The budget is open on the table to say how are we spending money. If we think travel grants is good, there’s a chance we wouldn’t even have to go to general fund.
Trond: If there is a way to treat travel grants as an endowment...
Vera: I think if we chose travel grants that seems quite arbitrary to take from endowment.
Adam: Just so we’re clear, in order to generate enough money for travel grants, we are looking at half a million dollars in the fund.
Trond: Endowments usually start small.
Rene: I hear you talking about grad student alumni program before. This is exciting because everyone has talked about it but not as much as you have. If you imagine in ten years looking back on your academic career, how much could you imagine giving? That may be another way of thinking about it. What kind of things would that money go towards? You’re not a shabby institution. You are good. You’ve got a good structure with endowment concepts.
Evan: I was wondering if it’s feasible to get new revenue through fundraising?
Adam: I’ve been thinking far too much about this without sharing it. I think I have the bones of a big plan. I need buy in and feed back. What I’ve been considering involves an endowment, alumni development, formal relationship with advancement, it involves sponsorships to support the program. I just started writing it out today but I should have something for review by next exec meeting. From my perspective, the money is currently collecting 2% but it could get 8% in an endowment. I just wanted to mention that. Also, just because I’ve spent time researching this, it doesn’t mean there’s not a better idea. If there are other ideas, I will step aside.
Vera: It doesn’t have to be the only thing as well.
Chris: I personally really like that idea. Whatever it is, it is something self-fueling.
Trond: If we are spending down general fund, it should be useful for future funding.
Adam: I do have concerns for spending down the general fund for operations, like if we just say we’re going to bring back travel grants without a future plan for growth. The endowment should be broad enough to meet current students needs but narrow enough for direct students support services. Whatever the opportunity is, it should be approved by the senate. The senate should be directing those funds.
Larry: Have their been donations to GPSS, and have they been specific?
Adam: Nothing official and significant. There is infrastructure already set up at the UW.
We could have a tab on the website for donations. We could send out a donations newsletter. In exchange for that infrastructure, they need something from us. We could give them a senate list and the university could help us identify senators. It would help us connect to people in the future.

Evan: I’m a big fan of that idea. We can do x amount with the $300,000.

Vera: We are at time now.

Larry: Has this been done before?

Adam: no

Rene: It has been talked about but it hasn’t been done. The university wasn’t doing a whole lot. The options weren’t available to non-academic programs until recently. ASUW has the husky pride program which is an endowment program. People have to organize.

Adam: I will have something more formal for you soon. And we can discuss further then.

6) New Proposed UW Sponsorship Policy

Adam: From what I understand there was a sponsorship advisory committee. There was no policy regarding sponsorships. This committee was to formalize policies that make sense. I did want to bring to attention several things. Any questions first?

Chris: Under 4C. This might be superfluous but I would like it more specifically to address... Where I went to undergraduate, any organization that wanted to do recruiting on campus, they had to have an anti-discrimination policy in line with the universities. For example, when the military wanted to recruit they were initially turned down before DADT was not in line with the universities discrimination policy. I think this language should be more explicit.

Michael: We just cut Adidas license on something similar to that.

Chris: If chic-fil-a wants to come on campus, they should be scrutinized.

Adam: So something more explicit?

Chris: yes

Trond: This 4C section is broad and open-ended. There are things other than discrimination that students care about. Sweatshops, etc. It needs to be more explicit. ‘It may include’ is very wishy-washy.

Adam: So maybe what we need to do is look up trademarks and licensing. I have not reviewed it so I can’t speak to this.

Trond: I was walking past Paccar and they have Dempsey hall advertising. The naming of the toilets!

Adam: Within 3a it mentions signage.

Trond: I like sponsorship but there is a point when it looks silly. There needs to be some reason.

Adam: It is somewhat subjective. The policies we have in place will get monitored by the advisory board. My guess is that in close calls they will go to advisory committee for assistance.

Michael: I’m looking at trademarks and licensing regarding discrimination. Here is what it says...(reads passage)

Trond: It’s not that the entire company has to comply, not just the sponsorship.
Adam: We have four more minutes on this topic. So we need something more specific and adding into 4c that it should be consistent with trademarks and licensing. The things I highlighted were under section 1- if you pursue sponsorships we can be restrictive. The advisory committee will continue to monitor developments. 4A the president can designate university wide policies, such as with coke, that can’t violate another relationship such as with Pepsi. It would be if we did something with Tully’s when Starbucks has a monopoly. My guess is that if they had university-wide sponsorship with Starbucks.

Rene: It would be consistent because that is something that they want.

Adam: Time has expired. Entertain motion to extend time.

Chris: move to extend

Evan: seconds

Michael: 4D that statement doesn’t include future marijuana companies.

Adam: They said they will deal with it in the future. It will need to be approved for specific audience. I’m sure you got email about marijuana.

Rene: Right now its going to take a year. I think this whole thing will be hilarious

Kristen: On this it doesn’t mention pharmaceutical companies.

Adam: Does Tylenol count?

Kristen: I think any drugs. I think it should be brought up.

Adam: I can raise it as a concern. Any last comments?

7) Student Health Insurance Update

Ben Landsman: I’m GPSS rep for student insurance review committee. We are looking at renewal of insurance policy for the next year. The main gist is the prices are going to go up dramatically for a few reasons. We’ve been at a rate cap and affordable health care act will make the rate go up.

Adam: If Affordable Care Act is requiring benefits, are there other things we could cut before?

Ben: Yes, look at the handout there is the current, proposal and pricing/differential. If you dip all the cuts, you get a 3.6% increase over last years price. I wanted to get an idea if you think students would prefer a richer plan with higher costs or more simple plan.

Chris: Are differential plans possible?

Ben: All the people who were sick opted into ship plus and the rest did not.

Melanie: Since this is big decision, it sounds like the deadline is soon. Could you talk about process and timelines.

Ben: In the next few weeks, but because of health care reform there is uncertainty because of backlog.

Melanie: So if you wanted more input, when can we do so?

Ben: You can try.

Melanie: Have they surveyed the current students?

Ben: You get a whole slew of responses that are not particularly helpful. I have students come to me who are frustrated. The office gets complaints too.
Trond: I have questions about numbers. Why are there increases?
Ben: In part because they assume that they haven’t been included in the past. The only one that is mandated is the one at the top.
Kristen: My concern is by raising rate of insurance – there are many graduate students like international students that need insurance - if we keep raising it, it hits people who don’t have the money the most. It still is a concern for grad students
Larry: Is there any data in terms of student utilization?
Ben: There is data but I didn’t include it. It comes down to if you make these cuts, most students will not feel it but the students who are sick will feel the cuts. It’s the people who are using the plan a lot who will feel cuts. If you want more info we could arrange a meeting.
Larry: Does the deductible change?
Ben: It would go from $75 to $100 per quarter.
Trond: Is that saying you have up to $75 per quarter waived?
Ben: You pay out of pocket 300 per year.
Evan: Are prescription drugs covered?
Ben: There is not a special tier for specialty medication. Currently it’s covered as any medication but the new proposal would differentiate specialty meds.
Adam: With ACA there are certain requirements. Are there income level data about students who would quality?
Ben: There is a lot of uncertainty about ACA. We don’t have a good idea. We don’t know if full-time students are available for Medicaid benefits.
Melanie: I assume that if we came to agreement, its not an all our nothing agreement?
Ben: Yes, that’s why the committee priced this.
Elise: Do you have data about if you are on parents insurance, how that will affect that?
Ben: We just don’t know.
Chris: For a procedure that is rare, increasing the benefit on transgender but cutting dental seems insane. That seems glaring.
Ben: The reason its on there is because the Q center came and gave presentation about this. The committees feeling is similar but... vision may be an area that would need further discussion. Vision is really an exchange of dollars.

Trond: Moves to extend time
Kristen: Seconds.

Evan: Were there other moderate options for transgender surgery besides 5%?
Ben: I don’t believe so
Evan: What’s the reason behind emergency room increase? It seems that students tend to be responsible enough. What is the logic behind that?
Ben: You are really trying to get people to go to primary care rather than the emergency. It dissuades improper use. We know a lot of people will be using other parts very often but not the emergency room often.
Evan: Are there statistics on emergency room?
Kristen: Be aware that the emergency room is necessary on evenings and weekends –
Hall Health isn’t open then. You can be responsible generally, but if you are sick then you probably will have to use the ER anyway.

Larry: If you were to eliminate vision it would save students 4% on premium?
Ben: 4% on the total cost.

Kristen: It’s probably a silly, but I’m wondering if transgender surgery could be opt in?
Ben: I don’t think you could do that because it’s too small a population.

Trond: Vision tends to be least like insurance.

Melanie: 3rd page, 712 751, renewal rates? What does that mean?
Ben: 751 reflects health care costs.

Melanie: Moves to extend by 3 minutes.
Evan: seconds

Evan: What is the time frame on this?
Ben: They would like proposal in by the holidays

Melanie: Could some of our health oriented people put together something? We need a point person.

Adam: On an issue this big, I don’t feel comfortable saying that the students support this. I want to be on the record as saying. There are certain things that cost a lot of money and certain things you have to do. From my perspective I can’t imagine being in a body that I don’t feel is mine. Therefore I’m nervous in targeting that one. I don’t think people go into these surgeries easily.

Chris: Because I brought it up. I 100% agree with you. My concern was the numbers. To swap that for dental health is what I object to.

Trond: We are talking about keeping it at 35/year. Its been increased recently and being asked to increase again.

Vera: You, Larry, and Kristen are in the health care field. These are decisions you make normally, is there a standard for making that decision?
Ben: Its a big question.

Elise: Personal anecdote. The under 26 provision does not cover dental or vision. Some people don’t have that option.

Evan: What’s the rough cost per person of the 5% increase?
Ben: It’d go up around 35$

Elise: I will be point person on this.

Adam: 90% of people we appoint to committees do a lot.

Ben: Thanks for having me.

8) PACS Budgeting Principles Update
Adam: Michael Kutz has been guiding this. You could maybe talk about this process.

Michael: This year as chair I wanted to spend more time on this process. Last year we created good base template. By the help of Adam we saw problems with budgeting principles. We spent 3 full weeks on this. We wanted to update previous principles. For example we put in 2A prioritize access to prerequisites courses and feeder courses necessary for graduation. Some of these things that we prioritized were carried out. It
turns out that they are actually used in budgeting conversation. These are somewhat important. We talked about them in ASUW senate about having more voices over this document to have more legitimacy and then we can send them onto the provost.

Adam: I feel like there were value statements that were articulated and structured poorly. I wanted to be more deliberate about how we communicate these values. We wanted to pull out core principles and make them very clear. Then have sentences that described them say what we mean in specifics. Most of my edits were cosmetic. A lot of it was stylistic, but this needs to be an effective communication tool. 

Michael: It’s important to note that we intentionally ordered the principles. Access versus quality. We wanted to say that we prioritize access over quality this year.

Chris: I remember a conversation about the preamble and I think its very affective. The changes are more direct and not as wordy.

Melanie: Two different issues- affordability- I figure this is geared to undergrads. I don’t think there is financial aid for grad students similar to husky grants.

Michael: I know there are some grants for grad school. It might be good in this principle to address fee-based programs.

Melanie: In terms of grads, it should say something about protecting low income students...

Trond: Transparency in principle 4. None of them actually talk about transparency. Giving out raw data. We don’t want them to get already processed data.

Kristen: Mine was more in line with what Melanie was talking about. Quality and affordability. In nursing, and other professions that involve trying not to kill people, I don’t know if I like the ranking that prioritizes access over quality. But that is a personal preference and probably reflects more of the concerns within my own department than the university and student-body as a whole.

Adam: There is a psychological affect of putting things before the others. These things all matter, but the committee wanted to prioritize access over quality. They did it intentionally.

Elise: We hear all the time about jacking up the price. And PACS wants to keep the price affordable. It relates to the context of what PACS hears.

Melanie: On principle 3, student participation- does this include tuition? I really like C because it talks about notifying students while they can have inputs. But A seems weaker. I like the idea that the students have the information.

Michael: I think GPSS can make recommendations that we can discuss.

Trond: Moves to extend by one minute

Kristen: seconds

Trond: Change the wording to give access to details and raw data to make and create metrics.

Rene: On number 4. Is it PACS doing it or units? For action.

Michael: Everything is vague intentionally. Units could be you or college of education. I move to extend time by 2 minutes.
Melanie: seconds
Michael: I heard that pacs doesn’t just want to state the good things. I feel like the committee is interesting in establishing these as priorities. They want PACS opinion to be understood. When you are actually budgeting it shows your real value. It shows that for this year, PACS prioritizes access over quality. That’s what we meant to say.
Melanie: If you want to get specific you could.
Kristen: I see this trend of making this more affordable by decreasing quality. When your in grad school, should you be in classes where they know who you are. That is my concern with too much emphasis on access.
Michael: The principles are meant to be budgeting principles of provost office too. Each college council will have different perception of this. PACS gets too focused on undergrads because provost talks about them. That’s why its important that we have college councils. We are just saying for this budgeting cycle.
Larry: For the history of PACS, do they usually favor access or quality?
Michael: PACS is brand new.

9) Committee Appointments
Kristen: Alex Kaufman for travel grants committee. I also wanted to appoint Moroni to DRAC.
Chris: move to approve both.
Trond: seconds.

10) Executive Officer Reports
Chris: The arts and sciences dean search is coming to a close. I would encourage you to go to these. Ask me for the times of these. They are all excellent candidates.
Adam: Do you have time frame?
Chris: It depends on who gets selected. The decision could be as earlier as December 18th
Trond: I’m helping genesis with videos from science summits. I go back to New Zealand on Monday and will miss some meetings in January.
Evan: I’ve just been doing things with SPS and SLSC.

11) Officer Reports

a. VP
Melanie: Lobby day is February 8th. Slosy and sci pol-incorporating more research students and special training for science folks. We are working on collecting testimonials from students. One idea is calling up legislators to have coffee. On policy issues- working with revenue commission. Some issues that Danny and I are working on. I went to college of ed meeting last night and talked about future teacher loan scholarship program. I’m looking into the help loan program- loan income program. Loan interest loan would be good things to push for. Gerry Pollet mentioned fee based program notifications. On federal level, we finished a letter on fiscal cliff, higher ed, and research funding. We’ve gotten three testimonials so far. Lastly- if anyone is looking for study
break. Wa student Association on Saturday at 11. I’m looking for housing in Olympia.

b. Treasure
Vera: Starting with F&B. Lauren and I are collecting pictures. We have January jam packed with social events. We have two speed dating events 28th and 31st. Each is capped at 150 people in Gould hall. We have had conflicts with other committees scheduling events. What I’m basically saying is that I tried to dissuade speed dating events but it fell through. If there are events they are planning, they need to check with me first. I’m wondering if we should have it next year. We have PhD Movie on January 15th on 7pm. I just finished my finals today. Over winter break I will be working on crafting next years budget. Sadly I’ve had to resign from SAF committee. I would have to miss Friday classes. We need to find someone else.

c. Secretary
Kristen: First thing: I sit on the Office of Minority Affairs Student Advisory Board. There is a question that is being considered to be included in student admissions relating to criminal history. Criminal background checks are not done, but the question will be required to be answered when applying. Nothing has been confirmed, but there is a short timeline because of deadlines for changing the admissions process. If you have comments...
Evan: Why are they adding it?
Kristen: This is a reaction to criminal incidents last year that took place.
Adam: This could take up a solid 15 minutes conversation.
Kristen: I think it’s worth having a conversation. Moving on, we now have a chair for the diversity committee. Joey from the Evan’s school. Moroni is looking at developing a diversity event to bring together various committees together on campus. We are looking to have funding applications up after the break. The student survey closes tonight. Please fill it out. Science and policy is awesome. We are working on lobby day and two workshops with a science communication component. Tedx is a possibility in the spring. The summit will have at least three panels: global health, genetics and bioethics, and renewable energy. DRAC met and we will be submitting bylaw changes hopefully by first or second senate meeting. One thing we wanted to add was opening this up to grad students that weren’t senators. I’m looking at bylaw changes for other committees. I went to grad dean search lunches. I feel ok about both of them. School of nursing is doing dean search tomorrow. I drafted a letter to school of nursing pertaining to institutionalizing an actual student council. Today I met with my research committee and I had my proposal signed off with minimal critiques. I’m leaving on vacation Tuesday. I’m having a party on Saturday at 8oclock – it’s festivus party and you’re all invited.

d. ASUW
Michael: Continuing battle to increase awareness of differential tuition. Meeting with student groups and lots of people are interested. Potentially there is going to be a bill to make it illegal to do differential tuition. There is an initiative to making condoms more available to fraternities. We are working with Adam and Elise and Evan on university wide policy to adopt college councils. The idea that we want more in our academic
curriculum devoted to diversity. Programming director is working on a program directory.

e. President
Adam: Drafting a strategic master plan. Office of Sponsorship. Finding sponsors to support our programs. Talking to Betsy Troutman about alumni development. Background research on endowment. Grad school dean search rapping up soon. By January we should have somebody. Still working with Kay Lewis on Ra and TA paychecks being deducted immediately. We need more people to volunteer your employee ID for this research. Central HR is looking at a new payroll system. This may be an opportunity to work this into new system. Eric Godfried Vice Provost Student Life is retiring. There will be committee to replace him. He deals with lots of non-academic resources. Their goal is name someone by January. Community affairs and academic affairs committee-fee based programs, assisting alumni association. College councils- colleges and school deans have had to submit narratives for the next year. Using college councils as something to rally around. We went to SAGE and half the time was spent on sharing best practices and half on federal leg priorities. Lincoln would like to do leadership celebration at the end of the year. Big celebration for this year’s work and next year’s leaders. Maybe may 23rd after elections but before finals week.
Elise: Can we bring up SAF?
Adam: I was going to talk after. Let me know if May 23rd works.

12) Announcements
Kristen: Elections committee is coming up. Keep in mind people who could be on that committee. Something to think about.

13) Adjourn
Chris: move to adjourn
Larry: seconds.
Adjourn at 743pm