GPSS Executive Committee Meeting
April 3rd, 2013
HUB 303

Attendees:
Adam Sherman, GPSS President
Kristen Hosey, GPSS Secretary
Vera Giampietro, GPSS Treasurer
Rene Singleton, SAO Advisor
Evan Firth, Executive Senator
Chris Lizotte, Executive Senator
Melanie Mayock, GPSS VP
Michael Kutz, ASUW Daily Reporter
Trond Nielsen, Executive Senator

1) Call to order
Adam: Calls meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2) Approval of agenda
Adam: Two changes I’d like to make 1) Next gen why-fi proposal. There’s discussion whether that discussion needs to continue. ASUW has asked to be taken off agenda. Ben Landsman presentation on impacts of Obamacare on student health insurance. I’d like to replace why-fi with health insurance. I’m wondering if we can push bylaw after faculty pay because Kristen is gonna be late. Motion to approve?

Trond: move
Evan: seconds

3) Approval of minutes
Chris: moves
Vera: seconds

4) Faculty Pay
Melanie: I want to get your feedback on faculty staff compensation. It’s become an important part of UW funding from state legislature and tuition controls. It came up because senator introduced bill that would lower resident undergrad tuition by 3% and establish baseline funding for higher ed. 75 million in new money. They have not proposed new state funding to pay for faculty pay raises. Uw administration want around 4% approximate raise that would cost 57 million over 2 years. Faculty and staff pay is not high on list for legislators. I think this is important issue. It has got to the point that nowhere in the country has seen this type of pay freeze. We need to speak up for this. We should be advocating for this. ASUW has backed this through resolution. I already have been advocating for this. Just wanted to hear from you all what you think.

Adam: I want to add some context. The refrain you hear is ‘my first second and third priority is faculty increases’. They are greatly committed to this. The administration that is. It is highly unlikely that there
won’t be faculty pay increases. They will lay off people if they have to. It’s complicated. The students may bear the burden of paying for faculty. I understand the legislature’s hesitancy to fund this. There are also people below market rates of pay. The idea is that we will lose them and we won’t recover.

Chris: Competition is very important and faculty pay is paramount.

Melanie: We do have to be careful. The weird thing about grad tuition is that the dean and provost talk about grad proposals and the u gives it to budget writers. Which actually gives the impression that graduate tuition is not highly influenced by budget level. Potentially they could raise it. It more likely will impact undergrad funding.

Trond: Do we have an idea if this is a blanket 4% or put it at different levels?

Adam: 2% meritorious. And merit plus. It gets further complicated because the plan is to give individual colleges a lump sum and each dean would have discretion of have to increase pay.

Melanie: Other opinions?

Vera: What specific ways are there to pursue this?

Melanie: It came to head with Baumgardners’ bill. We spoke with a few republicans. It’s money that would go to the university that would not offset undergrad tuition. We could move other dates up a little bit. Or we won’t change it at all and there might be unintended consequences.

Chris: They’ve been cutting the state allocation and now they want to offset undergrad tuition?

Melanie: What UW considers unavoidable costs.

Adam: There is an issue with performance funding. UW is performing at higher rate for certain metrix. It’s harder to improve when you are already performing.

Melanie: Motion to extend by 1.5 minutes.

Trond: Seconds.

Melanie: Any other questions? Many professors are below market rates.

Vera: I am very much in support of it. All grad students are facing rising tuition but a flight of faculty is untenable.

Kristen: Yes that would be good. There are faculty in my program who are leaving and not being replaced.

5) bylaw amendments

Kristen: First part I added in constitution that talks about ASUW and community seats. Section d.

Adam: We did remove the term underrepresented groups. Or it was minority? We changed it to ‘community seats’.
Kristen: Under duties of senators article 3. We added a Senator handbook. This is a theme throughout. I don’t think special meetings were changed. We cleaned up officer responsibilities.

Trond: We talked about wanting officers to be here over the summer.

Adam: We extended 19.5 hours requirement.

Melanie: Duties of president.

Adam: The main thing I added was: it was the responsibility of president to appoint people to committees. It now is for officers who have authority to do so. I gave up responsibility for WSA. I added duty of alumni relations.

Trond: Did we talk about sage delegate?

Kristen: For mine we removed DRAC. And for mine I added diversity as a specific duty.

Rene: Did any chairs change?

Kristen: Election of officers.

Trond: The main thing we changed is have elections earlier.

Adam: A month earlier. Elected beginning of spring quarter is good for institutional memory.

Melanie: Because we didn’t have meetings in March, people tend to campaign at senate meetings. That makes me worried that we are getting people to run early enough.

Rene: Have you thought about adding an extra meeting? You could do back to back meeting just before elections.

Melanie: The challenge is that we have exec committee the week before.

Rene: You could do exec and election the week after.

Melanie: I’m saying that no one will have seen each other since February.

Trond: There will be a big time gap.

Melanie: The easiest change will be to change it to second week of spring quarter.

Chris: Its worth keeping in mind we had a weird schedule. Could it be last meeting of winter quarter?

Adam: That’s early.

Trond: That would mean elections in February.

Adam: The whole lame duck thing starting in February...

Melanie: My proposal would be second meeting in spring quarter

Kristen: People who are in committee will know if the committee leader should be removed.

Adam: If someone is not showing up the committee can address that.
Kristen: Exec committee - the only change is with F&B and exec attendance policy. Unexcused missing two meetings can be considered to be replaced. Committee coordinating board.

Adam: Right now we have university affairs committee. They have marginally better communication than the outside committees. It misses the purpose of having all committees talking to each other. Trond suggested this last year. The idea is that you would have each committee chose a representative to serve on committee board to communicate with each other. There has been miscommunication in the past between committees. Better facilitation of communication.

Kristen: All of sub committees under UAC have become their own committee.

Trond: Does it make sense to have travel grants under this?

Chris: Seeing how quorum is 1/3 of members...

Adam: I agree that functionally it wouldn’t make a big difference.

Trond: Travel grants is about doing a particular job not a continuous effort.

Vera: The fact the travel grants is in trial year there should be someone on committee.

Rene: On structure of travel grants who is chairing it?

Adam: Treasurer

Rene: Sometimes they are dealing with operations of other committees. Do you want to have it divided into two or are you looking at committee functions all around?

Melanie: For F and B they want to know about comm and outreach.

Adam: We have met time.

Trond: Motion for 5 minute extend.

Evan: seconds

Trond: I move to remove travel grants.

Vera: Objects.

Adam: All in favor raise hands. Against raise hands. It is removed.

Kristen: DRAC has been put in academic and admin affairs. Community affairs has not changed. Diversity, we added something along lines about maintain a list of groups.

Adam: To all committees they should record work so it can be put on wiki.

Kristen: Student life no changes.

Melanie: We came up with federal leg steering committee to recommend sage delegates to president and exec will determine.

Trond: The intent was to be selected earlier in year so they could be up to date on issues.
Evan: Are sage delegates not automatically chairing flsc?  

Melanie: yes  

Kristen: We got rid of GRC. We have decided to combine comm and outreach and social committee. The social committee would still be planning of events but comm and outreach aspects would be added. Such as helping with orientations. Both the treasurer and secretary would be helping with this committee.  

Adam: We also wanted social events to communicate about what GPSS is.  

Trond: Can I suggest the way we phrase it. It seems social committee is more about conceiving events rather than implementing events. I don’t they should be in charge of organization. I like the idea of someone to design the event rather than organizing it.  

Adam: How about work with officers to organize events.  

Trond: Design and organize  

Chris: Move to extend by 10.  

Evan: Seconds  

Kristen: Science and policy steering committee is in bylaws. This will be run by treasurer and we’ve asked for reps. The functionary part is the mission and goals.  

Trond: The name made sense when it steered but should we change the name now? Nevermind.  

Kristen: Judicial has not been changed at all. One thing I added in mine is I did have small section about vice chair responsibilities. I’m thinking along the lines of how to remove vice chair? We talked about it previously.  

Trond: The not able clause is problematic.  

Adam: All aside if you said vice chair should be elected or removed in each section. The expectation is that they do what they chair asks.  

Rene: You could combine into overarching statement.  

Adam: If we could do that in individual sections. Breaking it out into each individual committee section.  

Kristen: Personnel was removed from personnel and policy.  

Adam: Providing a means for it to be updated.  

Kristen: For special committee appointments we talked about adding a part.  

Adam: Currently its vice pres’ responsibilities but it should be under president’s  

Kristen: The university bookstore board isn’t a committee, it is a board.  

Evan: Quick question. GRC got removed right? GRC wanted to stay afloat.
Adam: It wouldn’t make sense to create one oversight committee.

Kristen: I think we first need to tell judicial and need to send this out to senators.

Melanie: If they are not voting on it then they don’t need it til Sunday or Monday.

Adam: Right now it is an action item but we can table it as information item. I would like to take a straw poll so at next meeting we can vote on formal recommendation.

Trond: I think we need to group the changes into chunks. No one will read it or we will spend the whole to arguing.

Kristen: What are your thoughts?

Melanie: Two page summary and maybe discussion board.

Trond: Just so we can talk about things individually and not talk about grammar. Abstract it to a part.

Adam can we get straw poll vote?

6) Health Agenda with Ben Landsman

Adam: Ben is a guest who is going to give a presentation to preview about presentation to senate about ACA impacts on student insurance plans.

Ben: I was here a few months ago talking about the changes. A lot of this is in flux because of where we are in terms of health reform. Recent plan history: In 2008-2011 we had ship and ship+ plan. Gpss was in favor of ship+ plan because grad students have families and more health needs. The sicker students opted into ship+ and healthier into ship. This created a problem. In 2012 we went back to having only one ship plan. There are 5,500 students on current plan average age of 24 years. Changes for this coming years. If we were to have the exact plan it would cost 751 dollars. The committee looked into it and thought cost increase was too much. So they made changes to benefits. Why the price increase? We had rate cap. For that time period we were guaranteed rate this was 4th year of 3 year agreement. Changes from health care reform. All insurance plans have to have essential benefits. Two big changes are dependents can be covered until 26 years old. At least half the population could be staying on parents plan. A lot of you are on GAIT. The other big variable is the Medicaid expansion. In talking with insurance brokers, they have no idea where this will go. It’s easier to check box rather than enroll in Medicaid.

Melanie: What about the exchanges. Would some students go to those?

Ben: That’s part of the Medicaid expansion. Part of the subsidy would go to exchanges

Melanie: If ship plan will loose people. What will be the risks?

Ben: People have said this may become the plan only for international students. The ship population could shrink. Its up in the air. The big change is the annual benefit max the most the insurance company will pay is 200,000. In terms of deductible that is the amount you pay out of pocket until insurance will kick in. That will increase. Basically the gist of it all is that students will have to pay more for office visits. Fancy high costs medications are covered to a lesser extent. Copay goes up. There’s a decrease for dental and vision coverage. What this means is there is higher premium next year. It is a big question whether students will stay on parent health insurance.
Melanie: If number of students on plan drop then what?

Ben: I don’t know what the minimum is.

Kristen: Do you know undergrad versus grad ratio?

Ben: I don’t specifically know.

Rene: Does the eye exam include glasses?

Ben: Is was included but now it doesn’t anymore. It was designed for risk situations.

Adam: Any questions? This will be the senate presentation. We want to anticipate questions.

Kristen: I’m curious about the Medicaid part.

Ben: I don’t know.

Melanie: At this price, what is it doing for people SHIP.

Ben: A lot of it will come down to how much the student uses health care. For higher cost users this is still a good deal. Back to loans. When you increase cost sharing that makes it a penalty that you can factor in when you are making the loans.

Vera: I’m not clear of what cost would be next year for premium?

Ben: 660 per quarter. Fall might be different amount than winter and spring. Summer is counted as the previously year.

Vera: Are dependents no longer eligible for coverage?

Ben: I’m not sure.

Evan: There might be people asking what else was dropped.

Ben: I think all changes are included.

Adam: Thanks for coming

7) Senate agenda

Adam: Dave Eaten will be there. Health plan will be there. International student fee will be there to get senate updated on this. I would like to have student life committee to draft resolution in supportive of fee’s purpose but propose alternative solution. We will also do basic bylaw updates. Legislative update from Melanie. How do we feel about time allocations?

Kristen: If somebody goes on a tangent about the bylaws...

Trond: You can keep questions until the end.

Melanie: Have we done something at senate about PACS or next years UW budget?

Adam: We are at 75 minutes. I’m skeptical that bylaws will be 15 minutes.
Melanie: PACS budgeting/tuition. Smoking got pushed off?

Adam: Yes. There will be comment period but there will be more outreach.

Melanie: Just an announcement about election for people to run.

Kristen: More announcements. There are several events coming up.

Adam: I like the idea of doing elections announcement. I’m not sure if there are other important announcements.

Melanie: What about events update if we can keep it to 3 minutes.

Vera: Can we enumerate the events?

Kristen: Science and policy, DAWG talks, bookstore.

Melanie: If there are lots of announcements.. What about putting events and committees in email? For those time announcements it’s better to go on long.

Adam: We are at 93 minutes.

Melanie: Can I ask about next senate meeting talking about PACS?

Adam: Yes.

Melanie: Do bylaws at 25 is too long?

Kristen: I’m nervous about having 3 guest speakers.

Melanie: Can we give them 7 minutes so there is time for questions.

Adam: Is there a motion to approve agenda?

Evan: Move

Melanie: seconds

8) Book store update

Kristen: Bin Ma and myself will be graduating. Brian Pierce is retiring. Louise little is taking over work there. I want to do lots of advertising for these open seats. It would be good to have someone who can speak up and be around for a while. I like that we added the thing in bylaws. Making sure we stay connected with that individual that sits on that committee.

9) PACS background info session

Adam: I would like to table this

Melanie: motion

Vera: seconds

10) Legislative update
Melanie: Fee based bill should be coming up soon. The student advisory bill missed deadline but it may be possible to write into the budget. Introduced yesterday was bill 20% surcharge for tuition for international students. Margaret Shepard said in committee said that if they raised tuition that much fewer students would come and that wouldn’t raise any revenue. Today the senate majority released budget and it has zero % for undergrad, some new money for higher ed. It suspends health professionals financial aid program. It does fund childcare matching grant and workstudy. The bill was announced last night and there was hearing today. Hearing on Baumgartner bill today. I was opposed to that bill. The house will be releasing budgets next week. Transit is not looking good. Word is that nothing will pass. The problem is that if nothing passes til next year than nothing will be done with metro. It doesn’t look good now. Metro is talking about fare increase next year.

Adam: We could probably take care of that for one year.

Melanie: That’s most of it. Slsc committee will do some letter writing. We are trying to focus on closing research and development tax credit. Slsc letter writing. Talked about mini lobby day. Session is scheduled to end april 28. Federal- going to dc next week for sage conference and lobbying. It would be good idea about collecting stories about people affected by sequestration.

Michael: There seems to be proposals about tuition capping? Are we moving away from local control?

Melanie: The Baumgartner bill would supersede local control. The house budget is less clear. It is a tuition assumption rather than overruling.

10) Executive officer reports

Chris: Jerry Balsty presented proposal for international student fee beginning next year 42$ per quarter to fund services that may go away. We talked about it. We have international student on it who is opposed to it. We also had reservations that it is not clear how costs are bared. Another philosophical question about how international students add costs. We are currently drafting a resolution that is supportive of all services but we are opposing a fee levied only on international fees. Rather we propose a spread out tuition increase over all students.

Evan: I went to GRC meeting.

Trond: Things I’m doing. Helping Adam out with student regents project. I want to have conversation soon about next year gpss. I will graduate soon. I’m interested in what you think.

Adam: Trond, this is your 5th year right? Yes. We will lose lots of institutional memory. There will be a huge loss. We do need to think about getting people who are familiar with issues.

Trond: What timeline makes sense? Another thing I was thinking about is it would be nice to maintain communication with people with lots of institutional memory. Could we maintain ties with these people. Talking to former GPSS exec officers is very helpful.

Adam: I like the idea of recent alums

Melanie: Do we want to make announcement about Trond resigning and getting a new exec senator? Potentially second meeting. Question on Chris’ topics? Could you send information on international fee?
Chris: Yes jerry could send something out.

Adam: I’ll ask jerry’s permission to send out info.

**11) Officer report**

Vera: We have our new finance and budget committee chair Colin Bateson. First meeting is next Wednesday at 10am. Special allocations will probably be exhausted. The social committee is involved in planning the spring social april 25th. The theme is create your own superhero. We have artists photo book, sumo suits. We are talking about explaining who we are. Another is having a cash raffle. 50/50 raffle.

Adam: We will have gift fund to help manage the funds.

Vera: Another development is our budget specialist got a TA so we will be restructuring. We will need volunteers for social.

Adam: For social if we say we are having cash prize? Do we need to have conversation about increased participation? If people knew there could be substantial prize...

Kristen: Bylaws and judicial. At the end of last quarter we had a diversity event. It went well and now we are doing 2 more. April 26 and May 17. You should all come. For science and policy there is science comm workshops. Two of them. On May 2nd there is the summit. We are also having TED-style talks. Burke museum. I am also starting gpa of the year award. Archivist thing. Next week is school of nursing is considering having a student council.

Michael: Two main things: we approved our budget. It expands our experimental college and increase from SAF. Also a new policy that would preclude most students from using Meany hall for an event center. They are trying to focus on their dance program and mostly do academic programs. They have squeezed out events there. Events will have to find other venues. It sounds like they are pretty firm with their decision. ASUW elections start next Friday.

Adam: Today we had a report to deans about states of college councils. It is going well. Huskyfest is coming up. They want to get grad students involved. Current idea is bowling and beer. There is a search for vice president of student life. It’s progressing. PACS—we have someone stepping down and we will need replacement. Unfortunately timing may be tricky.

Melanie: If doing outreach, consider we need some diversity...

Adam: This Friday I will be reporting on budget narrative to SAF. I will report back to you. There is an endowment update. It looks like there may be a possibility of doing the endowment. It is up in the air, everything is contingent. We are exploring way to swap funds to get endowment started. Contingent on whether things in our budget could be funded by innovation fund from SAF. Treasuring needs to talk to office of management and budgeting. I’ve been working with housing and food services about rounding extra change into an endowment. I’m working with ASUW about mental health video for people who have used mental health services to reduce stigma of mental health services. Student regent selection committee is open. The application deadline is the 14 or 15 of this month. We should have finalist by may 1st. lastly, at last night social committee I proposed alumni networking event. It would be networking event/party/award ceremony.

**12) Announcements**
13) Adjourn

Melanie: Motion

Chris: Seconds