1. Call to Order

Jake Faleschini (President) introduced the GPSS staff. He yielded the floor to the ASUW president.

Tim Mensing (ASUW President) said he is looking forward to working with the GPSS.

Jake Faleschini (President) called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. He introduced Jerry Baldasty (Dean and Vice Provost of the Graduate School).

Jerry Baldasty (Dean and Vice Provost of the Graduate School) said the graduate school is developing robust special initiatives, in terms of workshops and other opportunities. He said individual departments do a superb job in helping students to understand studies, but other services, like pursuing jobs, is what they focus on. He said he will work with the GPSS and will try to work with GPSS and put graduate students on every major committee. He said he wants to take a look at the leave policy, examining such issues as whether a dissertation status should be created and whether to adopt a ceiling. Talking to people in business and government, he said, graduate education is not a private good, but a public good. Graduate school enriches the economy, makes the country more competitive, and solves pressing social problems, he said. He concluded and offered handouts.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) moved to amend the agenda to move the welcome address to before the approval of the agenda.

Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) seconded.
Motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

Jake Faleschini (President) moved to approve the agenda.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) seconded.
Motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

3. Minutes

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) moved to approve the minutes from May 27.
Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded.
Motion passed with no objections. Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) abstained.
4. Informational Updates

Jake Faleschini (President) announced the need to focus on higher-education funding. There has been a huge budget cut, and it was the first year that students will be funding more than 50 percent of their education through tuition. He said we either need more support from the state, or more flexibility on finances in the university. He said it is a conversation we need to have. He said members of the state Legislature have said they hate giving money to the university because it’s a black box, they don’t know where it goes. They think we’re an inefficient organization that eats a giant check, he said. All told, they’re not giving us much anymore, he said. The state provides less than 10 percent of the university's funding, and that the state is the fourth largest contributor to UW's budget, behind federal funding, private donations and student tuition, he said, adding that we need to confront our senators about this and have an open dialogue.

He announced a list of VIPs who will participate in the upcoming SAGE/GPSS Higher Ed Summit. State Senate Majority Leader Sen. Lisa Brown will deliver the keynote address. Also participating are UW President Mark A. Emmert; Sen. Derek Kilmer, D-Gig Harbor, chairman of the Higher Education & Workforce Development committee; Ann Daley, of Higher Education Coordinating Board, who advises the governor on higher-education policy; Rep. Scott White, 46th District, who is a member of the Higher Education committee, works as an adviser of UW and used to teach at the Evans School; and Rep. John Burbank, 36th District, director of the Economic Opportunity Institute, a progressive think tank that deals with tuition policy issues in Seattle.

The second panel focuses on activity-based budgeting (ABB), a new model UW is considering implementing, he said, involving allocated money in a more transparent manner in line with certain principles rather than past action. He said it has had mixed results when universities implemented it in the past. He said GPSS is trying to bring in different experts and their experience in implementing the system. He said ABB has consequence to university centers like the graduate school that doesn’t pull in revenue.

These are the questions asked at the summit, he said. He asked that at least one senator from each department came to at least one panel throughout the day. He said there are currently six senators on the steering committee for the summit, and said anyone interested in joining should e-mail him.

The summit is in conjunction with SAGE, a national organization formed last year at the University of Texas that brought together student leaders representing graduate students from the top 10 public schools in the U.S, he said. He is very excited about this organization, as it looks to be the new federal lobbying arm for the top 10 public universities in the country. GPSS is bringing them to the summit and having conversations about internal government for SAGE and discussing the lobbying agenda.

He introduced new student regent Ben Golden, a second-year law student. He also introduced Rene Singleton, of the Student Activities Office, which oversees GPSS activities and makes sure we’re keeping in line, he said.
Jake Faleschini (President) said he is excited about the “Guide to Life” book. It was lots of work getting it done last year, he said, and he is excited with the content and how it looks. Last year, GPSS teamed up with the publishers Not for Tourists. He said they published a special UW student edition that also offers an orientation to UW students. Written by and for graduate students, he said it offers tips on how to do things like apply for an in-state tuition waiver, what to do when you have a conflict with advisor, etc. He said GPSS entered into an exclusive sales contract with the University Book Store. He said it is being sold for $13 a pop, and it normally sells for $20. He said it is flying off the shelves, and he didn’t expect them to sell so fast. He said none of the committee members who worked on the project were there, so no shout-out.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) offered a shout-out anyway.

Jake Faleschini (President) said the shout-out will get recorded on the minutes.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) announced the launch of the new GPSS Web site, which features information like committees, downloadable applications and Web polls. She said the GPSS just joined Twitter.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering), who helped develop the new site, said to let him know if anyone sees anything broken on the site.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) said they are working on document archives, and invited people to let them know if there’s something they’d like to see.

Jake Faleschini (President) yielded the floor to Tim Hulet (Treasurer) to discuss the fall social.

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) discussed the GPSS-produced poster for the event. He said DJs from Rainy Dog Radio will play music, and that there will be food and drinks and that it is free to graduate students and their guests. He asked the senators to take fliers and posters to get out to the various departments, as they want to get a big turnout.

Jake Faleschini (President) thanked the graduate school for funding for event.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) said if someone wants to bring a non-student, e-mail the GPSS office to get on the list. A student ID and proof of age would be required.

5. Internal Committees

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) addressed those who are interested in joining committees. She said it's a great opportunity to get involved in policy making on campus, and that there is a range of committees currently available, with more vacancies now than ever. Opening are available on everything from faculty councils on benefits and retirement to councils on instructional quality to student activity fees allocations.
Jake Faleschini (President) encouraged all senators to show up to meetings once a month and serve on one internal GPSS committee and one external committee within in the university.

a. Executive Committee

Jake Faleschini (President) said candidates can apply for the officer corps, senators can nominate or senators can run from the floor. Four senators asked to be on committee for the upcoming year, he said. We have absolute confidence in those senators, he said, because they served this summer on the summer executive committee. He is happy to nominate the four of them to serve on committee:

- Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences)
- Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering)
- Shawn Mincer (Social Work)
- Kristian Anderson (Art History)

Jake Faleschini (President) opened up nominations from the floor. He said there are only four positions, and if anyone else would like to run, they can, and people can give speeches on why they would like to serve, and there would be a vote.

Jake Faleschini (President) asked if any senators would like to run for the committee.

Jake Faleschini (President) asked if the four nominees would stand.

Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) moved to approve the nominations
Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded.
Motion passed with no objections or abstentions.

b. Judicial Committee:

Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) asked if it's true that anyone who serves on this committee cannot run for officer positions.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) said committee members can run, but they must resign from the committee 30 days before the election.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) asked for nominations.

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

Susan Dine (Art History), self nomination.

Robert Baker-White (Public Health – Health Services), self nomination.
Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) nominated Genevieve Farrar (Civil and Environmental Engineering). She accepts.

Maren Anderson (Scandinavian Studies), self nomination.

Natalia Sanoja (Law), self nomination.

Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) moves to approve the nominations.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) seconds.

Motion approved.

c. Graduate Program Review Committee

Jake Faleschini (President) said committee members take recommendations to the provost on what should be done with the program, whether it needs improvement, whether things are operating well, and how it’s treating graduate students. He said it's a great committee for PhD students thinking of a career in academia. It will help them learn how the departments work and operate and what university looks for from departments, he said.

He said the committee meets twice a quarter. He said each senator who sits on the committee attends 10-year reviews of a different department, to avoid bias. The committee oversees a poll that goes out to students asking them how their departments are operating, he said. It reports back with a report that goes into consideration for the provost. He called on Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences), who served on the committee last year.

Marc Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences) said it was an interesting committee and a good way to learn about other departments, how other graduate students run program, how they accommodate looking for jobs. He said the challenge is that some departments are more amenable than others. He said he had to chase down people for meetings rooms, which foreshadowed the fact that it would be an interesting meeting. He said it doesn’t take a lot of time to do the write-ups. And he said serving on the committee takes a bit of personality to go up and talk to people.

Jake Faleschini (President) called for nominations.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) said 6-10 would be needed, and that this goes through the Executive Committee. She said they are looking for volunteers and the committee members would get appointed at the first executive meeting.

Nuvala Tofig Fomban (Bioengineering) asked if members can sit on another committee. Self nominated.

Dave Garfinkle (Drama), self nomination.

Patti Carroll (Astronomy), self nomination.
Gary Brattin (Music), self nomination.

Ken Lindsay (Biochemistry), self nomination.

Beth Curry (Oceanography), self nomination.

Nuvala Tofig Fomban (Bioengineering), self nomination.

Jake Faleschini (President) we do 20 a year, we’d like one more

Betsy Cooper (Political Science), self nomination.

Jake Faleschini (President) said they’ll present the names to executive committee next week, and there will be an orientation next week for new senators. He said they will send an email tomorrow or tonight announcing when it is.

d. Finance and Budget Committee

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said this committee recommends the budget for GPSS. She said if you like the nitty gritty of budgeting, this is a good committee for you. It meets twice a month, she said, adding that they are looking for 5-9 nominations.

Mark Jaffrey (Earth and Space Sciences), self nomination.

Andrew Kosydar (Biology) nominated Beth Curry (Oceanography), and she accepts.

Chris Howard (Business Administration – MBA), self nomination.

Beth Curry (Oceanography) nominated Andrew Kosydar (Biology), and he accepts.

Matthew Drooyan (Aeronautics and Astronautics), self nomination.

Court Weddle (Business Administration – PhD), self nomination.

Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) nominated Trond Nilsen (Industrial and Systems Engineering), who respectfully declines.
e. Travel Grant Committee

Tim Hulet (Treasurer) said he would like to change the meetings to once a month after complaints. He said there are 4-6 spots on the committee.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said he's been on the committee, and it feels good to give students money. He said he can't do it this year, and that it doesn't require a lot of work. He said there are peak moments and down moments, but that it's a nice committee and a great way to enter into committee process.

Jake Faleschini (President) said they are trying to reduce peaks and valleys. He said it would review about 10 applications a month, and that it's not a significant time crunch.

Travis Reynolds (Public Affairs) asked if committee members can apply for grants.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) replied that it is possible, and that the committee member would just have to recuse him or herself. He said he did the same thing while on the committee.

Jake Faleschini (President) called for nominations.

Charli Archer (Law), self nomination.

Andrew Kosydar (Biology), self nomination.

Anthony Didlake (Atmospheric Sciences), self nomination.

Travis Reynolds (Public Affairs), self nomination.

Nathan Parrish (Electrical Engineering), self nomination.

Ken Lindsay (Biochemistry), self nomination.

f. ASUW Representative

Jake Faleschini (President) introduced Jed Bradley (ASUW).

Jed Bradley (ASUW) said it was his first GPSS meeting. He said it was very cool, there are two reps from GPSS in ASUW senate and two from ASUW on the GPSS senate. Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) and Lindsay Morse (Secretary) held the seats last year. He said that a representative or liaison would let the other student senate know what they are working on. He said it is really important that, when there is a big issue on campus, both bodies pass something jointly, showing unanimous support for the issue. He said ASUW meets on Tuesdays at 5p.
**Jake Faleschini** (President) said there is a significant time commitment, but they don’t have to go for the entire meeting. He said last year he and **Lindsay Morse** (Secretary) split the position. He said it would be possible for two or three senators to team up and split the position.

**Yutaka Jono** (FIUTS) said a proxy form would have to be signed.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) called it attendance by committee. He called for nominations.

**Yutaka Jono** (FIUTS) said anyone who wants to be the Secretary next year should do this position.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) called it a good way to liaison into the Secretary position.

**Jake Faleschini** (President) called for nominations again. He offered cookies to volunteers. He said this is always the hardest position to fill each year, as it's a big commitment. He said that if there is a group of people who afterwards who feels like they could do it in a partnership to talk to them. He said if the spot remains vacant, the officers must fill the spot. He asked that volunteers email if they are willing to attend meetings once a month as a proxy with officers as the representatives.

g. Legislative Steering Committee

**Sarah Reyneveld** (Vice President) said she is excited for a strong legislative agenda this year. She said the committee is responsible for devising the legislative agenda. Discussed would be positions on tuition and child care. She said 12 nominations are accepted. She said the committee meets around 3 times for 2-hour sessions. She said they make for in-depth discussions and debates.

**Marc Jaffrey** (Earth and Space Sciences), self nomination.

**Andrew Kosydar** (Biology), self nomination.

**Trond Nilsen** (Industrial Engineering), self nomination.

**Marc Jaffrey** (Earth and Space Sciences) nominates **Charles Plummer** (Earth and Space Sciences), who accepts.

**Yutaka Jono** (FIUTS) nominated **Gary Brattin** (Music), who accepts

**Rick Cruz** (Psychology) asked how much time putting together briefs for the senate takes.

**Sarah Reyneveld** (Vice President) said she would work with staff on briefings. She said the committee members would help present that.

**Aaron Naumann** (Anthropology), self nomination.

**Rick Cruz** (Psychology), self nomination.
Russell Hugo (Linguistics), self nomination.

Maren Anderson (Scandinavian Studies), self nomination.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) said Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) can just appoint the committee.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said she waves her wand and the nominees have been appointed.

Jake Faleschini (President) said there has been great participation. He said that brings the action items to an end. He said they try to put action items at the beginning of the meeting. He said if senators need to leave, they can feel OK about it as they moved into the informational part of the presentation.

6. Tuition Policy Discussion

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said the tuition situation is a crucial part of GPSS’s legislative agenda. She said GPSS has advocated for tuition issues in the past session. She called for dialogue on where senators think we should go. She said there was a caveat, that the legislature probably won’t act on tuition policy this session. But she said she hopes to come up with suggestions on what good policy should be. She said she wants GPSS to be front and center in debate.

She began her powerpoint presentation. On the tuition policy overview slide, she offered an overview of the 2009 session. She said tuition is controlled by the Board of Regents, which can decide how much to increase or decrease as much as it wants. She said the vice president tries to work to establish legislative control so we can put a cap on the amount of increase for graduate and student tuition. She said that efforts have been unsuccessful, and passage of a bill for local control. She said GPSS lobbied for a sunset clause, that expires in 2013, so she said the debate will come up again. She said tuition remains locally controlled.

She said it's a very difficult budget year for the UW and the legislature. She said tuition increases and further cuts, 2-4%, to the university budget are expected. It would slash 25% of operating budget. She said tuition increased for graduates and undergraduates. She said GPSS objected to the increase in law school tuition of 14% because of a pre-existing agreement not to go over 10%. She said that is the state of the current budget plan.

On a slide titled “Disinvestment in State Appropriations for Public Tuition,” she said the burden has been on students to make up budget shortfalls. She said state appropriations have shifted over the past 30 years, from 75% of instruction costs in 1980 to 38% in 2008. She said this disinvestment has been countered by tuition accounting for a larger and larger share of costs. She said the 25% budget cuts from last year, and likelihood of future cuts, will continue to put pressure on the University of Washington to increase undergraduate and graduate tuition. She said that this illustrates that UW is becoming a more tuition-dependent school.
Jake Faleschini (President) said the state is the 47th best funder of higher education in the country, ranked behind Alabama and Louisiana.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said she wanted to discuss the types of tuition policy under consideration, and wanted to talk talk about the pros and cons of each, and open things up for discussion. She asked what direction tuition policy should go. She said one option under consideration is to raise tuition to a high level and raise financial aid to that level. She said that plan would bring in more revenue from the population that can afford to pay. She said the University of Michigan did this.

She said the second policy under consideration, as touted by the President Emmert and others, is mediocre tuition, benchmarked standards to peer institutions that we want to be competitive with. She said we’re almost already there as it is, and it wouldn’t be a huge change from what we already have. She said the pro is that it would increase revenue, and the con is that there would be sticker shock that would reduce enrollment of low-income students. She said financial aid packages would increase student debt, and nonresidents pay a little more.

She said the “mediocre tuition benchmark” would maintain a competitive level, and would have a clear and consistent framework. She said it would be an achievable policy, and an effective tool. However, she said it is unclear if it would be equitable and efficient, and it would not necessarily capture change in aid levels. She said a cap would be very difficult to attain for graduate students. She said her instinct is not to advocate for this in this year's agenda, as has been done in the past. She asked for feedback.

Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) said, as a representative of international students, and as international students will not be eligible for aid, he would advocate for the mediocre option. International students would bear brunt of tuition, he said. He advised that Americans should get residency to lower tuition.

Jason Padvorac (ASUW) said it seems very reasonable. He said that for undergraduates, mediocre would be an increase. He said ASUW would oppose that, but wouldn’t oppose GPSS's efforts. He said he wanted to clarify that before there was any confusion.

Sean Schneider (Genome Sciences) asked, if a high-tuition, high-aid model is enacted, what would stop future administrations from cutting financial aid.

Jake Faleschini (President) concurred.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said there is no guarantee that it will be there. She said that if you look at Michigan, a lot of the potential drawbacks have actually happened, so it’s less successful and more like a private school.

Aaron Naumann (Anthropology) said discussions on what to do with leave would be a big concern. He said that as graduate students, at some point we’ll take leave. He said what they decide will have an impact, and he asked that we be sensitive to that fact.
Court Weddle (Business Administration – PhD) said all of his future constituents are fully funded. He said he has indirect problems for the high-aid option. He asked for any information on fully funded students on why they should oppose the plan.

Jake Faleschini (President) said that for students who are funded, depending on the department, they would bring in fewer funded students. He said that those who are working tuition off as a TA or RA are costing their respective departments that amount of money through the back end.

Court Weddle (Business Administration – PhD) said it's difficult to get fully funded students to understand why it’s a real concern to them.

Natalie Sanoja (Law) agreed.

Shannon Marsh (Public Affairs) said the high-aid plan discourages diversity.

Lloyd Nackley (Forest Resources) asked if there is the potential for, if we benchmark and they go to high aid/high tuition, we will shift with them.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said our policy would be that they could not increase beyond the median of the Higher Education Coordinating (HEC) Board. All tuition is a moving target, and high tuition/high aid is too.

Jake Faleschini (President) said part of the fight is: who are we pegging ourselves to? He said it binds us to be a part of that discussion. Some of the other states have caps on how much they can increase tuition, and he said we would advocate to compare ourselves to them.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said we cannot choose those schools. We would have the discretion to do that except through the HEC board, she said.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said, speaking for ourselves and constituents, he supports the mediocre plan. He said he echoes what someone said about diversity. He said he did his master's work at Michigan. With ever increasing shift of financial aid to loan packages, he said he found that students got a lot of financial aid, a small percentage of which was actual aid. He said many people coming out of that program come out with onerous levels of debt in what is called a student aid package. He called it highly problematic.

Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) said a lot of UW's departments are paying us more than they have to. He said we get more than the actual schedule in the RA and TA pay. He said the increases of pay are at the professor's discretion. He said the plan would have an impact in having TA and RA-ships that compete with other universities.

Andrew Kosydar (Biology) asked if any other models exist.

Jake Faleschini (President) replied, low tuition, low aid (low tuition as aid). He said GPSS has been advocating for that as long as the graduate students have been involved in legislative lobbying. The
hope is to just keep tuition where it's at, he said. He said since the Husky Promise program was enacted there is a more compelling argument against that position. He said there was a switch in focus because of that program.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said the Legislature chose not to take the tuition cap route. She said graduate students end up subsidizing undergraduate students. She said she wants to find something more workable and sustainable, and more feasible long-term solution. She said we could advocate for a cap, but she doesn't know how successful that would be.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said his department is driven by a large group of master's students that has taken hits from PhD funding. He said he has to get out of his head and represent other constituents that have different needs than he does.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) said this discussion was very helpful in determining policy.

Travis Reynolds (Public Affairs) said it sounds like the consensus is high tuition plus GOOD aid.

Jake Faleschini (President) said it was written into tuition policy a bill that a specific portion of tuition had to go into aid. He said aid has actually increased because we lobbied them to give a certain percentage of tuition into financial aid. He said we will continue to fight for that this year. He said that after hearing the discussion it seems like mediocre tuition benchmarking is where we should be headed. He said hearing that from you is what we will advocate for this year.

Sarah Reyneveld (Vice President) added, if it is adopted by the Senate in the legislative agenda.

7. Announcements

Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) announced a FIUTS Halloween party.

Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering) said it is co-sponsored with KEXP.

Shawn Mincer (Social Work) said he wanted to send out a second reminder on the fall social and asked senators to promote it with their respective departments.

Lindsay Morse (Secretary) said FIUTS and GPSS are teaming up for a happy hour next week, Friday evening at Shultz's. She also invited everyone to Shultz's after this meeting.

Jake Faleschini (President) entertained a motion to close the meeting.
Yutaka Jono (FIUTS) so moved.
Charles Plummer (Earth and Space Sciences) seconded.
Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm