Call to Order & Approval of Agenda:

Chris Erickson (Vice President): I'll call this meeting order at 5:37pm. First order of business is the approval of the agenda that is before you.

Edward Schwieterman (Astronomy): I move to approve.

Seyda Ipek (Physics): I second that.

Approval of the Minutes:

Chris E: Any objections? Seeing none, the agenda is approved. Now the approval of the minutes.

Dawn Keenan (Communications): I move to approve.


Chris E: Any objections? Seeing none, so ordered.

GPSS Spotlight and Discussion: UW Green Dot Bystander Intervention Program

Chris L: Thanks Chris. Hello everyone. Moving right along, our GPSS Spotlight today is a very special guest. We have Natalie Dolci from UWPD talking about the UW Green Dot Bystander Intervention program, which is something that we’re going to be working along with next year especially during orientations during the fall. We thought we would at least introduce and get things moving for people that will be here next year to keep the continuity going.

Natalie Dolci (UWPD Victim Advocate): Thanks for having me. So my name is Natalie Dolci and I’m the victim advocate at the University of Washington. I’m not an officer. I’m a social worker. I assist victims of crimes by giving them the resources they need that can be anything from safety planning and connecting people with counseling to assisting people with restraining orders and court orders. Most of the people that I work with are survivors of relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault and stalking just to give you an idea why I’m interested in Green Dot. So Green Dot is the primary prevention program that we have on campus. It’s a bystander intervention program that’s designed to teach students the skills to affect a culture change around power based personal violence. The way the program describes an active relationship violence or sexual harassment is as a red dot and the goal is to inform people about peer to peer skills that they can use to communicate that that’s not acceptable and to turn that into a green
dot. The goal is for people to be able to adjust those strategies to their personalities. It’s not a one size fits all approach. What we’re doing right now is I’m on the committee for Green Dot and that’s why I’m here as a representative and we were able to train 1500 students last year and we’re excited about that but we would like to increase the exposure. We are hosting an institute this summer and the institute is sort of a train the trainers program. We’re going to be able to get in front of more students. We have about 50 UW staff signed up to become trainers and other representatives from other institutions will to bring that back to their respective schools. So there’s two forms of training that can take place. There’s a stand alone, hour long overview presentation and there is a day long bystander intervention training that’s 6 hours. Why we would like to form better relationships with you all is we know that grad students are getting disclosures as their roles as teachers and students from the grad school are not exempt from these issues. We wanted a little bit of feedback as a committee from you all on maybe some ways to make some inroads and get in front of more audiences. Some of the strategies we’ve been talking about is orientations and having be it part of the different kinds of safety resources that exist on campus. Peer institutions also do things like don’t cancel class programs. So someone won’t be able to attend their class to teach so then Green Dot can come in and do an overview presentation. Some schools offer, if you attend a bystander training, you’ll get extra credit. I wanted to take any questions you have about the program and hear if you had any thoughts of the feasibility of taking this to your departments.

Gary Hothi (Social Work): Can students attend the training over the summer?

Natalie: Unfortunately, it’s an evidence based program and they only evaluate it as staff as the facilitators for the Green Dot training. The resources were mixed for the peer training. So at this time, they’re only offered to staff and that’s not something we can work around since we have to work around their model.

Gary: WSU has been doing it for a couple years right? Kimberly, she was on the Regent’s or the President’s sexual violence thing. Are you guys are connected to that?

Natalie: Yes, one of the recommendations for the President’s task force for sexual assault response and prevention is to increase the scope of Green Dot. This was designed in general but we have 51 staff and we wanted to give four days of their work week up to get trained. The problem here is training students because there are no staff for Green Dot currently except volunteers. Any other thoughts? Does it seem like a good fit to get in front of the students in your department or in general?

Gary: I would suggest doing it at the orientation.

Chris L: Since we had such a successful partnership with UWPD at orientations, why not add another potentially successful program?
Dawn: I’m in a fee based program and a lot of the fee based programs don’t get reach out from orientations. I would like to see that increase because mine is a mostly nighttime and weekend program. Are you guys willing or able to accommodate that schedule?
Natalie: Yes, the bystander trainings are almost always on Saturdays because they’re six hours and evenings are pretty common.

Dawn: Do programs have to come together or can students from different programs all come?
Natalie: Both. Sometimes, for instance, the greek community will request for one of their chapters or house. Then it will just be for them, but others will advertise a quarterly bystander training that anyone can come to.

Dawn: Are you doing one in summer quarter?
Natalie: No, but hopefully as we have more staff who are trained, we can have more frequent trainings. I passed around some brochures that have a little snapshot of the resources and I think that an advantage of the Green Dot overview presentation and the bystander training too is an opportunity to convey some of the support resources on campus. I think that an area of work that needs improvement is articulating what is out there and what the supporting options are and we want to build that in the training.

Amirah Majid (iSchool - MLIS): I don’t know much about the program so I was looking at the website and one thing I would be interested in knowing if there is any method for snowball connecting things. If you’re training staff, I don’t know if you can make the names of people who are trained public or is there a method where if you have been trained, you can be an advocate for your department. I think a lot of people would be interested in doing it if my advisor has done and said it’s a good thing. So is there a way to do that?

Natalie: I think that’s a really good suggestion. I think that will lower the threshold to someone getting more information about it so that’s an ideal take back to the committee to make that public. The goal is that someone is going to go get training and be an advocate for the program so I like the idea that it being public and more approachable.

Dawn: Have you ever seen the safe space stickers? Why not have the Green Dot certified sticker so people can know if their professor is into that and then they can ask about that. I know that I have conversations based off of their organizational stickers on their doors.

Natalie: That’s a great idea.

Chris L: We will make sure the suggestions will get to you. Also, to follow up Gary’s point, orientation is one of our primary opportunities to get in front of large number of graduate students in a relatively short amount of time. Unfortunately, at those orientations we get maybe 10 minutes and if we’re really lucky we get like 15 but usually it’s about 5. Clearly, we can’t do a
whole training or even a semblance of a whole training. All we can do in that moment is make people aware of the resources. My hope is that next year's senate will think creatively along these same lines about how we can get this by either people who are specifically trained to facilitate or the information itself in front of groups of graduate and professional students throughout the whole year so the information is being disseminated. I think a lot of creative solutions just like the ones that are being suggested and other ones also to come hopefully so it'll be my hope for next year's senate will be a real partnership in that sense and how we can connect Green Dot with a large number of students in a relatively short amount of time.

Amirah: A lot of the masters programs and the undergraduate programs have to do culminating projects like Capstones and I can see a lot of potential projects that students can do around this. I'm curious and a lot of the departments have methods for non-profit organizations or industries to put their name into the hat to see if organizations want any work done. I facilitated a masters Capstone that was around domestic violence and they worked with an organization based in San Diego. They could've worked with you guys. So I was wondering if there was a way to get your name in with some of these graduate projects.

Natalie: Yes, I’m definitely interested in learning more about that. Whether it be evaluation or effective marketing, all that stuff.

Amirah: Get someone else to do the work for you.

Dawn: Could I suggest that the senate set up a date for senators get trained in September? So right as we’re coming back in, we know that it’s the third Saturday of September and it’s the first month of the quarter so we’d be more likely to go do it.

Natalie: I think that will be fantastic since we will have this group of 51 new staff who are trained and we want to have that stewardship where we keep them engaged. I think having stuff right off the bat will be fantastic, especially for people that have all these ideas.

Chris L: Unfortunately, I won’t be here so I’m holding continuing Executive committee members to make this one of your tasks over the summer.

Natalie: Maybe I can leave my contact info in the minutes so people can reach out. Thank you so much for your time.

F&B Departmental Allocation Recommendations:

Chris L: Moving right along. F&B is coming back at us with their final draft.

Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): So this is it. I’ve talked to you a couple times already, and briefly always, about some ideas for updating our guidelines just to make things more smooth while we’re evaluating applications. Specifically, this was aimed at departmental
allocation guidelines. I solicited some feedback on it and what we settled on was a rough guidelines, not a guarantee of $10 per graduate student on the departmental allocations with a minimum of $350 and a maximum of $750, which means that no one should be eligible for less money that what they get right now. This was one of the concerns voiced in the meeting. I want to highlight again that we’re using these as guidelines. We’re not guaranteed. Just because you have 50 people in your department, we’re not giving you $500. We’ll at least be giving you $350. We’ll also highlight something that has been in our guidelines for years because it is not necessarily well known. Its what we like to call our capital purchase clause but if you’ve not received departmental funding in the past year, we’re willing to give you up to 200 percent of the recommended guideline amount. This is not something we’ll give you for a retreat even it it’s a retreat that happens every other year. This is more like tables, couches and refrigerators or things that will provide value for your department for decades. Then the other thing that recently came to our attention is that we as a committee have been evaluating applications on a first come first serve basis. This is not actually included in our guidelines so be aware of that. It’s just the way it happened. We ran out of money, then we stopped accepting applications. So that’s another thing we’ll add. We’re also going to change special allocation guidelines. It’s interesting for your constituents. Most of our applications come from predominantly undergraduate groups with graduate members but we love to fund predominantly graduate groups. This year, we had a couple pretty expensive or performers come across our table. We didn’t feel we were spending our money wisely by giving them all of it, which has been historically the average of what we give for speaking fees. This is not a change in our practice but it’s a more clear communication for future applications so they don’t come to us with a request that we’re never going to fund. So if your speaker wants $2000, we’re only willing to give half of it. So think of other places to ask for money and that’s it. Any questions? We’re going to need new F&B members next year. I’ll make my pitch right now. It’s the most fun committee on campus. Ask anyone who joined this year. We’re a tight-knit family.

Genesis: We’re even going to see each other after school.

Colin: True. Okay, thanks for your attention.

**Sustainable Investing Resolution:**

Chris L: The next item is the last resolution of the year. It’s what we call the sign and die session. So here’s Justin Bare.

Justin Bare (Computer Science & Engineering): Hi everyone. I’m Justin Bare, your senator from Computer Science. Thanks for letting me present today. This problem this resolution is addressing is climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels. So many nations including the US agreed in the Copenhagen Accord with the scientific view that global warming should be kept 2 degrees below Celsius. However it is estimated that fossil fuel companies have reserved at least 5 times the amount of carbon that is safe in order to have an 80% chance of staying below that level of global warming. This is a huge gap there. Therefore as the world starts to
address climate change with increasing urgency, these companies will lose their value of their assets when they are deemed unusable. Out of this idea sprung the movement to take investment money from fossil fuels companies which is often called divest. This is the means of protecting future financial security as well as making a statement that is supporting the continuing profitability of these companies is unethical. Several prominent institutions, most notably Stanford University have already divested their portfolio. UW has not yet done this, which is why this resolution is before you. The university is clearly committed to sustainability. With an executive order from Michael Young, numerous committees and departments around campus are making UW's operations as environmentally friendly as possible. This resolution would basically extend that commitment to the university's finances. From divesting from the world's worst fossil fuel companies, the university can say that they are not profiting from corporations that are bringing about severe climate change. This will also fulfill the university's fiduciary duties to not encourage them. Fossil fuels are not the energy sources of the future and have been falling behind in the market and will not be profitable much longer. I don't want to take too much time but there are more details in the resolution and the footnotes and there are a few handouts and we'll take questions during the discussion. Thanks.

Chris L: Actually Justin, if you want to hang out here to take questions that would be great. We'll take questions now. I saw Eddie first.

Edward: Can I ask a question about logistics. If we divest from fossil fuels, and I think it's a great idea, we won't be able to have index funds in the endowment since they are also invested substantially in fossil fuels. Logistically, how does that work?

Justin: I'll direct that question to Alex.

Alex Lenferna (Divest UW Representative): That's a good question. The divestment we're pushing for is regarding direct investments. So for direct investments, we manage them ourselves. With regards to indexes and our broadest mutual funds, we don't have strict control over that.

Chris Svolopoulos (Civil & Environmental Engineering): With the White House pushing the 30 for 30 bill this Monday, how much does that accelerate the risk of us losing funds in our investments.

Justin: I don't have any numbers on it but obviously, it will make it more difficult for coal companies to profit. This issue is definitely coming up sooner than a lot of people have thought.

Chris L: Chris, could you briefly explain what that bill is?

Chris S: So by 2030, the US is planning on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions from coal fired plant by 30%, which is a very accelerated rate. We're trying to match the EU's 20/2020
protocol, which is 20% greenhouse gas reductions by 2020. If we were divesting from fossil fuel burning coal plants, that will be super beneficial since their stock will plummet very soon.

Alex L: Just to look that historically, when the EU made the regulations, the coal companies saw a drastic drop. So arguing something similar like this will happen is according to significant amount of evidence.

Colin: This is a follow up to Eddie's question and response. Why don't we try to divest also from index funds since they're invested in these things? Is it just a totally crazy idea? Why not take one step further? It seems like we're only going halfway on some level.

Justin: So there’s a history of this campaign and being involved with the treasury. The relationship we have with the treasury and the Board of Regents at this point, that relationship might benefit from going slower and divesting from coal and tar sands first, which is what we have in this resolution and then what we also have here is screening other fossil fuel investments for risk into the future. So how risky are they of losing profits as more regulations come to play. Divesting from any index fund that contains fossil fuels will be nice but is practically difficult. It’s hard to see what those index funds have at any particular time.

Alex Bolton (Law): Do we know how much UW has invested in these specific types of assets?

Alex L: It’s difficult to know. They don’t release that information readily. Part of what the resolution would allow us to do is to enable us to go to the treasury and do a financial screening of the assets they have.

Adam Yahyaoui (Evans School of Public Affairs): Hasn’t the UW Divest student group actually been in discussing with the treasury and actually gotten an RA position in the treasury department to do that exact thing?

Justin: The RA position is currently looking into tools to do this screening. The biggest issue is that the tool that they want doesn’t exist and they’re not actually sure when this tool will be made available.

Alex L: The timeline they’ve given us is very indefinite. Perhaps a year, perhaps more.

Steve Carlin (Chemistry): You mentioned that the divested funds will be redirected in buying individual stocks. How much of a role would socially conscious index funds, that index funds that you would want to invest in. How much are those being targeted? It’s a niche index fund so I don’t know how much there is versus the rest of the index funds out there but has that been on the radar?

Justin: Are you asking if we’re targeting socially responsible investments to replace these?
Steve: Yes. You mentioned individual funds before, but there are index funds that track these sorts of mutual stocks. Are those considered as well?

Susanna Wegner (Divest UW Representative): So the last question alluded to the fact that the treasury is hesitant to include a tool because they don’t have the one they want. That’s because the tool they want accounts for not just carbon ones but also other kinds of socially responsible investing. They want a single tool to tell them about socially responsible investing. They’re thinking those terms but they don’t have the mechanism.

Steve: The jury is still out?

Susanna: Yes.

Alice Popejoy (Public Health Genetics): I was wondering if you can tell us your relationship with the Board of Regents and what opportunities you see in the future for actually getting something like this done and what is going on with the time involved?

Justin: We have heard that the Board of Regents is very interested in doing things that students support, which is why we brought this resolution to GPSS. If you guys support this and think this a good idea, that’s basically sending a message to the Board of Regents that the group that represents all graduate students supports this, which is a huge portion of the campus population. Regarding the timing, after the summer we'll go before the Board of Regents with an item to ask them to actually do the things we have said.

Alice: They're having their meeting next Thursday.

Susanna: We’re not on that agenda. They’ve been booked at this point but we’re maybe trying to get over the summer or September.

Alex L: Just speaking to that, part of the reason why we’re not on the agenda is because we want to maintain a good relationship with the treasury. We want this to have a respectful relationship to the treasury and part of that relationship entails is that the treasury wants to choose financial due diligences with the investments so they will screen those particular investments. We'll try to continue that duplication to the treasury to assure that we’re still respectful to the Board.

Chris L: Are there any further questions? Were there any amendments that were offered that were accepted or amendments made on the documents?

Justin: I didn’t see any comments. I just changed stuff myself.

Chris L: Could you scroll down? To the last “that” clause. Do you think a maybe a good person to add to the forward list would be vice president of the treasury?
Justin: Sure, might as well. We've been working with Ann Sarno for awhile now. There wouldn't be much gain by adding someone else from the treasury.

Chris L: Just a suggestion.

Gary: Is this something that ASUW is involved in too?

Justin: There was a previous resolution that ASUW supported that was a little bit weaker than this. That was a while ago before a campaign developed. Eventually we'll present a similar resolution to ASUW.

Chris L: Any further questions, comments, amendment? Then I would call for a motion to approve this resolution.

Edward: I move to approve the resolution.

Maggie Hughes (Public Health - Environmental & Occupational): I second.

Chris L: We'll do a hand vote for this. All in favor of approving this resolution? All opposed? Any abstentions? Two abstentions. The resolution is formally adopted. Congratulations. I think it's a good one. My minor editorial is that I appreciate that it targets two or three particularly damaging kinds of fossil fuel extraction. Tar sands and coal. Great, thank you. We'll get you guys to the vittles yet at this rate. The reason there's no food here is because everyone is invited to an end of the year reception at our office after this meeting.

Genesis: There’s Subway and cookies.

**Legislative Wrap-Up**

Chris L: I'll let Chris take it away for the vice presidential wrap-up.

Chris E: So it's been awhile since I've talked to you guys. I think that was at the end of the session. Everyone’s been busy and filling the agenda so that's been great. So three main bills that were passed involved us. Instate tuition bill that foregoes the year waiting period that veterans have to wait to get instate tuition. The second is the Dream Act or Real Hope Act. This not only allows possibly undocumented but all graduate students from Washington high schools to apply for financial aid. There’s actually been an application put out by the Student Achievement Council and they’ve already received over a 1000 applications and $5 million was put into the State Need Grant so all positive things. The big one was the fee based programs bill, which was started last year. We were able to bring it home this year. A lot of thanks, since the last time I talked, I implored everyone to send emails or call in. We had about 30 people the next day to call a Senator Bailey and they passed it out pretty quickly. I would like to say a special thanks to Dawn who came down there. They were on a two hour delay so we had a late start
and she didn’t get to talk but she did go down there. The next thing is the SAGE. It’s the Student Advocate for Graduate Education so that’s at the federal level. In April, there was a group of 6 of us. Chris and I went to DC for 5-6 days along with student delegates Chrissy Ellis and Matt Souza, our Student Regent Kiana Scott went and for the first time ever, we had a member of the Student Achievement Council, Iman Humatz. That was very great. We were all UW students and we met with 5 different officers there as well as there was an Oso fundraiser that we went to so we were able to meet and greet with all the important faces of Washington bru ha ha. As an addendum to that, UW did awesome. There’s are things that people try to downplay that officers get certain things but it kind of helps. These other volunteer positions at their schools, they don’t get the same people through competition because they don’t get to choose jobs and it’s amazing how much higher we seemed to stand. Chris is going to be on the Board of Officers for SAGE next year. One thing that we’ll talk about that we did differently this year is immigration. We talked about the H1B visas and we wanted to form an idea to how we get students to work more easily and build a this idea that graduates from universities, whether they’re domestic or international should have preference to get these visas. All cool stuff. There’s not a lot of movement but when it does, those things should be included on this. There’s a pictures of us in front of the Capitol. So Metro. This is something we’ve done all year and we know it didn’t pass. One bright note is that in the 43rd legislative district, this area that UW’s at, it actually passed by 80%. We saw a lot of first time voters. I would like to give all credit to Kyle Murphy who was the person who put that together and worked really hard. There was a good effort put forth by UW to make that happen. Mayor Murray has a proposition for Metro that includes bringing back a motor vehicle excise tax. So you would pay based on the value of your vehicle. This is kind of one of those things where it might be more than a $60 tax but you can’t put the value of how much your car costs on a yard sign so it was easy for people in South King County to put $60 tabs on the side. They can figure out quickly what that means to them. In the idea of that, 65% in Seattle voted for Metro. They’re going to try to run a similar way so hopefully Metro is still funded. I want to bring up one last thing. We talked Plan A with the legislature and Plan B with King County Metro and now were on Version C. One of the things that no one is talking about is what do we do for our students? I think that definitely has to do with UW Transportation Services. Whereas when we are on the next round of U-Pass negotiations, there really should what are we going to get. Are we going to pay for less service? I don’t think that's what people really want. It’s time people get real with them and say extra apartment spots and carpools are great but let’s get away from distractions and let’s start talking about this. There are opportunities since there is a lot of money that students pay. Maybe we can do more shuttles like the one UWMC does. I think it’s something to be looked into. You need to take charge of our own money on that. These are just some things we had the bills there. We did an actual symposium in Olympia with 11 students that came down and did presentations. It’s the first time we did it in that aspect. We had people bring posters. We had a good group from the Protein Design Institute, Clean Energy, and the Eco Car 2 team was there. We also had Public Health and an Evans and Economics student. So cool stuff there and we’ll continually progress. There’s a picture of the people in Olympia. One of the cool things with the UW federal legislation things is we’ve formalized with their staff and when they’re on campus, we can meet with them twice a year. That would actually be really helpful and they decided from the work we did this year in some of our white
papers, they’re actually going to use those as their materials because it matches up well. Next one, so this is the last bit. We talked about how we can do more to get the legislature to notice us. So we’ve talked about with the provost, external relations and the Graduate School, there seems to be a lot that we can bring more legislators here. Maybe as part of the Higher Education Summit and do a UW Graduate student fun day like taking them to the labs, show everyone what’s going on and do some education on federal funding. This is somewhat warranted because the priority is on undergraduate and CTC degrees but we can’t be discounted as graduate students for the things we might need just because we made it to this point. Some other things, we talked about the 2015 legislative agenda. It has a campaign item for graduate education and research funding, possibly state student loans and possibly recruitment and retention items for faculty and students. Those things go together. A lot of times, they talk about the faculty and they forget that faculty can go anywhere they want with their money but they can’t take it to students. Then we also worked with the WSU group. Alex has had a stronger relationship with them but we would like to see where that goes and get more than just UW for graduate student issues. That’s pretty much it. Special thanks to some of our people that did a lot of work: Steve, Doug, Alex, Matt and Jessica if you’re here and that’s it. Thanks.

Chris L: Thanks Chris. Who’s next?

Secretary’s Report:

Elisa: It’s me. Hello! The GPSS Diversity had a great year this year. we had an increased amount of funding so we were able to do a lot more. We’re able to fund student run diversity events on campus, 13 in fact. We awarded $4900 depending on the size of the program, how many graduate students were going to be at that event how well organized and how well presented their case were. We awarded between $200-$700 dollars. All of these organizations and events got some of our funding. Here is some pictures from the Chinese Student Association Lunar Year which we funded in part and the Taiwanese Student Association Night Market. They were really big events. We’ve had 7 successful diversity forums. Our diversity committee has been so faithful and committed. Russell’s here. Eloise is here. We’re missing one, the international student forum but we did race, gender, sex and sexuality, allyship, how to start a diversity committee, veterans. We’ve even tripled and quadrupled our mailing list that goes out to other diversity committees on campus. So the part that the diversity committee is to bring everyone together to share resources and start talking has really succeeded through these forums. I hope that that will continue next year under Natalie’s expert guidance. We had guest speakers and panels and community leaders from all over campus. There’s a few pictures from the events. The diversity committee has been so involved and so passionate on these forums that everyone on the committee led one of them at least. So that was really nice to see that kind of leadership and everyone bringing exactly what passion that they had to these forums.

Chris L: I’m really proud that those in the bottom right are students from my program.
Elisa: Cool. So archiving. As many of you recall from last year, the archivist was a temporary job to get GPSS record keeping up to snuff. To kind of identify what our management challenges were and what our goals are to implement a more comprehensive management system. So those goals were to get our most important internal documents like executive senate and F&B minutes together because before the archivist came in, our documents were on a server and on different people's computers and in Google drives and all over the place. Now they are so beautifully managed in a system that looks kind of like this. It's organized by academic year and then by committees, events, elections, financial and project files and reports and senate meeting and then sub-classifications upon sub-classifications upon sub-classifications. Now we have a working system for all the officers working forward on how to save your documents. Is anyone from iSchool here? Yeah, you would appreciate this. How to name these documents in a consistent way so we can continue to refer back to our institutional history and be able to find things. If we ever had an audit, now we're on top that. This is no small task. All of these boxes are set to go to archives. Because GPSS is a government and student body, we had to figure out what kind of retention schedule we're suppose to be on and figuring that out, now were able to list what's inside these boxes and inventory them and get them out of the office and get them where they need to be in archives. There's a filing system now. It's really beautiful. So there in a shared server or in my office and the training manual for future officers and staff is very comprehensive and easy to read. One of the deliverables of this project was an archiving book. So Rene, in her office has ASUW hard bound internal documents and records from at least 10 years of their history but not recent and GPSS hasn't produced anything like that ever so we did. We have last year's minutes, agendas, resolutions, bylaw changes, events, reports, financial information. It's all there in a beautiful hard bound book and the year before that as well and those materials are kept in the office and Rene's office. This is all of GPSS print posters and media beautifully produced by our silently suffering Tina are in archival quality kept in binders now. 3 copies each. Also wanted to say we've all the beautiful posters that Tina has expertly put together here. I don't think she gets enough credit for them. The only reason you'd know that they're coming from one genius mind is that they're all so good and they're all so different and creative and just shows how talented she is. By taking minutes and keeping track of what's happening here and keeping it beautifully formatted is no easy task. Three hours here is eight hours here. That's my report.

Chris L: So Tina already got some props. I also want to highlight Mackensie's work. It has brought this organization so far forward. It's really remarkable the amount of work that she was able to do over the past year. In absentia, let's give her a round of applause. That will bring us up to Genesis.

Treasurer's Report:

[Treasurer's montage plays]

Genesis: Follow that.

President's Report:
I can’t follow that at all. When I was writing my report, I kept thinking about it and I couldn't think of how to present it so I'll just briefly explain verbally. So hopefully that will suffice. Just a real quick anecdote. I got involved in GPSS for a really specific reason. For my first or second year of graduate school, as we have every month, a meeting of all the students in Geography. Then GPSS senators, I think this was when a lot of union stuff was going on and there was a real divide between ASC people and non-ASC people. This person said we really have nothing in common with each other. What we really should do is have a graduate student senate and a professional student senate and I thought that was the worst idea I ever heard in my entire life and that’s why I got involved with GPSS specifically to make sure that would not happen. So I’m bookending a little bit but about a year ago, I stood up in front of some of you guys to talk about why I wanted to be president. The first thing I wanted to do was increase the sense of a graduate student community across campus and in the senate with programs that we had spotty relationship or had no relationships at all. The second thing I wanted to do was strengthen the senate as an organizational student body. The third thing I wanted to do was I wanted to implement a cross-campus system of graduate and professional student peer mentoring so people could get advice from peers outside their department and outside their area of discipline to know that the issues that we’re all dealing with, someone else is dealing with them. The first one we had a lot of success. Austin and I spent most of the fall trapezing all over campus to the professional schools, the Evans School, the Medical School, the Business School and the Law School to get a sense of what student needs were and particularly what we put a lot of effort into was what the needs were for international students. This led to a series of focus groups with international graduate students to get a sense of what their specific needs are distinct from undergraduate international students that led to a series of recommendations for the Vice Provost for Global Affairs and the Vice President of Student life, which hopefully GPSS will work with over the next several years. We also did some social programming. We did a couple of our tailgate flyers, which was in the fall. We set up in Sylvan Grove, barbequed, tapped a couple of kegs and hung out. We did one with the Evans School and that was a big success. We'll be having a meeting next week with leaders of GPSS and the professional schools on doing more of these kind of things in the future. The second things, I wanted to strengthen the senate. To me, this organization is the collective voice of graduate students of the campus of University of Washington and that is an incredibly valuable things. As you know, we can be clunky. In fact, we’re downright rusty at some things. We’re really good at some things, but the sense that we got and we got this sense talking to you all individually in small groups, we really need to focus our attention back on the senate as a deliberative body that talks about things and creates solutions. That led to the end of winter quarter from our interactive discussion, we decided to set a new agenda going forward that led the senate improvement working group to work tirelessly to implement some of those suggestions and they'll be carrying those forward. It’s our work. So I won’t say too much more about that. I said at the time, I couldn't be more proud of the senate and I still am. The third things was I really had a vision for creating a cross campus system of peer mentoring. That modest little idea became a reality and we accepted our first cohort of 11 peer mentors, some of who will be working over the summer actually, to help pilot this program and pair up with people who want to talk to someone. Then for the fall, we'll be opening it up
again and we’ll be getting new cohorts and this will just keep snowballing and snowballing. My vision is that this becomes a thing independent of GPSS. Right now there’s a lot of support from the Graduate School and the Counseling Center which I’m grateful for. In a moment, I’ll be thanking some of the people that worked on that. You might’ve looked at this before but in case and to show off more of Tina's work. So for this logo, I told Tina that we’re calling ourselves Grads Guiding Grads and it’s something like G^3 and that’s what she came up with. I think that's the most kick ass logo of all time. I think that’s so cool. So website, it’s not fully built out yet but it has all the basics. The mentor application which is closed the mentee application as well as campus resources like SARVA and Green Dot. So those are my three things. Obviously the job of the president, you're pulled in 5000 different directions and you have a ton of little and big things to do. I would say the things that were the most rewarding are these three, not because they’re the things I came in wanting to do but there is no way that I would’ve been successful in doing that without the help, first of all my staff and all of you and all of you who volunteered particularly for the peer mentoring working group and the senate improvement working group. I stand truly humbled by this year's senate and next year is only going to be better. I know that's going to happen. i thank all of you. You all made this year wonderful.

Recognition Ceremony:

Elisa: We would like to recognize several of you in whatever way you contributed. For the Diversity committee, I would like to recognize Joey, Alan-Michael, Russell, Elloise and Melissa.

Genesis: So I have three committees up there and I want to thank all of them. Travel Grants and F&B is two of the faithful committees because we do so much work reviewing applications and doing funding. It’s all behind the scenes and nobody really sees it so these people are such troopers and I want to thank Stephanie, Steven, Meg, Allen, Matt and Evan. For F&B, Colin, Karen, Carolyn, Eddie, Evan and Doug. For Science & Policy we had a really great turnout in terms of events. We had great panels through the leadership of Keolu and Alice. So I want to recognize Keolu, Alice, Chris, Andrew, Kelly, Thomas and Karen.

Chris S: And Doug was there too at the end.

Chris L: I guess I'll thank Chris's committees. I just want to point out, particularly the Federal Legislative Committee, did a lot of the background work for our trip to Washington DC. Chris alluded to this but didn’t really explain it. SAGE puts together white papers in all the areas that we mentioned collectively. We put together our own white papers and it didn’t seem like we were trying to one up them or try to be brown nosing anyone. They really gave us a lot of praise for our white papers and what we did with them. It’s really due to the Federal Legislative Steering committee that that was able to happen. They did excellent work and like Chris said, UW External Relations will be using those so the Alexes, Steve, Matt, Jessica and Doug. These are the committees that I had some hand in creating or fostering or overseeing so there they are. The senate improvement working group which has done the huge job of turning our discussions into concrete recommendations so Alice, Alex, Elloise, Leah, Colin, Collin, Dawn and Russell.
The Grads Guiding Grads committee, we have Gary, Sara, Esra and Ragan. Mike is not a senator but from Geography. Finally, the Executive committee. We do a lot of the behind the scenes work. That’s the officers who are myself, Chris, Elisa and Genesis and we had really engaged group of executive senators this year. Evan, Alex, Alice, Kimberly Schertz, who is no longer with us but was an executive senator for fall and winter and Alan-Michael stepped up in the spring so we really appreciate that. There’s Evelina, our ASUW Liaison sitting in the back. I would like to thank all of these.

Elisa: And I would like to recognize some of the senators that had incredible attendance. Alice Popejoy and Karen Michael who have been here every single senate meeting. And Gary, Colin, and Durmus only missing one all year. Jenny, Devin, Steve and Eddie are only missing two so very excellent attendance.

Chris L: I added a quick one. Brian Tracey was not a senator but when we were still trying to pull together the Community Affairs committee, he had an incredible dedication to that project and came up with a lot of relationships between some community leaders that we can use going forward and volunteer opportunities for graduate and professional students. We’ll just have to thank him in absentia. And everyone of you. Like I said, I think this is a special organization. Since you show up week after week means that you believe on some level to be a voice of graduate and professional student and provide the forum to talk about issues that concern us collectively. So I think all of you because without you, we’re not an organization or a senate. So thank you. Any announcements?

Announcements:

Alma Kahsawnih (Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies): So on this campus there is a botanic greenhouse garden and they have an agave plant that they have been growing for the past 20 years. It is shooting up and it will flower one time before it dies and it will flower within the coming week and I really recommend visiting it. It will all disappear. It’s down the street.

Chris L: Just to clarify, it’s in the greenhouse right off the Burke-Gilman. You won’t miss it.

Gary: It looks like a big asparagus.

Alma: It grew three free every week and it’s going to flower now and it will die.

Chris L: This will go out in the email but if you are graduating, let’s give yourselves a round of applause. Also please seek out Elisa or me and let us know because you are going in our alumni database. Particularly if you are staying in the Seattle, you will be talked to. Please do that so we have your information. It’s not that much. Some newsletter and some invitations to some events.
Justin: I just had a question about the university committee applications. The email sent out had 6 listed but there’s a bunch that I assume are opening up too. Can we apply for those now as well?

Chris L: Yes. The email had 6 or 7 of the most high priority one. They’re all equally high priority but check and see if the information should be up to date. We haven’t checked to see who is continuing or not but it never hurts to inquire and we can let you know if there will be an opening or not.

Alice: On the committees, did you wanted to go over what those committees are?

Chris L: Extremely briefly, PACS or Provost Advisory Committee. They advise the provost on matters of the university and on the budget. Services and Activities Fee committee manages a multi-million dollar budget. Student Technology Fee committee also manages a multi-million dollar budget and gives that back to groups on campus. The Bookstore Trustee. You are a trustee of the Bookstore which is a corporate entity that is entirely separate from UW.

Alice: I want to say one more. The U-Pass Advisory Board committee, we had a couple of really active members who are now leaving and to speak to Chris Erickson’s presentation of what next, it’s made up of entirely students and it actually has the power to dissolve the universal U-Pass. Next year, when that’s going to be a really big issue, we’re going to have to have really good representation on that committee so I would add that as high priority. If you’re interested in transportation stuff and can provide an unbiased voice for all students, you should consider this committee. Also $15 million budget. I have information from our current representative as well.

Chris L: They set the U-Pass rate. It’s an entirely student committee that sets the U-Pass fee.

Alma: I’m happy to take anyone to the Botanic Garden and I’m happy to take walks there.

Gary: I’ll take you up on that. By the way, graduation for the School of Social Work is on Saturday. Kshama Sawant will be our keynote speaker. I’m also graduating so come listen to her talk.

Chris L: Any other announcements? So I have one last thing. I used the word prerogative a lot and I know it sounds pretentious but I’m going to indulge in a minute of presidential privilege. We don’t have many traditions but maybe this might become one but Alice, can come up here really quick? As you know, Alice will be your president next year and with a lot of mixed feelings for this position, I’m happy that the senate will be in capable hands. The mixed part is that even though the work is exhausting and maddening, I just want to keep going, but I think were extremely, publicly and without equivocation, we’re extremely lucky to have Alice leading the senate next year. You’re going to get one of these on your own so you won’t get this one because it has my name and 2013-2014, but I will ask you to call for the vote to adjourn and do the sign and die wrap us out.
Adjourn:

Alice: Thank you, Chris. I want to thank Chris for his leadership on the executive committee and for the senate. He cares a lot and I feel really good. We’ve been meeting a lot and preparing for this transition and it’s been great meeting people and just to talk to them and moving forward he set us up to have a successful year so hope to see all of you back. If your programs doesn’t have elections, come anyway to senate meetings to stay involved and hope to see you next year. So I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Alex B: So moved.

Seyda: Second.

Alice: Any objections?