GPSS Senate Minutes  
May 27, 2009  
Approved October 7, 2009

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) explained that he will not call the meeting to order until quorum is reached, and that he will start with informational items. The meeting will begin with Item 8 on the agenda.

8. 2009-10 Brainstorming

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) opened this up to the floor. He asked senators to discuss what they think are the priorities for next year. He asked how GPSS should prioritize its energy and funds.

**Kate Deibel** (Student Disability Commission) thought that we should focus on training for teaching assistants, since there will be fewer teaching assistants for larger classes. Providing more support for teaching assistants will be a growing concern.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) said that the TA/RA contract will be re-negotiated next year. Given the climate of larger classrooms and fewer TAs, overworking of TAs will be an issue.

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) suggested that the RA/TA union contract be on the GPSS radar.

**Stefan Kamola** (History) suggested that we get in touch with the union early.

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) suggested having a union member come and present about the union. Their leadership should talk with our leadership over the summer. Dave thought it would be a good idea to have the union talk to the full senate as well.

**Trond Nilsen** (Industrial Engineering) asked what was going on with CIDR closing. Will something be replacing it? He said an email was sent around discussing the CIDR closing this afternoon.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) announced that the meeting had achieved quorum.

1. Call to Order  
**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) called the meeting to order at 4:40. He said that the senate would come back to brainstorming.

2. Approval of the Agenda  
**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) entertained a motion to table item 5 because we don’t have the award and we didn’t invite the department.  
**Noah Benson** (GLBTQ) moved and **Kris Anderson** (Art History) seconded that.

**Kris Anderson** (Art History) moved to approve the amended agenda.
Lindsay Morse (Classics) seconded.
Motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

3. Approval of the Minutes
Kris Anderson (Art History) moved to approve the minutes from the earlier May meeting.
Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded.
Motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

4. Appointment of Summer Judicial and Executive Senators
Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that we need four people to volunteer for Summer Exec and four people to volunteer for Summer Judicial. He said that Summer Judicial would meet once, but Exec acts as the full senate. Last year, Exec talked about the tuition policy stance that we needed to take before the body met for the first time. People need to be in Seattle to serve on these committees. There will be at least one Summer Exec meeting a month. People could call in if they needed to.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) said that the first Summer Exec meeting would be June 17th.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that around the middle of each month, there would be a Summer Exec meeting.

Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) nominated Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences), who accepted the nomination.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) nominated himself.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) nominated Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering). He accepted the nomination.

Kris Anderson (Art History) nominated himself. He asked how many senators were needed for the committee.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that we need four senators, but there could be elections for the Exec positions.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) moved to nominate the slate.
Stefan Kamola (History) seconded.
Motion passed without abstentions or objections.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) moved to nominate people for Judicial. He said that we need 4-6 people. This would be just a summer position, if the officers and the Executive Committee need consultation. He gave the example of someone resigning mid-summer as an example of the kinds of things Summer Judicial would deal with.
Kris Anderson (Art History) nominated Susan Dine (Art History). She accepted the nomination.

Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) nominated Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences). He accepted.

Stefan Kamola (History) nominated himself.

Kate Diebel (Student Disability Commission) nominated herself.

Theresa Hastert (Public Health–Epidemiology) nominated herself.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) asked if Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) had been nominated. He said that Jake Faleschini (President) had asked Nick to chair the committee.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) had to be here to accept the nomination.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that we could appoint Nick Nasrallah (Psychology), and he could decline it later.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that he didn’t see a problem with nominating Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) in absentia.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) nominated Nick Nasrallah (Psychology) in absentia.

Kris Anderson (Art History) moved to accept the slate. Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded. Motion passed without objections or abstentions.

6. NFT Presentation/Resolution
Anna Batie (JSIS – REECAS) presented the layout for NFT. She explained that the text will now go all the way across the page instead of in columns. We will be getting the mock-up of the final product in June. She said she wants to sell at least 500 copies to departments. She introduced the resolution in support of departmental purchases of the NFT Seattle UW Edition. It says that GPSS really wants departments to buy them for new students.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) asked how many new grad students come into UW system every year.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) proposed 2,000-3,000.
Anna Batie (JSIS – REECAS) said that NFT had a lot of undergrad info in it so she wants the bookstore to market it to them.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) read the “whereas” clauses.

Kris Anderson (Art History) motioned to close the debate and to approve the resolution.

Noah Benson (GLBTQ) seconded.

The resolution passed without any objections or abstentions.

7. Officer Reports

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that he wanted to review what GPSS achieved in order to brainstorm priorities for next year. He said he’d be reporting as Jake Faleschini (President) and as himself, since Jake was in Walla Walla with The Innocence Project. He broke GPSS impacts down into three categories. He first discussed how we impacted the University of Washington this year. We held the Summit, focusing on public service, hosting 80 legislators. We created the Budget Task Force committee within GPSS. A little over 1000 students replied discussing the budget cuts. We had strong student representatives on budget committees. We secured money from the Provost to save TA positions. We implemented SHIP Plus. We prevented tuition increases for graduate and professional students above the levels we have seen in the past. We revamped the Guide to Life to make it more user-friendly and have more information to help orient new students to Seattle. We took the lead on the HUB, ECC, and Hall Health projects. Jake Faleschini (President) worked on securing $20 million from the administration, and has been working on private fundraising. We had an 82% appointment rate for university and GPSS committees. Our last big impact was that we took a stand on community inclusiveness and tolerance. We supported the Longhouse. Our discussion and reactions to The Daily and its editorial standards go here. We passed the Center for Human Rights resolution and Tent City resolution, and we had a lot of FIUTS Happy Hours.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) reported on our impacts in the State Legislature. There were 15 major bills that GPSS had positions on. Our interest prevailed on 11 of them. Outside of the budget, that 73% success rate is impressive. He testified on behalf of GPSS over 20 times in the Legislature. There’s a bill that would have granted building fee authority to the university – this bill would have allowed the University to have complete control over building fees, which would eventually have led to students subsidizing capital projects on campus. This was defeated. We had a good dialogue on tuition policy, and the bill died because when they added a graduate student to the committee they added special interests. We succeeded in getting ourselves included, and we defeated that bill. We defeated the transfer of building account money from the capital budget to the operating budget. We passed the textbook disclosure bill. We have enshrined in state law that we can have voluntary student fees that we can use for lobbying purposes. We passed the expansion of hate crimes bills to include gender identity and expression. We defeated the Third Party inspection rights for landlords and tenants, which would have limited local government’s ability to mandate third party
inspections. The Legislature passed the Center for Human Rights and the Global Asia Institute. Our cap or kill model for tuition wasn’t achieved, but there were substantial limits imposed on the setting of tuition authority. There will be an audit of Higher Education by the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee.

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) reported on our impacts within GPSS. We revamped the webpage. We created the Graduate Program Review Committee which got more senators involved in the ten-year reviews. We created and launched SAGE, the consortium of public institutions for federal lobbying. We created the Washington Student Lobby UW chapter and lobbied to get a sustainable fund, which required getting 6000 signatures. We had two really great socials, and a successful speed dating event. We had two successful elections, and nobody challenged anything in them.

**Lindsay Morse** (Classics) asked about the WSL button. When does that go into effect?

**Dave Iseminger** (Vice President) said that it won’t go into effect until fall quarter.

**Lindsay Morse** (Classics) said she registered for fall and it wasn’t there.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) suggested that maybe it comes into effect in late August, when undergrads register.

**Tim Hulet** (Treasurer) gave his year-end report. He started with the Finance & Budget Committee. We were able to fund 26 different RSO events over the course of the year. We funded 16 different departments, and they were able to get things like dishes for the lounge all the way to things like a Nintendo Wii for the lounge. He plugged departmental allocations for next year, as we had leftovers this year. The Travel Grants Committee helped fund travel for 49 different graduate and professional students. Our General Fund will be right around $200,000 at the end of the year, close to what we budgeted at the beginning of the year. The Fall Social was before his time, and he heard that things went really well. 800 students came, and there was talk of bringing the band back from that. Between two and three hundred students attended the spring social. People wanted the band to come back, but they should be a little bit quieter so people can talk. Speed Dating seems like it was the hit of the year. We were able to fill all 200 slots for Speed Dating. We have success stories, including **Dave Iseminger’s** (Vice President). We have had multiple requests wondering if we’re going to be doing more Speed Dating events. He is hoping that next year, we can throw together two speed dating events to open up more slots for success stories. He asked if there were any questions.

**Sarah Reyneveld** asked about advertising for the spring social.

**Tim Hulet** (Treasurer) admitted that it was a little slow compared to years past. He said that for next year they will start advertising a month in advance.

**Yutaka Jono** (Secretary) said that traditionally there are more people in the fall social because GPSS advertises it heavily to incoming graduate students.
Yutaka Jono (Secretary) asked graduating senators to email him, because we need to know who will not be here in order to retire senators. If you’re no longer going to be a senator, let Yutaka know. He said that there were 15 resolutions this year. Minutes and agendas are part of his job. He attended both ASUW senate and board meetings. This helped create a good relationship between GPSS and ASUW, even though it was a rocky year. He pointed out that he was wearing all three nametags from his three years of being a secretary. He thanked us for three years of service.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) gave a Dave Letterman style top-ten list.
10. The Graduate School still exists.
9. The Spring Social was complete with drinking games.
8. The Secretary miscounts quorum during an election meeting.
7. Officers kept their goal of total Senate meeting hours under 5000.
6. Speed Dating was a success for Dave, but not for Yutaka.
5. Yutaka is finally leaving the office of Secretary.
4. President Emmert is Facebook friends with Yutaka and Dave.
3. However, President Emmert is not Facebook friends with Jake.
2. Jake did not assault any administrators.
1. Despite a bad relationship with *The Daily*, grad student readership quadruples.

8. 2009-10 Brainstorming

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) reminded us what we had talked about earlier.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said that it would be interesting to think through putting together an ad-hoc committee that would formalize a relationship, especially in a contract year, between GPSS and the union. Should we have a more formal discussion, especially since it will be a big year regarding contractual negotiations and budget cuts?

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) suggested passing that on to the Executive Committee.

Kris Anderson (Art History) said that the TA training issue and the union issue are separate. He wanted to do a survey asking about pedagogical training for TAs. Until we know what the pedagogical training is between departments – this might be something to invest in.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) said that Highway 520 and other transportation issues will probably be on the radar.

Anna Batie (JSIS – REECAS) said that Highway 520 will become a toll way.

Theresa Hastert (Public Health and Community Medicine – Epidemiology) suggested an orientation or a kickoff for GPSS senators, which might improve the buy-in for some of the meetings. She wanted a formal warm-up to tell people what was expected of them as a senator.
Sarah Reyneveld asked if Theresa wanted a formal orientation or a happy hour.

Theresa Hastert (Public Health and Community Medicine – Epidemiology) suggested both. She also suggested outreach from long-standing senators or Executive Committee members – a phone call suggesting that they come in and chat.

Rebecca Bartlein (Global Health) added to that. She thought that making sure that senators who aren’t active know that they should open up the opportunity to others who want to be here would be a good idea. GPSS should make sure that new senators know what the responsibilities are. A survey showing if this meeting time works for senators is a great idea.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that this is something that we have talked about in the last week. Traditionally, senate meetings have been 4:30 on Weds and the day of the month rotates. We did start to talk about bus schedules in Exec and why we lose quorum.

Rich Nobles (Psychology) said that we had discussed this in Exec. Moving the day or the time may work better for graduate and professional students.

Anna Batie (JSIS – REECAS) asked to daylight both TA application processes and the budget “lock box” in departments.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) clarified that we don’t know the inner workings of budgets, and that this is what Anna meant. He served on the selection committee for the new HFS director, and suggested that we invite him over to GPSS to talk about the need and concerns from the graduate housing sector. She’s been here for six months, and we should reach out to her to talk about the special needs we have.

Sarah Reyneveld suggested a survey of what speakers the senate has enjoyed in the past before we say which speakers can come to meetings.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) restated this. Senators should think about what type of speakers we want to come, what speakers they’ve appreciated and haven’t appreciated, etc.

Rich Nobles (Psychology) gave a point of information. We also discussed that in Exec. He thought this served as good reinforcement to what we’ve been talking about.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that sometimes what is pitched to officers and Exec is not what the presentation ends up being. There are many examples of that from last year.

Kris Anderson (Art History) suggested morning socials – coffee hours at Allegro. Something for morning commuters would be great. This would capture another group of grad students.
Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) said that with the creation of SAGE, we need to have a conversation about whether or not we need to be involved in two lobbying groups at the same time.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that we are members of NAGPS and SAGE. We need to discuss this.

Kris Anderson (Art History) said that we have agreed to host the SAGE conference. We’ll need to get the ball rolling on this early.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said that we have had the first meeting of the SAGE planning committee for the fall. It will be an ongoing discussion over the course of the summer.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) said that we’re hosting the SAGE summit and our own. He suggested combining the organization of the GPSS summit and the SAGE summit.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said there needs to be more open access regarding the two summits.

Ian Cairns (Law) said that he has been approached by some people about the following issue. Because of the economic downturn, there is a longer period between graduation and employment. Health insurance is an issue. Some schools let students buy into health insurance during that time.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that there is a discussion in the Legislature about revamping financial aid. The Legislature is ready and willing to work on financial aid. It might be a good time for this body to have a conversation about what we need from state financial aid.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) thought that Ian Cairns (Law) point was part of a bigger discussion around constantly pushing and advancing health care, mental health care, and child support. This is a key part of that discussion.

Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) wanted to organize a meeting between the 43rd Legislative District and GPSS. It would be nice to meet with them where students live and get to know them.

Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) said that one thing that came to light was how the disconnect between the UW and the rest of the 43rd affects students. Not everyone is out talking about the problems we have with the UW. Talking about ways to connect with the district is a good idea.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) gave a point of information. She went to a meeting of the Grad School Budget Task Force. One of the final things said was that the UW needs to
reconsider its relationship with the 43rd and its relationship with the state. The legislature was so quick to cut so much of our budget. There’s a perception of the UW that may not be a perception that we want, with regards to relating to the larger community of the state. 30% of UW students are first generation college students. We need to discuss things that set us apart from other peer institutions. We accept more people from out of state.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that he had the enrollment numbers per zip code and correlated this with legislative districts. He said that this aided his conversations with legislators. GPSS should do marketing about where we come from.

Anna Batie (JSIS – REECAS) suggested scheduling meetings between senators and the entire Higher Education committees from both the House and the Senate. She also suggested a discussion about the quality of teaching at the UW and how the budget cuts affect this.

Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) suggested reaching out to the University Chamber of Commerce as a senate body.

Sarah Reyneveld said that she has connections with Senator Brown. She suggested taking the opportunity to invite Speaker Chopp. If this body made a specific request to Speaker Chopp to talk about graduate and professional student issues, that would be huge in bridging that gap. Senator Murray has come to the legislative reception, but Speaker Chopp has not. He should engage in dialogue with graduate and professional students with talking points.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that Senator Brown wanted to reach out to us to talk to the Summit or a meeting. We could get the senate majority leader from Spokane to talk about graduate and professional student issues. We could bridge the gap with our Pharmacy outreach program in Spokane. If we set up a meeting with Senator Brown, this would be a good way to reach Speaker Chopp.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said that someone brought up senators taking a more active role in their departments – informational gatherings and workshops. We need to engage with our departments as well as with this body. We need to get the word out to departments about who we are and what we do.

9. Announcements
Anna Batie (JSIS – REECAS) thanked the officers for their hard work this year.

Kylee Peterson (Biology) had a thank you for GPSS from her department. Earlier this year, her department planned a grad student retreat. Money from GPSS helped do it. That’s an example of the stuff we can do within our departments.
Yutaka Jono (Secretary) announced the Special Regents Meeting tomorrow in Kane. He said that people concerned about internal decisions in the university should come. It will be at Kane 110 from 1-3 PM.

Lindsay Morse (Classics) said that if you want to speak, you have to sign up at the website. It is possible that they will be accepting speakers tomorrow. She said that there will be a meeting on Monday to discuss CHORUSS with actual CHORUSS representatives. She will be at that meeting representing the student voice. She asked senators to talk to her or to email her with comments. She also asked for improvements to the website.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) said that ASUW and GPSS are cosponsoring the Spring Show, this Friday at 3 PM on the HUB lawn. Built to Spill and Ra Ra Riot are coming. It will be free.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said that Wednesday, June 10, is Lavender Graduation at the Don James Center.

Kris Anderson (Art History) said that the School of Art MFA show is at the Henry. It is free.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) asked how long it would run.

Kris Anderson (Art History) said it would be up for a month and a half.

Brian Lee (Urban Design and Planning – PhD) is sitting on the transportation committee. All three GPSS reps on that committee are graduating, and the committee will meet over the summer to determine the UPASS rate. It is important for three people to go and represent the students. They have meetings the third Monday of every month.

Yutaka Jono (Secretary) thanked Brian Lee (Urban Design and Planning – PhD) for his work on the transportation committee.

Dave Iseminger (Vice President) said that Jake Faleschini (President) would be speaking at graduation.

Kris Anderson (Art History) moved to adjourn.
Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded.
No objections or abstentions. Motion passed.

The 2008-2009 Senate officially adjourned at 5:34 PM.