GPSS Senate Meeting May 2, 2012
Meeting Minutes

1 – Call to Order
Charles Plummer calls the meeting to order at 5:39pm.

2 – Approval of the Agenda
Melanie Mayock moves to change item 4 on the agenda. The sponsor should be listed as Jean Dinh (Medicinal Chemistry Senator).
Ted Chen (Bioengineering): Seconds the change.
Kimberly Schertz (Law): Moves to approve the new agenda.
No Objections. The motion passes.

3 – Approval of the Minutes from the April 4 Senate Meeting
Mateo Banegas (Public Health – Health Services): Moves to approve the minutes
No objections. The motion passes.

4 – Resolution in Support of UAW 4121 Bargaining Efforts
Jean Dinh (Medicinal Chemistry) is on the board for UAW 4121. They are currently undergoing contract negotiations. This resolution is very similar to what has been presented before because they are in a multi-year negotiation with UW. This resolution outlines GPSS’s support for these negotiating efforts.
Questions?
Trond Nilsen (Industrial Engineering): Moves to approve the resolution.
No objections. The resolution is adopted.

5 – Call to Action on Student Loans
Adam Sherman (Vice President): Some may have heard of news regarding undergraduate student loans. The interest rate will be going up from 3ish to 6ish percent. If you are wondering why yours are already around 6 percent, it’s because these special federal rates were only for undergraduates. Renegotiations in August for lowering the deficit in the US congress led to grad students losing all subsidized loans. This is bad for grad students, bad for WA’s economy. Any new loans for graduate students after July 1st will no longer be subsidized, which means you will be accruing interest while you are in school. There will be a call to action in a few days and we will ask you to contact WA representatives about this. I’d be happy to answer any questions about what has happened or what could happen.
Matt Souza (Business Administration): Didn’t Patty Murray come to campus to discuss this?
Adam Sherman: She came to talk about the undergraduate interest rates going up. For undergrads, there is no question about whether that rate is going to stay low. The question is how they are going to fund that low rate. Republicans and Democrats are fighting over how it will be funded. Everyone is in favor of it, though.
Jonathan Kocarnik (Public Health Genetics): Is there a particular ask that you have formulated in your lobbying on this issue?
Adam Sherman: In DC we focused more on debt forgiveness. Say you graduate, go into public service, and then 10 years later the remainder of your loans are forgiven. At that point, the amount that you are forgiven is considered income, so you are taxed on it. We feel that that contradicts the incentive to go into public service, so we lobbied against that.
Charles Plummer (President): Time for this agenda item has expired.

6 – Officer Elections
Hunter Marston (Jackson School – Southeast Asian Studies, Elections Committee Chair):
I will be running the elections. Please raise your hand if you are a senator or officer without a ballot. Each candidate will have 3-5 min to speak. They can present their case for candidacy and that will be followed by the same amount of time for questions from the floor. After that, proceeding alphabetically through the candidates, the elections committee will go outside as the meeting continues and will announce the winners.
Adam Sherman: is there a procedure for running from the floor?
Hunter Marston: People can nominate themselves.

Adam Sherman, running for GPSS President:
I’m going to talk a little about myself and about my vision to next year. I love purple. I’m a Capricorn. I’m NFLJ in Myers Briggs—or something like that. I’ve been with GPSS for 3 academic years. I started as a senator in Evans School. I got involved in SAGE last year, and then this year I was the VP. I am enjoying what I am doing here, but there are challenges and opportunities at the presidential level that I would like to take on.

First I want to recognize what Evan Smith and Charles Plummer did in getting PACS up and running. That is hugely important because budgets are policy. Our budgets reflect our values, and now students can voice their values. They have also worked on college councils, so our voices are heard not only at the central administrative level, but within the individual colleges as well. Programming and hiring decisions are important to our day-to-day experience, and it’s important to know that those councils are implemented campus-wide, that this great idea comes to full fruition. I also want to make sure that we bolster our financial position internally so that we can serve the graduate population better. We recently slashed travel grants. We have to choose between funding this or that. The federal government is also making these hard choices. I think this is myopic and short sighted and we need to figure out how to pay for the things that students need. We can do this by growing the alumni association within GPSS. This will help with funding, with political and social reach, with institutional memory. Right now we have a wall of all of these officers from the past and we don’t really know what any of them are up to. Finally we need to think about starting a GPSS endowment. Most larger, fiscally responsible organizations have an endowment. This is a great way to make sure we can get through difficult economic times, to make sure that our funding isn’t subject to the whims of other people.

Question from the floor: Are you are suggesting that we do fundraising for GPSS?
Adam Sherman: We already do a fair amount, but it’s mostly coming from administration. A lot of that funding goes toward socials. There isn’t a lot beyond that, though, and there are costs associated with that kind of fundraising. But alumni associations are low hanging fruit, and they may want to support and invest in this organization that has supported them.

Question from the floor: How would you make sure that GPSS is an attractive place for senators? How would you improve retention and recruitment?
Adam Sherman: I’m happy with what we’ve done with our committee restructuring. This gives more senators a chance to be involved and get in front of the group. The more people feel engaged with GPSS and feel that they have a leadership role or responsibility, the more they will feel like they want to be there. So, we need to make sure that the committee structure we put into place works and is maintained.

Mateo Banegas (Public Health – Health Services): As a current officer, how do you plan to improve your skills as an officer for this next year to be the president?

Adam Sherman: Every year improvement comes through experience. I have attended as many meetings that the president is supposed to attend so that I can get a better idea of what the president’s roles, responsibilities are. The more you involve yourself the more you learn. It’s hard to have the perfect resume going into this job. Everyone has on the ground learning, but I think I’ve demonstrated that I can hit the ground running.

Hunter Marston: Does anyone want to run or nominate someone from the floor? Ok, then we will move onto Vice President, starting with Melanie.

Melanie Mayock, running for GPSS Vice President

Hi, I’m Melanie and I am running for vice president. I am finishing my second of 3 years at UW. I’m studying urban planning and admin. I think we have all felt the impact of several years of budget cuts. In my program, tuition has gone up 15% this year, and might go up again next year. The VP is a key person who can stop these hikes both here in Washington and in DC. I think I am a great person to fill this role. The core of this job is advocacy work. When I had by first job in the 90s, I spent a lot of time lobbying on environmental issues. I loved it and it was fulfilling work. I also am interested in keeping the programs that I am involved in at UW strong and supported not just now but down the road as well. The VP has the role of mobilizing and organizing to get things done. This is the kind of experience that I have. I have been a community organizer and a phone bank worker. I have proposed policy and led press conferences. I also have experience at UW. I was the legislative assistant at GPSS last year and helped then VP Ben Henry. I worked as Secretary of GPSS this year, and I think I played a role in helping us become a stronger organization, including streamlining communications. I am also very self-motivated on advocacy issues. I saw in the Seattle Times last week an editorial about maintaining interest rates for undergraduate student loans. But it wasn’t specified that this only affected undergraduate loans. I fired off a letter describing the grad student situation, and it got published on Sunday, which has gotten word out there. I want to recruit more senators and active members of the graduate student body, and I will do this by building stronger relationships between GPSS and active student organizations. We want to find out what is important to students in your department, and see how we can get more people involved and get these issues addressed.

My second priority will be being a strong voice for graduate students at the state level. This includes lobbying for new revenue for higher education, restoring financial aid that has been cut, and maintaining public transportation.

Third, we need to fight for research dollars and for graduate student loans.

Adam Sherman: Part of the role of next years VP is to work with the new organizing director. What can you say about that?

Melanie Mayock: So, we’ve changed the legislative assistant to an organizing director, focusing on getting more students involved. I am excited about this, especially with my background in organizing. It will be key in organizing for lobby day.
Matt Souza: The amount of time that you have to dedicate to this is a big factor, especially during winter quarter. Do you think you have the flexibility to dedicate the time that is needed?

Melanie Mayock: I have the flexibility. This job can take up 60 hours a week if we let it, but the goal is to include others and spread this work around so that it isn’t completely dependent on me, but rather recruit others, staff, students, volunteers. I’ve also talked to my department about it.

Mateo Banegas: If for some reason you did not get this position, would you still be involved in GPSS?

Melanie Mayock: I would definitely want to stay involved in GPSS. I would have to figure out how to do that, given the elections in my department, but I would look towards getting involved in various committees.

Courtney Phillips-Youman, running for Vice President.
I am a 1st year student in School of Public Affairs. I also was an undergrad at UW, so this makes me a very loyal supporter of UW. After finishing my undergraduate studies, I returned to DC to work for an organization that dealt with agricultural issues, spent time lobbying for those issues, and learned how to navigate the policy making process and made connections with legislators.

I then returned to Seattle, worked with UW Impact, a program that was going through an extensive strategy review. Because of my experience in DC, I was involved in their organizational government. These experiences have provided me critical skills for taking on the roles of VP as Melanie described them. I would ask advocates, alumni, and friends to contact legislators for higher education and for UW.

I worked alongside the UW External Relations team as they followed the legislature throughout the year, and as excited to see that the hard work pay off and a budget come through with no cuts to higher education. I have heard the provost say that they seem to have stopped digging the hole but now it’s time to start refilling it, so this is a critical time for interacting with legislators. We are expecting revenue increases for the next year, so we need to begin successfully asking that this money be give back to us. I recently joined the PAC, which is about helping set budgets that reflect student values. As Adam said, it is important to turn our attention to student funding, loans, etc. I will turn my attention to this, as well as to issues of international student visas, student loan repayments, and loan forgiveness. I heard the comments from the last meeting about how these proceedings are officer heavy, and I will do what I can to incorporate senator involvement and make sure that your voices and opinions are given voice in Olympia and in DC.

Matt Souza. I have the same question about your time and flexibility.

Courtney Phillips-Youman: I have talked to Adam about this, and my advisor tells me that I could structure my year in order to make this possible. It is possible. Students have done it, and advisors are aware.

Adam Sherman: You spent some time at UW Impact. Can you say more about what you were doing there? Does that experience translate?

Courtney Phillips-Youman: While there I followed the state funding process very closely. My specific job was to follow legislation and synthesize it for our advocates and alumni at UW. I think that is highly relevant, because I have followed all the debates as they have gone on. We have aligned with GPSS and ASUW in these meetings as well.

Kimberly Schertz, running for Vice President
I’m Kimberly Schertz from the Law School. I was born in Denver and love the Broncos. I have lived in Washington for the past 11 years. I moved here before high school. I pursued my BA in Spanish and
Women’s Studies here at UW. I am also a Double Dog. I took a year off, and now I am back here for law school. I only took a year off between college and law school, so I don’t have some of the professional experience that some of the other candidates have, but I am an experienced educator, which is key for lobbying. I worked for a while with female prisoners on health issues and on domestic violent issues. Also for 3 years I was a compliance training facilitator at a bank, and served as an educator for my coworkers. To be an effective advocate you need not only a strong voice but also strong representation skills. During my undergraduate program, I was on a student gift counsel and we raised $40k to install safety lights on campus. I have advocated for an organization that worked for human rights and participated in lobbying efforts. I am now co-president of the disability law alliance and am the GPSS representative on the student bar association. I will be working for a non-profit this summer in NY that will represent low-income domestic violence victims.

In my time here, I have witnessed significant budget cuts. I want to work to continue Adam’s hard work in fighting for funding for higher education. I want to prevent increases in tuition, to replenish work study programs, to increase travel grant opportunities either within or outside of GPSS, increase funding for research, improve campus safety, and increase access to child care.

Kiana Scott: Because you don’t have a background in legislative experience, how will you hit the ground running in Olympia?
Kimberly Schertz: My internship ends in August, so I was planning on spending that month creating relationships that need to be built in Olympia. I have also signed up for a legislative advocacy clinic at UW.

Matt Souza: I have the same question about your time commitments.
Kimberly Schertz: I have learned that I can over commit myself, so I sat down with my career counselor and we discussed it. I decided that this position is very important and I will cut back on all of my other volunteer work in order to dedicate myself fully to this work.

Adam Sherman: I was part of the legislative advocacy clinic before. JHow will you balance wearing 2 different hats at the same time?
Kimberly Schertz: That will certainly be an on the ground learning experience. I would like to divide this up into multiple conversations so as to not bombard people with issues

Question from the floor: You gave a list of priorities at the end of your speech. Can you give a sense of what they are or rank them in some way?
Kimberly Schertz: #1 is preventing an increase in tuition, but that depends on what sort of funds we are given and what we can prevent. Second would be replenishing work study programs. I would say they are in the order I announced them in in terms of priority.

Ted Chen: Because you don’t have as much experiences as other candidates, what is your biggest asset?
Kimberly Schertz: I have advocacy experience just not legislative advocacy experience. I am a very passionate woman. I am a strong person because of my educational background, and I will always remember why I’m fighting for what I’m fighting for. We need to make sure that other people have the ability to pursue education as well. I also think I have good communication skills.

Ryan Shandera, running for Vice President.
I hope that everyone was able to take a look at the material I was able to post online. My experience includes an MBA that I got 4 years ago at Pepperdine. I then went into the working world for 4 years. So I know very well what grad and prof students need while in school and once they have graduated. I have also worked in different organizations. I excel at taking organizations and helping them grow, improve,
and build upon themselves. This senate has already identified the need for restructuring. I can help in finishing that restructuring and helping GPSS get to the next level. I did this work at Loyola University, where I restructured the Resident Housing Administration. We had a $175k budget that year. 12 months later, we had a $40k surplus. So I can be creative and help GPSS get through the current issues. I worked at Starbucks, ran and grew my own business.

Here is how I think: I’m going to pick on Adam for just a second. As far as budgets go, I think of budget constraint. I have brought in materials that are reused. I am sorry Adam, but your flyer is not budget constraint. I currently have student loans, over $10k in credit card debt, and less than $100 in my checking account. I can navigate money and make what you have work in the meantime. I also have a habit of winning even when I fail. 4 years ago, May 2008, I was in the ambassador cup at Starbucks. They weeded 5000 people down to 8. I represented my department of 1200 people. I lost, but the following day, there was a 5x7 portrait of me with an award and a description of the ambassador cup. I didn’t win, but I still find a way of getting results and making an impact regardless of what happens.

Matt Souza: I’m asking the same question about time.
Ryan Shandera: As an undergraduate, I worked 30 hours a week when I was going to school and also was an RA. I also throughout my undergrad was on the exec board of 7 organizations and was actively involved in 12. I then managed a 3.9 GPA on top of that. I can balance work, extra curricular, and school. I will be able to dedicate enough time to this organization as well as to my academic endeavors. There is some desire to have summer work, so if there is the need for my participation then, I have 2 job opportunities on the table and both of them are aware and will be rather flexible with this situation.

Karen Tabb: Thank you for you humor. My burning question is why didn’t you run for treasurer?
Ryan Shandera: We already have a great treasurer. I am a great advocate. I like to bring ideas to the fore and bring things into dialogue. I feel like that’s where I can really excel. I can also be a successful broad base ‘steerer’ for this organization.

Matt Souza: You spoke a lot about business organizations and budgets. That’s fantastic, but my understanding that the VP job is more about legislative advocacy, talking to representatives at the state and federal level, representing GPSS to them. Do you have any legislative advocacy experience to draw on.
Ryan Shandera: Not legislative advocacy per se. But I was enrolled in Campus republicans, democrats, and the green party. I like to have a broad base. So, no I don’t, but I don’t see it as a huge hurdle. There is support in the form of Adam, and you are electing us to be part of an organization. I will have to advocate for the budget, and if I’m not knowledgeable and passionate about it, how can you advocate for it.

Question from the floor: What school are you from and what year are you?

Adam Sherman: Traditionally the VP has advocated for more funding for higher education. Is that contrary to your position of budget constraint?
Ryan Shandera: No, that is not counter to anything that I would say. Also, it’s not my role to advocate for my personal opinions. I am going to be an advocate for your needs and will be bringing my personal understanding of your needs to the table. We need to be cognizant of how we spend money, but bringing in extra dollars is excellent and there are many opportunities for us to do this. Proposes a potential business venture with Amazon and grad student publishing.

Tobias Gruenthal: I have a question for Adam – listening to you for the past several months, I have a good idea of what you do, but when you took up this position, what do you feel helped you be a good VP? Was it your evident public speaking skills? Your law background? What was most valuable?
Adam Sherman: The law background is totally secondary. The key thing is to be personable. If you can go up to people and be reasonable, and be rational, you can get the job done. Decisions in Olympia aren’t made solely on rationality. There is a lot of politics involved, and the better you are at relating to people, the better you are at getting your ideas and opinions across. Also, if you can dedicate yourself 100% to it, that’s huge.

Hunter Marston: Any nominations from the floor? Then onto Secretary.

**Kristen Hosey, running for GPSS Secretary.**

I’m a nurse. That’s a little different. I’ve been here at UW for 2 years. I’ve been a senator for 2 years. I’ve been working with the Treasurer’s office for almost 2 years as the Resource Assistant. I have also been on the F&B committee, the Restructuring Task Force, I’m appointed as the UW Bookstore Trustee. I have had a lot of experience working not just in the School of Nursing, but outside of that school with a lot of different schools across campus. I’ve noticed that the School of Nursing is focused on the bottom line and not on the needs of the students. The midwifery program is an example of that. As secretary, there are a few things that I would like to highlight. The role of diversity, communication, and supporting you all as senators.

Diversity is important to me. I am a community health nurse, and I have experience doing a lot of work with health disparities, trying to get people access to health care. I have done this both locally and in Malawi. I have also done gender and development work with secondary school girls, and locally I am working with Native American tribes in the Puget sound, working on breast cancer screenings and survivorship. With all of the new committees coming up, the diversity committee could really strengthen our voice for diversity on campus. It’s not just about gender and race. It’s about having voices from all over campus represented. I don’t think that we should be duplicating efforts, but we should be working with pre-existing orgs to provide voice.

Communication is a big issue that came out of restructuring. People don’t know who we are or what we’re doing. Something that I could bring to the table is what I’ve been doing in the nursing school, which is getting all sorts of people together to talk about what we’re doing and what the issues are for people on campus. I would love to work with the outreach committee to extend GPSS’s reach into other organizations and events on campus, having small coffee breaks before major events to introduce people to GPSS and its actions

When I joined GPSS, I had no idea what was going on. I want to run an orientation module this summer for new senators, to train them to advocate better for their programs and students.

Matt Souza: The same time question is posed.

Kristen Hosey: With the program that I’m in losing money, I rushed to get my classes out of the way, so I will have a lot of time on my hands next year.

Tobias Gruenthal: How organized are you?

Kristen Hosey: I have been juggling a lot of things. I’ve been working on the F&B committee, the SPS, TED talks, school of nursing. I haven’t dropped the ball on anything so far. I am not the best public speaker maybe. I’ve been coaching myself. But I’m not disorganized. I am really on top of my game.

Matt Elisio: How many unanswered emails do you have in your in box right now?

Kristen Hosey: Before this meeting, about 5. After the meeting about 40 I bet.
Evan Smith: As the secretary, you would be sitting on ASUW board of directors. Do you have experience working with ASUW and if not how will you get to know the issues?

Kristen Hosey: Last year I got to hang out with Sean who was the secretary and follow him to a lot of meetings. Right now I am on the UW board of trustees for the University Bookstore. 4 of the people on that committee are undergraduate students, and two of them are highly placed in ASUW. So we hear a lot about ASUW from that. There are also times when we have collaborated with ASUW on budgets as well.

Question from the floor: With your experience in public affairs – do you see any opportunities to enhance communication within the organization? The School of Nursing doesn’t have a student government, so in the last year, I have been working with graduate students from other departments. We have 460 grad students there, so we need more representation. There are 2 RSOs organizing with senators, and 2 more focused on changing the culture and spirit within the school of nursing. This is how we have been communicating and advocating for students. On GPSS committees, we are going to have chairs, which will help everyone know what is going on next year. That will be great.

Keith Peyton, running for GPSS Secretary.
I am a first-year law student. I am interested in the secretary position for a number of reasons. As a law student, I am interested in the judiciary. Part of the secretary’s role is to oversee the Judicial Committee. I worked on the Judicial Committee at USC where we handled student conduct issues, and I could transfer those skills here.

I have worked in many places on campus, including the LGBT resource center. I have lots of experience working with students, staff, alumni. I am on a lot of committees at the School of Law: OutLaws, QLaw, LGBTQ attorneys. I am also on disability alliance committee, advocating for disability rights. I’m also part of the student ambassador community, part of the law school’s outreach to prospective students. I know that disabled students need more representation at UW. We have the QLaw center and the DSS, so we have a lot of services out there, and if I were secretary, I would coordinate more with these services that are already there.

Lastly, I would like to promote GPSS and work with senators. In orientation, I didn’t really know what GPSS was all about. I feel like communication and coordination with the various departments could be helpful in getting more students aware of what we do or who we are.

Matt Eliseo: I am a member of the Judicial Committee, I object to the statement that you oversee us.

Keith Peyton: Sorry, I misspoke.

Matt Eliseo: How would you like to bring your law school experience to bear as an ex officio member of the Judicial Committee?

Keith Peyton: I handled cases of disciplinary problems at USC, so I can bring some experience and insight to it.

Kiana Scott: How many unanswered emails do you have in your inbox?

Matt Souza: I’m asking the same time commitment question.

Keith Peyton: Now I work 2 jobs in addition to being a full-time law student, so I would defer to the job of being secretary in lieu of these other positions. I am already working that kind of load.

Question from the floor: Kristen said that she wanted to increase diversity by bringing in voices across campus. What is your plan for getting south campus more involved, especially considering the executive board?
Trond Nilsen: The executive committee is half science students, at least.
Keith Peyton: I would reach out. Word of mouth, personal interactions with senators—these are all ways to encourage a more diverse base to participate.

Question from the floor: What are you doing in GPSS now and how will that serve you in your capacity as secretary?
Keith Peyton: Now I’m just working in the School of Law.

Hunter Marston: Are there any nominations from the floor? Ok, then on to treasurer.

**Colin Goldfinch, running for GPSS Treasurer**

We’ve been through a lot of changes this year. The restructuring task force created a lot of committees, we have new budgets, new bylaws, and we are still charting a path forward. Those changes aren’t done. Right before September, we are going to be moving back to our office in the HUB. This is a great opportunity for us to put our office right back at the center of student life. As we are getting ready for the higher education summit, fall social, student orientation, this will be busy. My goal as treasurer is to make GPSS a central resource for students. I want to make sure that the office is a place where students can come to ask questions, to talk about issues. We have done a good job of using smaller events to bring the community together on campus. Vora did a great job with the PhD movie. We hosted trivia at the Burke Museum one month. We have lots of opportunities to take our position in the HUB out to the larger campus.

I have a few specific proposals. With regards to committees, it is important for the treasurer to create a structure that can support that new organization. We started a new SharePoint system to facilitate special allocations. We can set up a similar system to make it easier for the VP to deal with all of their staff and committees and volunteers. We should also set up quarterly reports, so that we can see trends and patterns across campus in a more real-time manner.

Since the HUB will be open in the evening, I would like to make sure that we have office hours in the evening. If the GPSS office is going to be a place where people can come to talk about the issues, then the door needs to be open for students who have irregular schedules on campus.

Also, since we have had success with these smaller events, we are having some SPS events starting tomorrow that are smaller. I would like to have these smaller events throughout the year: small events, talks, interesting things that can build discussion and conversation across campus.

Overall, we have written out a lot of big changes for next year, but they are all still on paper. We need to have the flexibility to bring all those changes to life, and I hope to accomplish this next year.

Mateo Banegas: You are running unopposed, which shows our confidence in you, but how will you improve as a leader and what did you not accomplish this year that you want to accomplish this year? And what new ideas are you bringing this time?

Colin Goldfinch: Last year I said that I wanted to have a lot more online application systems. I want to bring this forward again. I thought this could be implemented over the summer, but there were all sorts of unforeseen difficulties. I have learned a lot about these processes this year, and I think we’ve nailed it with the SharePoint system. My objective next year is to remain focused on what GPSS says is important because it takes focus and time to get them done.

Rita Ismail: How do you feel to be the only candidate for this position?
Colin Goldfinch: This is a personal issue for me. I ran unopposed several times as an undergrad too. I wish there were more debate. These elections are an opportunity to have vibrant discussions. I am hoping that committee chairs this next year will be more excited to run for office in the future.

Hunter Marston: Are there nominees from the floor? Ok, then it is time to fill out ballots. Please rank your votes for VP, put your name and signature at the bottom, and pass them to the end of the row.

7 – Science and Policy Summit
Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer): There are two events this year. The first is tomorrow, a presentation competition a la TED talks. Faculty are sharing the results and policy implications of their research

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): How long are the presentations?
Colin Goldfinch: There are 8 presentations of 10 min each with food and drink afterwards. We should be there for 2 hours. It starts at 2:30. The second event is the summit, which will be net Tues in the Walker-Ames room. The first panel is on bioethics and preventative medicine. The second panel is on science and policy in presidential campaigns (or lack thereof). This second event is going to be 3 hours—an hour for each panel and then a student poster competition at the end.

8 – Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS) and International Student Fee
Charles Plummer: I want to briefly report on what the PACS has been doing for students this year. In 2012, this committee has focused on undergraduate differential tuition, they have developed official budget principles, have been monitoring updates from the office of financial aid and planning and budgeting. They have reviewed the budget narrative that all the units of the university have submitted. They have offered their questions and analyses to the provost, so that they provost can have more opportunity to discuss student needs with the various deans. They have reviewed the international student fee and provided recommendations on this, and evaluated an alternative income based repayment funding model for the UW developed by the Economic Opportunity Institute (EOI)

In April, the provost came to me and the ASUW president, put together a working group to work on whether there should be an international student fee, what units should be supported with it, show much should it cost, and how should it be levied. She wanted a recommendation in 10 days. Luckily we had PACS to look at this proposal, and were able to give her a recommendation: this was not the time for any such fee. The decision would be rushed. The next day the provost decided to put a hold on this fee, and credited the group with raising issues that other administrators didn’t want to raise. The UW needs $262 to bring themselves into compliance, but that money should come from somewhere else. Also a blanket fee for all students is inappropriate. Student life also asked for more money, and they found that all students use student life equally, and internationally shouldn’t be targeted to fund it. These issues are too tangled up in the larger structural deficits that have reduced service capacities for all students.

9 – GPSS Committee Chair Information
Charles Plummer: We are going to elect chairs for committees at the next meeting: university affairs, F&B, communication and outreach, government relations, and the social committee.

The university affairs committee is in blue and is under my purview as president. This is a place where we hope that a lot of policy can be developed, where there can be not only solid institutional memory, but also develop some new and innovative policies for GPSS and GPSS opinions. They oversee the community affairs committee, which looks at issues of larger scope like housing, town and gown issues, environmental issues, and other extra-university relationships like corporate sponsorship.
Melanie Mayock: There will be a diversity subcommittee. The new secretary will be involved in this. The chair will be appointed by the secretary. This is a group that will be working with different bodies on campus, departments, etc. Interfacing with GO-MAP, etc. I think people who are interested should get informally involved over the summer. This committee will be more fully formed in the fall. This subcommittee will administer the GPSS diversity fund, which is funded at $45k/yr to promote diversity.

Colin Goldfinch: The student life committee will be working to with STF and other sources with lots of money for students on campus. The purpose of this committee is to track where our money is going across campus so that we can see if needs are really being met and if we can better represent graduate and professional students to other groups that are giving out large amounts of our money in various ways. The F&B committee does 3 things: departmental allocation funding, which can be used for department-wide student development, special allocation funding for student programming and organizations, and preparation and approval of the GPSS budget. The committee supports the treasurer in setting GPSS budget priorities. The social committee has had $3k allocated to it this year in order to support events to bring graduate students together. The goal is to underwrite some of the smaller events that GPSS can get involved in throughout the year.

Adam Sherman: Connor, the legislative assistant, was given the bylaws and he produced this org chart (on the projector screen). Hopefully this is a better way to navigate the system – visually. Despite my role next year, government relations is going to be the coolest committee to be involved in. It will be synthesizing all of our external legislative agendas and efforts. It will be establishing institutional memory via a book of standing policy positions, and they will be coordinating with the policy director on urgent action items. For government nerds, this is going to be awesome.

Melanie Mayock: DRAC (the Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee) is something we are looking at changing. The bottom line is that for students who are involved in dispute, GPSS wanted to look at how to be a resource. The Communication and outreach committee is to help get the word out about GPSS. This will be appointed in spring quarter, because we want some committee work to happen over the summer.

Election Results.
Hunter Marston: Thank you all for your patience and participation.
President – 84 votes for Adam Sherman, 1 abstention
VP – 52 votes – Melanie Mayock.
Courtney Phillips-Youman – 28 votes
Kimberly Schertz – 3 votes
Ryan Shandera – 2 votes
Secretary – Kristen Hosey 72 votes
Keith Peyton – 12 votes
1 write-in for Melanie Mayock
Treasurer – Colin Goldfinch 85 votes.

10 - Travel Grants
Daniel Coslett (Built Environments): Last month we axed travel grants. I have heard about a lot of other people who are also upset. I am interested in talking to people with ideas. There are a few of you interested. E-mail me.
Melanie Mayock: On a technical note, if you want to do a resolution, send it to the Secretary 2 weeks before the Senate meeting.

Jennifer Carroll: I am collecting materials on travel support opportunities at UW. Please help me collect materials from your programs and departments

Trond Nilsen: Are you looking at putting travel grants back in the GPSS budget or are you trying to set up anything anywhere?

Daniel Coslett: I think we could set up an ad hoc committee for the fall to discuss this. I have no explicit agenda, I think just that it should be discussed in a more active manner.

Charles Plummer: In the new University Affairs Committee, there is room for them to form ad hoc committees to deal with such issues, so that we can get such conversations going without a full senate meeting.

11 – Announcements
Rene Singleton: thank you to elections committee for running elections.
Charles Plummer thanks the elections committee

12 - Adjourn
Megan Gamb (Oceanography):  Moves to adjourn.
The meeting is adjourned at 7:38pm.