Call to Order:

Chris Lizotte (President): I will call this meeting to order at 5:37pm. I do have a couple of changes to make to the agenda. We had a change in plans with our GPSS Spotlight and also would like to point out that we spelled Elizabeth’s name extremely wrong. It’s Elizabeth Lindner. She and the Environmental Stewardship Council and the Campus Sustainability Fund won’t be here tonight. Instead we have Kyle Murphy from the Move King County Now so I’ll entertain a motion to amend the bylaws to swap out Elizabeth with Kyle.

Alex Bolton (Law): So moved.

Evan Firth (Oceanography): Second.

Approval of Agenda:

Chris L: Any opposed? Thank you. I’ll entertain the motion to approve the agenda as amended.


Approval of Minutes:

Chris L: Any opposed? Great, thank you. Moving on, I’ll entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the last senate meeting.

Edward: Moved.


Previously on GPSS:

Chris L: Any objections? Moving on to Previously on GPSS. We heard a lot of information on the legislative session which began at the beginning of January. We heard a lot of information from the chair of our Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee who regrettably is not here tonight. We heard about what we hope to do with our committees in terms with appointing people to university committees across campus. She also did a recruiting for faculty councils that we have appointee positions on. We talked about all of our funds that can be applied for. Our special allocations fund and our departmental allocations fund. Diversity fund and travel
fund. Those are the main highlights. So we will move on from that to the GPSS Spotlight which features an incorrect slide because of a last minute change. I'll invite Kyle to speak to us.

GPSS Spotlight and Discussion:

Kyle Murphy (Move King County Now): Hi guys, how many of you are familiar with cuts in Metro Transit that’s coming up? Metro’s in a $75 million hole for a whole bunch of reasons such as action from the state legislature, the state recession and the expiration of the temporary funding measures. We’re in the moment of truth now and we need to secure new revenue for Metro if we want to keep the service we already have. So there’s a whole bunch of routes that are suppose to be cut starting in the fall of 2014 if there’s not new revenue. At UW, that includes 20 of the 42 routes that serve us and of the 20 that will be serving us, 15 of those will be reduced. So we’re looking at a significant impact on students and we’re looking at significant impact on the University District. My personal opinion is that this can’t happen. I think it’ll be a disaster for a lot of things that we worked for. So there’s a proposal that King County is working on right now to show to voters in April. With that proposal, it will increase the car tab tax by $40 and will also increase the sales tax by a penny every $10 to fund Metro at current levels. It’s the only taxing option the county has because the state legislature won’t give other option. I’m here to drum up support for this county measure and to get the county council to pass it for the voters and to prepare a big campaign to get it passed. That’s all I have for now except for one more thing that’s coming up on February 4th. That’s next Tuesday. It’s the only hearing on this that the council is having. It’s at 6pm at Union Station in Downtown. We’re riding the bus down there and taking a lot of UW students down there. We having the speakers dress in purple. We’re really letting the county council know where we stand on this issue. I’m going to pass around the petition cards. If you’re interested in this issue at all or if you support it, put your information down and I’ll follow up with a phone call or an email if you want to come or I can cue you in as we move further along. I’m going pass these around and you guys get them and pass them down to the end of the rows and I’ll slip by quietly.

Alex: Can you go over some of those stats again?

Kyle: 20 out of 42 routes that serve the UW will be eliminated.

Alex: And of those that will remain, 15 will be reduced?

Kyle: Yes, so that means less routes running late at night and the middle of the day. You can look over this card real quick. I have the deleted routes on there. I don’t have enough for everyone but I have some bigger flyer that I can pass out too with a QR code with the website or you can check out our website too. Any other questions?

Chris L: You can start passing those out and maybe what we can do with the flyers is leave them in the back and people can post them in department spaces. We can take care of that. But my question is, you described that there’s a 2 step process? The county council has to
Kyle: Yes, to get really wonky about it, the county council has to approve to send the measure to voters. It’s really important that even if they approve it, that they approve it with a really strong majority and with a lot of energy behind it. It’s an uphill battle so that’s what the hearing is all about. To convince the county council to approve the measure and to not do it quietly and really stand behind it like to get 7 out of 9 county council members to get behind it.

Chris L: I’m sure Chris will talk about this when he gets here but in other words, we have two pushes to make?
Kyle: Yes, and this is the first push.

Chris L: Sorry, final question. So you said the state legislature only gave the county the option to raise the car tab tax to $60 dollars and the sales tax by a penny every $10. Was bringing back the motor excise vehicle not an option? In other words, the cost of your car tab and the cost of your vehicle based on the value of your vehicle?

Kyle: That’s what we all wanted. So if you had a $40,000 car, you would pay more bills that someone with a $4000 car. It’s progressive and more fair. We aren’t able to do because the bill that would allow us to do that was passed by the House and is stuck in the Senate and if you follow politics, you probably know how that happened. So we’re still scrapping for that but odds are slim so we’re moving ahead anyway since the worst thing is having bus cuts. Anything else?

Chris L: Thank you, Kyle. These will be in the back and there will be another poster that Elisa will talk about. Next, we have Yasmeen.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): How’s it going? So I’m on the judicial committee and I brought this bylaw amendment to the committee and we discussed and we made some changes. I’ll just run through what we talked about and why I’m proposing it. Basically, when anyone brings up a resolution, like when our Vice President brought the resolution to tell the governor to call a special session, we have to make changes. Before, or currently, we have to make the changes at the meeting itself or more than two weeks in advance. One issue we saw with that was people would come to the meetings and even the writers of the resolutions and would have to propose changes to own wording at the meetings and have everyone vote on it. It was very lengthy and silly. I don’t think we have to be held up by own bylaws. So what I proposed here is changing the previous text, “so that substantive changes may be made or accepted as friendly amendments during meetings” to the current text that we propose is that “changes may be proposed by the senators at least 7 days.” The resolution is distributed and is posted on a discussion board. We left the wording very vague on that because it could be Catalyst board or because Catalyst is being phased out we don’t want to change the wording in 3 years, so it could be any discussion board that’s accessible to all senators. The resolutions can be posted on that
and senators can propose revision which can be accepted as friendly amendments by the writer of the resolution up to 48 hours before the next senate meeting. Then the senators will receive the revised copy before the senate meeting at least 24 hours before the senate meeting. So instead of having the long timeline of a week or two weeks out, now we have a much shorter timeline. The reason that we think this’ll work is that there still is the option to bring up changes and have discussions at the meeting. If someone has a substantive reason to discuss wording or has an issue with the resolution, that’s totally good and we can still discuss that in meeting. This is just to leave more time for those discussions and less time to changing a word here or there. Are there any questions on that?

Josh Calvert (Medicine): Overall, would you say this will lengthen senate meetings or shorten them?

Yasmeen: The hope is to shorten them.

Josh: I support you then.

Yasmeen: The hope is that by putting non-substantive stylistic changes and taking care of those before the meeting, the meeting will run smoother and we don’t have to tell Elisa to put in a comma.

Elisa Law (Secretary): That said, this change to the bylaws will put on a lot more ownness on the person putting forth the resolution to make the friendly amendments that are posted on Catalyst form or whatever platform that is used. The person putting the resolution forward has to have it edited and have the final version distributed to the senate 48 hours before the meeting. Beforehand, the resolution was made and distributed to everyone and then we all go through it at the senate meeting so this is more work for the person submitting the resolution.

Alice Popejoy (Public Health Genetics): Point of information, one point we discussed in exec is that this will not mean that the changes posted on the discussion board would have to be made by the author. It would just be what they pick and chose. We like this as a committee because it’s not replacing the discussion and as Yasmeen said, we’re not replacing the discussion time for people that didn’t have the time or couldn’t access it. It’s not obligatory that you have to do this. It’s an option we discussed last year as well that we it has the flexibility that we wanted it to have to frame it in that sense. By putting this in the bylaws, it gives us the flexibility to do this and let’s us be more interactive right before the meeting happens.

Chris L: Just to clarify a couple things, the resolutions will still have to go to the secretary two week in advance of the meeting that they’re being considered. The only difference is that normally the resolution will we sent out a week in advance to all of you and it would stay unchanged before the meeting and we would all make whatever changes at the meeting. This is allowing in that week during the time it’s submitted and before the meeting, people who can go online will propose changes and we expect most of the changes that people will be proposing or
from the author itself. Having said that, if someone goes and makes a more substantive change, that the author doesn’t want to accept, that change will get carried forward to the meeting. It will be carried to the meeting to be voted on. If you go and make a more substantive change and the author didn’t want that, it doesn’t mean that it will get tossed out. It’s also a way of collecting more substantive changes but the main intent is to free up the actual meeting for the substantive discussion and to get all the minor wordsmithing out of the way in advance.

Ted Chen (Bioengineering): How do other bodies deal with this? Do they also have a pre-submission system or does someone go through the resolution afterwards?

Yasmeen: Are you thinking of ASUW?
Ted: Yeah, ASUW.

Chris L: We have an ASUW representative, Jeff McNerney, who’s their Director of University Affairs. Can you answer that question?

Jeffrey McNerney (ASUW Director of University Affairs): We have a long process when resolutions are submitted. They go to first readings and go to committees. A lot of the times, they’re amended in committees for grammar. We also have a policy of any non-substantive changes are not voted on or if it’s brought up on the floor, it’s changed on the spot. If someone moves to bring it as point of discussion. It usually goes pretty fast. They just change it.

Yasmeen: Does that change anything about the resolution?

Ted: My concern will be that we can just do something like that. I was just thinking if there was a more efficient way to do this than having everyone look at it before the meeting and having the discussions during the meeting.

Yasmeen: So that’s part of what we’re trying to avoid. Jeff was saying that the committees look at it before it goes to the meetings and the rest of the senators never get that chance. It seems like there could be a better way but then resolutions would have to be written far in advance of when they’re brought up in meeting. The current deadline is two weeks and that’s not very much time to make changes like that.

Alex: When the resolution is submitted to the secretary, will the secretary be posting it on the discussion board?

Yasmeen: Just as is now.

Edward: For non-substantive changes can we ask for unanimous consent for those changes?

Yasmeen: The problem is, you just have to say them out loud during the meeting.
Chris L: And someone has to transcribe it.
yasmeen: We usually ask for unanimous consent and that’s how we’ve done it in the past here. That part is not changing at all. The part that’s changing is how we get the changes and it seems unhelp to to write it out and re-write it.

Chris L: So in other words, the vision is we have to do less of that.

Duru: So if I’m understanding it correctly, what we’re trying to do is rather than talking about 2 weeks worth of changes that would happen online, and talking about that for 20 minutes or a half hour period during the meeting, those changes would already have been conducted and then we’d just have to approve them at the meeting?

Yasmeen: No, so the friendly amendments can be approved by the resolution writer before the meeting even happens.

Duru: So we’re eliminating that from meeting? We’re just cutting down half of what we discuss in the meeting by doing this?

Yasmeen: Yes.

Chris L: The hope is in the meeting, people would be talking about the substance of the resolution, not the stylistic things.

Ted: Follow up question to Jeff. What do you do after its approved and you discover a mistake.

Jeffrey: It’s good that you guys are attacking this from a bylaw perspective because we just kind of do it like it didn’t happen and it hasn’t caused a controversy so until it does we’re going to keep doing it. It isn’t something we’re not super comfortable with in terms of it all being correct and to the rules. We have a policy, if something comes up, we just change it. Grammatical changes are handled by whichever point of the process that they’re caught. We even added names on forwarding clauses as well. The way our resolutions work is our senate passes it and our Board of Directors passes it. Even though we don’t like to amend those resolutions, if we want to add a name or forgot one, we just throw it in there.

Chris L: The resolutions go straight from the author to the senate. Exec usually sees it but we can’t stand in the way of a resolution.

Yasmeen: So good job for us for following the rules. I think we have to vote on this.

Chris L: Yes, are there any other questions for Yasmeen?

Yasmeen: I don’t know what to do.
Chris L: Would you like to make a motion?
Yasmeen: I would like to make a motion to approve this change to the bylaws.


Chris L: We should probably do a show of hands since it’s a bylaw change. So all in favor, raise your hands. Any opposed? Abstentions? We have 1 abstentions.

Favor -
Abstention - 1 (Gary Hothi)

Gary Hothi (Social Work): I don’t know what we’re talking about.

Chris L: We have passed it. Thank you. Now to the legislative update from our fearless vice president and legislative liaison, Chris Erickson. I’ll make an announcement while Chris is switching computers. You should have all received an email from Austin Wright-Pettibone who is our University Affairs Director. It’s setting up meeting in groups of you with he and I. If you haven’t responded to those yet, please do so. We’re really looking forward to getting to you all in 26 separate meetings and talking to you in small group about our outreach with and senate. With that I will go to Chris.

Legislative Update & What is Lobby Day?:

Chris Erickson (Vice President): Hey everyone. We’re going to go over three quick things. First is bills. So things that have happened. Anyone that follows the Olympian have seen this. We have 1011, which is the vets bill which will remove the one year waiting period for veterans to get state tuition. On the first day of session, we saw the Dream Act pass. This would allow students that graduated from a Washington high school be eligible for a state need grant. The Dream Act pretty much showed up dead on arrival. Senator Bailey will not hear it. So as a way to reshuffle the deck, the House as introduced bill 2726 which ties the two together. We talked to Frank Chopp on Monday night and said what’s up with the vets bill and he said “Well, we’re going to be passing that next week.” He meant 2726 and not 1011. We’ll see where it goes. There’s something that I attribute to Austin Jenkins. Do you guys know who he is? If you ever watch TVW, he has a show with Rodney Tom and he said something to the effect of “Well, do you see this as a problem? Is that why you’re not keying in on the Dream Act?” It seems to have a life of its own and there’s this argument about it. Luckily ASUW is working hard on the Dream Act and a good coalition on that and we’ll see where it goes but this bill is fast tracked to pass out of the House next week. Other things that have been going on. Last Friday, the fee-based programs bill got passed out of the House. It’s been referred to the Senate Higher Education committee. I’ve already been in contact with Senator Bailey on that. You’ll see that come up probably on the week of February 11th to the 14th. A really important date that is coming up is the 7th. It’s the first cut-off date. Any bill that comes out the origin, and that’s the House or the Senate, that doesn’t have a fiscal note on it, so that’s impacting the state $50,000 or less has to be passed. There’s a real priority that each House has its own bill coming out but once it does pass, we’ll
see it again. It’s really important to keep massaging it through the pipes. The work that was done on it before was incredible. Thanks to everyone who did that and to Representative Pollet as well who’s seeing this through quickly. The social impact bonds bill had a hearing on Monday afternoon. I actually testified at that. So there were actually two non profits from the Social Works School. One was a group for children. The public hearing went well. That bill exec-ed out of hearing today. That just means the committee passed it. So it’s going to go under appropriations. There seems to be a problem with Ross Hunter who said he doesn’t necessarily like it because if it’s such a great idea, why doesn’t the government pay for it? I think a little education will help that. What this bill really does is it doesn’t put social bonds in effect. It’s in a committee of 17 people. All that are people much smarter than myself, possibly even legislators that can be sit in a room and grow a market around the strategies.

Yasmeen: Just for myself and other people who may not be on top of what bills are in, can you tell us what passed out means and what is the social impact bond?

Chris E: So this is a new financing model that’s come out and it’s a hot topic that everyone enjoys talking about but the problem is it’s really new. What this does is contracting. You take a public investor and leverage the ability for them to invest in public service programs with the idea that they could get a return with that investment if there are savings in the program. What you do is you set up a contract. So the one that’s big right now is in New York with Goldman Sachs and Riker’s Jail. They say we’re going to pay 9.6 million dollars for you to do recidivism with Riker’s Island and the youth. If you can see a 10% decrease in recidivism, we’ll pay you back. If 20% can be achieved, there can be a Capital One Plus interest for a return on that investment or an actual gain in the investment back to Goldman Sachs. It turns out that the fiscal conservatives like it because they talk about paying for programs that work. More progressive people like to see social services like it because it gives opportunities to expand that through private funding. The jury is still out. A lot of people who work with this know that the evaluation isn’t even close to a perfect science at best. What this bill does is it creates a steering committee that looks at the best funding model for Washington to take and apply that to a pilot program. To even do that, they would have to go back in 2015 to pass legislation to even do a social impact bond. So what this is is an exploratory committee along the lines that we talked about of doing the good faith of not jumping on to anything but to say that this seems like an interesting thing. It might be a good idea for Washington to check it out. The next one, the textbooks bill. House bill 2640. This has been changed. The original version that I saw was public universities only and only required textbooks. It’s changed so it’s more in line with other legislation in other areas. Alexandra contacted me on this bill. What it does is that it has this really broad language about course materials which is really broad and ambiguous. It also applies to all retailers across the state. You can either opt in or not. I think there’s some problems with this. I’ve met with Louise at the bookstore today and talked about this. One idea that came out was instead of a tax holiday, why would the state forego the revenue? We could take that money put it back into higher ed. I think all interesting thing to talk about when we go through this but that one is really just a feel good bill. I think we have to start talking about what’s the value. I do see value in saving money but when you see the impact or who’s going to watch dog it to make sure that Amazon is competing fairly.
Senator Bailey put out a bill today. It’s a companion bill working from a different angle. The passed out means it was approved by the committee. It’s called Early Learning and Health Services Committee. So House bill 2109. This is a bill that will provide money to UW medicine to recruit and retain a residency program in the Tri-Cities. There was a bit of a hiccup on that because the Pacific Sciences University already got their hands on it. They have an argument that the osteopaths don’t get fairly represented and it seemed to have been solved that the money goes to UW but Yakima would still be available to get placements. Another one I want to bring up is because it has a connection to Chris’s mentoring direction is Bill 2400. It’s brought up by Representative Walkinshaw. He’s the new appointee to replace Jamie Peterson who’s in the Senate to replace Ed Murray who’s now the mayor. Seattle legislator, a Gates grad. He’s a cool dude who works for the Gates Foundation now. He went through the whole system from CC to law school so he’s a big proponent of higher ed and he knows what he’s talking about. This bill would give some money to Western Washington University. The reason why they get the money is because they’re the ones who asked for it. It would convene some programs to get students college ready on their campus but it would also convene a symposium of other schools to talk about how they can expand and do mentoring services so it could tie in for us. The next thing is Lobby Day. If you’re signed up for Lobby Day, raise your hands. Raise your hands if you’re going to Lobby Day? That should be the same amount of hands. If you’re going to go, this is the key thing that ASUW has asked is whether you drive on your own or whether you’re going to cut out and not go to meetings, you need to sign up. If you go through the registration form, you can indicate all this. You can say that you’re going to drive yourself or if you don’t need a lunch or if you just want to do the poster session. There’s a place on the form that you can say that you’re only doing the poster session. This is the rundown of what Lobby Day is. We go and have a good time and check out the Hall of Justice and watch some floor debate. If you want to get down and dirty and get into a bunch of meetings, get gung ho, awesome. The game plan for GPSS is to go and talk about the value of graduate students. This frees up people to talk about what they want to talk about like their research and all those things. What’s coming out and my strong ask for legislatures is that in the near future interim which is between the next session of March and the reconvening of session in January, we’ll have a bunch of people come together and talk about graduate education on its own. I think a really interesting thing that comes out is this differential tuition, tuition caps, state need grants. The list goes on of things that doesn’t affect us. We can talk about how tuition froze but I guarantee that 90% of you were in programs where tuition rose last year. So really sitting down with legislatures and making our case of one, how we provide value and two, why we need to be seen as a different entity and a different animal to get that conversation rolling of how we work together and they need to see that graduate students is a different group of students to be addressed because we have a lot of different needs as well. To my knowledge, I talked to Margaret Shepard about this is that that has never happened. Nobody’s ever sat down and done it. There’s a lot of buzz in Olympia about the Clean Energy Institute and the Protein Design Institute. It’s these things that are making people really happy so it’s a good time to do that. One thing to note on the poster session is that we have set up around 10 when we get there and from 10:30 to noon with the possibility that the first half hour or 20 minutes will be a person from the Protein Design Institute or the Clean Energy Institute to do a presentation. I believe it’s a good way to go because we
can draw legislatures in that way. These are the things that are flashy and cool to draw them in. This is the governor’s main thing so we can probably get some people from their office so that will make sure we have an audience for people to talk about their posters. The last thing I’ll talk about since I’m really close to time is that Metro is still going on. We’re working this and Kyle was here and spoke. Hopefully you guys got the info. Monday, we will be phone banking to get people out for the public hearing on Tuesday. We’re meeting at 5:00 by the George Washington statue. We’re going to Union Station. Further, there will be a press conference. I’ll take any questions now. For the poster session, Alice can cover this. There’s an orientation on the 5th from 4 to 5 to talk about Lobby Day and logistics. I do know that Science and Policy will have workshops for people that would like to be doing the Science Communication portion. There’s two times on Tuesday and Wednesday. Alice can definitely set that right if I’m wrong though.

Chris L: We still have some time for questions on Lobby Day.

Steve Carlin (Chemistry): Is all this information including the workshops in that tinyurl link?

Chris E: That is not but I believe that we have ability of the follow up packet that goes out tonight to include the slides.

Chris L: We will make sure you have this information. The tinyurl is to register.

Chris E: This is one of those things that’s not promoted on a wide knowledge but I think it’s important for grad students who are weighing a lot of option to know what’s being done and pretty hard times on going there and coming back. Other questions?

Chris L: Thanks Chris. Next up we have Alice to talk about Science Communication.

Science Communications

Alice: Who is in a science or math department? So 40 percent-ish. How many of you feel comfortable explaining your research to your peers or advisors. That’s okay. I think a lot of us struggle with that. In science, we use a lot of jargon and Chris is like all steeped in his policy stuff and using words that sometimes we don’t understand. I think it’s true whether you’re in a science field or not. The point of these workshops is to give you the tools to explain your message whatever that message may be. It doesn’t have to be about science. It can be a topic that is kind of obscure that uses a lot of jargon and words that aren’t common knowledge or language in order to get the message across. There are a couple different tools from the National Science Foundation and Compass that they have graciously let us use. They have handouts that I go through. I was a lobbyist and advocate in Washington DC for a couple years. I worked a non profit science organization so that’s my thing. I like to communicate science and help people come up with messages using these tools. I didn’t create them but i think they are very useful for helping you frame your message so you can figure out how you want to say it. So you can say your message to anyone and it’s also about tailoring that message so you can
explain your message to your audience to their level of knowledge is without dumbing down what you’re saying and staying true to the topic without bogging down your message with a lot of details that people might not understand. So they’re really good. Last year we had hit or miss participation levels. Actually the small ones are cool because I get to work one on one with people’s messages but we had a lot of positive feedback from the people that came. This year we want to advertise them as heavily as we can and they’re next week. There’s going to be one on Tuesday right before Lobby Day so hopefully everyone at the poster session will be coming to these workshops to hone your message. It’s okay if your poster has 5 million graphs that no one would understand. If you look nice with a smile on your face and explain to them in understandable language of what it is that you do and how that provides value, that mean everything. So hopefully we’ll get people that signed up for the poster session to the workshops and anyone else that is interested in participating. If you can blast your constituents, departments, etc. Anyone is welcome. You don’t have to do Lobby Day. Although I will be doing a portion on tailoring your message to policy makers and what that means to be in a meeting with legislative staff and talking to a member of the legislature, etc. So you’ll feel more prepared to talk about something that is a little obscure in a new setting that might be intimidating. I think that’s about it.

Dustin Schmidt (Philosophy): When you say anyone, does that include philosophy?

Alice: Of course!

Dustin: We can be philosophers of science.

Alice: Absolutely. I think it’s most necessary for scientists but maybe I’m biased towards that. I’ve worked primarily with academics in the scientific field and probably in academia in general to use language for an outside population or someone in the lab right next to you might not know what you’re talking about. You’re more than welcome them to come. I’ll ask for volunteers to walk through what they want to say and it certainly doesn’t have to be for Lobby Day or science. It can be anyone that needs to hone their message and not use jargon or someone that needs ot figure out how to feel more comfortable talking about what they do.

Chris L: Just to follow up, I’m on the squishy human social side of geography. I understand the dilemma that people in the social sciences face in trying to explain their research which is an entirely different issue than people in the applied and natural sciences. Applied and natural sciences has one set of issues to translate their research and social sciences and humanities have another set of issues. They all can be addressed with similar strategies.

Alice: Just to clarify, if you want to come to the poster session or if your constituents are asking about this, there’s only one link to register to Lobby Day. So even if they don’t want to go to a meeting and just go for the poster session, that’s fine. Just tell them to sign up and register for Lobby Day anyway and just say yes to the poster session only or something like that so ASUW knows why you’re there and what you’re planning on doing. If you want to participate in
meetings, that would be really great because we as graduate students do research and when we’re asking for money, we can say that we offer this wonderful service to the state and to everyone. Also, the Science and Policy committee has talked about looking into the future to set up a resource for legislatures so we can be the interface between any researchers and legislatures. If there’s a bill that comes through with relevant information that they need, they can come to us. That’s an example of a type of service we could provide.

Chris L: Any other questions for Alice?

Alice: Just out of curiosity, anyone think they’re going to come? Okay, cool.

Chris L: So I want to impress on everyone that Lobby Day is an event that is symbolic and this year especially since it’s not a budget year. We’re not playing defence for the first time in 6 years which is a blessing. We’re not saying please don’t cut us or worse, please don’t cut us by this much. At the same time, last year we had 80 professional and graduate students come down to Olympia. Just that presence had a big impression on legislators because they like to say that students don’t care and the things that come their way, they just take them and let them go. Of course, we know that that’s not true. Stuff happens in Olympia and decisions are being made by people who haven’t the same experience of going to school especially in the advance degrees. They may not understand or care of the implications of their actions that affect our lives. So I would really impress on everyone to consider taking the time next Thursday to come down with us. We’ll be sending you the information. Please forward it on to your constituents and please encourage them to also consider taking the time to come down with us. It’s a really powerful image when we have 200-250 students standing on the steps of the capitol and we can say we’re here and we’re paying attention so watch it.

Jeffrey: If you are TA-ing classes on Thursday and if undergrads ask to skip it for Lobby Day, please say yes.

Chris L: Moving on to a frequently asked questions segment on travel grants led by our own Genesis.

Travel Grants FAQ:

Genesis Gavino (Treasurer): I gave you my schpeel last week on two other funding streams. So today I’m going to talk about travel grants. The application for winter quarter is open and the deadline is Friday, February 14th at 11:59pm so get it out before you take your date out. That’s the link for the website. That’s where you find our funding applications. Last quarter we funded about 10 or 11 for the total of $5200 and in the account we have about $14,000 left and that is for us to give away in the next two quarters. The committee’s going to meet on the 28th and I will notify applicants of the decision by the evening of the 28th or the 1st of March. These are the frequently asked questions that I get about travel grants and this is my first year on travel grants as well so I’ve been making this up as I go. How do I know if I qualify for a grant? The key factor
is that you are participating in a conference as a speaker, a presenter or a panelist. You have to be an active participant and you can’t go for the sake of going. We’re not going to pay for you to go and sit there and watch. The key is you’re going to bring back something to the university that is official to us and you’re going to put the university’s name out there with research and information. What can I put my travel grants towards? On our application, we ask you to list airfare, lodging, and conference registration. Since it’s a travel grant, you’re suppose to put it towards your travel and the costs associated with that. There’s no way for GPSS to know exactly how you apply your funds, since when the money leaves GPSS and your department reimburses you, that’s it. I’m not going to call you. Last time, somebody asked if a group can apply for a conference and the answer is no. You must be an individual. How do I get my money? The most frequently asked question. The budget number that you give me on the application or constituents application is the number that I will transfer funds to or SAO will transfer funds to. That happens once at the end of the quarter and your constituents or you will work with your coordinator to get the money back. After the money leaves GPSS, I have nothing to do with it now. It’s your department’s area. They figure out to give the money to you whether that is by check or direct deposit. Here’s a wonderful one. My conference occurs before the application deadline. This is an issue we found last quarter. Our deadline this year is February 14th and your conference is today or tomorrow and you’re applying for travel grants, you’re going to be denied automatically because your conference already passed. You should’ve applied last quarter because GPSS, no matter what funding stream it is, we don’t fund retroactively. If it’s already occurred and you spent the money, we’re not going to give you the money after the fact.

Alex: So does that mean anything applied on Valentines Day needs to happen March 1st or later?

Genesis: It can happen anything after the 14th. And applications. How do we decide who gets money and who does not? It’s based on a rubric formulated by the travel grants ad hoc committee last year. Also, Finance & Budget and refined by this year’s travel grants committee. It’s a scoring system and a bunch of other criteria that’s been made up by a bunch of people.

Karen Michael (Public Health - Environmental and Occupational): For the second to last one, I have constituents who didn’t find out if they’re accepted until after the final deadline for the last quarter but it was too early to find out for this one. Does that make sense?

Genesis: Yeah, that’s something we’re facing this year and we’re slowly refining the policy that govern the travel grants. I think that’s something that this travel grants committee will have to decide at the end of this school year: how we do deadlines and applications. It’s also the way we accept applications, we have to meet and go through everything and it’s in between the holiday season and spring break. There’s just not enough time for the committee or anybody to actually sit down and go through it. That’s a big concern is you don’t know when you’re accepted to a conference and then its after and before.

Karen: Is it feasible to do a rolling thing?
Genesis: We can on a case by case basis. Exec committee on the basis that the travel grants committee cannot form, we can act on behalf of the travel grants committee. In fact we did one towards the end of the summer because their conference was right before school started.

Kimberly: Will these FAQs be posted online?

Genesis: Yes.

Josh: Of the 10 or 12 you approved, how many additional applications did you receive?

Genesis: We received a total of 25. 5 were automatically disqualified so we saw 20 so about half.

Chris L: Also back one slide, you can go to gpss.uw.edu and that will work.

Evan: Or google GPSS travel grants.

Yasmeen: Does posters qualify as presenting?

Genesis: Yes, if you have an acceptance letter.

Stephanie Cruz (Anthropology): Are any fees deducted between you transferring to the department and the department transferring it to us?

Genesis: No.

Chris L: There shouldn’t be. Generally my experience has been that if you’re set up for direct deposit through your department, through a TAship or an RAship, that’s how you should get your funds as well.

Ted: What percentage of applications gets funding?

Evan: About 50%.

Ted: People always ask.

Evan: Yes, it was the 10 to 12 out of the 20 that we saw.

Matthew Cotton (History): If I have a proposal just a week ago. I haven’t heard back yet. I don’t know if will before February 14th. Can I apply for one and just say I’m not entirely certain yet? I I expect to be.

Genesis: I recommend that you do apply. I’ll be honest, we’ll put you at the bottom of the list and
put everyone else before you on the quality of their application and go based on that whether or not we have funding for the amount we decided to fund this quarter and see where you stand.

Michael Serbin (Pharmacy): Is there some common things in the applications that get denied that we can tell our constituents about?

Genesis: If you’re not a presenter, panelist or speaker. If you’re going just to go. There has to be some value in what you’re going to bring back to the university and putting the university’s name out there.

Evan: If you want more detail, can I talk about the rubric?

Genesis: Yeah.

Evan: The rubric tries to balance need and merit together and the ones we’re not accepting fell really low on the totem pole of both need and merit. So they had gone to many other conferences or they have other sources of funding and in addition weren’t well written. If you have need or merit, that’s usually enough.

Genesis: And well written applications are greatly appreciated. We’re from different programs that are reading these applications and when you use technical language it’s confusing for us.

Chris L: Science communication.

Chris E: Do competitions fall into that?

Genesis: We haven’t come across one of those but if you apply as an individual and not as a group depending on the quality of the application and the other applications, it will be by a case by case basis.

Jessica Snow (Rehabilitation Medicine): If you are applying for a conference that happens after you graduate, you are not eligible?

Genesis: Rene, what do you think?

Chris L: It would depend if your department is willing to transfer the funds to you after you’ve graduated.

Jessica: Because there’s a major organizational conference that were trying to present at but that happens a month after we’ve graduated. Does that make sense? But we’ve done the work while we’re in school.

Rene Singleton (SAO Advisor): The cut-off date is July and that will be through your department.
Ted: What you register as in the conference probably makes a difference since you register as a student even after you graduate.

Evan: From the committee standpoint, if it’s allowed it’ll still be considered but it might lose a little from the need aspect but aside from that it would still be considered.

Jessica: So I’ll just apply and see.

Eric Scheufler (Germanics): One point of clarification, for the one student per conference. There’s a big Germanics conference every year by the German Studies Association and multiple people from the Germanic department go present at this. Is it just a matter of which one of us gets in our application first or can multiple people from the same department get funding for the conference?

Genesis: What do you think Evan?

Evan: I just notice the one person per conference thing but I don’t know if that’s one person per conference or don’t apply as a group and each apply individually? Do we have anything specifically?

Genesis: Not in the rubric.

Evan: I don’t remember anything that was anything against sending multiple people to the same conference as long as they apply individually. We might want to change that wording.

Josh: One student per conference. It’s definitely on the website. I just applied.

Seyda Ipek (Physics): I think it’s that you can’t apply for multiple conference per year.

Genesis: One conference per person that we will fund you to go to.

Evan: If that’s not on the website, we can change it.

Genesis: We’ll get back to you Eric.

Chris L: Are there any other questions for Genesis? Thank you Genesis for clarifying all that. Whenever money comes up, there’s usually a lot of questions. Announcements.

Announcements:

Genesis: Did the clipboard for the sign up for Valentine’s Day Mixer get to the back? We’re going to pass it around and we want you to sign up for shifts for the Valentine’s Day Mixer. It’s open to
all grad students, 21 and over. It’s down at the HUBs Games area.

Alex: Is there booze?

Genesis: Yes, but that is not the focal point.

Alex: My constituents were wondering.

Kimberly: What time is it at?

Genesis: From 6-9pm.

Karen: The amount of food and drinks and bar areas, will that be increased on how many people came to the last one?

Genesis: Yes, we’re also going to control attendance as well since there’s a different exit and entrance for the HUB Games area. There’s a max capacity of 500 and we’re going to have counters and if we reach max capacity, we’ll wait until people leave. We’re learning from the Fall Social to control the crowds.

Chris L: Which was a runaway success by the way.

Kimberly: What’s the theme?

Chris L: The theme is “You won’t strike out.” Before everyone leaves, please grab a poster. This is something we’ll send it out in an email for your constituents as well. Also, it’s really important for people to have visual reminders as well. So post them in conspicuous areas where you work and study and hang out.

Genesis: And please sign up for volunteer shifts. We need help.

Elisa: Volunteering is a great way to meet people. If you’re a shy person, and you’re just going to bowl and not talk to anyone, maybe you need to volunteer.

Alma Khasawnih (Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies): I only have eight of those but for those of you that are interested, can you please pass them? So Rosalina Fregoso is coming to town and this is a very important scholar in gender, women and sexuality studies but also in chicano/chicana/latina studies as well as borderlines. Anyone who’s interested in media violence on the borderline between the United States and Mexico and also issues of human right and culture. In earnest, if you just want to hear someone who speaks really beautifully, this is the person to come see. There a few of those around and one lucky person will get the color one. If you have any questions, I’m more than happy to answer them but you really should come and it is on February 20th from 7-8pm in Kane 225. She’s the Stite’s Feminist Scholar of Justice
which is something that comes out of our department.

Chris L: The Stite’s Lecture Scholars series is very prestigious. As a general comment, if anyone wants an event advertised or sent through the email we send to you all, just send it to us and we’ll make sure we’ll get it on there and on our calendars.

Gary: Tomorrow, there will be a lecture on communication with physicians. So it’s kind of targeted towards health sciences, nurses and rehab therapists. We’re also having an evening on social work this Friday, January 31th from 4:30 to 7pm. The theme is the heart of social work. We’ll be writing letters for Valentine’s Day for UWMC patients. There will be heart healthy snacks. That’s from 4:30 to 7pm this Friday at the first floor gallery. One more thing, achieving health for all in the 21st century. This is at Kane Hall, Thursday February 6 from 7pm.

Chris L: Definitely send that to us so everyone can remember.

Seyda Ipek (Physics): Tomorrow at 7:30pm at Meany Hall, there’s a chamber music concert my friend will be playing the Vienna horn.

Chris L: Any other announcement? I have one final announcement. It is with great sadness that I announce that one of our executive senator, Kimberly Shertz is stepping down after a year and half of service. Let’s give Kimberly a hand first. That means that we are now officially launching a search for another executive senator. You know how the process goes. Please indicate your interest to us officers or an executive senator. Let us know if you just want to know what it entails. Just talk to us.

Genesis: Travel grants committee. We need one more person for our committee. If you want to sign up and review travel grants we’ll be meeting on the 28th. Just email me about what it entails. Even if you applied, you can still be a part of the committee. You just have to abstain from voting.

Chris E: Just again, sign up for Lobby Day. It says do you want to present your research to legislators? If you want to do the poster session, put yes in that and we can connect you with Alice and Genesis on what we do for orientation. Another thing I want to say, if you have your own Lobby Day, go to that. Let us know about it.

Alice: Even if you’re not interested in Lobby Day or the poster session or anything please forward it to your friends and constituents. That’s our job as senators to get the word out since you guys are our only channels except the choice occasional all graduate email.

Adjourn:

Chris L: On that note, I’ll entertain a motion to adjourn.
Seyda: So moved.

Kimberly: Second.