GPSS Executive Committee Meeting January 4, 2012

Members Present:
Adam Sherman (Vice President)
Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer)
Melanie Mayock (Secretary)
Megan Gambs (Executive Senator)
Amy Winter (Executive Senator)
Evan Smith (ASUW Representative)

Guests:
Rene Singleton, SAO Advisor
Joon Yi, Reporter, The Daily
Katie Pine, The Daily

1. Call To Order
Adam calls meeting to order at 5:36pm

2. Approval of the Agenda
Adam makes correction to agenda under Adjourn, change name to Adam.
Colin moves to approve the agenda. Evan seconds.
None opposed. Motion passes.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 12/7/11
Colin moves to approve the minutes. Melanie seconds.
None opposed. Motion passes.

4a. Strategic Planning
Adam: GPSS is re-evaluating how we do business to make sure resources are allocated in a way that match our values.

Colin: The objective is to get feedback on where we are so far. Would like to get this passed through Senate at next meeting. We would appreciate any thoughts and comments on how best to present this information to Senators.

The officers drafted a memo; we also have a timeline and chart. We would like to do this quickly have this in place for next year. The objective is an impartial method about the way we are using our resources and producing the results that we want and see if there are ways we can measure it. At the end, we’ll have a budget that looks different from last year, bylaw amendments to create more flexibility, and a more rigorous way to answer larger questions so that it can be a roadmap in the years to come to see trade-offs when making decisions.
Adam: It’s been a long time since GPSS has done this. Charles noticed a gap in what we would like to do and what we actually can do. Emphasis on doing this quickly but also giving us something that will last a couple of years.

Colin explains strategic planning documents. Handouts show how to structure the process which GPSS officers have started. A taskforce will be appointed by Charles. Scorecard: tool for organizations, like a report card. Idea is that from each of the perspectives—internal, external, financial and innovation—come up with a few key performance indicators that can be measured quantitatively and qualitatively. Set up to show trade-offs.

Perspectives:
1. External: students, faculty, end-users (legislators)
2. Internal: senators, staff, officers, committee members
3. Innovation: staff and officers
4. Financial:

Organizational model: a way of conceptualizing all the things that the GPSS does and all the things it has to function well.

Colin continues to explain the handouts about the GPSS Strategic Planning in more detail and how the Strategic Planning process will work. (See handouts from Executive Committee Meeting). Colin also goes through a basic timeline for when each step in the process will be completed and what results can be expected after each step.

Megan: has question about students and end-users.
Melanie: We want to make suggestions for who the Taskforce should solicit input from, but we also want task force to come up with their own ideas.

4b. January Senate Meeting Agenda

Discussion of what items will go on the January 11th Senate Meeting and how long each item will be.

Mayor McGinn will talk about student involvement—how to get students more involved in GPSS, particularly students outside of GPSS. Graduate students are a particularly tricky group because they are so focused on their research.

Lobby Day Info Collect: General discussion about how to collect information from Senators for Lobby Day involvement.
Adam: Allows us to know who is serious about lobby day and who is not
Megan: Is it easier to have a sign up sheet?
Adam: I like the card because it has questions about how they want to be involved which gives us flexibility to deal with different levels of commitment and involvement.
Melanie: The small groups from the previous Senate meeting didn’t have the tools they need, we want to give people more ideas or when we might have materials.
Adam: Maybe mayor’s office can send us talking points in advance to use for small breakout groups
Colin: Problem was high variability in interest, experience. Maybe having someone to help spark discussion.
Colin: Using floaters to approach groups with different set of questions, for example, what resources can GPSS give you to achieve these goals.
Rene: What are you trying to get students to do?
Melanie: Contact legislators and go to Lobby Day
Adam: We have breakout sessions to get students to talk to each other
Megan: A breakout session every meeting may be too much
Melanie: This will be our last Senate meeting before Lobby Day. Try to get Senators to go together down to Olympia.

Discussion continues about how best to engage Senators and students about Lobby Day, how best to structure meetings with small groups to get Senators interested without overwhelming them with information or making the meetings too long. Suggestion to make lobbying activities more accessible, some may feel they don’t have enough experience or don’t know enough to get involved.

Discussion to add a March Senate Meeting.

Agenda for January 11th Senate Meeting:

Call to Order 1 min
Approve Agenda 1 min
Approve Minutes 5 min
Mayor McGinn 25 min
Lobby Day Info collect 15 min
Strategic Planning 25 min
Officer Reports 12 min
Announcements 5 min
Adjourn 1 min

Evan moves to approve the agenda. Melanie seconds.
All in favor. Motion passes.

5. Legislative Update
Adam will combine with his officer report. See below.

6. Officer Reports

a. Adam Sherman, Vice President
   • Finalizing all-student survey
- Finishing policy report on variety of issues- 50 state survey of types of financial aid available to graduate students, looking at internal budgets of different universities to compare UW
- Adam moved to Olympia and will be there most of the week

b. Colin Goldfinch, Treasurer
- Travel Grants deadline due end of week
- Organizing next speed-dating event on February 9th
  - Improve upon noise levels
  - Adam: Did it encompass sexual preferences?
    - Colin: will meet with Rainbow Grads to get some insight and advice to make event as inclusive as possible
- Moving ahead on Science and Policy Summit, will have meetings again soon
- Jenn H office manager has left
- Work on creating a share-point site with ASUW to streamline process

c. Melanie Mayock, Secretary
- Communications Plan to share with other GPSS officers
- Website is close to being finished from Creative Communications
- DRAC is continuing on from last quarter
- Judicial Committee
- Diversity- had good conversations about the role of GPSS in diversity issues
  - $4,000 diversity fund, so trying to propose some ideas about using the funds
- UPASS Advisory Board meeting this Friday, we are looking into the issue of exemptions
  - Evan: ASUW the sponsor withdrew resolution from floor

d. Evan Smith, ASUW
- Re: Diversity- talk to Jonathan
- Lobby Day is Feb 3
- FML (Fund My Learning) event is January 26-Feb : Events will include a giant rally and team points
- Diversity requirement has been sent to Faculty Senate. Would like to work with GPSS for advertisement opportunities
  - Melanie: we should talk about this again at next Executive Meeting
- Course Evaluations: proposal to move to online system - asking for STF funding
  - Adam is in support of the proposal
  - Melanie: Is this something that STF would fund?
    - Evan: Yes
  - Adam: I think this removes barriers and it is not time restricted
  - Discussion of incentives for filling out online evaluations and pros and cons of online evaluations versus paper evaluations.
  - Megan moves to have the Executive Committee support this. Melanie seconds. Colin abstains. None opposed. Motion approved.
7. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm