GPSS Senate Meeting Oct 3rd 2012. Minutes

Call to order
Adam (President): Calls to order at 5:33pm.

1) Approval of agenda
Adam: Who is new? We need to get you up to speed. We will try to orient you in this first meeting. My name is Adam Sherman. GPSS President. The agenda is on the screen so you can track it. You should have received email with agenda. Did you receive it? Follow up with Kristen if you didn’t receive it. We will have a social gathering with wine after this meeting. Any calls for agenda amendments?
Daniel (Built Environment): Motions to change agenda to add a few minute discussions of Travel Grants following Judicial Committee elections.
Chris (Geography): seconds
Adam Sherman: Any objections about adding agenda regarding travel grant ad hoc?
Adam: Motion to approve?
Moroni (Native American Students): So moves
Eddie (Astronomy): seconds

2) Approval of minutes
Adam: We need to approve minutes from previous year. Is there a motion?
Jasmine (Biology): moves
Moroni: seconds

3) Intro to GPSS
Adam: What does it mean to be a senator? The big goal of GPSS is to make issues impacting students come before a body. GPSS is here to improve the lives of graduate students. We need to hear from you about issues in your department. Impacts. Funding, faculty, etc, we need to hear from them and you are that catalyst. You can bring issues to an officer or to committees. If there is an issue, you can propose a resolution. Its important that what happens here gets shared with students in your department. It is important to take meeting issues back to your department about the types of things we’ve done in past or are ongoing. We host quarterly socials. Oct 18th we are having a fall social. The theme is the end of the world. This is a fun opportunity to get together and hang out. It is an opportunity to connect with people across campus. Also, academically focused events: Science and Policy Summit, Higher Education Summit. We also provide funding. Advocacy efforts we’ve taken on in past include advocating for state funding, student input on UW budget. Resources for student parents- provide network to connect. We oversee representation on student fees. GPSS appoints over 60 representatives on various committees. We want input from you on what we should do this year. We want to hear from you.

4) Parliamentary Procedure
Chris (Geography): I remember my experience with being a senator at first. It can be overwhelming. I wasn’t sure how to participate in senate meetings. The point of parliamentary procedure is to provide common means of communication and democratic and open environment where no one can dominate the conversation. You received a handout with additional information. It’s really important to say your name and department. Your name will be attached to what you say. Another handout has common parliamentary terms. The correct verb to make a motion is ‘to move,’ you don’t motion, you move. That’s my stupid pet peeve. Three things you’ll want to know: to make a motion to approve minutes or agenda or ask for more time. I move to… and then the thing you want to do. If you want more clarification, raise hand and ask for point of clarification. If there is procedural issue and you want to dispute it, ask for a point of
order. Participation is always more important than formality. The most important thing is to talk. Raise your hand and ask question and raise concern. This is a few of the basics and why we do.

5) GPSS Priorities

**Adam:** What you see up here is reflection of officer work over the summer. This is what the executive committee has identified as issues for upcoming years. We will split up and do caucusing so you don’t have to just sit and stare at us for 2 hours. You will identify issues that are important. The first topic is *shared governance*. We see increasing control in central administration and it was time students had role in decisions being made. Last year, we got the Provost Advisory Committee for Students established. This year we are hoping to expand that into the colleges. People within the colleges would be able to talk to their dean. This is a way of giving students a greater voice.

**Melanie (Vice President):** Affordability, as grad students we are coming from different places. Not every issue will affect everybody equally. Tuition, financial aid, TA/RA positions, student loan debt... can you afford grad school? Most students are paying for education through loans in my program. This is related to how much state funding is being cut. Cuts equal tuition raises. We are hoping to stabilize graduate tuition through legislation.

**Kristen (Secretary):** Engage community: currently we have a science and policy committee to partner with organizations across campus to pull them in to create community focused around communicating science and policy. We additionally have a new diversity community – this is also a committee that I want in exchange ideas and information with current groups.

**Vera (Treasurer):** GPSS has had two main socials, and one in winter quarter. Next week we are going to have an open house, the first small event this year. We want input on future major socials small events. We also do department funding and funds for RSOs.

**Adam:** We are here to improve student life. Diversity fits under multiple priorities.

**Melanie:** Federal research funding, can’t count on anything from Washington D.C. Funding is at risk. This is key to university research and grad students. We are looking toward making our voice heard through members of congress.

**Adam:** Strengthening of the GPSS. Last year there were problems with the funding we provide. We had to cut a service we provided. One of my goals was to enhance our financial situation to provide more direct services to students.

**Melanie:** Now we are going to break up into each department. Write down what are your priorities for GPSS, for yourselves, or fellow students.

**Adam:** We want to get you talking to students in different fields

**Break out Groups:**

**Adam:** One person from each group give an example or important thing that was most discussed.

**Alma (Gender, Women, Sexuality Studies):** Arts and Humanities. Mandatory fees, extra fees for renovations. How to make travel grants get represented in arts and humanities?

**Will (Computer Science and Engineering):** Federal funding for sciences, lower student fees, advocacy for scientific journal reform- open access. Support for having additional social events. Additional liquor licenses. Visibility for funding.

**Chris (Geography)** 2 themes: 1) Accountability- administration to fees, Graduate Appointee Insurance Program (GAIP), info about coverage is not clear. 2) Relationships, like to ASUW.

**Daniel (Built Environment):** Shared governance. College-wide student councils. Ways to use that as a model for other schools. Redirecting social efforts to more regular event. Subsidized food and beverages. Monthly events and more regular events.

**Kevin (Educational Psychology):** Restructuring of our departments within the College of Education, this is a big surprise to us. The decisions that went into that decision were not inclusive. GPSS is useful to help to find out how these changes will affect our programs. Our college is reliant on research funding. Several sources prop us up. If there is any threat of those
sources being compromised, then the students need to know.

**Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering):** 1. Fees- imposed fees – those not covered by tuition waivers - there is an idea for imposing an international fee as well – there is a large international base in engineering. 2. Communication, such as about a good source of funding that can be found easily, or better sharing of information between departments.

**Mel (Law School):** Travel grants. Health care - not covering prescriptions and dental work. Ideas about intercommunications between different schools. Finding ways (listserv) to get information out. Deteriorating school environments. Affordability of school. Income based payments. Looking to other countries like Canada for tuition structure.

**Rosie (PCH - Family Child Nursing):** Research funding. Diversify sources of funding. Protecting faculty access to grants. Encouraging GPSS to interface with other grad organizations.

**Henrick (LGBTQ Students):** Sensitive domain. There is some form of minority representations.

**Elise (University Affairs Director):** There are 2 university committees that talk about fees. These committees have input over huge budgets. We need people on these committees so please go to website and see have to apply.

**Melanie:** Our next senate meeting in 2 weeks. Feel free to email us if you have anything else to say. We will bring these ideas back to you in 2 weeks.

**Adam:** This is first time we’ve tried to have community priorities for year. We need to rework the GPSS mission statement. We want to be all on the same page. Our work has to be informed by the issues that impact you. It’s good to hear from you. I’m glad we are learning about things-such as education restructuring.

**Melanie:** It would be good to go back and talk to classmates between now and the senate meeting. We will follow up with email soon regarding priorities.

6) **New committee structure**

**Adam:** There were some big issues from last year. Even with staff we could not get as much work done. We were hearing from senators that they wanted more ways to get involved. There was a need to do some restructuring. We listened to what senators said. The result was an expanded committee structure. Some of these committees existed last year and some are new. Chairs will come up and explain their committee.

**Melanie:** How does work get done at GPSS? If you really want to get into issue, do it through one of these committees.

**Adam:** Opportunity to dig deeper into an issue.

**Ryan Shandera (C&O Chair):** I have a brand new committee; I have no idea what it will do. It’s open. Here are my thoughts. We need your participation. The communication and outreach committee reaches out and communicates. We need to have an understanding of identity. We need understanding of stakeholders involved: our target market. We need to understand what to tell them: our message. What is the best way to communicate information: our vehicle. We need to give them the message: our delivery. Did the message get delivered: our image. Brand management division of GPSS. We are going to develop and implement brand management for GPSS. Use the coupon in the coupon book for copying to save money. If you’re interested in committee see me after meeting or email me. Thank you

**Chris (Geography; Interim Chair):** DRAC is in a period of restructuring. This committee will act as a process advocate committee to advise students involved in a dispute. This has been an underutilized service. We are transitioning into a research and resource center. We are in the process of what has worked and hasn’t worked. This committee will look at more efficient dispute resolution services. Involves working with the UW Ombudsman and the Grad School. There will be lots of research and restructuring. See me for more info.

**Kimberly (Law School; Government Relations Chair)** Government relations committee created to have more eyes looking at legislative agendas. Looking at leg agenda of ‘lossy’ and ‘slossy.’ We will be presenting legislative agendas on November 7th or 8th. Voting on 28th. This
committee involves being involved with Washington Student Association (WSA). We will be lobbying and reaching out to legislatures. We need members. We only have 2 applications. We have 5 positions open.

**Melanie:** If you are interested in federal research issues, federal visa issues, financial aid, interest in those issues please think of getting involved with the Government Relations Committee.

**Vera:** Social Committee chair is sick and will be filling in for Bonnie. We are looking for up to 7 new members. We plan social events, plan themes, and recruit volunteers. Themes for small events. If you want to get involved email GPSS Treasure or Bonnie.

**Chris:** We are also looking for 7 people for DRAC.

**Eddie:** Finance and budget. This committee is involved in administering and awarding funding for organizations, events, and speakers. Tennis tables, this is a sexy committee because money comes through. We work with Treasurer, Vera. We are looking for 3 - 7 new members.

**Adam:** Graduate Program Review. GPSS takes on graduate program reviews every year. The Graduate School does an audit of different programs and departments. GPSS tries to make sure student experience is represented during this review process. For departments being reviewed we have senators for those departments. Are departments working for students? We are looking for ~8 people.

**Kiana Scott (Communications; University Affairs):** We are working close with Adam and Elise. We connect GPSS with university policies. This is an opportunity to impact policies. This is a positive impact in many ways. Academic and administration affairs oversee budget process. Community Affairs works with greater campus. Diversity committee is hugely important. The Student Life committee ensures outside of campus issues are addressed. Non-senators can be members of subcommittees. Friends who are not senators can join who are grad or professional students. Please talk to me afterwards.

7) **Judicial committee**

**Kristen:** Investigative body for GPSS. We need 6 members to be appointed today. This committee looks at disagreements in bylaws. They review bylaw or constitutional changes. I need 6 senators to be appointed to committee. You cannot sit on any other committee. You must resign 35 days prior to running for office. Meetings occur twice a month or more often. I will take nominations now.

**Melanie** We will have vote on it tonight. It’s actually meeting just once per quarter.

**Adam:** Who is interested?

**Michael Hutchins (Earth and Space Science)**

**Alicia Intriago (Philosophy)**

**Michael Skinner (Asian Language and Literature)**

**Adam Gotch (Political Science)**

**Ty Crowl (Immunology)**

**Kaitlin O’Neil (History)**

**Adam:** I would entertain a motion to approve

**Jasmine:** I move to approve members to committee

**Kiana:** Second

8) **Travel grants**

**Adam:** Last year we moved to eliminate travel grants. Daniel believed there was not enough debate on the subject. A resolution was passed last year to create ad hoc committee. Daniel will explain goals of this ad hoc committee

**Daniel (Built Environment):** The idea is that we will create an ad hoc committee that will be charged with: 1) reconsidering the place of travel grants within GPSS, 2) consider ways of how they are distributed and accessed and reconsider the standards of awarding applicants, 3) this
committee will investigate alternative forms of funding. Other options for travel grants funding available to graduate and professional students. Pursuant to resolution, committee should make report by end of quarter.

**Colin (Mechanical Engineering):** Can you give a history of travel grants?

**Daniel (Built Environment):** GPSS has previously distributed money for travel grants. Students could apply. It was never more than a couple hundred dollars. There were problems with funding. So the numbers of people were blowing up and the committee was being inundated with applications. Students got upset. So it was decided to allocate money for travel to other things. I objected. So this committee will create a document investigating this.

**Adam:** This is exactly what the senate is suppose to do. To have a senator stand up and say we're not doing what you're suppose to do, this is a good thing.

**Chris (Geography):** I move to create an ad hoc committee investigating travel grants.

**Colin (Mechanical Engineering):** I second

**Male from Psychology:** What percent of senate is here tonight?

**Kristen:** Over ¼ per bylaws.

**Adam:** Any other questions, any objections? We have an ad hoc committee.

**Daniel (Built Environment):** Any volunteers for committee?

**Onyinye Edeh (Global Health)**

**Bjorn Hubert-Wallander (Psychology)**

**Rita Ismail (Nursing Science)**

**Stephanie Cruz (Anthropology)**

9) **Voter registration**

**Melanie:** Deadline is Monday to register to vote.

**Brian Mo** (Organizing Director): Voter registration. Why is GPSS running a voter registration drive? We want to give young people to vote. 18-30 year olds is smallest group of voters. It helps our lobbying efforts to register students. When budget is being discussed we are high up on the list. There are a couple opportunities to get involved. Monday, we will table in the Red Square and other places on campus. I will pass around a sign-up sheet to help with registration drive on Monday. If you don’t have time Monday but want to participate, you can make class announcement in your classes. Find me after senate or ask Melanie.

**Eddie (astronomy):** You can do in person registration in Renton after Monday.

**Brian Mo**- If you have moved since you are registered. You can update your voter registration through those forms if you have moved. You can go wherever you want to track down students

10) **Fall social**

**Vera:** We need volunteers for the social. Set-up and clean up. Please take a flyer for your department. We are having senator Open House next Monday. Opportunity to learn more about committees 6-8 next Monday, HUB 314

11) **Announcements**

**Yasmeen (Biology)** There is an increase in student fees, we are confused about what is going on? Come talk to us.

**James (Political Science):** We’ve been talking to the Union president. The best thing you can do is show up to union meeting on October 12th.

**Kate (Emergency Management - visitor):** There is an earthquake drill coming up. We live in earthquake zone. Some people don’t know what do to. UW is participating. Go and talk to department heads about participating on 10/18 at 10:18. Drop cover and hold on. Other things you can do to participate. Go to UW emergency management website.

**Alma (Gender, Women, Sexuality Studies):** I was looking for a student bill of rights?
Adam: This has been brought up before, it has been drafted but not officially passed, and there is a draft but nothing in effect

Rene (SAO Advisor): This has come up before. If you want to make it stick you can do it.


Adam: For events like this check out our facebook page.

12) Adjourn
Nicole (Music): Move to adjourn
Mel (Law): Seconds
Motion passed.