Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chris L: I call this meeting to order at 5:36pm. I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda.

Duru Altug (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations): I move to approve the agenda.


Approval of Minutes

Chris L: Any objections? Thank you. I will now entertain the motion to approve the minutes.

Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): So moved.

Eric Scheufler (Germanics): Second.

Previously on GPSS

Chris L: Any objections? We have a set of approved minutes. Moving on to Previously on GPSS. We talked mostly about legislative things and Lobby Day, which we went to last Thursday. It was a great success and we had a lot of fun. It was really cold so we spent as little time outside as possible. We talked to a lot of legislators and had a lot of interesting conversations. We also talked to legislative assistants as well. We got to see a little bit of action and some even got to see committee action. Then we took an awesome picture on the floor of the House which if isn’t on our website yet, it will be really soon. So pretty sweet. We also talked about the impending possible cuts of King County Metro, which there is a rapidly organizing coalition around that to encourage the King County Council to pass a series of measures to provide funding for that, which Chris will tell you more about in his legislative update. We talked about travel grants. Those were the high points. If there any questions on those things or you need to get caught up, let me know after the meeting. Moving along, we have a special guest, Josh Kavanagh who is the director of Transportation Services. He’s here to tell us about a minor proposed change to the student u-pass program. We just wanted to make sure that we’re all informed.

Transportation Services Presentation

Joshua Kavanagh (Director of Transportation Services): I apologize but we’re going to do a really deep dive into the weeds before we pull back up. What I wanted to speak to you about today is a proposal that has been circulating. The u-pass program has 3 different funding sources that
come into it. One of which is the universal student u-pass fee and the other two are funding streams: one from the central administration and one that’s self-generated from Transportation Services. That chunk of money is the transportation demand management fee. It funds a number of different things on campus including shuttle buses and also makes a substantial contribution to the u-pass program. What we’re talking about is the math as to how that gets distributed between the universal program for students and the opt-in program for faculty and staff and the 3 percent of students that exist outside of the universal program. This is an issue that is not governed by the Memorandum of Understanding contract between Transportation Services and the student body for the universal student u-pass program. That said, when I sat down with students and making their vision of the university pass come to fruition, I made presentations of how that is going to work and I want to be able to look you in the eye. In fact, last month I had an occasion to visit with Chris’s predecessor by a couple years, Jake Velechini in DC and I still remember to this day, in fact I told him about it, the introduction that Jake gave me to GPSS one night that this is Josh Kavanagh. He’s from Transportation Services and you can trust what he says. That's been my goal and standard ever since, to make sure that bottom line when I’m dealing with students, you can believe what I say. Because I made that presentation, even when its not governed by policy or contract where it goes, I have said that I’m not making this change until we have an opportunity to have a discussion about it. So the long and the short is when the universal student u-pass was proposed a few years ago, we really got into the mechanics of trying to make that happen. It was a real reach. Honestly, I had proposed something far less ambitious and students said no this is where we're going to go. Come along for the ride and we did it. We were really concerned about whether it was going to pencil financially and how we were get there to a good, solid, stable program in place for students. I’m delighted to share that we got that job done. The program has been more financially stable and we have been more successful in leveraging the program to get preference transit than we had expected. Because of that, we were able to hold the universal student u-pass static last year than it was originally projected to after the two year fixed rate. I suspect that it’s going to stay steady for another year and so that is something we would have never conceived of when we first started the program. When we first were trying to get that going and I had my doubts, what I did was I stacked the deck. I’ll be absolutely frank about that. In trying to figure out how to distribute the transportation demand management fee, those subsidy dollars that Transportation Services had at their disposal, there were two different proposals on how we might do it. One was on a population basis and the other was a cost of services basis. I said we’re going to do it on a population basis. There’s a heck of a lot more students than faculty and staff and this is going to allow me to direct more money to students and it’s going to make it work really well. Well boy, there are a lot of you guys. As we saw fruition in the faculty and staff program, it’s a really steep difference. In fact, faculty and staff, while there are far fewer that participate in the u-pass program just because there are fewer raw number and also because they don’t have the universal program, they cost almost as much as the student program to run. Why? They’re coming up on Sound or coming in long distance bus transit and have really expensive fares. They ride with the intensivity that students do not. If we had done it on a cost basis instead of the per capita basis, the distribution would have been far more equal and the argument that we had heard from faculty and staff is that it would have been far more equitable. I agree with 20/20
hindsight that it would be more equitable. So they have proposed to make a change to how we distribute the transportation demand management fee. I’ve looked at it and I think it’s a square deal and I’ve endorsed that change and I’m here tonight to answer any questions about it. I’ll jump to a couple of them right off the bat. If we make this change, it has no impact on the proposed fee for next year. In the following year, there’s likely to be a modest fee increase and there would have been anyhow at that point. The margin is slim enough in the u-pass right now that we can go one more year without an increase but we can’t go two. I will also be straight with you. That increase will be incrementally larger because students aren’t getting a disproportionate share in subsidy dollars that are coming into the program. Right now and we go through our contracting with agencies in the summer, based on our best assumptions about what the outcome of these processes will be and what’s going to happen with Metro and fare increases, etc., we still expect there to be a 5 percent operating margin in the student universal u-pass. That means that’s the wiggle room for me to screw up in the negotiating process. There’s a lot of things that we can’t predict at this point. We only got a partial year of ridership data and we’ll have a much more robust ridership data at that point. We’ll know much more at that point so 5 percent is a very healthy margin for us to be operating with and that’s after the proposed change. With that, I think it would be best to go to questions.

Alex Bolton (Law): Were there any programs that you started under the current regime that you have to get rid of?

Joshua: No. In fact, I’ll share two things. One, last year we started talking about this and we started referring it and ultimately we didn’t because student leadership was turning over it felt disingenuous to shake hands with someone that’s about to walk out the door but I went to student that done the same thing and said, “Okay, you are giving up something and are there things you like to see?” There ought to be a little bit of give and take. What students said last year, when we proposed the universal u-pass is we raised issues of a sustainable funding stream for the program so we went to the administration and had a very good discussion with them and as a result, the actual dollars in the u-pass program increased and it got pegged at 10% program cost. So that is a scalable contribution of fare increases for example in this next year, that the central administration supports for the universal u-pass program to increase proportionately, but that’s what happened last year. What has been raised in ASUW and I don’t know if Chris is behind on that but they like to reexamine the relationship with bicycling and the u-pass program. Students were very concerned initially when we we’re in discussion about the program would end up paying for bicycle infrastructure all over the campus. There is a legitimate question on whether student fees should be going into infrastructure or whether we should be developing other revenue sources for that. They wanted it strictly for operating so we said we would just crave bike paths completely out of it. One of the things we’ve been asked to consider is putting bike value into the program and we’re talking about maybe doing some operational additions to the program to make sure that there are good offerings for students that tend not to ride transit or at all. The other thing on that front we’ve been asked to consider is whether there are ways that we consider discount on current parking rate but protect from increases in parking rates for those products that students are most interested in or if we can
improve access to core campus itself. There’s a conversation that’s been out there for a couple of years of how can we better open up the core campus for things like paper drop-off. It is unfriendly to be asked to hand over $15 to drop off a paper even when you’re almost going to get it all back when you leave the campus. It’s just a lousy process. We’re bound in some archaic software right now but we’ve been asked to work around and we’re working with that. So I pledge to find some opportunities to get back at those areas.

Bjorn Hubert-Wallander (Psychology): I’m sorry if I misunderstood you there but my understanding is that money is being directed away from the students to the faculty, and that’s fine, but what will be the actual effect will be? You said that there would be no increase in the u-pass fee next year but there will be the year after that but that would’ve happened anyway. So what is the actual effect on students?

Joshua: There is not going to be any immediate trickle effect. What it means is that this will be blind to student next year. I mentioned that there’s going to be a 5% margin in the u-pass program if I do everything right in the negotiating process. That 5% could be 8 percent if I did everything right in the negotiating process. What that means is a little bit less money goes into the insurance reserve that is money for in case we do it completely wrong or we see some immediate fare increase in the future or a disruption that causes us to dip into that fund.

Bjorn: Is that something that affects students differently from faculty?

Joshua: Yes in that there is a fire long. There is separate stabilization funds that protect the staff and students.

Bjorn: So basically this makes the student program risker?

Joshua: Incrementally so but at the end of the day, there’s the 5% operating margin and the insurance reserve that we’re carrying in the student u-pass is actually projected to wrap this year at $3.5 million. Granted it’s a $12 million program but $3.5 million is a pretty good insurance reserve and allows the u-pass student advisory board that recommends GPSS and ASUW what the fee should be to not have to make unduly conservative recommendations.

Ted Chen (Bioengineering): There’s a lot of proposed cuts for King County Metro. If those cuts are made, will we be seeing any effects on the u-pass?

Joshua: Those are relatively disjointed from one another in terms of process. The easiest way to answer this directly is students as a whole will see a difference in what students as a whole pay to King County Metro. If less services received, then we will pay for less service. It will take a period of time for that to shake out in the actual amount of the universal student u-pass fee. Right now at $76 its not going to go up and it’s also not going to go down rapidly. That’s an annual process.
Chris L: So, we’re going to have to extend time if we want to ask more questions.

Alex: I move to extend time for 5 minutes.

Evan Firth (Oceanography): Second.

Chris L: Any objections? Okay, time will be extended for 5 minutes.

Matthew Aghai (Environmental and Forest Sciences): As it stands, we currently have an option to get a refund at the end of the quarter if we don’t use the u-pass. Will that still stand in the future?

Joshua: That applies to ASEs that are under the contract. That does stand for the duration for the current contract. That’s between the administration and them.

Matthew: Has anyone proposed a prorated refund for those people that only use it sparingly?

Joshua: Are you talking about a contractual issue that you have?

Matthew: The force fee that you started, you know, let’s say we only use it once or twice throughout the quarter and prefer to have refund.

Joshua: That is something that I believed was explored at the time the program was implemented but was rejected.

Alan-Michael Weatherford (Comparative Literature): I’m interested the involvement in the immediate consequences of what’s happening. I’m concerned with not looking too far perhaps to the sustainability of the program and I know you mentioned a modest fee that will incrue so I was wondering if you could speak on that fact of that?

Joshua: Yes, you’re right to know that I was being a little coy there. Quite honestly when Metro’s talking about 17% cuts, my crystal ball gets pretty foggy for the future. What I will say is assuming that there aren’t radical disruptions in the system that totally change ridership patterns and we’re in a fairly normal state of affairs. We’re projected that the fee proposal that we’re taking to the advisory board, they will also consider the reserves that are held and what they make of the recommendation data, it would actually be under the $80 that was the original cap that was authorized by students four years ago. When I say modest, I mean modest.

Gary Hothi (Social Work): Just wanted to say that it was rejected by some students. I’m a MSW student for 3 years in the school of Social Work and we brought it up. Some of the students in Social Work were against it and we were shut down. I just wanted it on record that not everyone is into this. I’m not happy with the GPSS rejection 3 years ago to not give students another option. I understand that it’s good to do social distribution and everyone picks up the cost but not
everyone lives in the area or uses the bus so I would love to see another option come together but it is tiresome to continue to hear that students rejected that idea.

Chris L: Any other questions?

Alice Popejoy (Public Health Genetics): I'm picking up on the general sentiment of if we're operating with an 8 percent margin and you have this extra money, what's the justification for, and I'm not asking you to not do it but I'm just asking you to speak to the justification for using that money to supplement the faculty as opposed to using that money to try to figure out some way to making the students happier with services.

Joshua: The cost to support the program for students is significantly more than the fees made by students. It’s made up of two additional sets of subsidizing dollars in the multi million dollar range. Those dollars are the increment that makes up the operating margin so I would not view this as student dollars carry forward or student dollars to support the faculty and staff program. The argument that’s been made and that I happen to endorse is about a more equitable distribution of subsidy dollars in an institution.

Chris L: I think that’s all the time we have unless Alex, you want to extend time?

Alex: Sure, I'll do it for another 5.

Evan: Second.

Chris L: Any objections to extending time for five minutes?

Alice: Can we just extend it to the time that it takes Alex to ask the question?

Alex: That’s friendly.

Evan: Second to that.

Chris L: Any objections to that?

Alex: You mentioned that the staff numbers have gone down a bit and there was a number of changes made a couple years ago in the staff side of the program. Were those related or have those helped to bring an uptake or down historically?

Joshua: The faculty/staff program took a big hit in participation when their fee effectively doubled. Students saw that really sort of in the one fell swoop. Faculty and staff saw a series of larger increases. Also the faculty and staff fee is up to $132 right now which is still a deal when you’re riding transit everyday. We found where the elasticity is.
Alex: Because I remember the commuter tickets used to have to have a u-pass to buy them. Has that disincentivized the program for them?

Joshua: It’s really hard to tease that out because there were so many complimentary u-passes that were going out there with parking passes. Also in the way that u-pass holders get a carpool discount so it really convoluted who was actually participating in the program.

Chris L: Any other questions? Thanks Josh. Moving right along, the GPSS spotlight is on the Environmental Stewardship Council and we have An and Elizabeth here to talk about that.

**GPSS Spotlight - Environmental Stewardship Council**

Elizabeth Lindner (Chair of Campus Sustainability Fund): Hi everyone. I’m Elizabeth Lindner. I’m the chair of the Campus Sustainability Fund and I’m also a second year master at the Evan’s School of Public Affairs.

An Huynh (CSF Outreach Coordinator): My name is An and I’m the outreach coordinator for the Campus Sustainability Fund and in the undergraduate program for Community Environment Planning.

Elizabeth: The CSF fund is one of the most unique organizations on campus in general on campus and in the university nationwide. We’re completely student run and student funded organization. The CSF was found by student involvement. There was a gap between student involvement in terms of making the campus more sustainable and bringing student initiatives. In 2009, students got a bunch of signatures, about 5,000, and we changed the campus allowed the CSF to be an organization. The CSF is made up of myself as well as the representative from ESS as well as two members in GPSS, 3 appointed by ASUW and 1 from the ASUW senate. We also have An as our outreach coordinator and we also have an administrative coordinator too.

An: Moving right along to projects but before we get to that, the reason why we’re presenting to you guys today is to introduce you the CSF and show you the connections that GPSS has had with the fund and also generate discussion on how you guys can be involved. So what’s sort of projects do we fund? Basically, these are the 6. Food and water, waste, transportation, biodiversity and energy and the other category that covers a huge range of projects. This is a short list of projects that we’ve funded in the past. To highlight a few, one project that is going to be installed this spring break is UW solar. We’re installing solar panels on top of Mercer Court and that was an $80,000 project that got another $50,000 from HFS. Another awesome infrastructure project that’s going on is Husky Sustainable Storms. We’re going to be installing a bio-well between the Law Library and the Burke Museum. It’s basically a water filtration system using soils and plants going in very soon, hopefully this Spring or this Fall. These are just a couple of photos of projects that we’ve funded. 3 to 4 years ago, the UW Far wrote an $80,000 grant for an expansion project. Before this expansion, the UW Farm was just by the Botany
Greenhouse. With the grant, they were able to acquire this new space down by the Center of Urban Horticulture which funded for space to grow more food to sell to HFS. There was an irrigation system installed and an education tool shed installed in that building there. Then to speak to the scope of projects that have gone through CSF, a student was interested in communication, photography and video making so he made two videos that explained how sustainability could be incorporated to UW. This was one of them. It’s an infographic called Sustainability 2.0. This was also another one of our big projects. Has anyone seen this on Gould Hall? So basically, this is vertical farming happening. Gould Hall is the school for Built Environments so there’s two panel goings native and non-native species and there’s research going on about this on how it’s affecting biodiversity and the urban heat island effect. There’s more infrastructure project. This is the bike repair station. There’s five of them on campus allowing students to make a quick fix to their bike. These are four projects based on diversity. They’re very simple and inexpensive project installing owl boxes to promote owls on campus. These are down by Center of Urban Horticulture and this is behind the quad. One last one, this is the commuter calculator. This is a purely web-based project. Basically it allows you to calculate CO2 output and energy output and how much money you spend depending on which mode of transportation you take to and from school.

Elizabeth: So, the application process. So once someone has a great idea, they can talk to CSF and their stakeholders. So if they’re thinking about doing an infrastructure project, that might mean talking to Transportation Services or to facilities. So once they talk to CSF like to An or Graham, they move to submit a Letter of Intent, which is a 3 page document to the committee. The committee looks at it and votes on it and decides if they would like to see a full proposal. If the full proposal is good to go, they present to the committee and once the project is approved, they receive funding. So we also have an option of the small projects fund. This project is something that needs a really quick turnaround or is relatively small financially so $1,000 or less. They just submit an LOI to the committee and they will respond within two weeks whether they got the funding or not.

An: So this is our website. Should you want to find out more about the CSF, just csf.wahsington.edu. On the next slide, there’s a couple of other due dates. Basically we have two funding rounds. The fall one has passed but the spring dates are coming up. The letter of intent is due on March 7th. It’s basically a short summary of your project and then we give you a month turn around to write your full proposal should you get pass that process. We have a facebook and a twitter. Please email me or Elizabeth at uwcsf@uw.edu. If you guys are interested in pursuing any sort of project or being on a committee because GPSS does appoint two member every academic year. Now, we’ll open it up to questions. Thanks for your time.

Chris L: Do we have our CSF representatives here?

An: They have class. They are Chris Clark and Kayla.

Chris L: Any questions for Elizabeth and An?
Douglass Taber (Evans School of Public Affairs): Do any of the past authors of the programs who have submitted and implemented them put it on their resume?

Elizabeth: Definitely. We love to see new innovative projects and we encourage them to include it in their professional portfolio. It gives you project experience and budget experience so it’s a great thing to put on your resume.

Alex: Do you have any thing on the current projects on your website?

An: We do. We have a large list projects we’ve funded.

Elizabeth: With full proposals.

Genesis Gavino (Treasurer): How much is in the total fund?

An: This year we have $330,000 allocated to us.

Genesis: Do you guys spend that every year?

An: Pretty much, yes.

Elizabeth: We typically have a greater demand than funding. This year we had $330,000 and we have about $314,000 requested in our first funding cycle. So that’s about 50 percent.

Duru: What’s with the owl boxes?

An: Owls are great animal to put on PowerPoints.

Duru: Any squirrels?

An: We don’t have squirrel boxes yet so maybe that’s something that you could do.

Chris L: Any other questions? Thank you very much. We’ve got Chris for the ever entertaining legislative update.

**Legislative Update:**

Chris Erickson (Vice President): You bet. This should go quicker this time. We talked about this last time. There was a significant cutoff. This means that any policy bill coming from each chamber has to be out of the senate by that date or it’s dead. What’s next in line are bills coming out of policy committees but what they don’t tell you is bills that are in fiscal committees so bills that are appropriations, are still alive and can be brought back at any time to put in budget. Last time, we talked about how the Vets Bill and the Dream Act got tied together and this was going to
reshuffle the deck. Well, lo and behold, the red sea parted and from no chance in hell to in the same day, what's deemed the Real Hope Act, passed out of the senate. Not only did the Real Hope Act which is the Dream Act without the DOCA requirements so DOCA is the deferred action, which is the federal peace that students can sign for and Obama said that we won't go after you. This didn't include that. It literally said that if you graduated from a Washington high school, and there's some prescriptive things like you have to have been there for three years but it also adds $5 million to the state needs grant, which counteracts this argument that there's $32,000 citizens that can't get access to the state need grant. It doesn't affect us because we're grad students and we don't get the state need grant, but socially of where we want to be as a culture and community at UW, we fully support that at the federal level as well. Both of these passed. On Monday, the house version of the Veteran's Bill passed, which is a good thing. Two years in a row now, the senate has passed their bill but the house had failed. They did house a bill but it was amended and I'm okay with this amendment. There was an argument that came out that said well what about some student in Alabama who no connection to Washington whatsoever or who has never been to Washington? When it came time to apply to schools, they threw UW in the ring. That student would be able to come to Washington with no previous connection and get instate tuition. There's an argument that that does hurt grad students in Washington state because there are select amount of spots for instate students and that out of state student would be displacing them. What this does is, when you get out of the military, you can choose what your home state will be. This includes people who are moving to Washington because spouses are there, you've got out of military in Washington state or you have somebody who had a tie so they were from Washington and they got out of the military. Also, if someone when they got out of the military, claimed Washington state as a domicile as Washington as their primary residence or home state. I think that's a good way to mix both worlds. I'm happy to take any comment it that but this is also the way its going to pass. Another thing to be clear on, numbers wise, this doesn't affect many graduate students. I think about 80% that have this status and I think there are 60-100 of them, are TAs or RAs so they don't necessarily pay for tuition anyway. For those people who want to be gung-ho and want UW to be a place that is complementary and a place of learning for our vets, that's across the board we can get behind that. Moving on to fee based programs bill, next week we'll see something on that. Everyone has their own priority to run their bills through first. So having everything run through senate bills and then we'll get to house bills next week. Social impact bonds is in appropriations as well as the doctors in underserved areas bill, which deal with the students in the UW Medical Center having a residency program at Catalic and Tri-cities. If they don't get a hearing in the next day or two and not able to pass out of the Ways and Means or appropriation committee, they're still alive. They can be funded on the supplementary budget. The textbook bill is dead in the senate. There were a lot of problems with it. I met with the CEO of the bookstore last week and we talked about it. The original version, we really liked because it said campus books can sell required textbooks and students can get a tax holiday. The bill that came out and which dropped said that any retailer anywhere in the state can offer tax-exempt instructional materials whether that is textbooks, a backpack, markers or crayons, it was up in the air. For the bookstore to go through 10,000 products and categorize those to be tax exempt for 3 days of sales is not a good use of time for them. Also if they were to sell a backpack and it
was later not deemed to be an instructional material, they can get an audit, do a ton of paper work and pay a fine of $6 worth of tax revenue. So what happened at the end of this is this version of the bill isn’t great but get together and work on it and come back next year with something else. So I think that’s something we need to key on and figure out how we do that on the state level and we appreciate anyone’s opinions on how that might be or what the reality is. Maybe 7 or 10 percent on books isn’t a big deal. Next, the campus mentoring bill, which is at Western who is holding a symposium is having a big thing and its a tie-in for Chris and his peer-mentoring group. This is a center that’s being made and it promotes some of their college bound things and it also promotes extra money and collaboration in there to really deal with that. It was heard in appropriations the the other day so we’ll probably see that move to the floor or out of house in the next day or two. That was quick. Is there any questions?

Kimberly Schertz (Law): For the textbooks, is that the companion bill in the senate?

Chris E: Yes.

Kimberly: So is that still alive?

Chris E: It is. I don’t know if that’s getting a hearing.

Kimberly: Is it drafted the same way?

Chris E: It is the exact same language.

Kimberly: Because sometimes they make amendments.

Chris E: It hasn’t been scheduled for it. We were told by the prime sponsor for that that they couldn’t change it. There was a problem with restricting it to campus bookstores so it has to be in line with the uniform tax code on how businesses do it. It’s so interesting of how it compounds. Really, is Amazon going to check a student ID to see if someone is a higher ed student? I guess a lot of people aren’t going to be buying physics books for fun unless Steven Hawkins, I guess. Moving forward, last week was Lobby Day. I think it was a really good showing. About 40 people came and we accounted for maybe a third of that. I think that’s good. It’s a hard day, people have midterms. I think that we got a lot of good feedback from the way we did it. We talked about the value of graduate students. People were happy and it took the pressure off to talk and we’re able to support our message of talking about graduate student issues. we’re tired of being lumped in and having people not knowing what we’re about. A lot of feedback that has come back was let’s do it. A big ask for my side has been was during the interim to do a work session for the higher ed committees on graduate education so hopefully that can be a tie-in of everyone in the state with Western, Eastern and Central. Anyone with grad students can be a part of it. We’re the leader on that because we’re the only group that actually advocates for graduate students and we also account for 2/3 of the state’s graduate students. We’ll see how that works out but the feedback’s been great and we’re positioning ourselves well
for who comes in next year and has the great opportunity to start talking about money. The last thing is tomorrow, there is a Science and Policy science communication workshop at 5:30pm in HUB 334. That will be in preparations for a research symposium that we’re doing in Olympia. We’re going to be down there from 11 to 1. We have a student from protein design, a student from clean energy and a student from molecular biology as well as a student from Evans that’s working in conjunction with economics on Washington disbursements of tanf. It’s a nice mix of students. We have posters from the Eco Cart 2 team as well as biofuel, some beet sugar yields within biodiesel, like stuff that’s way over my head. It’s going to be really cool and moving on to the last piece. For Metro last Tuesday, there was a meeting. The guy here, Josh Kavanagh, myself and another grad student from biology, three of us spoke in the first ten people. It was awesome to get up there and have a real strong presence. There were also 40 students from UW who took off a Tuesday night and who could not be in room since there were so many people there. It made a good impression. On Monday, they passed the transportation benefit district unanimously. That’s a good sign. Our next date is February 24th as we vote to put on the ballot. The other thing to talk about is that they are starting this new, small donation happy hour beer thing in conjunction with the Metro thing. The first one is on the 24th at Fedo. Hopefully, that will be in celebration of the council passing this initiative to put it on the ballot. That will come out in the emails. It was the only thing I put out to you guys to pass along to your constituents over the next week.

Chris L: Any other questions for Chris?

Alice: This is a little plug for the workshops that Chris mentioned. It’s not just for people for the poster session. It’s for anyone and not just science people. Maybe I’ll get Elisa to send with the minutes the poster. There are some on the back. It’s tomorrow so if you can put it up by tomorrow or just let people know. It’s great for professional development so get your constituents going.

Chris E: Also, if you want to see it, I have it here. It’s really cool, nice design. Hopefully you can see that.

Chris L: Any other questions? Then we will move on with our agenda with our even more amusing topic of the 2014-2015 budget.

2014-2015 Budget Proposal:

Genesis: I hope everyone had a look at the spreadsheet for our upcoming budget. So for next year’s budget, we’re asking for 25% more than what they funded us last year. That’s about $82,542 dollars. Why are we asking for this much money? We’re asking for this much money because we want SAF to cover our full operating expenses. In the last two years, SAF has not covered our full operating expenses because they asked us to dip into our general fund and spend down our general fund. Because of what we did last year and starting our endowment and dipping into our general fund for the endowment and spending down from the previous year,
it’s not sustainable for us to spend down the general fund next year since were going to be below what administration thinks is healthy for an organization. For this budget, it incorporates everything in our innovation fund. The innovation fund is a one time fund from SAF. In our innovation fund this year, that included our Information Specialist wages, Advancement Coordinator wages, travel grants and special allocation fund increase. What we’re doing is asking them next year to be part of our operational expenses as opposed to a one time deal. This increase includes the regular GSA pay schedule for officers and benefits. I’m not going to go through everyone’s budget but I want to highlight some of the major changes. Mainly in the administration budget, I wanted to point out staff training and educational opportunities. This year, Jake the Policy Analyst was able to go to a conference or training that Chris paid for from his discretionary fund so if we did that for each staff, we would have no money left over. We thought that it was important to have this money set aside for officers to send their staff for professional conferences that benefit GPSS specially and this is only for conferences held on campus or in the greater Seattle area. One of the other things that this could be used for is a transition specialist. One of the things we had this last year when the new officers were coming in and the old officers we’re coming out, we had someone come in take us through this. She did it for free so if we could hire someone we would have the money set aside for it and doesn’t have to be used. This is the VP fund. What’s changing here is communication costs and Lobby Day advertising. Lobby Day advertising just goes up $100. They ran into trouble with WSA not having money and GPSS having to put in more money. For communication costs, initially we had $200 internet costs and next year we’re thinking of adding a data plan stipend for cellphones and that’s at a rate of $40 per month for the entire year so that’s what brings it up to 680 dollars.

Chris E: If you look at that budget line, the travel expenses is more because that jumps from a 60 day to a 105 day session.

Genesis: Secretary’s fund is the next one. The major change is web and IT services. This is so that we can hire an IT person to come in at the beginning of the year and make sure all of our systems are up to date and install programs that need to be installed for the staff. They took it out of last year’s budget because they couldn’t find anyone who could do what they wanted. We found this year that we need that set of services. Since we didn’t have the money for it, we couldn’t get it done. They were also banking on the fact that we were going to hire staff with IT experience. That didn’t happen.

Colin: Is that dollar amount purely the labor fee?

Genesis: It is the labor fee. In the treasurer’s budget, there is a specific computer and software line item. So this I wanted to show you guys, the staff wages. We took out the organizing director this summer. We didn’t have anyone working and we just had the information specialist which is our archivist, Mackensie. She will work throughout the year to get our stuff up to date. We took out research analyst because it gave Mackensie the opportunity to become not just a summer employee but a year round employee so research analyst is no longer a position. The information specialist becomes a year-round position and also the advancement coordinator.
Bjorn: On the previous slide, what causes hourly staff rate to go up and how often do they go up?

Genesis: We didn’t raise them this year. I think they did last year just to keep in line with what the university pays and overall in the area but we chose not to increase it because it’s already at a high level. For our organization, we just chose not to increase it.

Chris E: We should also note that this is the max that someone can be paid. I don’t think any of us have employees that are making the max.

Genesis: Yes. We give them ranges and if we pay them at the lower end, they work more. If we pay them at the higher end, they work less. Anybody else? I put this up because I wanted to show you what our expense are relative to what we’re being funded. Last year, when we got funded $348,000 and we had to dip into our general fund for $70,000, so we spent $372,000. The year before that, we didn’t have travel grants added, we didn’t have the additional special allocation $10,000 in there. The $417,000 does take into account all that the innovation fund gave us. Questions? What we’re asking the senate is to approve this budget that were going to ask SAF for at the $410,542 amount. That’s what we want to go to SAF with.

Edward: So just to clarify, we’re being asked to approve just that single number. Everything else in the budget is subject to revision later?

Genesis: Yes.

Bjorn: Just for clarification, I can’t remember but do we generally get funded at the amount we request from SAF?

Genesis: Because we requested less last year, yes. We didn’t ask for all of our expenses so yes, but this year, not too sure because were asking for everything and we’re not dipping into our general fund at all.

Bjorn: What generally happens if we’re underfunded?

Genesis: I think they’ll kick it back to us and say revise your budget and we have a contingency plan.

Chris L: So this year, we were underfunded specifically because of our general fund which is the money that we have left over and for years, GPSS has been under spending mostly on staff. So we’ve been accumulating about $250,000 of money sitting in a pile and they said you’ve got this huge surplus. We can’t fund you at the full level of what you’re asking unless you spend that down. So for this year, they underfunded us specifically so we have to dip into that fund. Now these lines down here are recommendations for healthy organizations. A fiscally healthy
organization is suppose to keep 20 - 50 percent of budgeting operating expense. These are the numbers that are the 20 to 50 percent levels. We’re still within that range with our ending fund balance. The other element is the innovation fund request that we asked for last year were asked for as one time projects with the hope that we would demonstrate their value and then add that to our permanent allocation going forward. For example, the development coordinator was part of our innovation fund request because we were starting our alumni network. When we go back to SAF, we can say hiring this person has allowed us to expand our alumni network and therefore increase our organization’s sustainability and therefore should become part of our permanent allocation. That’s what's accounting for the level of changes and also why we’re hoping that they will fund us at what we request and not under fund us like they did the last years since we will spend down our general fund and we think we can prove the value of all the innovation fund request that we made. So if there are no other questions on the budget, I will entertain a motion to approve our Services and Activities Fee allocation request for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Evan: So moved.

Kimberly: Second.

Chris L: Are there any objections? Okay, we have a budget request.

**Announcements:**

Genesis: For announcements, I want to bring up Gary Hothi first.

Dane Olsen (Social Work): Hi, I’m Dane Olsen. I’m a master’s student at the school of Social Work. I’m currently laying the groundwork of a Veteran student commission through ASUW. However, I’m graduating in March and this is a long process and in order to get implemented, there has to be a task force and mandatory people have to be on this task force, one of which has to be a GPSS member. So I’m looking for someone that will be here next year that’s interested in being in this task force to actually get it going. I’m going to lay all the groundwork and get it started and hopefully within that process, things get going. If anyone is interested, you talk to me after the meeting or I can leave my email.

Chris L: And just to clarify, this person would not have to be a GPSS senator correct? It could be from someone’s department?

Dane: No, it has to be a GPSS senator.

Chris L: So it can’t be someone that GPSS appoints?

Dane: No, just has to be a senator from GPSS along with a student senator and an ASUW board of directors. Those are the 3 mandatory members.
Karen Michael (Public Health - Environmental and Occupational): Could you repeat the name?

Dane: It’s the student veteran commission. So currently in the ASUW commissions, there is not one for veterans so I’m starting the groundwork for that.

Gary Hothi (Social Work): So basically this will be responsible for veteran matters, advocacy, communication with RSOs throughout the university to establish a community and to start linking student veterans groups. There’s a vet center, that’s right there as well. We’re establishing a commission through a task force and we need members that’s passionate and will be here next year. Thank you.

Dane: Any other questions? So if anyone is interested shoot me an email or talk to me after the meeting.

Chris L: Thanks, Daniel. Just to clarify we don’t have the equivalent of ASUW commissions. They are organizations that represent different interest groups based around a variety of affinities. One of the things that they have is a permanent voice in the ASUW senate in addition to community service. Are there any other announcements?

Genesis: Yes, I have three. So Chris already mentioned the science communication workshop tomorrow at 5:30pm in 332. That’s next door. Travel grants deadline is at Friday at midnight. The Valentine’s Day Mixer is tomorrow from 6-9pm. Travel grants committee, if you’re interested, shoot me an email. We’re still looking for one more person.

Elisa Law (Secretary): The race themed diversity forum is next Wednesday, the 19th, from 12:30-1:30pm in HUB 340. It’s an hour long opportunity to talk about this diversity topic and we’ll have light refreshments. You should all come.

Chris L: Any other announcements?

Gary: Also on the 19th, Dr. Gabermate. He’s a director of the Realm of Hungry Ghosts. It’s an organization of insight in East Hastings safe injection drug use site. He will be here on campus next Wednesday at the Kane Hall 7-9pm talking about intervention and trauma. If you’re interested in those things like crack cocaine vending machines and other things like that, come next Wednesday.

Eric: Two professors from the Germanics department, Eric Aims and James Brown are doing a lecture at Seattle University on the Carmen phenomenon. This is the persistent interest in the original opera all the way to Beyonce’s version of a hip-hopera. That will be Tuesday, Feb. 25th at Seattle University at 7pm.

Chris L: Any other announcements? Okay, I have one last one. In the GPSS office, we have
been doing some internal work around communication methods with an emphasis on social media so kind of more mechanical aspects because we have expertise that we're drawing on to help us use those things better. We're also starting to look at the content side of communication. We're going to branch off the work that we're doing. One side is looking at the mechanical and the actual venues that we're doing the communication and the other side is looking at the content aspect and we're hoping to get a few senators that can help advise people that can help think about how we craft and frame our communication. If you’re interested in something like that, please talk to me afterwards.

Genesis: If you guys are thinking about running for an officer’s position, we can make ourselves available to you. Talk to us about sitting in on one of our committees so you know what we do. It’s not just Facebook at our office.

Alice: And executive senator.

Chris L: Yes, we still have a vacancy.

Chris E: I just wanted to add if you’re are thinking about doing that, there are some prescriptive things like you have to go to a couple of executive meetings. You can get those out of the way early.

Chris L: The elections committee will soon be making a formal presentation of all the requirements.

Genesis: But it's never too early to start talking to us.

Chris L: Exactly, if you’re insane enough to do what we do, please don’t hesitate.

Elisa: And if you’re are thinking about it, the executive seat is a really great way to get your feet wet and see what we do.

**Adjourn:**

Chris L: Any other announcements? Then I’ll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Lydia Harrington (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations): So moved.

Douglass: Second

Chris L: Any objections?