Alice: I call this meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

Alice: I will entertain a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion and vote for approval of the SAFS funding application.

Eddie: So moved.

Yasmeen: Second.

Alice: I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda as revised.

Yasmeen: So moved.

Eddie: Second.

Doug: We heard this application in the Finance and Budget Committee last year but couldn't approve funding from that budget, but it is a good application. I move to approve SAFS funding.

Eddie: Second.

Yasmeen: I have a question, you mentioned mimosas and food, in the interest of diversity would it be useful to downplay the importance of the food on the flier and up-play the hearing from the deans and the resources.

Alice: Maybe, but it is also a big attraction point.
Yasmeen: By advertising that this is an alcohol event, it might put pressure on people

Rene: Can I contribute, because I don’t know how much money you will be getting and I wanted to talk about alternatives. If you don’t get the money what are you going to do? You should come up with a hierarchy for priorities.

Alice: Okay we will work on that. Moving on to the next item, which is orientation.

Natalie: We are signed up to present at around 40 orientations. I am doing trainings for the volunteers. We will be handing out brochures and interest cards. Please take a look at the schedule and let me know if there are any open presentations you would be willing to take.

Alice: Next is an info item, our bylaw discussion and revision. I put all but I should have put Yasmeen our wonderful bylaw fairy.

Yasmeen: First is committee chair training. Do we do this?

Alice: No but we will.

Yasmeen: There are a lot of things in the bylaws we can’t actually do.

Alice: It is the purview of the President to do program reviews, sit in on committee meetings with the external reviewers and the group in the Graduate School. There is a group of three grad school staff we work with and we also send out surveys and ask a senator from that dept to oversee that process. That said the impression I got from the Graduate School this summer when I met with them is that they have had some inconsistencies with the level of involvement and follow through with the GPSS President. This year I assured them we will be on the ball and it is happening. I don’t know if we need to write it into the bylaws but we could add more structure to what our responsibilities are.

Rene: Chris did it last year, it is going to happen it is just sometimes you don’t want to put so many processes in there, just say it is something the President or University Affairs Director does and leave it at that.

Yasmeen: Sounds good. Alright so I think that is all for that. We talked about wikis and there is a person for that now. So the bylaws say the Treasurer is involved in evaluating staff. I know we had a conversation so that was brought up. I’m sure you continue to discuss it.

Natalie: I think it makes sense for us to each evaluate the staff we supervise, since we work closely with them and are familiar with their work and daily activities.

Doug: I don’t see any negative repercussion of having the supervisor evaluate them.
Yasmeen: That could be something we could change in bylaws.

Alice: Yes, I agree and we could also do self evaluations of our staff and ourselves.

Natalie: We should all be required to do quarterly reports to document our activities as well as provide opportunities for reflection and evaluation.

Yasmeen: The bylaws have the Secretary sitting on the GOMAP board but also on website says we have a vacancy, so I want to clarify that.

Alice: The reason there is a vacancy is that last year the Secretary never went to the meetings and had someone else do it, but this year Natalie will be on top of things and attend the meetings, so she will be our representative.

Yasmeen: Sounds good.

Alice: I will change that on the website.

Yasmeen: So I was talking to a new student in my department and one of her questions was about how you do votes, she said isn’t there lots of peer pressure. What do we think about having some kind of paper ballot or other system rather than raising hands for votes?

Alice: I have thought a lot about this for our political votes. One, if you aren’t sure and you see other people voting that can help if you are unsure. Second, I think it might be logistically challenging if we have to go count votes.

Alex: One thing we might consider is clickers.

Rene: Your name shows up.

Alex: I think that’s okay, it is good to know.

Yasmeen: We could also consider texting votes.

Rene: Public means public, it is a training exercise to train people to vote. If they are embarrassed that’s okay but they have to learn to get through it. It is a problem in our society.

Eddie: I think people need to feel more comfortable coming out of their shell.

Natalie: We could incorporate that into senator training.
Rene: I would encourage you to stand up and help the President in general because it is hard to facilitate the room. Participate and share with the group that you have influence. If they hear you the conversation will be changed and go in a different way.

Alice: I remember feeling that way about when Trond spoke. I am concerned about people just voting to move on to the next thing faster because the don’t care.

Also, I want to get everyone’s birthdays for our retreat, so I will make a motion to take a 5 min break.
Alex: second.

Alice: We are officially out of recess at 6:41 pm.

Yasmeen: As for bylaws I think we made some good points in the voting discussion. I think it makes sense for Rene to present to whole senate.

Evan: Sorry for being late, I’m curious where idea that they don’t vote because they don’t care comes from.

Yasmeen: I have talked to senators who vote yes to get the meeting over.

Doug: I abstained once because I wanted to get guidance from my constituents.

Eddie: One thing to remember is that not abstaining is like you are not there. It should be discouraged because it changes threshold for the majority. I would be concerned if people were just abstaining.

Yasmeen: So I guess that wraps up bylaws stuff and we have things to think about. I don’t know what we want to do moving forward but some point we can make action to make changes.

Alice: Next Wednesday is our committee retreat and I think we have other things to talk about but we might be able to do some decision making there. That said we have another two exec meetings two weeks in a row so Wednesday September 17th and Wednesday September 24th which is the first day of school. By the first day we should try to have a fully revised completed set of bylaws new and improved to present to the Senate the following week.

Yasmeen: What week do we want to do it?

Alice: The 24th gives us 2 weeks. Do you have Word doc?

Yasmeen: Yes Natalie gave me one last time so now I do.

Alice: We could put it on the drive and make edits directly.
Yasmeen: In a more organized way.

Alice: Yes now we can move forward more concretely. Moving on to the exec retreat agenda. The last page of packet is what we're looking at.
focus of strategic planning

Eddie: I have a question for Rene. What are we limited to discussing due to the OPMA law, is this an official meeting?

Rene: You guys are in training so no minutes, no notes, you are fine.

Eddie: Even if we are talking about GPSS stuff?

Rene: Yeah, even the Board of Regents have training.

Alex: It’s only if any votes or decisions are being made.

Rene: You guys will be just talking, strategic planning just talking about plans not enacting them.

Alice: Why do you ask?

Eddie: In Florida if 2 elected officials got together and talked business the law made it open to public.

Rene: We’ll do it then talk about it with Eliza the director of the program and she will tell us.

Alice: Just to be clear I think the difference is that we are talking about goals, visions, ideals, not GPSS business.

Eddie: No personal problem, just making sure.

Alex: It’s just the difference with Florida.

Alice: I appreciate your diligence. I would love all of your input on topics for our strategic planning discussions.

Evan: Can you get us started? What did you have in mind?

Doug: I would like to request being on time to meetings and staying on track.

Alice: Is that a passive aggressive way of saying we are over time?
Doug: Motion to extend time by 10 minutes.

Eddie: Second.

Natalie: We could just email ideas.

Alex: Can you give an idea of what you were thinking?

Alice: Yeah so last year and the year before GPSS had done a bunch of events without talking to one another or including committees, training, vision, etc. We should identify goals, our vision, image, etc, and what we want to accomplish and how to tailor our programs.

Eddie: One thing I was thinking was in past there hasn’t been great organization around our legislative agenda. Communication is lacking, and we should adjust the number of letters, etc.

Alice: I would like to include other universities in our Higher Education Summit. WSA has been good resource.

Yasmeen: Aren’t we discussing these things at the retreat?

Alice: Yes this is just an example of some of the things we will talk about. We won’t go into extreme detail here.

Evan: I’m interested in discussing student mental health and hearing about where G3 went, where it will go, and current events, or forums, activities, discussions we might have about that.

Alice: I would like to discuss the vision statement for GPSS because we don’t have one.

Alice: Okay so if there are no other comments we will move on to Executive Senator reports.

Eddie: I reserved planetarium for the afternoon on 22nd.

Alice: Awesome, fabulous. How many people does it hold?

Eddie: 40 people.

Alice: Hopefully we don’t get 200 people.

Eddie: I don’t think we will.
Doug: What date is this?

Eddie: for Husky Sunrise.

Evan: Nothing to report.

Yasmeen: Nothing to report.

Alice: We have three nominations for the open Executive Senator position.

Natalie: I haven’t received any responses yet with resumes and interest statements.

Yasmeen: We are only having one day of voting?

Alice: If we don’t get a quorum of votes, I don’t know the quorum for votes.

Alex: Quorum for voting is tricky.

Alice: We can not do this if there is too much discomfort we can say that Exec decided not to do it.

Alex: I worry a little bit about it because people complain when people do things over the summer, my gut doesn’t like it.

Evan: Do we know how many nominations we have?

Natalie: Elloise Kim, Henry Olson, and Durmus Karatay.

Yasmeen: And Seyda.

Eddie: I do think one day is too short.

Alice: I think it has been unusual how many vacancies we have had.

Doug: We may not be giving an opportunity to people who have the potential to be dedicated senators.

Alice: Point well taken however there is a hope that someone on Exec has been a senator before which is why we are lucky to have Eddie and Yasmeen with us this year because they been around and are incredible resources.

Yasmeen: So I think we have gone over and reached point to continue the vote as it stands.
Alice: I agree I think we should move on if there no strong objection I think we should continue as reported in email and see how it goes.

Yasmeen: I object.

Alex: I object too.

Doug: I object as well.

Eddie: My objection is that the voting window is too small not that the pool is too small.

Evan: Do you think it will self-resolve?

Eddie: I think that looks bad.

Alice: In the bylaws we are not required to have a vote by whole senate, we have power to appoint.

Yasmeen: If we do that then change bylaws?

Alice: Yeah sure.

Yasmeen: This is the way we chose Eddie and me.

Alice: You were nominated from the floor and voted on.

Yasmeen: Good point.

Eddie: I have no problem with Exec appointing, we just said we would have a process.

Evan: Can we invite any of the nominees to come to the retreat?

Alice: I just have the feeling that it is really a shame to miss out on the opportunity to have all Exec at the retreat.

Doug: Motion to extend time.

Evan: Second.

Eddie: Can I ask your preference?

Yasmeen: I prefer we suspend the vote and wait until Fall.
Eddie: On the other hand we need to consider the fact that we opened the process to nominations.

Doug: I agree, people that put forward nominations and are candidates, we should tell them we extend the vote to fall quarter.

Alex: My concerns are unique. Seniority is unfair to senators in one or two year programs.

Eddie: You can’t get both at the same time.

Alex: That is a very good point.

Doug: Alex was part of 2 yr program.

Eddie: I stand corrected.

Alice: Okay so reading our bylaws more carefully it sounds like we do need the Senate vote.

Evan: So we’ll hold the vote on the first Senate meeting.

Eddie: We should definitely reach out to those who were nominated.

Alice: Also we can do both, propose bylaw changes with the way we would like to see Executive Senator positions be filled then proceed with the process we proposed and vote in as new bylaws.

Alex: What was the change?

Alice: Not decided, but Chris's was that they have to be elected through a democratic process not just nominations.

Evan: Good idea.

Yasmeen: We should let the people know who were nominated.

Alice: Natalie will send email

Natalie: I can do that.

Alice: When you email nominees, encourage them to come to our next meeting.

Alex: For my report, the biggest thing was we had a good WSA retreat at Eastern, and we built good relationships.
Doug: I hired new staff, we are moving along with the sunrise event, working on the budget, there are some bumps but it is going well.

Natalie: I’ve been organizing orientations.

Alice: Thank you all for your time, energy, and attention.

Doug: I move to adjourn.

Eddie: Second.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.