GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes  
April 8th 2009  
Approved April 29, 2009

4. HUB Project Update  
Renee Singleton (Student Activities Office) presented on the HUB project. She introduced Paul Zuchowski, the Associate Director of Student Union Facilities. She gave us a history lesson on the student union movement. The student union movement started in the 1800s in Oxford, England. The UW didn’t get a student union until the mid-1930s and early 1940s. Students wanted to have a place for students to gather and have debates. They started raising funds, and raised funds for the HUB on their own. They used student fees and institutional support to build the first HUB. In the 1950s, they voted a second time to increase their fees, start raising funds again and expand the building. During the 1970s, students decided to tax themselves, increase their fees and expand the building one more time. That was one of the last major expansions.

Paul Zuchowski (Associate Director of Student Union Facilities) explained that when Lincoln Johnson arrived 13 years ago, he began hearing from many students about the building, and decided in 2006 to convene a steering committee composed of 16 students, 2 faculty and 2 staff to discuss problems with access to the building. They talked to everyone about potential renovations. The main issues these students identified were the decentralization of programs and services, poor circulation and wayfinding, lack of daylight, insufficient accessibility, inadequate ventilation and inadequate seismic, mechanical and electrical systems. Students in the steering committee wanted four main goals: that the building become a more welcoming space, that we open up the building, connect to campus and build community. These remain the goals throughout this process. He displayed the floor plans. The front plaza will be raised so someone in a wheelchair can come right in and access the building. North End and South End accessibility will be improved. If you enter the building, there will be atria – openings that will let in light from the roof all the way down to the first floor. Stairways will be in those atria. The South End atria will go from the basement all the way up to the third floor. The Resource Center, which is now in the sub-basement, will be relocated to the first floor. They’re going to work on expanding the sidewalk as well. They’re going to add several elevators to the building. They’re going to take the HUB Auditorium and take all of the seating out, so there will be a space for a band if the ballrooms are booked. They’re also going to take the West Ballroom and bring it parallel to the East Ballroom. Both ballrooms will have windows and will be easily accessible. GPSS is going to be moved to the front of the building, and the office will look out on the HUB lawn. Making student services and activities the focal point of a new building is what they are trying to do. Right now, they are making presentations to various groups – ASUW and GPSS included, moving towards seeking Services and Activities funding for this renovation. SAF has mandated that all three student services projects – Ethnic Cultural Center renovation, HUB renovation and Hall Health renovation – seek resolutions indicating what our opinion is of these three projects.
Yutaka Jono (Secretary) mentioned that a resolution will be discussed at a future meeting. If it is supported, it will go to the regents, and construction will take place over a two year period, and everyone will be moved out of the building.

Paul Zuchowski (Associate Director of Student Union Facilities) said that the cost of all three projects together is $148.5 million. For a 30-year bond, the student fees would go up $83.19 per quarter. The fee would not be collected until the Ethnic Cultural Center is finished in Fall 2011. He said that it’ll be up to students whether or not these three projects go ahead.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said that some of the students in his department have been getting feedback about a need for a quiet space, meditative space or multifaith space. He wondered if there were any plans in the HUB design to include an open space like that.

Paul Zuchowski (Associate Director of Student Union Facilities) said that the resource center is going to move up to the first floor. That space is meant to become a lounge for those folks in the basement. It’ll be used for whatever they want. They probably will not designate it as the mediation room exactly, but the Muslim Student Association will be down there.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) asked if there was any discussion about gender neutral bathrooms.

Paul Zuchowski (Associate Director of Student Union Facilities) said that it was the plan to have these in the building.

1. Call to Order – Quorum present
Jake Faleschini (President) called the meeting to order at 4:55 PM.

2. Agenda
Jake Faleschini (President) called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) objected and moved to strike the HUB project from the agenda. Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded. Motion passed with no further objections or abstentions.

Kris Anderson (Art History) moved to approve the agenda as amended. Shawn Mincer (Social Work) seconded. Motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

3. Minutes
Rich Nobles (Psychology) moved to approve the March 4th minutes. Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded. Motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

5. Transportation Committee Update
Josh Kavanaugh from the UW transportation office gave a presentation on UPASS fee increases. He said that we are talking about $4.10/week to keep the UPASS program alive. In FY 2008- FY 2010, we are looking at a 79% increase in transit costs. He is now spending $22.3 million for transit. The UPASS will be increasing in price by $49/quarter next year. This will preserve unlimited access to the six transit agencies. This is extremely important to what we do at the university. The cost is going up, but the UPASS still creates value for the individual user. 80% of the university community is commuting in a manner other than single occupancy vehicles, and this has been made possible only by the UPASS. The carbon saved through the UPASS program is equivalent to planting 200,000 trees a year. The value that UPASS creates for all students is huge. To go out and buy the transit products that students need for their commute, it would cost $270/quarter on the retail market, and UPASS delivers it for $99/quarter. He showed a chart of the cost recovery associated with the UPASS program. UPASS is a subsidized program. He said that the cost increases made the office think about whether or not to continue the UPASS program, and the answer was a resounding yes. He came to GPSS to let us know what would be going on with UPASS fees and parking fees. There will be a public hearing coming up on April 22nd, and he expected that it will be in the HUB during the noon hour. He invited us to participate in this discussion, and said he wants to hear what everyone has to say. People who cannot attend in person can log on to the website and have their comments entered into the public record.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) asked if Josh and his office were taking into account attrition, considering that UPASS is opt-out.

Josh Kavanaugh said that even with attrition, they would still be breaking even. His office is modeling a 7% attrition rate, largely composed of students living within a mile of the university.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) asked about the current opt-out right now and about the threshold for opting out.

Josh Kavanaugh explained that the current opt-out rate is 10%, and that it is a rough figure. They don’t have models for increasing rates of this magnitude. He thinks that the opt-out rate will be 7%, because of a shift from parking to UPASS. The people that leave UPASS are subsidized. As people leave the program, they save money over time.

Jason Padvorac (ASUW) asked why the cost of the program increased so much.

Josh Kavanaugh said that they survey every other year to build the ridership model to determine the amount they pay Metro. They are bound by that historical methodology. The model has them paying over $22 million a year, $19 million just to Metro. They do believe that number is inflated, based on the timing of the survey and that folks will leave the program because of people leaving at this rate. Metro has a strong counterargument, which is that we were under a flat rate contract when gas prices were high.
Laina Mercer (Public Health and Community Medicine – Biostatistics) asked if the individual transit rates were going up.

Josh Kavanaugh said that two Metro rate increases have taken place already and that another one will be taking place this coming January.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) asked what would happen if we took out some of the transit agencies from UPASS.

Josh Kavanaugh said that the cost of including Kitsap and Pierce transit agencies were almost inconsequential. The student price reflects the fact that students in general are not using the other transit agencies as much.

Phuong Nguyen (ASUW) asked how finalized the price proposed for summer quarter was.

Josh Kavanaugh said that the price would be final. If there was objection about the rates proposed, the program would be bankrupt and the regents would not approve them. He said that he is taking a self-imposed budget cut of 1.5 million to 2 million, by closing gatehouses and doing cost efficiency measures in the parking system.

Phuong Nguyen (ASUW) asked why the decision was made during spring break.

Josh Kavanaugh said that the UW transportation committee had its final meeting during spring break, and that there were previous meetings to talk about the trend that they were on. He also pointed out that the student representatives on the committee could provide a proxy and that was not utilized. It would not have changed the vote, because the vote of the committee was unanimous to keep the program alive. There was significant debate about the rates and about how much we could cut. Students were present in the meeting about the initial budget. They spent down the operating fund balance that they have. He said that he has zero margin on this budget, and if parking revenues are off or something is wrong in the models, he doesn’t have any margin to cover with.

Jake Faleschini (President) entertained a motion to extend the time allotted by five minutes.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) moved.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) seconded.

Motion passed with one objection.

Josh Kavanaugh said that the SOV parking permit is going up by $5/month. The gatehouse rate is not changing in the hourly rate. He felt that $3/hour was enough, but the daily maximum is increasing. People who need to park all day on campus will be paying more.
Shawn Mincer (Social Work) asked about the opt-in opt-out option, and if it would go away and be a full opt-in. He wanted to know what happened to this.

Josh Kavanaugh said that this is still on the table. If we go to a mandatory fee, we would run into I-601, and limit the ability to grow the program. His office is still evaluating this. As an institution, we need to have a conversation about what the institutional burden should be regarding the UPASS. He thought that the institution should contribute money to the UPASS program, in addition to having students pay into the program.

Brad Osborn (Music) said that there is a substantial UPASS increase, but not in the rate of people who drive vehicles. He said that by raising SOV prices and keeping the UPASS lower, that would make it so people would take transit.

Josh Kavanaugh said that they are raising parking more in real dollars than the UPASS program. Mass flight from the parking system into UPASS would happen if they raised the cost of parking at the same percentage as the UPASS system. He said that the model for the program has ended.

Jake Faleschini (President) commended Josh for reaching out to us and letting us know the bad news and the numbers that they are looking at. He has been really open in communicating with us. He thanked Josh for sharing this information with us.

Josh Kavanaugh introduced the members of his staff who accompanied him to the meeting.

6. Resolution 9.08-09
Lindsay Morse (Classics) presented the resolution.

Jake Faleschini (President) entertained a motion to not have to read it.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) so moved.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) seconded.

Rich Nobles (Psychology) called for a point of order and wanted to know what the motion was.

Motion passed with no abstentions or objections

Lindsay Morse (Classics) said that this was based on an ASUW resolution passed about a month ago. Chris Bruno has collected volunteers in order to replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs. Seattle City Light has already donated all of the replacement bulbs. This resolution is in support of that, and to commend those involved for taking this effort to make UW more environmentally friendly.
No speakers for debate, **Jake Faleschini** (President) called the question. Motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

7. Resolution 10.08-09

**Anna Batie** (Jackson School – REECAS) entertained a motion not to read the resolution.

**Lindsay Morse** (Classics) so moved.

**Shawn Mincer** (Social Work) seconded.

Motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

**Anna Batie** (Jackson School – REECAS) said that an old version was sent out, a clause needed to be taken out, and sponsors needed to be added.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) called the question.

Motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

8. SAGE Appropriation

**Jake Faleschini** (President) said that **Nick Nasrallah** (Psychology) and **Noah Benson** (GLBTQ) went to a conference for SAGE. The public ivies, some of the largest in the country, are going to be part of this organization. Most of the organizations will be going out and lobbying federally to set up this institution. This will be the first association of the public schools. He said that we need to start working on a federal level to get more funding for public institutions. It helps to have people in DC working hard, advocating representatives to get more money for public institutions. He said that we will be heading to DC at the end of the month.

**Nick Nasrallah** (Psychology) said that they will be arriving on Sunday, April 26th, do an orientation and a meet and brief with the federal relations office of the UW. They have meetings with all representatives for the State of Washington. He explained the budget estimate as of two weeks ago for hotel costs, air flight and additional expenses. They will be renting a full day of space for all ten universities to do their planning. The total budget is proposed at $2000 for travel for him and Jake for the entire trip.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) said that he is asking the senate to appropriate this from the general fund to the president’s travel fund. The president’s travel fund would subsidize Nick’s travel. **Kris Anderson** (Art History) will be joining them because he will be in Philly for a conference, and he will stay at the hotel. The fund will pay for Kris’ train ticket.

**Nick Nasrallah** (Psychology) said that the student regent has funding from the Board of Regents to join them.
Jake Faleschini (President) said that Dave Iseminger (Vice President) may come out if he has time, depending on when the current budget session from the State of Washington shows up.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that the per diem does not reflect the federal rate, and it is more than that.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) said that it is a quarter of the per diem.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) brought up some F&B concerns with the airfare. She said that F&B thought that they could get cheaper airfare if they relaxed their time constrictions regarding bringing both Jake and Nick back in time for the senate meeting on April 29.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that he would do a search for the cheapest airfare.

Rich Nobles (Psychology) said that he wanted to be mindful of the fact that every person counts in the senate. He said that he would pass it as it stands.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said that we saved a little bit from the per diem.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that he would make up the expenses and he was okay with that.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) brought up a parliamentary concern.

Jake Faleschini (President) called for a motion.

Noah Benson (GLBTQ) moved to appropriate $2000 from the general fund to the travel budget for the SAGE conference.

Rich Nobles (Psychology) seconded.

Motion passed with three abstentions, no objections.

13. Elections Announcements (Judicial Recommendations)

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) moved to suspend the rules and have a judicial report on the bylaws.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded.

Motion passed with no abstentions.

Lloyd Nackley (Forest Resources) objected, asking if they were going to wait for Trond.
Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) said that he was here. Objection removed.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) explained the concern, that any graduate student couldn’t hold an appointment in addition to being an officer. They were asked to go over this in accordance with summer stuff. After a long discussion, Judicial felt that there was no conflict within the bylaws, which necessitated them to reword or restructure. In addition, Judicial felt that one of the claims brought forth was that the consequences of the statement now went against the vain or light in which it was written, which they felt was beyond their interpretation. There is no proposal for change in that text, but if this body was to propose, vote, and approve a change in that statement to allow officers to hold a GSSA for the summer, Judicial would stand by that.

Jake Faleschini (President) called for a motion to change the bylaws.

Nick decided to go over Judicial’s second statement while the bylaws were being brought up. That was the review based on Elections. The second issue they reviewed briefly pertained to a change in the bylaws that JC made while he was chairman last year, and it was in regard to proxies for GPSS officers. There is a statement concerning proxies for committee meetings, and it was in direct conflict to legislation we just passed. JC corrected the statement to add as stated in Article 6, Section H, Clause 1A. He entertained a motion to instill and support those bylaws.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) moved to approve the suggested language on Article 6, Section H, Clause 1A.

Moz Benado (Nutritional Sciences) seconded.

Motion passed with two abstentions, no objections.

9. NFT Appropriation

Jake Faleschini (President) said that the appropriation was only supposed to be three minutes, not thirty. He said that he had already spoken to GPSS about the collaboration. NFT has asked us for a deposit that would normally be 50% of the overall cost, and would like it by April 15th. He negotiated that down to 33% because they’re not doing that much work until we get all of the information into them. That work won’t be done until June 1. We presented this to Exec, and Exec thought it was a good idea to go ahead with it. We would appropriate $8334 from the General Fund for depositing money for the NFT Seattle UW edition. Jake said he doesn’t know if this is fully going to go forward yet. If it doesn’t go forward, it reverts back to the General Fund. Unless we have a solid business plan to offload all the books for the purchase price, he won’t make a deposit.

Moz Benado (Nutritional Sciences) asked the cost of the books.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that they are $10 each, and we are looking to print 2500 books.
Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) moved.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded.

Motion passed with no abstentions or objections.

10. Special Allocations Appropriation
Tim Hulet (Treasurer) said that he is asking for funding for special allocations, as we have gotten low. We’ve gotten low on both special allocations and department requests. The one-time requests would carry through to the end of the year to cover the applications we have right now. As of Friday, for special appropriations, we were down to $346, and had an event canceled for an extra $1000. The balance is at $1346. For departmental allocations, we are at $1870. He proposed that we transfer $3000 from the general fund to special allocations and $2000 to departmental allocations. That would bring the totals for special allocations to $4346 and departmental allocations up to $3870. If the money doesn’t get completely used – special allocations will run out – he encouraged departments to apply for funding, as we may not have as much funding for next year.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) offered a point of clarification, explaining why the departmental allocations had gotten low. Tim transferred $3000 from departmental allocations to special allocations to cover that.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) moved to transfer $3000 from the general fund to the special allocations and $2000 from the general fund to the departmental allocations.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded.

Motion passed with one abstention.

11. Tent City Presentation
Shannon Marsh (Public Affairs) presented on Tent City. The Daily covered a forum held last night. She presented some facts about homelessness in King County. She said that there are nearly 8000 people homeless in King County. She said that Tent Cities are temporary solutions to homelessness in King County. Tent Cities 3 and 4 are in operation. These are legal, having agreements with the city and the county. Tent Cities are generally sponsored by churches, and Tent City 3 was previously sponsored by Seattle University. They cost about $700/month for 100 people. It’s an efficient way to spend money and help people out. SHARE/WHEEL is the organization that sponsors this and funds it. She said that GPSS would be looking at hosting Tent City 3, and as of June, they won’t have a place to stay. This is a long-term problem. She said that she is currently part of an MPH class looking at UW being involved with tent cities. Tent City 3 has a consent decree with the city, allowing Tent City to encamp 30-90 days with the host. They have to rotate every 1-3 months. Tent City has residents on guard 24/7, and are really respectful of their hosts and make the neighborhood a better place. Crime in the areas the tent cities are at tends to stay the same or go down. Shannon would like to see
the UW host Tent City, maybe as something that would come once a year. She said that hosting Tent City would fit in with our UW vision statement. She said that they have support within the UW community, and have reps within the Law School, Public Health and Public Affairs. Tent City needs space, an electrical hookup and a faucet. They don’t ask for a lot, just space. The costs are primarily in kind – land, and people to coordinate. Seattle University estimated about $1000 for electricity and water during the duration of their stay, it would be a small drop in the UW budget. Seattle University could turn this around, and interacting with folks in Tent City changed a lot of minds. While Tent City was at Seattle University, the residents counted 5000 people that had contact with them, including classes and panels. They also had programs with law students and medical students, so they would get some real-world interaction. Seattle University’s profile went up after hosting Tent City 3. She said that she will bring forth a resolution about this at the next meeting.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that there will be time for questions about the resolution when Shannon presents in April.

Adrien Renaud (Urban Design and Planning – Masters) asked for the timeframe.

Shannon Marsh (Public Affairs) said that we’re looking at June.

Lesley Jantarasami (Forest Resources) asked about the locations proposed.

Shannon Marsh (Public Affairs) said that two parking lots near the Burke have been suggested. She said that the Tent Cities were on the tennis courts, and left one of the courts vacant for pick-up basketball and tennis games between students and tent city residents.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said that this is a great learning opportunity for our campus. He said that they had Tent City in his neighborhood last year, and it was great.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) asked about the legal issues about hosting Tent City.

Shannon Marsh (Public Affairs) said that she had analyzed the hosting decree. She said that Tent City can be hosted by a school. Nothing presents a problem once we have a location.

Kris Anderson (Art History) said that the Tent City hosted at 45th didn’t run into any problems.

Anna Batie (Jackson School – REECAS) said that her church had a good experience hosting Tent City.

Jacob Greenberg (History) asked about checkpoints and security regulating moving in-between Tent City.
Shannon Marsh (Public Affairs) said that the fence has to be a cloth border. She said that a lot of people came through during visiting hours posted by Seattle University. Seattle University didn’t have any security or checkpoints. Tent City 3 does not allow anybody with serious criminal records. We are treating them with trust when they come onto campus. The residents were respectful of Seattle University’s request not to use facilities without being asked.

Rebecca Bartlein (Global Health) said that Seattle University faced the time factor. Some administrator has to coordinate with the Tent City council. Someone has to be in charge of coordinating so boundaries aren’t overstepped.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that they are working on similar resolutions in the Faculty Senate and in ASUW.

13. Elections (Continued)

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) mentioned that nominations for elections remain open.

12. Legislative Update

Sarah Cody (Legislative Assistant) said that Dave Iseminger (Vice President) was unable to be here this evening. Dave wrote a note saying that things are changing all the time in Olympia. The tuition increase is probably going to be about 14% increase for the next two years. The one thing that has not changed is that grad students are still in the dark! The primary care tuition waver bill will not make it out of the legislature this year. There will be work on it in the summer and fall.

Sarah Cody said that for each bill she mentions she has the bill number and then a summary so if anyone wants this, to contact her. The Global Asia institute bill passed and will head to the governor’s desk. The hate crimes bill was pulled to the floor on Monday and it passed the House today and is now on the governor’s desk. The human rights center bill passed all committees and could be pulled to the house floor in the next week. Dave reported that things look good. The textbook bill passed all committees and can be pulled to the house. The financial aid bill passed all committees and can be pulled to the floor. Dave is unsure if the tuition authority bill is still in committee, but there are still ways that it can be passed although the deadline has passed.

14. Announcements

Jake Faleschini (President) said that he met with the provost today and the UW budget committee. The Provost has given Jake her word that even if they win the ability to set tuition here at the UW that tuition for grad students will not rise above 7% next year. He said that he has been advocating for that. It is in their interest because they have to pay most of our tuition anyway because of RA and TA waivers. Raising tuition above 7% doesn’t generate any revenue. We’re also at market rate, while the undergrads are not.
Professional increases will probably still be at 10%. It is possible that one or two of the professional schools could go above 10% next year. If that were to happen, it would likely be in the Medical School.

**Lindsay Morse** (Classics) said that Provost Wise is scheduled to be at the next ASUW meeting. It will be a Town Hall for Provost Wise. It is on Tuesday at 5 PM in this room.

**Adrien Renaud** (Urban Design and Planning – Masters) had a question about budget cuts, and asked about TA and RA cuts. If we aren’t TAs anymore, why wouldn’t they raise our tuition?

**Jake Faleschini** (President) asked for people to get involved on the budget cut task force. He said that we’re sending out a survey to gather info from graduate and professional students to discuss how these cuts are affecting us. Jake has been arguing for tuition waivers for RAs and TAs who are losing their RA and TAship and are in their 4th, 5th or 6th year. He is asking for tuition waivers for those PhD students so they can complete them. We have a miserably low PhD completion rate when compared with other schools. We are trying to generate more jobs with NIH grants. He is also working with financial aid to get better financial aid for graduate students who are losing their RA and TA positions.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) said that the Committee on Crime Prevention on campus is being restarted by ASUW, and they are looking for a graduate student volunteer. They will meet weekly.

**Phuong Nguyen** (ASUW) said that the most the committee will meet is weekly.

**Doug McManaway** (GPSS Executive Assistant) said that the Student Regent application is due tomorrow at 11:59 PM, and nobody has uploaded theirs yet.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) said that we have a few open committees still. Sarah will be sending out an email to senate regarding this.

**Phuong Nguyen** (ASUW) said that ASUW Board of Directors Election is going on, and applications are due this Friday if interested. They are also hiring at jobs.asuw.org

**Shawn Mincer** (Social Work) announced that Vermont was the first state in the US to legislatively approve same-sex marriage. It looks like there are another 4-6 states with legislation in their agenda in the next few months. If all of this legislation passes, the Northeast will be an enclave for same-sex marriage.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) said that the Pow-wow will be happening this weekend.

**Shawn Mincer** (Social Work) said that Friday at 11, they’re doing an honoring ceremony at the site location for the Longhouse of Knowledge.
Jake Faleschini (President) said that we’ve had a lot on our plate this year because of the budget. He thanked all of us for coming to meetings and representing students. He said that we will be having an emergency meeting of the senate next Wednesday to discuss the budget.

15. Adjourn
Rich Nobles (Psychology) moved to adjourn.
Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded.
Motion passed with no abstentions or objections.
Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.