GPSS Executive Committee Minutes – 9/28/11

Members Present:
Aaron Naumann (President)
Adam Sherman (Vice President)
Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer)
Melanie Mayock (Secretary)
Charles Plummer (Executive Senator)
Jenna Armstrong (Executive Senator)
Evan Smith (ASUW)
Trond Nilsen (Executive Senator)
Megan Gambs (Executive Senator)

Others Present:
Rudy Owens (Chief of Staff and minutes taker)
Rene Singleton (SAO Advisor)

1 Call to Order
Aaron called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2 Approval of the Agenda

3 Approval of the Minutes from 9/21/11
Discussion of minutes and seeking of clarification of minutes summary of Andrew Van Winkle’s presentation and discussion of it. Change sentence to say: “Some members of the Executive Committee felt that a university disciplinary committee consisting solely of student appointees would not be beneficial to graduate students.” Tim Thomas name was also corrected in minutes.

In section E, strike language regarding discussion of non-resident tuition. Minor language change to paragraph change regarding Charles Plummer section E.

Trond moves to accept minutes. Colin seconds. Approved unanimously.

4a Student Technology Fee Committee Appointments
Adam: Bill Winn can’t sit on STF committee. Tim Thomas was recommended. Charles said Tim had best knowledge of student tech fee.
Melanie moves to approve. Colin seconds. Unanimously passes.
Charles notes that last year some Senators felt the issues passed them by. The idea to do something similar to ASUW’s Senate committees so Senators can come together in smaller groups to have discussions. This is where the caucus idea came from.

Melanie says caucuses could meet every Senate meeting and do most of caucusing before a vote on a big issue. They could meet earlier for people to talk about issues in their programs. Melanie says it fosters community during senate meetings. Melanie summarizes how to create caucuses. She talks about organizing Senators based on similar academic programs, or have people self-select. Adam says we don’t want to have groups of friends sit together. Would like cross-departmental communication.

Colin talks about caucuses in Canadian Federation of Students. There were interest group caucuses, like First Nations. The best way to do something is try something, then regroup at end of quarter. Evan says the spirit of caucuses is to join a group and align. Trond says we should start somewhere. Don’t have self-selection up front. Doesn’t think by department is necessarily the right way. Aaron talks of issues of factionalism, which may not be bad, and logistics of moving people around in Condon 109. Colin says shuffle name cards and putting them randomly.

Adam says engaging senators in conversation can foster communication. Having people talk will foster community. Rene asks for clarification – having caucus meetings in meetings? Yes. Trond says ASUW committees work because they focus on issues and works well. If we don’t have anything for senators to do, they’ll talk shop. Jenna says grad students could form their own groups. Evan describes ASUW model - focus on issues. Let’s them choose their own interest. Suggests discussion topics. Aaron says this proposal is getting at this. Aaron says give them a topic, like Provost characteristics. Melanie says with hot topics most useful.

Aaron sees this as generating discussion and fostering community. Suggests it could be used later and better for hot topics. Trond says that as this matures, there should be mechanism for putting an item to the caucus. Discussion if that requires bylaw change. Disagreement by group. Aaron says playing field must be level as possible. Charles says issue of people who talk will still talk. Caucuses allows those who don’t want to talk in a large group to talk.

Trond says have executive committee help pull groups together. Many ideas how to organize groups. Long discussion.

Melanie says we want to do a Provost search discussion with small groups, randomly selected. For future Senate meetings, caucuses could be for hot topics or spur of moment. Agreement to form small groups for Provost discussion in first Senate meeting, decide later on future meetings.

### Senate Meeting Agenda, October 5th

Discussion of arranging the Senate agenda. Discussion of what the orientation should be (who is it, what we do, who officers are, etc.) Meeting should be under 2 hours. Agenda:

- **Call to Order**
- **Orientation**
  - Intro to GPSS and Officers, roles responsibilities, and committees (7 minutes)
  - Parlie Pro “cake” (light on structure) (10 minutes)
- **Agenda (1 minute)**
Minutes (1 minute)
Provost
  Intro (5 minutes)
  Random caucus selection (15 minutes)
  Report back/Q&A, general discussion (15 minutes)
Committee Appointments (45 minutes)
  Exec
  Judicial (nominations from floor)
  F&B (set by Colin)
  Graduate Program Review (Rudy and Aaron)
  Legislative (Adam and Aaron)
  DRAC (Melanie)
  Travel grants (Adam, Colin sets)
  ASUW reps (2)
(List of committees to be printed up before senate meeting)
  Announcements, adjourn, social in the room

Trond moves to accept agenda. Megan seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

4d  U-PASS Update
Melanie summarizes the advisory board. Oversees future increases and potential exemptions. Advisory board members not set. ASUW has 6 seats and GPSS has 3 seats. Aaron says advisory board needs to be set up fast. Board has discussed the idea of exemptions. Aaron says the argument is that U-PASS contributes to the University and thus all students. Charles asks if the board has the power to give exemptions. ASUW and GPSS will look at MOU and will go back to Advisory Board to hammer out details.

4e  Academic Reviews, Catalyst Survey
The Executive Committee members reviewed the questionnaire, discussed validity of design, and made recommendations to change the survey.

5a  Higher Ed Summit Update
Aaron: President Young has declined the invitation to speak at the Higher Education Summit. President Floyd of WSU has agreed to speak. President’s office said they can put a designee in the President’s place for the panel at the Summit, but that doesn’t meet our objectives. May restructure President’s Panel; maybe Young would agree to a 20-minute solo speaking slot. We’ve also thought about getting a video statement from Young. Not getting a lot of response from legislators about attending the Summit.

Melanie: We could give more time to the student perspective. Adam: We need big names to draw audience members. Rene: Aaron should talk to Young again and ask him if he’d be willing to speak with a different format. Perhaps ask Eric Godfrey if he could help. Rene: Change Floyd’s format to the same as Young’s. New format: have keynote speaker (President) on a particular topic, then have a panel speak afterwards on the same topic. Aaron: Will follow up with the President’s office.

5b  Student Code of Conduct Revision Committee
Aaron: entertained a motion to table this item.

6 Officer Reports
a. Vice President
Adam: Hiring staff soon; interviews this Friday. Will get going on committee appointments; will need help on this. Faculty councils are a priority along with the four big committees. Has been attending Chatauquas. Tomorrow is the HEC board meeting; Adam will either attend or watch on TV.

b. Treasurer
Colin: Travel Grant application is now online and operational. Tech refresh is mostly done; all staff and officers have computers and software. Got Microsoft Office for free. Interviews for his staff next week. Well on the way with Fall Social; got good deals with Safeway, got better quality wine.

c. Secretary
Melanie: Recruiting Senators; asked GPAs to register their Senators. Updating the Senate roster. Orientations done. Website is still in process, need to follow up with Creative Communications. Will work on parliamentary procedure tips for Senate meeting next week.

d. ASUW
Evan: Dawg Daze has been successful. Dealing with UPASS. Working for ballot dropbox on campus. Next BOD meeting Thursday.

e. President
Aaron: Still working on Sodexo issue. Provost search committee is moving forward; will start holding more campus forums to solicit information. Have heard back from 4 UW offices that they will fund us $18,000 for events this year.

7 Announcements

8 Adjourn
Adam: move to adjourn. Colin: seconds. All in favor, motion passes.