

GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes November 2, 2011

1. Call to Order:

Time called to order: 5:35pm

Aaron gives introduction to the meeting.
Sean Wilson is the new ASUW liaison to GPSS

2. Approval of the Agenda

Trond Nilsen, Industrial Engineering: Moves to approve the agenda.
Buddy Rutzke, Law: Seconds.
All in favor, motion passes.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Mitch Kaufman, Philosophy: Moves to approve the minutes from the October 5th Senate meeting.
Kiana Scott, Public Affairs: Seconds.
All in favor, motion passes.

4. Guest Speaker: Graduate School Dean Gerald Baldasty

Aaron gives an introduction for first guest speaker, Dean Gerald Baldasty of the Graduate School.

Dean Baldasty:

- Brief Intro:
From Spokane, came to UW as an undergraduate, Communications major. Because of a faculty mentor he decided to go to graduate school. Has been on the faculty since 1978.
- What the Graduate School Does:
 - Graduate School is the infrastructure for most of the departments and programs of graduate study.
 - Concerned with the success of graduate students, particularly students of color and for high achieving students during recruitment.
 - Offer workshops that departments may not be offering.
 - GO-MAP program
 - Quality assessments: Every program has to be reviewed every 10 years.
- Diversity at UW:
 - Doing better than 10 years ago, but not doing nearly as well in comparison to schools the UW wants to be like. Taking the notion seriously of being a public institution and the need to produce great leaders in the next generation.

- Non-resident tuition waiver:
 - If you're a TA or RA, this does not apply to you.
 - Created in 2003 by the Board of Regents, for students from out-of-state paying full tuition. Qualify for in-state tuition after first year. This was a popular program and was used as a recruitment tool.
 - In 2009, Provost Phyllis Wise looked into the program; its costs were over \$4 million in forgone tuition, for approximately 300 students the program covered. The program has been ended because of its costs. This will affect the 2012 cohort of incoming students. If you are a student now, you are grandfathered in.

- Graduate School Agenda:
 - Urging UW to prioritize graduate and professional school education. Grad and professional students play an important role for this institution. They also serve as great role models to undergrads and are key to faculty retention. Important for both educational and research mission of the institution. Would like to see the institution double fellowships.

- Questions:
 - Buddy Rutzke, Law: The Law School has no TA/RA-ships. Any metrics in how out-of-state tuition worked as a recruitment tool?
Dean Baldasty: No metrics, but about 80 students in Law School received the tuition waiver.

 - Buddy Rutzke, Law: Were benefits of the tuition waiver program being considered?
Dean Baldasty: Did not think we would generate an extra \$4 million if those students decided not to come here. May see later that this was a short-term solution.

 - Onyinye Edeh, Global Health: How do you know that you qualify?
Dean Baldasty: Go to the website. Many departments don't know about it.

 - Keolu Fox, Genome Sciences: Recruiting students is not easy. How does UW market itself?
Dean Baldasty: Research- talk about quality of institution, good labs, good faculty.

 - Aaron: If you dis-enroll from university you may not be eligible when you come back.

 - Nitya Venkateswaran, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies: Training for faculty to be more welcoming for students of color?
Dean Baldasty: Not so much, our focus is on student development. Faculty training could be beyond the Graduate School capacity.

Dean Baldasty speaks highly of Aaron's involvement in search for new Provost.

5. Guest Speaker: UAW President David Parsons

Aaron introduces David Parsons of UAW Local 4121. The union represents all the TAs and RAs on campus as well as undergraduate workers such as graders; this amounts to about 4,000 people.

David Parsons:

The union and GPSS have been linked since the union's inception. Emerged directly out of GPSS in the late 1990s when there were a lot of debates about funding and employment for grad and professional students. The debate centered around how students play two roles: 1) students and 2) workforce (TA/RA/tutor/grader). When grad students are both, how do we organize and advocate for ourselves as workers.

GPSS in late '90s decided students should have a collective voice for collective bargaining and faced resistance from the university. Arguments being made at the time have somewhat diminished at present. Students are still primarily students and not employees and the university wants to have that relationship. In 2004 UAW negotiated first contract with the University. As academic student employees, we bargain with the university as equals. Primary function of UAW is to represent ourselves as academic student employees.

Other issues and advocacy include: immigration reform, scientific research, affordability and access in tuition. Important for access to the university to encourage diversity.

Questions:

- Wes Kovarik, Jackson School – International Studies: Dean Baldasty is pushing funding to fellowships. Would that come at the expense of TAs and RA-ships?

David Parsons: If fellowships become a way for the university to provide less funding then a) not immediately clear how it would work- removing TA/RAs from classroom and labs would fly in the face of experience. b) whether there would be same processes available to Fellows as they have been for TAs and RAs. So when students have problems with their funding, what sort of policies would govern dispute resolution and what processes would be in place when they need advocacy.

- Adrienne Sussman, Psychology: What's the contract negotiation status of student fees?

David Parsons: Fee increases result in a de-facto pay decrease. Last year the University was willing to provide a compensation off-set for increased fees (e.g. building fee). At the end of negotiations they provided a small compensation so that things are kept even. This year there are new fees.

- Aaron Naumann, President: UAW is re-negotiating with the University in March/April?

David Parsons: some minor improvements rather than nothing

- Skylar Olsen, Economics: In the Econ department, we as TAs cannot hire graders. What is the union's stance on this?

David Parsons: Strongly encourage that this issue be pursued. Cannot require to work more than 20 hours. If there is a change to course structure due to budget cuts, that kind of change is the sort of possibility. Direct relationship to support staff and workload.

- Nicole Secula, Music: No one wants to stand up because they don't want to lose their TA-ship. Is there someone we can bring in on our behalf to speak to the dean/advisor?

David Parsons: UAW has stewards that can help. It's far less effective when workers are not proactive in the process. University cannot take away your job, it is against the law. We don't know of a single situation where someone has lost their job from the experience or situation.

David Parsons: Next Wednesday we are drawing attention to cuts to higher education and the connection to larger economic trends in the state of Washington. Highlight out-of-state banks gaining 100 million in tax incentives while the UW budget is being cut.

6. Bylaw Amendment Proposal

Aaron brings up his job offer and announces he is resigning from the role of GPSS president. Current bylaws say that the Vice-President would step into that role. But if Vice-President transitions to presidency, there would be two large holes among GPSS officers, rather than just one. Authors of bylaws had never intended for a president to step down. Only a few officers in history of GPSS have resigned.

Aaron opens floor to senators for questions.

- Nitya Venkateswaran, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies: Any situation where we would need Vice-President to step in to Presidency?

Adam Sherman, Vice-President: It's still possible for the Vice-President to assume the position temporarily. The new proposal would be more democratic.

Melanie explains in detail changes to the bylaws. She references the last page of the bylaws, which explain the rules for amendments. Proposed bylaw amendments need to be sent to Senators seven days before it is voted on. Judiciary Committee does not have to approve it before it comes to Senate, but she checked with the members and they all support this proposal. Melanie goes over the changes to affected parts of the bylaws. To amend the bylaws it is a majority vote of those Senators present, in person or by proxy.

- Nathaniel McVicar, Electrical Engineering: Point of Information: Any rules on current President/Officer endorsing other candidates?

Aaron Naumann: Historically, no.

- Tobias, Germanics: grammatical mistake question in amendment.
Melanie: That will be fixed.
- Ted Chen, Bioengineering: What would we do if President had to leave temporarily?

Melanie: It's too difficult to find a temporary replacement, get them trained, then hold an election.

Aaron Naumann: Hope that this part of the bylaws will go to the Judiciary Committee later for more revisions. This proposal will get us through the process for now.

Colin Goldfinch, Treasurer: Executive Committee meets every week.

Melanie: Bylaws have long set of election rules for normal election process and short set of election rules for replacement election. This one is for replacement election.

Trond Nilson, Industrial and Systems Engineering: Replacement election and election packet wording is confusing. Moves to change wording in Clause 5, letter d, to read:

d. The Executive Senators shall develop election rules and an election packet for the replacement election, which shall be distributed to the GPSS at least seven days before the election.

Yasmeen Hussain, Biology: Seconds the motion.

Michael Light, Social Work: Clarifying question: Are we coming up with a new system every time this happens?

Colin Goldfinch: Because replacement elections may happen during the time when there is not an elections committee meeting...

Trond Nilsen, Industrial and Systems Engineering: Bylaws have rules that cannot be changed by the Elections Committee. Elections Committee changes only incidental rules. They would not be able to change other rules.

Aaron Naumann: Calls for a vote on Trond's motion to amend the amendment proposal. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes to fix wording in bylaw amendment proposal.

Chris Lizotte, Geography: I move that the amendments be approved as written

Mitch Kaufman, Philosophy: Seconds.
All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

7. Higher Education Summit and Legislative Update

Aaron Naumann:

This morning there was a press release from ASUW proposing three initiatives to generate revenue for higher ed. Tomorrow night is the Student Empowerment Banquet.

Higher Ed Summit Agenda:

8:30am- meet and greet with Michael K. Young. Members of the Board of Regents will also be there.

Panel 1: Where we are at present

Panel 2: What is the future for Washington's public research universities in area of shrinking state assistance?

Panel 3: Attaining an Advanced Degree: Has Student Indebtedness Reached the Tipping Point?

No one has proposals to offset costs from cuts to higher education. The more that students can become engaged will help us in the long run.

Adam Sherman:

At the end of the Higher Ed Summit, engage in dialogue with legislators about the work you do. Stories are important and student voices need to be heard.

Adam would also like to visit departments and asks Senators to find time for Adam to come talk to their department and see the work and research firsthand. The purpose is to have stories to share with legislators for the special session, which starts November 28. There will be a Town Hall meeting in mid-December in partnership with ASUW and other organizations. Multiple ways for students to communicate with GPSS to relay stories/

- Laine Anderson, Speech and Hearing Sciences: Is the Summit informal - can students come and go?

Adam: As long as you can be there for part of the event, that would be great.

- John Huang, Epidemiology: It would be great for faculty to know, are they invited too?
Adam: Yes, the more people involved in conversation, the better. The more we can get faculty and administration involved, the better.

Melanie: Don't forget to help put the word out about the event.

8. Science and Policy Summit

Colin Goldfinch:

Last year GPSS put on a Science and Policy Summit to complement the Higher Ed Summit. It's meant to investigate the interface between science and policy. Right now we are starting to fundraise and plan for the event. Want to know what issues are salient and pertinent to students doing research right now. What kind of speakers would be interesting? What should the format be? If you know of departments who want to contribute or partner with, please let Colin know.

- Michael Light, Social Work: Are there any tools in place for garnering feedback?
Colin: not yet
- Nicole Secula, Music: Are you reaching out to Bothell campus? There is a new department there in Environmental Science.

9. GPSS Funding Options

Colin Goldfinch:

GPSS has three types of funding for students:

1. Travel Grants: Students can only receive once throughout the course of degree.
2. Departmental Allocations: This is funding for you department. Could be for events to build student community, new furniture, magazine subscriptions, etc. No retroactive funding. No food or drinks.
3. Special Allocations: For registered student organizations. Online application.

Michael Light, Social Work: What is the total funding for the year?

Colin:

\$17,000 for departmental allocations

\$21,000 for travel grants

\$15,000 for special allocations

10. PhD Movie

Free movie screening on November 17th

11. Announcements

Aaron Naumann:

- Campus planning and budgeting office: Looking for grad students in discussion of long-term planning of the university. Potential innovation zone on the west side of campus.
- Help ask questions at Higher Ed Summit

Charles Plummer, Earth and Space Sciences:

- The Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS) is a committee of students that has a voice with the Provost on budget issues. Question for everyone: What does “quality” mean to you, as graduate students? If cuts are going to come, what areas do students want to see protected?

12. Adjourn

Chris Lizotte, Geography: Moves to adjourn.

Ted Chen, Bioengineering: seconds.

All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes.

Time of adjournment: 7:35pm