



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT SENATE**

Senate Meeting Minutes

March 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 External Affairs: Kelsey Hood
GPSS Executive Senator: Zhiyun Ma
GPSS Executive Senator: Jackie Wong
GPSS Executive Senator: Michael Diamond
GPSS Executive Senator: Jacob Ziegler
GPSS Executive Senator: Chris Boylan

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

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

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Motions to approve agenda.

Casey Duff (ASUW): Seconds.

3. Approval of Minutes **5:35 PM**

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

4. UW Food Pantry

5:36 PM

Giuliana Conti: Introduces Sean Ferris, from the UW Food Pantry. Will be using Poll Everywhere to answer and submit questions.

Sean Ferris: Notes that is talking with Senate as grad student leaders on campus, but also keep in mind that as students, these resources are available. Distinguishes between food insecurity and hunger. Food insecurity is about financial or systemic resources in your community. When it comes to the student experience here, students fluctuate from food secure to food insecure. At the beginning of the quarter the financial comes in and students are more secure, then as aid thins out toward end of quarter more insecure. Or other unexpected financial issues, like a snow day preventing a student from being able to work the hours needed or a family emergency resulting in loss of support. Any Hungry Husky is a suite of resources, a group of on and off campus groups that are working to bring resources to students experiencing food insecurity. They provide Emergency aid grants through financial aid. Can apply online and get \$100 to Husky Card to buy food on campus within 12 hours. Also partner with the ASUW Bean Basket, provide \$5 vouchers for students. Work with UW Farm to get donations into food pantry. Also have a bunch of community resources like the U-District food bank, which is open to anyone with a husky ID. At the Pantry the mission is to mitigate the social and academic impacts of food insecurity by providing people with resources. Mainly focused on non-perishable items, but beginning to provide perishable items. The Pantry supplements what people can get, cannot provide everything. Also work on trying to reduce stigma. It is huge issue to get people into the Pantry. Want to lower barriers so people are comfortable coming in and can find culturally relevant food. Can go to websites for Any Hungry Husky or UW Food Pantry.

The UW Food Pantry piloted in 2016. Opened as a pop-up model. Had storage locations in the HUB. Then every two weeks would pop-up for one night. In the Pantry students get to shop – given a card and get different item quantities based on item types. Have relied largely on staff and faculty and alumni associations for donations. Last year had 50 different organizations host food drives to supply the Pantry. Recently have moved to Poplar Hall for a retail, street level, bus line accessible, location with semi-discrete access. Volunteers are a huge part of the work that we do. Main items provided are proteins, grains, legumes and other staples. Started working with The Nook to bring in recaptured food that would otherwise go to waste. The UW Farm has started supplying with food. Building out Gleaning Team to recapture perishable food.

In terms of use at the Pantry, since November 1st at the permanent location have seen about 1,100 shoppers. That is total – not individual. Seen about 300 individual shoppers in that time. 130 of them have been graduate students. This is something that surprised us – the prevalence of grad students. Among grad students the largest group of users is international students.

Grad students have a package that supports them, but it has limits and resources are limited. So it does not surprise them that it's the case anymore. But want to make sure that people are aware of what's going on.

Part of coming to the Senate is that the Pantry is pursuing funding from SAF and SAF asked us to come talk to you all for feedback.

Explains financial structure. Office of Vice President for Student Life, Career and Internship Center and SAF are all contributing. Have raised \$34,000 from donors over 3 years with \$23,000 left in balance. The only thing would use SAF money for is to pay student employees, the rest is coming from other funders.

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences): Motions to extend by 10 mins.

Neal Cragg (Nursing): Seconds.

Sean Ferris: So in terms of help and assistance, Senators have broad networks and want to make sure people are aware of it. Have really small discrete referral cards and other materials to share more broadly. Food drives and fundraisers are a huge help. Also coming up in the next month, UW is doing a giving day. Donations will get a 50% match.

The Pantry is also doing a lot of work to drive down the cost of purchasing food. So could use more people on the Gleaning Team – the UW Farm needs support getting the food. Asking for an increase from SAF, last year got \$16,600 and this year asking for about \$36,000 to add another student employee.

Happy to take questions and would like your feedback as well.

Giuliana Conti: Right now going to prioritize feedback through Poll Everywhere.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Pollev.com/gpsspoll

Giuliana Conti: Have three questions for Senator feedback. Do you know UW students who experience food insecurity?

Sean Ferris (UW Food Bank): Doesn't have a number. Still waiting for a report to come out. Estimate it is 10-20% any given year.

Tyler Billipp (Immunology): Asks for the link.

Sean Ferris (UW Food Bank): Is it important for UW to provide resources to UW students to reduce the impact of food insecurity?

Giuliana Conti: Third Question. I support the use of SAF funds to pay UW student employees to work at the UW Food Pantry. Now will take questions.

Dean Allsopp (Evans): You provided great data for us on students who have been using the food pantry. Do you have any further data on the educational pursuits of the students who use it? Would be useful to pin point certain departments.

Sean Ferris (UW Food Bank): Theoretically yes, but access to academic data is one of the hardest to get. Could probably get department, but do not currently have it. Surprised by how few professional students are accessing it, so want to get the word out.

Giuliana Conti: Could be done during the departmental specific orientations if you see that there are certain areas that are accessing or not.

Mason Proffitt (Physics): Think this resource is relatively unknown. Do you have a plan for publicizing this? Think publicizing at orientations is a great idea.

Sean Ferris: Efforts to publicize have been really targeted, primarily just working through financial aid, and health and wellness, but as the Pantry continues to expand offerings, would like to continue expanding outreach, like being here today. There are staff in Vice President's office who will help design that plan, but do not currently have one currently.

Kelsey Hood: Notes that there are a couple of bills regarding food insecurity in institutions of high education, so contact her if interested. Other schools are really focusing on it and are looking to UW as a model since one of the only schools who have a food bank.

Giuliana Conti: Says that GPSS is always looking for ideas and recommendations for presentations.

5. President's Poll

5:58 PM

Giuliana Conti: Kelsey Hood has some questions that would like Senators to answer.

Kelsey Hood: Student liaisons in Olympia are getting push back on legislative agendas because people are saying there is no money for it. So being asked to support a revenue package, which means creating new taxes or raising current taxes. Would like Senator input. This new revenue would theoretically be used for higher ed, but could technically be used for anything. Being asked to support it because the legislative asks cost a lot of money. So would like to get a feel for what Senators and their constituents would support.

Nate Dreesmann (Nursing): What's the difference between raising existing taxes versus making new taxes? A new tax means we could direct it more specifically, but if only raising it, could not.

Kelsey Hood: The major difference, like you said, is it would be easier to direct money from a new tax.

Would you support raising existing taxes or creating new taxes to raise revenue that can be used for higher education?

What types of taxes would you support?

Colleen Bickel (Rehabilitation Sciences): Worked as bookkeeper. B & O taxes in Seattle are already higher than most cities and they are killing small businesses, so would not recommend raising those.

Kelsey Hood: Notes does not know what types of taxes will create. But wants input now so has some idea where it comes out.

Rachel Kinzelman (Pathobiology): Are we going to have a question about what would not support?

Kelsey Hood: If there is something that you would not support put that in as well.

Giuliana Conti: Connect two words and add “not.”

Robby Perkins-High: Use an underscore.

Giuliana Conti: Next question.

I’m getting adequate mentoring and guidance from my counselors.

This is a question from me and other senators.

John Metz (Atmospheric Sciences): There are two strong “disagrees” on taxes.

Giuliana Conti: Would people want to answer what taxes would not support? Sees nodding in agreement.

Kelsey Hood: E-mail her with any other input.

6. Budget Presentation

6:08 PM

Robby Perkins-High: Says has been working hard on budget for next year. At beginning of winter quarter met with all the officers for their input and proposed changes. Then put their suggestions together to create the Officers' Proposed Budget. That proposed budget goes to the Exec Committee and F & B Committee. Those two Committees make their own proposed budgets for next year, then that combined budget gets presented to Senate. Exec passed their proposed budget last Wednesday, and F & B will pass their budget this Friday. As a Senate, have three meetings to pass the budget. Today will be an overview. After Spring Break, there will be a much more detailed debate about amount in each category. It's up to you all to pass it, so this is a base budget, but you have the power to change. The budget needs to be passed by Apr 19th because that's when Robby presents to SAF to make request.

Big picture overview. Where GPSS money comes from: \$442,000 from SAF, \$30,000 from the Provost (which is unrestricted, so goes to food and alcohol at events), \$10,000 from the general fund. The general fund is the GPSS reserve/savings account, so any year GPSS underspends, the money goes there. Get interest from it as well.

Breon Haskett (Sociology): Asks about endowment line.

Robby Perkins-High: GPSS created an endowment. Initially put in \$100,000 which gives GPSS \$5,000 every year. The endowment distribution has not been spent since GPSS started it.

Jesus Velasquez Sosa (Communications in Digital Media): Is there a way to get a more detail report on expenditures?

Robby Perkins-High: Yes. Once have F & B's approval will be sending out a much more detailed budget. Right now just giving big picture information. Not going to debate the amount right now, will just be information on why changes were made. "Admin and operations" is the money GPSS spends internally on things like office supplies, phones, insurance etc. Changes: proposing increasing marketing materials, decreasing the supply budget, paying the HUB for HR and tech support. Officer discretionary funds would stay the same. Some things would cost less based on what they have cost the past few years. Can provide more detail if needed.

"Programming budget" is the money spend on events. Changes: Senate food is going up a little bit, event money for other events would go down slightly to be reflective of what have been spending. Structural changes: setting aside money for general events, professional events, and a lump for committee events so there is more flexibility. Also Huskies on the Hill would now have a permanent budget line.

Jesus Velasquez Sosa (Communications in Digital Media): Says that has people in department who were concerned about the denial of their travel fund grant applications. Is that a part of committee events?

Robby Perkins-High: No, that will be later on.

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences): Earlier you mentioned that food and alcohol comes from Provost Fund – does the senate food come from SAF or Provost?

Robby Perkins-High: Any food comes from the Provost. “Conference Travel” is used to send Officers to conferences to advocate for graduate students, like the Fall Summit (attended by President and both VPs) and Day on the Hill (President, VP External and potentially more people). Also pay for VP External to stay down in Olympia during Winter. Change: Secretary would be getting permanent conference travel line to attend the diversity conference went to this year. Last year the special projects fund was approved to be used on new initiatives, so structured it with an application process. Through that process it will finance (or has already financed) the President’s academic conference, sending the Secretary to the diversity conference, Day on the Hill funding and Huskies on the Hill funding. This year special projects allocation was used to send two non-officers to Day on the Hill. In the future F & B suggests sending one additional person and Exec recommends sending two additional people.

“Grantmaking” budget lines. Diversity, Travel Grants and Special Allocations. Special Allocations is used to support student groups on campus with a grad student focus and departmental funding which is used for retreats or capital items. Exec has proposed bumping all of the budgets (except for departmental funding, up). Currently not able to fund a lot of qualified travel grants, also funding a lot of special allocations below rate and Diversity Committee said groups need more. F & B is still in discussion about this.

Michael Diamond (Atmospheric Sciences): Motions to extend time by 5 minutes.

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences): Seconds.

Robby Perkins-High: “Personnel Budget.” For Officers who work 20 hours a week during the school year, the salaries are tied to the TA/RA scale. Adjusted the amounts because had been budgeting too much for tuition waivers and made pay accurate to match the TA/RA scale. Officer summer pay has been a point of great discussion. This year Officers were paid to work 20/hrs a week at \$20 an hour, which was not enough to live off of. So people took different routes like taking second jobs or taking out loans. Exec recommends putting them up to 30 hours a week, which would get them up to the stipend during the school year and would be a living wage. F & B recommends keeping it the same.

Nathan Dreesman (Nursing): Would it limit ability to get other jobs at UW during the summer?

Robby Perkins-High: Possibly.

Giuliana Conti: Thought there were rules during the school year that are not applicable during the summer. The 19.5 hour minimum is not something held to during the summer.

Robby Perkins-High: Will look into further. Pay for the staff and possibly Exec Senators. Budgeted to have staff work in the summer, which did not happen because of hiring timeline. For

school year hours there has been some rearranging. Right now staff all have different hours. Proposal is more straightforward, consistent hours. Would result in a net increase of 1.5 hours per week. All staff would be paid at \$18 an hour and would have training before school starts.

Mason Proffitt (Physics): What is benefits loading?

Robby Perkins-High: We have to pay a portion of health insurance, Medicare, Social Security, and Unemployment. The employee has some cut from check and employer must match it.

Dean Allsopp (Evans): Can you talk about the Exec Senator stipend?

Robby Perkins-High: Have learned at national events that Exec Senators at other schools have been compensated. The \$6200 in the proposed budget would be a stipend for 2.5 hours a week – would either be paid as an hourly staff (which would run into challenges if worked another job), or, other idea is to give them a travel stipend. Based on Executive proposed budget, total annual budget would increase by about \$25,000, assuming Provost amount stays the same, would spend down some endowment money and some general funds would be spent down, which is too large right now, so want to spend it down to give back to student. This would result in a SAF request equal to last year. His opinion that SAF would not grant an increase and personally does not think should ask for an increase. Happy to talk more after the meeting or during office hours. Also will be sending out.

Giuliana Conti: Notes that Robby Perkins-High and F & B have put a lot of work into this. Encourage Senators to talk with him about it for transparency. Also reminds that Exec meetings are open and take place on the off Wednesday from Senate. Minutes are also on the website, so can read and see conversations been having in Exec. Moving forward welcome to attend.

Robby Perkins-High: F & B is also open and has minutes on the website.

Giuliana Conti: These are important conversations.

Kelsey Hood: Motions to table Item 7 for Joint Resolution for Student Health Insurance.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Seconds.

Giuliana Conti: Need to go back and talk to ASUW and will bring it in next Senate meeting.

7. Olympia Updates

6:31 PM

Kelsey Hood: Presents bills GPSS is tracking because applies to leg agenda. Some are in Rules Committee – need a member to pull out and bring to the full. Some are up for floor debate and have not yet been scheduled. Others are safe until the next cut off because passed the chamber of origin. IF any questions please talk with me later. We need more student testimony and input on

a lot of the bills If you have a story to contribute or know someone who is willing to contribute, contact her. A lot of you who signed up for HOH, may have received an e-mail from ASUW about going down. Can participate, but will only be working on ASUW leg agenda. Can advertise, but is not GPSS sponsored. All bills seem to be doing good, things have moved pretty easily.

8. Executive Reports PM

6:33

Robby Perkins-High: Says is working on the budget. As mentioned last meeting, will be plugging events funding through Special Allocations. A Persian New Year event is March 23rd at UW Tower. Also Laaysa 2019, Meany Hall on March 30th.

Amy Gabriel: Asks Senators to complete the composition survey. Has 50 responses so far (about half).

Giuliana Conti: Says the Academic Conference Selection Committee is meeting on Monday, come if want to join. If anyone wants to join the Selection Committee to go through applications please join. Have about 30 applications. April 19th is the conference. Attended the Tri-Campus Student Leadership Meeting and discussed tri-campus relationships. In the past Bothell and Tacoma have not been invited to participate in conversation and a lot of movement with Board of Regents to provide a more equitable platform. In many ways, student leaders have been a model for cross campus communication. There is a search Committee for the New Dean of the Grad School. Nominations are due March 15th. Recommends nominating someone who you think would be good as the Dean. Excited to go to SAGE over Spring Break to lobby on behalf of grad students. If care about Title 9 – going to a meeting to figure out how to approach now that Callisto is not an option. Send input to her. The Student Regent Selection Committee is coming up. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming the Regent, look into it now. Can help make an appointment with the current regent.

Shane Schrader (School of Business): Where can you nominate the new dean?

Giuliana Conti: Will send out in e-mail.

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership & Higher Ed): Says over the past two weeks has been working with F & B on travel grants, and budget for next year. Will begin student regent search with Jackie Wong soon. Jackie is also a part of the STF Committee.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Notes is in search for liaisons for STF Committee – next week will be doing a voting meeting with proposals totaling \$1.1m.

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership & Higher Ed): Continues, Michael Diamond has been working on Elections Committee, and has a memo coming up. Also had a blast with phone banking. Chris Boylan is still learning the ropes. Jacob Ziegler is a member on the SAF Committee.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Notes that will also be serving on Provost's Committee for Lab Safety, let him know if have any concerns about how UW runs its lab safety.

Giuliana Conti: Adds she is also now serving on Committee for Teaching Evaluation. Please talk with her if have feedback.

9. Announcements

6:42 PM

Erika Vetter (Drama): In the Heart of America opened this evening and is playing at Jones Playhouse.

Brittany Bishop (Chemical Engineering): Has been working with students on distance learning – trying to make lectures and other materials more available. Wants stories from students who would benefit from this – commuters, student parents and students with disabilities. If have a story would like to share, let her know.

10. Adjournment

6:44 PM

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

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership & Higher Ed): Seconds.