GPSS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2012

Members Present
Adam Sherman (Vice President)
Megan Gambs (Executive Senator)
Amy Winter (Executive Senator)
Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer)
Melanie Mayock (Secretary)
Charles Plummer (President)
Trond Nielsen (Executive Senator)

Guests Present:
Rene Singleton (SAO Advisor)

1. Call to Order
Charles calls the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Colin moves to amend the agenda to include two new items: appoint Eddie Schwieterman to Finance and Budget Committee and transfer $10k to ASUW Arts and Entertainment for Spring Concert.
Melanie seconds.
Motion passes, agenda approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 3/28/12
Adam moves to approve the minutes from the 3/28/12 Executive Committee meeting.
Colin seconds.
Minutes are approved.

4a. Finance and Budget Committee Appointment
Eddie from Astronomy volunteered for the committee.
Melanie moves to appoint Eddie to Finance and Budget Committee.
Adam seconds.
Appointment is approved.

4b. Transfer Funds to ASUW
Colin describes transfer of $10,000 for ASUW spring concert.
Trond: why do you need approval for the transfer?
Colin: Because it is such a large sum.
Adam moves to approve the transfer.
Colin seconds.
Motion approved.
4c. Travel Grants Follow-Up
Colin: There is concern from some people that there are less grants for social sciences and for international students. They gave a number of suggestions. One is to give out smaller grants, ask less questions, and have it be on a first-come first-serve basis.

Travel grants seemed like a good place to free up some funding and resources because it is time intensive for GPSS staff. Additionally, there was feedback from senators who agreed with this. But in Senate meeting there was a pretty close vote that many senators did not want the travel grants to go away.

We might be able to save about $6,000 in next year’s budget.

Trond: This is not GPSS’s job and we should not be in the place to try that.
Melanie: There could be another vote in the Senate to bring it back.

Melanie: moves to extend conversation by 5 minutes
Trond seconds.

Megan suggests a way to make travel grants more prestigious, giving more money to fewer students.

Charles speaks about why some departments may be getting more money than others from the Graduate School by knowing the system and how external research support may explain the differences in travel funding between STEM units and the humanities.

Melanie agrees with Trond, that advocacy is better than direct service. But also makes sense to have contingency ideas.

Trond questions general mood of Senate if there will be a potential for pushback?

Melanie talks about making sure that the process is open and fair to Senators.

4d. GPSS Committee Chair Elections
Melanie: Need to set up an election schedule and have a plan to get senators to run for different positions.

Adam: Kiana has expressed interest in the university affairs chair position.

How do we want to advertise these positions- among senators or larger university community?

Question: Do committee chairs need to be a senator?
Answer: for most committees, no.
Colin: relationship between chair and officer and what that will look like so that will give senators a clearer picture in their mind.

Rene: Give them a chart, and let them know who the various officers are going to be.

Colin: The F&B committee has been really good this year

We should fill 5 committee chair positions, and discussion of internal members/senators that may be good candidates.

4e. Committee Appointments: SCPB and Bookstore
Charles: both of these switch back to GPSS this year, and need to be filled before May. Both have to be approved by Executive Committee.

4f. Brainstorm for organizational improvements
Adam: Had some ideas for improving GPSS.
- Creating a more active alumni network with previous GPSS officers. Issue about limited funding and limits of SAF. Creating an endowment for GPSS.
- 1 or 2 faculty members and handful of students from Education, Evans, Law School, Economics departments for an ‘on-campus think tank’ to pursue things they see as pressing policy issues in higher education. Potentially produce an annual report.

Colin: what is the rationale about keeping interdisciplinary think tanks separate from GPSS?
Adam: This should be an academic pursuit so that this demonstrates in a more pure academic setting without the advocacy component. Academic integrity

Trond: Likes the idea of the alumni association

Melanie: Does ASUW have an endowment fund?

Rene: No they only have Husky Pride. Would be good to think about what would draw in GPSS alumni.

Melanie: Before raising money, would be great to meet some of the alumni.

Colin: not really into the endowment proposal because it is also a time intensive process to do fundraising, and the investment of time might be better spent elsewhere.

Trond: I think Melanie’s suggestion of getting in contact with alumni would be a good starting point.
Adam: What would alumni like to see for GPSS alumni connection. Maybe feature alumni on the GPSS website

Rene: mentions Mayor McGinn’s visit to GPSS as an example of alumni connections

Megan: Idea for an alumni happy hour

4g. Transition and continuity
Charles: need to think about transition of officers for next year. Tri-campus meeting on May 26th or June 2nd. This would be a good opportunity to plan together with old and new officers.

Rene and officers also discuss the move to the HUB and the schedule for moving things over. Charles suggests August 24th as the last day when everything has to be out of GPSS office.

Melanie wants to ask Executive Committee members if they know they will be around for next year. Amy and Mateo will be graduating.

Colin motions to extend time for 5 minutes.
Megan seconds.

Charles flags bylaws for Exec Committee appointments for Judicial to review.

4h. WSA/Voter Registration
Adam talks about voter registration drives and get out the vote among students.
Charles talks about coming up with dates to register graduate students, which at present is focused on undergraduate students.
Colin mentions that with end of in-state tuition waiver there is less incentive for graduate students to register to vote.
Melanie also suggests including a question on the GPSS survey if students are registered to vote.

5a. International Student Fee
Charles: There were 6 documents sent out and two looked at several different universities and how much they were putting towards services for international students. Student Life claims that utilization of many services amongst international students is greater than domestic students. One document is an attempt to figure out what are the big gaps in ESL programs and general academic support. The take-away: should there be a fee and what should be supported, how should the fee be levied(who should pay and when should they pay)? If a $200 fee is levied on international students every quarter, then that would generate around $1.8 million.
Melanie: Is the idea that international students are not paying all the costs they are incurring? There is also the conversation that international and out-of-state students subsidize in-state students and then having to pay more for these services.

Charles: 50% is support services and the other 50% is language and academic support.

Trond: ISS really needs this. FIUTS doesn’t have extra money beyond orientation.

Melanie: Would the fee revenue pay for existing services or new/expanded services?

Charles: It would pay for the growth of services.

Charles: There is huge influx of graduate students using undergraduate centers/services.

Adam: Worry from PR perspective if certain groups are being targeted. Also likes the Buddy system, having a student that can help someone

5b. Legislative Update
Adam: Highlight for higher education is that there have not been cuts to budget this year. There was about $1 million in cuts to UW that were from various administrative departments. Work-study and childcare not cut either.

5c. U-PASS Update
Melanie: Name changed to Student Transportation Fee on student tuition statements. Got ridership numbers for winter quarter. Ridership was 76% of what we paid for. The price may not go up in the next contract considering that we ‘overpaid.’ Bottom line is that price might not go up in the next contract.
New appointee for UPASS Advisory Board – Aaron Lyyken from Evans School.

6. Officer Reports
Vice President (Adam):
Writing thank you notes to legislators in DC
Federal legislative steering committee
Will meet with State legislative meeting tomorrow.

Treasurer (Colin)
Spring social tomorrow.

Science and Policy Summit- first panel is complete. Second panel: with dean of school of public health about transportation policy. What is the committee’s thoughts about talking about why science is not a topic of presidential debates? Executive committee supports this idea. We need abstracts for posters but don’t have a enough and trying to get presenters for the TED talks. Deadline is Friday but flexible.
Finance and Budget Committee: looking to transfer a small part of departmental allocations to special allocations so we can focus review of those events that have highest portion of graduate students.

Secretary (Melanie)
Diversity Fund: SAO advisers have let organizations know about diversity fund. One event that looks promising is Native American Organization of Advanced Scholars which asked for $1250. Pakistani student organization is doing an event on disaster relief services.

DRAC Committee: Working on a survey of students who have been in disputes.

Working with Adam and others on website. Deciding next steps and who should do what. Talked with Rudy about Graduate Program Review and putting information about it on the website. Also could do more to publicize special and departmental allocations and how they have been used.

President (Charles)
Attended first meeting of UW sponsorship committee: there is a lot of corporate sponsorship. How much access does the university want to allow to corporate entities? WSA board meeting went well and there is a proposed budget that will be sent out WSA Endorsements for new student achievement council and Legislator of the Year awards are open now. UAW 4121 will begin bargaining soon.

Melanie: next Exec agenda to circle back to tuition waivers and the idea of exec committee making a recommendation about this. This will be first action item for next exec meeting.

7. Announcements

8. Adjourn
Adam motions to adjourn.
Trond seconds.
Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.