GPSS Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 5:30pm, Condon 401

Members Present:
Charles Plummer, President
Adam Sherman, Vice President (via Skype)
Melanie Mayock, Secretary
Colin Goldfinch, Treasurer
Amy Winter, executive senator
Megan Gambs, executive senator
Evan Smith, ASUW representative
Rene Singleton, SAO representative

1) Call to Order
Charles calls the meeting to order at 5:43pm.

2) Approval of the Agenda
Melanie moves to amend the agenda by adding an executive session.
Charles suggests making it the last item in new business: 4d.
There is a discussion about how minutes are taken in an executive session and who should take them. This is all very complicated.
10 minutes is allocated for the new item 4d.
Melanie moves to add item 4d, an executive session, to the agenda, allocating 10 min.
Colin seconds.
No objections, the motion passes

Melanie moves to approve the current agenda.
Evan seconds.
No objections, the motion passes

3) Approval of the Minutes from 2/22/12
Colin moves to approve the minutes from the last meeting.
Melanie seconds.
No objections, the motion passes

4a) STF Funds for Wireless Refresh
Colin reports that UWIT wants another half of a million dollars from STF in order to finish the Wi-Fi refresh. This will bring the STF surplus to in the vicinity of $500,000.
Charles says that rather than using annually budgeted funds for this proposal, we will be using these funds, and the Tech Fee will be using the rest for STF projects.
Colin says that the main function of the funds would be to increase network capacity which is now needed given the increase in mobile devices on campus
Megan asks what the benefit is of using these funds rather than other funds.
Charles explains that the STF didn’t account for their money before last year. They lacked the mechanism to do it. So they had no way of tracking expenditures. After a certain point in time, all that money is rolled back into the STF account. This had happened for over 10 years, and the accrued under spending came to around $2million. This was discovered last year. It was decided that that surplus money could be used for projects deemed large enough end beneficial enough to rationally use these funds. The idea is that the students who paid this $ are probably
long gone, so the next best thing is to just spend it on something that benefits the entire campus. Colin says that the annual STF budget is $4 million, FYI. So $500,000 would usually be 12-13% of the annual budget—much much larger than the average project. Charles says there is no reason for STF to have a surplus, so we should spend it. Megan moves to pass the STF fund surplus to the Wi-Fi renovation refresh in the amount of $500,000. Colin seconds. No objections, the motion passes.

4b) Special Appropriations
Colin reports that the F&B Committee has had a few applications over the last few weeks that they thought merited more money than F&B is approved to allocate. The first is the Taiwanese Overseas Student Association (TOSA) Night Market, which will be held in Red Square. Adam: How big is this event? Rene: There are 20 or 30 booths there. Colin: The second event is the Immigration Alliance, who will be bringing in Jose Antonio Vargas, who has outed himself as an undocumented student and is raising awareness about the issues concerning undocumented students. Charles: What percentage of their total budget is this $1000? Adam: and what would the $1000 for TOSA be going towards? Rene: If TOSA is combining with others this year, there would be about 50 booths and maybe 5000 attendees. Colin: The second group is the Social Work Immigration Alliance (SWIA), whose event has a budget of around $10,000, so we are offering $1000 and covering around 10%. TOSA is asking for stage and lighting and PA funds. They got a lot of funding from ASUW and are coming to us for additional funds to afford better equipment. Adam: What does the Special Allocations budget look like? Colin: A lot was given away at the last meeting. We are close to $4000 right now, if we pass these expenditures. There are 7 applications last week, so it looks like we are going to be done with Special Allocations come the end of winter quarter. Adam: This event sounds awesome, but we should expect more SA applications in the spring. Should we pay to just improve the pre-existing event? Colin: F&B looks at whether there are any other funding sources, whether there is a way to recapture some of the funds spent through revenue (ticket sales, eg). F&B has rejected purchase proposals that were unreasonable. But in these two specific cases, they have gotten a lot of funding from other sources, and it is getting to the point where if we don’t give them the $1000, they might not be able to do it. This is especially the case with the SWIA. For TOSA, this is two groups combined that we have funded in the past, and has a higher investment per student than many other proposals.

Adam moves to approve the $1000 for TOSA
Colin seconds
No objections, the motion passes.

Evan moves to approve the $1000 for SWIA.
Amy seconds.
No objections, the motion passes.
4c) City of Seattle/University of Washington Community Advisory Committee - student representation

Charles has just recently learned that a thing called the Community Advisory Committee exists. There is supposed to be student representation here. It seems that one seat has gone back and forth between GPSS and ASUW. Issues discussed on this committee include university growth plans, etc. This seems interesting but do we really have time to get involved here? Charles reports that Conor McLean (ASUW President) thinks they can find someone from ASUW to fill the position in the next few weeks. He thinks we should just let them do that and deal with the issue later.

4d) Executive Session

Colin moves to enter an executive session for 10 minutes at 6:02pm.

Melanie seconds.

No objections. The motion passes.

[Notes for the executive session are taken by hand]

Colin moves to increase the Event Coordinator salary to $13/hr and to reduce the position’s work hours from 15 to 10 hours per week, effective as of March 7 (today).

Adam seconds.

No objections, the motion passes.

Charles moves to increase the Executive Assistant salary to $13/hr effective immediately.

Megan seconds

No objections, the motion passes

Adam moves to increase the Policy Analyst salary to $19.79/hr effective March 7 (today.)

Melanie seconds

No objections, the motion passes.

5) Restructuring Committee – Update, Process

Charles asks what he needs to give an update on.

Melanie asks if everyone can still meet next week for the next executive meeting. Is this conversation better had next week? We will have the task force over spring break and we could spear head some of these ideas then. Also the committee is meeting tomorrow.

Colin \[\text{Is there anything to discuss from the senate meeting?}\]

Megan \[\text{With the restructuring of officer pay, a lot of officers may not decide to run until after February 15. That’s the last day to apply for FAFSA. That might be a reason why people with RAships and TAships are not applying until later.}\]

Melanie \[\text{Are these GSA jobs actually 10 or 20 hours per week? Would someone be successful at both jobs?}\]

Charles \[\text{Probably not.}\]

Melanie \[\text{If we wanted to cut the tuition waiver, we would have a fifth staff member though, which would lighten the load on everyone.}\]

Charles \[\text{That is the question. Would 1 more staff member bring all of our hours under 20 hours? Perhaps not. This is still a concern. How much of an effect would a fifth officer have on the work load of all the staff, really? It might not change enough to allow people to be teaching and RAing, etc.}\]

Melanie \[\text{Her sense from the committee is that there is not going to be a fifth officer. More likely everyone will be shifted to tier one tuition}\]
Megan: That doesn’t cover the College of the Environment. The difference is about $1000/quarter.
Melanie: So what do we want to do?
Charles: By next week we should all have considered these options closely.
Melanie: We will discuss all the proposals next week.
Megan: Will the proposal be ready next week?
Charles: Should be tomorrow.
Melanie: She is expecting a preliminary recommendation.
Charles: We should plan on taking what they give us tomorrow and going through it soon.
Melanie: There was talk of offering something for senators on catalyst. Is that happening?
Adam: They said they were going to. It will happen.
Melanie: Who will be at the meeting? I will be there for an hour
Charles: I will be there from Tacoma
Colin: I will be there as early as I can.
Melanie: Do the two meetings over spring break still stand?
Colin: Few people are able to attend both meetings, but most everyone can attend at least one.
Melanie: When are meetings over spring break?
Colin: There will be a joint meeting on March 28. Other meetings are Sat 3/17 at noon and Thurs 3/22 at 10am.

5b) Legislative update

Adam gave the following report:

Late Friday night, there was a political coup in which 3 democratic senators joined with 22 republican senators to pass a budget that no one had seen except for them. Dems had not seen it, public had not seen it, there was no opportunity for public comment on it. Many people were upset.

It is looking very likely that there will be a special session. It is unclear as of now as to how long that special session will be. It could be a week, 30 days. The Governor has identified $200-$250million that she sees as the wedge between the two parties right now. Sticking points for Republicans (and the 3 Dems) is the budgeting trick to defer payments to school districts of $320 million by 24 hours, because that means you’d need to make up that $320 million next year. There are also differing opinions about how much should be left in a rainy day fund, and disagreements about a skip in payment to pensioners. Margaret Shepherd doesn’t really know what’s going on. Other people from other universities don’t really know what’s going on. Key legislators don’t know what is going on, or they aren’t sharing. The governor held a press conference saying that it is imperative that everyone put their differences aside and get this done by the deadline, which is midnight tomorrow. Adam thinks that is just strong talk. Some people have asked for a break in the session to let tempers cool, because some people are taking this very personally right now. It is looking likely that there will be a special session. The question is how long it will be.

If there is a compromise between the two budgets that have passed, we are looking at $30-$60 million in cuts to higher education as a whole, which would translate in between $7 and $13 million in cuts to UW, which is on top of the $200million cut that we have already received over the last few years.

Today he was at the governor’s signing of Senate Bill 6121 — the financial aid counseling bill which allows financial aid offices to counsel students on the taking of student loans.
It looks like bill 2313 will be signed quickly (this bill requires a 21 day notice any time the board of regents wants to increase tuition or fees on campus, allowing for a public comment period).

Senator Kastama might be a critical person in these budget conversations. We should focus all of our attention on him right now. Adam sent Kastama's office a link to a Facebook page that ASUW set up in order to gauge support for Kastama. The goal is to get 1000 people to like the page. They went to his office today and asked them to monitor the page. The office said they will be. Everyone get on there and like it.

He has been working with Jay Inslee's staff to try to get them to come to campus to talk about his vision for higher education.

Rene: We need to have an RSO sponsor that event. GPSS cannot do it.
Adam: Thanks Rene. I know we can't be in the business of promoting a candidate. I just want to make sure that people have an informed vote.

On the federal front, it looks like it's going to be Kelsey Knowles, myself, and Kiana Scott. Matt Souza is not going to be able to join us. Adam has been talking to Sarah Castro, a federal relations lobbyist. She is coming to campus on the 15th and they will be talking in Condon Hall to make sure that all policy papers are ready to go.

Also, he talked to the bookstore last quarter about whether they would donate a $50 gift card to try and solicit student stories for lobbying purposes. Adam would like to do this in such a way that we can get student stories about the research they are doing and why, whether students are dealing with immigration, etc. GPSS could also use this to identify people who want to get more engaged down the road. He will start a conversation with the bookstore and then start a contest to see who can come up with the most compelling story. Maybe the executive committee can vote on the best. Other models are fine too.

Rene: Were there lots of people protesting with all the other protesters in the halls the last couple of days?
Adam: Yeah, there were about 50 people who occupied Senator Zarelli's office. It was a lot of WSA people, but not many of their liaisons or lobbyists. There were a lot of students from different campuses. Adam tried to steer clear of that. He heard about it, read about it. He didn't hear of any arrests. He thinks it gets the public's attention turned to the issue more than it changes anything that happens in Olympia. Can someone start up this story contest? He's looking for entries of about 500 words.
Colin: Why not do it without any word limit.
Adam: It doesn't cost us anything, so it's worth a try.
Melanie: Will we do this via senators or via an all-student email?
Adam: Either way.
Melanie: Ok, why not.

6) Officer Reports
Adam: Kiana has been asked to look at what next quarter should look like. It is a goal of Adam's to make sure that the potential new VP is introduced to as many people in Olympia in
person as possible. This would be a potential passing of the baton, so to speak. Next quarter is going to be spent thinking about continuity between this year and next year.

Also he wants Kiana to keep looking at a variety of policies. She just finished a 50 state survey on financial aid on what types are provided in what states. It’s depressing. He also asked her to look more broadly at administrative pay at UW and within the public sector across Washington state. He wants to know where higher education administrative pay fits in with people who are heads of departments for Washington State. All these other public officers make much less than Michael Young, which seems weird to Adam. He wants to look at things like how much people spend on utilities and cable versus how much it would cost to fully fund higher education.

Colin î The Science and Policy Summit got $2000 from the School of Medicine. This is the first large subsidy. They will be able to partner with 2 student groups: The Student Public Health Association, which will also help financially and with getting more funding from SPH, and Blue Drinks from the College of the Environment. To subsidize food and drinks. TED talks events will be in the Burke Room on May 3. The larger summit will be on Tuesday May 8. We have a travel grants meeting on Sunday î 61 applications. Ouch. Will be working on the budget over spring break.

Melanie î bylaws say that each officer can submit our own budget proposal. Can we do that?
Colin î yeah. I assumed that it would be collaborative with the restructuring committee, but folks can submit things if they want.

Melanie î DRAC (Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee) had 2 meetings this week. On Monday they met with Rebecca Aanerud from The Graduate School to talk about their role in disputes. She can send out notes from that meeting for those interested. Rebecca sometimes gets involved when a student has a grievance with a faculty member. She informally mediates. There is a formal mechanism, but it has no teeth and they don’t use it much. Plagiarism goes directly to code of student conduct, which has its own process, but other issues don’t have clear policies, so GPSS will work with her to establish best practices for different departments. She is also doing a conflict resolution presentation in a few weeks that we will have info for.

She also met Tuesday with a student from an unnamed department who was tangentially involved with a faculty member in her department. There was a formal complaint filed of harassment and fraud and people think the faculty member is insane. The student she spoke with said she would never recommend to UW to anyone because of this. The process of events here is hard to track. It seems like it went straight to the dean, the attorney general was involved. The student Melanie met with was interviewed initially then never spoken to ever again. This was not a transparent process. They also felt that the final decision was not good î the faculty member could not take on new advisees for 2 years. Since there was a formal investigation there was a formal report, but you have to make a public records request to see it, so no one wants to do it. GPSS could request this record. Melanie wants to send out an email to senators asking about disputes. Folks on the committee feel that DRAC is not needed as a standing, ongoing committee, but they have a few things to accomplish in the meantime.

For senate meetings, nothing was available ever. Now we have Bagley Hall. Finally, there will be a party at Melanie’s on Saturday. Please come. Regarding the transition to next year, between officer and staff and executive senators, some people know what they are doing, and some don’t, but it would be good to think about that. Also if we are going to get a 5th officer, we need to find that person and get them to run FAST.
Evan - He wanted to plug the Kastama Facebook page, too. He also has an update on the diversity requirement: it has hit a roadblock in the faculty senate. They say it is too big of an issue to rush through. The provost has agreed to create an interim task group, but the chair of the committee said that she would not move it out of committee. So now the question is: do they rush it quickly or wait and go with the system. Evan wants to take the slow road, because graduation requirements are a big deal. ASUW took a position on differential tuition - they are opposed. This reinforces the efforts of others who have been lobbying against it as well. The radio station is up for an MTV award for best college radio station. The proposal for the new UWPD across from the ECC was also opposed by ASUW. ASUW elections are also on the horizon. Elections start April 6 and close May 9.

Charles - Tomorrow is the Board of Regents meeting in Tacoma. He will be there for the main 1:00pm meeting. Is there anything else that people want included? We finally got the tuition summaries. [The sheet is passed around.] This is a compilation of all the proposed tuition increases for graduate tuition categories that are controlled within a college. This does not include tier 1 and other things controlled by the provost. This also doesn’t affect Educational Outreach because that authority has been delegated to Vice-Provost David Szatmary. Charles is going to Szatmary directly. This information was given to the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget on Monday. This will let Charles highlight the rapid growth of EO programs to the committee. They are still under the (now false) impression that EO offerings are all special professional evening degrees or special professional MAs.

There is also a matter of arbitration with respect to the administration negotiating fees for employees. Hopefully there will be some resolution on that soon. The hearing was today. The arbitrator has a specific amount of time to rule.

The student position on the College of Nursing search committee has been filled, and candidate interviews for the College of Arts and Sciences position will happen Friday. There was only one application for the student regent search committee. He has reached out to a few senators. The committee meets three times. It is not a very time intensive committee. He will be working to recruit someone by Friday.

He can answer any budget questions later. The most important issues will be tuition and the role of fees in a lot of university units. Pay attention to units that are using expanded fees in lieu of tuition increases. This is going to be a more popular model for making up funding gaps in various units. He also attended the quarterly alumni association board meeting, which was interesting. They are working on linking UW professors with external funding. They brought in folks from Communications who have gotten some funding for various projects from outside philanthropists.

7) Announcements
Rene - If anyone wants to go to Portland to see the wheel of fortune to see UW candidates, let her know.
Charles - Regarding the physical transition next year, moving back into the HUB - we need to sit down early next quarter to discuss our moving plan. Let’s set up a meeting time very soon.

8) Adjournment
Colin moves to adjourn.
Megan Seconds
No objections, meeting adjourns.