GPSS Senate Minutes  
March 4th, 2009  
Approved April 8, 2009

Quorum Present

1. Call to Order  
Jake Faleschini (President) called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM

2. Approval of the Agenda  
Dave Iseminger (Vice President) moved to amend the agenda and add 5.5 Legislative Agenda authority edition. For two minutes  
Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded  
None opposed. Agenda amended

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) moved to amend the agenda to include a one minute SPB report after Mark Emmert as item 4.5.  
Shawn Mincer (Social Work) seconded.  
None opposed. Agenda amended.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) moved to approve the agenda as amended.  
Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) seconded.  
None opposed. Agenda approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes  
Yutaka Jono (Secretary) offered a point of information. We have two sets of minutes to approve -- from the Elections emergency meeting and from the last meeting.

Jake Faleschini (President) entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the emergency elections meeting.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) moved. Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded.

Motion passed. All in favor.

Jake Faleschini (President) entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the last Senate meeting.

Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) moved. Brad Osborn (Music) seconded.
Motion passed. All in favor.

4. President Emmert

President Emmert said that he would like to spend fifteen minutes answering our questions. He gave a quick update about the state of the economy and its impact on the UW. He said that the budget works on a biennial basis, and that the Legislature is trying to decide what our budget will be for the next two fiscal years. We had budget shortfalls for the current year, as some revenue didn’t materialize because of the deteriorating economy. We had to absorb a 9% base cut during the current year. We had enough cash reserves to take a 4.5% budget cut and roll the rest of that forward. The governor came out with a budget in December based on the best guesses for what the revenue for the state will be for the next two years. In December, the guess was that we would be $6 billion short for the next two years for revenues for a current services budget. A week ago, the new revenue estimates show an $8 billion hole because the economy continues to go down. They will have the final revenue estimation on March 19th. The Legislature will use this to balance the budget. Most people think this will be around $8 billion, but it could be $8.5 billion. The Legislature has to either cut revenues or raise taxes to fill the hole. It is not a constitutional requirement that they balance the budget, but it is something they always do. They may pass two budgets – one with new tax revenue and one without new tax revenue. This would go to a vote of the people, and the people would have to approve those new taxes. They would probably encourage a vote sometime during the summer. We will get into the spring, maybe into the summer, before we know what the budget on July 1 will look like. The governor’s budget cut 13% of state revenue for our budget. The Senate asked the UW to model 20% cuts and how we would manage that. At that time, the guess was that we would have to shrink our total employment base by 6-800 positions across the university because 85% of our money is spent on people. At the 600 position reduction level, we would take 400 positions out of administrative costs and support structures and another 200 out of other instructional areas. Something like 2/3 of our budget goes to instructional areas. We would overcut in the non-academic areas and undercut in the academic areas. We would try and deal with that by eliminating empty positions rather than laying people off. On Monday, the administration eliminated 70 positions from marketing, alumni relations and development. Of those 70, 36 were filled. On Monday, 36 people lost their jobs. We took 16 positions and converted them into half-time positions. People still have their jobs, but it’s half the job it was. We don’t get as much sympathy around this as we’d like, because so many companies are laying off very large numbers of people. We’re trying hard to minimize our impact on our people. If we have to absorb cuts of that magnitude, we will also take fewer students to not damage the educational experience of the students that are here. In our estimate, we said that we’d shrink the overall enrollment between 800 and 2000 students. This comes at a very unfortunate time because right now the applications for the UW are at an all-time high for this incoming freshman class. We have 21,000 applicants for around 5000 freshman seats. That’s the largest applicant groups we’ve ever seen. It’s tragic that we find ourselves having to take budget cuts just as demand for higher education is peaking. Right now, we should be investing in higher education to drive the economy forward. We also worry about time to degree. We’ve spent a lot of time, energy and money making
sure that students, especially undergraduates, can get through the university in a timely fashion. The time to degree for undergrads is down to 4.4 years. Our estimate is that the cuts will move the time to degree from 4.75 to 5 years because of lack of classes in a timely fashion in the sequences that students need them in, as well as reductions in advising and tutorial staff. Teaching assistants are considered instructional staff, but the bad news is that the offerings of teaching assistantships and graduate student support is one of the few areas in which department heads have flexibility. In making offers going forward into the coming year, all of the departments are being very conservative in what they’re offering for the next year and who they’re offering it to. Departments are letting in fewer students. Department heads will all be conservative until we know what we have on our hands going forward.

Jake Faleschini (President) read one of the submitted questions. Will the UW take steps to put holds on capital projects?

President Emmert said that capital projects at the UW are funded in a variety of ways. There are two pools in the state budget – operating funds and capital budget. The state capital budget for higher education will likely be very modest this year. They will probably move some capital money over to operating money. There are people who don’t like that because building buildings is a great way to stimulate the economy. President Emmert supports the latter view, but there’s not going to be state money to do that. The projects mentioned in the question are funded by auxiliary funds. The HUB renovation is funded by student fees. We are taxing ourselves via student fees to pay for the renovation of this building. The HUB renovation is a project that students want to do, and the administration is likely to support this. The proposal was brought about a year ago for the HUB renovation, and President Emmert initially said no because the project was too expensive. The project is now a $120 million project with $80 million in student fee money. The Boat Street Marina project was finished a while ago. We have continuing construction that consists of already funded existing projects. We may begin some new residential construction by Terry/Lander hall. These are auxiliary dollars from self-funded projects. We are not using any operating money for any capital construction that we can possibly avoid.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that we will have a presentation on the HUB next month.

Beth Curry (Oceanography) asked about the College of the Environment and how this is coming along. She wanted to know if students could have a more active role in this, and that there doesn’t seem to be a vision statement for interdisciplinary work.

President Emmert said that for 1.5 years, we have been working with faculty leaders to consolidate academic programs across the UW into a College for the Environment. This is a restructuring and reorganization of existing units. Already, we have around 400 faculty who work in fields associated with the environment, and many of those individuals are the absolute leaders in their fields nationally and internationally. We have never been able to have the sum of the parts add up to something whole. This is an
attempt to provide first of all a consolidation of that brainpower to allow ourselves to do something that we wouldn’t be able to otherwise. It includes the provision of new academic programs across those fields. Students are hugely interested in this. Interdisciplinary research projects are likely to be well-supported going forward. A year ago, we had hoped to get state support, but this won’t happen. Right now, we have been slower in deliberating about how to put this together while dealing with budgetary challenges right now. Going forward, we will be starting to address those issues. The conversation about what the college will become and how it will be shaped and how it will deal with interdisciplinary questions will be taking place starting probably next quarter. This will be an elaborate formal process and will probably last through much of next year. He encouraged those contemplating whether or not to be part of this to talk to their department heads to offer views and ideas directly.

President Emmert said he was willing to come back to speak with GPSS when we have more clarity after budget challenges.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that President gave a town hall to the UW campus, and said he would do two to three more this year.

President Emmert said that they taped it, and access to that is online.

4.5 Student Publications Board meeting report

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that at the last meeting, we moved for a vote of censure through the SPB board on Sarah Jeglum. Three GPSS representatives were present along with our SPB representative Tanvi. The reps raised issues discussed by our letters to the editor. The SPB went into caucus, and two representatives spoke. One spoke against censure, citing First Amendment issues. The Faculty representative spoke for censure based on harm done to campus. The vote failed by 2-5, and Yutaka thought that it was significant that the faculty also wanted censure. In the discussion, Sarah was asked why she didn’t apologize. Her answer was that this was because GPSS threatened to fire her otherwise, and that this became a matter of political pressure. Now, there’s no pressure. So why doesn’t she apologize now?

Lindsay Morse (Classics) added that she and Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Science) were at the meeting. Sarah approached them and said that she was interested in getting more graduate student involvement in The Daily. She mentioned that they are going to have a blog on their website, and they would like a grad student to write this.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that a number of people commented to him afterwards that our GPSS representatives did a good job expressing the views of the student body. He said that it was telling that the person who voted with us was the faculty member, who is a professor of communications.

5. Committee Formation

Jake Faleschini (President) said that we formed five ad hoc committees two months ago, but didn’t approve them. He entertained a motion to approve the committees.
Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) moved. 
Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) seconded. 
Motion passed. No objections or abstentions.

5.5 Legislative Agenda

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that there is a bill he really wants to talk about. The bill involves student wellness and safety. He said that there is a bill that would not ensure adequate and safe rental housing for students. He wanted language expressly stating the opposite. The second thing officially codifies that we support faculty representation on the Board of Regents as long as safeguards exist with regards to conflicts of interest.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) asked if the first is the bill giving authority to the landlords to inspect housing.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that this bill would eliminate local governments’ ability to mandate third party inspections and pass on fees from those inspections to landlords themselves. The fee could get paid by the tenant or by the city. It would prohibit local governments from passing on that fee to landlords. The fee prevents outside inspections of the residencies that we’re renting. It takes away tenants rights from that standpoint.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) moved to create language stating that GPSS supports adequate and safe rental housing for students. 
Noah Benson (GLBTQ) seconded.

Jake Faleschini (President) relinquished his chairship to Dave Iseminger (Vice President) and offered an amendment. He wanted GPSS support for legislative initiatives to create a Center for Human Rights at the UW.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) and Noah Benson (GLBTQ) accepted these as friendly amendments.

This was approved by consensus, as Yutaka Jono (Secretary) pointed out that we couldn’t accept friendly amendments on this.

Motion passed with one abstention. None opposed. Approved by majority vote.

6. Resolution 7.08-09

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) read the resolution. It is in support of student photo class lists.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) entertained a motion to suspend reading of the resolution.

Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) moved. Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) seconded.
Anna Batie (Jackson School REECAS) asked if students can opt out of the list.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that no, they cannot. The secure information is already available. Adding their picture would not add a significant risk, considering that it’s only being given to the teaching faculty and to the teaching assistants. If they’ve been abused by a faculty member they’re entering into a class with, than we have an issue. Only TAs and professors would have access to this information.

Scott MacKenzie (Neurobiology and Behavior) mentioned that the resolution doesn’t say that the list goes to the TAs. He asked if we could make an amendment.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that it was in the fourth “Whereas” clause.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that TAs are considered teaching faculty.

Stefan Kamola (History) wanted to propose to move the sentence from lines 27-29 to the bottom of the actual resolution.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) seconded the motion to move this sentence.

Jessica Yellin (CIDR) said that there are variations in which faculty comply with the confidentiality of this. Some faculty have not complied with other things involving confidentiality, including leaving class lists outside the door.

Stefan Kamola (History) offered a point of order. What faculty do with the class lists is outside our jurisdiction.

Scott MacKenzie (Neurobiology and Behavior) said that class lists wouldn’t go up on bulletin boards.

Shawn Mineer (Social Work) had concerns about how this information would be disseminated.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) offered a point of information. This would go on the MyUW page.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) offered another point of information. Photo class lists could be downloaded from the MyUW page.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) offered another point of information. This resolution would support confidentiality of this.

Jake Faleschini (President) called the question. Three abstentions. Motion passed to amend the resolution.
Mark Frymoyer (Civil and Environmental Engineering) said that his department has building class lists. He wanted to know how many departments had this. How would this differ from a department class list?

Jake Faleschini (President) said that the difference was that it would be available from MyUW. Many departments are doing this on their own. This would be available to professors and TAs actually teaching the classes.

Jake Faleschini (President) called the vote.
Motion passed with two opposed and two abstentions.

7. SHIP Plus Presentation
Jake Faleschini (President) said that we have been working hard over the last year to create a new health insurance plan for graduate students, because we didn’t feel that the current health insurance plan had enough coverage for graduate and professional students, especially for older students with families. He introduced Matt, our representative on the student health insurance committee, and Ping, Jake’s counselor on health issues. She has helped with big picture on health care at the UW. We did a survey last year asking the student body what they needed. Grads said that we need better health care options, and are willing to pay a little more for this. SHIP Plus will be a second option for better health care. It is 15% richer than the current plan. We successfully negotiated the plan.

Mara takes over minutes at 5:23

Ching-Ping Liu went over the slides/handout of the different plans being considered. She said they ended up going with the original SHIP plan and the moderately high plan. She went over the big differences between the current SHIP plan and the new SHIP plus plan. She said right now when you go to Hall Health on the SHIP plan, you get 80% coverage and in the new plan you will get 90% coverage, and the maximum copay has been dropped.

Anna back at 5:26

Ching-Ping Liu said that mental health will be treated like any other medical issue. We would have mental health parity with SHIP Plus.

Ching-Ping Liu gave the cost breakdown between SHIP and SHIP Plus. When you enroll for Autumn 2009, this will be available as an option. One of the big changes is that the insurance carriers are afraid that students would opt in and opt out. To avoid opting in and opting out, if students enroll in the higher plan, they have to enroll for the whole year. If you start spring quarter, you can enroll then. You can leave and come back if your eligibility changes.

Matt Erickson said that GPSS needs to market this program in order for it to be successful. We have a voluntary self-enrollment system with regards to health insurance.
for students. We cannot require students to carry health insurance, and that lowers our pool of insurees. With a lower pool of applicants, the rates remain higher because the risk is more volatile. We’re trying to develop a marketing scheme to have student input. He requested GPSS help in getting the word out about this, because we have to sell this to make it work.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) asked if we’re supposed to forward the draft version.

**Ching-Ping Liu** said that no, we can’t, as the draft version has to go by the providers.

**Matt Erickson** said that the marketing brochures will be available on May 1. They will drop off materials and coordinate from there. Matt said that we’re going for a two-tier plan because of the survey about what students wanted from their health insurance. Students wanted lower cost and higher benefits. Originally, they were trying to go for a three-tier plan. The insurance company was cautious with negotiations, and we had to bargain with them to get a two-tier plan. This addresses student concerns about affordability, broad benefit scope and coverage. It gives students a choice for either a more economical version of health insurance or better coverage. It will be in the registration process where students will opt in to this. They have to choose one or the other before they choose their classes. But this process has had problems in the past.

**Anna Batie** (Jackson School – REECAS) asked about students with the GAIP plan. Could those students opt in and opt out?

**Ching-Ping Liu** said that this would be considered a change in eligibility. Students could opt in and opt out.

**Stephen Young** (Geography) said that having marketing to make it viable confuses him. Wouldn’t this also do something to risk parameters for people in SHIP? He wondered about the benefits for this.

**Matt Erickson** didn’t want to get too far into specifics. Both SHIP and SHIP Plus are underwritten by the same provider. However, if there are too many enrolling in SHIP Plus and too few enrolling in SHIP, that will cause the people in SHIP to subsidize the people in SHIP Plus. The group is trying to address that by getting the balance between populations for each group.

**Ching-Ping Liu** said that this may not be viable down the road if the marketing plans don’t succeed and it becomes a subsidy issue. This isn’t ethical. It is important to encourage people to opt into the higher plan to balance it out. It is a struggle to create a consistent pool.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) said that if people respond with money in a similar manner to how they responded in the survey, it should be fine. It will work out fine if people buy what they say they want. Marketing in this case is giving people information about this new health care option.
**Matt Erickson** said that we have to worry about getting enough people in this plan. If we don’t get enough people in this plan, the insurance company is going to cut it. It may take a year or two to see how things balance and to see what students really want.

**Ching-Ping Liu** said that students aren’t very well-informed about their health care. This is part of a bigger picture to educate students about their own health care.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) cut off the discussion in the interests of time. Ping and Matt will be back in April and May to discuss this.

**Ching-Ping Liu** asked students to email her and Matt with suggestions and questions about the SHIP Plus program.

8. Elections Packet Approval

**Trond Nilsen** (Industrial Engineering) presented the Elections Packet. He ran over some of the highlights. There are a couple of items in the packet that are incomplete. He ran through the key dates. If you’re planning on being nominated through the GPSS website, materials need to be received by Monday May 4th. This deadline is 1.5 weeks before the actual election. If you wish to challenge the neutrality of the independent witnesses, that needs to be done by Monday, May 11th. The elections will take place on Wednesday, May 13th. Challenges to the elections can be lodged by Friday, May 15th, 5:30 PM. He mentioned that the third witness has yet to be appointed. The Student Activities Office will be getting back to us with a third person. He mentioned that one person dropped out from the Elections Committee, and that they could use another person.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) asked for one more person.

**Mark Frymoyer** (Civil and Environmental Engineering) volunteered.

**Trond Nilsen** (Industrial Engineering) said that there has been a question raised regarding whether or not a candidate can have a TA position during their term. Currently, the elections guide says that officers cannot hold another RA/TA position. This is a case of the bylaws being precise but slightly missing the point of what was intended. People who are GPSS officers should not hold TA positions during the school year, but the intent of the bylaw isn’t to preclude people from working over the summer. This will be referred to the Judicial Committee. Trond wants to allow people who can receive a summer TA position to still run for election with the proviso that the person would be ineligible for the position if the Judicial Committee rules on this.

**Nick Nasrallah** (Psychology) clarified that this didn’t preclude someone from running if they have a TA position.

**Brad Osborn** (Music) said that he would like the Judicial Committee to rule on this before it actually happened because of a potential conflict of interest.
Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) agreed.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) raised a point of information. He said that he has been asked to recuse himself from this discussion, as he is an officer.

Mark Frymoyer (Civil and Environmental Engineering) asked what the procedure is to replace someone if someone quits the position.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) said that the current officers must hold another election for the open position. He encouraged people interested in running for office to read through the elections packet.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) moved to approve the elections packet.
Jason Herrington (Museology) seconded.
Motion passed with none opposed. Two abstentions.

9. GPSS 09-10 Budget
Jake Faleschini (President) said that one issue is a fairly substantive change, but we have managed to decrease our overall cost for the year.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) presented the budget. He said that there are two current versions of the budget on the table. One was approved by the Executive Committee, which was later amended by the Finance and Budget Committee on Friday. Since the Executive Committee couldn’t meet, Tim is presenting both. The Executive Committee version does not have anything allocated for the Guide to Life; the F&B version does. He wanted to focus on the F&B version of the budget.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) pointed out that Guide to Life sales are highlighted at $30,000. He said that there’s a big change to the Guide for this year.

Jake Faleschini (President) discussed the partnership with Not For Tourists on the Guide to Life. We’re going to create a NFT UW student edition that will be Husky Purple. It will be their current Seattle guide plus all of our GTL information. We think that ASUW is going to do this with us. It looks like the bookstore will buy 2000 copies from us, and we are going to sell some to ASUW to sell off. We will be trying to sell 500-100 ourselves. They are going to cost $10 per copy as opposed to $4, but it will be a much better product. The NFT Seattle edition retails for $20. They’re considering putting some money back into student resources off of each copy that is sold. We need it in the budget so it can happen. If it doesn’t happen, the money will revert back to the general fund. This looks like this is going to be a very promising relationship.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that there’s a sample of the NFT on the back table.

Scott MacKenzie (Neurobiology and Behavior) asked when this would be published.
Jake Faleschini (President) said that this would be published for the 09-10 school year. He said that the committee has been working on reforming the GTL, and is jumping into making the partnership happen. We would sell the editions in September.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) noted that the initial printing would have to be covered from this year’s General Fund, which has to be approved by the Senate later. He noted that travel expenses have changed in the Vice President’s fund, as this next year is supposed to be a short session.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) explained the changes to lobbying activities. He wants wiggle room to subsidize transportation for students who testify. There needs to be a small amount of money for students to do that.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) pointed out the Guide to Life line item as the difference between the Exec version and the F&B version, as we forgot to allocate funds to print it for the 2011 fiscal year. This was corrected in F&B.

Jake Faleschini (President) noted that we break even because the sales are the exact same cost as the price.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) highlighted the salary increases and tuition waivers. There has been a 2% salary increase per year for officers. The tuition increase is based off of this year’s tuition. This is the only thing we have to go off of right now. Under Yutaka’s suggestion, the summer web developer would not need to work as many hours since the major construction of the website has been completed. The wage for that position has been increased to better fit the market for webmasters. The employment and stipend benefits are based off of the current rates for this year.

Phuong Nguyen (ASUW) noted that last year GPSS supported OCHA – Off Campus Housing Affairs – under the ASUW budget. ASUW pays most of the operating costs. There is a plan to keep OCHA open throughout the year. 30-40% of the students who come to the office are grads who come during the summer. There have been talks of keeping it open throughout the summer. She entertained a motion to add it back into the budget.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that we’d have to do this later.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) offered a point of information. He wanted to know how much would go to this.

Phuong Nguyen (ASUW) said $3000.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) said that, pending suggestions to the internal review committee, we may need to add an officer position. He asked how to deal with this.
Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that he thought it would be too late to do this for this year, but that we could do it the following year. A staff position might be doable.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that this would come back to senate. And then go through SAF.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that this would go to SAF.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) said that the funding applications to SAF are due by the end of this month, which is why we need to pass the budget today.

Elef Kirkinis (Applied Mathematics) asked how much we expect back as revenue for the Guide to Life.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that it would be exactly the same, as the Guide is sold at cost. In the future we could make money off of it if it becomes very popular. Right now, we figured we’d get it out there and sell it at costs. If demand increases, we could make money off of it.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that this would be a service for grad students.

Shawn Mineer (Social Work) wanted a history of the background of the travel grant supplement.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) said he wasn’t here when the transfer was made. There’s talk that travel grants will have to be suspended for next year because right now, as it is, we have a bunch of state budget numbers that have been frozen, and we cannot supply travel grant funds from those budgets. This makes the process for travel grants a little more difficult. There’s talk that the rest may be cut off as well. If we see the need for more travel grant funding from our general fund, we can visit that later and move to move funding from the general fund to the travel grants fund. This would be a mid-year allocation by the senate.

Shawn Mineer (Social Work) wants to revisit this when the budget shows what we actually have.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that the governor froze all funding on travel. And it is at issue whether or not our funds are a part of that. We’re trying to work through whether or not student fees are a part of that freeze.

Phuong Nguyen (ASUW) moved to put $3000 into the budget under the head of OCHA support.

Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) asked why this money was removed.
Tim Hulet (Treasurer) said that it was just a way to lower expenses.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said he was at the meeting where this happened. We had a presentation by members of OCHA. They wanted more solid numbers as to what graduate students were using the organization. There wasn’t justification for this by grad student members.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that the ASUW rep was not present at the meeting at which OCHA was presented.

Phuong Nguyen (ASUW) said that OCHA is off campus housing. They redid their website, and ASUW paid to have this done. It provides a listing of apartments, anything available around the U District, Wallingford, Greenlake. The office helps students find housing and subletters. It is run by students and is a good resource for those who are trying to find housing. The director reported to Phuong that 30% of the students who come into the office to talk to them are graduate students. There is an increase for students over the summer.

Elif Kirkinis (Applied Mathematics) asked if this was SHA.

Phuong Nguyen (ASUW) said that yes, it is. It is in the HUB on the ground floor.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that as the ASUW Board member, he felt that this was a good enterprise to help grad students.

Jake Faleschini (President) called the question.
Motion passed to reinsert $3000 into the budget for ASUW. Two abstentions.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) explained the reason for dropping the General Fund. SAF has asked us to use the General Fund more because we have built it up so much. There’s no need to have a general fund that is 2/3 the size of our budget.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) moved to approve the budget.
Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) seconded.
Motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

10. Legislative Update
Dave Iseminger (Vice President) handed out two charts -- bills that are alive and bills that are dead. He highlighted the tuition policy bills. It’s not over yet. There are still a lot of technical procedures that need to be done for it to pass on the floor of the senate and the house. Reauthorization of the Board of Regents would happen with no restrictions other than revisiting this in the future. There is still discussion of capping tuition increases for resident students. There will be a vote. It will be close. A bill promoting Primary Care students in the med school would shift costs onto specialty students. The sponsoring senator backed down and made it a loan forgiveness program. HB 2118 is a work group to talk about state tuition policy. They expanded the committee to address
looking at graduate student policies and added a grad student member to be selected as part of that board. He is getting credit for breaking the biggest barrier to hate crimes legislation. The textbook bill is scheduled for a fuller vote to mandate course materials four weeks prior to classes starting so we can get our books cheaper.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) offered a point of information. He wanted to know if we needed to offer a position on the UW North.

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) said that the bill that didn’t die creates a campus in Snohomish County. It is scheduled for a floor vote in the senate. The House killed a similar bill. He might come back asking for insight, but right now, we don’t have a position on it. It’s not a UW North, but it is kind of related.

**Dana Little** (Law) asked if this was the Everett campus.

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) explained the proposals for the campuses. He said that he is still learning about where this bill is going on the creation of a college.

**Shawn Mincer** (Social Work) asked if we have a position on the expansion of domestic partnership benefits in the state.

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) said that our position has been restricted to how it affects UW employees. We have not taken a broad social standpoint on domestic partnerships.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) said that he has heard from many people that if it weren’t for Dave’s testimony, the hate crimes legislation would not have made it out of committee. We’re starting to feel like we’re getting more traction on capping tuition for graduate and professional students.

11. Emergency Management Discussion

**Sarah McLean** from the Emergency Management Department explained that her department is very small. She gave some background on the department. She is doing outreach to faculty staff and students. The student population has been difficult to reach. They are working with residence halls and Greek system students. She wants students to help the department develop outreach and areas to talk with students. She discussed the Seattle fault. If it ruptures and we are on campus, we will be stuck here. Seattle could be turned into an island by a large earthquake. There are things we can do to get better prepared for an emergency. Their office does education, but also mitigation issues. She manages federal grant money. She mentioned some of the projects going on around campus to secure shelving and make sure that things that can’t be replaced are taken care of. The Restore the Core project is part of this. She asked us to pass on information about UW Alert. It’s a way of mass notification if something major has happened. Her department also manages the blue phones on campus. She asked for our help to spread the message about being better prepared.
Scott MacKenzie (Neurobiology and Behavior) asked about incidences on campus after which the UW sent out notices to parents of graduate students. He asked if their office took care of this.

Sarah McLean responded that this could be something safety related coming out of UWPD. They’re working on bringing everybody together so they are presenting one message and working as a unified team on campus.

Mark Frymoyer (Civil and Environmental Engineering) asked if the department goes after funding for Emergency Management.

Sarah McLean said that as a state institution, the UW is part of the State of Washington’s mitigation plan. In order for us to apply for federal funding, there has to be a plan in place. The State of Washington and the UW have a comprehensive plan that also covers Pack Forest and the branch campuses.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) asked what GPSS senators should do. He suggested that senators approach the deans and chairs and talk to them about what their department does. Last year, Social Work bought everyone in the building an emergency kit.

Sarah McLean suggested that this was a good idea. There’s a mobile population of students that don’t have this. Their office is working on projects involving emergency supplies. In the next month, she hopes that there will be a “Husky To GO” kit that will be a sling pack with a 72 hour emergency kit that will be $35 or so that will have all of the items in it. They’re also looking at a plastic pouch – a 24 hour pouch. This would be the basics that students can carry in a backpack. Go back to departments to talk about what are we doing as departments. Discuss windstorms and snowstorms – how to communicate with your family and find out about info on campus. They’re trying to develop a Facebook site.

12. Announcements

Jake Faleschini (President) said that we will try to keep the senate meetings to 1.5 hours.

Shannon Marsh (Public Affairs) announced that at the April 8th meeting she will be discussing what the UW can do to help homelessness. We’re looking at the possibility of hosting Tent City 3 on campus. She asked us to ask our constituents about this. There is a survey going around to get student input.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that we need nominations for the GPA of the year award. We get to nominate who gets the award. FIUTS/GPSS happy hour is tomorrow. There will be a FIUTS fundraiser and a charity concert featuring local bands afterwards. GPSS will be partnering with ASUW for a spring event at the end of the year. He asked that suggestions for bands or performers to be emailed to Tim. If you would like to ask your department what it is doing to cut their budget and face this economic crisis, that would
be greatly appreciated. Collect the info and email Yutaka and Jake to see what our options are.

Jake Faleschini (President) announced a tax info event for graduate students.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that we are trying to track what’s going on to have the right info for the media and the administration in order to keep the administration honest throughout this whole process. He asked senators interested in helping to email Doug McManaway.

13. Adjourn
Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) moved.
Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.