

GPSS Senate meeting minutes
Oct. 6, 2010

Time called to order: 5:37pm

Approval of the Agenda:

Charles Plummer, ESS motions to approve the agenda.

Michael Hutchinson, ESS seconds.
motion passed.

General Welcome:

Sarah Reyneveld

- bulk of this mtg will be spent to electing senators to committees
- this year's policy initiative: expanding access to childcare, mental health access, transportation services (UPass)
- General introduction of officers

Ben

- Priorities in office: state budget situation "dire" 4.5 billion dollar shortfall for upcoming biennium. Keeping tuition low-accessibility.
- Putting a face to the budget cuts- hearing students' personal stories
- Reiteration of students who are parents and access to childcare

Shawn

- Plug for committee work
- Ask for senators to advocate to their constituents
- Broaden constituency base- mobilize strengths and our voices for ourselves and future generations of graduate students. Who beyond students (parents, families) are part of our constituency?
- Diversity issues on campus

Marc

- Travel grants- money is tight. We always have more requests for travel grants than we have funds available. Dept allocations (\$7,000). This never gets fully spent- get departments to use them.
- Revamp of social programs- added spring picnic for community building/ outreach to bring ppl in.
- Oct 21st- students paying for their own education
- Need volunteers for travel and finance committee

Officer/Senate Introductions: role call

Committee Appointments:

Trond, Industrial Engineering motions to elect current executive senators.

Boyan, FIUTS seconds.
motion passed.

Executive Committee:

Eder, Aeronautics/Space nominates Boyan Penkov, FIUTS

Boyan Penkov: "I represent all international students on campus, I would like to run for the position" all in favor.

Judicial:

Shawn introduces the judicial committee's role and functions, looking for 6 senators.
James Rosenswagen, Info School POI about other committees that need members.
Shawn explains and gives description of other committees to fill

1. Maren Anderson, Scandinavian Studies
2. James Rosenzweig, Info School
3. Blake Hovde, Genome Sciences
4. Edward Schwietermen, Astronomy
5. Carol Warrior, Native American

Boyan Penkov, FIUTS, seconds.
All in favor.

Finance and Budget:

1. Sofia Harwell, JSchool-Russian and Eastern European
2. Karl Starns, JSchool-Russian and Eastern European
3. Mike Skinner, Asian Languages
4. Nicole Secula, Music
5. Adam Webber, UDP
6. Mitch Johnson, Astronomy

Travel Grants:

Trond: POI about maximum/minimum amounts

Marc answers there is only about \$17,000 to give out, \$2,800 per cycle 6-7 awards at most per cycle for 30-40 applicants

Mitch Johnson, Astronomy POI: asks if Travel Grants is still accepting apps for this quarter?

Marc answers it is closed for this quarter. Next quarter deadline is Feb. Apps cannot be late! Policy is strict but fair. Cannot violate budget numbers. Students can only be funded once.

1. Travis Reynolds, Public Policy
2. Lauren Berg, Biology
3. Jessica Lozano, Anthropology
4. Aaron Haley, Near East Languages
5. Tobias Gruenthal, Germanics
6. Farani Aryono, Statistics

ASUW Rep:

Ben: ASUW rep last year. Introduction of Michelle and Jed.

Michelle: ASUW student senate vice-chair, gives introduction.

Shawn: talks about being a ASUW member. Embedded together (GPSS/ASUW)

1. Charles Plummer, ESS
2. Jean Dinh, Medicine

Grad Program Review

Marc: Intro on committee. "This committee is essential." Last year put together a bill of rights. We felt it was necessary to have an independent voice to how education evolves. Our performance in the past has been variable, this year there will be a new process. We need 10 people. Tailor a survey to departmental needs. We need people who are committed to this, so our voice is heard and consistent across the board.

Shawn: opportunity for students to share their voice in a controlled space and really talk about what's going on in the department. Extensive survey with quantitative/qualitative analysis.

Marc: promise from grad school to standardize meetings, will try to hold grad school accountable to that.

Aaron Haley, Near Eastern Lang POI: Elaborate on time commitment?

Andrew: 12 programs up for academic review. Review mtgs each quarter. Input on questionnaire, 2 senators go to actual review with students. Go through responses. Write 2-3 page report.

Departments up for review:

- Eastern Languages
- Anthropology
- Oceanography
- Atmospheric Sciences
- Molecular biology

1. Aaron Haley, Near East
2. Ashli Baker, Classics
3. Karl Starns, Jackson School-Russia and Eastern Europe
4. Michael Hutchins, ESS
5. J. D. Tovey, Urban Design
6. Jenna Armstrong, Public Health-Environmental Health
7. Eric Waithaka, Social Work
8. Nathan Cernetic, Material Sciences
9. Jeanene Mitchell, Near and Middle East
10. Christine Lloyd, Microbiology
11. Alexei Czeshis, Computer Science
12. Heidi Berge, Jackson school-South Asian

Communication and Outreach:

Sarah: re-branding GPSS. What type of events, decision making processes, what issues do we want to take up, how do we get students involved?

Ben: 2 focuses for this committee. Internal: how GPSS communicates with its constituents. Small to large issues. Finding key stories to support GPSS issues.

Nick, Marine Affairs: bridge gap between us and policymakers in Olympia.

1. Colin Morgan Cross, School Pub Affairs
2. Megan Gambs, Oceanography
3. Alva Robinson, Near Eastern
4. Nick Wehner, Marine Affairs
5. Janica Lockhart, Evans School
6. GPSS Vice President
7. GPSS Publications Assistant
8. Lauren Domino, Evans School

9. Connie Sullivan, Marine Affairs

LEGISLATIVE STEERING:

Ben: leading this committee, document Ben's efforts in Olympia, can only lobby for stuff on the document. Decide what our priorities are on legislative level. Sounding board for Ben-feedback from committee.

Sarah: Issues such as tuition, financial aid, etc. this doc governs what we can lobby on during Lobby Day. Get more students down to speak with their senators.

1. Curtis Reed, JS-China Studies
2. Russell Hugo, Linguistics
3. Trond Nilsen, Industrial Engineering
4. Matthew Blosser, Physics
5. Sofia Harwell, Jackson School-Russian and Eastern European
6. Nathan McVicar, Electrical Engineering
7. Karl Starns, Jackson School-Russian and Eastern European
8. Charles Plummer, ESS
9. Alicia Guidry, Biomedical and Health Informatics
10. Adam Sherman, Evans School
11. Michael Hutchins, ESS

DRAC:

Shawn: this is a brand new committee. We will be creating some documents, handouts, materials b/c of questions from grad students as they went through some type of mediated discussion with the university. Ombudsman. What is GPSS's role with this? That will be worked out this year. We will not be consulting, but will be acting in role of support/guidance.

1. Alicia Guidry, Medical Education
2. Trond Nilsen, Industrial Engineering
3. Naomi Campa, Classics
4. Rick Cruz, Clinical Psychology

STF Update:

Charles Plummer, ESS: gives introduction

- Last year formed STF to look at management of STF. Brief intro about STF. STF awards money to depts for tech, ie upgrades, new equip. 2009: 4.2 million dollars. Task force put together basic goals: assess level of fee, communication, internal operations, audit oversight responsibilities.
- Lack of communication- students don't know where \$ goes. Need improvement of reports from STF. STF communicates with UW Libraries, UWTech
- Transparency and oversight- make sure these problems don't happen again in future
- Out of all these findings, put together a document. Main points: change way STF fundamentally operates. Require STF to do yearly funding plan, which will be approved every year. Secretary last year saw problems with STF records. Making sure doing job correctly.

POI: Are we in charge of STF?

Charles: Yes, we (GPSS/ASUW)are in charge

Ben: There is 1 opening, get in place in next couple of weeks

Non-Resident Tuition Update:

Sarah gives introduction to approval of 2005 tuition waiver for non-resident students. Spoke with graduate dean, they made decision over summer, largely without GPSS, to repeal this approval. They look at it as forgone revenue. Why this is worrying: Reason many students came to UW was because of this tuition waiver, particularly for professional schools. This will be taken up at Board of Regents meeting this month. As grad students, we are recipients of only small amounts of financial aid. This isn't a waiver for students with lots of money. Would like to reach a compromise: earmark this money to be maintained as scholarships for students, not to go to professor salary, etc. Meeting is Oct 21st. Would like to hear thoughts of senators and their colleagues, constituents who might be affected by this. Does not take into affect until July 2012. Asking for testimonials and speakers to the mtgs.

Boyen Penkov, FIUTS: POI: would the money be controlled at dept or at grad school level?

Sarah: There is difficulty of having this money earmarked to be retained within the department.

Alexie, Computer Science: POI: non-resident tuition waiver vs RA/TA waiver?

Sarah: different types of waivers. These non-resident waivers affect predominately professional schools

Campus Sustainability Fund Update:

Julie Fisk: CSF coordinator. \$2.50 activities fee every quarter. The fund needs to be used to green the campus. Small size up to \$250. Mid size up to \$65,000. Large: over \$65,000.

Requirements: environmental campus for UW Seattle campus. Student involvement. Education component. Has to be sustainable- projects that live. There is a student committee that reviews these projects. Sustainability Summit on Oct 20th.

Ben: GPSS has 2 seats on the committee. Committee open to all grad students.

Higher Education Summit Update:

Sarah:

- Summit's mission: What is the state of higher education in WA?
- This year's topic: Losing Leverage: The Impact of State and Federal Funding for Grad/Professional Students.
- How does this university get key grants.
- This year will be lunchtime presentations from student federal grant recipients

Announcements:

Marc: first fall social is October 28th: Zombies Vs. Vampires. Oct 21st how to fund the dream event with vice-president.

McKibben: POI: all positions listed on website open to all students?

Sarah: yes

Charles Plummer, ESS motions for adjournment.

Lauren Berg, Biology seconds.

All in favor.

Time of adjournment: 7:24pm