GPSS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2012

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

Guests Present:
Keith Peyton
Courtney Phillips-Youman
Ryan Shandera

1. Call to Order
Charles calls the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Melanie: Need to be careful when talking so that Jenn Tippins can get accurate minutes.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Trond moves.
Adam seconds.
Agenda approved.

Adam: We need to make sure Jenn is comfortable asking us to slow down.

3. Minutes from 4/11/12
Adam moves.
Colin seconds.
Minutes approved.

4a. Budget Modifications
Colin: Handout. Ted-style Talks and GPSS Summit coming up soon.
High-profile speaker: Shawn Otto, is requesting money. Came down on the price.
$1200. We think we have almost enough money to cover it, from the fundraising we’ve done. Need some margin for error in the budget. Asking to use some of the surplus from previous events - from Socials and Higher Ed Summits. Specific Request: transfer the surplus from the Higher Ed Summit ($891) to the Science and Policy Summit budget line, and be allowed to use the surpluses for the social in the unlikely event that this is necessary.
Adam: I move to approve: transfer the surplus from the Higher Ed Summit ($891) to the Science and Policy Summit budget line, and be allowed to use the surpluses for the social in the unlikely event that this is necessary.

Megan: Seconds.
No objections. Motion carries.

4b. Exec Meeting Dates
Melanie: Propose to add May 9th and June 6th.
Amy: I graduate on June 2nd.
Trond: Out of country

Melanie: I move to add May 9th and June 6th Executive Committee Meetings.
Adam: seconds.
Motion carries.

4c. May 2nd Senate Agenda
Charles: Of course we have the election at the Senate meeting. Also want to have the UAW resolution, PACS and international student fee update, committee chair information, and asking Kay Lewis from Financial Aid Office to speak.

Trond: We’re going to need more like 80 or 90 minutes.

Melanie: Elections committee needs help.
Trond: I will help them.

Charles: We need to cut down our proposed agenda then. We should keep Committee Chairs.

Adam: Can we cut the UAW resolution?

Charles: Contract expires April 30th; need this now.

Trond: When the ballots are being counted, we’re doing Information items.

Charles: only action item is the UAW resolution

Trond: then we’re okay with all of these items. Put the UAW resolution at the end.

Colin: Can I have two minutes for the Science and Policy Summit?

Charles: Move UAW resolution before the election, so elections committee members can participate?
Melanie: Daniel Coslett would like to propose an Ad-Hoc Committee on Travel Grants.

Trond: To do a main motion requires submitting it to the Secretary two weeks before the Senate meeting.

Melanie: In that case we can have Daniel make an announcement this time and have a motion at the May 30th Senate meeting.

Proposed agenda:
1. Call to Order (1)
2. Approval of the Agenda (1)
3. Approval of the Minutes (1)
4. UAW Resolution (15)
5. Call to Action on Student Loans (2)
6. Officer Election (90)
7. Science and Policy Summit (5)
8. PACS and International Student Fee (5)
9. Committee Chair Information (15)
10. Travel Grants (5)
11. Announcements (1)
12. Adjourn (1)

Melanie moves to approve the agenda for the May 2nd Senate meeting.
Colin seconds.
Motion carries.

4d. Student Fee Messaging
Charles: HUB and Hall Health portions of bonding going into effect this fall will increase student fees by 30%. What can GPSS and ASUW do to message student fees. Two goals with messaging: remind students what we pay for and what we have initiated. 2. remind incoming and new students to pay for those fees. Add to registration process a click-through screen that shows where those fees go. This would be a way for students to see the fees they have levied upon themselves vs fees the university is increasing. Messaging to first year students- there will be messaging/ materials for orientation to take to new students that walks them through the fees. Project is being split up: Leo + Charles will take on history of UW fees on campus. And this will be on student life website. And broad messaging for all students.

Need feedback, anything that need to be included in messaging.

Melanie: Making sure we explain benefits of the fees

Adam: Building up capacity to build up complaints if students feel like this on top of UPASS is too much.
Colin: First paycheck for grad students usually goes to fees so they don’t have money for the first month.

Megan: When we register and see that page, will ASUW and GPSS’s name be on there?

Charles: Haven’t thought about that

Melanie: Would suggest not putting the name front and center but should be in there somewhere.

Charles: Putting focus on GPSS more on history page

Melanie: If we include anything about how to change this then we do want a customer service mechanism.

Megan: How will you represent history of fees?

Charles: Some images, graphs and text

Adam: Showing images of what students will be getting is really valuable.

Megan: Getting info about the new bonding,

Melanie: Registration starts next Friday…

Charles: Our target is before new students register, but not exactly sure

Charles: New students register in August, but we want this ready by June the latest. Materials for new student orientation may be different

Colin: We should think about forwarding complaints

Trond: Setting up a website that collects the complaints

Melanie: Can Student Life help us with that?

Charles: I can ask Eric Godfrey (at Student Life) what their capacity is.

Melanie: It’s easy to see student fees because student govt controls it, but we should talk about how GPSS is advocating on tuition

Adam: Would it be appropriate to talk about fees as a percentage of tuition? To show that balance?

Colin: All of these fees make a big point of not subsidizing the tuition.
4e. UAW Resolution
Charles: Jessica _____ and Jean Dinh came to Charles a few weeks ago and asked them to help them move a resolution through Senate.

Colin would like to co-sponsor. Megan wants to co-sponsor too.

Adam has some issues with the language. 5th ‘Whereas’

Colin: Can you amend the preamble to a motion?

Adam supports the general concept.

4f. Transparency in RA/TA hiring
Melanie: Jennifer Tippins brought this up to Melanie on the process for hiring RA/TA positions and how could that be improved. Does GPSS want to get involved in this?

Charles will contact the UAW to look into this issue.

5a. Officer Compensation Recommendation
Charles: We wanted to make some changes to officer compensation this year but we missed some deadlines so we were not able to do it this year. Would be appropriate for Exec Committee to move forward on addressing officer compensation, we should try to figure out what we want to do, but I don’t want to leave this on the table for new officers to worry about next year. Looking for opinions on how to move forward.

Adam: I’m inclined to support the proposal to cap tuition waivers at Tier I. Good for budgeting purposes and look at other ways of bolstering our funding. Looking for ways to raise revenue in order not to discourage new officers from running.

Melanie: I am also favor in the proposal to cap at Tier 1 rates. Eliminating the tuition waiver could dramatically change elections and affect the stability of the organization.

Charles: As you increase in Tiers, the tuition increases. Grad Tiers focus on academic programs.

Adam: Also made it hard to budget for each upcoming year.

Charles: Thinking about impact- compensation

Trond: Grad Tier I. Big gaps are between Grad Tiers and Professional Masters programs.

Colin: I support capping at Tier I. In a lot of the SAF mtgs I have been sitting in on, academic student employees were the first ones being cut. It is good for GPSS to control
budget expenditure but having academic student style employees are valuable. And secondly, we only went over tuition by $6,000.

Trond: If we have a non-resident officer, we only pay the resident rate, they never get charged the resident rate. If we completely did away with tuition waiver, then those students would have to pay the difference themselves b/c the university wouldn’t recognize them as student. Capping at Tier I also means we are not fitting into the union’s frame. So we could be bringing attention to ourselves in a way we don’t want to.

Megan: We should be in contact with the union, if we do go down to Tier I, does that open the door in other depts? Afraid of setting a precedent that could affect more grad students than just GPSS officers alone.

Charles: This is a concern, so whatever we do going forward, we need to mitigate effects university-wide.

Charles: Feedback on how we should tackles this. Be frank with what we want to do and see if we can find a path forward.

Colin: When we are messaging to a broader audience, besides budget, we need to recognize the differences in our organization with other types of other academic student employees. Highlighting the organizational differences.

Adam: Greater emphasis last year on making sure they were only working 20 hours per week. (that’s what one TA in GPSS said).

Trond: You can say you don’t want to work more than 20 hours, but students are worried that they won’t be given the position the following quarter. Hearing from union leader. By leaving the union we lose out on things like health insurance. So we need to make sure we factored that in.

Charles: Not leaving the bargaining unit but capping the tuition waiver.

Megan: Let Senate know before FAFSA is due.

Charles: Going forward, will have to set up a meeting to get David and Jessica from UAW to come to talk about the situation with them.

5b. International Student Fee Update
Provost had seen an increasing need among international students for certain services. Amongst all: International support services (ISS) - make sure all paperwork is filed on time, various issues with visas.

Trond: ISS- handle incoming visas, visa maintenance, once a person is graduated- help apply them for temp employment
Charles: Should there be a fee, who should pay for it, looked over materials provided by Student Life, FIUTS, academic arm that handles. Took info back to Provost Advisory Committee. One thing that came out was there are a lot of sub-student population services on campus. We don’t charge first generation students more than other students for services. Charles and Connor only two who thought this was a bad idea. Provost decided to table it per our suggestion. Provost did follow our recommendations from Provost Advisory Committee. So we could see this as a victory.

Melanie: I think we can show the value of PACS.

Trond: University is trying to appear to lump all sorts of needs into a single fee. ISS is in dire need of support to do its job. Seems like University is trying to increase everything that is not labeled ‘tuition’ by increasing fees. ISS- OPT and CPT are mandated by visas from state dept- provide support to students who have graduated while they are in country after they have graduated.

5c. Tuition presentation to Regents
Charles: Suggested tuition rates will be included and now we have grad tier increases of 9% for in-state. Charles will talk about impacts of tuition. Want feedback on what I should be saying in that meeting to broadly represent the mood around tuition rates/increases.

Melanie: Grad students are focused on loans. In my department the chair is concerned about attracting new students with higher tuition. Federal subsidized loans for grad students are ending. Students are concerned about loans- both current and new students.

Adam: Students understand tuition if they know what it’s going for. Showing what their tuition is getting them. Increase in tuition is bad, but mitigating that feeling by showing them what they’re getting.

Trond: This is not a market where we can switch. Once we are here we are stuck here.

Charles: Approximately 3-4% just for fixed costs.

Megan: Grandfathering in students for prices from the first year they attend.

Ryan: Is there a way to understand line by line where tuition goes? Is there a way to analyze where tuition actually goes?

Charles: Need public disclosure for every college, and then collect budgets from every department. That would have to be public disclosure.

Ryan: Question about the increase of the budget and tuition at the Law School.
Colin: What are we getting for this increase in tuition? I would be concerned where higher education is a public good and worried about messaging

Adam: Make argument that this is a public good, but also targeting messaging for a particular audience, but also saying what are we getting for this (tuition increases)? I think it is ok and fair for us to ask this- what are we getting.

Charles: Receptive to this issue, but there has to be some sort of concrete result. And if that is not the case, then my recommendation to PACS would be to not recommend any part of her budget.

6. Officer Reports

a. Vice President
Adam: Connor, Kiana and I are going to visually display the structure of the new committees to help people understand the structure and how they can get involved. Hope to get this out by the May 2nd meeting.

This Friday Senator Pat Murray will be talking about student loans. They have requested a graduate student to speak at press conference. Someone from OGR will be representing the undergrads. Want to get as many grad students as possible to be there to show we care. This is at 1:40pm on Friday. Will be sent out to Senators.

I drafted a memo to Professor Zumeta at the Evans School to look at clinic model to look at interdisciplinary model of higher education policy and hopefully they can look into higher ed policy and put out a report to give to GPSS and to state senators.

Spoke to Larry who is chair of House Higher Ed and look at models of funding higher education.

Meeting with federal and state legislative steering committees and implementing by-laws and looking over the job description accurately reflects what that person will be doing.

Voter registration

Following up with state legislators where deserved.

b. Treasurer
Colin: Budget. A huge amount of requests from units that are asking for funding and ones that are asking for large amounts of money. My personal philosophy is to focus on units that have been marginalized in past- ie mental health and ?? And fee increases and being more conservative with larger services in that fee (might need to re- summarize this)
Charles: Child-care matching grant?

Colin: I think they are asking for a small increase.

Charles: Last year we had to keep it solvent, I want to make sure that it’s functional.

Melanie: Connor was giving us an update on this, last year on child-care grant they were not going to ask for an increase the following year, so there was a little concern about that communication. Also, when does SAF committee vote on this?

Colin: May 11th.

Melanie: Last year someone gave a presentation about this. There should be some kind of info with our senate. We should have had some quick updates at May 2nd meeting because in general this is a big thing we influence. There should be input about these big decisions that we make.

Colin: Can include this in the email tonight to Senators.

Trond: Would be nice to have senators

Colin: Science and Policy Summit on May 3rd and May 8th. Looking to include some younger members in the panel.

c. Secretary
Melanie:

Gave away most of the money in the diversity funds. Next year we will have a better process for this. This will run better.

UPASS: 20th anniversary last Friday. Article in the Daily about how number of transit trips was overestimated. The Daily later did a small column that showed support for UPASS.

Encouraged Judicial Committee to have another meeting this quarter.

Disputes: Trying to get a student survey to send out. Trying to get a DRAC meeting soon for recommendations for next year.

Jenn and I have started to talk about future communication work. Another brochure? Creating videos? And other ideas about communications.

The ASUW Board of Directors voted to ask SAF for some money to get a movie theatre back on campus. They think most of the money could be privately raised but would need to raise money from students. In past, there used to be movies on campus.
**d. ASUW**  
[Absent]

**e. President**  
Charles:

Identified our three candidates for Student Regent.

Give Adam documents on streamlining the process.

SCPB (Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting): Faculty version of PACS. Some of main items that have come up are  
Looked at initial tuition proposals, no one bat an eye at the 9% increase for undergraduate tuition.

Working on College Council project- meeting with Evans School, College of Arts and Science, Foster School of Business

PACS- International student fee, students from EOI presented the Pay It Forward Plan. There are a lot of details to work out. Looked at potential tuition increases. Proposed tuition increases and there is a meeting the following Friday at 1:30pm.

7. **Announcements**

GPSS officials congratulates Adam’s girlfriend Sarah on her birthday.

8. **Adjourn**  
Adam moves  
Tron seconds  
Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.