

## **GPSS Senate Meeting – January 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

### **1. Call to Order**

Charles Plummer, President, calls meeting to order at 5:41pm.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

Adam Sherman, Vice President: Moves to alter the agenda due to Mayor McGinn being a bit late.

Aaron Lykken, Evan School: Seconds.

None opposed. Motion passes.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes**

Eddy Schwieterman, Astronomy: Moves to approve the minutes from the November 30<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting.

Mitch Kaufman, Philosophy: Seconds.

None opposed. Motion passes.

### **4. Guest Speaker- Seattle Mayor Michael McGinn**

Mayor McGinn talks about his time as GPSS President. He asks: what are your sources of power? 1. Money is power. 2. Ideas have power. 3. Words have power. 4. Clarity. 5. Organizing.

Questions:

Adam Sherman: Talk to us about engaging students.

McGinn: Relationship organizing is where you connect people and ideals so that they become engaged. People tell their story, why they are engaged, leads to the story of now. Right now the vision we share at the state level is in jeopardy. If you can get people to take the first volunteer action, you can get them to do more. Volunteers are not resources to be mined, but are heroes.

Andrea Cobb, Sociology: Regarding the Seattle Family and Education Levy, what are some of your goals?

McGinn: School levies have been doubled. Partnering with schools. Created the RoadMap, and focusing on the achievement gap.

Sara Celms, Special Education: Looking to become a special education teacher. What are your thoughts on the school board situation?

McGinn: Government education system is not very accountable. We can use levies to spend money to generate results. Influence through speaking up about it. I don't have the answers yet. Charter schools are another answer.

Adam thanks the Mayor for coming.

## **5. Lobby Day Information**

Adam Sherman, Vice President: Lobby day is Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Register with your friends. This is your chance to take your work and show it to the legislature. Budget cuts have nearly eliminated work study, child care matching grants. Adam explains the Lobby Day contact cards and asks that Senators fill them out. Adam asked who is doing their own individual lobby day, and three senators responded.

David Scoville, Environmental and Occupation Health: Is there info about the issues?

Adam: I will talk about that during my officer report.

Onyinye Edeh, Global Health: Is Lobby Day 9am to 5pm?

Adam: If you use the free transportation provided, it's 9 to 5.

Andrea Cobb, Sociology: Is there training on messages?

Adam: Training will be provided.

Aaron Lykken, Public Affairs: Showing up for lobby day will make a difference, especially in person.

## **6. GPSS Strategic Planning**

Charles Plummer begins with a brief overview of the idea for strategic planning from the officers. Officers felt it was time to look at restructuring GPSS to better meet our goals.

Colin Goldfinch: The consultation work will be on a tight timeline, probably done by February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Moving from task force to implementation needs to be done by the end of the year. We need reasonable and achievable objectives.

We are appointing a task force so get an objective view of GPSS. Task force will be speaking with GPSS staff due to their knowledge of GPSS operations. Also meeting with specific student groups on campus, to get a full student body perspective. Lastly, comparing GPSS to other student governments. Once that is done, the taskforce will begin the brainstorming phase and work with three committees to make recommendations for the budget and bylaws. The GPSS budget is planned to be passed by March 7<sup>th</sup>. Bylaw amendments would be done before GPSS elections for next year.

Charles Plummer: opens up the forum for questions.

Adam Sherman: asks about steps A, B and C to be mentioned in further details.

Charles Plummer: Step A involves officers thinking about what officers believe GPSS does. After that, officers and staff sat down to talk about key things to do and how to best measure them, which was step B.

Melanie Mayock, Secretary: asks Senators to give their thoughts about the proposal or share their questions.

Nitya Venkateswaran, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies: Concerned about the timeline for taskforce – not enough time for consulting and gathering input from a wide variety of people. Colin responded that steps have been taken to make the process expedient.

Andrea Cobb, Sociology. What is the role of the taskforce for implementation?

Charles: That falls on the incoming officers. Andrea then asks how urgent these changes are. Charles responded urgency depends on the Senate's perspective.

Alden Denny, Oceanography. What resources will the ad hoc committee have to research other schools?

Charles Plummer: there will be presidential staff available.

Nicole Secula, School of Music: Thought bylaws and procedures were done by the Judicial Committee.

Charles Plummer: they will be involved, but they don't have to go out and consult everyone.

Eddy Schwieterman, Astronomy: Any specific issues that the executive officers would like to mention?

Charles Plummer: This is the culmination of many ideas over time. We see a lack of capacity to getting a job done. We aren't as effective as we should be.

Adam Sherman: moves to table the conversation, due to Mayor McGinn arriving.

Chris Lizotte, Geography: Seconds the motion. No objections.

[Talk by Mayor McGinn]

Evan Smith, ASUW: Moves to un-table the Strategic Planning agenda item.

Ted Chen, Bioengineering: seconds. No objections; motion passes.

Melanie Mayock, Secretary: Responds to Eddy's earlier question about any issues the officers want to mention. She says that GPSS is a little top-down, not participatory enough. Also compensation may be unbalanced.

Colin Goldfinch, Treasurer: Some plans to improve GPSS this year have been achieved; others have not. We need a holistic approach.

Sharon McRae, Nursing Science: Wants to know a little more about what GPSS has done in the past that was successful.

Charles Plummer: Some of that information is available on the GPSS website.

Melanie Mayock: Will send out information about past successes, including past year's officer reports.

Moroni Benally, Native American Students: What's your vision of GPSS?

Melanie Mayock: We'll send out mission and vision information.

Charles Plummer: Didn't put mission out there to avoid biasing task force.

Adrienne Meyer, Public Affairs: What is the oversight of this taskforce?

Charles Plummer: The officers will enforce timelines.

Jean Dinh, Medicinal Chemistry: Childcare assistance has been a great success for GPSS.

Nicole Secula, School of Music: Why create a separate ad-hoc committee? Who is better to handle this than the Finance and Budget Committee?

Adam Sherman: The taskforce was proposed to be well-rounded and have a variety of skills sets, not just a singular focus.

Melanie Mayock: The taskforce needs a holistic view.

Moroni Benally, Native American Students: The ad-hoc committee is a great idea.

Andrea Cobb, Sociology: Are some of the challenges fixable through policy change only?

Charles Plummer: The problems extend beyond day-to-day operations. We really don't know at this point what the issues are, and this process will hopefully shed light.

Andea Cobb, Sociology: Are parts of the bylaws off-limits?

Charles: everything is up for grabs.

Yasmeen Hussain, Biology: Moves to approve the committee and move on.

Eddie Schwieterman, Astronomy: Seconds.

Charles Plummer: Are there any objections?

Eder Sousa, Aeronautics and Astronautics: I object. It is better for staff and executive members to decide what's best to change, not Senators.

Yasmeen Hussain, Biology: There isn't any harm in forming the committee.

Charles calls the vote.

Nays: 1. Yeas, everyone else. No abstentions.

Motion passes and the ad-hoc committee is created.

## **7. Officer Reports**

Adam Sherman, Vice-President: Has been in Olympia - the legislature is exciting chaos. Shared governance is a big topic. Legislation is being pushed for students to have greater roles in budget and policy processes. Another piece of legislation will force public comment periods at Board of Regents meetings. The Hope Act, will reduce the sales and B&O taxes and replace with income tax. Much more progressive. Might be passed in 2-3 years.

Colin Goldfinch, Treasurer: Working on speed dating, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Science and Policy Summit, working on Keynote speaker and fundraising. Travel grant round just finished up, and sharepoint site under construction.

Melanie Mayock, Secretary: Explains her role, liaison to ASUW, recordkeeping, etc. Working on communications. Dispute resolution committee looking at other school's discipline solution policies.

Charles Plummer, President: Graduate program reviews - thanks Senators Adreinne Sussman and Jennifer Griffiths for streamlining process. Also getting acquainted with administration and committees. Met with the president a key times, who agrees mostly with our lobbying priorities.

### **8. Announcements**

Evan Smith, ASUW: Fill out your FAFSA form.

Melanie Mayock, Secretary: Leave your name tags when you leave.

Adam Sherman: Thanks for filling out the cards.

### **9. Adjourn**

Adam Sherman, Vice President: Moves to adjourn

Becky Edmonds, LGBTQ: Seconds.

No objections; motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 7:20pm.