



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT SENATE**

Senate Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019 | Hub 332

Officers and Executive Senators Present:

GPSS President: Giuliana Conti
GPSS Secretary: Amy Gabriel
GPSS Treasurer: Robby Perkins-Hood
GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs: Sydney Pearce
GPSS Executive Senator: Zhiyun Ma
GPSS Executive Senator: Jackie Wong
GPSS Executive Senator: Michael Diamond
GPSS Executive Senator: Lillian Ferraz
GPSS Executive Senator: Jacob Ziegler

1. Call to Order **5:34 PM**

2. Approval of Minutes **5:34 PM**

Sam Fouad (Art, Art History, and Design): Motions to approve minutes.

Jackie Wong (School of Dentistry): Seconds.

3. Approval of the Agenda **5:34 PM**

Casey Duff (ASUW Rep): Motions to approve agenda.

4. Student Regent Kaitlyn Zhou

5:35 PM

Giuliana Conti: Introduces Kaitlyn Zhou. Will discuss role on Regents and then Senators will up vote and down vote questions to ask.

Kaitlyn Zhou (Student Regent): Comments that is a 5th year Master's student in Computer Science and notes also did undergraduate degree at UW in Computer Science and Human Centered Design Engineering. Going to give a brief overview of what BOR does, discuss how to apply to be a student regent, and talk about the 3 main issues she has been working on recently. 10 regents appointed by the governor, all regents serve for 6-year terms with the exception of the student regent, who has a 1-year term. Charged with governing the entire university. Can talk with them to understand how the university as whole functions. The Regents control approval of the annual budget, payout of endowment, how much debt to take on, which capital buildings are built, etc.

Distinguishes between management and governance. Student regent role in particular is to collaborate with other governing body Presidents. Know passed Callisto resolution – important-but between three campuses, not a lot of coordination to work together to fund the software. Thinking about how to improve tri-campus relations and collaboration. Also thinking about 21st C liberal arts on undergrad level. How do we prepare them for long term success, but also allows them to create impact the day they graduate? People have proposed a data science minor, but would like to ask undergrads to find out what they want. Thinking about financial transformation with UW's 3-phase project. Each phase is \$200 million and it's about changing UW's financial system – the HR system, the finance system and the student database system. It is something do not think about because do not see it and cannot see progress being made, but it effects all three campuses, differently (Seattle has larger teams that are able to take on big changes, whereas Tacoma has smaller teams).

Student regent application. Application opens in early Spring. GPSS and ASUW president alternate who hosts (this year is ASUW). Apply and interview. Three finalists are chosen, then interview with governor's office and the Governor makes the appointment. Good to ask for letters of support from the public (relationships and community service). Outlining in detail, because felt when she applied, there were aspects that were unknown to her until the end and part of encouraging a diverse student body is to make the process transparent to all students.

On other critical point is it is very different from roles of student presidents. For the student regent, the stakeholders are not just students, it is everyone being affected by the university – may not even be on campus, but still affected by outcomes of this institution. Have to think broadly about what is best for the university, not a particular population.

Board of Regents website is a great reference. To prepare for application, read through meeting minutes to prepare. Can find the agendas for the Board and Committee meetings and see the critical conversations they have.

Questions:

What are other current issues that are being worked on by the board and are there any that impact the grad school directly?

The Board worked on the School of Medicine last year. UW Medicine is on campus, but there are also four other hospitals that collaborate with UW, also merging with NW Community Hospital and the transition has been difficult in some ways. Another part has been looking at the organization of UW Medicine as a governance board and restructuring so can better communicate.

They have also had conversations about the School of Dentistry and the financial crisis. The dean is working on new strategies.

Something else that has come up is the debt ceiling – UW owes about \$200 million in debt. Have decided to cap out on that. So will continue to carry the same amount of debt moving forward. So cannot build new buildings unless find another way to finance it. Cap is so can maintain bond rating.

You are a grad student, how is that informing your approach as a student regent?

Something that has stood out to her as a graduate student is that the community of support she had in undergrad has disappeared. Grad students are locked into their department and with their advisor. There is no independent third party to mitigate any breakdowns in that relationship. The biggest thing has been community and how to build it across the graduate school. When you only have 1-2 underrepresented students in a program, how do you build community? Knows the Provost is interested in increasing fellowships for graduate students as well, so finally starting the conversation about how to finance graduate education and make it accessible.

How does a committee determine who will be invited to provide comments on issues?

The agenda is set by the Regents individually. There is a Board Chair, Vice Chair and Chairs for each individual committee. Serves on all three committees – Governance, Academic Affairs, Finance, but plays a bigger role on Academic Affairs committee. Usually a few people from the committee set the agenda, and usually things put on agenda from a year ago, but it can be quite simple to get time on the agenda. Brings up key issues through collaboration with administrators and faculty.

How much influence do you believe the student regent has on the board, relative to other appointed members?

Has the same voting power as everyone else. All student regents will tell you that it is shocking that they treat us as a peer and take student regent voices very seriously. The insights she shares

are not always hers – she brings up points from students, allowing student representation at the highest level.

Regarding the university’s endowment and finances: is it within your purview to advocate for divestment from controversial companies or industries...?

There is a lot of misinformation that gets circulated about what is being invested in and what is not. Listening to students and have divested from coal. So don’t think this is different from other issues. If it is raised to the Board it is something they will consider. Also have to remember Board Members are appointed not elected – the decision has to be for entire university, not necessarily representing student population.

Giuliana Conti: Out of time, but can send Kaitlyn other questions and can send out responses. Encourage you to reach out to her.

Kaitlyn Zhou (Student Regent): All Board of Regent meetings are open to the public and all have time for public forum so can always raise any concerns/issues there.

Giuliana Conti: Public forum is underutilized. A lot of times it is unions that come with grievances. To have grad students come and raise issues would be powerful. Check out website.

Kaitlyn Zhou (Student Regent): The agenda is always posted the Friday before the Board Meeting, with all of the information. So if there are particular items you see, that’s when you would want to sign up.

Giuliana Conti: Welcomes new senators. Comments that if Senators see Board of Regents agenda items would like to know more about, it is always helpful to speak with people who know about the issues before the meeting. She will think of a good way to ask for your feedback for the Board of Regents.

5. SAGE Delegation Application

5:57 PM

Giuliana Conti: Says that hoping that Senators will come with some Officers to DC in March 24-27, 2019. During Spring Break. Opportunity to lobby on the federal level with GPSS and meet graduate students at other universities. Had a Fall summit in Austin, TX. Created working groups, which were sent out to you as opportunities to work on a federal level with other graduate students. Part of the application for the DC trip asks whether you have been involved with those. Abbie and Brittany who are on the Policy team, along with Kelsey Hood who is in Olympia know most about it. Encourages Senators to go, great opportunity.

Amy Gabriel: Asks, if someone were to apply how is it paid for?

Giuliana Conti: Everything is paid for with training beforehand. Will be sending more information in e-mail.

Sydney Pearce: Through the Special Projects Fund can fund two people to go with up to \$1,500/person.

6. Upcoming Events & Marketing

6:01 PM

Matt McKeown (Events Director): Next Friday, Jan. 18th Legislative Town Hall and Reception. Kelsey Hood will come from Olympia. Kelsey Hood will present and people will have a chance to ask her questions. Held between 2:30p-4:30p in the Lyceum. Please promote with posters that will be going out. Important to hear constituent voices.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Huskies on the Hill, collaborative event with ASUW is in just over a month. The RSVP form closes in 2 weeks. If interested, please RSVP. There is a training associated with it. Please send RSVP link to constituents.

Matt McKeown (Events Director): Notes that will be advertising at the Town Hall, but next thing is a partnership with Odegaard Writing and Research Center – hoping to give writers a community to write with while working on dissertations. Event will be promoting students to create their own writing circles. Jan. 29th from 3:30p-4:30p in the research commons. More info at the next meeting. It is open to all students. Please share with constituents.

Gives overview of events for the quarter. Winter Social Thursday, Feb. 21st at Horticulture Center. 7pm-10pm. Harry Potter themed. Also working with Mimi on Self-Care Soiree, big open event with self-care things. Basically time for students to de-stress. Working with the IMA to potentially host that there. Also working on events that include a Student Loan Repayment Panel and a Student Health Panel.

What are we missing? Are there events we should plan? Student populations we are not reaching? Any questions?

Has been looking at how we can do a better job marketing with the University Affairs Director, Stephanie Becnel. Will be asking senators their thoughts at the next meeting.

Giuliana Conti: Just to add to that – we have president’s poll and breakout session tonight.

7. Bylaw Amendment

6:09 PM

Giuliana Conti: The amendments were sent in your e-mail. There are two. Reads the first proposed amendment. Notes that the purpose of the amendment is if implement something, it isn't implemented until the next year, but with staff/officer/senator turnover it is more challenging.

Amelia Schwartz (Geography): Was there any discussion of doing it by quarter rather than immediately?

Giuliana Conti: Not yet, but can propose amendment. Reads the second proposed amendment.

Amy Gabriel: This was created with Michael Diamond to clarify how to add non-academic seats. The point is to ensure underrepresented students can have their voices heard at GPSS. This amendment adds clarity to the process.

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): The Bylaws only had a vague phrase, but the Constitution said underrepresented population, so wanted Bylaws to represent the Constitution. Also working on a policy memo to clarify exact procedure.

Tim O'Neal (Neuroscience): Motions to vote.

Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering): Seconds.

Majority approves.

8. Breakout Session

6:14 PM

Lillian Ferraz (Evans School): Explains activity. In break-out sessions today will share knowledge about how students are able to advocate for change within their own departments. Want to share ideas to help folks make changes within their own departments. Presents questions to help guide conversation. Will have the opportunity to share out. Executive Senators and Officers will be group facilitators.

Breakout sessions occurred

Lillian Ferraz (Evans School): Regrouping for golden nugget from each group.

Robby Perkins-High: Reports that one idea the group stuck on was communicating with constituents more and connecting campus wide issues to departments to give students an idea of what to do. (i.e. campus-wide health insurance).

Sydney Pearce: Notes that the group she led discussed building on the marketing overhaul including an all campus template for e-mails and something for Senators all to be able to share as well. Also connecting to all social media accounts.

Zhiyun Ma: Reports that discussed how we advocate for change within departments and desire to also engage with faculty members to build a strong task force.

Olivia Ortiz (Law School): When on staff at the law school, worked with the GPSS Senator and brought him into team meetings. Suggests senators talk with program coordinators because they have more power than realize.

Chase Kania (Business): Comments that also discussed how to make themselves more accessible to people in their programs.

Giuliana Conti: Comments that there are other reps in the departments who communicate with admin that are not senators, and some departments have ways that they communicate with constituents, but overall more communication is needed and channels are not clear. Sees room for GPSS to recommend frameworks to help departments with better infrastructure for communication.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans School): Notes that the Exec Board would love to work with senators on how to help promote communication.

9. Memoranda

6:35 PM

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): Says Executive Committee has been setting procedures through memoranda, since Bylaws say rules but not how to do it. All memos are able to be reviewed by Senate body. The problem is, it is not very straightforward for senators to find them in the Exec minutes. So going to be more proactive about bringing memos to Senate. Wanted to talk about 3 current memos that have passed in the last quarter.

All memoranda will be on GPSS website, although they are not there yet. The first, passed over the summer, was dealing with the resolution timeline. The memo simplified things to establish one master timeline that supersedes all other timelines. It is most important for Secretary to know, but an FYI for others. There were also more substantive changes made – giving more time for debate. After the 2nd reading closes, instead of moving directly to a vote, will offer at least 5 minutes for debate. Currently there was not a place for more general debate about whether should be doing the resolution in the first place. The other big change is recording votes on resolutions so constituents can see what senators are voting on. Do not have the technology yet, but will eventually use Poll Everywhere. This memo was suspended last quarter, but is now in effect.

The next one was a memo for trying to find money to expand the number of people who can attend SAGE Day on the Hill in DC. So it was this memo that opened it up to Senate body.

The last one was regarding the Special Projects Fund. It was approved last Spring in the budget and the memo described how would apportion the funds. Including the note that if funds were left over from Fall, the application process will re-open in Winter and Spring for more funding.

Please reach out to Exec with questions, or objections can be brought on the Senate floor.

10. Resolution on RCSA Non-Academic Seat

6:40 PM

Amy Gabriel: Introduces Trevor Hunt from RCSA, Residential Community Student Association with another petition for a non-academic seat. A memo will be coming that will describe the process for passing a resolution to add a seat. It will make it a little more formalized than the one line in the Bylaws.

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): Presents resolution.

Amy Gabriel: Resolution was e-mailed out.

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): Director of External Affairs, but gist of it is serving all on-campus residents. There are nearly 10,000 on-campus residents, over 400 are graduate students.

Dean Allsopp (Evans): Can you speak to the reason for needing or wanting a seat?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): Been in conversations with RCSA's Executive Board – trying to figure out how to engage with the graduate community who live in the housing, so want to get them involved in RCSA and the broader governments on campus. RCSA is directly involved with ASUW and there are protected seats in their Senate, so this is an extension of that. Want to tap into another resource to complete the mission of RCSA which is to advocate.

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences): Can you explain your proposed election process?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): Will be an open application process, and there will be a marketing campaign for that. Committees will review, there will be an interview process, and selection will be by the council body.

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Science): Is the seat open to any on-campus grad resident?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): Absolutely.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): How involved are grad students in RCSA? Will there be a large number of them interested in GPSS?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): In the past there has been a graduate student who lived on campus and attended the GPSS meetings, but has not been a voting member. That position has existed at the direction of the Area Director of Mercer – which houses a lot of grad students, so want to institutionalize the role.

Giuliana Conti: The alternative is – her representing grad students with RCSA once a quarter.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans School): This representative who would be a Senator on the GPSS floor – would it also be a Board position on RCSA?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): We do want to eventually see some representation on the RSCA Executive Board, in the meantime it would be attending every other general council meetings and 1 Exec. Board meetings to report back.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans School): Your Board is all paid members?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): Exec board is compensated members.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans School): The seat is for underrepresented groups so wondering how a paid board fits under the notion of an underrepresented group?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): We focus on the residential community, so to that degree, underrepresented in this body because not currently represented.

Zhiyun Ma: I live on campus in Mercer, so on-campus graduate students are also represented by their departments – how do think adding this additional layer of representation will improve grad student experience?

Trevor Hunt (RCSA): By having someone focused specifically on residential affairs and someone focused on experience of on-campus resident, not on their department. They would be bringing that voice.

Amy Gabriel: The process will be detailed in the memo. So this will take the form of a 2nd reading, then motion to vote.

Casey Duff (ASUW): Motions to vote on petition.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Seconds.

Amy Gabriel: Objections?

Lillian Ferraz (Evans School): Yes, would like more debate. Speaks against this, I think focus on graduate student residents is important, but would want the role to have representation on the RCSA Board, not just a liaison.

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): There were senators who lived on-campus who were able to advocate on issues that would not otherwise be brought. A lot of grad students are parents so think it's an important perspective.

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): Motions to close debate.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Seconds.

Giuliana Conti: Objections? Finding None.

Vote: 25 ayes, 13 opposed, 13 abstentions

Phil Leung (Molecular Engineering): How can we re-open for debate?

Giuliana Conti: With Robby Perkins-High's abstention, the moment for debate has passed. So the RCSA seat has not passed. Thank you to RCSA for coming and presenting this and we can continue this process. Graduate student input is important and it is important to have connections with them. Hopefully they can return with amendments and we can...

Sydney Pearce: We counted the votes wrong.

Tim O'Neal (Neuroscience): Is it calculated by counting yes to no, or does it also include abstentions?

Sydney Pearce: It's just yes to no votes.

Re-count Vote: 25 yes votes, 17 opposed, 10 abstentions.

Giuliana Conti: The resolution passes. Now have an allocated seat for RCSA.

11. President's Poll Pilot

7:00 PM

Giuliana Conti: Not sure will work.

Sydney Pearce: Motions to amend agenda and remove this item.

Neil Cragg (Nursing): Seconds.

12. Program Reviews

7:00 PM

Sydney Pearce: Gives quick overview of what a program review is. Chance to make big substantive changes to programs. Programs are reviewed every ten years. If your department is being reviewed this year, Sydney will be reaching out to you.

Giuliana Conti: Program reviews are incredibly important. They may seem frivolous, but they are important. When Giuliana Conti's program was reviewed, she was the only graduate student who showed up. Even though it was recommended to have another review in 5 years rather than 10 years, there has been no transparency within the department. And her department had the worst program review in several years. Opportunity to bring up issues of funding, diversity etc. Senator

voices are important. Get constituents to engage as well. Want to get the reviews faster because 10 years does not make that much sense.

Dean Allsopp (Evans): Are program reviews open to the public?

Giuliana Conti: No, they are open by invitation to people in those departments. It will be a panel of faculty from across the country and the department who are supposed to be neutral.

Sydney Pearce: Can give these handouts explaining how they work to other students.

13.Elections Committee

7:05 PM

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): This is informational but on Jan 23rd will solicit nominations for Elections Committee. It is incredibly important. Without it would not be able to continue on with GPSS. The first thing the committee does is create the elections guide (the rules). What candidates can do with campaigning, materials can use, how much can spend, date of elections, and deadlines etc. That is created by the end of Feb.

The next phase goes into collecting candidate information. The Elections Committee is the main point of contact to make sure candidate's information is accessible online to constituents.

The last phase is administering the elections. Helping out with logistics that day. Counting ballots etc.

Any questions?

Giuliana Conti: Obviously if on Elections Committee, not running. So if want officer position cannot be on it.

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): Also if want to endorse people, not the best role because supposed to be neutral.

Giuliana Conti: Will send out a handout and last year's guidebook. Highly encourages Senators to participate because what keeps GPSS equitable and accountable.

14.Academic Conference

7:10 PM

Giuliana Conti: Information about this is coming via e-mail. You can coordinate with 3-4 people and submit as a panel. Application is ready on GPSS website. Interdisciplinary conference is an incredibly enriching experience. Looking for keynote speaker from grad and professional student

body, so please apply if interested. Will be looking for people to help go through applications. Apps are due Feb 20th and the conference will be April 19th.

15.Senator Announcements

7:12 PM

Sydney Pearce: There are openings for liaison appointments on DawgPack (students and athletics) meets Mondays 4:30-5:30, bi-weekly, and the Student Safety Advisory Board, also meets bi-weekly with meeting time TBD if you're interested.

Amy Gabriel: Diversity Committee awarded \$2000 to 5 campus groups for events this quarter will be marketing them soon. Also doing a survey for GPSS. Will be meeting at 1pm tomorrow to go over draft. Will send out for Senator completion by next Monday, Jan 14th.

Brittany Whitley (Policy Director): FuseWashington holding lobby day in Olympia on January 29th. Will be discussing clean electricity, Orca Protection, oil spill prevention etc., so if interested in environmental issues you should go. Amy Gabriel will send out information for RSVP.

16. Adjournment

7:14 PM

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences): Motions to adjourn.

Mason Proffitt (Physics): Seconds.