Call to Order and Approval of Agenda:

Chris Lizotte (President): I will now call this meeting to order at 5:34pm. We’re going to get some of the administrative stuff out of the way. I will entertain a motion to approve or amend the agenda.

Edward Schwieterman (Astronomy): I move to approve the agenda.

Duru Altug (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations): I second that.

Approval of Minutes:

Chris L: Any objections? I’ll now entertain a motion to approve the minutes from our two previous meetings that were sent out last week. The first one is our November 20th and the second is the special meeting on December 4th.

Edward: I move to approve both minutes.


Previously on GPSS and Presidential Priorities for Winter Quarter:

Chris L: Any objections? Alright, Previously on GPSS. This will be a short one. We approved our legislative agenda which we will hear more about with Chris later in the meeting. We also had, after the last senate meeting, a little bit of a mixer down in the games room. A few alumni showed up who were either home or free for the holidays and we had some awesome Rock Band among other diversions. Without further ado, I’m going to move forward with a brief description of, what I’m calling very narcissistically, Presidential Priorities for Winter Quarter. So this is just my time to give a little update on what I’m doing and what my staff and some of my committees are doing. First thing we’re working on is outreach to international students. It became clear to us last year when the international student fee was proposed by the administration that we had no good way of reaching out to international students and finding out what their needs and thoughts were about this proposed fee. The reason was we didn't know how to find a centralized group of international graduates. For undergrads, it’s easier. There’s organizations like the Chinese Student Association and the Taiwanese Student Association and so on that have larger constituencies and easier to reach out to. We had to basically go on personal connections, people we already knew. So it became clear to us that there needed to be a coordinated effort on our part on why this group has a constituency and also figure out what it is that international graduate students needs to enhance their experience on campus. So we
are in the process of setting up a series of focus groups around campus which we’re working. Austin Wright-Pettibone, our Director for University affairs is largely responsible for this effort. Also, our Community Affairs Committee will be assisting us in this. So what we’ve done so far is we come up with a list of questions for the focus groups, we worked with the Office of Educational Assessment on this, we identified individual stakeholders on this around campus who work with international students and who are also going to be engaged. Now, our next step is to schedule and conduct the focus groups, convene a roundtable of these people around campus who work with international graduate students so we can get a sense of what they’re seeing as issues and what they could use intervention and also to take what we research and share it with the administration, particularly Office of Student Life, where the Vice Provost is very very interested in the international student experience. Then looking ahead to Spring Quarter, we’re hoping to have a mini summit on the international graduate experience where we can talk about the things that we learned and what we need to do to improve international graduate student life. The next one is one that you heard a lot from me before. It’s peer mentoring for graduate and professional students. We will convene a first meeting of the working group that is going to tackle this issues. If you’re participating, could you stand up real quick. So Esra, Ragan and Sara as well as a few other people not in senate and also Gary who I don’t see tonight but he’s working on this with us. We were able to go over some goals we wanted to achieve and our next step is to determine what a program for peer mentoring would look like on this campus. There’s a variety of stakeholders and other campus units are involved as well. The Graduate School is one. They’re really interested in the question of graduate student retention as well as what the supports are that we can offer as peers to one another in order to enhance the retention of students and also the overall graduate student experience. So looking ahead to spring quarter, the goal would be to actually launch a pilot program and see how it goes but we don’t want to do that until we figure out exactly how to structure it. Third project is restructuring the GPSS Higher Education policy arena. Normally we have a Higher Education Summit. This year, we struggled with the areas we wanted to deal with and then publicizing it adequately. We did a quick self audit for the Higher Education Summit and it because very clear that the areas for responsibility are not very well delineated in either our bylaws or in or institutional knowledge. Generally we have to reinvent the whole process again each year. The next steps is to propose some bylaw changes just to make sure that for example, the job description for the president says the president is responsible for initiating and carrying out the Higher Education Policy Summit and also what I’ll be coming back to with a little bit later in the quarter is a proposal to create a standing committee that will actually oversee the summit much in the way that we have the Science & Policy Steering Committee. Not only will this standing committee oversee the Higher Education Summit every year, but also put on a series of smaller events throughout the year that pertain to higher education policies and students. That also includes doing more outreach to students. For example, we had a panel on health care, the Affordable Care Act and how it’ll impact students. It didn’t occur to us, incredibly, to reach out to the School of Public Health which would’ve been a very obvious and fruitful partnership. That’s one of the mistakes that were obvious and we want to correct moving forward. Looking ahead to spring quarter, we’re already talking about a take two of one of the topics that we tried to do in the fall and have a robust discussion of the Affordable Care Act and what we can do and what students can expect
from it. The panel that we had assembled for this was very robust and had some fantastic information about this but very few people were there to actually hear it so we want to make sure that we can take this and disseminate it to as many people as possible. Finally, the last one is GPSS alumni outreach. This has been a project that we’ve been working on. We’ve been working with central advancement to figure out exactly who our alumni are, which has not been as straightforward of a task as you might think. Then now we really need to start building our base rather than having a mass newsletter approach. We want to really drill down to personalized outreach and also solicit and reach out to some local and recent alumni to form a task force to see through the eyes of an alumnus or alumna and how they want to engage in this organization after they’ve graduated. So looking ahead to Spring Quarter, last year we had a pretty successful alumni-senate mixer after the last meeting senate meeting. We’d like to do that at the very least again. It was really fun to have a lot of the past officers and people who had actually graduated several decades before who were involved in GPSS had come back and hangout with the senators. So that is my report. Are there any questions or comments? Okay, thank you very much. We will now move on to the GPSS spotlight presentation. We have Jake Parduhn who is our Policy Analyst who’s going to tell you a little bit about of what he’s been doing.

GPSS Spotlight - Jake Parduhn, Policy Analyst:

Jake Parduhn (Policy Analyst): My name is Jake and I’m the Policy Analyst for GPSS. I just want to introduce myself and say what I do at the office and a recent event that I attended and let you know a little bit about it. I’m still an undergrad. I study business economics and history. My background in policy work is that I worked for a congressman named Tom Peachman in Capitol Hill. He was in the Higher Education and Works Committee so I was exposed to lots of the issues that I deal with in the office especially the kinds of stuff that the Federal Legislative Steering Committee handles. I also worked at Paccar for awhile working on research on natural gas technology and other things. So basically what I do I assist Chris and the rest of the staff on various legislative research on policy analysis and advocacy planning. I also write some of the resolutions and some of the public facing materials of the office like the transit resolution that you guys voted on in November and the legislative agenda and things like that. I also represent GPSS in policy meetings around King County and around campus. How I can help all of you is Chris will be busy in Olympia all quarter long at the legislative session down there. Please copy on emails on different question you have for Chris on policy matters. Often I can be more helpful than he can if it’s something mobily that I could quickly look up for you since he’ll be down there most of the time. Also, coordinating meetings for some of your concerns. If you have legislation that you’re in support of or if your department needs researching and you need help from GPSS, me, Chris and Anya, the other member of our policy group, please let us know. We’d love to hear your different interests. Also, I want to tell you about an event I went to in Seattle right before winter break started. I was called Budget Matters. It was put on by the Washington State Budget Center which is kind of a policy think tank and it brought a lot of students, business leaders, politicians, and different people together. Some of the key note speakers were Jared Bernstein who’s a sort of famous economist. He was in the Obama administration in the
Economic Advisory Council. Jay Enslee, the governor and Heather McGhee who works for a think tank in New York City that specializes in urban issues so it was really nice to hear from them. I just wanted to tell you few of the themes from the conference. One was the problems in South Seattle and South King County. One was the lack of access to transportation and in light of the 17% decrease in transportation funding that’s impending, this will be even more magnified. If you notice, there’s not a lot of routes in SeaTac, Tukwila and Rainier Beach area. This poses a problem for not only getting to work but also access to education. On top of this, this area’s also has other problems in public health and food deserts. This graph is a graphic to show it has the highest ratio of fast food restaurants compared to places considered grocery stores or places that sell fresh produce. So this area especially is a target for local politics and they’re really devising ways to help improve it. The other thing that was a big topic at the conference is what is in the mind of Washington voters. The main thing that came from the polling is economic insecurity. It’s a huge factor in voter’s minds when they go to the polls. Also, messaging to voters should include framing the issue around the community and telling stories of accountable leaders. There’s just a lot of disgust with politicians and lack of ability to mobilize policy that’s effective. They want to hear the success stories since there’s a lot of negative things going on. It’s good to keep in mind when we’re advocating for policies in Olympia and in Washington DC. I want to put in one last plug for an event we have coming up, Lobby Day, which is in February 6th. If it’s not on the GPSS website, it will be soon. Please come out and participate. It’s down in Olympia and it’s an all-day thing and it’s on Thursday, but we’d love for you to come out and share your experience. Especially, we need written and oral testimonies for certain subjects and we can talk to you about that if you’re interested, such as veteran’s issues. Chris will talk about this but we’re advocating for a bill that will eliminate the one year waiting period for veterans to having state residency. Basically, the GI Bill covers the instate tuition costs but the non-residents have to pay the difference between the instate tuition cost they cover and the non-resident tuition and it can be almost up to $20,000 so it’s an important bill and we’d love to hear your support and experience with it if you have it. Thank you and if you have any questions, just talk to me.

**GPSS Spotlight - Discussion:**

Chris L: Any questions for Jake? We have some time.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): You said you represent GPSS at meetings around town. What kinds of meetings are those?

Jake: For instance, right before this, there was a transportation coalition that’s coming together to organize outreach and campaign for the ballot measure that will be there most likely in April because the state didn’t pass the transportation package. So it’s just like staying informed on what other ASUW and other interest groups and policy people are doing around the committee. I go to the senate transportation forum meetings in downtown Seattle.

Yasmeen: Just to follow up on your statement, do you just bring the information back?
Jake: Exactly.

Chris L: I have a quick question for you. Can you explain that “Destructive on your own” mentality?

Jake: There’s a theme with the responses in this poll that we have a mentality around the state and I guess in the country that everyone’s out to get their own thing. That goes into the community thing where a lot of people are disgusted with that and they want to move together as a community and find policy that’s more in line with that than individualistic thinking. I thought it was interesting that that was the result of their poll.

Chris L: So people are identifying that mentality as a problem?
Jake: Yes, exactly. Voters in Washington are identifying that as a problem.

Chris L: That’s better than voters in Washington having that mentality.
Jake: Yeah, they don’t. They don’t want that.

Chris L: I’m happy to hear that that’s not the case. I thought that’s what it meant but I wasn’t sure. Any other questions for Jake? Great, thank you very much, Jake. Well, to segway right into that, we have Chris Erickson, who has been down in Olympia and he’s going to tell you about what’s been going on and if his calendar of his meetings is anything to go by, he’s been pretty busy so take it away Chris.

**Legislative Update:**

Chris Erickson (Vice President): Please excuse me. I don’t have slides but information will come out from Jake. Also, I’ll not be able to see you here on campus but if anybody gets a hold of me I’m pretty good at getting back to you so remember that as well. If you remember we passed the legislative agenda. On that there are several items and our key points on there which is what will be our main focus. As my job as the lobbyist for professional and graduate students at the UW, I’m also a liaison to the WSA, which is the Washington Student Association. So through that, I’m on a team to specifically work on the veteran’s bill. We’ve had some good things with that. This removes the waiting period. Last year there was some objection from UW that’s actually moved away from that. I’ve actually met with them over the phone so everything should move quickly on that. Actually there’s two versions. One is in the House. That’s House Bill 1011. It’s been referred back to the Rules Committee. We’re in current standing and we’re able to do some good things with Larry Seaquist, who’s the House Higher Education Chair as well as Frank Chopp, who’s the office has been very responsive and helpful for getting that to happen. As well as Senator Barbara Bailey, who’s the Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee has a similar bill which is Senate Bill 5318. What’s interesting with this bill is that it will move quickly in each chamber. The conversation that will be needed is between Representative Seaquist and Senator Bailey and see who passes. I think it’ll be the Senate
version because it’s a high priority bill for her. She’s really touting it and I think it’ll be really important for her to pass it. Hopefully it doesn’t break down in politics but this is a non-controversial bill. In a lot of aspects, a lot has already been decided but it doesn’t mean it’s a slam dunk. We still need to do some things. There’s an important element here that it will come up for a hearing in the House and the Senate. They’ll be in different chambers but if we can coordinate it, we would like to bring a couple students down and talk about it. We’re actually working with the Veteran’s Affairs Office right now not only to help to identify those folks and direct their conversations with Jake. He’s been able to send out emails to these folks to hopefully get some testimony written and oral if we can get those people. Scheduling will be one of those things we talked about really working hard with those Chairs when they call a hearing on that bill, we’ll know when it is well in advance so we can bring some people down. The second bill I want to talk about is the one last year. I’m sure some of you have worked on. I know it was talked about a lot. It’s House Bill 1669. That is the Fee Based Programs Bill which is sponsored by Representative Pollet. This is another bill. Literally Melanie talked about was the next bill up for consideration when the Senate closed session. So again, not controversial and worked with Seaquist and Chopp on this bill as well so it’s back to the Rules Committee. It should move fast since it’s decided but we want to make sure that when it goes over to the Senate, it hopefully can schedule that at a time where we can get students down there. Last year, I heard from several Senators that the most compelling testimonies they heard all year were from the students talking about the fee based programs and the idea that student’s tuition was raised 200% over 3 quarters worth of time. Again just to fill people that are new, what happens is you’ll see talk about a differential tuition bill. It’s more of an undergrad bill since at UW, you’re well aware that we already have differential tuition and have been living with it for a long time. I think there’s 14 different categories that are running the differential tuition models?

Chris L: At least for graduate and professional students.

Chris E: It’s an interesting conversation with that. Depending on where we go, switching to fee based programs on the merits of that, I think the first initial step is that at least we need time to know that this change is coming and I think this bill does that. It gives us 6 months if this fee based program is going to change. If you guys are in a fee based or if you’re familiar with it, we’re getting some people together. I’ve talked to Dawn about this already. This one is important to us because it’s grad student specific, which not a lot of bills in Olympia are that deal with higher education. It’s a good thing for us to do to continue the work that Melanie and the other students did last year and see through it for them.

Chris L: Just to quickly interject, the administration has called a moratorium on these existing programs that are fee based but we still want to have this in place as protection.

Chris E: Yes, thank you. That’s actually good insight because I thought they were going to continue to do that for 2-4 years so that’s a good thing to hear.

Chris L: They’re still be creating new programs. Just not converting programs, which is what
they’re doing before.

Chris E: We can discuss the merits for all that at another time. For right now, the focus is giving the students notice. We have the Vets Bill, we have the 1669, the fee based programs, which are the top two priorities that we’re focusing on and things look good. Then we have some smaller periphery bills. One of those is social impact bonds, which we talked about in the meeting about the leg agenda. We talked about exploring that so Hans Zeiger who is a UW grad and a young guy from Puyallup. He’s got a bill out that actually talks about exploring social impact bonds and what the effects can be. Whether we talk about pay-for-performance models, which social impact bonds are a part of and what those ramifications are. So what this bill does is proposes a pilot project specifically looking at the UW Medical Center and ways they can implement the social impact bonds or public-private partnerships to help provide better services and evaluate them if there’s saving to give back. It’s a one year only idea. It’ll actually have a committee based on legislative members as well as people around the community and other business interests and the UW Medical Center. At the end of the year, they will reform and give their finding of what they see. It’s not written in stone. It’s just an exploratory group talking about that. I have a meeting with Hans Zeiger tomorrow talking about that bill and see if it goes forward. The last one that we’ll talk about right now is a bill that Representative Marcus Riccelli and he actually had my position in 2007 and he was an Evans School grad and now he’s in the legislature representing Spokane. He moved off the Higher Education Committee to take a nice chairship in the Health Services. He’s has a bill out for a sales tax holiday or a sales tax exemption for students buying instructional materials. This bill only affects Fall Quarter. If it was extended, it’ll be too big of a fiscal note. They’re concerned about that. A fiscal note is any bill that’s over $25,000 impact to the state, which will get put through appropriations. We can have a conversation about that too but the idea is that it gives a little relief to students. I believe it’s not only textbooks but it goes into the CD packages you could get and lab materials. There are some things that need to be figured out with this. One of those is if we already get it since I know that at UW, we get a 10% rebate, which I’m not sure if it counteracts that or if we already get a 10% rebate on sales tax. The reason they spread it across is places like Eastern and Central, WSU and Vancouver, they don’t have the same things in place that we do. Most of that revolves around the fact that our bookstore actually pays business tax on all retail sales that they do that don’t have to do directly with education. When we buy books, they don’t pay taxes on that since it helps students and their education. They’re not profitable. When they sell a sweatshirt to your parents, they do pay tax on this. So that’s why they use your card to keep track of that and figure out how much tax to pay the state. There are some things that needs to be worked out but this is more of a “feel good” bill. Definitely with the connection to UW and I definitely see the merit of trying to save a couple bucks on books that are already growing and growing. Those are the four main things that we’re working on. There’s other things that come up. I’ll definitely say that there’s going to be room for this idea of a supplemental budget request this year. Speaker Chopp at the Legislative Reception that was held in November said make sure you get your request and ask for it. We’ll end up doing that. The proposal I talked about was number one on our things is how to show value to legislature and that’s what we support, finding ways of doing that. Trying to work on collaboration between the legislature and UW where they’ll give us policy
ideas and then we can work on them. We’re still formulating that and seeing where it will go and where the right place to run it through is. I do know that I just had a very quick conversation with Keolu that said that the Science and Policy Committee is on board and has some things laid out on how they can probably be involved with that. There’s been a specific ask from a senator who was an executive NPA, graduate from Evans a couple years ago. His name is Steve Hobbs and he is interested in seeing how to expand it. I’ve talked about it broadly with legislatures and they say that they can’t believe it’s not there already and are pretty enthusiastic about this already. The two main things is not only the value idea but that the legislature needs work done on policy issues so that’s a good help for us in the value department. I see lots of students in my program, and I’m guessing that its similar in yours, that they’re really spinning their wheels to try and find legitimacy with their work. Such as policy workers and businesses and social service agency to help give them date and also be somebody that will look at it when they’re done. I don’t know how it’s done in your program but I know that there are award for degree projects given at the Evans School that the only 3 people who see it are the professors who graded and I think it’s sad. I think it brings a realistic approach. What this will look like is not a bill but some kind of administrative proviso. Not to use the words back door but it’ll be a negotiation between the Speaker and the coalition. The problem is there will be a supplemental budget, there will be money so says the House. The problem is that the Senate Coalition which is led by what they call the Majority Coalition, which is all Republican members and all but 2 Democrats, which gives them enough votes to run whatever they want. This is also muddied by the fact that the Supreme Court last week issued a new edict, I guess, that the state is not doing enough to fund tuition and they need to act now. I think in the governor’s budget proposal, they put in $200 million. Rodney Tom, who is the Majority Coalition leader, quickly responded that we did enough last year, see you next time. There’ll be some interesting things there. Hopefully that gives you a good idea of what were doing. 4 to 5 things to focus on is really adventurous. The two bill at the top are the vets and fee based programs have already gotten a lot of leg and have a lot of good push behind it. We’ll talk about transportation. Jake brought this up. We had our first meeting with what’s being called the Metro Coalition. This is a UW specific group to put together to formalize around this campaign to save Metro. The King County Metro group exists and one of those is Transportation Choices Coalition. They’re pretty active and you might see emails from them. They’re partners with UW Transportation. They’ve hired a campaign manager to work with UW specifically to how we mobilize literally 70,000 people to get ready to vote and push that forward. It’s about a 90-95% chance that we will see this in April so it’s coming quick. There’s public hearing on the 5th of February. King County needs to do a few things. They need to create a transportation benefit district and then they need to have a another vote to allow this measure to be put on the ballot to pretty much create a new government. So to do that in 8 weeks is a big thing. They can do it I believe they will do it. What we’re doing in that group is that were making sure we have everyone mobilized together and hopefully making sure people are informed and see a good turnout of students voting on this issue.

Chris L: I’ll have to cut you off since we are at the end of your time. We can extend time if anyone has questions or comments for Chris.

Chris E: Only for questions.
Yasmeen: I move to extend time by 2 and a half minutes.

Alex Bolton (Law): Second.

Chris L: Any opposed?

Alexandra Koffman (Guest): Is it just a tax holiday for higher education or does it include school supplies for K through higher ed?

Chris E: I'm going to say it's for instructional materials. I'll have to look at the bill again to see specifically what that is. That and the bill for social impact bonds have been dropped but they don't have specific bill numbers yet. They haven't been referred to committees. When I have that, I will have that available. I'll say right now it's for instructional materials for university students since the only place that it exists is when you buy university materials at a book store. I'm going to guess it's related to that but there could be an argument that when you're buying pens and pencils that could be seen as instructional material.

Chris L: Any question for Chris?

Chris E: Thanks guys. Do get a hold of me if you have any other questions. I can talk for hours on this stuff. If I'm not explaining things do push me. I'm happy to clarify.

Chris L: Alright, we have Elisa, who will talk to you about the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

**MLK Day of Service:**

Elisa Law (Secretary): The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is happening this Monday, the 20th. It's a partnership between United Way and several groups on campus including GPSS, GoMap, FIUTS and the Carlson Center. Fortunately and unfortunately, all of the service sites that GPSS and GoMap is sponsoring have been filled. There's still more opportunities available on United Way's website. For example, the Botanic Garden in Shoreline has 7 spots open for volunteers to work there, a community center in Seattle has 3 spots and lots more. There's an equine one in Maple Valley as well. They're really interesting places and I encourage you to check them out. The information is on our website under the MLK Day of Service. FIUTS still has a few spots open on the Cascade Women's Program, a site that they're sponsoring. Those opportunities are separate from GPSS so you have to go to United Way's website and email Meredith Stillwell from FIUTS to get involved. If you have any questions about it, feel free to contact me at gpsssec@uw.edu and that is all. There's a kickoff event if you are volunteering at the ECC from 8-9pm. There's t-shirts and snack and camaraderie abound.

Chris L: I'm going to the botanical gardens.
Elisa: I'll be the site coordinator for the Teen Feed Cleanup project which is at the University Congregational Church. I didn't see any familiar names on the list of volunteers except for Natalie, who's our office managers so I apologize if I didn't recognize your name. Definitely get the word out to your constituents to get last spots available.

Chris L: Any questions for Elisa? Thanks Elisa. Next, we have Dawn who's going to tell you about one of our internal GPSS committees, the Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee.

**Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee Presentation:**

Dawn Roscoe (Communications): Hi, I'm Dawn. I'm a first year graduate student and I joined the senate because I wanted to learn more about leadership. I was actually curious if a couple of you could tell me why you joined the senate tonight? Why did you decide to give up your Wednesday nights to come and sit with us here?

Yasmeen: Our department needed a representative and no one else volunteered.

Dawn: So there was need but why did you decide to fill it?

Yasmeen: It seemed like it was a good fit.

Dawn: Fit how?

Yasmeen: It was a good fit because I had experience in similar communities in college.

Alma Khasawneh (Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies): I wanted to make sure the graduate senate has a feminist perspective on the things that we do.

Greg Diggs-Yang (Education - Curriculum and Instruction): Our COE needed a representative.

Dawn: Excellent. Thank you for sharing your experience. What I heard was that you saw a need and you felt like giving a voice to your constituents on this body. It wasn't a big time commitment for you and you felt comfortable with the skills that you needed. We're trying to fill these two spots on the committees that happen to be faculty committees that we have. I wanted to have that discussion with you guys because I want you to have the same sort of discussion with your constituents because the only way that we're going to get these spots filled is if you can convey that enthusiasm or work ethic that we just heard from your peers to your peers in your departments. What we're trying to create is a committee feedback loop. So there's GPSS, there's the faculty committees and we have a spot in each of those committees. We have some empty spots right now and why that's unfortunate is that the Administrative Affairs Committee and the Academic Standards Committee both don't have representatives from the
Graduate Student Senate body. Both of those are really important issues. We care about our academic standards. Do you care about how you learn and how you teach? Having someone going to those meetings is really important. Right now those two are empty and we’re missing a spot on our feedback loop so we don’t know what’s happening in those committees so my committee can’t go back to the exec committee and say “Hey, there’s something happening that we need to pay attention to. Let’s take it to the senate and see how we can give our voice to these issues.”

Alan-Michael Weatherford (Comparative Literature): Just a point of information, could you list what committees they were one more time and how often they meet?

Dawn: That’s a great segway. Let’s go to the next one. So this committee, I put up their current issues of the year and their meeting times for the two quarters. So if you or someone in your department would be interested in this committee please contact me since we would love to get them involved. We were thinking about putting it on Facebook or sending it out in an email to Elisa so you can take it to your department or if someone has another idea to help disseminate it. I’m also going to be having flyers, and I hope you guys are all coming to this next week, at the Henry Art Gallery Graduate Open House to recruit people to be on the senate like this. This is the first and this is the last one, Academic Standards. We’re really asking for your help to find people if someone in this body has the time and the willingness from someone in the senate but I already have lots of representatives on other faculty committees not in senate. They’re just graduate students who care about that issues and make sure that feedback loop is still intact. My request tonight is for your help to fill these committees. Any questions?

Chris L: Dawn, maybe you could briefly describe what our committee does in addition to managing this information flow of faculty committees?

Dawn: I’m still learning because I’m a first year graduate students and I’ve never been on the senate before but I volunteered to be on the committee and saw a need like Yasmeen did. I know that we’re going to doing some projects that Chris could speak more eloquently and knowledgeably about. The teaching rooms on campus and we’re going to be doing outreach to students who are teaching in those rooms and asking what they think of the amenities of those rooms, the problems of booking rooms when they are teaching and things along that line. Is there something I’m missing?

Chris L: The other major project right now is one where if you teach a class, you get evaluated, which are more or less helpful but we have, for those of us who are TAs, no way of evaluating the faculty who we TA for. That can be an issue because sometimes faculty are not good bosses in that respect. This is something that Kiana Scott, the student regent is also interested in, trying to think of a process that is sufficiently anonymous since some faculty only have 2-4 TAs and if we’re not protected, he or she could guess who it came from. It’s anonymous and constructive and helps the feedback loop between graduate TAs and faculty.

Yasmeen: Point of information, so this council and one before it, who else is on it?
Dawn: More in-depth information is on our website.

Yasmeen: Just in general, are these all students or faculty?

Dawn: These are faculty councils so we are just sitting on these councils to see what they’re deciding in their committees. We’re sometimes invited to give feedback but we’re mostly there to learn about what they’re doing and what they’re making decisions about and then we report back to the senate and see if we need to take action on anything.

Chris L: They’re largely made up of faculty members. GPSS and ASUW will have an ex officio position on each council. We have a few of our own representatives in some faculties. I believe Alice is on one.

Alice Popejoy (Public Health Genetics): Technically, I’m on one but I haven’t been to a meeting yet, but I’ve been appointed on the faculty committee on research. Hypothetically, the opportunity would be that you interface with a lot of faculty members who do research and deal with industry transfer issues and overseeing what’s going on. We have an opportunity to speak up at these meetings but not actually vote, which is difficult.

Chris L: I think we’re almost out of time. Is there anything else you’d like to add?

Dawn: No, just let me know of questions or of people that you think would be interested.

Chris L: The Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee like all of our other internal committees except Finance and Budget and Judicial are charged with maintaining contact with our university representatives in these councils that overlap with university affairs. So academic and administrative affairs, naturally Academic Standards and Teaching & Learning, two very natural affinities and other committees, in theories, will have the same oversight and connections. The other thing is the council of Academic Standards also approves new curriculum changes and the most recent one is the degree completion program for integrated social science for undergraduates. Now that doesn’t affect us directly except there will be a lot of graduate students teaching that program and it’s an entirely online degree. It’s a new idea for students who already have some credits and who can finish it through online at UW. They just passed that recently so we can expect that to come down the pipeline. If you’re in a department that will be affected by that you’ll expect new opportunities to pop up. We have Genesis next.

**Funding Opportunities Call:**

Genesis Gavino (Treasurer): I’m going to talk about our funding through special allocations and departmental allocations. The reason why I’m doing this is because we have not seen many applications come in during Fall Quarter so I want to put a push on senators to talk to their departments and registered student organizations and see whether or not they need money.
Last year, we funded 24 RSOs at the value of $14,526.42. I want to make a notes that most of those RSOs were undergrads. We have $19,000 left in our account. We were given an extra $10,000 by Service and Activities Fee committee. We asked for that and the fact that we still have $19,000 sitting in our account doesn’t look good when we present our budget this coming quarter. We gave you an extra $10,000 because you asked for it. What are you doing with our money? So senators, can you talk to your department and programs and see what the RSOs need. Do they have events coming up? The next one is departmental allocation. This one is a smaller budget. It mainly deals with capital items. Last year, we funded 16 departments at the total of $7,473.58. We actually moved money from our RSO account to departmental allocations to be able to fund another grad department. We have about $5,500 left and we have the ability to move money from our special allocations fund to our departmental allocations fund if we find that at the end of the year, there’s more need in graduate departments as opposed to RSOs. Also, travel grant application are open again. Last quarter, we funded 15 applications at the value of $4,900. We had a few that were domestic and some were international. I really need you guys to go out to your departments and programs and push for more graduate RSOs and departments to apply for our money. A lot of the applications we see are undergrad RSOs. Not that we’re trying to be stingy but they have their own money and we have our own money. They have $55,000 to give away whereas we only have $20,000.

Alice: Can you give us an example of an RSO and departmental allocation to get us brainstorming?

Genesis: So an RSO is a registered student organization. They have to be registered with the Student Activities Office and you have to have an advisor assigned to your RSO because you can’t submit your RSO application directly to me. Your advisor has to do with for you. We did Humanities in Medicine.

Evan Firth (Oceanography): We helped them fund their big event, Humanities and Medicine. There’s a newer one with Business Ethics Association.

Genesis: That was mainly undergrad. They had no graduate presence on their board but they were trying to reach out to graduate students. So when that happens, for Business Ethics Association, they were projecting 50 people to attend their event but only 17 grad students and they were asking for $500. What we do there because they only had 17 grad students projected to come, we used the 17 to divide and use that cost to grad students that we would fund. So we only funded them $170 as opposed to the whole $500 since they also asked ASUW for money. So we’ll give you enough to cover grad students but that’s like an if situation for them. A departmental allocation, Colin Bateson, our faculty chair needed microwaves and couches for their common area so they did that last year.

Evan: Oceanography regularly uses our yearly allotment of departmental funding to put on a retreat for graduate students. It cuts the cost per grad students $10-$20 for each grad student. The only caveat there is that to receive GPSS funding, we have to go to a state owned location.
or have it on UW.
Chris L: Glad you brought that up since that's a recent change we made that we now fund non-material items so we now fund departmental retreats.

Genesis: Yasmeen's department also received funding for their retreat to Wallace Falls. It brought the cost down by $10.

Chris L: To be fair there are far fewer graduate specific RSOs.

Genesis: Maybe a call to you to create one.

Chris L: We had Friends of Geography before.

Chris E: Just so you know, it can be practical or fun. Last year, I sat on a meeting and the Medical School asked for some video teleconferencing stuff. They had a satellite in Montana so they also asked for an Xbox and Dance Dance Revolution. If your department needs a kegerator…

Genesis: We'll help you fill out your applications so don't be afraid to ask for help.

Steve Carlin (Chemistry): What's our timeline here? When does this fund go away?

Genesis: You can apply until the second to the last week of Spring Quarter. I really want us to use our money this year since SAF will see that and say that we didn't need that extra $10,000 and bump you guys back down.

Steve: So we can submit something for summer quarter in the spring?

Genesis: Yes, you can do that.

Dawn: We're thinking of sending some people for a conference in New York. Which one should we be applying for?

Genesis: I would recommend the departmental one. I would apply for the travel grant since travel is individual and we don't send multiple people on that.

Yasmeen: Departmental only covers retreats. It wouldn't work under departmental either.

Chris L: At state facilities.

Dawn: No out of state?

Chris L: With the departmental. Travel grants you can go anywhere but only for individuals.
Ragan Hart (Public Health Genetics): Is there a cap for these allocations?

Genesis: Depends on which one you’re asking for. For departmental there’s a cap depending on the size of your department. For RSOs, no.

Chris L: Any more questions for Genesis? We’re going to segway into something very similar.

**Diversity Funding Call:**

Elisa: Genesis basically said everything that I wanted to say. We have $6,000. That’s $2,000 more than we had last year and we had very few applicants thus far. Two of the applicants that we funded are people we funded last year. This is for RSOs to hold diversity events. Some examples of what we funded in the past are Taiwanese Student Association Night Market, the Order of Indigenous Scholars, the Research Symposium, the FIUTS Student Board and the First Nation Annual Spring Powwow. So you have an RSO that is focused on diversity or wants to hold a diversity event that is open to graduate students. I have the application is on the website and I have them printed out.

Chris L: Departments can also apply to put on diversity events.

Elisa: Correct. So person without an RSO or not a senator could not come in and apply for this. They have to apply through your department.

Chris L: Just to point out, that applies to departmental allocation. Those requests have to go through senators as well. So that’s an incentive for departments to elect senators and send them to the senate.

Bjorn Hubert-Wallander (Psychology): What’s the average amount that’s awarded?

Elisa: I think it’ll change now that we have a little bit more funding to give out. Last year’s was anywhere from $250 to $600 per application. There’s a list of stipulations that we can’t fund certain things. All of the requirements are on the website and I have physical applications here if you wanted to take a look at it.

Chris L: Information on all of these funds are found on the website.

Genesis: I have one more things to say about this. Some RSOs get funded by special allocations and then apply for diversity as well and get funded from both funding streams.

Elisa: Generally, the more funding you have available you have to you, the less attractive your application looks though. We want to give the money to people who would not be able to hold their event otherwise. Apply for the one you would get more money from then apply to the other
one.

Genesis: I have more money.

Chris L: Any questions for Genesis or Elisa? Thank you for sitting through our wall of speaking. Before we adjourn do we have any announcements?

**Announcements:**

Genesis: I’m sorry, this is the last time. Elisa and I are part of this planning committee for Elect Her campus women win. It’s part of the AAUW.

Alice: American Association of University Women.

Genesis: We’re one of 55 campuses throughout the nation putting on this event throughout the year. The goal is to provide women the tools to run for student government or political bodies on campus or off, just to get them more involved. Our event is on February 1st, 10:30am - 4:30pm here in the HUB. You have to fill out applications just so we have demographics and we know who’s coming. The deadline to apply is January 22nd. These are our speakers: Representative Jessyn Farrell, Lorraine Howell and Cathy Allen. We’re also going to have a mock election at this event and we’re giving prizes for winners and we’re soliciting prizes from local prizes. Elisa and I might end up on panel but we’re hoping not. So if you have any questions please let me know.

Chris L: I’ll also add that this is worked on heavily by ASUW Aida Welder who is one of the driving forces behind this. I also want to relay that although meant to empower women but anyone is welcome to attend and I think it would be well appreciated if there was a large support group of both men and women at the event.

Alma: And people who identify as other things.

Chris L: Yes, they actually said people of all gender identities are welcome.

Gary Hothi (Social Work): I would also push for people of color for speakers next year.

Chris L: Any questions? Any other announcements?

Dawn: Free beer, free food! At the Henry Art Gallery and come visit the concessional booths.

Chris E: One thing I want to put a plug for is Lobby Day, which is on the 6th. There’s also going to be one on the 14th for WSA. I heard from a buddy from public health that he signed up for the public health lobby day in Olympia. I want to encourage that. Even if you don’t go for ASUW, GPSS or WSA, go for your program. We encourage you to talk about what you care about and
please let me know if you are. I’m happy to coordinate and help you guys out in anyway.

Alice: To follow up on Lobby Day and also to put a plug in for the Science & Policy Committee, we will have a poster session. Particularly if you or a constituents are in a scientific community and you have a poster lying around, we’ll sign you up for Lobby Day and plug you in in a meeting with a representative. If you just want to come for the poster session, that’s also fine. Just showcase the research you’re doing.

Yasmeen: You should’ve gotten the smoking site survey. Please give it to your constituents. We have a 140 people that responded so far and that’s great but we need more people to respond.

Gary: President’s Day, February 17th. National Association of Social Workers are having their lobby day. It’s a day off and the rotunda’s beautiful.

**Adjourn:**

Chris L: I’ll now entertain a motion to adjourn.

Alex: Moved.

Edward: Second.