

GPSS Senate Meeting
March 2nd, 2011

1. Call to Order
 - a. **Sarah** calls the meeting to order at 5:34 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. **Aaron** motions to approve the agenda
 - b. Seconded by **Charles Plummer**
 - c. All in favor, motion passes

3. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. **John Charlton** motions to approve the minutes
 - b. Seconded by **Aaron**
 - c. All in favor, motion passes

4. Frances Youn – Student Regent
 - a. Graduate student tuition makes up 20% of budget
 - b. Possible consolidation of Evans School and I-School
 - c. Least revenue-generating programs of the Grad School
 - d. University asked to write a letter about impacts of budget shortfall
 - e. Deans are having meeting with Provosts to see what to do with programs, looking at Activity Based Budgeting
 - f. Administration is hardest hit
 - g. Administration services directly linked to students will receive special attention
 - h. Process is moving very fast, working with Sarah to get a document produced by the end of March
 - i. \$4.6 billion deficit over the next 2 years
 - j. Looking at decreases to journal subscriptions, mental health counseling services, job loss, program consolidation, etc.
 - k. No decisions have been made yet!
 - l. Contact your legislators! Info for how to do this online (gpss.washington.edu/content/action-alerts)
 - m. Collecting letters to the President and Provost
 - n. **Adam Sherman** (WSA): WSA has postcards pre-printed, take them if you want one
 - o. **Josh** (Public Health Genetics): Talk with departments mentioned in the letter, decisions to put names in the letter is a decision, so we should take action
 - i. **Sarah**: Pres. Wise is looking for recommendations, if you have any ideas she'd like to hear them. Any ideas for cuts that would be less impactful for students would be much appreciated. The more we can think about how to make the budget cuts work, the better.
 - ii. **Frances**: Town Hall meeting a possibility regarding this. Administration notes that there is a very long process to go through before cutting programs, so students wouldn't be affected now, but students would be in the future.

- iii. **Ben:** GPSS is hosting a meeting for student leaders of mentioned programs this Friday. But these potential cuts would affect others outside these programs too with reduced course offerings.
- iv. **Karl:** Jackson School and other interdisciplinary programs would likely be affected by consolidation.
- v. **Jonathan Huang (Epidemiology):** Resolution should be that as an entire group of grad students we want these programs to continue.
- vi. **Frances:** if we don't make cuts in these areas, we'd have to make them in others. Would help if the resolution could mention alternative cuts, ways to place tuition into threatened programs, etc.
- vii. **Sarah:** legislature is considering closing many tax loopholes, but it would take time to get these loopholes closed and collect that revenue
- viii. **Andrew:** Consolidating Evans would save little money with tenured professors, seems like placing Evans on the list was largely political
- ix. **Rebecca (Epidemiology):** sending letters directly to Phyllis Wise?
 - 1. **Sarah:** We made a decision to funnel letters through GPSS, but you can certainly send letters on your own.

5. Budget Vote

- a. Asking for a total of \$20,000 more than last year; or \$30,000 more than we received from SAF
- b. Most of the increases come from not receiving revenues from Not for Tourist sales
- c. Also salary increases for staff, finding it difficult to recruit and retain staff members with low salaries
- d. **Karen (Pharmacy):** can you explain how money for travel allocations is different from travel funds?
 - i. **Marc:** Travel grants goes to students, travel budgets under VP and Pres are for sending delegations to SAGE
- e. **Jenny (Pharmacy):** new cell phone charges added to a new position
 - i. **Marc:** same as last year. Only VP and Pres get reimbursement for this from being in Olympia
- f. Phone line charges increasing from UW-IT
- g. Motion to approve the budget by **Aaron**, seconded by **Jonathon (Epidemiology)**
 - i. All in favor, motion passes

6. Election Packet Vote

- a. Now's the time to start thinking about running for office, and you don't have to be a senator to run
- b. **Kylee** and Co. made last year's packet a bit more consolidated
- c. Already got one election form submitted!
- d. Motion to approve the election packet by **James**, seconded by **Charles Plummer**
 - i. All in favor, motion passes

7. SAGE Agenda

- a. Student Advocates for Graduate Education

- b. Founded in Fall 2008, UW took leadership role in SAGE and hosted meeting at UW in 2009
 - c. Try to find out from other student leaders how to consolidate lobbying efforts
 - d. Focuses on:
 - i. Taxation and Indebtedness
 - ii. Research Grants
 - iii. Immigration Issues
 - e. **Tish** (Geography): most fellowships are below FPL, so only taxed on additional income sources. Many graduate students make more than working families but we'd be seeking to not pay taxes on this income.
 - i. **Adam**: Recognizing that graduate students need a certain amount of money, but we're not getting funded at that level.
 - f. **Josh** (Public Health): funding itself is not the only issue, but funding students that don't need it
8. SAGE Resolution Vote
- a. Motion to suspend the reading by **Josh**, seconded by **Charles**
 - i. All in favor, motion passes
 - b. **Amy** (Classics): change final whereas clause to "public" instead of "pubic"
 - i. Income-contingent retainment programs in second-to-last clause
 - 1. Taken as a friendly amendment
 - 2. Motion to approve the resolution with friendly amendment by **Charles**, seconded by **Aaron**
 - a. All in favor, motion passes
9. Legislative Update
- a. Huskies on the Hill was a success!
 - b. Childcare Matching Grants got voted out of Ways and Means, in Rules Committee now
 - i. Vote needs to take place by the 10th or it'll be dead ☹
 - ii. Then it just needs to go through the House if it passes Senate
 - c. Commercial Parking Tax Exception
 - i. City of Seattle is trying to increase parking fees in the U District
 - ii. If bill gets through it would mean less cuts to the UPass
 - iii. Ben testified in support of bill, currently in Senate Rules Committee
 - iv. Going to Senate for a floor vote, then would still have to go through the House
 - d. Higher Education Coordinating Board may end soon, legislation in place to do this
 - e. Supplemental Budget passed with cuts to State Need Grant, backfills from tuition
 - f. Statewide Lobby Day on Monday
 - g. Need a forum for outreaching planning to Graduate Students, contact Melanie (gpsleg@uw.edu) if you're interested
 - h. Have your students send emails down to Olympia

10. GPSS Survey Results

- a. Survey out in December 2010 with 1,140 respondents
- b. 65% have heard of GPSS
- c. 85% of students receive some sort of financial aid
- d. Students often mentioned that they chose the UW because of the affordability of tuition and availability of financial aid
- e. **Sarah** shared some of the survey results with the University
 - i. Looking for specific examples about how budget is specifically impacting you!
- f. **Jennifer** (SAFS): are responses tied to departments? Do we know how these responses differ among Arts & Sciences, etc.
 - i. **Lauren:** asked for names of programs, but students wrote this in so they may have described their programs differently. Haven't looked this far in depth yet.
- g. **Frances:** were responses ranked in priority? Re: affordability, financial aid, etc.
 - i. **Lauren:** No, just bubbled-in if they were important. Quality of education was ranked most important the most frequently.

11. Spring Social Update

- a. Casino Royale theme
- b. Maybe a food drive for a local food bank so the event has a purpose
- c. 5:30-10:10 on Thursday, April 14th
- d. Need about 10 volunteers, especially dealers at Blackjack tables, drink servers, speak to students about GPSS
- e. Volunteers:
 - i. Brook Sattler
 - ii. Karl
 - iii. Dentistry (2)
 - iv. Julie (Public Health)

12. Treasurer Update

- a. Maximum award for Travel grants used to be \$250 domestic, max was \$500...now the minimum is \$500
- b. Still have about 4.5 grand left in departmental allocations, put in funding requests!
- c. Planning to add an "events planner" to GPSS staff next year

13. Announcements

- a. **Ben:** Student Tech Fee Committee has an opening, if you're interested, visit the GPSS website to apply by Monday
- b. **Shawn:** Classroom Evaluation Plan being edited by ASUW, would like GPSS input on student evaluations...the questions asked, etc.
 - i. Would like a couple of students on the list.

14. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by **Charles**
- b. Seconded by **Aaron Naumann**
- c. All in favor, motion passes

d. Meeting adjourns at 7:02pm