Call to Order & Approval of Agenda:

Chris Erickson (Vice President): In the absence of the president, I, Chris Erickson will be acting on his behalf and will call this meeting to order at 5:35pm. Welcome to GPSS senate meeting for Wednesday, April 23rd. We are here, most of us, to do some elections. We have a few things before that. Some of that small stuff, a nice presentation and right into what everyone came for. So the first order of business is to approve the agenda for today. I'll entertain a motion.

Seyda Ipek (Physics): I move to approve.


Approval of Minutes:

Chris E: Motion has been made and seconded. Hearing no objections, the agenda is approved. Moving to the next order of business, which is the approval of minutes, I'll entertain a motion for the approval.

Matt Portwood (Jackson School - China Studies): I move to approve last meeting’s minutes.


GPSS Spotlight: SPHERE

Chris E: Hearing no objections, so ordered. Moving to the next line of business, we have a GPSS Spotlight from the UW PeaceHealth affiliation also known as SPHERE. Is SPHERE here?

Elizabeth Vodicka (SPHERE Presenter): We’re here.

Chris E: I yield the floor.

Elizabeth: Good evening everyone. Thanks for having us. I’m Elizabeth and I’m a PhD in the department of Pharmacy. I’m also co-leader of SPHERE, Students in Public Health Engaged in Reproductive Rights Efforts. I’m joined today by Ravi Frenchestine from Law Students for Reproductive Justin and Anna Walton from Med Students for Choice. We’ve been working jointly on writing a letter to the UW administration addressing our concerns and asking for clarify around their recent decision to affiliate with a catholic health system called PeaceHealth. We’re
here today to tell you a little bit more about what we know about the affiliation and to ask for you support for signing this letter. As I mentioned the UW Medical Center and PeaceHealth has entered into a strategic affiliation and they did so in May 2013. They put forth a letter of intent and in September 2013, they extended this letter into a collaborative agreement that basically outlines the terms of the affiliations. What we know from the agreement and the conversations that some of our members have been privy to with UW administration is that this is not a formal merger. We’re not going to see a full blown merger of financial and operational processes. We’re hearing that because of this, we won’t be seeing any impact on care received at UW Medical Center. What’s in it for them? They’re both expecting increased traffic to their facilities through joint referrals and they also, on the PeaceHealth side, stand to gain with aligning themselves with UW's stellar reputation as a national leader of healthcare through things like joint branding and joint outreach. They’re also planning to expanding their joint residency programs so this will basically open up more slots for UW medical students as well as other providers in training so that they could get their medical requirement trainings fulfilled in more places like PeaceHealth facilities. What’s concerning about this is that as a catholic institution, PeaceHealth follows the religious directives set forth by the catholic church. These directives are required in healthcare institutions that are Catholic to follow these directives strictly. What that means is they are prohibited by providing comprehensive reproductive healthcare and comprehensive end of life care. and reproductive care. For example, they are not allowed to counsel on or provide contraception of any kind other than natural methods. They’re not allowed to provide abortions even in case of emergencies. Death by dignity, which is a Washington state approved initiative, is not allowed. Even the directives that patients have put forth themselves may not be honored if they’re in conflict with Catholic teaching. So this raises a red flag for us. We also know that, from the agreement, they’re planning to do joint outreach and they’re also going to move to form an accountable care organization, which would allow them to get certain types of benefits from the Obamacare health reform. Then finally, they’re planning to coinsure each other. Basically put each other on their own insurance policy and have to defend each other in case of litigation.

Ravi Frenchestine (SPHERE Presenter): So what we really want to emphasize is that we want UW to restate its commitment to not just reproductive and end of life but also OGBT healthcare in formal settings but also to, in scope of employment by PeaceHealth, that students, fellows, interns and residence wouldn’t be beholden to PeaceHealth's religious directives. That they would fall under UW’s current policies and that’s explicitly stated in the current contact. It says that UW will stick to its policy against discrimination, heterosexuality and race. PeaceHealth is a little be more ambiguous. It says it will be beholden to its own affirmative action policies in any anti-discrimination statutes. However this past year, the Washington supreme court ruled that religious nonprofits aren’t beholden to anti-discrimination statute that applies to race, gender and sexuality as well and that case involved a black employee at a Franciscan hospital in Tacoma who sued that the firing was based on race and the court dismissed his claim because as a religious nonprofit, Franciscan was not beholden to that statute. We want UW and PeaceHealth if they do go through with this, to at least clarify that UW affiliated people working at PeaceHealth won’t be beholden to those directives. We also want to emphasize that this matters to a lot of
GPSS’s constituents. We have 8 RSOs which represent over 1200 grad students and we plan outreach to more RSOs lately. The UW Medical Residence and Fellows have pre-written their own letter, which is almost 4 pages long, since they have a larger stake in this. That is along the same lines that we proposed. This letter will be sent to UW Medical Center leadership and we’re also planning on trying to reach out to elected officials like US Senator, Maria Cantwell as well as Governor Jay Inslee, who’s also recently expressed concern over all of the Catholic healthcare mergers that’s been going on in the state over the past year. So that’s it. Does anyone have any questions on this?

Joseph Telegan (English): The call is to specifically gain clarification on the UW affiliated people that go over to PeaceHealth and those that are in PeaceHealth’s domain aren’t part of the conversation?

Elizabeth: Right. The language that’s used in the collaborative agreement doesn’t mention how UW students, faculty and residents will be affected by this affiliation. We’re just asking for a blanket statement of clarity. So what’s UW’s stance on the ethical directives? What will that mean for UW students and faculty who get placed in these facilities and what does that mean for co-branding? We think one of the biggest potential drawback to this affiliation is that UW is public institution and it’s affiliating with a Catholic institution that provides limited care so we think this co-branding issue is a big issue because it legitimizes in some ways the health care that’s provided at those facilities. So we’re asking for more than just clarify around what UW residents and patients can expect but also what we can expect from the marketing department as well as how UW will clarify that relationship and what that means for where they stand.

Chris E: So somebody made a motion today. Generally our body likes to take a little more time in these situations when we usually look at things. What's your timeline that you guys are working on?

Elizabeth: We’re hoping for end of May to send out a packet with the UW residents reproductive justice group and we’ll put together a packet to send out to the UW administration at that time. We can also forward you a copy of the letter so you can send it out to your constituents. What’s your general turnaround time? Is that enough for you?

Chris E: This will probably be considered two weeks from today.

Elizabeth: That’s okay.

Matthew Aghai (Environmental and Forest Sciences): Has the administration put out any information in support for this merger? I’m kind of surprised.

Elizabeth: Basically they said they won’t change care at UW and it won’t be affected. They haven’t made an explicit statement on where they stand on the religious directives and in one case, one of your faculty was recently in a meeting with UW and PeaceHealth administrators
and PeaceHealth basically touted UW’s brand as one of the main reasons they wanted to do this affiliation and in the meeting they didn’t talk about the religious directives and the UW administration didn’t seem to care so they haven’t explicitly stated their agreement and it seems like explicitly stated their agreement. There’s been some concerns that there’s been unclear communication internally where some administrators feel like they’ve clarified their stances and others feel like they haven’t and they were confused on what what is original letter so we think this only could be a positive thing in general to be clear.

Matthew: So there’s no preemption to waiting it out?

Elizabeth: Exactly. We think this is a really good time to be proactive and raise our voices as students before this gets put into final ink and contract.

Evan Firth (Oceanography): Is there a history of any sort of these mergers that are accompanied by the merging of the religious and ethical directives? Is this something that’s happened in the past to other public health schools?

Ravi: So there’s not a huge history of it. It’s all been fairly recent in Washington state and it’s most pronounced here as well. 50% is a really high proportion and it’s more than any other state. This type of affiliation with UW and PeaceHealth, we were looking into it and there really isn’t a comparable situation where with a huge secular medical center affiliates with a religious nonprofit medical system.

Elizabeth: I would say that it’s different in the fact that that the UW Medical Center is public and PeaceHealth is not. We’ve seen some full blown mergers that have happened and Washington state is actually a leader with these types of mergers in the nation, like with Swedish and Providence as an example. They’ve seen limited care because of that. It’s not applicable to UW since this is kind of unprecedented.

Anna Walton (SPHERE Presenter): There are two public universities in the US, one in Texas and the other in Kansas City that has similar religious affiliations and we’re still trying to get the research and data on how they layed out. I don’t have specific information on that. It’s been difficult to get information about care or training impact.

Elizabeth: And those were full blown merger either.

Anna: I don’t think so.

Alice Popejoy (Public Health Genetics): So as far as how we can help, what are the ways that would be most helpful for you to get involved?

Elizabeth: First and foremost, we would love for you to sign our letter. That would be great. We think GPSS has a history of standing up for what’s right and giving a voice at certain times. You
also happen to do resolutions so if you choose to do that, we also think that’s beneficial. If you do choose to do that, we are planning on submitting our letters jointly with residents and fellows and we would be happy to submit that as a packet. If you prefer to do that as an independent body, that is up to you. We welcome any form of collaboration and we would be happy to work with you as well.

Chris E: Is there anyone out there that is interested in working on a resolution for this?

Joseph: Joseph Telegan, English.

Esra Camci (Oral Biology): Esra Camci.

Chris E: Perfect. Thank you.

Elizabeth: Thank you for your time.

2014-2015 Officer Elections:

Chris E: So the next agenda item is what we’ve been hoping for. So without further ado, I’ll pass it over to the Elections committee chair, Seyda.

Seyda: For the first order of business is I have the ballots and you don’t and that doesn’t work. Today’s the elections day. We have four officer positions with candidates. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. When you have your ballots, please cross out Colin Bateson’s name because he withdrew from the elections and I think you got the email to but the ballots were already prepared. The ballots have space for ranking candidates. Ranking is for in case there are runoffs. If there’s is more than one candidate, I would like you to rank them and there’s a space for write-in candidate. If anyone’s running from the floor, you can write their name down or if you want to nominate someone, you can do that. After you are done, we will gather the votes in the boxes and we will count them and at the end of the meeting, we will tell you the results and after me, the candidates will give you their speeches. You need to put your names on the ballot and signatures too. We will verify the names. If we can’t read your name, it doesn’t count. How a candidate wins is they need to get more than 50% of the votes and if there is a tie, there will be a tie-breaking re-vote and that vote is only done with the remaining senate body so in case of a tie, you might want to stay until the end.

Maryclare Griffin (Statistics): Is there a place to put ballots?

Seyda: Yes, in the boxes and you can put it in there anytime.

Genesis Gavino: As an incentive, there will be a second round of food coming.

Seyda: Any other questions? Then Douglass Taber is up.
Douglass Taber (Evans School of Public Affairs): Good evening everyone. It's a pleasure to see you all here tonight and an honor to run for a student body that is diverse and forward thinking as the professional and graduate schools. After seeking advice and being recommended to speak on my personal experiences, this reminded me of quote. People forget what you said. People forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel. Regarding my personal background, I was raised by a brother, a sister and a single mother in California. My mother worked extremely hard to provide for us. We went to very poor schools so to insure we had a good education, my mother started teaching part time at our schools. I started working at 16 as a clerk at an oral surgery office as well as a lifeguard and swim team coach during the summer. I got my work ethic from my mom, who now works in finance. I showed up early to the office to set up and clean. My dedication paid off and I was given more and more responsibilities. I went from sweeping floors to filing insurance claims and tracking down patient info to assisting in oral surgery. While working, I also attended community college where I received four associate degrees until I saved up enough money to transfer to University of California - Davis. Everyone in the office, patients and co-workers wanted me to become a dentist, but that's not what I wanted. In high school, I went to Costa Rica and participated in an educational and humanitarian trip and this was a life-changing experience. While in Costa Rica, which was a relatively successful country in the region, we took supplies to a village only accessible via horseback. I've lived in cities in California that are considered poor and I thought I knew what poverty was. Going to a village without water or electricity opened my eyes. I knew that I wanted to do something to help people develop beyond their means. I carried this passion to UC-Davis where I studied Political Science and International Relations and today I'm a student of the Evans School of Public Affairs where I'm expanding my knowledge and using my passion to help people. I'm particularly interested in campaign finance reform, tuition debt policy and incarceration in the US. I'd still like to work in the international development field but I found that following the goal was to lead me where I need to be. I will work my hardest to impress you all as I've done to impress my former colleagues and professors. As Maya Angelou said, people forget what you said. People forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel. While you may not remember me for introducing new policy, improving information transfers, following good accounting practices, you will remember me for my passion, enthusiasm and motivation of GPSS. You will remember feeling comfortable coming to me with concerns not only about financial issues but other issues. You'll remember feeling like you made the right decision. Whether my actions are remembered or not, I plan on giving myself completely to GPSS. As I mentioned, I'm studying at the Evans School of Public Affairs where I'm a candidate for a nonprofit management certificate. This means that I'll be working with some of the top minds of policy evaluations, program management and nonprofit finance. If I'm elected treasurer, I'll use GPSS as my topic for my degree project and I'll be spending all of my time outside of GPSS studying GPSS and working with top academics evaluating GPSS inside and out. I'm very excited for the potential impact this could have. Thank you.

Seyda: So would anyone want to run from the floor?
Dawn Keenan (Communications): My name is Dawn Keenan and I would like to make a motion. I emailed about this before but if you haven’t had a chance to see it, I would like to move to ask the senate to suspend the bylaws to run from the floor. I’m asking this because I was a member of the Elections committee but due to some miscommunication in the elections packet that wouldn’t have allowed fee-based students to run.

Matt: I move to suspend the bylaws.

Chris Lizotte (President): Are there any objections? Does everyone understand what the particular bylaw in senate is? So Dawn was a member of the Elections committee and if you want to run you have to resign from the elections committee 35 days before the elections. Dawn, because of a very inaccurate piece of information that’s been in the elections packet for several years, didn’t realize that she would be eligible to run at all and she got that clarified and found out. So the particular part of the bylaws that is suspended is the 35 day rule. This would require two third majority vote. Are there any objections?

Evan: Are we objecting it to putting it to a vote?

Chris L: No.

Evan: I thought there needs to be a vote?

Chris L: An actual count vote?

Evan: Does there need to be?

Chris L: Because this is suspending the bylaws, I’ll take a vote. All those in favor of suspending the bylaws? That will work.

Dawn: Thank you everyone. My name is Dawn Keenan and I’m a first-year graduate student from the Communications department and it’s a fee based department. I kind of feel like I’m coming up here to you as in a AA meeting. “Hi, my name is Dawn and I’m a fee based student.” This year’s journey has been very difficult. I have come back to education after a 10 year hiatus. Going back to that time, there was no such thing as a fee based program. Why I would like to continue in the senate and why I would like to be in the executive committee is to help shape how the university communicates to fee based students going forward as well as working on the issues that are near and dear to your heart. For being a fee-based student, there hasn’t been a lot of advocates for us this year so I would like to bring that to the executive committee. I’ll answer more of your questions later but quickly, my background is I grew up in the middle-of-nowhere, Michigan and I escaped when I went to study at the University of Chicago. I was on the coast for a little bit and then I settled here and I was working for Flexcar for awhile. I was their marketing manager. I managed a budget of $400,000 and a team of 20 so I feel like I
have the qualifications for this position and I hope that you’ll consider me for a the position of Treasurer. Thank you.

Seyda: I think it’s better to take questions now than later. Are there any questions for Doug or Dawn? You have three questions.

Colin: I would like to hear both what you think are the top two most pressing issues facing the office of Treasurer.

Dawn: The top things I see are managing staff and making sure that this position manages all the staff in the office and making sure people have a comfortable environment to come to with ideas with the other things that are happening in the senate community. I’ll also say creating better communication in how we set up scheduling when student groups come in to make requests of us. Maybe an online system to help set that up.

Douglass: That's a good question. There are a lot of things that can be done. One of things that jump out to me is really incorporating communities and finding ways to tie that together to collaborate. So maybe some sort of thing outside a professional setting like a mixer. Something to bring pieces together to share ideas and aspirations. Beyond that, I think it’s doing financial analysis and finding ways that GPSS might not be as wasteful and analyze what we’re doing to see how we can be more efficient and effective.

Evan: Again, a question for both of you. I do appreciate expansion but there’s is possibility that we go into next year being underfunded in our SAF and I wonder what each of you would cut from given the fact that we might be underfunded? How would we make up, in a sense?

Douglass: Personally, I think we can cut from printing as I have done with my printing. Posters are pretty expensive. I would find alternative ways to advertise, doing HR and doing a lot of our outreach. Also doing a set of analysis to see where is the fat? Where are the programs that could be done more effectively without continuing on this current path. So finding things out and not doing it blindly.

Dawn: Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to go to a budget meeting and take a deep dive into the analysis but what I would do when I had to cut budgets before, I was handed a project and it got cut 50% and we had to make some tough decisions. I would take into consideration other people’s opinion and see where they see is important and do an analysis to see what I could cut.

Seyda: Thank you very much. Natalie Gordon for Secretary.

Natalie Gordon (GPSS Office Manager): Hello, my name is Natalie Gordon. I’m a student at the Jackson School of International Studies and the Evans School of Public Affairs. I’m also the current GPSS Office Manager and I have a lot of knowledge that I could bring to this position. I would be truly honored to serve as your Secretary for next year. Over the past year as Office
Manager, I have learned about and extensively participated in the inner workings of the senate. I’ve loved working with all of you and I will work hard to promote the community in GPSS. I’m inspired by the vision that I have seen grown from the senate this year and I would like to continue this hard work and continue this vision and see it develop. As Secretary, I have four main objectives. First, I will connect GPSS, grad students, departments and campus organizations. To do this, I will develop relationships with program advisors to create more robust senate representations. This year, I worked with Elisa to create a report of representation over the past 5 years so I’m equipped with the knowledge and equipment to initiate this project. I will initiate mentorship within the senate as well as interdepartmental connections. My second focus would be to collaborate with senators and organizational partners to build GPSS relevancy and functionality. I’ll commit to providing manageable information and space for senators to share relevant information with each other. I will strengthen relations with asuw and other entities in order to distinguish graduate interests in the community. My third objective is to facilitate effective communication both internally and externally. I will be accessible and responsive and eager to hear and feedback. I will also enhance new senator training in order to facilitate participation and ownership of the senate space. I will focus time, attention and resources to promote diversity within GPSS and across campus. I will collaborate with senators and the Diversity committee to fight for diversity issues and advocate for these initiatives through partnership with other diversity entities on campus as well as events including expansion of the diversity forums this year. Thank you so much for this opportunity to present my platform for you and I ask you for the opportunity to implement it next year. Thank you.

Seyda: Now Soh Yeun Kim for Secretary.

Soh Yeun Kim (English): Hello, I’m Soh Yeun Kim from the department of English. I feel very excited and honored to run for the position of GPSS Secretary. I stand here today to share my vision and ideas for GPSS which I hope to share with you and work together for. As my stay as an international student, as a non-native speaker of English, as a person of color and as a women and as a foreigner, has allowed me to learn about the various aspect of diverse issues on campus. For the last few years, I have been a department mentor within my program and also with GPSS to raise awareness of diversity and to support diverse needs of students of diverse backgrounds. The key role of the secretary is facilitating the communication among the GPSS officers and its members and across its multiple communities with other student organizations such as ASUW and so on. What does it mean to be a good communicator? What I have learned in my own experience is to make a voice heard, there has to be someone to listen to them. Who can listen to them carefully and deliver their voice to the places needed. I would like to emphasize that I’m not running for this position because I know a lot or think I’m perfect. There are a lot of things I need to learn to serve this position well. Therefore I believe that you, your senators matters most. If I’m elected, I’ll stand here as a humble listener so we can make our GPSS as an organization of diversity and for diversity. Thank you.

Seyda: I will take Natalie back here and take three question for candidates.
Joseph: I hear both of you talk about diversity. I’m curious what you see is the connection between diversity and the position of Secretary?
Natalie: Being a part of the Diversity committee and advocating for diversity issues is part of the job description. As Secretary, I would want to raise that to its fullest since diversity is huge concern for students and campus wide so it falls under that.

Soh Yeun: The meaning of diversity could various depending on how you interpret it. For the last few years, I dedicated to promote and empower the presence of international students especially in my program. I’m presently working with Austin to improve the communication and needs of international students particularly. Serving as secretary, I want to be a good communicator who listens to their difficulties to help them and contribute to build them more in the community. That’s not my only goal but that’s what I’m thinking. Thank you.

Bjorn Hubert-Wallander (Psychology): Communication is a big part of the role. I’m curious if you guys could share one or two specific ways that GPSS administration can do to communicate to the senate more effectively or vice versa?

Natalie: I’ve actually thought quite a bit about this. I think before I did anything, I would want to check with senators to see what would work best for them. I know some ways would be adjusting the emails we send out to make them easier or more useful to filter out what information needs to go where. Also, creating a space for senators to share information online. Maybe some of this could filter information that was on the emails and they can talk directly with each other.

Soh Yeun: Since I joined the working group to improve the senate function overall, one of the idea is creating the online communication and facilitating the mentor group so that new senators can feel more comfortable integrating into the senate so they can be a good representative to their constituents. I think that’s what is lacking in the senate is the constituents. Before joining the senate, I’m not trying to blame a certain senator in the program but I didn’t hear much of what was going on in GPSS so I’m still brainstorming and I would like to hear feedback but the communication must start from not just ourselves but between the senators and constituents.

Matt: Point of information, does the secretary have a role in directing parliamentary procedure?

Elisa Law (Secretary): Yes.

Matt: Okay, parliamentary procedure has been talked about as a hurdle for a lot of the senators at meetings. I wonder first if you guys have substantive ideas about improving people’s comfort level with parliamentary procedure and if you’re elected, would you take on a more active role as parliamentarian?

Soh Yeun: So I think it relates to the job of what the working group is trying to do. We’re thinking of making a poster of simple vocabulary or directions people can pick up even when they’re not
familiar with parliamentary procedure and we were thinking about having quarterly orientation to
tell them about what they’re expected to do. So if I’m elected, I will work more do these little
things. However, I think the mentoring group will improve the senator’s comfort level in
participation.

Natalie: I would also expand the trainings to have parliamentary procedure a bigger part of that
and also more frequently. Also, mentorship so that senators would have somewhere to go if
they’re not sure how to say a certain thing or even having senators that are designated to be
asked questions. I would also set a precedent to be available for questions or any information or
to practice those skills a little more. Then again, having little pamphlets that has the information
to take to meetings.

Seyda: I just realized that I forget to ask if anyone want to run from the floor for the office of
Secretary. Then, thank you very much. Now the candidate for Vice President, Alex Bolton.

Alex B: It’s like karaoke. Good evening fellow senators. My name is alex Bolton and I’m a first
year Law student and I’m running for GPSS Vice President. Tonight, I would like to share a little
bit about myself, my passion and experience in GPSS and what I would like to do next year. I’m
from Spokane. I’m working on becoming a triple dawg. I went here for undergrad and I also
went to the M School where I earned my MPA and now I’m working on my JD in Law School. As
an undergrad, an important event for me was interning at the state legislature and its where I
became very passionate of state government. At the Evans School, I had the opportunity to
serve as Student Regent after being appointed by the governor and there, I learned a lot about
the university and became a passionate advocate for the university. From there, I worked for
former Governor Evans and help him at several roles and one of those was as a UW advocate.
When state budgets were proposed in the House and Senate, we would look over them and see
how they really affected students. Most recently, I worked in the faculty senate office and had a
chance to see how the university really ran. Also had the opportunity to advise faculty leadership
on shared governance and through my roles, I had the unique opportunity to make a lot of
important relationships like President Young and Provost Cauce and a number of administrators
including Margaret Shepard, the university lobbyist as well as faculty leadership. I also want
you to know that I’m very passionate of GPSS. As an Evans student, I was first involved as a
senator and then I was involved as a student regent. Even though I wasn’t technically a senator,
it was important for me to come to these meeting because it was important to know what’s going
on and help anyway I could. I also think it’s important that for me as Vice President, I’m involved
internally as well. I’ll be a member of the senate executive committee and I’m at the senate
meetings. Furthermore, it’s important because the relationship presence is vital. I’ve also been
very involved internally this year. I had the opportunity to serve you in the executive committee
as well helping to lead the working group on the way senate could work and through those, I’ve
been able to establish relationships with a number of people, including Alice who is likely to be
our President and we work together a lot and we work together well. It’s going to be important to
know what’s going on in Olympia and it’s going to be important for her to
know what’s going on in Olympia during session so that relationship is very important to GPSS
as a whole. The main things I’d like to do in Olympia is focus on UW funding. If we can come together for state support for UW funding, we can build stronger coalition and we’ll be more likely to be successful. That also means less time fighting big tuition increases and possible cuts to TA/RA positions.

Seyda: Now Alex Stone.

Alex Stone (Evans School of Public Affairs): Hi everyone, I’m Alex Stone and I’m a student at the Evans School. I know a lot of you from working in committees and walking around and saying hello but there’s a lot of you that I don’t know so I’m going to do a quick introduction and talk to you about the priorities that I have if I’m elected next year. I work for the economic opportunities institute. It’s a local policy think tank based right by Gasworks Park. I’ve the opportunity to work on legislation in City Council in Washington state and at the federal level so I have experience doing that. I’m also a member of the Student and Activities Fee committee and the state and federal legislative steering committees. So the three priority that I have is to first, have a graduate work session. The graduate work session would allow GPSS to bring down students, faculty in graduate programs and administrators to talk about the value that graduate students have to the university. What we do with public money, what kind of value we provide. Legislators love measurables and love to talk about returns on investment and I want to build relationships with them so when the doors close, we can have an advocate for graduate education. Behind those closed doors, I can say, “No, don’t cut this program. In fact, add more funding because it’s important.” That’s priority one. Priority two is on student loans. I want to say right off the bat that I’m not an advocate of wasting time in DC. I think it’s a black hole. I wouldn’t advocate for doing any kind of lobbying in DC but I think we should work with the people we do have there like the lobbyists in DC as well as SAGE, Student Advocates for Graduate Education. Another stakeholder. Just to give you some background, in two years, students loan interest rate will increase from 5.4% to 8.5%. That’s a 3 percent increase and that’s about $20,000 extra that you would have to pay over a life of a loan. That’s a lot of money. It’s too much to not deal with. Really the last thing is better communication and engagement. I would see GPSS do a better job of engaging graduate students. Doing a better job of making the Science & Policy Summit and the Higher Education Summit like bringing new people in and have them become advocates for their own graduate experience and parlay that into success in Olympia so we can use these new people that we bring into the system in Olympia to tell stories and go to session and things like that. I’m really excited. I have a lot of energy. I would love to be your Vice President next year. Thank you.

Seyda: Anyone who wants to run from the floor? Then I open the floor for questions.

Alma Khasawnih (Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies): Can you tell us the name of the governor you worked with, Alex?

Alex B: Dan Evans.
Ragan Hart (Public Health Genetics): What were your other two priorities or passions?
Alex B: Thanks for that opportunity. One is making sure we see public graduate and professional education events. A couple months ago, I was in events at the Graduate Washington. Former GPSSS President Sherman was there with a bunch of legislators and what about graduate education? They said it was kind of a private good and that really bothered me. I would like to work to change the tone of the conversation. Do some white papers and do some research and push that its public and there’s a lot of different ways. One’s economic and one’s looking at we don’t really want these kids going to grad school. Finally, I agree with Alex to provide an opportunity for graduate students to demonstrate their values and importance. There was a poster session last year in Olympia and I would like to build on that maybe do one up here. I’m open to ideas on ways we can provide legislators and decision makers an opportunity to see that.

Evan: In the past couple years, there are a couple ideas or motions to not only show the worth of graduate students to legislators but to give graduate students here practical experience doing some sort of work for these legislators both from the science side and the law side. They have only come up roughly and I was wondering if you guys could speak to how high that falls on your priorities and if you could pull off that off?

Alex S: I want to ask a clarifying question. Are you saying job opportunities?

Evan: Specifically, the science side was possibly offering UW as a knowledge base for legislators and law side was to allow law and other policy oriented students to gain practical experience by working on policy.

Alex S: I can take a stab at that. That’s not something I’m familiar with. I do know that there’s talk in the Evans School of setting up an institute that works with legislators. There’s currently an institute for Washington public policy. They get a lot of funding from the legislators and things like that. The idea is that any time it’s more than $500,000 or million dollar allocation, some of that money will come to the Evans School. I think that would be great idea do a similar thing with science and technology. I do think that idea would have to come from those schools. I don’t think I have the institutional knowledge or the capacity to create an organic system to do that in one year but I would love to work with somebody on it.

Alex B: I know Chris Erickson, our current Vice President has done a lot of work to look into that. I’d like to continue that work. I know there are some difficult hurdles with tuition and the legislatures who have their own policy staff but I think it would be great to see if we can overcome those hurdles or concerns that people have. I think it would be a great opportunity for both legislature and graduate students. When you’re doing your work, it’s cool to know that someone will read it and do something with it.

Seyda: I will allow one more question.
Colin: I want to hear some specific ideas about how you might engage or increase participation for our lobbying efforts? In GPSS, that falls under your jurisdiction, so how you want our involvement and how you would get us down there.

Alex B: One thing is to grow the legislative steering committees, to get more people involved. The network can grow from there. When I was an undergrad, I started the radio station task force and it was a small community but now we have UW radio. So doing a lot of outreach to get people involved, going to the different schools and going to some of the school’s specific governances like Evans, Student Bar Association and any other that are interested in having us.

Alex S: One things that GPSS could do and I’ll have to work with the Secretary on this too is to update the website. That’s one area of GPSS. I don’t know how many of you looked at the website but it’s lacking pretty seriously. If you look at the federal funding side, Higher Education Summit hasn’t been updated since last year and there’s references to Adam Sherman and Melanie Mayock. So we need to do that since that’s how people communicate. We need to do a better job of advertising, specifically the Higher Education Summit and the Science & Policy Summit. If we can bring more people into those and use those as an entry point to GPSS. If people see GPSS not just as a social organization, then we can utilize those same people down in the legislature. I think that we have to bring people in and do really good advertising for those, including updating the website, printing posters. Those are all important things. We should emphasize and get the word out about those events.

Seyda: Thank you very much. Now it’s time for the President. Alice?

Alice: I’m in science so I have to have a Powerpoint for everything. As most of you know, I’m Alice Popejoy and I’d like to be your GPSS President for next year and I’d like to tell you a little bit about where I come from, how I got here and why I think I would serve you well for next year. So I started getting involved in policy when I was 19 years old. I was an unpaid intern at the California state senate. I thought I would be doing menial tasks but my boss came to me and said, “A senator’s on the health committee and we’re trying to get a ban on trans fats but we can’t figure out why they’re bad. We wikipedia-ed it but we got confused. You’re in Biology right? Can you write us like two paragraphs on why trans fat are bad?” I was like, “Are you serious? No one in your staff knows anything about this?” At that point, I realized that it’s important to have people that have a background and a mind for science and cares about policy and knows about it and cares about ethics. That’s why I’ve been straddling science and policy since then. I’m a 2nd year PhD student in Public Health Genetics. I graduated in biology and french from Williams College and after that, I went to Washington DC and was an unpaid intern at the House of Representatives and worked for Congressman Matsui. I had some good experiences there in public policy. I worked for a non-profit organization working on underrepresented women and ethnic minorities in STEM fields in DC. So I’ve seen policy work from the inside and outside. It’s the President’s job to work closely with the VP to both be here on campus and work with administration and bureaucratic structures down in Olympia. So I think that my experience has really set me up to be helpful to the VP. When I came to UW, I was really excited to start grad
school but I missed the policy stuff so I decided to stay involved in that a little bit and GPSS was my way of doing that. I started as a senator last year and have been serving on the executive committee for the last year representing all of you. For those of you who are new, the executive committee is to make sure that the officers and the leadership of the senate is being held accountable and representing the rest of the senate so I’m really enjoying my work there. I’ve served on the Science & Policy committee as well. You have probably figured it out that I care a lot about this and I want to continue that work next year. I’m open to all the senators. I’ve been working on the senate working group and I hope to build on that and hope to hear from you on ways we can do business best next year. Those are my priorities. You can ask me questions about them since I don’t think I have much time left.

Seyda: Anyone else want to run for President? Okay, questions next.

Bjorn: What do you think is the biggest problem for GPSS right now? What are we weakest at or our biggest drawback?

Alice: I don’t see us as having problems necessarily. Do you mean internal or external?

Bjorn: Both is fine.

Alice: For me, which fits in with my priorities, the biggest concern I have is open seats on university and faculty committees. We have all these seats that are available to us but they are unfilled. It is part of the responsibility of the President that we make sure to appoint someone to those committees. Chris has done a really great job with the help of Austin to begin the inventory of what seats we have, who’s on those committees and finding out where we have vacancies. I would like to build on that next year and make sure we have engagement there. Frankly that’s going to take engagement from all of you. I think there’s a lot of apathy too. People are busy or don’t care or know what the committees do so part of it is that we have low visibility on campus because we don’t have representation where we have an opportunity to do so. We’re not there yet.

Durmus Karatay (Physics): Adam had the GPSS endowment as his big project and Chris had the mentorship project. Do you have something like that?

Alice: Sure, I have a couple in mind. It’s been mentioned in the Vice President’s question about resource. This idea came out of the Science & Policy committee, which I’m the chair. The initial idea was that we would demonstrate the value of graduate student by offering them our expertise as researchers and scholars and reach to to them if they have bill that comes across the desk about solar energy. If they don’t understand the technology, we have a huge resource here with people, professors that are working on that. The idea was to have science communication workshops and get our resource collected and get people who could be responsive to that. I can see how that extends to the arts and humanities, how they can come see expositions down in Olympia and see some of the great work that’s going on and why that's valuable and important.
The other one is from that presentation from the School of Social Work on unpaid internships. I know that’s getting a lot of play on the national scene right now and we might have an opportunity next year to be a leader on that. If we can get the administration to pay attention to people paying tuition to work for free and replace the jobs of our peers and friends who graduated and are looking for those entry level jobs but are replaced by these atrocious law-breaking positions. So that’s something that I would be willing to spend them advocating next year.

Seyda: One last question? Thank you very much. Now we will pass the ballot boxes around so you can put in your vote. Please don’t forget to sign and print your name.

Chris L: I think we have more food the table that just came in so if you need a second wind. While the votes are being counted, we have the ASUW candidate forum, which will be of great interest, so grab a snack and cast your vote, sign that ballot and hang out.

**ASUW Candidate Forum:**

Genesis: So this year we decided to do something different and get involved in ASUW elections. We believe that the work being done at ASUW is not just to the undergrad community but it also affects the graduate and professional community and just in case we’re also represented by ASUW and you can vote in the elections too. There are few things that are done in this campus that just affects one community. So graduate and professional students are a community as well we need to be aware and know what’s going on and we need to hold our elected body accountable. We are in a unique position as graduate and professional students to not just have GPSS but also ASUW representing us to the administration. So we need to make sure that advocacy and legislation accurately reflect the concerns of students and we need to improve the experience on the advocacy front not for ASUW but also GPSS and to work collaboratively. So our three priorities to hosting this forum is to actively participate to hold the elected officials accountable, to clarify graduate student priorities in ASUW and to insure that they are considering graduate priorities when they are forming legislation. The way this is going to work tonight is each ticket is going to introduce their candidates. Each will say their name, the position they’re running for and the President will go last and they will give us a really brief rundown of their ticket’s platform. Then we will go into the question format. Senators can ask questions directly to a specific position or to the ticket as a whole and then the ticket can decide if they want to send more than one person to answer the question. They will each have two minutes to answer the question and then 1 minute as rebuttal. Alright, we will get started. Who would like to go first?

Haley Badger (Ignite UW Candidate): Hi everyone. I’m Haley Badger and I’m running for Director of University Affairs at UW.

Sean Carr (Ignite UW Candidate): Hi everyone. My name is Sean Carr and I’m running for Director of Community Relations.
KK Saha (Ignite UW Candidate): Hello everyone. My name is KK Saha and I'm running as Director of Programming at Ignite UW.

Zach Peggins (Ignite UW Candidate): Hello everyone. My name is Zach Peggins and I’m running for Director of Service & Partnerships at Ignite UW.

Amber Amin (Ignite UW Candidate): Good evening everyone. Thank you all for being here. I’m Amber Amin and I’m running for Director of Policy & Procedures at Ignite UW.

Jeffrey McNemey (Ignite UW Candidate): Hi everyone. My name is Jeffrey McNemey and I’m running for President of ASUW. So I'll tell you a little bit about why we’re running and the things we seeing as a most important for next year and what we’d like to focus our efforts on. I personally have experience in ASUW with a lot of policy background. There's are a lot of other positions on campus and what I see ASUW really need to work on is reaching out better to students and have a closer campus community because when student have buy-in to the association and students know what’s going on, then we can be a lot more powerful and do a lot more that the conversation that we’re a part of, we have a strong student voice represented. So the rest of the ticket is very much in agreement with that. We have cool ideas to not only bring ASUW students but students better together to promote a collaborative, tighter and more officially run association. The work with some of the past partnerships we had with GPSS throughout not only with programming but advocacy work to make sure that all student voices are represented to the administration and state level to make sure we can get the best situation for students on campus. Thank you.

Austin Wright-Pettibone (The Husky Vision Candidate): Hello everyone. My name is Austin Wright-Pettibone and I’m running for Director of University Affairs.

Emmeline Vu(The Husky Vision Candidate): Hello everyone. My name is Emilene Vu. I’m running to be the next Director of Programming.

Kainen Bell (The Husky Vision Candidate): Hi, my name is Kenan Bell. I’m running to be the next Director of Service & Partnerships.

Diane Han (The Husky Vision Candidate): Hello everyone. My name is Diane Han and I’m running to be the next Director of Policy & Procedures.

Tyler Wu (The Husky Vision Candidate): Hello everyone. My name is Tyler Wu and I’m running to be the next Director of Community Relations.

Varsha Govindaraju (The Husky Vision Candidate): Hello everyone. My name is Varshi Govindaraju and I'm running to be the next Director of Diversity Efforts.
Christina Xiao (The Husky Vision Candidate): Hi, my is Christina Xiao and I’m running for ASUW President in The Husky Vision. As a team, we are committed to bringing together our campus communities and emphasizing the value of diversity. Those two commitments inform our prioritization of bringing more student voices in a broader range of student opinions to the advocacy work of ASUW. The main avenue from student input in ASUW come from its long term commitment to volunteers. When students with other obligations and other commitments to other organizations have a very valid input as well so those are stories we need to be hearing and including them in our advocacy efforts. We’re definitely making it an active prioritization of reaching out to more voices on campus. This could really be as simple as creating roundtable discussions where students have the opportunity to connect with administrators, city council members or legislators that makes decisions and it’s really those student’s stories that we can gather from our student body as a whole that should really fuel our advocacy work.

Genesis: This is The Husky Vision and Ignite UW. Now we are going to open it up to questions.

Bjorn: So what ways do you think that ASUW in your upcoming term can do to advance the concerns of graduate and professional students?

Genesis: Ignite UW will answer first and you’ll have two minutes to do that.

Haley: Thanks for that. To remind you, I’m running for Director of University Affairs, which is the position works most with the administration and faculty. I think it’s really important to include all students in these conversations and I think that we have some cool opportunities to be had to collaborate more with GPSS than we had in the past. Some programming events that we had was the state legislators and administrator’s lobby day. That’s one thing I want to work on.

Jeffrey: Yes, opportunities like that. I think there’s a lot to be said for a strong ASUW supplementing a strong GPSS and both of those organizations build up from each other. Work being done on one only benefits the other so making sure that the administration knows that the students are engaged in these communities.

Austin: So how can graduate students be represented by ASUW. Over the past year, I worked with a lot of you in order to see what are graduate student priorities as an undergrad. This experience I had is something we can emulate with more students. Getting undergrads more involved with GPSS to get them more aware of the priorities facing graduate students or simply what we’ve done this year is to make more direct connections with graduate and graduate student bodies. We do this with four corners, which is the meetings with the GPSS president, the ASUW president, the student regent and the chair of PACs. Things like this are collaborations that are successful and allow for more informed decisions between the different bodies so all priorities can come to the table. I do think that graduate priorities go unheard in a lot of situations so one of the balance that the next office will have to strike is how we can be bringing more graduate students into the conversations so that its not undergraduate voices that will be dominating.
Christina: One advocacy avenue that I think would benefit undergraduates and graduates pretty well together is that I see that ASUW has a strong legislative relationship on campus as well as the state legislator. There are fewer relationships with UW and the Seattle City Council and King County Council as well that graduate student and undergraduates have a vested interest in the city of Seattle. Bussing is a great example of that. I think that’s pretty timely and relevant as well. I think that graduate and undergraduate can both benefit with new advocacy relationships and legislative avenues at the city level. I know that a lot of us are focused on graduation and our prospects so the economy of Seattle is something that is relevant to both grads and undergrads.

Genesis: You guys get a minute to respond.

KK: So once again, I’m running for Director of Programming. I worked as the office government relations at the legislative coordinator and I’ve had the opportunity to collaborate with GPSS especially working with both Lizotte and Erickson and other staff within GPSS to put on programs that is inclusive of both GPSS and ASUW. Two examples is the Lobby Day and the Legislative Reception. That is a great avenue for both grad and undergrad to come together to talk about the problems they have about the issues and voicing concerns and making sure that it’s heard at the graduate and undergraduate level.

Dawn: We had a great conversation about unpaid internship at our last senate meeting. I was wondering if either of your platforms addressed that concern and what you would be doing to further that conversation.

Austin: It’s an interesting conversation going on. As you know we had practicum come in and talk about that. I think its a conversation that we can definitely be expanding. People like Kainen, who works with partnerships and works to expand the opportunity for students to be getting involved off campus. I think that’s a way to partner with GPSS perhaps with the Development Director to figure out how we can be informing partnerships with these people and advocating for paid work and then incorporating that as a model going forward and have that pass as a resolution for prohibitions on unpaid internships.

Zach: My name is Zach Peggins and I’m the Director of Service & Partnerships. What I plan to do is collaborate with UW to create new partnerships and more ethical partnerships with paid internships with both undergrads and graduates. I know with some departments, they have a lot of help. Collaboration is very key with his issue.

Christina: Unpaid internships are a tricky subjects. I do understand, at least in ASUW, we do rely a lot on the work of our volunteers. They do provide a lot for us but in return, we do provide leadership development and connections and ways to get involved. In terms of internships, I do not like the idea of expecting unpaid work from someone since it’s important to recognize that everyone’s labor is important and it needs to be compensated in some way. To expect unpaid labor from someone is a really ridiculous expectation so I would definitely be in favor of
collaborating with Service and Partnerships and the office of sponsorships to come up with a policy in terms of the kinds of internships we’re offering and that we’re allowing companies to offer to us.

Soh Yeun: I wonder how Ignite UW and the Husky Vision can distinguish yourself from the other party in terms of vision.

Jeffrey: So I think one of the interesting things this year is a lot of the major vision points are similar. That speaks to a lot of cohesion of where the association should be going and I hope that whoever gets elected, the important issues will be addressed. One thing we’re focusing on is building this tighter campus community and making sure that ASUW and GPSS can really be collaborative with students and connect to all the different communities no matter how you’re involved in the university even if it’s in a distance learning program with online courses and other means that aren’t traditional. to make sure all the resource on campus are available to every students as we move forward. To sum up, we have similar visions and the experiences that people have are different to get us to this point. Some of those internal and external experiences are really strong that good work is done next year.

Sean: Hi guys. Sean Carr again, running for Director of Community Relations. I think that one big distinction for our ticket is we pay for ASUW every quarter when you pay for tuition. That’s an investment you should see a return so if you’re not seeing any action on ASUW, that will be a priority. One big issues I had with ASUW is that it’s very inside itself in its structure. I had no involvement in ASUW previously. I’m really excited to try and break that up. Thank you.

Emmeline: Hello everyone. I’m Emmeline and I’m running for Director of Programming. So if there is anything I can say that sets our ticket apart is this idea that every single one of us represents a community on campus. Something we recognize about UW is that its a great place to get involved and get invested in communities that they find. I can relate to that. I’m involved in the Business School and in the residence halls. I had a disconnect from ASUW. A lot of us have different backgrounds where we all take one big step together to represent not only ASUW but every single different part of campus. We feel that this is what it’s about. Not only the fact that we represent those parts with these unique networks all around campus that we’ll be able to put our vision and ideas up. We feel that that will be a really great vision with the diversity of our ticket and really shedding light on the underrepresented areas.

Varsha: Something that is also important to us is that we want ASUW to be a crossroad. We want to bring ASUW closer to students and we want ASUW to be a resource and a way to connect to volunteers with students with more resources and understand their campus in a different and unique way. ASUW is a great way not to just bring students in but bring back the students that we’re suppose to be representing and that’s one thing we’re all trying to incorporate in our platforms moving forward.
Evan: So like Genesis said, there are only a few issues that only affect graduate students or only affect undergraduates. I’m curious if either ticket, in the event that it is a subject that is pertinent to both undergrads and graduates that pops up in discussion in ASUW, how will you A) bring that questions to graduate students and B) bring graduate students into that discussion?

Austin: There’s a lot of problems that affect both undergrad and graduates. I think one of the ways we do this is by having one of the representatives from GPSS being present in ASUW senate and being more communicative, going back and forth. For this quarter, Kevin Shotwell and myself who are representatives from GPSS to ASUW and that’s been allowing us to have much more informed decisions about what’s going on in ASUW and that needs to be reciprocated as well.

Diane: Hi, my name is Diana and I’m running for Policy & Procedures. One thing I can do in my position is to be a liaison to GPSS. In the past two years, I’ve been involved in The Daily as a reporter and as administrative assistant to the Board of Directors. With these experiences, I can see a disconnect with ASUW and GPSS on both sides. It’s a two way street and we can do a better job collaborating with each other. It can be as simple as attending each other's meetings consistently. It'll open up a lot more conversation and outlets for growth and ways to make stances in the university as a whole.

Amber: Hi everyone. Once again, my name is Amber Amin and I’m running for Director of Policy & Procedures. I hope to be your liaison next year. I think the important thing to keep in mind is the ASUW Senate is the official informing body for ASUW and is the agenda setting body. At the end of the day, we advocate on the behalf on the opinions that are formed there. Therefore I think it’s really crucial to have a liaison to really represent what your options are as well as be a resource to the senate. Beyond that, I would really like to see people who aren’t just ASUW senators coming to the senate meetings to really shape the discussion. We came out with the international student fee legislation where people that weren’t senators came just to serve as a resource to provide their insight and really shape the conversation with a useful context and I think that graduate students have a really big impact to come and better represent their opinions in the conversation.

Christina: Something that I want to address and that I think is really important for undergraduates and graduates is student debt. That’s something I hope to work on next year. That’s going to be my goal to reducing debt. This year I worked with the student debt reduction working group. It’s a committee that was started by ASUW President Michael Kutz. I think that I would want to continue next year and it's a problem. So graduate students are incredibly affected, even more so than undergraduates so I would like to have graduate student representation on that committee. We have a little bit of data in terms of students debt but I think we need that voice present as well.

Tyler: Again, my name is Tyler Wu and I’m running for Community Relations. As a ticket, we thought of having ASUW and GPSS joint committees. This is where we would be able to talk
about problems that we see within our own communities. So for example is Prop 1. We would be able to meet once or twice a month to discuss these problems and also creating a mentorship program so that these students in ASUW senate can look up to graduate student, students that have gone somewhere so they can talk about these problems together.

Chris L: So obviously one of my priorities over the past year this is one of honest manifestations. How can we partner with ASUW? A lot of the questions and answers show thoughtfulness and moving forward to get there and share a lot of the concerns. How do we balance that? How do we act better as a community while at the same time respecting GPSS as a sovereignty with a very different constituents than the average undergrad student?

Jeffrey: I think that’s some excellent points. I think a lot of that sovereignty is built into the structures. Almost everywhere that there is an ASUW representative, there is a GPSS representative side by side. There’s a lot of issues that affect both communities and there’s definitely some issues that only affect graduate students and there’s issues that only affect undergraduates. I don’t think there’s ever going to be a time when the sovereignty of GPSS is going to be questioned. The more voices that is saying something, the stronger that is.

Haley: Like Jeff said, graduate students and undergraduate students have a lot of the same problems like student debt. It’s a lot of issues also. You guys have different tuition models and financial aid systems so it’s difficult to work together on all issues so I think the sovereignty of GPSS will stay of how different the two groups are.

KK: As i mentioned before, I had the great opportunity to plan Lobby Day and execute it working with GPSS. Answering Chris’s questions, this is one the events that we all come together as graduates and undergraduates but at the same time, we get to lobby on our own legislative agenda. We work on our agenda and GPSS works on their agenda but at the same time, we come together and go to Olympia together but then being able to talk about your own issues. In addition to that, the poster sessions during Lobby Day, I find that both graduate and undergraduates gets to put forward their and stand for who they are as undergrad or graduates.

Varsha: Hi, so once again I’m Varsha Govindaraju and to answer your question, I would approach it the same way I approach it in my work in diversity. You have to ask the community what they need. At ASUW, we definitely want to incorporate your unique needs in the way we from our policies and there’s a way to do that and be mindful of the communities we’re serving and understand the diversity with graduate students as well as undergraduate students. Starting that conversation early in the year and what is your ideal situation? How can we make that happen? How much help do you want? I think having an open and upfront conversation about that is the best way for this situation.

Genesis: Can the two that just walked in introduce themselves?
Jack Bernatovicz: So my name is Jack Bernatovicz and I’m running for Vice President. Sorry for being late. I just came from a meeting with UW Leaders.

Chelsea Ayers: Hello everyone. My name is Chelsea Ayers and I’m with Ignite UW. Similar story, I’m the director of UW Leaders so I apologize for my tardiness.

Austin: One of the things with working with the graduate and professional students is being able to learn more about the graduate population faces. It’s been very humbling for me and I would suspect that if anyone had the opportunity to work with them, it would be humbling for them as well. At the same time, what I’ve been able to learn is that they are very distinct communities and obviously there are a lot of integration between the two while we also see a lot of necessity. With the issue of tuition, it’s dealt with by the university but its dealt in very different ways if you’re an undergraduate or a graduate. We respect the lobbying efforts of each individual party while offering our assistance to them to better supplement each other.

Alice: My questions is for the presidential hopefuls. I have a personal interest in this question. How do you see your role of president as ASUW functioning with GPSS? I know there are a lot of times with events where both presidents are together. What is your main priorities and how do you see that fitting in with the GPSS president?

Christina: I would sit down with the GPSS president and together we would work out a shared plan of action in terms of how the year would go and when we sit down and both outline our priorities, we can work together while representing the distinct needs on campus. One of my biggest priorities for next year is something that weighs heavily on me. This campus has a lot of amazing opportunities available and there’s more than enough to engage with but not every student has equal access to engage to those things and I could imagine similar things at the graduate level. Everyone is coming from different backgrounds and different levels of privilege and different levels of abilities to offer. So anything that I would do next year would be informed by that to addressing the inequalities on our campus and I hope that the GPSS President would value that as well.

Jeffrey: So as the prime Director of University Affairs for ASUW, I’ve been able to see a lot with the relationship between Michael Kutz and Chris Lizotte. I think it’s been really cool to see both leaders working so closely. I get to sit on the four corner meetings that Austin was talking about and it’s really cool to see two leaders really working in tandem. There’s so many meetings where they’re working together on the Board of Regents where those two people need to be if not perfectly in sync, at least knowledgable on what’s going on and making sure that everything is put out into the space where there aren’t schemes going in between student governments because the more divided we are, the weaker we are in the fights we’re involved in. If we can work together and we won’t always be exactly on the same page but having a mutual respect and trust that each leader is doing the right thing for their students. I think that shared responsibility is what really makes both ASUW and GPSS effective on campus separately and together.
Ted Chen (Bioengineering): As well as being involved with student government, a lot of us are involved in a lot of other stuff. So for ASUW, a lot of the senate seats are filled of RSOs and for GPSS, we don’t get that chance. How do you address those RSOs that are usually made up of graduate students?

Sean: Thank you for that question. Amber is actually the liaison for GPSS. Community relations doesn’t play a huge role with GPSS which is a huge bummer. One thing that community relations does is work with RSOs. We have really good standing in terms of sitting on boards. All the major community boards and the big RSO boards, community relations is involved with that. We don’t much of now is reaching out to our individual RSO leaders and as a former RSO leader, that’s something I’m really bummed about. Most RSOs have their own autonomous executive boards. As Director of Community Relations, I would really like to work with interfacing directly with groups and working on strategies in that way.

KK: So as Director of Programming, I would be chair of the Special Appropriations Committee. This committee is to allow RSOs on campus to come in for funds that would help fund their events. I would just like to, if I were elected, I want this to be well known to the graduate student RSOs that are representing the graduate students to be allowed to come in and ask for these funds and be put on programs that are inclusive of all students on campus. So putting the word out there to graduate student RSOs. there’s the Special Appropriations committee and you’re more than welcome to come in and put on programs and that are inclusive of all students on campus.

Emmeline: So I have two responses. The first does cover some of what KK is saying in terms of increasing marketing and insuring that RSOs of the graduate level are aware of the different resources of ASUW. They should have an equal opportunity to be involved with all the opportunities at ASUW just as any RSO should have. The second part is that you mentioned some sort of mentorship program. I can say that there has been mentorship programs implemented from above of alumni or typically graduate students. I can tell you from a first hand experience that it’s been beneficial. Really finding a way to incorporate both RSOs and undergraduate the opportunity to engage in the program and resources available at UW but also making sure that we’re making a conscious effort and putting in a plan.

Tyler: I want to add on to what Emmeline had said. This year, we started the Husky Leadership Retreat which is a retreat that incorporates RSO leaders. So I think that would be a great avenue to open that up not only inviting graduate students to come but making it accessible for graduate students as well. Working at the Commuter Commons, I realized that a lot of the commuter students are graduate students so being able to program these events for commuter students in the daytime so you guys can be on campus and not having to drive back later in the evening. So having this Husky Leadership Retreat where you can learn about the different RSOs on campus and increasing that collaboration between RSOs and ASUW.
Amber: I just want to reiterate that there was a great point made that ASUW Senate has a lot of RSOs involved and ASUW is a great crossroad of a lot of ideas and opinions and backgrounds and passion for involvement. I would encourage a variety of graduate students or really anyone to come and join the senate and be exposed to the variety of interests and passions that people hold and I think it would be a great way to be more involved with RSOs and have your ideas heard and distributed around campus.

Dawn: It says that the Vice President is head of COO position of budget and we’re coming up with some budget cuts so what will you be cutting if your budget gets this next year?

Jack: So as COO of ASUW, I would be working with the budget but I’m not solely in charge of that. I’ll be collaborating with our Director of finance and budget who is the CFO of the association and working with them to make sure we’re being fiscally responsible throughout the year, making sure that we’re using student knowledge. One of the things I want to do with this is what big topic that is our responsibility is our enterprise and services. They offer the experimental college and the bike shop. I really want to create an enterprise for that group. It’s an opportunity for those student leaders to come together to talk about fiscally responsible and saving student dollars and we will be outreaching to every student including graduate students. Another point I want to get across was as COO in the past, the Vice President is a liaison in Housing Affairs. This past summer, I was the office assistant to OCHA and my major audience was graduate students. We’re talking about figuring out where they’d be living but the OCHA services were not accessible to everybody because they were more commuter distance and with that position, I would continue summer office hours as well as work on the Husky handbook.

Chelsea: Once again, I apologize for being here so late in the afternoon. I think in response to this question, the first thing that comes to mind is opening more channels of communication. I think our students have a lot to say and have a lot of inspirational wisdom regarding our budget. I think we need to work more with GPSS to open these channels of communication. It’s important that we have a stronger variety of students sitting on different committees and learning and getting involved in the process from the ground up. When things happen and when financial situation arise, the student voice is really integrated from all parts of campus, be it graduate programs or undergrad. For example, we need to see more students from a variety of different places and situations sitting on our committee. I was part of the Judicial committee my freshman year and we had one amazing graduate student and I loved her. She really brought a wealth of real world experience that especially undergraduates don’t have as much of. She really helped us to see the situation in a more holistic manner and I really appreciated her feedback and responses. So I think if we open the channel of communication and really outreached to grad students specifically, we can really enhance our reach in terms of what our budget looks like.

Genesis: I want to thank Husky Vision and Ignite UW for coming and talking to us about your platforms. Thank you all so much.
Chris L: So we’re waiting for the results to come back but while we’re doing that, I think we can do some announcements.

Colin: We still have $2500 in departmental funding. So for those of you who want money for your department to get pinball machines, scanners, retreats, whatever. We don’t want to give this away to RSOs. They already got their money this year. We’re looking at you so that means you have to apply so come to the GPSS website. That part works very well. We hardly ever say no. We love giving money away.

Elisa: On that same note, diversity still have some funding left. If your department has a diversity committee or know of a friend's department that has a diversity committee and they want some funding for events, we’re one of the only organizations giving to that cause still. So apply. That part of the website also works.

Maggie Hughes (Public Health - Environmental and Occupational): This Friday is UW Memorial Day. It’ll be in Odegaard 220 from 11:30am-1pm. We have a great keynote speakers from UW United Students Against Sweatshops and the Washington state labor council on ways we can reduce death on the job.

Genesis: There was a yellow sign up sheet that’s going around for the spring social. I really hope you guys signed up. We would love your help. And it’s going to be on May 2nd.

Dawn: The working group that we formed where we talked about forming last time on unpaid internships just had their initial meetings on that and we actually have things done that they can move on next year. If you’re interested in working with that, you can sign up in the back.

Elisa: I’ve extended the GPA of the year award applications. I’ve been getting some but I’d like to see more so if you were thinking about writing one for your GPA, please do so. I think Chris is going to sending out an all-student email to get the word out. The deadline is extended to May 10th.

Alex: The senate working group have been working on something that should be sent out hopefully tonight or tomorrow.

Evan: I love how everyone participates in the announcements. Let’s keep this up.

Jessica Lepack (Guest): We’re having our 14th annual Research Symposium on May 2nd at 9:30 in the HUB. There’ll be presentations on different issues that relate to Native American tribes.

Chris L: Any other announcements? I’ll just say while we’re waiting for the results, we were kind of chatting behind the scenes. It’s bittersweet to hear the candidates and feeling like that sounds like such a great idea. I wish I had the time and energy to do. It’s a really exciting time but a
bittersweet time and in a few minutes we will learn who your new leadership is. I do want to emphasize that the rest of the school year, your current leadership is myself, Genesis, Elisa and Chris. We’re still working hard on your behalf and at the same time we’re really excited to get the new leadership up and running. Here is the results!

Seyda: So we have the results. Our new Treasurer is Douglass Taber. Our new Secretary is Natalie Gordon. Our new Vice President is Alex Bolton. Our new President is Alice Popejoy. All of the three officer positions were extremely close and that’s why it took so long. If anyone what to challenge the results, you have 48 hours to contact me.

Chris L: Congratulations for everyone that ran. It takes a lot of dedication and courage to run. Congratulations to our coming leadership. Thank you all for voting. It’s really good and heartening to hear that they were all close elections. With that I’ll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Colin: So moved.

Maggie: Second.

Chris L: Any objections?