

**GPSS Senate Meeting
November 3rd, 2010**

1. Call to Order
 - a. James Rosenzweig (Info School) moves to call the meeting to order at 5:35pm
 - b. Boyan (FIUTS) seconds.
 - c. Motion passes

2. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Rick (Psychology) moves to amend the agenda
 - b. Marc (ESS) seconds
 - c. Motion passes

3. Approval of the minutes
 - a. Charles (ESS) motions to approve the minutes
 - b. Andrew (Evans) seconds
 - c. Motion passes

4. Guest Speaker: President Wise
 - a. President Wise gives introduction about her interim term.
 - b. Themes: hoping to keep momentum going and moving forward
 - c. 3 goals:
 - i. Work on getting legislature to understand what UW means to the community
 1. no vibrant communities without a research university
 2. tell legislatures how important it is to support graduate education
 - ii. Continue 2y2d- next 2-4 years will see very tough decisions. We should be making those decisions in light of where we see the university in the next 20 yrs- wants UW to be THE premier public research university
 1. having a business sub-structure
 2. most challenging societal problems we will have in the next 20 yrs
 - iii. Make sure we get started on the next comprehensive campaign
 1. state, tuition, grants and contracts, commercialization of ideas
 2. graduate studies is where we are looking for donors
 - d. Opens the floor to questions:
 - i. Evan Smith (ASUW): Wondering with results of recent elections, will this be more of a bind with state revenue, how is UW going to adapt to this?
 1. Wise: Yes it will be more challenging. This year, the plan is to tell legislatures if higher education is a top priority,

please preserve the funding for higher education. We will maintain the class size of both undergrad and grad. If they cut it, hope legislature can help UW make up that gap. We are in this together, and convincing them that higher education is really key. Never had a student or parent go to [a legislator] and tell them how important higher education was to them.

- ii. James (Info): 5 sources of funding: commercialization of ideas, can you say if there are opportunities for us in the next coming years?
 1. Wise: great opportunities, especially in medicine, info school, etc. Explains applying for a patent.
- iii. Adam (Indus Engineering): 2y2d: What role or type of input will graduate and professional students have in that role?
 1. Wise: Sarah will be organizing several groups for a workshop so that graduate students can have input. Sarah notes that this will be addressed later in the meeting.
- iv. Alica (BioMed Edu): I don't understand how bringing in more out-of-state students will help.
 1. Wise: that is just one way, but not the only option. We have to figure out ways to give scholarships to out of state students who need it.
- v. Matt (MBA): I'm curious when you go to legislature and you talk to them, are you explaining how important higher education is at just the UW or across the state?
 1. Wise: It's both. 4-year schools like to point at the differences. There needs to be partnership and unity among them. I talk about higher education in general first. We keep about 75% students in state (graduate students). So I advocate for UW, but I don't think it's the best university for every student in Washington State.
 2. Matt: Do they make decisions for UW funding individually or across the state as a whole?
 3. Wise: provost and in collaboration with deans of each school about what the needs are. UW gets a budget from the state.
- vi. Alex (Comp Sci): Do you have a good metric for how many students who get masters/PhD degrees stay in WA state?
 1. Wise: 75% for combined undergrad and grad. It is the highest of the states by far. I use this in the state legislature. Bad part is because so many students stay in state, the reputation is not well-known. Jerry: 80% master stay 40% PhD stay.
- vii. Jennifer (Fisheries): My friends can't picture what a grad student does. Do legislators too have trouble envisioning what a graduate student does? How can we engage them in the experience?

1. Wise: I urge you to go talk to legislators. First listening, and then explaining. All of our state senators have a college degree, few have a professional degree. Explain to them that you could not be doing what you do, and helping the community, without a graduate degree.

5. U-Pass Information

- a. Address the issue of the crisis U-Pass has been going through. Price had increased 100% while ridership declined.
- b. Introduction of Josh from UW Transportation Services, who gives introduction of U-Pass services.
 - i. Current funding situation around U-Pass
 1. Participation decline, but ridership increase
 2. 2007- annual transit contracts 12.5 million dollars, at present 25 million dollars a year. We have doubled our costs in just 3 years.
 3. U-Pass Cost and Recovery
 - a. Recovery via U-Pass User Fees
 - b. Subsidy from Parking System- driving decrease and increase of ridership
 - c. Institutional Funding
 4. 2009- steep ridership decline due to increase in cost of U-Pass 100%
 - ii. Is this something as a community we are committed to solving: creation of task force.
 1. Understand what was causing the increase and what can be done about this. This would over time diminish access to school, work, internships
 - iii. Ultimate recommendations and a path forward
 1. Maintain Current Funding Model
 2. Universal Transportation Fee
 3. Universal U-Pass Fee
 - iv. Student Transportation Task Force U-Pass Survey Results
 1. 79% of graduate students support or strongly support a Universal U-Pass model.
- c. Questions:
 - i. Matt: what are the corresponding increases?
 1. Josh: volatile marketplace right now, but there will be around a 12% increase over the next couple of years. We have not surveyed how price sensitive the students are.
 - ii. Jenna Armstrong (Environ Health): what is the exact amount that all students will be responsible for?
 1. Josh: 60-80 range. General ratification from the senate followed by specifics. \$75 U-Pass. Modeling on a 2-year lock at \$75.

2. Sarah: if this is approved, then using people who don't use U-Pass to subsidize those that do use U-Pass
- iii. Charles: POI this should be informational
- iv. Boyan (FIUTS): how much a revenue stream would be to have a similar model.
 1. Josh: separate accounting for each student and faculty U-Pass. What do we do with faculty and staff: They have not shown the same level of price sensitivity as students have. We might have an issue as well if staff fees helped to subsidize student fees.
- d. Sarah presents GPSS support and resolution. Introduction of Charles and Shawn to present resolution.

6. U-Pass Resolution

- a. Shawn reads the resolution.
- b. Questions:
 - i. Alex (CompSci): there is a clause that this all hinges on a fair price if the ridership changes?
 1. Sarah: this would essentially lock in the price for two years, correct?
 2. Josh: yes, this will not be affected by ORCA.
 - ii. Alex: is there any way we can avoid nasty surprises?
 1. Sarah: yes we will write up to help lock in this price
 2. Shawn encourages Senators to get involved with committees
 3. Charles: if there are surprises, we can pull out.
 4. Josh: under current methodology, transportation services would have no ability to increase the fees. Any fees would have to be passed by GPSS and ASUW. We would then revert to current funding model
 - iii. Nicole (Dentistry): is this a universal fee for all students of UW, even those who spend 2 of their 4 years in eastern Washington?
 1. Shawn: transportation is a public good
 - iv. Paul (Law): this is essentially a tax on students who don't need U-Pass to fund students who use U-Pass. Even at \$100 we are getting transportation at a fraction of the cost. We should not be taxing our other graduate students.
 - v. Jene (Pharmacy): any information on student groups that would be affected by a fee like this?
 1. Shawn: we don't have information on that
 - vi. Colin (Mech Engineering): which number is correct?
 1. Sarah: the 79% of all students
 - vii. What happened to the middle of the road option?

1. Sarah: high number of users in the survey. The medium option poses a tax of 20-35 without actual U-Pass benefit. We like to think of this as a public good.
 2. Josh: zoned U-Pass. We analyzed this early in the conversation. Those that lived closer to campus were taking cheaper trips, but more frequent trips
- c. James (Info): Motions to approve the resolution
 - i. Paul (Law) seconds.
 - d. pros:
 - i. Paul (Exec): I think our constituency has spoken, to reject the vast majority of students on this issue does not sit right
 - ii. Paul (Exec): if we don't do this we are not an institution that takes care of its students. This is something that should have been something that was done years ago. If this is a mandatory fee this would be covered by fellowships and we would not have to pay.
 1. Sarah: it is also tax deductible
 - iii. Jennifer (Fisheries): Universal U-Pass is a common good. Our individual uses are not the same as the whole
 - iv. Erica: abuse of the U-Pass in the past, this would eliminate that.
 - v. Charles: POI Orca system would also deal with that
 - e. cons:
 - i. Eric (Social Work): I'm surprised at how fast we are going to support this. Why can't we see how far the drop off is?
 - f. Sarah: are there any objections?
 - i. objections: 2 Eric (Social Work), Paul Hamer (Law)
 - g. Shawn: we have to decide what to do, let the market decide, middle of the road model, or the universal model? Promotion of transportation as a common good. Campus Sustainability Fund- what kind of message do we send to the university about this issue
 - h. Sarah: opens the floor to questions
 - i. Paul (Law): I think the middle of the road option should have been looked at
 - ii. Edward (Astronomy): The costs could increase exponentially, this is an insurance policy against that. this is also insurance for every student that they have a ride no matter what.
 - i. Ben moves to close debate
 - i. [name] seconds.
 - ii. all in favor.
 - j. Vote on U-Pass resolution
 - i. All in favor – 74
 - ii. Opposed – 10
 - iii. Abstentions – 0
 - iv. Motion passes

7. Legislative Agenda Update- Ben

- a. drafting agenda, it's become clear that we need flexibility in the document to adjust as things change
 - b. budget overview-
 - i. Revenue forecast below expectations
 - ii. Current biennium (2009-11): 6.3% across-the-board cuts at UW, or \$17 million
 - iii. Next biennium (2011-13): Facing \$4.5 billion shortfall
 - iv. Very likely to grow, especially with passing of i1053 (tax increases) and i1107 (candy-soda tax)
 - c. 2 models have emerged
 - i. High Tuition, High Aid
 - 1. Low- and middle-income students would be squeezed
 - 2. Increases pressure on financial aid funding, and this model has in effect turned into high tuition, low aid
 - ii. Guaranteed Funding Floor
 - 1. Could give the state a license to underfund
 - 2. Unsure what kind of traction this might have
 - 3. GPSS Strategy
 - d. GPSS Strategy:
 - i. Focus on how UW's graduate and professional students benefit the state, and the economic impact of higher-ed investment.
 - ii. Prioritize advocacy of:
 - 1. State funding
 - 2. Tuition affordability and predictability
 - 3. Financial aid
8. Child Care Task Force- Ben
- a. Improve awareness among students and administrators of student-parent challenges and ameliorate conditions for student-parents and their children. Joint task force with ASUW.
 - b. Task force will be charged with:
 - i. Prioritizing student-parent issues
 - ii. Developing advocacy strategies
 - iii. Planning "Bring Your Kid to School Day"
 - c. Paul Meon (Med) motions to create the task force.
 - i. Aaron Haley seconds
 - ii. all in favor
 - iii. abstentions 0
 - d. Ben call for volunteers:
 - i. POI: how often do you meet?
 - 1. Ben: 1-2 month for 90 minutes
 - ii. Evan Smith: can bring ASUW students onto the task force.
 - iii. volunteers:
 - 1. Adam (Industrial Engineering)
 - 2. Aaron Haley

9. 2Y2D Update- Sarah

- a. short and long term planning for UW
- b. What is 2y2d?
 - i. • Through a collaborative process, the 2y2d Initiative builds on the foundation of the UW Vision and Values to develop a long-term direction for the next twenty years
 - ii. • Based on this direction, a near-term sustainable academic business plan will be created for the next two years that helps set the UW on the right path for the next twenty.
 - iii.
 - iv. •The plan will reflect our shared mission, takes into account current realities, and allows the UW to excel in the next twenty years.
- c. 2y2d Process
 - i. Phase 1: Initial Focus Groups of University leaders, faculty members, staff and students began meeting in the summer of 2009. Each group drafted a report that is a working document. Based on the Initial Focus Groups' reports, a two-page Initial Focus Group Summary was created.
 - ii. Phase 2: Synthesize stakeholder—including graduate and professional— input to redefine stakeholder direction over the next 20 years.
- d. Attend Graduate and Professional Student Focus Groups at December 1, 5:00 pm
 - i. what goals would you like to see at UW 20 years down the road?
- e. Colin Bates, Mech Engineering: can we have info to pass this on easily?
- f. Shawn: do you want more email/ communication?
 - i. yes

10. Non-Residential Tuition Waiver Update- Sarah

- a. Non-Resident Waiver Summary:
 - i. In July 2005, the University of Washington Regents approved a tuition reduction for nonresident graduate and professional students. The reduction provided an annual waiver of the differential tuition between resident and nonresident tuition for nonresident graduate and professional students who have lived in the state for one year, but who do not qualify for state residency
- b. Create Graduate and Professional Fellowships
 - i. Proposal: For \$4500 a year (\$500 a month) in a fellowship/stipend, schools and colleges can create an option that triggers a waiver of out-of-state tuition. E.g., if College X awarded Non Resident Student Y a \$4500 fellowship, Student Y would not have to pay out of state tuition
- c. The proposed fellowship program would include:

- i. Deans would receive money used for tuition waivers to fund fellowship programs on a local level
 - ii. Streamlined eligibility requirements
 - iii. Reduces the number of students who are eligible for and who would receive this award
 - iv. Student recipients would receive:
 - v. \$4500 a year (\$500/month)
 - vi. Tuition waiver (the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition)
- d. What GPSS has done:
 - i. GPSS organized students—primarily from medicine and law—to attend the UW Regents meeting in October
 - ii. Compiled Testimonies from waiver recipients (over 50 and counting)
 - iii. Worked with Dean Baldasty to negotiate a compromise solution aimed at providing a more targeted fellowship program
- e. Questions:
 - i. Boyan (FIUTS):
 - 1. Sarah: Law school- talking to them about fellowship proposal. Encourage senators in individual depts. to get in touch with Sarah
- f. Next Steps:
 - i. Continue to Mobilize Student Groups:
 - 1. Mobilize stakeholders in law, medicine
 - 2. Petition
 - ii. How you can help:
 - 1. Attend the Board of Regents Meeting on November 18
 - 2. Attend the meeting (TBA) with Interim President Phyllis Wise, Dean Testy, etc.
 - iii. Question:
 - 1. [Name]- if new proposal goes through, how would this be enforced in individual depts.?
 - a. Sarah: program was getting too costly from 1 to 4.5 million budget item. They also tried to provide some data that these students would have come to this university anyway. GPSS supports this money staying in the hands of the students. Deans would have to set aside a given amount of forgone revenue. Currently not much accountability.
 - 2. [Name] if this stipend goes through, would this be proportional to the students and depts. as current numbers show?
 - a. Sarah: we don't know what these numbers would look like.

11. Announcements

- a. Marc: Financial travel grants update: we are down to \$11,000 now.
- b. Paul Meon: Institute for Healthcare Movement in two weeks
- c. Ben: November 13 Washington State Student General Assembly
 - i. ASUW rep: encourage students to come.
- d. Ben: survey for Grad/Professional students
- e. Sarah: Summit in December

12. Adjourn

- a. Paul (Law) motions to adjourn
- b. Seconded by Alexi (CompSci).
- c. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.