Approval of Agenda
Natalie Gordon (Secretary): Moved to remove the Spotlight and hear Student Regent Marnie Brown in its place, and to move the U-Pass discussion to after the Social Work Student Union discussion, Evan Firth (Oceanography): Seconded
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): Moved to amend the agenda to add the creation of an oversight committee for STF, Elloise Kim (English): Seconded
Evan Firth (Oceanography): Moved to approve the amended agenda, Federico Fabbri (French & Italian Studies): Seconded.

Approval of minutes
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): Moved to approve the minutes.
Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): Seconded.

Spotlight - Student Regent Marnie Brown
Regent Brown: I am a Graduate student, and I got my undergraduate degree at the University of Washington as well. I am originally from Olympia. I got very involved senior year and learned about the Student Regent position. First I will give you a brief overview of the Board of Regents. UW is public institution, however the governor does not have time to attend all the meetings, so he assigns ten people to attend meetings and report. One of my two areas of focus this year is college councils, which are a way for deans to interact with students and bounce ideas, and a place where he can go to students for advice. Currently we have 8 or 9 councils going. Another focus is mental health. Social media reflects a pseudo “perfect life” but depression and anxiety are the top reasons of student drop-out, with finances being second. The Mindfulness Project is focusing on proactive rather than reactive help (it is located in Mary Gates Hall). They invite speakers to come and talk and have meditation workshops.
Alice Popejoy (President): Can you talk more about the Student Regent Position? How to get appointed, what’s the process?
Regent Brown: Student Regents serve a one year term. Students are a big portion of the school, the idea is to get student opinion up in the board level. They are a full fledged regent-the only vote I should abstain from is academic appointments. Student Regent is a political position, but my job is to help the Board understand student opinion and make sure those voices are heard. The process to get appointed is to fill out an application, it opens at the end of March. There were a couple of essays, and you submit it to a committee. They will pick their top candidates and they send those to the governor’s office and make appointments based on those recommendations. I know a lot of people don’t apply because they don’t have previous political connections or experience, but I encourage you to apply regardless. It’s an
amazing opportunity. Also I have office hours, if you have an issue or just want to talk, you can. Friday mornings from 9-11 AM in Gerberding.


Amirah Majid (iSchool): Any comment on the process of selecting a new president?

Regent Brown: President Young has decided to leave the University of Washington. We are not worried about finding a fit candidate to fill the position.

Saejin Kwak (Education): What specifically are you doing with the Mindfulness Project?

Regent Brown: There is no specific target for the Mindfulness Project yet, but right now the goal is just to get the resources on campus now.

Amirah Majid (iSchool): Are there any aspects of student opinion that the Regents need more feedback on?

Regent Brown: The big thing on the Regents’ plate now is the president fulfillment and also legislative issues. We are really thinking a lot about what kind of leader the students want, and we value student opinion a lot in terms of finding the suitable applicant. In terms of legislation, we want to continue to let the legislators know how important this institution is to Washington State.

Jason Young (Geography): With balancing keeping UW as a distinguished research institution and student opinion, how often do they conflict each other?

Regent Brown: I anticipate later down the road when we talk about housing rates, we will try to make them as affordable as possible for students, but at the same time the cost of construction also needs to be taken into consideration. Another topic would be student tuition. But I am confident that it will not come to a point of conflict.

STF Oversight: Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy), Yasmeen Hussain (Biology), Kyle Curtis (ASUW Finance Director), Douglass Taber (Treasurer)

Yasmeen, Doug, and Eddie propose an ad-hoc committee in accordance with Article VI, Section I, Clause 2 of the GPSS Bylaws, requiring a simple majority vote. The committee will be tasked with general GPSS oversight of the STF committee, convening jointly with representatives from ASUW to make improvements to STF, and making a final report containing recommendations of any changes, if any, to STF by the end of the year. Appointments to the STF oversight committee will be made by the Executive Board and its mandate will extend until the end of the 2014-2015 academic year.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): The STF fee is a $41 dollar fee that everyone pays. STF is a committee that decides where that funding goes. It’s a huge budget of about $5 million. The Executive Board feels that there has been some communication problem between STF, GPSS, and ASUW. STF money has 15 times the budget of GPSS. The bylaws actually said that GPSS and ASUW should jointly oversee the functioning of the committee. It takes a simple majority vote to establish this oversight committee.

Hope Sisley (Earth & Space Sciences): Point of information, what is oversight?

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): It would essentially be looking through information, minutes and making sure that STF is meeting students’ needs. We would meet jointly with ASUW.
Alice Popejoy (President): The committee would provide them with more information so they can do better with communicating with us and ASUW.

Amirah Majid (iSchool): What's the reaction of STF regarding the oversight?

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): The executive board has met with the STF chair at the last exec meeting. The chair has acknowledged some mistakes and is willing to work with us. There are 10 people that sit on a committee that is managing $5 million dollars, which is very concerning. There is also the problem of absenteeism. Often there are few people deciding on a million dollar budget application.

Elliot Koontz (QERM): Where does all that money go?

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): STF funds things like computer labs, remote computing, and other technology resources for students. Everything that is funded by the STF should be accessible to all students. We should also ensure the accessibility of the resources to students.

Bree Herndon (Family & Child Nursing): Would this committee be only for this year?

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): Yes.

Alice Popejoy (President): There is an official relationship between STF and GPSS. We have Executive Liaisons going to their meetings. It’s the President’s job to make sure that there is active participatory communication. Now I will entertain the motion to approve an ad-hoc committee for STF oversight.

Devin Bedard (Earth & Space Sciences): So moved, Evan Firth (Oceanography): Second. All in favor - unanimous

GPSS Officer Elections Announcement

Luis Fernando Centurion (MSIM): According to the GPSS bylaws we will have election on April 22nd, the second meeting of Spring quarter. You have to be a full time student to be eligible. During the next GPSS meeting we will send out a packet and outline all the procedures. We look forward to getting your applications.

Alice Popejoy (President): We are more than happy to talk to you about the things we do and the responsibilities we have if you are interested in any of the positions.

Social Work Student Union - Dimitri Groce, Jooree Ahn, Sean Johnson

We are student organizers from the School of Social Work. Our primary focus is looking at the unpaid social work practicum program, and reflecting the practicum program according to DOL standards.

- Major Concerns: the legality of unrecognized practice, the displacement of paid workers (compensation controversy), lack of protection
- What is a practicum: a required internship by the School of Social Work. The idea is getting theory and ideas in practice and reflecting back. We cannot graduate without practicum. How we have been interacting with practicum though is more similar to actual work. The most pervasive part is that- when you are a practicum, you are expected as a “worker” rather than just there for internship experience.
- CSWE the crediting body of School of Social Work. This impacts about 500 students. There are also residential costs. We broke the numbers down, if there were only 400
students in program (there are a lot more than that), then students are essentially paying $24.72/hour for practicum.

- Discrimination- who advocates for us at jobs? When someone experiences sexual harassment or injury, who would represent our group? As a social worker, you might be susceptible to injury, but now there is nobody who would represent student workers.

- Unstructured system- As social workers, we are expected to just do this thing. Some of the faculty and administrators think it is a normal process.

- DOL standards lays out what is legally an unpaid internship
  - All of criteria have to met
  - The internship experience is for the benefit of the intern
  - Not entitled to a job at the conclusion of the internship
  - Similar to training or educational environment ( violated)
  - Do not displace current employees (violated)
  - Employers derive no immediate advantage from the activities of the intern; and on occasion its operations may actually be impeded (violated)

- The experience should be centered around learning experiences, around a classroom or academic experience as oppose to the employer’s actual operations.

- We surveyed whether the 6 criteria were met
  - About 50% of the student body disagrees that the practical side is centered to a learning or academic experience.
  - 71-77% of students among the master degree students disagree that agencies derive no advantage from their work

- Our knowledge is not just from the surveys, but also from years of experience. Students feel like their practicum site is receiving the most benefit. We are there to build strategic partnerships with UW and practicum venues.

- One of our biggest concerns is the requirement that Interns do not displace regular employees, but work under close supervision of existing staff.
  - Example: Seattle Counseling Services has 10-12 interns, each intern handles about 10 cases. How would they handle the workload without having an extra staff without us?
  - UW has done nothing to address the survey

- Most students feel like
  - student have displaced employees
  - students do the work of paid employees

- Drafting a Resolution
  - We are writing a resolution to support UW to conduct independent survey. We would like an independent agent to look at this issue and evaluate the problem without having specific agenda
  - We want to urge the UW SSW to procure sustainable practicum positions that are compensated and therefore protected under Federal Labor Laws that ensure student safety
We want to create an opportunity for UW SSW to set a precedent against unpaid practicum

- We are doing a lot of work getting different narratives, if you would like to more information, we can also send the packet out.

Questions

Brandon Ray (Atmospheric Sciences): What are the unintended consequences of getting paid internships?
- **Sean:** Agencies depend on us. They couldn’t really do the work without us. Funders would take student labor into consideration when doing fundraising.
- **Jooree:** Some agencies are under the impression due to administrator's influences that practicum are not allowed to be compensated or paid. But that is actually not true.
- **Dimitri:** There is an inconsistency of work study and wages. Administrators wouldn’t disclose much of the information to students or agencies.

Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama): Are there any other schools that can potentially support you guys on this issue?
- **Dimitri:** I think that is a great springboard for ideas. It’s hard to even organize our school, but coming to GPSS is a great way to have that solidarity and have a springboard.

Douglass Taber (Treasurer): Right now the Federal Labor Law says that you are responsible for any injuries that happens on job site?
- **Sean:** The school and agencies are not liable- we actually sign a waiver.

Lise Lalonde (Comparative Literature): Can I still co-sponsor even if I am from a different school? → Yes

Erin Dunnington (Nursing Accelerated): Are you working toward becoming licensed social workers?
- **Jooree:** In order to graduate you have to do these hours, but these do not count toward your licenseship. It's a rigorous process.

Jason Young (Geography): Have you consulted lawyers? Consultants? How important is it to have that legal perspective?
- **Sean:** We haven’t really reached a consensus on whether we want to go the legal route. We don't want to penalize the agencies. But we feel that we just want our work to be honoured and recognized by the UW.

Branden Audet (International Studies): Did you guys know the requirement before you applied for the School of Social Work?
- **Sean:** I don’t think you can know. How do conceptualize work and study? The reality is that we are in social services, there is a high need. If you are here, they will use it.
- **Dimitri:** They didn't actually tell you the hours- you don't know much until you sign up for another credit for lecture to know about the practicum procedures. They make you move out of the paid positions you are currently holding.

Alice Popejoy (President): Entertained a motion to extend time

Douglass Taber (Treasurer): Moved to extend time by 4.5 minutes, Elloise Kim (English): Seconded.
Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): You are advocating for making practicum into a purely educational experience?

- Dimitri: There are a lot of ways that this can go. It doesn't necessarily mean compensation, but also that many of us coming in have previous experience in social work. I think those should be counted toward the hours. I think it’s up to the school to identify what’s the gap.
- Sean: What we really want is compensation to protect us under the labor law.

Bree Herndon (Family & Child Nursing): It’s hard to conceptualize, the lack of information happens a lot in the health field, which is something we should keep in mind.

Elloise Kim (English): Can you share the story you told at the exec meeting about the boundary between work and education?

- Dimitri: You apply for the School of Social Work, you already are working, you know you are doing practicum. But once you get in practicum, they ask you to leave job. You can't double up and have those hours count toward practicum hours.

Douglass Taber (Treasurer): Evan’s School is one year practicum - we can apply for previous working positions. Is there a possibility where you move from previous higher positions to lower positions due to practicum?

- Dimitri: There are many cases of experienced social workers becoming interns again.

UW Transportation- Executive Liaison on U-Pass Advisory Board (Alex and Jerry)

U-Pass rates are increasing for 2015-2017

What the board does

- Fee increase: The Board voted to recommend the fee increases in the next few years. The fee would be 80 dollars/quarter in 2015-2016 and 86 dollars/quarter for 2016-2017
- The fee started out as an opt in program, not universal. In 2010 & 2011 we passed a resolution on university U-PASS to make it universal.
- According to the 2014 travel survey- 40% are commuting to school by public transportation. The majority of students are benefiting from the Universal pass.
- U-Pass has almost decreased the travel mileage and emissions by 50%
- 94% of students in a recent-campus wide survey reported satisfaction with the U-Pass
- 99.4% of surveyed students use U-Pass for transit, night ride, carpool

Reasons for recommending increase rates

- Current U-Pass rate has stay steady for 4 years
- Community Transit and King County Transit has fare increases in 2015
- The opening of Link Light rail to campus and expansion of transit service in Seattle and the University District following the passage of Prop 1 will increase usage and cost.

Increase in U-Pass Value

- The February 2016 opening of university link station will transform the way many students get to campus.
- Light rail will be a faster option for many students

Improved service

- 55,0000 service hours from King County metro routes serving UW
Why the increase is necessary

- We will be in deficit next year due to fare increases. But because of the trust, we have been able sustain in past years.

Conclusion

- $80 & $84: cost of a 2015-2016 and 2016-2017
- $297: cost of all King County Transit without UW savings. Great savings for students

Sustaining the Program

- Keep U-Pass financially Solvent
- Setting the rates for the next to years will provide predictable fares and enable lower rate increases.

Alice Popejoy (President): Entertained a motion extend time
Alex Bolton (Vice President): Moved to extend time by 5 minutes, Evan Firth (Oceanography): Seconded.
Alex Bolton (Vice President): What would happen with U-PASS if more transit doesn’t happen?
Alex (UPass Executive Liaison): With more demand, we are expecting more use, which creates more cost. Seattle transit has had a fair amount of rate increases.
Joseph Telegen (English): What are the exclusions and inclusions that are covered under that card? For example, there are a few things on the list that I personally have never utilized. Why do so few students know about some of the services?
Alex (UPass Executive Liaison): We have made some suggestions on promoting the resources that the UPass provides.

Lobby Day Re-CAP

Alex Bolton (Vice President): We had a great turnout. The ASUW Bothell president spoke. The Spotlight went well, we had 11 posters. We had some feedback from undergraduates saying that they liked it. Quick legislative update: the medical school bill that allows WSU to have a medical school will be voted on, we will have a proposal to expand our medical school in Spokane. It will be heard in next week. If you have any questions. just ask me. Next week I will be proposing a resolution on reducing the cost of textbooks. I have been working with legislators to change the culture of textbooks.

Officer Reports

Douglass Taber (Treasurer): Thursday is the V-Day Bring Your Game Face Mixer at 6:00 PM. It’s free, bring your ID. There’s games, food, and free beer. If you are interested in learning about about the officer elections, talk to me.
Natalie Gordon (Secretary): The diversity committee is having our second Campus Conversation. It’s next Thursday, 5-6:30 at the School of Social Work. Also Diversity has a lot more funding left, so if you have a student organization that promotes diversity, apply for funding.
Alice Popejoy (President): I am meeting with the Graduate Student Experience committee for the first time next week. GPSS Liaisons - this year we are making an effort to invite them to
summits, so they can join the conversation with us since many of them aren’t senators. Go click on the ‘get involved’ tab and you can submit applications through that channel.

**Announcements**

*Douglass Taber* (Treasurer): We have a lot funding left for departmental grants, so apply for them.

*Brian Tracey* (Marine & Environmental Affairs): During the week of February 23rd the Law School is having a diversity week. They have events every day that week regarding diversity and LGBT issues.

*Eddie Schwieterman* (Astronomy): If you want to co-sponsor the School of Social Work Union resolution, I have it here. It’s a really great cause.

*Christine Tran* (Education): Tomorrow from 11-1 there is a workshop on gender studies.

*Alice Popejoy* (President): On February 20th there is a screening of Fixed in Odegaard 220, it starts at 6PM.

*Natalie Gordon* (Secretary): If your department has an internship or practicum, please send your information to me so we can gather information about the extent of this issue.

**Adjournment**


Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM