Minutes: Official Meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate
Executive Committee
September 17, 2014

GPSS Secretary Natalie Gordon
GPSS President Alice Popejoy
GPSS Treasurer Doug Taber
GPSS Vice President Alex Bolton
Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
Executive Senator Eddie Schwieterman
Executive Senator Evan Firth

A. Approve Agenda

Alice: I will make a motion to approve the agenda. Has everyone had a chance to see the agenda?

Doug: Second.

Alice: Any objections? We have an approved agenda. Since we don’t have it on our agenda, we can’t approve the minutes, unless someone wants to move to approve to amend the agenda to add an action item of approving the minutes from last meeting.

Alex: So moved.

Eddie: Second.

Alice: Objections?

Yasmeen: I move to approved the amended agenda.

Alice: We just set the agenda. We just approved the amended agenda. Now we are entertaining the motion to approve the minutes which is the newly added agenda item.

Yasmeen: I’m going to move to approve the minutes, which I also read.

Natalie: Second, I also read them.

Alice: Objection?

Alice: And next on our agenda is an information item and I wanted to get some feedback from everybody on our executive retreat, and then go into a little bit of the content of what we wound up at the end of the retreat so we can start using some of that language in a coherent way. So maybe we can just go around the room and get some general feedback from folks on the retreat.

B. Feedback on Retreat

Alice: I will start I think that, first of all I was very happy and impressed with how people kind of were very present and there and engaging the discussion, where they really put themselves out there to try
to make it work, and commit to this group. So I'm happy about it and I thank you all for your participation and bearing with some of the activities that may be outside of your comfort zone or belief system.

Alex: I really liked it and I think it's really beneficial to understand how people really have different ways of communicating and wrap their heads around things and understand that people just operate differently as opposed to trying to judge that. Sometimes if we have frustration throughout the years it's kind of good to take a step back outside. And think that was really helpful and think it will help us be a strong organization.

Evan: I would really like to echo Alex on that. When I first saw Communication Style I thought I was going to be a little bit hokey but I was completely wrong because it was actually incredibly useful. I think it will be really useful if we can cooperate on a larger level. I don't know if that's possible or if that's too big of an effort but I think it will really help this executive board. If we do this again we should definitely carry that part on, that will be one of the things that I want to carry on and I really liked the brainstorm too.

Eddie: I have to add to the chorus of praise to the Signaling Communication Workshop. I think it provided a very useful model for understanding different communication styles between people and it will be very useful for us for GPSS and for us individually beyond GPSS. And I also really enjoyed the strategic planning session. I think we were all really on the same page when we did that exercise, and explaining what we thought of the purpose and values of GPSS were. We all started off on the same page and refined our wording and our thoughts, but I thought it's really encouraging that we are starting off on the same page instead of assumptions.

Douglass: Not only did I have more fun than I thought I would have, I think it was also more constructive than I understood that was going to be I think it's going to be useful moving forward in something that I definitely think should be a reoccurring thing in executive committee.

Natalie: On the communication workshop statements I think that was valuable and it was beneficial to just work together on something before we start the school year and get that foundation established.

Yasmeen: It was really nice to meet everyone and get to know everyone better I thought that the activities that we did together are really successful and one negative feedback that I'm going to provide is that during mid-day my attention was slacking a lot because I felt like we are sitting through lectures. That part I think we could have had less off. But it ended up well and I think it was good overall.

Alice: That's exciting for me to hear that for the most part people thought it was effective and I'm glad that was a good use of our time and it was also helpful for me to see actually how many people have red style as you're most difficult, because that indicates to me how much harder I need to work to make sure that I am not just going off on my own whims and make sure that this is really a collaborative effort and I really want to stress to you how important it is just that I am making decisions on behalf of GPSS. I truly think that has been one of the challenges in the past and continues to be a challenge for the past presidents, and we don't always have time for a call back in time to the whole Senate and obviously this is the committee that makes a lot of those sort of judgments so I really want to rely on you. I don't want to just go on my own and not bring this to your attention and I hope you will also hold me accountable for that.

Evan: One more thing too that I really appreciate is René was with us at the beginning I almost wish she had more time. As I felt like normally when we get René's opinion just the reasons and practicalities it's
always when we are about to mess up and she's saving us from messing up. Which is awesome but I thought it was really neat because it's almost like we are ahead of them here and she was giving us tips to prevent us from even getting close to messed up. We are actually not just being reactive we are being proactive against going down these paths. I realize this could also be a move for the Executive Committee. It will be great to have more interaction with René. Just from a senator's position who don't interact with René all that much, I thought that was invaluable and I think that it was really sad that she had to cut halfway through. I was like "oh my God we are learning so much".

Natalie: I just sat through the ASUW orientation this week and René talk to them for well over two hours, it was close to three. And it was all very valuable so that could be something to be considered for next year that we can recommend.

Evan: If we can bring her back one more time this year...

Alice: Sure, if you all will like to have more Rene time I will love more René time. She's not going to like this... (Laughs) we can put her on our agenda for like half an hour every executive meeting until we feel pleased about having every last piece of wisdom from her in a proactive way. I am totally down with that so if we all think that's a good idea I can do that for our next executive committee and throughout the rest of the year. Does everyone feel like that's a good call? Okay let's do that.

C. Setting the tone for GPSS – elevator speech draft

Alice: As far as the content of what came out... I wanted to just sort of briefly recap in a document form what is here in the picture, but I feel like this is so open to interpretation that I would like all of us to come up with something free-form right now. It’s not final, it’s not official but when I’m talking to people about what GPSS is and what we are doing, I would really like to have some language that came out of all of us. So does anyone have any suggested starting points from this draft that we have here?

Evan: Just for clarification, are you looking for a one liner or a three minute elevator speech or an outline of a four page document because I know we talked about each one of them. So which one of those do you want right now?

Alice: I think any of them will be fine right now. If we have all of those that would be fantastic. Let’s start with an outline and see if we can come up with a sentence that comes from that. Let’s start with GPSS.

Yasmeen: That's a good start.

Alice: ...Represents graduate and professional students. Do we want something about shared governance?

Doug: I think it’s more providing resources and protecting interest.

Alice: Oh so we are fostering this culture of collaboration and engagement, what if that's our opening line? GPSS represents graduate and professional students by fostering a culture of collaboration and engagement.

Evan: I don't know because that doesn't really mean anything.

Natalie: Yeah.
Evan: I think the first sentence should be all three points.

Alice: Should we say Seattle?

Natalie: That’s something I’m talking to Kelly Edwards about.

Doug: I wrote “a diverse community of graduate and professional students who advocate for support and provide personal professional development and protect interests”.

Yasmeen: That sounds good.

Natalie: And it focuses on a group of students who are doing this instead of an external organization.

Yasmeen: Doug can you say that again?

Alice: It is a diverse community of graduate and professional students who advocate for support and provide personal and professional development and protect interests.

Yasmeen: To the graduate student...population?

Evan: I’d say body. Let’s change protects to safeguards. Or promotes interests.

Alice: Maybe promote and safeguard?

Yasmeen: I like that as a one-liner.

Evan: It doesn’t read super smooth for some reason but it has everything there.

Yasmeen: I think the reason that it’s not reading super smoothly is because advocate for support is grammatically incorrect. It’s not complete.

Evan: Well the thing is...are we saying GPSS as singular as an organization or are we conjugating it as a community.

Yasmeen: Also GPSS is a diverse community but we represent a much larger community. So I feel like represent should stay somewhere in there.

Eddie: Maybe instead of "who" we can use that. Students that advocate for support provide personal professional development.

Alice: Okay so it’s a community that advocates but I think we should still say represents here. GPSS represents first.

Evan: Help graduate and professional student by advocating for....

Yasmeen: Let's just try it with -ing for a bit and see how we feel about it.

Alice: We represent a diverse community who advocates for support.

Alex: We’re not talking about what GPSS is, we should be talking about the community who represents us.

Alice: We can also break these into two sentences it doesn't have to be one sentence.
Alex: Do you want advocating for to be one of the verbs like “we’re advocating for support”?

Doug: Yes we are advocating for support.

Alice: Yes but we don’t have to say that.

Doug: The reason advocate is there was because we are recognizing that there are some things that we ourselves can’t provide for graduate students and so we are advocating for those supports for them but then also provide which ones we can.

Alice: So this actually come out of fostering a culture of collaboration and engagement. That's like a more concrete way of saying shared governance. Because that doesn’t mean anything either if we don't have a vote on committees we don't really know what that means necessarily.

Yasmeen: I don't recall exactly where that came from. I feel like it was one of those things that we kind of threw on at the end as we were wrapping up. It wasn't something that we originally came up with and I don't feel like that's something I would say if I were like "what does GPSS do?"... "Foster collaboration"

Evan: I think we might include it in larger ones but now for this shorter sentence we might not want to include it just because that’s what the Senate already means or is inclined to be, just by its nature it already is.

Alice: So what if we have “the GPSS represents a diverse community of graduate and professional students as the official student government at the University of Washington.”

Evan: So do that and then- We advocate....

Alice: So we're trying to figure that out, let's just say University of Washington. Because we actually don't need Seattle as our name. We advocate for support.

Alex: We advocate on behalf...

Evan: Support to me feels a little bit hokey... We are advocating for students we’re advocating for....

Alice: We’re advocating for access to help...

Evan: We’re advocating for student support.

Alex: I mean, we want to say we advocate to University of Washington...we advocate to state legislature...

Natalie: We advocate for student rights.

Yasmeen: Well even if we had that up because we help financial, social.... we don't list all the things right now and those things generally fit under ...I don't know...support.

Eddie: We advocate for the tools needed for successful graduate student’s experience.

Yasmeen: How about if we say provide and advocate for. Because “provide” is one thing that we do.

Evan: "We provide and advocate for the tools needed for a successful graduate student experience...."... "For the tools needed "by" successful graduate students"
Alex: But we're not going to say successful we want them to.....

Evan: “The tools needed to make a successful graduate professional student experience"

Alice: We provide and advocate for the tools necessary for a successful student and graduate professional experience..? The thing is we don't want to just say... So I think this is an area that we are moving into, and we can talk about this more. But, I've had some meetings with the graduate school and some other administrators who felt like the direction that we should be going is around career development and career mentorship. Because last year thing was peer mentorship but this year we can move in into the career mentorship phase. And connecting them to alumni who have careers in the areas that they're interested in. Because let's face it, academic staff don't have the capacity or knowledge to advise people on non-academic careers. Other than people of course who are professionals also. But, for the most part professors can only teach you how to be professors. And it's a lot harder to go about the other space. So that might be some other areas that we will want to go into, so I don't want to limit us to say that we are advocating for a student experience, we are advocating for that. But we are also advocating for success in graduate school, and beyond.

Evan: We provide and advocate for the tools needed to empower students.

Yasmeen: What if we just leave out that part and make it super vague, and say, well, not super vague. We provide advocacy and tools and resources needed by our....

Alice: Can we get back to this really quickly can I put the official graduate student government for dada dada... GPSS? Because I thought it was weird.

Evan: Yeah that's better.

Alice: So we can even turn this into a one-liner. "As the official graduate student government of the University of Washington, GPSS represents the diverse community of graduate and professional students, advocates and provides for blah ... And safeguards the interest of students"

Yasmeen: What do we put in the middle? Provide and advocates for resources and something....

Alex: Resources needed for student success?

Yasmeen: That's encompassing.

Evan: That's actually really good, provides and advocates for student success. Wait, is that not what you said?

Alice: What if we just say that. "Represents a diverse community of graduation and professional students, provides and advocates for student success.” Maybe provides opportunities?

Alex: So one way to pair them up them up is "represent and advocate” because we advocate for a diverse community of graduate and professional student....

Evan: That makes sense where he is going ... That contextually...

Alice: But we advocate for resources, we advocate on behalf of...

Evan: I don't think we should say advocate for student’s success, just because....
Alice: How about "advocates for resources and something student success....?"

Alice: So I think we're getting a little bit stuck. How about we table this and go home with this or go home with these ideas running around in our head. So I will email you these on the left...

Yasmeen: Can you email us what we just wrote? Would that be okay?

Alice: Well, it looks like crap

Multiple people: That's fine.

Alice: How about this - my homework, I will word-smith the crap out of this and come up with something that is decent, and you guys can tear it apart and create your own version. And we'll all come back...

Evan: Or you can just send it before you word-smith it.

Yasmeen: Yeah it has all of our raw ideas.

Evan: I live with their English PhD and he'll love this.

Alice: Awesome! So we are going to call this our elevator speech...

Yasmeen: Draft. It's a draft.

Alice: Yes, ma'am.

**D. Husky Sunrise Volunteers**

Alice: Thank you for going through the exercise with the words I know it's brutal, which is what we're going to do when we are going through the bylaws next week. I didn't want to have to endure that this week, but Yasmeen has been hard at work and actually Collin Syfert one of our Science and Policy committee members just got back to me and said he's working on the bylaws. So Yasmeen I'm going to connect it to you to get him kind of up to speed. And then he can go to town on it and maybe give a presentation at our meeting next week. Awesome. As far as next week goes, it's our first week of classes too. Which means Monday is Husky Sunrise- our welcome breakfast with the Deans. Has anyone received the off-campus email?

Multiple people: Yes

Alice: awesome. So I think, only you didn't get it Alex?

Alex: Maybe it's because law school don't count as graduate school?

Alice: So can we follow up with that afterward, can we get the professional schools, maybe somebody internally in GPSS Natalie, we can work together to kind of figure out how to reach people in a professional schools. So the reason that their new students didn't get it from me yet is because the graduate school hasn't updated their list of current students in Convio, which we used to send out the emails. And we had a bunch of angry people being like "I graduated in 2014 stop using it..." but it's not my fault, it's using the Graduate School's email addresses. Anyway they updated their list today. So I'm going to send another one, I think, on Friday. Being like "Hey, welcome to the University of Washington." Because it's not going to resend it to the same people.
Evan: If it makes you feel any better, that sounds really familiar. So I'm pretty sure that has also happened to the previous GPSS president. Like I swear I heard those exact words, especially with the angry people emailing so you are not the only one.

Alice: Okay. At this point I don't really care because I used to work for Association for Women in Science and I've had enough angry replies. I'm over it.

Alice: Anyways. As far as Husky Sunrise planning goes, I'm going to let Natalie take it away, because I am kind of out of the loop as far as the volunteers and stuffs go.

Natalie: okay. Well I have been at ASUW orientations for the past two days. So for volunteers, we have a few staff who are volunteers to help the day of. I sent out an email asking for volunteers, I've gotten zero responses. Did you guys get my email?

Multiple people: I don't remember getting that email. That might explain why.

Alice: You sent it to all graduate student email?

Natalie: No, to the senators. I sent, like, two of them. I sent it on the listerv.

Yasmeen: You sent it directly from your GPSS email?

Natalie: Yes. And it did not bounce back or anything. That's really weird. And frustrating.

Doug: The last email I got was the orientation.


Doug: I mean I got the correct invitation but that's not the volunteer stuff.

Natalie: I wonder what happened. Well I will have to look into that.

Doug: Well, that explain why you haven't gotten any response.

Natalie: That's really frustrating. When it matters. So, we need volunteers basically. We need help setting up starting 7 AM and we just need help putting up decorations.

Doug: 6:30 would be great. Seven minimum.

Alice: Wait, are you including moving about a table? Because I thought we're doing that night before.

Doug: I don't know if people are going to be able to show up the night before. It's going to be rough to do on Sunday. I will be there at 5 AM moving stuff around. But...

Alice: I feel like it is better because Sunday is when the president's picnic happens. And as soon as they're done cleaning everything, that's when we should go in and move the tables.

Doug: I was also going to ask, because I'm going to do a walk-through on Friday with Adam. And I'm going to ask him where things will be positioned when I show up there. And if there are a bunch of tables there, I think I can do it by myself in 20 minutes. I'm going to be there at 5 AM, so that gives me plenty of time. So on Sunday I'm uncertain what the extent of work would be.

Alice: Are you just busy on Sunday?
Doug: Yeah I won't be able to make it on Sunday night. Or Sunday at all. But I will be there five in the morning which is kind of like Sunday.

Alice: I am just not functional five in the morning, so if you need my hat up I am happy to come on Sunday after the president’s picnic, and move on the table and get it stress tree, and early-morning free and just all set up and ready for the next day. So then when people come and do the set up, it's already ready. Because I think that's the one thing that if we do get started the morning off, and they come in and try to do to set up or maybe they do the night before, I don’t know, will have to talk to Ann. But at least, all the linens and all that kind of stuff, we kind of talked to them and said we will have it done tonight before. So if we can't do it on Sunday, we just need volunteers to do it. I think it's just cutting it too close as we moving tables around the morning of.

Doug: Regardless of how much we set up, I still have to be there five in the morning. And so I'm not planning on coming on Sunday.

Alice: Okay, that's fine.

Doug: But yes, I agree with you that people can come in on Sunday and it will make things a lot easier the next day.

Alice: Exactly. Do we have some people that can come in on Sunday to help move tables around?

Yasmin: I don't get into town until midnight Sunday.

Alex: I’m moving.

Doug: Aww, sorry to hear that.

Alice: So, anyone else?

Natalie: I can do...

Alice: anytime that works. I am free all day... So.

Yasmeen: How many tables do you have to move? I guess what I'm thinking is that Douglass is already coming in so early on Monday, I think two hours is enough for the tables.

Alice: Okay so let’s check with Ann to see when they’re going to be setting up linens and stuff on the tables. And just make sure all the tables are moved before then.

Doug: What if they're doing it directly after the president’s picnic?

Alice: Then, we need to figure it out. We'll figure it out later. If no one on the Executive Committee is willing to come in on Sunday, or able then the officers are going to figure it out. And if I have to do it by myself, then that can be my personal training.

Natalie: I can come in later Sunday.

Alice: Okay. Great. Alright, so what else do we need for the day of? So for those who can't come on Sunday, can people come on Monday? And what responsibilities are there, Doug, for people? You are asking people to come in early.
Doug: so if there are people on Sunday, and then we can have people show up on seven, that will be a solid time just to get things organized and laid out. We are going to meet people. I think we settled on six or ten volunteers. Because the Event Coordinator has that task to write out what the volunteers do.

Alice: Do we have that with us right now?

Doug: No, but I can send that out to the Executive Committee tomorrow. Those are pretty basic stuff, like check IDs at the front, work at the GPSS table and mostly it's put up and tear down would be what we need the most manpower.

Alice: do we need to tear down?

Doug: Just get all of our stuff situated and clean up trash and stuff a little bit.

Alice: Our staff, the GPSS staff, including officers, can do that. I'm not going to rely on the executive senators. As far as what there was set for volunteers, like helping at the GPSS this table, or maybe welcoming people, I think that's where will be. It sounds like we need to do more work on the staff front before we can include you guys in this conversation, we need to figure out who are the officers, who are the staff members, and what are they doing at the actual date of the event and whatever the holes are, we will ask you guys to fill in if possible.

Eddie: I wouldn't mind doing the table.

Alice: Okay, good to know.

Yasmeen: I'm going to echo the other Executive Senators and say during the event stuff is a lot easier for me to get to than before and after.

Alice: Okay. And you know what, you guys are not being paid for this. But we have staff and ourselves who are, so it's our responsibilities, we're just asking you to volunteer and if at all possible, to step up and help out with that. So Doug, if you can just get a handle on what their roles are, what all the staff are assigned up to do, and will have a staff meeting, I think, this week about that. And then, we will reach back out to you guys when we have the specifics. Alright, does anyone have questions about Husky Sunrise?

Alice: The UW President is now speaking by the way. I don't know what the protocol is, I don't know if I should say "hey, by the way the President is also speaking now."

Doug: Do you think they talk? If they talk it'll probably be better if you tell them.

Alice: Anyway I am going to move on, and figure this out on my own. This is not something that I need to rely on you guys. So I'll figure it out. I think I'm going to let all the speakers know what the updated speakers list is. And Alex and I can figure out, with the knowledge of administrative powers that be, in what orders I should have them speak.

E. Planning the First Senate Meeting

Alice: Okay. So next on the agenda, moving right along is our planning of the first Senate meeting that is coming up next week. We have to plan our agenda for the first meeting which means a couple different things. Yes Yasmeen.
Yasmeen: Clarification. The first meeting is not next week?

Alice: No, the first fall Senate meeting is the second week of classes. So next week is the Executive Committee meeting to plan the first fall Senate meeting.

Yasmeen: Thank you for clarifying

Alice: So next week we will be sitting here for the first Fall Senate meeting. Hopefully we can do enough thinking ahead of time and planning for that that we don't have to do it all at the Executive meeting. I would take responsibilities for obviously chairing the meeting, making sure it's a welcoming, fun, interactive vibe. But I don't wanted to be like too fun and gamey that I also wanted to be kind of like, a bit more serious, professional vibe. So that's why am relying on you to kind of think that's fair with me, and I put 20 minutes on here, but we don't have to use the full 20 minutes. Because I know Natalie is trying to catch her bus. But we are all trying to go home obviously. But I do want to get a little bit of feedback on what level of engagement fun versus serious, get down to business do you want in the first meeting.

Evan: I just remember going my first time, first year, even before I was officially a Senator, I thought I was going to be pretty serious, pretty get stuff done. And I still kind of support that, because point A the Senate itself generally rebels if we go over an hour and a half. The majority of the Senate, at least the current Senate, really seem to like to get things done and get out of there. And point B I think it also, in addition to showing fun, I think it's really nice to be able to show what can actually be done and do useful, productive, tangible things. You know, show the importance of GPSS via action if at all possible.

Yasmeen: So I'm going to follow up on that and say if I were going to say a number, I was say out of an hour and a half meeting, I think 10 minutes will be very appropriate time to have introductions, and do fun things, or whatever, just so people break the ice a little. It's not super tense for the first 10 minutes. So I think if we have a quick intro from you, and then 10 minutes of some activities to get whatever happening, I think that gives a plenty of time at the meeting.

Alice: Do you think we can do a presentation on voter registration?

Alex: They want to do a five minute one actually and then we can hand out stuff as they are at the meeting.

Alive: ASUW does?

Alex: Yeah we kind of do it with them.

Alice: Oh, partner with them? I like that. They probably need volunteers right? So we can put it up to the Senators to see if they want to get involved and volunteers for voter registration activities. And I'm assuming it's been planned by the ASUW folks?

Alex: They have a specific staff, that's their job so we're just kind of partnered with them.

Alice: Perfect. Eddie?

Eddie: My first Senate meeting we had introduction that was parli-pro, and we got a one page sheet that says if you want to raise an objection or if you want to make a motion this is how you do it. And I think that might be useful to have. And other suggestion I have, is that when people are picking up their
name tags I think there should be some kind of way for someone who has been a senator before and who is friendly to put a ribbon on their name badge or something. And it will be like "if you have a question, look for these people "that way if someone has a question, there will be friendly faces. So people will be like "there is a person next me that knows what's going on" in this way there will be a visual way to tell the difference.

Alice: I like that a lot. Do you think part of that planning process could involve. Sorry. Part of the designation process for those people could involve the icebreaker? Like, if you're new senator stand over here, and if your return a senator stand over here. If you're returning senator and you feel comfortable talking to people and answering question about Senate go over there. And giving people something that they can put on their name tags.

Eddie: I think at subsequent meetings they can take those back up at the front as they're signing in.

Alice: Oh cool, the ribbons. Like, okay today I feel friendly. I like that. I think that's a great weight. I think that's a great icebreakers because it's a rattle. You're not like, go to the side of the room that your mother was born in.

Evan: I just wanted to say that I really like the idea. Senate did that at my first year too, and it did what I think you're saying, is that you want it to be a welcoming environment. Because not only did it give you kind of a little bit of just a pointer to be like hey this is how you can interact if you want, but there were also a lot of people in there that I had no clue how to speak in that. You weren't alone, it's okay, and everyone needs this sheet. Everyone starts somewhere. And that sheet was that.

Alice: Awesome. And Yasmeen has a hand up but then we are going to transition to Natalie who is going to talk to us about part of the problem.

Yasmeen: For people who have been there, I am going to suggest that I know we've been working on mission statement and all that other stuff, but my first Senate meeting was basically like a planning meeting of what is GPSS going to do this year and I was actually kind of off-putting for me. Because I was like I don't know what we do, help! So I think saving that for another meeting will be more productive. If that was even the works. I don't know. I was just going to throw it out there.

Evan: I think it was nice to just go in, and expectations was that there was this kind of set defined, weirdly protocol that was already going on. And eventually work your way into helping define the direction of GPSS. But there was already a set direction for you to follow.

Alice: So Natalie...?

Natalie: So I have a one pager which outlines how to say the most common motions. It's kind of the commonly used to things that I'm going to have Cynthia make look more visually appealing and we are going to make it into posters and have a couple out during the meeting. And also, I am trying to condense it somehow so it's easier to keep either in the name tag or just with you so that senators can always just have it with them. It's kind of like a cheat sheet. That's the plan. And one more thing is about the meeting though, there is a student from architecture, and she asked at least last year if she can do the spotlight, she's really excited about it. So I think it will be really cool to set the precedent that you hear from a senator who is excited about what's going on. So I would like to put that in the meeting. She's been persistent all summer.
Alice: Thinking that way, that's really exciting. So ...spotlight, icebreaker, return and the friendly Senator ribbons, there is one more thing, oh, ASUW voter’s registration. So I guess my question to you all as far as the opening presentation, is it okay if I have a few slides of different things of my own talking points saying some of the stuff we came up with as far as this is what GPSS does, these are the committees that I sit on, there is a lot more involvement in the administration level, and have each of the officers give like a little overview of what it is that they do? Or is that sort of information overload?

Evan: I would suggest maybe a slide each just a quick slide of your job, and leave the committees for later until the point to where we actually get to the committees. Which may be just later in a meeting.

Alex: Because later in the meeting is where we are going to ask for volunteers to sit on the important committees like Judiciary Committee...

Evan: I think so. And I think for me it never mattered who led the committee necessarily.

Alice: I meant external call. Sorry. So like we can also save that for officer report.

Evan: I think that's information overload. I would do a one slider each. The little bit of personal responsibilities and personal outlook and goals and two points each.

Alex: Maybe something funny, personal?

Yasmeen: I think splitting that information up over multiple meetings, like, it won't hurt to wait two weeks. Before people know that you sit on them.

Alice: My thinking on that was that people always complain GPSS isn't doing anything even with any administration. And I was like, believe me we have more than enough face time. So I am face time... But I see what you mean that it might be too much. That I might just mentioning briefly in my one slide.

Yasmeen: I thought the meeting last year, the first one where the committee past year or someone was sitting at the corner of the room and answering question about it, I thought that was really helpful, and prevented these lengthy speeches and prevented people from getting confused. And it was cool to walk around and talk to all the committee people.

Evan: They got surprised the last time, I think. And they still stood up and did it. And I think a lot of people signed up for committees. Like, not everyone show up.

Doug: Oh yeah. We had a sign-up sheet instead of asking people to raise your hand and join.

Yasmeen: I thought that was a really effective way of doing it.

Evan: Sorry I shouldn't have said surprised because ... they kept their speech is short. They just get the key points from their past experience, they didn't go on and on about it. They are like "yeah, this is what we do, come sign up if you're interested".

Yasmeen: And we can print out signs that says the name of the committee and post them around the room so they can gather around there if you want to hear more.

Evan: Oh yes that's great. Because that was the one thing that was lacking the last time was order.
Doug: The one thing though that we need to keep mind is that no matter what- we needed Judiciary Committee and none of those people sought different committees.

Alice: We also need another Executive Senator. So I would suggest, can we focus on what we have been doing over the summer, what our plans are for the year, and what GPSS is, and really have a focus on you guys, actually. I want our first meeting to focus on the officers: we briefly say who we are, but also say your involvement and do a plugin for Executive Senator positions and Judiciary if that's something we need immediately and save the committees for the next meeting. Because we also may not have the full Senate considering a lot of programs, despite Natalie's tireless effort all summer to get the program elections, that may not happen in time. So I kind of want to wait for the committees to wait until we have everybody there.

Yasmeen: So just so I can picture this, so at this meeting we would do introductions, something interactive, tiny parli-pro, spotlight, ASUW voter registrations. God, that's a lot of things.

Alice: Say it again.

Yasmeen: So something interactive, introductions from officers, and intros from Executives and maybe a plug for the vote at the next meeting presumably, and a little ASUW voter registration, the spotlight. How many hours is that? (Laughs) So just going back to what we have already decided for the meeting, following that is an Executive Election?

Multiple: Yeah

Evan: Too much for my opinion but...

Yasmeen: Maybe an Executive Election? And committees are probably the big things there. So the first one there we have to do is Judicial. Because that is an immediate need. Is there any other one that's immediate need?

Evan: I don't think so. Maybe elections.

Alex: There is no judicial, until now.

Yasmeen: It has to form every year.

Evan: And they can't be on any other committee.

Yasmeen: Which is unfortunate.

Evan: So one thing I might suggest for this meeting, is if we can kind of lump the executive officer intros with what we have been doing over the summer, which is a vision for what we should do this year. Do you kind of like that idea?

Yasmeen: Do we have a vision of the year?

Alex: Working.

Evan: Maybe not even just for the year. But a vision for GPSS. What GPSS does? So it will be a reminder there for the past senators, and it will be a outline for current senators. And it will give us some talking
points, and it will be like "hey the executive senators get things done" so that serves a dual purpose of talking about really definitive things and setting a leadership position and also give room for executive.

Natalie: I like that.

Alex: Have we decided how that's going to be run?

Alice: That depends on our bylaws.

Yasmeen: So that's first Senate meeting and second Senate meeting. So our next Exec meeting, bylaws...

Evan: Hey that will actually be really good to do. At the first and second meeting it will be really good to do bylaws. Because it will be getting things done, and will show that we are actually getting productive things, governmental politics Senate type things done.

Yasmeen: Or it can be super boring and scare people off. I don't know. Depends.

Alex: That's not really getting anything done.

Yasmeen: It's getting internal stuff done.

Alex: It's allowing us to have a functional organization but that's not into it itself the Senate itself is to do things outside of the senate.

Evan: If you're going for the first time you're like wow they are just jumping right into it, they are getting the necessary thing taken care of, and this is just really nice clean efficient manner. Hopefully.

Alice: So. Can I suggest? Are we going to die if we don't have Judicial formed in the first meeting?

Yasmeen: Mind if I check the bylaws for this one?

Alice: Well, we are going to change the bylaws.

Alex: Because if dispute happens there has to be a judicial committee. And I think that the Executive Senators, the Executive Committee can only act as Judicial Committee in the summer.

Alice: Is it just in the summer or is it in the absence of a Judicial Committee? Yeah it just says "only on behalf Judicial Committee during the summer, or in the event that there are fewer than four voting Judicial Committee members."

Yasmeen: But it says in the Judicial Committee section, that's page 22 section a, clause one, B, the large letter: "Senate officials should be elected by simple majority of GPSS at the first official GPSS meeting."

So we can change that in the future, if we need to.

Evan: So sounds like we try and if we don't get it for whatever reason, it's not the worst thing in the world because we have Executive. Previously we always worry if we don't have four we will be in trouble but...

Yasmeen: We met for a total of two hours last year combined over the entire year.

Alice: So these are some great ideas and I'm going to leave this in a draft form like this on that GPSS elevator draft document that I am going to send out. So feel free to make your changes and just send
them back to me and I'll figure out some fancy way to consolidate by next week. And then we can use this as a platform to plan our first Senate meeting at our Executive meeting next week. Executive Senator reports.

**F. Executive Senator Report**

Yasmeen: I can start with this one. So bylaws....I went through and put the bylaws we discussed at length into the document and post it up on the Google drive. It's actually less than it appeared to be before. Because there is something that we discussed and kind of strike. And there is something that we kind of just did to make a decision on. And there are some things that are super simple to change. So, those are all good. So I'm hoping we can discuss this in the next Executive meeting. And the other thing that it's going work on is the smoking survey. Which is just wrapped up at the end of last year but we are trying to get our report and summarize the findings so that it goes out to the communities who spent time taking the survey. And I was hoping that some of you could look over it before it goes out to other communities just to make sure that things look good and don't have any problems, because it it's hard coming from the perspective of the person who made it. I can send it out to you or bring it to you individually just as people I respect the opinions of.

Alice: Can you sent that to us and can we discuss that at our next Executive meeting or do you just want individual feedback?

Yasmeen: It's individual feedback because it's not going to have the GPSS name on it so it's not like a GPSS document it's just something that at the start it kind of was GPSS. But that’s a good question.

Doug: I don't doubt. I have been just kind of casually bringing up GPSS the TA/RA thingy which oddly don't get that much mention. It's kind of interesting. The Union speaks at TA/RA but GPSS is itself doesn't. So for future point of reference it might be an interesting thing to try to incorporate ourselves and do is the TA/RA conference.

Yasmeen: What will you say we provide for TA and RAs?

Doug: I mean pretty much as far as I can tell almost all first year graduate students, and probably a lot of first-year professional students would use the TA position to not have to die for loans. And up at that meeting at some point.

Alex: And I mean if they are RA and they have a research that they want to present, we have grants for them.

Evan: The union makes the five-minute presentation. That was well-received and the Graduate School had a booth outside so that was two options that we can consider. So next year potentially for whoever that's concerned, we can have a table or ask to make a short presentation for the TA/RA conference.

Alice: So that we can add that to next year for the Secretary to do departmental orientations. But the idea is that we’re reaching out to them at the departmental level.

Evan: I’m giving the GPSS intros in addition to the union and I'm going to my department tomorrow.

Natalie: Oh I need to get you guys your last brochure packets, they are in my office.
Eddie: So I'm going to do Anthropology and Electrical Engineering as well. So I'm doing that Planetarium show Monday afternoon. I've been thinking about what to talk about. So... Yeah. If you have any suggestion of what you want to see, maybe you have stronger perspective on this which might be useful, since I've been in it for so long.

Evan: I know one thing I saw at the Planetarium that's usually really well received, I don't know if this one can do it, but it was a fast forward and back-and-forth to time. I thought that was a really cool thing and I think someone loves to see what the galaxy look like a billion years ago and what it will project...

Yasmeen: I was going to say star clusters because those are always cool. Because I see pictures of them, separate from the sky and I can see them in the sky, and that's cool.

Alice: And maybe for people who aren't scientist maybe just constellations.

Yasmeen: I have a question about the Huskies Sunrise. It is the search thing. The scavenger hunt. Do you need help with that? Is it all set?

Alice: Yes the staff is working on it. And thank you for that. And thank you for your suggestions. Ashley is working on that. And it's already working pretty well. Thank you for bringing that up, because we actually do need someone to do the coffee tour. The Dawg Daze, The first year program is doing caffeine nation, and the tour of a bunch of coffee shops. Around the U District and stuff. They are going to give us the script and then we have to do it ourselves. I can do it, but it might be at the same time when I'm doing an orientation on that day. Unless someone wants to take that orientation for me, at that point in time, and then I don't have to do that.

Doug: What's the orientation?

Alice: So, it's at 1 o'clock, Natalie, what is it?

Natalie: It's 1:45-1:50. It's Linguistics.

Alice: It's not the same time. It's 10 AM on Tuesday.

Alex: I had a pretty good WSA meeting last weekend, we elected a new president because the previous president was named the trustee of Western and it is a UW graduate student, so if that's cool. We can work together. I met with officers at ASUW, piggybacked on them with voter registration. I've been doing a few different meetings and it was transportation, they're actually because of the bus funding, they've become involved in the policy process as well. So, there was actually a lot of work last year. There is going to be a ballot measure just for the city of Seattle for busses. I've done a number of orientations and handed out hundred and 50 some of those fliers, and they're all gone.

Natalie: 162.

Alex: So that's really good. They seem to be really excited and there were a few disappointments when I mention the Husky Sunrise is at 8:30 but hopefully there was still a push.

Doug: I will kind of pick up where Alex left off. Orientations have been going so flowingly. I've been getting a lot of positive feedback on those cards, those cards should be a staple from here on out because they are amazing. I hand them out and people specify they're interested and give them back and the last time I recommend stay 10 minutes after your presentation because people come up and
bring them a little bit late because they're so in awe of your presentation is they won't be able to write or look down. So that's been going really good. Having continuing pop out for funding from last year, that's always keeping me on my toes so that's exciting. And all the staff are settled in, and are doing amazing jobs and making me real proud to see how hard-working they are, and they are really excited to get on top of everything and get work done I have a Budget Specialist that's writing reports for the Husky Sunrise. We're doing our projected amount versus our actual amount. And that's going to turn out really interesting to see what happens later. And everything is going really good in terms of that.

Natalie: So obviously orientations are going on, and you guys are all part of that so I don't need to elaborate on that. Cynthia, the Communication Specialist, is working on our social media schedule so we can post something different every day, not just about GPSS, but the graduate community, which I thinking going to be awesome.

Doug: Where are we posting at?

Natalie: Facebook and Twitter if I can track down the password that nobody from last year wrote down.

Doug: Does GPSS’s social media have an Instagram?

Natalie: I think we do. I will have to check. If that's something we're going to have up, I'm having SriHarsha working on the website, so we are working on making it look a little bit more like it's in the UW website community. He put a little banner on the top, so I think that looks good. But we are still under the process of changing it around and seeing what we want it to look like. And I am going to follow up on all of the OPMA frightening stuff. Yep. And I was at ASU W orientation and there some cool things that I think we can partner on. Like doing a student government app. If we can partner and give a space for graduates coming to be involved on that topic too that'd be great.

Alice: So I just want to echo on what Natalie and Douglass have been talking about the people in the office. And it feels lighter to have people in there and helping out and doing things. But I just looked at the website and look at the banner. And they look so good. And I can see all your beautiful faces on the website. So if you didn't notice or if you didn't get my email. This is our header in our emails that SriHarsha and I have been working on getting those headers to be our communications logo thing. It's actually related to the one by a creative for a Twitter page for the Science and Policy committee last year and SriHarsha reworked that and make it work. So anyway I'm happy about that. So I'm happy to see you all on our website. So I don't really know where to start, but I don't really want to keep people-so I'm really excited about Husky Sunrise and I think it's amazing and incredible that something that started as an idea when we just talking about our thoughts and feelings in the office, and two months later, it's a fully funded event. First ever event-and at the President's Picnic tent at Rainier Vista. And we have a list of VIPs who have RSVP'd. So those yeses there are attending Husky Sunrise. The deans of different schools are attending. Yeah, it's good. And hopefully some of them sent out invitations to their students. Because we have the Provost encouraging them to do so. I also met several of the deans. One is from Dentistry, which is relatively new, And he actually reflected to me that some of the eans actually feel the same way that the graduate students do. That they don't even look at the convocation stuff if they don't have undergraduate in their schools really. Because they're just like that's not for me. I am not part of the UW, I'm just the Dean of the School of Dentistry. So it's kind of cool to actually hear that that's in their cultural of centralization is reaching even into the administration of each school. So it gives us this opportunity to kind of build from there, from the top down, and the bottom up. Which is exciting for me. And I still need to reach out to the Vice Provost. I also met with the Dean of Arts and Sciences today, Bob
Stacy, who gave me some really interesting information about that ASAC- the College Council of Arts and Sciences. We had some interesting conversations about things that are going on and I know you're all aware of probably the sciences building being built. So I need to bring this up because of transparency which is that the College of Arts and Sciences made the decision to propose building a brand new science building for the Biology department essentially and the way that he put it was because activity-based budgeting and our new budget system, it makes it more transparent, and it has made apparent that the fact that any money that Arts and Sciences spent within their own budget is tuition dollars. So they're both posting to build a new building using tuition dollars, which is a capital project. Which because we are a public institutions, we should be funded by the state. Because of the state has not funded a capital project on this campus in like 20 years, they're like... they basically say we can't wait anymore, our buildings going to fall apart. Our system is about to collapse. So the College Council of Arts and Sciences has basically decided that they really support it, and they're like yes spend our tuition dollars and just go ahead. And with ABB actually they make so much tuition that some of the money goes back to University and is redistributed throughout the University to like Engineering, Medicine because they don’t actually make money. Sorry. Activity budgeting is the form of funding that we are using at the University. Which means we graduate students count as 20% of the body and money goes to the Provost and 70 goes to our allocations to school. School enrollment in school articulations. Anyway. We can talk about ABB later, this is something that came before PACS and was never actually brought to Executive and we never talked about it. But it is something that was a big deal and he was very much in support of the new science building that he didn't feel like you needed more advising on it. But it is going to come up again for another round of discussion, so I want to let you all know that this is coming up and we're going to need to figure out how and where we stand. PACS did not support it at the end of last year. But I was a really controversial decision, and the deans were not happy about it as you can imagine. So that's going to come up and we're going to need to talk about it. One other thing that I think you should be made aware of is that at the Regents meeting something that came up was that the Burke Museum is going to be rebuilt. And so for some people that's really exciting. Because they say that the building is not suited for holding out the specimens. But it is a historical landmark at the University, I think, but I don't think it's up to me to have any movement on this. I want to just put it back to you and let you know that it's happening that the planning is happening right now. So maybe Yasmeen your Natural Society group should be informed about this. To see if there's parts of the Burke that we would like to see preserved. We probably need to act now so we can work with them in the planning stages, as opposed to interrupting all their decisions in they're like it's too late. So if there is any concern about that let me know. That’s all I'm going to say for now, I hope to see y'all at Husky Sunrise bright and early. And thank you very much, I can’t believe it. When we meet next, school will actually begin. Any other Comments? Announcements?

Yasmeen: I’m going to move to adjourn.

Eddie: Second.

Alive: Any objections? Alright we are all done- 7:04PM meeting adjourned.