Title: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UAW LOCAL 4121 BARGAINING EFFORTS

Sponsored by: Jean Dinh (Medicinal Chemistry), Charles Plummer (GPSS President), Trond Nilsen (Industrial and Systems Engineering), Nicolas Cain (Applied Mathematics), Louisa Harding (Aquatic and Fishery Sciences), Michael Hutchins (Earth and Space Sciences), Nathaniel McVicar (Electrical Engineering), Mitchell Kaufman (Philosophy), Runze Yu (Civil and Environmental Engineering), Ted Chen (Bioengineering), Alden Denny (Oceanography), Marvin Lai (Pathology), Eder Sousa (Aeronautics & Astronautics), Kevin Cummings (Educational Psychology), Keolu Fox (Genome Sciences), Adrienne Sussman (Psychology), Henry Hunter (Biology), Heather Arvidson (English), Maroni Benally (Native American Students), Indre Baronina (Foundation for International Understanding Through Students), Julia Morris (Sociology), Aaron Zimmerman (Statistics), Tobias Gruenthal (Germanics), Kiana Scott (Public Affairs), David Scoville (Public Health- Environmental and Occupational Health), Jonathan Huang (Epidemiology), Megan Gambs (Oceanography), Adam Sherman (Vice President), and Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer)

Written by: Jean Dinh (Medicinal Chemistry)

Resolution Number: 01.11-12

WHEREAS UAW Local 4121 represents approximately 4,500 graduate and undergraduate Academic Student Employees (ASEs) at the University of Washington (UW), many of whom are constituents of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS); and

WHEREAS ASEs (Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, Tutors, Graders and others performing similar work) are responsible for much of the critical frontline work that makes the UW an internationally recognized institution of higher education; and

WHEREAS ASEs conduct research that is critical to $1.5 billion in grants and contracts revenue at the University; make the curriculum more accessible by providing over half of the instructional contact hours to the 36,555 undergraduates who attend UW; and help to make UW competitive in attracting first-rate students and faculty from all over the world; and

WHEREAS investment in ASE positions helps the University achieve its core missions and helps thousands of students improve their time-to-degree; and

WHEREAS tuition and fee increases have uniquely affected this critical workforce; and

WHEREAS mandatory unwaived tuition/fees are a condition of employment, and therefore an integral part of an ASE’s overall compensation package, such that increases result in a de facto pay cut; and

WHEREAS lower compensation for ASEs hurts the University’s ability to remain competitive, such that UW is now second-to-last in overall compensation for graduate employees compared to other flagship institutions in the Global Challenge states; and

WHEREAS the cost of waiving fees for TAs/RAs not paid by grants is equivalent to less than one-half of one percent of the UW operating budget; and

WHEREAS the budget for grants and contracts, which funds approximately 60% of ASEs, has increased by $363 million dollars since FY 2009, with continuing grants already budgeting annual increases for ASEs; and

WHEREAS the Washington State legislature – in response to action by GPSS, ASUW, UAW 4121, and various other higher education stakeholders - did not make any further cuts to the higher education budget for the 2012 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS the lack of sufficient family-friendly policies prevents ASEs, disproportionately women, from entering or remaining in the academic workforce; and

WHEREAS Local 4121 members voted overwhelmingly (99%) in favor of the bargaining agenda;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT GPSS supports the efforts of the UAW Local 4121 bargaining team and their proposals for: improving ASE overall compensation and standards of living; improving health care benefits to protect ASEs from extraordinary costs and adequately cover vulnerable and under-represented populations; improving childcare and leave benefits to increase access to higher education, and maintaining or increasing instructional funding to support ASEs; and

THAT GPSS urges the UW Administration and the University bargaining committee to come quickly to a fair agreement on the new contract that prioritizes access and quality at UW; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to UW President Michael Young; UW Provost Anna Mari Cauce; the UW Board of Regents; Mindy Kornberg, Vice President for Human Resources; Peter Denis, Assistant Vice President of Labor Relations; and David Parsons, UAW Local 4121 President.

Presented to GPSS for approval on May 2, 2012
Approved on May 2, 2012

Title: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE TO ESTABLISH AN AUTUMN 2012 AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GPSS TRAVEL GRANTS

Sponsored by: Amber Trout (Built Environments), Trond Nilsen (Industrial and Systems Engineering), Nitya Venkateswaran (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), Bonnie Lau (Speech and Hearing Sciences), Adrienne Meyer (Public Affairs), Daniel Coslett (Built Environments)

Written by: Daniel Coslett (Built Environments)

Resolution Number: 02.11-12

WHEREAS the mission of the University of Washington Graduate and Professional Student Senate is to “in every way possible, attempt to improve all aspects of graduate and professional student life at the University of Washington” (GPSS Constitution, Art. II Sec. A); and

WHEREAS participation in professional and academic conferences is a fundamental component of graduate school education and professional development for many graduate and professional students; and

WHEREAS the GPSS has for over five years administered a popular travel grant program; and

WHEREAS funding for conference travel has become increasingly difficult to obtain for many students during the ongoing University-wide budget reduction and fiscal restructuring process; and

WHEREAS the assembled Senate elected to terminate travel grants from the 2012–2013 budget and committee structure at its meeting on 4 April 2012; and

WHEREAS a group of Senators has expressed an interest in investigating potential opportunities to improve and/or reinstate the administration of GPSS travel grants in the future,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT an Ad Hoc Committee on GPSS Travel Grants be established at the first meeting of the 2012–2013 academic year to reconsider the place of travel grants within the GPSS mission; and
THAT the Ad Hoc Committee be charged with the task of, during the autumn 2012 term, investigating potential means for reforming the current and/or most recently used standards for GPSS travel grant applications, award and distribution processes and be required to actively investigate alternative sources of funding for such grants, including those available from the University, alumni and others; and

THAT the Ad Hoc Committee be charged with the task of collecting data, to eventually be made public, on grant funds dedicated to conference-related travel currently available across the University; and

THAT the Ad Hoc Committee be required to make an official report to the Senate by the conclusion of the autumn 2012 term on its findings and conclusions; and

THAT the official report is to include a formal recommendation on the future of GPSS-administered travel grants for the consideration of the body.

*Presented to GPSS for approval on May 30, 2012
Approved on*
Title: RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED SSA MARINE CHERRY POINT COAL TERMINAL

Sponsored by: Amber Bronnum (Public Health-Health Services), Student Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Student National Medical Association, the Health Services Student Association, the Critical Development Forum, the Real Food Challenge at UW and 85 graduate and professional students.

Written by: Natalie Hale (School of Medicine/ School of Public Health) and Emily Wing (Psychology)

Resolution Number: 03.11-12

WHEREAS the proposed coal export terminal at Cherry Point would harm the global environment by enabling the continued combustion of coal in China by selling it at a price lower than could otherwise be produced, thereby releasing large amounts of heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change asserts is the “dominant factor in the radiative forcing of climate in the industrial era;” and through localized pollution to air, surface water, groundwater, and soil in communities from Wyoming to China where coal extraction, transportation, and combustion take place.

WHEREAS the coal export terminal would harm local ecosystems in Whatcom County by increasing stresses on endemic herring in Bellingham Bay which are a keystone species in the Salish Sea food web and are already at risk; by contaminating the composition of topsoil within .62 miles of the terminal to up to 20% coal by weight and by potentially introducing invasive species when barges empty ballast water at Cherry Point; and

WHEREAS the coal export terminal would harm the local economy by necessitating up to 18, mile and a half long coal trains a day; disrupting local businesses and devaluing homes with the coal dust and train frequency; and putting at risk waterfront properties at risk including the Downtown Seattle waterfront, Hiram Chittenden Locks, and Golden Gardens.

WHEREAS the coal export terminal would degrade community health by increasing pulmonary, cardiac, cancer, and safety risks because of the diesel particulate matter, coal dust, noise exposure and delayed emergency response times, according to over 180 Whatcom County physicians.

WHEREAS the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has shown that coal dust causes bronchitis, emphysema, and black lung disease in exposed coal workers.

WHEREAS the coal export terminal would harm social equity by sending trains through several underrepresented communities including the South Fork of the Nooksack River valley.
WHEREAS the coal export terminal would harm the UW community by putting at risk the
area’s pristine environment which attracts prospective students; and for the aforementioned
impacts in this document that affect all residents of Western Washington including the UW
community.

WHEREAS the City of Seattle, as signatories to the Earth Charter, is committed to “community
development which addresses respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity,
social and economic justice, nonviolence, democracy, and peace.”

WHEREAS the UW community, as stakeholders in Seattle, carries the responsibility to apply
learning through civic engagement on issues that have direct impacts to the Seattle community at
large, of which the UW is inextricably a part of, by upholding the commitments that our city has
made. Current UW students comprise approximately 7% of the total population of Seattle.

WHEREAS UW has committed in its Climate Action Plan, “Careful attention to the effects of
climate on the Pacific Northwest…means we work with Washington’s citizens to manage those
effects wisely.” recognizing that 79 students have exercised their contribution by signing a
petition opposing the coal terminal.

WHEREAS UW signed the President’s Climate Commitment, stating that “we believe colleges
and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by
modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions”.

WHEREAS the UW has stated through its Office of Sustainability that “the University of
Washington has established a commitment to environmental stewardship, setting the bar well
above merely complying with laws and standards. The University is committed to being a
positive force for enhancement of the environment, not just in research and education but in how
it manages facilities and resources.”

WHEREAS UW was recognized as the 1st “Coolest School” nationally on the Sierra Club’s
annual list of universities addressing climate change and sustainability.

WHEREAS the associated student bodies of the University of Puget Sound and Western
Washington University have passed similar resolutions opposing coal terminals and UW’s peer
universities of Whitman and Evergreen are currently working on similar resolutions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT the GPSS finds the facts included in this document to be an accurate representation of the
detriment to the environment, economy, and social welfare associated with the proposed coal
export terminal at Cherry Point; and


THAT the GPSS finds that these facts conflict with the values of the community and the University and further finds that UW students have a civic responsibility to the communities of which we are inextricably a part; and

THAT the GPSS take a stance in opposition to the proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point because of its harmful impacts to the global and local environment, the local economy, community health, social equity, and the UW community; and

THAT the GPSS supports alternative economic proposals that uphold the aforementioned values of sustainable communities and sustainable ecosystems; and

THAT the GPSS urges that no new coal export terminals be constructed in the Pacific Northwest, and stands in solidarity with other student communities working across the region, including the Coal Action Network, to protect their communities from similar coal export terminals.

Presented to GPSS for approval on May 30, 2012
Approved on
Title: Resolution in Support of Student Technology Fee Key Server

Sponsored by: Colin Goldfinch (GPSS Treasurer), William Dow (ASUW)

Resolution Number: Exec_01.11-12

WHEREAS: The Student Technology Fee (STF) is attempting to modernize its software distribution and maximize its cost-effectiveness by centralizing product keys to lower the amount of purchases being made; and

WHEREAS: The STF committee has asked the ASUW Board of Directors and GPSS Executive Committee to approve the funding of a grant for the aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS: The project will need to be staffed by two graduate assistants, who will be monitored by UW Information Technology (UW-IT); and

WHEREAS: One of the positions is currently only funded until April and all graduate assistants must be funded through the year per UW-IT policy; and

WHEREAS: The cost of funding said positions will only constitute a small percentage of STF's overall funding, and the potential gains from the keyserver project are great; and

WHEREAS: The Revised Code of Washington 28b.15.051 (5) empowers the ASUW and GPSS to approve the Student Technology Fee's expenditures;

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

THAT: No more than $10,270 from the STF fast track surplus be spent on both graduate assistants until June 2012.

THAT: One graduate assistant be funded for 10 hours a week starting in January 2012 and ending in June 2012, and that the other graduate assistant work 19.5 hours a week from April 2012 to June 2012; and

THAT: The ASUW and GPSS support the STF committee in its attempt to increase student access to software while at the same time lowering costs; and

THAT: There be an implicit, although not binding, understanding between the STF Committee and the ASUW and GPSS that funding be provided to hire graduate assistants working on the keyserver from 2012-2013.
Title: Resolution to Approve Funding for a New GPSS Office IT Network

Sponsored by: Colin Goldfinch (Treasurer)

Resolution Number: Exec_02.11-12

WHEREAS: the GPSS’ tech infrastructure is aging and several computers are no longer operating at the capacity required to support GPSS’ work; and

WHEREAS: the GPSS requires a central storage location to modernize its archives, improve institutional memory, and ensure compliance with public disclosure laws; and

WHEREAS: the Services and Activities Fee Committee recommended that the GPSS incur the financial outlay required for refreshing its office IT network out of the GPSS general fund; and

WHEREAS: the GPSS officers, staff, executive committee members, and other content experts have been consulted on which equipment will optimize the GPSS’ productivity while minimizing cost; and

WHEREAS: the GPSS will be assigned a UW eProcurement buyer who will help to find discounts, meaning the prices itemized in the attached, ‘IT Network Expenses Summary’ are likely to be higher than the actual price but may vary at the time of purchase;

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

THAT: $22,000 be allocated to purchase equipment equivalent to what is itemized in the attached, ‘IT Network Expenses Summary’; and

THAT: if the total sum is less than $22,000, as expected, the unused funds are to remain in the GPSS general fund and may be allocated for other purposes; and

THAT: the GPSS Treasurer be given authority to spend 15% more than this sum in the case of cost overruns, without seeking new permission from the GPSS Executive Committee; and

THAT: the GPSS Treasurer be authorized to allocate funds from the General fund to pay for warranties for the purchased hardware; and

THAT: the GPSS Treasurer will present a report to the GPSS Executive Committee on final purchase and implementation of the office IT network after completion.
Universal Student U-PASS Advisory Board Resolution 1.02
June 19, 2012

Submitted by: Melanie Mayock, Vice-Chair

Statement regarding the Arbitrator’s Opinion on the UAW 4121 Grievance against the University of Washington regarding student fees

WHEREAS: RCW 28B.15.610 grants authority to students to levy fees upon themselves and the Universal U-PASS is one such fee; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Regents authorized on May 12, 2011 the University to collect the Universal U-PASS Fee on behalf of students; and

WHEREAS: The United Auto Workers Local 4121 filed a grievance against the University on September 20, 2011 regarding the imposition of two new mandatory student fees on Academic Student Employees effective September 2011, alleging the University violated Articles 1, 2, and 7 of the Collective Bargaining agreement; and

WHEREAS: The Arbitrator’s Opinion, dated May 24, 2012, found that the University violated the Collective Bargaining Agreement when the Universal Student U-PASS fee was imposed on Academic Student Employees; and

WHEREAS: The Universal Student U-PASS Advisory Board sees the Universal Student U-PASS program as a common good to all students; and

WHEREAS: Because the Universal Student U-PASS Advisory Board views the fee as a collective contribution for the benefit of the greater university community, it believes that allowing any students to opt out of the fee would undermine the goals of the program and its financial stability; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSAL STUDENT U-PASS ADVISORY BOARD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT: The Universal Student U-PASS Advisory Board requests the University continue to collect and administer the Universal U-PASS fee that students have imposed upon themselves; and

THAT: The Universal Student U-PASS Advisory Board recommends that the Universal Student U-PASS fee for Academic Student Employees be paid for by the academic or administrative units that employ each ASE; and

THAT: A copy of this resolution be sent to the ASUW Board of Directors, the GPSS Executive Committee, UAW 4121 President David Parsons, Vice President for Student
Life Eric Godfrey, Senior Vice President for Finance and Facilities V’Ella Warren, Provost Ana Mari Cauce, and President Michael Young.