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 Hryniw, 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 are appointed 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 split up into groups by College- Arts and Sciences, Health, Engineering etc, Jackson, Law, combine Built Environment, Education and Evans.

Charles Plummer, President: Would entertain a motion to suspend rules and add Kelsey Knowles, Student Regent, to the agenda. There is a special regents meeting coming up.
Chris Lizotte, Geography: Moves to add Kelsey Knowles to the agenda.
Daniel Cortez, iSchool, Seconds.
No objections; motion passes.

**Kelsey Knowles, Student Regent:**
There is a special meeting of the Board of Regents on Wednesday, February 15th. Email already sent with details. Will be public forum on tuition and budget issues. There will be a second forum April 5th for all UW community. William Gates Hall, targeted for students from all three campuses. Sign up by Monday, February 15th for top priority to speak-send your name, issue, phone number and email address to regents@uw.edu or purple paper copies that can be dropped off in Gerberding, though you can sign up the day of with lower priority. Remarks limited to 3 minutes. Will begin with brief update from Vice Provost on Budgeting and Planning. At least 5 regents will be in attendance.

Melanie Mayock Secretary: Regents are ultimate decision makers, set tuition. Kelsey Knowles: February meeting focused on tuition, next forum will concern general budgeting more as legislative session develops.

Adam Sherman: What are effective ways of talking to the regents? Kelsey Knowles: Good to be specific about potential solutions, how your program could benefit from a different structure, eg if a fee-based system makes sense for your program. Provide personal details that convey what tuition means to you. Some programs still have lower tuition than competitive/peer institutions.

Chris Lizotte, Geography: Tuition can mean several things for grad students, in terms of grants, fee-waivers, etc. Kelsey Knowles: if you are working through a grant, or as a TA, bring up to the regents and the impact that tuition has on your situation. If you are funded through a particular system, explaining it will help

7. **Graduate Student Issues at the College Level**
Melanie Mayock, Secretary: I was recently asked how Senators can get issues on the Senate meeting agenda. I sent an email to Senators a few days ago asking for suggestions for the Senate agenda. Two similar proposals about information sharing on how students in different colleges are having a voice in college-wide decisions.

Sarah Celms, Special Education: College of Education has a faculty council with non-voting graduate student reps. Students sit on faculty search committee. Would like to know how much contact other schools have contact with their Dean.

Sheri ____, Nursing/Midwifery: On December 19th, tenured faculty at the School of Nursing voted to eliminate the midwifery program. Established by state legislature several years ago, remains very important. Students have been organizing and mobilizing. Around 4,000 signatures in the last 2.5 weeks to maintain program. Senator Karen Kaiser
added amendment to SB 6115 to make taskforce to regulate number of healthcare providers. Midwives are primary healthcare providers, not just natal care. Taskforce document includes mechanism to communicate between School of Nursing and State of WA healthcare personnel shortage strategic plan/taskforce. Taskforce will also work with UW School of Nursing to ensure that changes at UW are in line with social good and public health of state. We believe that the School ignored these needs when they took their vote. Unilateral decision, we ask people to sign petition cards.

Melanie Mayock Secretary: Cutting programs can spark mobilization, but broader issues of student voice are present even when cuts are not present. We want a discussion about how to build the student voice in all colleges on campus.

John Huang, School of Public Health: Various departments are fairly autonomous and there is not a lot of communication between them. Two years ago, a handful of GPSS senators from the different departments started meeting during the dean selection process. Dean that was selected has been receptive and encouraging of student input. Working to address lack of communication. Steering committee emphasized need to include students moving forward with the School’s strategic plan. Met with new student services director.

Daniel Coslett, Built Environment PhD program: Last year, fear that program might be cut or altered. Met with the Dean to find out. Good to check in with your Dean, even if there is not a specific issues. College of Built Environment has been trying to become more able to deal with these kinds of issues. Proposal for college-wide student organization. Some departments have formal councils, some informal, some none. College-wide organization would link everyone, give representation on faculty council. Dean asked Senators to begin thinking about how to form this and what it would look like. Want a long-term body. Good idea to think about in other colleges.

John Huang: In Public Health, similar situation with program cuts. Demonstrates need to have structure for communication, student voice.

Melanie: Some officers will be staying after to discuss these issues.

8. Legislative Update
Adam: Many groups have long-term relationship from the same lobbyists. Students are at an institutional disadvantage because our representatives are new faces. Shared governance is a major agenda item, in part developed by Evan Smith of ASUW, to give greater input on major decisions, especially budget. Proposal had wide, bipartisan support. Blocked by chair of House Higher Education Committee as low priority, but says he will support it later. Forming Provost Advisory Committee was important, but more is needed.

Work study program makes a big difference, $8 million program for students to have jobs. Senator Frock put forward bill to support, but did not pass. Working to make sure
that it is a budget item, not a policy item. In peril, not in Governor’s budget so we need legislature to place it back in budget.

Childcare matching grant is small, spread across all WA universities. Doesn’t provide a lot, but very important. Working with Senator Brown to get public support.

Program fees and stealth tuition: Administration wants to implement program fees that are different for in-state and out of state students. Mostly impacts undergraduates for now, paves way for differential tuition for undergrads. Some amendments made that implement shared governance if tuition is raised. Complex, unclear if moving forward or not.

Motor voter registration-default setting would be registration to vote when getting driver’s license. More registered students means more advocates in legislature. Not moving forward.

Graduate tax: Rep. Seaquist formed committee to examine over the summer. Idea is to get free college, then pay percentage of income post-graduation. Reinforces idea of public education, benefits those who may want to go into public service. Earning potential doesn’t necessarily mean what you earn, but used to justify high costs. Looking into the possibilities. Assembling team of lawyers, policy analysts.

Sales tax: Gregoire has again proposed. Can be regressive tax, but it is an income source for healthcare, education, etc. Still on table, will provide updates.

Charles Plummer: We have been approached by Transportation for Washington. Big bill on transportation, which funds roads, transit is up now, only happens every 4 or 5 years. Governor’s plan, because of constitutional mandate on funding certain things like roads, proposes using non-road funds for transit. Signed letter supporting this idea, which would mean less construction of new roads.

Adam Sherman: We don’t have institutional capacities for mobilizing people. Need ability to quickly rally people to go to Olympia. Need people to be activated, ready to act. Don’t have an organizing director, legislative communications director. Busy tracking bills, schools, so can’t handle these responsibilities. Restructuring taskforce might look at how to build up these abilities.

Legislative process can be frustrating, changes very rapidly. Bill that was considered dead can be quickly resurrected, in this situation we need to be able to mobilize quickly. Bill supported by many students was held up by administration opposing it, despite earlier positions.

Daniel Coslett, Built Environment: How is your capacity hampered by turnover? What about a two-year position for GPSS Vice-President?
Adam: legislators more likely to meet if they know you. On two years for Vice-President, worried about lowering interest if it is a longer commitment.

Daniel Coslett: Overlapping terms would be useful.

Adam Sherman: restructuring involves discussion of leadership development. Some people are interested currently in this type of work.

Buddy Rutzke, Law: Are there other organizations we can tap into?

Adam: SAGE (Student Advocates for Graduate Education) is a national organization we belong to, is useful to talk to about internal structures. Also ASUW Office of Governmental Relations has five staff members, more volunteers and institutional support. Synergy, looking to other institutions.

Kelsey Knowles: was just in Olympia, legislators are not hearing from many people in support of higher ed. Need more statewide support from people beyond university and within university community. Extra emails and calls matter.

Nora Rodriguez, GWSS: Are there more radical tactics we could use?

Adam: Good direction, appreciate sentiment. Undergraduates tend to be more willing to take this kind of action. Avoid illegality. For example, Occupy the Capitol didn’t get taken very seriously by legislators. Need message that is powerful and perhaps radical. Need to be careful. Strategic but not angry. Lobby Day on Friday, email Maxine Sugarman at ASUW, you can still sign up.

9. Updates/ Announcements
Melanie Mayock, Secretary: Tuesday 11am new Senator orientation. Email to get in touch.

10. Adjourn
Yasmeen Hussain, Biology: Moves to adjourn.
Chris Lizotte, Geography, seconds.
No objections; motion passes.