Emergency GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday April 15, 2009  
Approved April 29, 2009

Richard Lum (ASUW OGR Director) discussed the budget and tuition until quorum was met.

1. Call to Order  
Jake Faleschini called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda  

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) motioned to approve the agenda.  
Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded.  
Motion passed

3. Funds for Lobbying Transportation  
Jake Faleschini entertained a motion to reserve $2,000 from the General Fund for buses to take students to Olympia if need be.  
Richard Nobles (Psychology) so moved  
Trond Nilson (Industrial Engineering) seconded.  
Motion passed.

Beth Curry (Oceanography) asked Jake to elaborate on Rep. Frank Chopp  

Jake Faleschini said Frank Chopp is the speaker of the house and represents the 43rd district. He said he has been very antagonistic towards UW this year. Jake said nothing goes through the house without Chopp’s signature.

Richard Nobles (Psychology) said Chopp neglected to inform his district of how he was planning on dealing with revenue cuts. He said he was in disagreement with a lot of the administration on campus and that he had held very few meetings with people.

Jake Faleschini reminded the senate to remember that UW students are Chopp’s constituents which means they are his largest block of voters.

Richard Nobles (Psychology) asked if there was any threat of President Emmert declaring a state of emergency which would then lead to faculty layoffs.

Jake Faleschini said the President could not lay off tenure-track faculty. He did say, however, that there is a piece of legislation that was going through the senate, which will
potentially allow Emmert to be able to have that power. He wasn’t sure if it would pass, but the conversation had started. Outside of the legislation the only way tenure-track faculty could be laid off would be if a state of emergency was declared.

4. TASK FORCE

_Lindsay Morse_ (Classics) said that GPSS had set up a Task Force, which she chairs. She said the task force had sent out surveys and has gotten just over 1,000 replies. She went over the preliminary findings of the survey.

Statistics:
They found there were additional concerns for international students since their loss of TA-ships could lead to their deportation.
She said that their funding is disproportionately coming from the state.  
59% were in state  
28% were out of state  
9% are international

Responses:
They found that PhD students rely more heavily on TA-ships and, because it takes longer to complete a PhD than a Master’s degree, these students would be more likely to leave UW if they lost their funding.
Master’s students would try to finish more quickly.
Professional students were most concerned with increased tuition because they are paying their own way unlike other departments which rely on funding from other sources.
Lindsay said that the survey asked if students were satisfied with the information they had been given and responses were mixed. Some students found they were getting bombarded with too much information, while others felt that they were not getting enough. She said a lot of students said they were happy with the information they were getting form ASUW and GPSS.
She said that the main concerns that students had were that most of the information that they were getting from the administration had been directed at in-state undergraduates. They wanted to hear more about graduate tuition and position cuts.
Lindsay also went on to say students that had meetings with their departments seemed to be much more satisfied with the information they were getting, but she said only about 16% of the students who responded had had meetings within their departments.
Another concern students had was where to look for alternate funding sources. Lindsay said the committee was going to look into options and try and get that information out to students.
Lindsay asked the Senators to set up focus groups within their department to find out what their departments are saying. She wanted to know about what the departments are doing as a course of action, as in setting up meetings, plans of action after funding cuts etc.

_Trond Nilson_ (Industrial Engineering) said he thought it may be a good idea to compile a list of people students could contact for more information.
Theresa Hastert (Epidemiology) said she thought other sources of information would be good to look at as well. She suggested setting up something with links to go to.

Jake Faleschini said he would look into setting something up.

Trond Nilson (Industrial Engineering) said a blog would be nice to have.

Jake Faleschini encouraged everyone to post information on the Senate’s blog on the GPSS website.

Yutaka Jono suggested that the Senators also check the ASUW and OGR websites.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) said there were flyers with the legislators’ contact information by the door. She then asked if there was anything else the Senators wanted the Task Force to do.

Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) said that a page of relevant facts would be helpful to have.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) said the survey was closing that night and after that the information would be compiled and made available to everyone.

Ethan Lucas (Marine Affairs) asked if they knew what sector the 1,000 cuts were coming from.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) said that those numbers are for everyone and that the Task Force was trying to figure out what percentage of that number was going to be TA and RA ships.

Jake Faleschini said that part of it will be positions that are currently not filled. He said they thought about 300-400 of the loss of positions would come from these unfilled jobs. He said the range he head heard for graduate students being cut was about 500-600.

Theresa Hastert (Epidemiology) asked how many graduate students there are.

Jake Faleschini said 13,000 but not all of them are employed by the University.

Rene Singleton said this whole dilemma will happen in stages. She said good activism is the first stage but she said everything will change to another stage within the next two weeks. She wanted to make sure that Senators were going to their departments and differentiating the facts from the rumors. She suggested that the Senators look to their Executive Board for truthful information.

Hugo Harrison (Linguistics) said that he has talked to International students and faculty and everyone has been somewhat in the dark about everything, so he thanked GPSS for all of the information.
Lindsay Morse (Classics) said the Task Force is very concerned about International students because they rely so heavily on state funds. She said how much can be done about it is unknown but they are looking into it.

Richard Nobles (Psychology) said he had been encouraging students in his department to apply for instate residency as soon as possible.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) said they would send a link out to senators about informing their constituents on how to do this.

Jake Faleschini thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and told them to feel free to come to GPSS with questions or concerns.

5. Adjournment

Jake Faleschini moved to adjourn.

Richard Nobles (Psychology) so moved

Jason Padvorac (ASUW) seconded

All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.