



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT SENATE**

Senate Meeting Minutes

February 6, 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 Vice President of External Affairs: Kelsey Hood
GPSS Executive Senator: Zhiyun Ma
GPSS Executive Senator: Jackie Wong
GPSS Executive Senator: Michael Diamond
GPSS Executive Senator: Jacob Ziegler

1. Call to Order 5:38 PM

Giuliana Conti: Provided information for counselors and 2-hour drop-in grief counseling at Mary Gates Hall tomorrow.

2. Approval of the Agenda 5:39 PM

Mimi Krutein (Pathology): Motions to approve agenda.

Mason Proffett: Seconds.

3. Approval of Minutes 5:40 PM

Rachel Hutto (Biochemistry): Motions to approve minutes.

Casey Duff (ASUW Rep): Seconds.

4. Student Legal Services

5:40 PM

Giuliana Conti: Introduces Leron Vandsburger, from Student Legal Services (SLS).

Leron Vandsburger (SLS): Says he is a law student, and formerly a postdoc at UW. SLS is a legal office providing full legal services for full-time students who pay the SAF, otherwise will refer you out. Provide a range of legal services, including: wills & estates, family law, small claims (i.e. landlord tenant, lemon law), and other general practice. SLS recently got a new Co-director, named Tanya Fekri, who has a background in immigration law, so can help students who are on an F-1 or any other temporary visa status or if you marry someone who is on F-1, can help with adjustment of status. As well as any number of immigration issues that come up. Leron focuses on IP and business in law school. A lot of people at the university are involved in scientific research or are involved with the arts and develop material that could be copyrighted. So is currently working with the Entrepreneurial Law Clinic to expand services for students to include these issues.

To what extent is SLS accessible to students whose first language is not English?

SLS has people who speak English, Spanish, French, Farsi, and Tagalog, along with interpreters in Arabic, Japanese, Chinese – that being said, cannot operate outside of Washington, where documents must be in English.

I have a lot of parking tickets, can you help me work with the city to diminish them?

Yes. But important to note how SLS provides services. First step is the consultation phase, which is a free 45-minute consultation with a law student who will review the case with a director. The second step is a reduced per/hour rate of \$20/hr if working within King County and a little more outside, plus a \$10 admin fee. So yes, they can help with parking tickets.

Does SLS have resources available for students who may be experiencing visa issues in regard to their PI?

SLS cannot represent a student whose adverse party is an employee of UW. But as an immigration issue can request a consultation for a case between a student and the government, just can't do a dispute between student and UW employee. It's about conflict of interest – the UW pays our bills, so cannot represent anyone against the university.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans): Point of Information: What is a PI?

Leron Vandsburger (SLS): A principal investigator, the professor who hires the students.

Giuliana Conti: The primary researcher on a specific research grant.

Leron Vandsburger (SLS): It is a specific designation for someone who is the lead on a grant, who has a supervisory role.

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): Point of Information: If this is your employer, you can also go through a grievance process with the union.

Leron Vandsburger (SLS): Yeah, so when SLS cannot represent a student because of a conflict, provide referrals and also resource-based consultations, where we provide all of the other available resources that are available on campus, and the union is one used for employment issues with the university.

If you have time can you talk about transitioning from doing a post doc to law school?
Pass, for now and if have enough time will discuss.

Can you repeat information about the other resources available to students who don't pay into SAF, like postdocs?

Often directed to Care Link – which includes health services, mental health counseling, legal help. Does not know if UW Care Link provides legal services, but if they do it would be there. If not, would need to pay for an attorney, but there are also numerous neighborhood legal clinics in Seattle that provide consultations and referral service.

What resources were put into place to support the mental health and wellness of law students?

There is a peer support program and Dr. Benjamin is the resident counselor.

Do you work with office of Ombuds?

No, not affiliated with them. SLS services are bound by confidentiality. Ombuds is not bound by legal duty to confidentiality, although they do attest to it.

Giuliana Conti: Do people know what the Ombuds do? They are third party mediation office for the university. So if you have an issue with power dynamics between advisor, they will act as an intermediary and do conflict resolution. Do you ever have cases where you refer out?

Leron Vandsburger (SLS): Yes, when it isn't a legal problem. Like a lab culture issue – better suited to be handled through the Ombuds and the university.

When do you think Entrepreneurial Services will be available?

They are always available. Will consult with people who come in with IP cases and then refers to the Entrepreneurial Law clinic for full corporate/IP treatment. Will have a regular, counseling workshop with attorneys downtown eventually.

Do you provide notary services?

No, there is a notary in the law school, but not sure if they are available to the university at large.

Can you get a consultation for family member issues?

Can only provide services to UW students, but can always come in for a consult.

Back to: If you have time can you talk about transitioning from doing a post doc to law school? Was not getting what he wanted out of his post doc, so started looking into alternatives. Found that he was eligible for patent bar with his engineering degree. Patents are the only type of law you can practice without being a barred attorney. So passed the patent bar, and then was encouraged to go to law school because more lucrative, and could consider other roles outside of patents.

Can SLS help with visa/legal issues in another country?

No, because cannot practice law in another country.

Giuliana Conti: Contact information is easy to find on the website.

5. Executive Senator Election

5:58 PM

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): Notes that at the last Senate meeting, mentioned will be electing one new Executive Senator. Exec. Senators are one of the board members who take care of high level decision-making processes and other activities/events. Invites Senators to take a minute to think about the time commitment and whether you are a good fit.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Point of Information: What additional meetings do you have to attend?

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): Have to attend Executive Board Meetings, which are on the off week from Senate mtg. So would be attending meetings every Wednesday. Any nominations?

Giuliana Conti: Asks whether there are any questions for current Exec Senators to help determine whether this is a commitment want to make.

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): If someone is currently Senator for program and then become Exec, do they have to fill the Senator position?

Giuliana Conti: No, they are still the Senator for their department.

Stephani Landdeck (Social Work): When is the role over?

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): The term is two years, or whenever you graduate. If you want to run again, you can extend by 1 more year.

Stephani Landdeck (Social Work): Say I am about to graduate soon. When would elections be over?

Giuliana Conti: This is an election for the Executive Senator seat. Not the same as the Elections Committee that we created last time. It's confusing. This is one person for the role of the Executive Senator spot. We've had Executive Senators who start and only stay committed for a shorter period of time.

Ashley Bagley (Marine and Environmental Affairs): Nominates Chris Boylan.

Chris Boylan (Marine & Environmental Affairs): How long is the Exec meeting?

Giuliana Conti: The same length as Senate. Do you want to come up and say a little about yourself?

Chris Boylan (Marine & Environmental Affairs): Studying in School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, moved here from Chicago. Did Biochemistry in undergrad, but now is more interested in Environmental Affairs. Was in student government in undergrad and was an RA. Started coming to GPSS because felt stuck in bubble.

Giuliana Conti: Notes that GPSS has a Campus sustainability initiative working on. Any other nominations? Hearing no more nominations.

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): Says can move forward by approving this by unanimous consent unless anyone objects.

Giuliana Conti: Repeats the above. Hearing no objections, now have an Executive Senator.

6. Upcoming Events

6:06 PM

Matt McKeown (Director of Events): Harry Potter Social coming up on Feb 21st from 7-10pm at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture. Due to snow day, did not have time to print posters for this meeting, but will ask Senators to come back to the GPSS office and pick up to put in departments. For Spring Quarter, will be trying to hold more family friendly events, so any ideas, please send.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans): Are costumes encouraged?

Matt McKeown (Director of Events): Yes, but people can also just show up in whatever they want to wear. And you can bring a guest. Always can e-mail with any other questions.

Sydney Pearce: Huskies on the Hill is Monday, Feb 11th. If attending, know if driving or bussing. If driving, forms need to be in to Abbie today. Mandatory training is 4-6pm this Friday with pizza. Any questions go to Kelsey Hood, Abbie, and Brittany.

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): If I cannot make it, but I am interested in work you do, can I come to the training?

Kelsey Hood: Yes, but definitely let us know if you will not be attending Huskies on the Hill.

7. Graduate Arts Council

6:10 PM

Giuliana Conti: Explains that this is the most arts Senators GPSS has had in years. A study showed that art student representation in GPSS was low because they are so overloaded with physically and emotionally taxing and time consuming work. Realized no central location to get work done in terms of advocacy on campus.

Introduced themselves:

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): Not a senator, but was involved a few years ago.

Cal Dobrzynski (Design)

Samer Fouad (Design)

Caroline Harvey (Art History)

Genevive Hulley (Art History)

Jonathan Rizzardi (Drama)

Giuliana Conti (Music Education)

Giuliana Conti: Advocating for an Arts Graduate Council to be housed within GPSS for sustainability and longevity in an already existing structure.

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): Notes that there is a Science and Policy Committee, so were thinking it would be great to have an Arts Council representing practitioners in the arts since they are a smaller group that does not get much airtime. Would be a great way to advocate for students in the programs who may not get it anywhere else. Also a way to collaborate and to think about how to advocate for the arts, particularly while endowments for arts are under attack. It is an important time to be organized.

Giuliana Conti: Says the UW administration acknowledges that the arts get really poor funding. Is on Graduate Fellowship Task Force and one of the acknowledgments is that the trickle down of money through the Deans all the way down to directors is a really convoluted process. And by the time it gets to TAs and Ras, it's inconsistent, which has a drastic effect on ability to sustain yourself while in graduate school. Do not get consistent, year-long offers. Has never been funded through her own department.

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): Notes that some programs are different. The Phds in Drama are fully funded for 4 years, but it is a really small group as a result.

Genevive Hully (Art History): Explains that art history is also really small. Only has 2 Phds who are fully funded for at least the first two years. The head of graduate studies in her department, suggested getting together with other departments to discuss funding.

Giuliana Conti: Says it is about the ability to meet with space and options for funding, but also about looking ahead at incoming generations of grad students. Arts students cannot go back out into community unless finish their degree and have had people who have stopped their program because they couldn't get funding to finish.

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): Motions to extend time by 3 mins.

Surakshya Dhakal (Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences): Seconds.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans): Are you looking for a motion or is this a resolution?

Giuliana Conti: This will take a 2/3 vote after a motion to create the Graduate Students Arts Council.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans): Are you looking for a motion today or next meeting?

Giuliana Conti: Today.

Sydney Pearce: Asks since the arts and humanities are frequently linked together, did you consider making it an Arts and Humanities Council or was there a specific focus on the arts?

Genevive Hully (Art History): Art History is under the School of Arts here, which is unusual. But Phd in Art History students TA in History Department all of the time.

Sydney Pearce: So want it art focused?

Giuliana Conti: Says they want it focused on Art to start, because want to create something that can live in before building out, but ideally would eventually include humanities.

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): Simpson Center for Humanities on campus does a lot of the advocacy work, but there isn't something like that akin to the arts.

Sydney Pearce: Notes that as chair of Science & Policy Committee, anyone is allowed to join. Is anyone allowed to join the Arts Council?

Giuliana Conti: Yes.

Genevive Hully (Art History): Yes, part of it is bringing awareness to the Arts and having people from other disciplines taking Art classes.

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): Says if you are someone who is an artist or cares about the arts, but studying in another discipline would be happy to have them.

Giuliana Conti: Adds also cannot get a practice room key if not an art student. Could work on opening that to non-art students.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Motions to extend by 3 mins.

Surakshya Dhakal (Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences): Seconds.

Giuliana Conti: Reads mission of Arts Council.

Monica Cortes Viharo (Guest): Notes that the programs listed are what are considered the Arts at UW.

Giuliana Conti: Questions?

Robby Perkins-High: Motions to vote on this committee.

Casey Duff (ASUW Rep): Seconds.

Vote: 2 abstentions, clear majority

Giuliana Conti: We now having standing committee for the Arts.

8. Diversity Committee Updates

6:22 PM

Sierra Adibi (Aeronautics): Have Sarah who will talking about Praxis conference coming up this month.

Sarah (Guest): Says is a 3rd year graduate student in the English department and is on the committee for the Praxis conference. It's an interdisciplinary conference on writing pedagogy, that draws on Paulo Freire, on intersection of theory and practice. The theme this year is Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Visions and Practices for Institutional Change. Have a lot of cool speakers across disciplines and communities, including community organizers, undergrads and graduate students etc., coming in to share their own experience and expertise on anti-racist pedagogy. If it interests you, please attend. Its free in Haggett Hall. If you want to volunteer, still need them. Can register and volunteer at tinyurl.com/praxis2019; tinyurl.com/praxis2019/volunteer.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans): Is this a yearly conference and are graduate students allowed to submit?

Sarah (Guest): Yes, its annual and graduate students can submit. Will let you all know earlier next year, so have time to submit. Mostly grad students and even some undergrads. Don't know what the theme will be yet, but ideas are welcome.

9. Services & Activities Fee Breakout Session

6:26 PM

Robby Perkins-High: Says the SAF is paid by every student at UW, every quarter for all non-academic services on campus. UW is unique in that the fee is created and levied by students and students are entirely in charge of allocating the fee, so can prioritize where to spend money. There is a SAF Committee, with 11 voting members (6 undergrads, 5 graduate students). Committee meets every Friday for the whole year. A lot of rules and regulations in the Fall, then hear orientations and budget schedules from all the entities that seek funding. At the end of each academic year, SAF votes to allocate funds to all the units each year.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Adds we just heard from SLS, who is funded by SAF. GPSS is as well. Hall Health is partially funded and Counseling Center is entirely funded by it. The committee itself is 11 people, so student voices that we reach are limited unless we come to you all to get your opinions. So want ideas and thoughts from you all about where money should be going.

Robby Perkins-High: Notes that SAF is meant to be a representative of student opinion, but there is only 11 people and there is no mechanism to get student input campus wide. So only up to those 11 people to allocate \$19 million dollars a year. So trying to figure out how to get students more involved in it. Going to break out in small groups to discuss.

As we mentioned, currently, the only mechanism for feedback is you all talking with constituents, but most students do not know how the money is allocated. Also welcome ideas about what process GPSS should use to appoint representatives for the following, we welcome them. Right now it is put in the call for liaisons, but would like any ideas of how to make it more representative.

Three questions:

How can GPSS incorporate more representative students voices in the SAF decision-making process?

What process should GPSS use to appoint its representative for next year?

How would you like to be informed about SAF related decisions and policy items?

Discussing in small groups.

Robby Perkins-High: Please share 1-2 ideas from each group.

Giuliana Conti: Suggests when students acknowledge the SAF fee at the start of the year there could be a feedback box/list of priorities, so students can say what they want. Provides a more structured way to give feedback. Also recommends appointing reps at the end of the year, to serve on the committee the following year. Also would be good to do once a quarter GPSS update on SAF with data (pie charts, bar graph). But just general transparency.

Amy Gabriel: Recommends a mandated survey in the registration process, with checkboxes for priorities, so cannot register without it. More advertising about it and fact that it is a public meeting. Like the liaison idea and would suggest also provide more information about SAF and \$19m budget. Also should help senators share information with constituents. Quarterly update and highlights with how money was spent.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Also recommends appointing liaisons the year before they serve. Suggests having senators send out surveys to their constituents, to make sure getting to all populations for instance, parents. Incorporate diversity in selection process of the liaisons on SAF. Also having the individual units who are proposing to SAF provide data from a survey that they have done to demonstrate the need for the allocation/interest in it.

Lillian Ferraz (Evans): Suggests having an advice box that is available whenever GPSS makes a presentation or on websites of funded SAF groups. Have pre-determined Town Halls or meetings posted at the beginning of every year. Recommends that liaisons start in winter, then transition with next liaison in Fall to help them moving into winter.

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): Echoes what others have said. Suggests promoting the liaison opportunities sooner rather than later, like the year before it starts, to reach more students and have more targeted/focused advertising. Recommends staying in open communication during budget making process, that is not just through e-mail.

Kelsey Hood: Suggests doing a Catalyst survey for grad students to ask them about what is important to them and include a list of priorities from GPSS. Suggests a focus group with electronic participation as well. Also recommends getting information about SAF out there with posters in the HUB with writing space for feedback directly on it. Also, giving information about SAF during orientation, having a SAF table at GPSS events, relay information through Senators, have SAF members distribute information to departments, and putting a drop box in each department for suggestions.

Sydney Pearce: Adds one that could be implemented now. Since SAF just votes once at end of year there is still the opportunity for people to learn about proposals. So an e-mail to all of campus or all Senators to share with various proposals and opportunity for feedback would be good.

Robby Perkins-High: Thank you and will be around after the meeting to continue the discussion.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Also have the STF Committee, which he is on it, so can ask questions about that fee as well.

10. SafeZone App

6:52 PM

Sydney Pearce: Introduces SafeZone. It's an app that is owned by UWPD. It works anywhere – in the US and abroad. It has a lot of different services, but one of the best is it connects you to local services wherever you are. It also allows you to check-in if you feel unsafe – it will share your location with UWPD only in that time frame, so once the user ends it, UWPD can no longer see your location. Can download from the App store and log-in with UW NetID. Also hoping in the case of an active shooter, that notifications would go through the app.

Giuliana Conti: Adds one more layer. When traveling abroad if there is a cell network the app would send you notifications of local disasters and would notify the UW that you are in a zone that is at risk.

11. Elections Committee Update

6:54 PM

Ashley Bagley (Marine and Environmental Affairs): Says Elections Committee had their first meeting this afternoon and Frances Chu will be chair. The committee is updating the guide and welcome any additional thoughts and feedback. Hoping to get the guide to the Senate at the next meeting, Feb 20th. Tentative Election date is May 1st.

12. President's Poll

6:55 PM

Giuliana Conti: Another way to get feedback without sending an e-mail.

Why did you become a GPSS senator?

(example of responses)

Community

Provide a voice

To get involved

Provide a voice

To be more involved on campus

To connect my department to other people on campus

To serve my department

To keep my peers informed and connected

Giuliana Conti: Addresses a point about funding for departments. Can go to GPSS website, department allocations. Can talk with Giuliana Conti about understanding for how funding works in your particular department.

What are the issues you have heard around campus concerning graduate students?

(example of responses)

Mental health

Discrimination

Harassment

Fee waivers

Safety

diversity

Giuliana Conti: Thanks for responses. This is particularly helpful to figure out what we should be addressing next.

What is your favorite emoji?

13. Officer Reports

7:01 PM

Giuliana Conti: Appreciated everyone's feedback about Officer Reports. Will keep it concise and then send more full reports.

Robby Perkins-High: Working on getting a draft of the budget to the Executive Committee and F & B Committee by Friday morning.

Amy Gabriel: Leaving for National Student Leaders in Diversity Convention on Friday. Still working on the Composition Survey. Hopes to have it out by the next Senate Meeting on the 20th. Will likely have a Judicial Committee opening, and need one more for quorum, so will be in touch about recruiting. Will be hosting Resolutions 101 with Giuliana Conti; Monday Meetings and Wednesday Workshops. Every Monday from 3-5pm can make an appointment to chat with Amy Gabriel about resolution ideas. Then on Wednesdays of Senate Meeting weeks from 3-5pm, Senators can join Giuliana Conti and other Senators to do workshops.

Giuliana Conti: Most resolutions came through the workshop last year.

Kelsey Hood: Huskies on the Hill is coming up. In Olympia this quarter, so presented a session update and listed bills working on, will send out in an e-mail as well. Feel free to ask any questions.

Sydney Pearce: Sits on DawgPack and have a grad and professional student night for UW women's basketball game. It's a buy 1, get 1. Did this for student parents, and people who have spouses or partners who do not go to UW. Another event coming up on Feb 22-23. The event is Hack: Education of the Future sponsored by Globant,. They want ideas, something to do with education. Globant is a really cool company and good connection if interested in web design or computer science.

Giuliana Conti: Would like to talk with parents as she begins to advocate for childcare. Also talking with a grad student who had to pay for another ticket for a caregiver at a UW sports event, so working on changing the policy for all performances and sports events on campus. Meeting with a lot of administrators. Recently spoke with Dean Barnes about the lack of communication and support for grief and general feeling of not being supported. The law school will be increasing communication channels with students and will be providing avenues for anonymous feedback about people and functions/structures of law school. Also met with the Faculty Senate Chair, George Sandeson, to build stronger connection between the Faculty Senate and GPSS. Also working on Academic Conference, please share information with constituents. Still on Graduate Fellowship Task Force, which is expanding beyond Phd students to include Masters students in programs that are Masters to Phd as well. Also is still analyzing campus wide financial census from December.

14. Announcements

7:08 PM

Samer Fouad (Design): For anyone who needs design help, works at the Design Help Desk in the Consulting Studio in the Research Commons on Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30pm. Can help with Powerpoints, UX/UI, websites or anything that is design, can help design it.

Matt Mckeown (Director of Events): Facebook event for social – please share it. One other event is the self-care event with yoga, massage chairs and therapy dogs etc. Let him know about any other suggestions.

15. Adjournment

7:09 PM

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Motions to adjourn.

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): Seconds.