GPSS Senate Meeting  May 30, 2012
Meeting Minutes

1. Call To Order
Charles Plummer (President) calls the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

2. Approval of Agenda
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy) moves approval of the agenda.
Kiana Scott (Evans) seconds.
None opposed; motion passes.

3. Approval of the Minutes
Edward Schwieterman (Astronomy) moves to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2012 Senate meeting.
Colin Batesman (Mechanical Engineering) seconds.
None opposed; motion passes.

4. Election for Treasurer
Charles: Need to first amend the GPSS bylaws before the Senate can elect a new Treasurer. The current bylaws do not cover the situation when an officer-elect resigns for their upcoming term. We’re proposing to amend the bylaws to cover this situation.

Melanie walks through the proposed changes. [See Article V, Section G, Clause 5 of the attached bylaw amendment proposal.]

Chris Lizotte (Geography): moves to amend the bylaws as proposed.
Edward Schwieterman (Astronomy) seconds
None opposed; motion carries.

Amy Winter (Dentistry) explains the rules for the special election for Treasurer. She takes nominations from the floor.

Vera Giampietro (Landscape Arch) nominates herself.
Buddy Rutzke (Law) nominates himself.
Ryan Shandera, (law student) nominates himself.

Vera, Buddy, and Ryan give speeches.

Questions from the floor:

Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer): Social Committee and Financial Committee for next year, what are your thoughts about sharing the work and best way to collaborate with those committees

Vera: finding out what people’s strengths are, and working together
Buddy: ‘servant leadership’- creating infrastructure for other people on the team to communicate, finding people’s strengths
Ryan: draws on past experience, give others titles and specialized functions

Becky Edmonds (LGBTQ): How will you make sure that all different people are welcomed and included at various social occasions?

Buddy: more input on the front-end
Vera: community engagement- delegating out to different organizational meetings and word of mouth- asking Senators to play a role and speaking to students
Ryan: putting together events that are free

5. Resolution Opposing Cherry Point Coal Terminal
Natalie Hale presents resolution for GPSS to oppose the Cherry Point Coal Terminal. (Please see attached resolution.)

Adam Sherman (Vice President) What are proponents of this project saying?
Natalie: It is good for the economy.

Melanie Mayock (Secretary): Is there a sense of what are other energy sources would be used instead of this in China?
Natalie: We do not want to support China in consumption of coal.

Those in favor: the majority (as called by Charles)
Those against: 5
Abstentions: 9
The motion passes.

6. Executive Senator Election
Charles talks briefly about the role and function of Executive Senators and the Executive Committee.

Question: Why are we only electing 2 executive senators? Who are the other two?
Charles: Executive Senators serve one full year from start date of their term. Megan Gambs and Trond Nilsen are the other two Executive Senators; their terms will be up in the fall.

Charles: Per the bylaws, the officers have nominated two people to be Executive Senators:
Amber Trout (College of Built Environment)
Chris Lizotte (Geography)

Amber and Chris give short speeches about their backgrounds and why they want to be Executive Senators.

Amy Winter (Dentistry) enters the room to announce the Treasurer election results.
Amy: Five people did not print and sign their name on their ballot; their ballots were not valid. The vote was very close. Congratulations to Vera Giampietro who will be our new Treasurer.
The Executive Senator election continues:
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): Moves to approve Amber and Chris as Executive Senators. Yasmeen Hussain (Biology) Seconds
None opposed. Motion passes.

7. State Legislative Agenda Amendment
Melanie introduces the amendment she is proposing for the 2012 GPSS State Legislative Agenda. The following statement would be added to the agenda: “GPSS supports policies at the local and state level that improve affordable and accessible transportation options for UW students. Maintaining convenient transit service to the University is a priority.” Melanie states that a new source of funding for public transit will be needed from the legislature in 2013, to prevent potential big cuts in bus service to UW.

David Scoville (Environmental Occupational Health): How do you see this in relation to the UAW effort to get rid of mandatory UPASS fees for Academic Student Employees?

Melanie: We need to keep UPASS universal for the program to work. Rather than not all Academic Student Employees paying for U-PASS, it would be better for the University to pay the fees for ASEs.

Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): Moves to amend state legislative agenda
Will Scott (Computer Science and Engineering): Seconds.
None opposed; motion passes.

8. Committee Chair Elections
University Affairs:
Charles describes duties and functions of this committee.
Melanie Mayock (Secretary): Nominates Kiana Scott as Chair of the University Affairs Committee. Melanie gives short introduction about Kiana and her past experiences.
Mateo Banegas (Public Health – Health Services): Seconds.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology) I don’t feel comfortable electing someone who is not here.

Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): Having worked with Kiana I agree with Melanie that she is well qualified.

Charles calls the vote.
In favor: 55
Abstentions: 7
Opposed: 0
Kiana Scott is elected University Affairs Chair.

Government Relations Committee:
Adam Sherman (Vice President): Responsibility of maintaining the book of standing opinion recently outlined in the new bylaws and for overseeing the work being done by the state and federal legislative committees.
Kimberly Schertz (Law) nominates herself.
Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Moves to elect Kimberly as Government Relations Chair.
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): Seconds Motion passes.

**Communications and Outreach:**
Melanie Mayock: Marketing to promote GPSS, work with new Secretary Kristen Hosey to get the word out.
Nicole Secula (Music) nominates herself.
David Scoville (Environmental Health) nominates Ryan Shandera.

Ryan has left the room. Wes Kovarik (Jackson School) calls Ryan, who accepts the nomination. Nicole withdraws her nomination.

Chris Lizotte (Geography): Moves to elect Ryan Shandera Communications and Outreach Chair.
Nicole Secula (Music): seconds
Motion passes.

**Social Committee:**
Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer): This committee helps the Treasurer come up with fun themes for social events, etc.

Melanie Mayock (Secretary): nominates Bonnie Lau (Speech and Hearing)
Ryan Shandera was also nominated.
Bonnie gives introductory speech.
Question: Should we vote by ballot or by hand.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Moves to vote by hand
Chris Graessler (Architecture): seconds
Motion passes. Vote will be by hand.
Bonnie is voted Chair of the Social Committee

**Finance and Budget Committee:**
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy) nominates himself. Eddie says a little bit about himself.
Amy Winter (Dentistry): Moves to elect Eddie Schwieterman to Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.
Chris Lizotte (Geography): Seconds
Motion passes.

**9. Bylaw Amendments**
Melanie Mayock: This is mostly clean-up of bylaws. Most are just making in line with new committee structure that was set up this year.

Jennifer Tippins (Jackson School-China Studies): Moves to waive going through all the bylaw amendments.
Kimberly Schertz (Law): seconds.

Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): Has Exec Committee looked through these bylaws?
Charles: Members of Exec Committee has looked through it

Onyinye Edeh (Global Health) opposes the motion to waive reading through the changes.
Yasmeen Hussain (Biology) seconds.
Motion not approved

Charles and Melanie go through the changes. [See bylaw amendment proposal document for details.]

Nitya Venkateswaran (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies): It would be helpful next time if you explain the reasons for each change when you send out the document.
Melanie: Good suggestion; we will do that.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Moves to approve the bylaw amendments.
Adrienne Sussman (Psychology) seconds.
None opposed; bylaw amendments approved.

10. Resolution – Travel Grants
Daniel Coslett (College of Built Environments) talks about travel grants resolution. This requires the Senate to appoint an ad-hoc committee to look into travel grants issue in the fall. By approving this resolution you are not saying you want to reinstate travel grants. This resolution allows for options.

Will Arighi (Comparative Literature) What is the procedure for appointing members to ad-hoc committee?
Charles: The President appoints members

Nathaniel (Electrical Engineering): Should all of the details of the ad-hoc committee be established in this resolution?
Daniel: I think we can work out details of the committee later.

Kimberly Schertz (Law): moves to approve the resolution
Yasmine (Biology) seconds.
None opposed. Resolution is approved.

11. University Budget Update
Charles gives University budget update. In the Provost’s plan, about 20% of new revenue will be used to back fill cuts from the past 3 years.

Chris Lizotte (Geography): This question is more for Adam. Since there were no cuts to higher education in the legislature this past session, are things going to improve in the future?

Adam: The budget was framed to the public as no new cuts to higher education. However, there was a $2.7 million cut on administration. The legislature also required the UW and WSU to increase spending on engineering degree production by $3.8 each but it did not provide funding for this. This means it is effectively a $3.8 cut to the rest of the University’s functions and programs. However, the state is seeing slow increasing revenue and this means that slowly, over time, things will probably start to improve and we are not likely to see the kinds of increases to tuition we saw this year.

Kelsey Knowles (Student Regent): Regents website shows where funding will go to.

12. State of the GPSS
Charles gives an overview of the state of the GPSS:

- U-PASS program turned 20 this year
- Deans/Administrators begin to welcome students to the budgeting process
- GPSS, through committees and working groups has kept administrators honest
- GPSS hosted 2 summits and several popular social events

Where is GPSS now?

- We run the risk of overextending this organization
- If you will be at UW next year, please take 30 minutes each week to get involved at UW, whether with GPSS or in other ways.

13. Announcements
Adam:
1) Thanks Colin for his service to GPSS over the past two years. The restructuring efforts could not have gone forward successfully without Colin’s dedication.
2) Thanks Charles for his leadership.

Rosie Lindeke (Nursing – Family and Child Nursing): The midwifery program in Nursing will not be eliminated. If any of you face the elimination of your program in the future, talk to me and I’ll be happy to share our tactics with you.

Charles: Thanks Amy and Mateo on Executive Committee.

14. Adjourn
Chris Lizotte (Geography): Moves to adjourn.
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy) seconds.
Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.