GPSS

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Senate Meeting
February 29, 2012
1. Call To Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. UW Tech WiFi Update/STF Surplus
5. Bylaw Suspension and Election Announcement
6. Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee
7. Legislative Update
8. Dean Searches
9. SAGE Update
10. Announcements
11. Adjourn
Approval of Agenda

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Approval of Minutes

GPSS Senate Meeting – February 1, 2012
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order
Charles Plummer, President, calls to order 5:37. Recognizes new Senators.

2. Approval of the Agenda
Buddy Rutzke, Law: Moves to approve agenda.
Amy Winter, Dentistry: Seconds.
No objections, motion approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from January 11th Senate Meeting
Natalia Hryniew, Atmospheric Sciences: Moves to approve the minutes.
Amy Winter, Dentistry: Seconds.
No objections; motion approved.

4. Officer Introductions
Adam Sherman, Vice President: Second-year law student. Vice-President is the external liaison, especially in Olympia. Spends 4-5 days a week on student issues, such as shared governance. Also advocate at federal level for grants and other issues. Manages student appointments to University committees.

Colin Goldfinch, Treasurer: Studying public health. The Treasurer manages budget and social events. Open to ideas for events.

Melanie Mayock, Secretary: Studying Urban Planning and Public Administration. The Secretary is the ASUW liaison, handles communications, record-keeping, other activities.

Charles Plummer, President: Represents GPSS to Regents, Provost, other University administrators. Formulates initiatives, such as childcare.

5. Speed Dating
Colin Goldfinch, Treasurer: The GPSS Speed Dating event will be in UW Tower Cafeteria mezzanine. Need volunteers, lots of fun.
Volunteer: Amy Winter, Elizabeth from Dentistry, Jessica from Classics, Noralis from GWSS.

6. Strategic Planning Break-Out Groups
Sarah Celms, Special Education: The Strategic Planning/Restructuring Taskforce would like to get feedback from Senators. Please look over the handout and provide feedback.
We will gather in rooms by College: Arts and Sciences, Health, Engineering etc.
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Bylaw Suspension and Election Announcement

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Bylaw Suspension and Election Announcement

**Background**
- Every May: Senate elects four officers
- Bylaws require Elections Packet:
  - Approved by Senate two months before the election, in March
  - Contains officer responsibilities, eligibility requirements, and election details

**This year:**
- Strategic Planning—changes to officer roles?
- Bylaw amendments – Senate vote April 4th
Bylaw Suspension and Election Announcement

Relevant Bylaws:
Article VI, Section E Elections Committee, Clause 2 Function
b. The Elections Committee chair shall submit the GPSS Election Packet containing the Elections Rules to the GPSS for approval at least two months before the election.

Article V, Section G, Clause 4
c. The Elections Committee shall develop Elections Rules and an Elections Packet outlining the details of the elections which shall be approved by the Senate no later than March each year. The Packet shall outline at a minimum the responsibilities of the officers, the eligibility requirements to run for office, the time and place of the elections, the procedures for voting including by absentee ballot, the minimum time allotted each candidate for speaking and answering questions, and the deadline to submit their materials in order to be listed on the website and ballot.
I move to temporarily suspend Article 6 Section E Clause 2 Letter B of the GPSS bylaws, thereby eliminating the requirement that the Elections Packet be presented to Senate 2 months before the election, with this suspension terminating following the GPSS elections meeting in May.

I move to partially suspend Article 5 Section G Clause 4 Letter C of the GPSS bylaws by altering the requirement that the Elections Packet be presented to Senate by the month of March to allow that it be presented in April, with this suspension terminating following the GPSS elections meeting in May.
Election Announcement

Considering running for an officer position?

Last year’s Election Packet
On GPSS website (Senate/Officers/Officer Elections)
Recognize that roles may change

Election Questions?
Elections Chair Hunter Marston: hsm4@uw.edu.
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Why Were We Involved?

- Interest in serving our department
- Interest in working with other G/P students
- Hopes of improving our program and G/P programs at large

- Improved functionality of this organization should help us meet all our shared "big picture" goals
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What we did

- Survey G/P students
- Survey/discussion with GPSS Senators
- Survey of Registered Student Organizations
- Survey of travel grant recipients
- Interviews with officers and committees
- Interviews with external stakeholders
- Questioned other organizations at similar universities
Problems
Mission

The Mission of GPSS is not clearly articulated and purchase into that mission is not clear among the Senators or students.

- 43% of students surveyed do not know what GPSS does.
- 56% do not know what services it provides
- 18% of Senators are not sure what services GPSS provides or the role it plays at the university.
Resource Capacity

The budget is not currently designed to cover staff salaries and meet the needs of our constituents.

The current organization structure of GPSS is reactive and not designed to efficiently carry out its mission.

- 35% of Senators identified the need for more efficiency
- 43% of Senators identified a need for a stronger relationship between Officers, staff, committee, and constituents
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Authorizers

GPSS' ability to reach out to students could be strengthened.

- 70% of graduate students do not have experience or interaction with GPSS
- 38% of Senators identified the need for a "more significant" presence on campus.
PROBLEMS revisited

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- High Workload for Officers
- Under-utilized Senators
- Lack of outreach to student body
- Lack of communication between levels of organization
- Lack of continuity from year to year
- Lack of community, social cohesion
- NO COFFEE!

Lack of clear Mission
Resource Capacity
Authorizers
Potential Recommendations

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Potential Recommendations

- New Vice President of University Affairs to lighten the workload of current VP
- Decrease officer compensation to Tier 1 only
- Formation of new committees: social, lobbying, media
- Elected chairperson for each committee
- Senators should formally attend departmental orientations
- Improved orientation process for new Senators
Officer tuition waivers: Option 1

- Drop Tuition waiver for officers
- Use savings to hire more staff to shift workload of officers

TRADE-OFFS: disincentive for students to run for office, time spent training staff
Officer tuition waivers: Option 2

- Decrease Officer Compensation to Tier 1
- Savings can be used to hire more staff

TRADE-OFFS: tuition waiver will still be a major expense in the budget; possible disincentive for some students from Tier 2 and 3 to run for office
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Officer tuition waivers: Option 3

- Leave tuition waivers in place as is
- Executive committee remains at four members
- Focus will need to be on new committee creation

TRADE-OFFS: no new staff positions but motivation to serve as officers remains at current strength
Next Steps

• Present recommendations to Finance and Budget Committee
• Present recommendations to Judicial Committee
• Changes to the bylaws and budget will be presented to the Senate at our next meeting, April 4th.
Legislative Update

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Olympia’s Weird

Â Most policy bills directly impacting grad and professional students didn’t make it
  ï  Shared Governance (SB 6334)
  ï  Student Auditing (HB 2478)

Â But not all died!
  ï  Public comments at Regents meetings (HB 2313)
  ï  Financial Aid Counseling (SB 6121)
Olympia’s Weird

- Budget allocations are major success
- Review Governor’s Proposed Budget
  - $160M in cuts to higher education
  - Suspend the State Work Study Program
  - Suspend Child Care Matching Grant
  - $7.8M in additional funds for Engineering degrees
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Olympia’s Weird

- House Proposed Budget
  - $65M in cuts to Higher Education
  - $30M in cuts to 4-year institutions
  - $13.5M in cuts to UW
  - $3.8M in additional funding to produce additional engineering degrees.
  - Preserves State Work Study Program
  - Preserves Child Care Matching Grant
  - $10M in cuts to the State Need Grant
Olympia’s Weird

Å Senate’s Proposed Budget Rumors:
- Fewer cuts to higher ed than the House
- Fewer cuts to UW than the House
- Preserves State Work Study Program
- Preserves State Need Grant
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SAGE Update

Student Advocates for Graduate Education
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SAGE Update

Trip to D.C.
- March 23rd-27th

Key Issues
- Immigration
- Federal Research Grant Funding
- Taxation and Indebtedness
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**Announcements**
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Adjourn

Next Senate Meeting: April 4, 2012