Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

HUB 314

GPSS President Alice Popejoy
GPSS Vice President Alex Bolton
GPSS Secretary Natalie Gordon
GPSS Treasurer Douglas Taber
Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
Executive Senator Eddie Schwieterman
SAO Advisor Rene Singleton
Office Manager Kerstin Hudon

AP Calls meeting to order at 5:35pm on Aug 6.

AP: Here is the agenda for today’s meeting. Request to approve the agenda?

ES: So moved

AB: What was the purpose of the question mark on the version of the agenda that was sent out?

AP: The question mark was mean to ask if we needed to add anything

AB: I second

AP: Okay, the agenda has been approved.

AB: I move to reconsider the agenda

ES: Seconded

AB: I motion to approve the minutes from last meeting

NG: I made some adjustments- nothing substantial and I filled in names.

YH: I move to approve the minutes

ES: Seconded
AP: Minutes approved

AB: On the topic of SAGE Delegate. I would like to nominate Kiana Scott as SAGE Delegate – which stands for Student Advocates for Graduate Education. It is a group of tier one research universities that lobby federally, with their major event hosted in April. Kiana was a delegate a few years ago and resigned to be student regent. Her goal was to come back to this position. We want to get institutional knowledge within SAGE, and this would be a way to do it. Our other delegate is Chrissy Ellis, a second year law student. Questions?

YH: Are there any other people who have expressed interest?

AB: No

YH: Have you put out a call

AB: not since her [Kiana’s] status was up in the air. She expressed interest directly. The goal is to have institutional knowledge. She had a good resume and went to SAGE last year. She is definitely one of the most involved of all the students in SAGE

AP: In our bylaws the Vice President has the discretion to appoint someone. I think she[Kiana] is a great choice. Question – Chrissy went last year?

AB: Yes

AP: Who else goes?

AB: In the fall it is just the President and Vice President.

AP: It is just a retreat right?

AB: Yes, this year it’s near Austin and Texas A&M. In the spring it’s the President, Vice president, two SAGE delegates, and student regent. And last year the student member of what was the higher education board, but is now Washington Student Achievement Council, was also a UW grad student so they brought him too.

AP: Any other questions?

ES: I move we approve the VP’s decision on appointing the delegate.

DT: Second

AP: We’ve officially appointed Kiana Scott as our new/returning SAGE delegate. With us today is our new office manager, Kerstin. Kerstin can you tell us a little about yourself?

KH: Well, I just finished my undergrad at the University of South Carolina and I am spending the summer working for a luxury eco-travel company. I will be starting the MPA programs at Evans in the fall and I like to be outside.

AP: We have also been doing interviews for personal assistant to the president and the university affairs director

NG: Next week I will start looking for a communications specialist
DT: I will be looking for an event coordinator next week and then a budget specialist

AP: We have had the descriptions up on Husky jobs for a month. We have to have them up for 2 weeks.

AB: I have met with a few interested people and going to make a few amendments to the job descriptions. During the latter part of this month I will try to get the descriptions posted for organizing director and policy director.

AP: I will probably be hiring a new special assistant and university affairs director in the next week. All my time has been spent doing meetings with candidates. This will free me up to do more program policy things. Let’s move onto discussion of next item - GPSS welcome day. At the last meeting we decided to call the program Convocation. Since then we have gotten good feedback that the word convocation evokes a sense of regality and pomp and circumstance, like a big dog and pony show. In addition, meetings with Denzel, the Vice Provost for Student Life, the Dean of the Graduate School, and some others have come to the more specific idea of focusing on one specific event and then have auxiliary things going on that we can advertise at the same time. The primary focus is this one event and we can expand in future years. I had a meeting scheduled at 4:30pm. I am hoping to get the tent that is used for the President’s Picnic on Rainier Vista then go back to stadium for big group picture. I want to convince the Office of Ceremonies to keep the tent up for an extra 24 hours and postpone tearing it down until the following day. Then we can have breakfast and mimosas with Deans in the tent. We realize there are other events going on that week, especially orientations for various schools. Our hope is that we capture enough people to make it worth our while and deans’, provosts’, and president’s time. Denzel will be there. Not sure about the President of the university. The Dean of the Graduate School and several individual deans will be on board as well. We have a lot of administrative buy in - and hopefully money which is still tbd. I want to tell you about the set-up of the tent. Right now it is set up for 1000 plus people for the Freshman President’s Picnic. The plan is to take down half of the circle rounds from the outside and take half of the rectangle tables and put them around the perimeter of the tent for so there are booths for various resources, like GPSS etc., really anyone who wants to showcase themselves to grad students. We will have champagne and orange juice on the tables so people can mix drinks on their own, which makes the event more social. I have a meeting with the First Year Committee so we can pick-out Dawg Daze events and cater/market them to grad students. Eddie offered the resources of the astronomy department for a planetarium show. Fall Fling is big event as well. Feedback, questions, thoughts, insights?

DT: When we advertise we could also advertise for the Fall Social Fling. If we do print up things we can advertise for both, save money, and only put out one item while covering both events.

AB: When would fall social be?

DT: The week after [the Breakfast and Mimosas with the Deans event]

AP: It’s on the same day, that afternoon. I want to have a resources scavenger hunt. Groups can take pictures at places on campus where you can find resources. And it’s free pictures for us. Then we can have cool things like Dawg Daze –like the coffee shop tour. Rather than taking graduate students on tour with 18 years olds, we can take their [Dawg Daze’s] script and have a grad student give the tour. Then we don’t have to reinvent the wheel, we can just use their resources. They gave us the hint to use the tent. I love First Year Programs. Do you think anyone will come?

NG: If we send something to the GPAs and go to their kick-off. And it’s go if you need to. Let’s make it informal where you don’t have to stay the whole time. It’s less commitment.
ES: We need to get the info out ASAP. Doing this is important.

AB: Sometimes the graduate school can send it out to everyone for us. I think we’ve just go to do a blitz and get it out there.

YH: The point was to introduce everyone to life as a grad student. Why are the deans there? I ask because I don’t spend much time interacting with them. Maybe it would be more fun if it was just grad students.

NG: The idea was that there was no big welcome to UW. The idea was to have university administration acknowledge the incoming graduate students to say welcome and we are glad you are here.

AP: The rest of the day is focused on meeting other grad students and getting know the program. We want to show them not just career center, but the planetarium, coffee shops, happy hours, etc. Something like that. I haven’t worked everything out. We can select certain Dawg Daze events. A family oriented one is a mariner’s game the following weekend. We have access to discounted tickets and there will be busses from campus to the stadiums. This is good for community building and meeting people from other programs. The breakfast event is where you get your welcome packet, meet the deans, hear from administration, eat free food, and see the various resources available. I’m meeting with athletics next week and hopefully we will have some sort of SWAG to give incoming students. Hopefully we will get sponsored by the bookstore/athletics. It is also a selfish event to get up on stage and talk about GPSS. So everyone there will have heard about us and that is more than we can say for many of the current grad students. They don’t know who we are, what we do, that they have representation, etc.

ES: Can I raise a point? We are going to need a lot of volunteers. Any idea what man power is going to be available?

NG: My concern is that we already need volunteers to do all the orientations and we have a lot of these on Monday and Tuesday. On Mondays we sometimes have multiple orientations at once. But I think we can make it work.

AP: We don’t have mandatory events. We can tap into senators to go to their own orientations. We will need volunteers. We will luckily have some staff. Kerstin you’ll be there besides Evans orientation?

KH: yes

NG: I’ll have two staff too

AP: We will have paid staff to be there. We’d love to have you do the planetarium

ES: we’d be happy to do like two shows. Just have to make sure we have enough people. We want to not place burdens and do everything well to make good impression

AP: I agree. We don’t have to do anything for fall fling, so this gets us involve. Maybe give out GPSS stickers at breakfast. We can suggest “Wear a GPSS sticker at fall fling so you can find other grad students”. We do one big event that’s a lot of work for us, but then we can just advertise other events and it will fall into place.

DT: Can I get clarification. Did anyone go to fall fling last year?
AB: I’ve been in the past
AP: yes
NG: GPSS puts on the fall social
DT: Not the fall fling?
AB: We might chip in some. Is it in last year’s budget?
TB: No
AB: it’s mostly ASUW and first year programs
AP: All these events are paid for by undergrad contributions and the university administration recognizes that something really needs to happen for graduate and professional students. We want to say “Come on over enjoy what we have to provide”. Next I want to look at the Dawg Daze schedule and see what pops out at you. Look through with me and say what we want highlighted for graduate and professional students. Terrible set up but this is what we have – there are a lot of tours – caffeine, athletic, etc.
AB: Is caffeine nation the coffee one?
AP: Yes
AB: That makes a lot of sense
ES: I think the health and IMA tour could be important. Depending on what we want to emphasize
DT: I didn’t go to IMA until winter quarter. Its where most of funding from student fees goes to so we should showcase it
AB: It’s where intermural leagues are too
ES: Are we looking at the 19th or 22nd?
AP: Oh yah maybe we should focus on the 22nd and after
ES: Athletics tour
DT: Harry potter
AP: Learn to swing dance! This is my bias, that’s what I like
DT: Do these bars represent availability?
YH: No, the times.
AP: We can do our own athletics tour like Dawg Daze gets and have them put it in the flyers
DT: There are grad student leagues that would love to have graduate students on them
AB: I’d like to clarify between intercollegiate and intermural. We need to do intermural.
AP: Is that separate from husky athletics?
AB: That group reports to Denzel.
YH: The Burke museum has a chocolate fair on the 23rd. It’s from 1-3pm and you get to learn about museum too. And there is a chocolate fountain.
AP: So swing dance? Did anyone else like that one?
NG: mehhhh
AB: Too narrow
AP: Get to know student government like ASUW does?
NG: I think commuter fair could get some interest. It would be great for people new to Seattle, especially with the pending bus cuts.
AB: and new carpools lots and parking
AP: So like transportation?
NG: We can even just advertise it
AP: I think we should reach out to UW transportation and have them have a booth at mimosas. We need to pull out events and put them on our flyer.
AB: Are we running them on our own or just advertising?
AP: They agreed to make a flyer “Dawg Daze for Grad Students”. I just didn’t want to choose the events by myself. We can pick out anything we want and they will say yes or no. They are already doing the events; they put them on a flyer for us. No work for us
YH: Learn to meditate?
AP: Okay. Do you want to tell us about fall fling Renee?
RS: It’s a concert. I don’t know what the music is going to be yet because we are competing with other festivals. In the past we’ve had Macklemore. It is broadly based. A comedy act may happen the night before fall fling. Fall fling is on Monday night. The comedy show on Sunday or Tuesday. All of it is being worked on right now. There are outdoor movies too. There is a sports day over in the IMA for sport games. I believe that’s on Saturday.
AP: We are looking at the schedule but restricted to things after 22nd. The Commuter Fair that’s what you are talking about. Let’s do this chronologically
AB: Are we shooting for a number?
AP: No. Anything before Commuter Fair? I put down get to know GPSS likes ASUW does, sustainability touring and canoeing.
YH: I think that’s limited to a certain number of people
AP: School of public health field day. That’s for grad students
YH: Yah but it’s just for public health, we want cross campus
AB: Bend and snap
AP: Fall Fling, maybe Q center movie time with popcorn.
ES: Ice cream social by UW dream project
AB: I think that is to recruit for dream project. And I think that is only for undergraduates
YH: I did it but grad students aren’t as involved
NG: What about one of the weekday workouts
AP: I think we can put all the weekday workouts in there.
NG: Just ask them to say weekday workouts at IMA at these times and not list every individual event.
AP: Late night shopping at Fred Meyers?
YH: Not great
AP: Glad we have you. Husky battalion rock wall challenge? Thoughts?
NG: I think it’s cool
ES: It’s ROTC
AP: Never mind. What else. Caffeine nation?
ES: And as Alex mentioned, tours of the libraries
AB: That’s nice especially if we can get in the Smith Room
ES: we can put on the flyer the ASUW event because they represent everyone
AP: Let’s not confuse them. Christina is the undergrad student body president and I am the graduate and professional student body pres. What about ...not clubs?
YH: They are fine but there are lots of them. What about food vendors on red square?
AP: I’m not there yet...I think we should do surplus on Tuesday. You can get good stuff. Okay UW surplus
NG: I think we should put the general campus tour on there too.
AP: Yah when is that?
NG: It’s two down
AP: Oh human rights and ice cream social at Amnesty International
YH: That’s another club
RS: And clubs often have smaller events.

AP: What about UW film club...it’s a club..sorry. I agree that we should limit it so people actually go to something. But there is like SWE, which is big.

YH: But usually the clubs associated with the department advertise within the department so we don’t need to.

NG: The Kelly Ethnic Center Theatre open house could be cool.

AP: I agree.

ES: I also like the UW Student Technology Fair and the Student Activities Fair.

AP: Student Activities Fair and Tech Fair are on September 24.

NG: What about the study spot tour?

AP: Yes. And maybe we can do our own trivia – discussion of venues – kates, etc. We should do the women’s center, D Center and Q Center welcome. Oh they have a planetarium show. But we can do our own?

ES: Yes.

AB: And then they get to meet Eddie. We should advertise Eddie.

AP: Husky football vs. Standard?

YH: But you have to pay money?

AP: Yes. And then Dawg Daze goes to the Mariners - we will have that on there as well. I think we should do the Mad Campus artwalk.

NG: I think we should put both of those on there.

AP: Club sports clinic day?

YH: It’s when you go to check out all the club sports. Everything from dance to tennis.

AP: Cool. I am not going to take the time to read that whole list.

DT: Did we add Dawg Daze goes to the Mariners?

AP: Yes. We can market that one to student parents. You can bring your whole family. Thank you all for that. I’m going to reach out to First Year Programs and they will come up with a flyer. Let me know what level of involvement each of you want to have. Try to talk to friends and departments and get them to come. This is not just for incoming grad students. We want to acknowledge that none of the current students got a welcome either. We want to change that and make everyone feel included. So this is not just for first years.

YH: When can we expect an official invitation or details of any kind?
AP: Hopefully in the next week and a half. I’m going out of town and won’t be back until Wednesday. I’ll be doing logistics via email. I have to talk to people, get money, and get buy in from the Dean. Once we have approval and funds, I’ll send out a big save the date.

RS: Are you doing a Convocation-like ceremony? Or something lighter?

AP: Lighter- Breakfast and Mimosas with the Dean. Monday from 9am -11am. I haven’t talked to Sarah Griggs yet. It’s going to cost an extra thirteen hundred to keep the tent up. The Provost likes the idea. So let’s take a minute break to get situated. Can we pull up copy of by-laws? We are going to dig into that.

AP: Let’s go through Yasmeen’s changes.

YH: Can I have a copy of the bylaws in word format instead of pdf?

AP: I’ll email you this link

AP: Seyda Ipek has been discussed as an executive senator candidate. Can we go through this so everyone can see? Why don’t we just go through your changes.

YH: Did you have a chance to check out the catalogue? Some are changes, some are questions. So let’s go down to the second discussion point because Eddie commented on it. Function of the senate, section A says that the purpose of GPSS is to identify, discuss issues and guide executive action. However it leaves out actually doing action as a senate. It’s more of a mission change than a stylistic change.

AP: Great point. Last year we had focus groups about the mission. We came up with draft mission of GPSS that they felt should be included in all publications, etc. I was not a big fan of what they came up with – kind of a last minute attempt to come up with something that summarized the great work a lot of people had done but it didn’t accurately reflect what I thought were the outcomes of the focus groups. We should talk about the purpose. I have faith that we all know the purpose and my opinion is that the executive committee is responsible for determining the direction of the organization. We need to come up with language for it, vote and discuss it at a full meeting of senate in fall. We need an official line describing the purpose of GPSS.

YH: We don’t have to do it right this second. Let’s try to have ideas by the next meeting

AP: Did you guys know we have a constitution that is different from the bylaws?

YH: Yes not everything is overarching.

ES: The bylaws are supposed to be more malleable than the constitution.

AP: Article two: try to better community in all ways. GPSS shall act as representative organization for graduate and professional students at UW. Given this our purpose in the bylaws, we should reflect this language in constitution.

YH: I went through line by line. Some stuff is like spelling changes. Some are more like “do we do these things and should we keep them”? Lots of stuff about decision making too – appointments, elections, procedures, etc. Then there is the voting rights.
AP: Do we need to go back to things we didn’t know that we did?

YH: We are skipping that one. The quarter requirement

AP: There was another one about committee changes. We can talk about it later.

YH: I am in officers not presiding. Those not presiding over a senate meeting get a vote. I’ve noticed that officers don’t tend to raise their hands for votes. We need to clarify what presiding is.

AP: I think the language means that no president or vice president can vote. It has probably just not been made clear that officers can vote.

YH: We’ve never seen officer’s vote.

NG: But they are from programs

YH: Is it a double vote?

ES: I interpret it as one person presiding. Officers who are not presiding can vote. It’s true that in the past officers haven’t been voting, but I think they have the ability to.

AP: This brings up a bigger point of meeting culture. This is something we have struggled with - how to organize the meeting room. One thing you may or may not be aware of is the idea of moving to a horseshoe or half circle. I am much more in favor of a fluid dynamic. I don’t think officers should be at front looking at senators. This creates an idea of us versus them. We should make it all one body. When in a senate meeting the way the room is organized makes a difference. We don’t want them to feel lesser. We want to say “come here to give us your vote and participation” instead of “we are dictating and want you to do our bidding.”

YH: I think this would help with the idea of officer’s voting. If they are in the same space they may feel more comfortable voting.

AP: My hope is to create an environment where I am the team captain, not the coach.

YH: We will leave that one as is and note that we need to establish meeting culture

AB: Weird amendment to that clause – under “president presides over meetings and vote only in event of a tie”. Article five section C clause two item A. I suppose they are giving positive rights. This gives the only exception for when the president can vote. Thinking through it does make sense.

YH: Section D Special Meetings. This came up in the past couple years when special meetings occurred for communication issues. Forty-eight hours is not enough notice to gather the entire senate. Especially if we are trying to get action. I think we need to put it in writing that it is important to have a longer period of time to get everyone there. Eddie suggested 72 hours.

AP: We usually have to call these meetings because something came up that is very timely and we won’t have 72 hours. Page 4 section D

RS: Special Meetings are when an executive body needs to have a meeting that isn’t scheduled on a regular basis.

AP: That is for all senators
RS: The same principle applies. This is all part of the OPA public meetings act. You have to provide 48 hours’ notice, a reason for the meeting, and a fixed agenda that is given out in advance. You cannot do normal things. Example of one last year was when you didn’t have the legislative agenda passed. So notification was sent out with date time and place and only item on agenda was legislative agenda with officer reports. You have to do 48 hours notification to notify members and notify open public meeting act. Has to be at least 48 hours.

AB: We can change it to more?

RS: Yes.

AP: Has there been a case where having a 72 hour requirement has been prohibitive?

R: No, there has not been a case. 48 hours hasn’t been bad either. But you can do 72.

YH: Is it prohibiting the executive office too much to do that? We can establish people give a week as a courtesy.

RS: I can give another example. When the union’s things were going on and everyone was fighting all day, you gave 48 hours’ notice to vote and people were really engaged and it seemed too long to do 48. When people are mad they want to go faster. The meeting was packed because we were talking about union rule. This was 2001. You could do 72 hours.

YH: Or we can just leave it as 48.

ES: If it’s based on statute let’s keep at 48.

AP: Let’s recommend notification for a special meeting ASAP but leave 48 as the minimum.

YH: I like the idea of the separate document for what senate “usually” does.

AP: The only problem with a separate document is I’ve found that there are separate documents for everything so we end up reinventing the wheel. So we’ve got to get it in the bylaws.

YH: Write as soon as planned but no later than 48 hours.

ES: It’s hard to enforce that. It seems like just language.

AP: As soon as the need arises? Something like that?

YH: Speaking of special meetings, section E says that this section should apply to special meetings. I think discarding all resolutions bylaws for the special meetings doesn’t make sense. I think we should strike that and leave it up to suspending the bylaws which comes up sometimes.

RS: Remember for special meetings you have to have agenda in advance. You can’t add anything in.

YH: That’s not in section E though.

RS: It says that special meetings are odd with this clause. Because of that statute.

ES: I understand.
YH: I know that is the statute but it doesn’t say in the bylaws that this has to follow during special meetings. Maybe we should change that part to reflect the actual statute. It doesn’t discuss any of the things that apply to special meetings.

AP: Let’s get section d of article 4 in compliance with OPA.

ES: I see why section E can’t apply to special meetings because motions had to be put in two weeks before.

YH: We have had issues come up because the special meetings were not for an issue, they were just due to schedule problems.

ES: It would make sense that motions don’t need to be submitted two weeks in advance.

AP: Let’s add all the info we need to know. We can’t suspend bylaws during meetings, the agenda has to be submitted in advance, the agenda is fixed, and items can only be deleted, not added, up to 48 hours before.

RS: I think there is language in the statute we can use.

AP: Will you look into it Yasmeen?

NG: I’ll manage that.

YH: Section F: Proxies. I think proxies can either vote for everything or not vote for anything. Eddie pointed out that senators can cast an absentee ballot. Thus, if you are sick, it would be useful to send a proxy since you can’t use an absentee ballot. We don’t cross check proxies when we do hand votes, only officer elections.

ES: You can make a point that proxies are there to fill in for the senators, but they have a perspective of coming back and have more of a stake in the outcome of the election.

YH: Why can’t I tell a proxy that you vote for a, b, c?

AP: You can’t guarantee they will vote the way he/she [the senator] wants.

YH: You can’t guarantee that for anything else either.

ES: I think the solution is to change it so the absentee ballot can be submitted up to the beginning of the meeting time.

RS: This is all about everyone designating proxies to throw your votes off.

AP: For example senator x has come to meetings all year and doesn’t care so senator y says can you designate a proxy to vote instead so senator y gets what he wants.

DT: Do the benefits outweigh the costs in having proxies?

YH: We don’t check people’s faces anyway.

ES: We check people’s face at the door.
RS: You have a pool of people who have been participating and those who have been designated but don’t participate. Crafty people will take advantage of this with proxies.

ES: It’d be easy to impersonate a senator.

AB: I think it’s shades of gray. To remove a step because one step isn’t good enough doesn’t make sense.

NG: Clause four about how to designate a proxy isn’t followed. A lot of times people would try to sign up for themselves as a proxy for their peer. Most senators would either come or not. They didn’t typically use proxies.

AP: One person had a designated proxy in the senate all year because he couldn’t make a meeting.

AB: I say you come and vote or your department loses that vote.

YH: I think it’s reasonable to have someone else help you represent your department even if you have two reps half your department is gone.

ES: A US senator can’t.

AB: The student senate doesn’t proxy. Faculty senate has non-voting proxies.

YH: Do we actually do these things: to designate a proxy you have to submit ahead of time. The problem is we don’t actually do it.

AP: I agree that this seems a little over the top for the proxy thing, submitting the form, having it be a rigorous thing, etc. I would say strike the part about the official proxy form. My goal for this revision is to make this more streamlined, less complicated and actionable. We want a smoothly running organization. I think proxies are an important thing to have in place and get other people involved. I think it is a good thing to have in place. But we don’t actually do the form. Let’s say “send the secretary an email letting them know you are designating a proxy and cc the person coming so they can sign up in that part of the sign in sheet.” This is a better process for having proxies. But if the proxy is well informed, they should be able to vote. They cannot cast votes in officer elections unless the elected senator has given them the vote.

NG: That’s hard to enforce.

AB: I like the email idea. It is a record that is easy to look up and it is coming from the person’s email. I still have concerns about proxies voting in officer elections.

YH: We can hold off on that.

DT: I don’t think they should be able to vote in officer elections and are only able to vote in other elections if they send in the email

NG: I will send the form to Kerstin

KH: I will check ids

NG: That’s not necessary.
RS: It is only necessary if someone seems sketchy.

AP: Let’s take away the form, have it be an email, have list of proxies at the door, and you cannot vote if you are not on list.

YH: The next thing is that a GPSS meeting cannot be called to order until a minimum of 25% of senators are present. A running count of the number of senators brought to every meeting. Let’s just have a number.

NG: That is super easy to do because I have them on an excel sheet.

YH: Thank you. Next we are down into official positions. Specific duties of the VP. Article 5 section D clause 2 letter G: “make every effort to obtain official positions from GPSS etc.” I suggest adding examples of official positions. Ex. Steering committee documents. Either give examples of official positions – is the steering document official? Or do we need to have another motion to make an official position.

RS: You have a steering committee and they can make recommendations.

AB: That’s official from the committee, not from the senate.

RS: It becomes official of GPSS after the senate votes on it.

AP: I think the VP could argue...

R: The VP has particular persuasive skills and you guys can’t prevent that in legislature.

YH: The question is, is this how it’s done? If not lets change the wording. Do they make the official position together or do they have to get a vote from senate on every matter?

AB: It is a tricky balance to keep the VP in check while giving them some discretion.

RS: This doesn’t even mention legislative agendas specifically. That will be voted on by senate as a whole. Recommendations will come from the steering committee.

AB: We can do that for state, local, federal, and all legislative agendas. If you put the process in there for those official things it would be good.

AP: Making that change will have to go to committee descriptions. As far as the wiki goes, it does technically exist. Gpss.uw.edu/wiki and you can see everything and the book of standing opinion. A little bit of background. What happened was a group of people spearheaded along with Russ Hugo. The holdup was that due to the way they designed it, there were multiple ways of a person messing it up. We came up with structural ways to prevent people from messing it up. But people got paranoid that someone would erase everything. There was an attempt at defense including previous versions. So it was blocked from becoming a thing.

YH: But it’s in our bylaws

AP: The committee who made it added it to the bylaws. We voted to give only GPSS officers editing privileges to the wiki. It’s inactive. It’s been recommended that we use the wiki as a supplement to the stagnant website. Use it with a uwnet id login to view and create a wiki login that can be tied to the senator listserv. Senators can make changes to the wiki. What we can do for committee members who
are not senators is have an email for each committee so you can use the committee login. Ideally it will be a robust book of standing opinion. It could be a very dynamic working space. We don’t want to revisit this with full senate until we have a solid decision and we are communicated to them what we decided.

RS: Instead of naming the specific thing, you want a way to have records of decisions and things that you made. Where you are going to have those? We need something a little more generic because the website and wiki both aren’t done the way you want them to be. We need more of a central system.

YH: I found the wiki, but sections are empty. Everything is empty.

ES: Another point is that on the website the minutes and agenda are posted. Are we maintaining records in multiple locations? I don’t think people are going to want to edit and contribute to the wiki.

NG: I was thinking it was something the info specialist could do. They would manage the website and wiki.

AP: I think for OPA we need minutes and agenda on GPSS website. The stuff on the wiki would be for the committees.

AP: Motion to extend the agenda item

YH: Extend for five minutes and complete the rest at the next meeting.

ES: Seconded

DT: Thirded

YH: Let’s go a little further down to appointments. There is a lot of wording about appointments. Budget and finance committee – some need a vote or senate approval, others are appointed or moved by different officers. Page 12. I looked at some executive minutes and it looks like the Executive Committee has not approved every appointment to every committee because usually people volunteer in the middle of the meeting. Do we need an appointment process? If we do let’s actually do it, if not let’s take it out

RS: I don’t think last year you had too many of those things done. You write down names make it an agenda item and get it approved/discussed during regular meetings. The President makes a lot of appointments to committees and those are not always voted on. Some just occur inside the president’s position where they inform the exec committee. The committee doesn’t usually review resumes and documents. I move to approve in mass on the spot when people volunteer. It’s more of an informal practice all the way around, but then the process has been documented.

YH: I think if we don’t presently do it then we don’t need to do it.

AP: Point of information to Renee, the president can appoint or nominate and remove when appropriate. It doesn’t say they have to be approved by exec.

R: Internal ones for committee are voted on by exec.

DT: I think people expected more people to apply for budget and finance. If more than 9 people apply then there has to be official appointment. But if there isn’t’ competition it doesn’t’ need to be formal
AP: I’m worried about potential problem that someone knows who they want for a personal reason and doesn’t get exec approval.

YH: This brings us to the end of five minutes. If you like please peruse the rest of the comments.

NG: Thank you Yasmeen for taking the time to do it.

AP: We have a word document with tracked changes and you can see the recommendations that Yasmeen has put forth. At the next meeting we can go over the important ones with major changes and once we agree on a set of bylaws, we can present it with no tracked changes to the senators.

YH: Judicial has to read it

AP: I think we should approach the full senate and judicial with recommendations in solidarity without the smaller changes outlined. Just show big changes and say this is what we want. Does everyone agree that is good to move forward? Do exec senators have reports?

YH: I put out a call for the university thing on the list serves I manage

ES: I’ve done the same thing.

AP: Officer reports?

AB: Today I had a great meeting with the Director of Federal Relations for the University. We came up with plans for the year and how to engage better with her office. She gave update on the Higher Education Reauthorization Act and that was great to hear. I’m happy to have Kiana back involved with SAGE.

RS: When is SAGE?

AP: October 27th.

KH: I will make the sage travel plans

AB: I worked on a few things regarding the peace health resolution. Any questions?

ES: Where are thing with peace health resolution?

AB: Student groups are working with medical education within the school of medicine. Another group has a meeting scheduled with the governor’s office

ES: Is this about putting all the university’s info in one place?

AB: It’s making sure public info is available, giving more specific guidelines and making sure people know where to find those guidelines. That seems to be where we are trying to go. Then we will have some follow up conversations.

AP: I tried to find out what we actually did and it was one of the things that slipped through the cracks. None of the people who were supposed to receive it received it.

AB: The student group did send it out, so a lot of people received it even though GPSS didn’t send it out. We still need to send it to the administrators.
AP: Conversations are going on that also involve student groups and other ones are going on in the administration so the President and Vice President can work well together. Good to conversations all together with the student groups. We can’t have legislators asking for things that the president of GPSS could have asked for. Things happened or didn’t happen last year and we are going to pick up pieces. Before I send the resolution I want to ensure is worded in a way that doesn’t seem like an attack. Senate directed us to get some more clarity on behalf of the students who are affected by it.

DT: We overcame barriers with Rene. Thank you Rene for your help.

RS: We are discovering that people didn’t get paid and all sorts of stuff.

DT: I’m glad to be working with everyone and glad we have good budget people.

NG: I followed up on what the exec committee wanted me to do. I’m still working closely with grad program advisors to schedule orientations. I will send out an email once more has been scheduled. We met with people from the career center about partnerships next year and putting on events and bringing them on. They are on board and will have a booth at welcome day. The next meeting is with the career center, center for teaching and learning, the graduate school, and all the people still to be scheduled sometime in the fall. After that we will have a planning session.

AP: I’m glad committee appointments came up. I’m taking a lot of time doing it. People on the website with an asterisk I have not verified with yet, but by all accounts these are the people we have and the vacancies we currently have. Amy from Pharmacy to Childcare advisory committee. All of these people have filled out an application, sent a resume and met with me in person. I feel very confident that they are passionate about the issue, want to be involved and have a schedule that will work. Katie for Task Force on Sexual Assault Prevention so she is on the sexual assault task force. I’m trying to get her on the committee on student safety. I commend Eddie and Yasmeen for doing a lot of this work. I am having a meeting with the communication specialist from the Graduate School and she going to put it out in the graduate student digest. Laura Taylor on Research Advisory Board. Service and Activities Fees: Evan, Doug, and vacancy – might be budget specialist. Alex Stone I have not verified. I guess he was on it last year. Ann Nguyen wants to sit on the Student Insurance Review Committee. But it’s not meeting anymore. Now it is restricted to international students.

DT: Motion to extend time

AB: Second

AP: Student tech fee: I appointed three people with three vacancies and it turns out Kevin, who was nowhere in our records, used to be in ASUW then got converted over and is now the vice chair of the committee. I am meeting with Kevin. I figured it out. Jiarui on Upass advisory board. Alex Russ on that too. I’ll keep you updated. Anyone you know who is interested, we still have openings on Provost Advisory Council for Students, and the Senate Council on Budgeting and that one is really important. It’s our turn to make the appointment. We want a good GPSS appointment this year. We are hiring people to help me. I am going out of town tomorrow until Wednesday so you’ll get an out office response, but I’ll probably still respond. I just want to say that meeting with these people and telling them what our vision is of really consolidating resources and communicating it well seems to be getting people really excited. It reinforces for me that what we have going on is really strong. I am really privileged to be part of this team. Doug and Natalie have been awesome and they have already had great ideas for GPSS and all GPA students. The work over the summer has been awesome. Props to the Executive Senators and Rene too. Any other announcements?
AB: Heads up, I will not be at the next meeting
ES: When is the next meeting?
AB: Wednesday August 27
ES: I will also not be here.
AP: any interest in moving our meeting to wed Aug 20 instead?
ES: I am more able to meet on Sept. 3
AP: I can do Sept 3.
AB: I can too.
AP: Entertain motion to move the Executive Senate meeting to Wed Sept 3rd
NG: Second
AP: Any opposed?
None
AP: Motion accepted.
NG: The meeting will probably be in GPSS office because the board room will probably be taken.
YH: If we have it on the 3rd can we kill the one in the middle?
AP: No because the one after that is our retreat. The 10th is our Executive Committee RETreat.
YH: Can we strike the meeting on the 17th?
AP: It is leading up to the first day of school. Can we leave it for now and on the tenth we can decide? At the retreat we won’t be able to discuss business. Let’s leave it on there for now. I’m going to post the agenda for the retreat and if you have questions, concerns, etc. please bring them up. We are going to do executive leader training. Executive Senators can come. In the afternoon we will have a lot of other stuff going on. We will be doing long term planning with professional planner.
YH: Move to adjourn
DT: Second
AP: Any objections? We an officially adjourn.