GPSS Senate Meeting  
April 10, 2013  
HUB

1. **Call to Order**  
Adam Sherman (GPSS President): Calls meeting to order at 5:31pm.

2. **Approve agenda**  
Adam: Anybody want to amend the agenda? I’d like to add 3 minutes before bylaws for the GPSS endowment.  
Kiana Scott (Communications): moves  
Evan Firth (Oceanography): seconds

3. **Approval of Minutes**  
Adam: Motion to approve  
Kimberly Shertz (Law): move  
Duru Altug (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization): seconds

4. **Temperature Reading**  
Vera Giampietro (GPSS Treasurer): This is an opportunity for senators to talk about issues in their department. Anyone interested in sharing something?  
Kimberley (Law): The Provost is considering adding a question that will ask about criminal background for undergrads. It focuses on juvenile records. WA State has juvenile records that are open to the public. This holds many people back. Adding this question to the application will put another barrier for minority youth. We strongly oppose adding a question. It’s unrealistic to think the Provost won’t add the question. ASUW has proposed a resolution to limit the scope of question to only violent felony and sex offenses. Violent felony should be better defined. Also, we want a resolution to make clear that the admission administration only use the question after application is considered. This is great opportunity for GPSS to take a stance. If anyone is interested in joining forces to draft proposed language or working with ASUW, contact me. I’m also in process of arranging meeting with provost.

Christopher Westguard (Public Affairs): There is annual competition for UPenn that promotes people to put together policies to benefit society. We did an internal Evans competition last year. We want to reach out to other schools to have a University-wide competition. If you are interested let me know.

Ragen Hart (Public Health Genetics): Regarding the smoke-free campus resolution. The vote for resolution will be tabled due to other workings around campus.

Adam: Normally we would vote on this resolution after it was discussed last week.

5. **Special Guest David Eaton**  
Adam: I’d like to bring up the new dean of graduate school. The grad school is an administrative unit that provides program support. I want him to share his vision of graduate education within national context.
David Eaton: I have been at UW for 34 years. It’s the only job I’ve had. I came here out of grad school. My background is in pharmacology toxicology. I was raised in Montana. I was fortunate to have been offered a fellowship by the National Institute of Health. Job opened up at UW. I know the university very well. It’s a detriment because I don’t bring experience from another university. My perspective is from the health sciences where I’ve served a variety of roles. Associate dean for research public health. Then associate vice provost for research. I’m gonna continue teaching a class. An advantage I have is I pretty much know all the other deans and vice provosts. This gives me credibility. We have 12,000 grad students at UW. Very few are in the grad school. For me to succeed, I will have to partner with the other colleges. I know the other deans around campus. We are there solely to serve you. We are there to make your experience better and to ensure the quality of graduate programs. The reputation at the UW is maintained. By and large I look at the mission of the grad school as ensuring the quality of education and improving experience of grad students. There are a few opportunities and challenges. I have inherited a remarkable staff, but we have room for improvement. How do we improve efficiencies? We are all worried about rising cost of tuition. From an admin perspective it is double-edged sword. We get revenue from tuition. It’s a burden for students who can’t afford higher tuition. One goal I have is minority recruitment. I am committed to diversity - diversity across our nation and international student. I am speaking out vehemently against international student tax. It will decrease international enrollment. There will be increase in grad tuition. How much is reasonable and unreasonable. Diversity of grad students depends upon our ability to raise funds and make sure top minority students don’t go somewhere else because of resources. Raising tuition must be coupled with increase financial support. We partner with things like the arts foundation. It supports graduate fellowships in sciences. I’m exploring the feasibility of Art-like organization of raising money for the arts and humanities. There are lots of donors out there who would want to support this. For the interdisciplinary programs - there is room for growth in these programs. Expansion may be appropriate in certain areas. My whole career has been focused on interdisciplinary research. The last thing is strategic planning. In fact, there is need for strategic planning across university in graduate education. It must be embedded and embraced across campus. I want to establish a strategic plan for graduate education. As far as the increase in tax for international students - what are our plans for international student growth? Fee based programs? If you look at growth, it’s all in fee-based programs. Overall we are up 14%. Its almost all fee based programs. There is no plan. Is this a good thing? How do we plan on seeing transfer?

Adam any questions?
Melanie Mayock (Vice President): What is your perspective on faculty salaries? The legislature is not funding this.
Dave Eaton: I am on the faculty salary policy committee. The provost is committed to providing reasonable raises. We are trying to figure out what policy will make us competitive with peers and retain and recruit faculty without the moral issues that accompany the unknown of salary raise? But how are you gonna pay for it? There are only two ways: 1) other source of revenue such as raising tuition - this is not a huge option; 2) federal grants. That is not gonna grow. 3) Another option is shrinking the number of faculty so there are more resources for fewer faculty. There are a lot of people my age who will be looking at retiring. As the economy turns around I think we will see an increase in faculty retirement. This will allow us to shrink faculty without imperiling programs. That is my guess of how it will be done. The legislature will not pay for this.

Adam: Go to graduate school website for important resources.
6. Student Health Insurance Plan Update

Adam: There are healthcare changes in the works. Ben is here to talk about them.

Ben Landsman: I am the student insurance committee rep, as some of you may know, a few years ago, we had the SHIP and SHIP Plus plan. SHIP was more basic and SHIP plus was more rich. Last year we found that there was an adverse selection plan. The sick entered SHIP plus and health stayed in SHIP. There are legal problems for this. This year we merged into one SHIP plan. About the plan. There are 5,500 students with the average age of 24. Students will be able to stay on parents plan ‘til age 26. Unfortunately we don’t have grad and undergrad breakdowns. It’s 628 plans currently. The committee found that if we capped plan the price would go up. This was large jump in price. The conclusion was $660 plan. Why is this going on? We had an agreement with carrier that was locked in until this year. Also the affordable care act and health care costs and the changes from healthcare reform. All plans must have these benefits in them. Students can stay on parents plan ‘til 26. With Medicaid expansion people of to 140% of poverty line will be eligible for Medicaid. And then there are those who can get subsidies. Changes for next year’s health plan: the CAP goes up. The deductible goes up. 75 dollars versus 100 dollars. Co-insurance decreases slightly. That number is up to a max of 2500 or 3000 if in network. The next changes are for prescription drugs. If you are having specialty meds there is new tier of co-pays. 150 per prescription for specialty meds. Emergency room co-pay goes up by $75. Dental $300 for regularly visits. Vision goes to one eye exam. Overall, you have to pay more for coverage. Added cost sharing. In terms of other big issues - how this plan looks in future is up in the air. Many students are going to parents insurance. This may decrease plan size, which would need reevaluation. That’s down the road. Any questions?

Titus Butcher (Civil and Environmental Engineering): Can you provide an age breakdown for grad students?

Patrician Atwater (Health Services): Are there plans to help with navigation of exchange?

Ben: I’m not familiar with any at the school. The school insurance webpage is actually pretty helpful. I don’t think there is any plans for outside.

Unknown: Mental health coverage for the plan? I know it’s already expensive.

Ben: I don’t know about current plan. It’s listed as an essential health benefits. It would be covered as any other small market plan.

Alice Popejoy (Public Health Genetics): These benefits are covered for 2014 or currently?

Ben: I believe this is for 2014. The premium price will change midyear because of ACA.

Alice: The 26 years went into affect already.

Adam: Thank you

7. International Student Fee

Adam: There is an idea of international student fee. Gerry will explain in more detail. There are issues related to making sure international students have necessary services. Gerry will talk about the idea. There will be 5 minutes for questions. I have set up a forum.

Melanie: We have been talking about 20% fee that is total different from that proposal.

Gerry: I would suggest that if that misguided proposal passes. It is not in the best interest of anybody. There is a handout. I am Gerry Baldesty I am the senior vice provost. About a year ago there was a proposal of a fee to pay for international students. It fell apart because a lot of people pointed out that it was poorly drafted. The provost asked me to look into this again. The proposal is
for a $45 a quarter fee, and a replacement for the one time fee for international students. It is modest. We have had 113% increase in international students since 2007. We have evidence that we are not serving international students well. The handout lists 6 places where if we did have additional money we would spend there. They would benefit all grad students. There are lots of delays in student services. I’ll make this fast. We have serious needs in these topics, and an inability to meet these needs. We are using temporary number. This is an effort to create a conservative proposal. We are not trying to move all funding services with fees but simply an incremental increase. There are two interesting issues. One is in response to concerns that some international teaching assistants have been put in front line before they are ready. Need for US based students and faculty to be more cultural attentive. A question that came up: what else is the university doing? A couple things. We talked to FIUTS. That board has voted to support this proposal. Should it be a fee or part of tuition. I’ve been here a long time. Memories are short. Fees are clear and transparent and you can audit them. In my view, people don’t like fees, but if you chose between general tuition or fees - fees make sure money goes to the people its intended to. You can audit it and ask for explanations. Where tuition goes gets forgotten. We need the money for people who are not getting the level of services they deserve.

Adam: Thank you.

Will Scott (Computer Science and Engineering): I am from the Student Life subcommittee. At a base, these services are great. The university is doing a good job of supporting international students. All of these services seem valuable. At the same time, we are all benefiting from diversity. The international students shouldn’t be burdened with supporting that diversity. It is hard for me as not an international student to say they should pay for it themselves. Another thing. The committee was worried that by endorsing this, we are saying we are ok with increased tuition or fees. This seems like it’s a legislative problem. If we don’t stand up for this it may happen more. Its important we get services, then more fees may be down the line. We are working on a resolution. It’s not ready yet. But should be ready by next meeting. We are leaning towards not supporting this fee.

Adam: Whether or not we take a position is up towards you. What I’m hoping for is you have enough information? Ask questions now?

Will Scott: GPSS would advise provost.

Matt Portwood (Jackson school): The dollar amount here is salary amount of staff or for running the office?

Gerry: Whenever it is for staff it is for staff. It is meant for programs.

Steve Harreld (Mathematics): If there are other funding sources. What do you think is appropriate?

Will Scott: Legislature to raise tuition.

Gerry: Going to the legislature and saying we need money to support international students - that is DOA. That equals money will not be gotten.

Alice (PH Genetics): Motion to extend my five minutes

Seyda Ipeck (Physics): seconds

Alice: There is evidence that services are insufficient? Is there data on that?
Gerry: Yes. For ISS. ISS is not open 8 to 5. There are now delays for paper work for ISS. The career center. 18% is for grad students. 36% of international students.

Alice: I have a different understanding of evidence.

Gerry: There is a federal requirement for software to demonstrate international services. The hours are cut because the staff can’t get their work done. Another example. As an international student if you want an internship, it will take you 7-10 days to get paper work done. We are talking about inability to have hours.

Alice: Do you have data on the international student perspective?

Gerry: FIUTS endorsed us.

Meg (Psychology): Are other universities able to provide the same services?

Gerry: I don’t know.

Seyda (Physics): I would like an international service survey. I don’t know what ISS does. I did not encounter any delays. As grad students we don’t use FIUTS much. It’s for other undergraduate international students.

Adam: We are at time again. There will be a discussion board.

Bonnie Lau (Speech and Hearing Sciences): moves to extend time.

Steve (Math): seconds

Titus: objects

Adam: Raise your hands if you want extension? Nay? Nay’s have it.

8. Events Update

Kristen: Coming up we have science and policy events and diversity forum. Next week science and communication workshop. Talk about your research, and it will be upstairs in 334 at 1:30 on Tuesday. The next event is a TED style talks called DAWG talks in the Burke Museum. If you want to come - we have spots for anyone who wants to present. Anything related to policy. And the Science and Policy Summit. A panel about a cure for HIV, a genetics’ panel and renewable energy. If you have poster on policy submit abstract. Diversity events. Last quarter we had great conversation about diversity efforts on campus. This one coming up is of a similar idea. How does your department handle diversity? This will be Friday April 26th at noon.

Adam: Lots of events. There are some people at UW who have some money for Huskyfest. This year they want to get grad students involved. They are renting out an entire game room down stairs. Everything is free. Beer and food. Name is to be decided. Please make sure to tell constituents. On April 19th for 4-7 pm. They have a sizable budget. Several contingencies. We have to announce it and promote it. 5 people to volunteer? We have sign up sheet in the back. Please come and enjoy.

Melanie: Will there be wine?

Adam: Yes, there will be gluten free options
Vera: Last big social of the year. Spring social. Create your own superhero theme. Thursday April 25th. Free for UW students. Can bring one guest. Free food and wine. We need volunteers. Please if you have an hour on that evening. There is a list in the back, so come enjoy. We will have photo booth. Sumo wrestling. Caricature artists. Costume contest.

Adam: Possibility of having a 50/50 raffle. The idea is for everyone to pitch in a dollar, you get a ticket. At the end of night, there would be half towards cash prize and half towards grad student programming fund.

Seyda (Physics): The UW tower is much nicer

9. Committee Vacancies
Kristen: I sit on university bookstore board of directors. I am a trustee. Bookstore is a corporate trust. Board is made up of UW students, faculty, staff and the bookstore CEO. My seat will be open because I’m graduating. Any senators are open to apply.

Adam: Provost advisory vacancy. We will fill it this quarter. Preferred to stick around for next year. That is where students can talk to administrators. If you want to start looking over giant budget. Its good for resume and lots of fund. Also, student regent selection process is open. If you want to be 2013/14 student region, please consider applying.

Chris Jordan: You learn a lot about how things get done or don’t get down. I’d be happy to meet.

Adam: Internal committees. Academic and admin affairs committee has not gotten off the ground. Elisa: I am the chair of ‘cake’. We work on lots of different issues. Safe and health issues. We are working to get grad students to go on events. They come to us and we look into it. We have good times.

Adam: They met with chief of UW police

Elisa: The next step is figuring out orientation dates.

10. Endowment
Adam: Last year I said we would start endowment. I’ve done lots of hard work. I was told that your money could not go in the endowment. I’ve worked hard with central administration. They are willing to do a swap of funding. They would make an investment for us. I have been working with Vera on determining how much money we could reasonably invest in this. Paul Jenny said that if we maintained reserve fund then that would be a good cushion. The purpose of this endowment would be direct student support services such as travel grants and departmental allocations. I will be putting together a resolution for your consideration at the next meeting. This is huge opportunity. Any questions?

Titus: What would the transparency aspect be?

Adam: The endowment would be put under our control.

Seyda (Physics): What about advancement efforts.

Adam: Part of advancement efforts was to start up endowment. The interest is what you live off of. You can’t touch the principle.

Kimberly (Law): Could you help us understand this better with a write up or visual?
Adam: Yes, I will flesh out a comparison as well as a history. There will be a purpose statement. Money will be spent based on that purpose.

11. Bylaws

Kristen: As many of you know. Last year we did restructuring of GPSS. Its that time of year to look back at bylaws. Last quarter our research analyst sent out a committee survey. Now I would like to propose bylaw changes. They will be voted on next senate meeting. There will also be an online forum in the next day or two. As senators you are welcome to propose bylaw changes.

One major change is for committees. First, the committee coordinating board. This is a committee to help committees coordinate. The committee coordinating board will take place of University Affairs Committee and the Government Relations Committee. By removing these we hope that communication will be better.

Adam: Part of the problem is that University Affairs was serving important function of pulling in the sub-committees, but communication was not happening correctly across other committees.

Kristen: We are proposing to remove DRAC. We’ve now decided to incorporate it in admin and academic affairs committee. Then we’ve proposed combing social and community outreach committee. It would still be doing the same work. We saw lots of overlap. For that committee we have Secretary and Treasurer sitting on it. From last meeting, travel grants as a committee is back. And then there is Science and Policy, and for the last 3 years there has been enough interest to institutionalize it into structure.

The second change is for committee chairs. Currently it’s not uniform how we elect or appoint chairs. Some are appointed by the senate and some committees are not appointed by the senate, such as diversity. Another thing that came up is the committee chair. Sometimes it has been challenging when there has been an officer and chair doing the work. It’s been confusing. The proposed change would be that the officer that is in the committee will be chairing it, and a vice chair will be appointed by the committee.

The third major change is personnel removal from the bylaws replaced by manual that will be maintained by the Treasurer. For special committee appointments, we’ve asked that a member of those committees give advice for candidate recommendations. We’ve moved the election date to the second meeting of the Spring quarter. An attendance policy will be similar for exec and F&B now. other small changes, such as adding to officer duties related to committees. We have had senator proposals. Yasmeen proposed introducing resolutions differently. Having a resolution forum up before meetings. If people have proposed amendments or changes, they could put it on a forum. Any questions?

Kiana Scott (Comm): I am currently a co-chair of the Federal Legislative Steering Committee. Each year GPSS sends delegates to the SAGE conference. The two SAGE delegates have been co-chairs of the federal legislative steering committee. I’m concerned how the VP will be able to handle workload in Olympia?

Kristen: I see that as the role of vice chair. I sit on many committees and I feel comfortable with the vice chairs having responsibilities in my absence.

Kiana Scott (Comm): If we already have people dedicated to federal issues, what is the need?
Kristen: It's good to have a uniform policy. Melanie: I don't see this as a big change in practice. In terms of the need, it makes sense to have uniform policy. Secondly, the way our organization is set up, the officers have ultimate authority. Having two different lines of responsibilities doesn't make sense. It just means the VP will have more formal oversight of committee. Kristen: The vice chair doesn't necessarily have to be sage delegate. Adam: There are sixteen committees. The exec committee has made some recommendations. Ultimately it will be up to senate to vote. Kimberley (Law): I serve as chair of GRC. This is a brand new committee. We have had trouble finding our footing. It's my understanding that we see a future for this committee. We want it to continue for another year. We will meet with officers to talk more about this. Adam: After this there will be email sent out.

12. Legislative Update

Melanie: Who here has written a letter to state legislature? About a third of you. This year there is much conversation about international students. We have letter writing materials in the back. Please do that in the next few days.

Titus: What is the benefit? Why does it matter?

Melanie: It does matter. Gun control did not pass because of what congressman heard from constituents. Adam: When we first went down to Olympia for lobby day, there were only 3 grad students. The shift in the conversation has been dramatic. The budget coming out is all calling for an increase in higher ed. The fact that there is an increases shows that there has been a culture shift. Melanie: This is the last month of scheduled legislative session. Budgets have been released. Things happen fast. The senate and house will negotiate with the governor for the budget that everyone agrees upon. Here is some historical perspective. State funding has dropped dramatically while student enrollment has gone up in last 10 years. $421 million for UW. Maintenance level- republicans have said that any increase is an increase. Greogoire released budget for 451 million. The senate budget had $480 million. The overall higher ed is about 3 billion. It's actually a small increase. The senate budget does not enact surcharge from international students. Both budgets suspend financial aid programs. Health professionals and student teachers. There are different policies on undergrad tuition. Grad tuition is locally controlled. Big concern for me is faculty salaries. Neither budgets include faculty salaries. The bill that has tuition surcharge is cause for concern. International students won’t come here, it is unwelcoming. International students bring value here. Another higher ed bill would cut higher ed. Another concern is pressure on graduate tuition. That is something I’m concerned about. Our legislation on fee based is waiting on senate. Student advisory bill did not get a vote in the senate. We are trying to see if there is a way to work that into the budget. There is a separate bill on health professionals that they haven’t been funding. Since the state has not been funding that. Transit funding is not looking good. Its gonna come down to end of session issue. Republicans want it as part of roads and transit package. Metro has temporary license fee. 17% cut in budget cuts this year. I think that’s all. Any questions?

Titus: Thank you.

13. Elections Announcements
Adam: Want to encourage people to run for an officer position. From me the last two years, I have had great professional development opportunities. I’m sad you can’t see this. Elections could get hot if you get involved. If you go to the GPSS homepage, there is an elections packet. Elections will be May 8th.

14. Announcements
   Adam: announcements?
   Kristen: Please take a poster
   Vera: Put them up in your department.
   Bonnie (Speech and Hearing Sciences): Please volunteer for career fair and husky fair
   Chris Jordan (Student Regent): Student regent application is on the regent website. Deadline is April 14th.

15. Adjourn

   Evan Firth (Oceanography): move.
   Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): seconds.