



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL  
STUDENT SENATE**

Senate Meeting Minutes

*April 3, 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: Chris Boylan  
GPSS Executive Senator: Jacob Ziegler

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**1. Call to Order**

**5:32 PM**

**Giuliana Conti:** Notes that anyone attending out of interest in elections should sign in.

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**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**5:33 PM**

**Sydney Pearce:** Motions to amend the agenda to remove the resolution to commend Kelly Edwards.

**Casey Duff (ASUW):** Seconds.

**Mimi Krutein (Pathology):** Motions to approve the agenda.

**Neil Cragg (Nursing):** Seconds.

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**3. Approval of Minutes**

**5:34 PM**

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** Motions to approve the minutes.

**Chris (Environmental Affairs):** Seconds.

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#### **4. Transportation Services Presentation**

**5:35 PM**

**Sydney Pearce:** Says Transportation Services was going to present as a guest speaker this week because they want feedback on some important changes, but could not come due to scheduling changes. Some of the changes are to the WAC. For instance, currently cannot have electronic vehicles on campus, so e-bikes and scooters are not allowed. Instead of presenting, they are offering options for when people can give feedback at 3 different meetings: April 10<sup>th</sup> is parking rates, UPASS rates for faculty and staff, and citation rates. They are looking at increasing all of them and they really want student feedback. Can join the meeting or give Sydney Pearce suggestions to pass on. The meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> is about the WAC changes. The WAC changes have more to do with the City of Seattle, but it affects UW as well. They are looking at clarifying the language on bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters. Will also clarify rules for ADA parking. It is currently not clear that ADA permits still require UW paid permits. They are also consolidating the fees and no longer listing them in the WAC. Also consolidating the appeal and payment process, so can appeal and pay online. Other updates are for new technology, like e-bikes and e-scooters. The meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the vote on parking, UPASS and citation rates.

**Genevive Hulley (Art History):** Asks about the discussion in the Fall around changing the way UPASS works because right now faculty, TAs and staff cannot get the \$82 U PASS.

**Sydney Pearce:** Responds that the way UPASS works – is in the past, students decided that for the betterment of all students, there should be a universal fee even if everyone does not necessarily use it. If changed it, no one would be able to get it because the pass would be astronomically expensive. Right now it is very expensive for faculty/staff and anyone not paying student fees. So looking at whether an increased rate that is still elective, could be available for purchase.

**Shane Shrader (Foster School of Business):** Are the parking rates to be discussed just the commuter lot or all paid lots?

**Sydney Pearce:** Responds will probably be all lots, but focusing on commuter lots. They are trying to discourage single occupancy vehicles from commuting to campus, but not entirely sure, since will be discussed more at the meeting. There are a lot of students who are commuters who cannot take public transit, so I am advocate for not increasing the rates.

**Giuliana Conti:** These meetings will be advertised in e-mail. Participation in these feedback opportunities is important. Now passing chair responsibility to Robby Perkins-High.

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## 5. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

5:43 PM

**Robby Perkins-High:** Explains that Exec and F & B Committees have passed their proposed budgets, so will hopefully pass a final budget today. Hard deadline is April 19<sup>th</sup> when he presents to SAF. Majority of GPSS's money is from SAF. His opinion that request should not exceed what we requested last year based on what they are giving out and how GPSS has spent the money in the past, but as a Senate, could overrule him. Will suspend *parli pro* for discussion about the budget. Senate will need to discuss the 4 items that F & B and Exec did not agree on, and can also comment on anything else that is not contested between the two. Jasmine Chan, Budget Specialist, is also here to help out.

Motions to suspend *parli pro*.

**Casey Duff(ASUW):** Seconds.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Will start with general questions – any areas of the budget people are confused about or would like clarification on?

**Colleen Bickel (Rehabilitation Science):** Is wondering if getting rid of some events and putting more money toward travel fund would be a better use of money for educational purposes? What is the history of where the events budget came from?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Responds the proposed events budget is a reduction from what it has been. It is an \$8,000 overall cut to provide more for committees and professional development. There is also an increase in travel grants in the proposed budget.

**Sydney Pearce:** Part of the thought process has been making events more purposeful rather than just events to have events, which is why we had the resource fair. Want to focus on serving as many grad students as possible. Most reach is through events, so want to continue to put them on, but also increasing travel funding this year – so balancing them.

**Giuliana Conti:** Adds will also hear about the academic conference. One of the purposes is to subdue costs of travel, while providing professional development and helping students satisfy requirements within their departments.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Notes that there will be an opportunity later to motion to change funding.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Science):** Notes that the programming budget, all the events were cut and then additional events were added for Fall, Winter and Spring and committees under VP Internal, can you explain?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Responds that it is almost entirely an internal process thing. Some money is from the Provost which can be spent on food and alcohol. In past years we had accounts spread throughout the entire budget, now it is consolidated, so we can tell where it is coming from. Moved to more general event lines to provide more flexibility for next year. The committee events line is a combination of what was this year's Diversity Fund and Science & Policy Committee – the

proposed budget would make it available to all committees. The \$6000 amount is a \$1000 increase from past years.

**Phil Leung (Molecular Engineering):** Noticed the 150% in materials and equipment for administration.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Notes that he re-worked the budget categories from past years in order to totally align with accounts so we know what to spend them on. In this year's budget had an officer's materials line, an equipment replacement line and a computer software line. Computer equipment and software has had money put into it every year to save up if need to replace computers – we have enough saved up, so got rid of it. Combined all of them into the materials and equipment line. Which has \$1,000 to cover the smaller stuff we would need. Larger expenses, like new chairs and computers could get taken out of the general fund. So shows as a 150% increase, but overall the amount is reduced dramatically.

**Philip (Oceanography):** Can you explain the \$17,000 decrease in tuition compensation?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Responds that all of the officers' tuition is covered as part of their positions. The set amount was budgeted at \$117,105 since the inception, but it has never exceed \$100,825, so not sure why it hasn't been changed in past years. Tuitions are different for different people, so have to estimate, but based on his analysis, the \$100,000 number covers almost every person possible and reserves could cover any amount over that. It has been between \$70,000-\$100,000 the past five years. It is an update to reflect actual spending in the category. The TA/RA scale was updated as well.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Science):** HUB administration fee – true costs of services provided? Were we paying more previously?

**Robby Perkins-High:** We have been paying nothing. Justin at the HUB said they have not received it. They provide HR, IT, and financial services to people in the HUB. The old number, \$1,820, was never transferred to him. The HUB is in tough financial shape right now, and the \$4,000 number is their estimate. The HUB is also asking for it in their SAF request, so if SAF funds it, we won't need it in the budget.

**Dean Allsopp (Evans):** When there are changes in the budget – that just goes into the reserve or is there a process for reallocation?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Yes, they go into the reserve fund. Per bylaws there are ways to move money between budget lines. Reserve funds are really big because often times not spent.

**Mason Proffitt (Physics):** Asks what the Senate column of the budget presentation means. Where did it come from?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Responds that in our bylaw process anything that Exec and F & B agree on is listed. Then he averaged anything they disagreed on, but Senate must make the final decision.

**Brittany Bishop (Chemical Engineering):** There are only a few line items with differences between F & B and Exec, so can we have explanations?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Yes, will do that next. Will open it up to F & B and Exec to give an explanation for their number. Day on the Hill (DOH) travel is funding to send President and VP of External to DC to advocate on behalf of grad students. This past year through the special projects fund, voted to send two additional people to DC, so this line would send additional people who are staff members or Senators. Exec suggested 2 people and F & B suggested 1 person.

**Kelsey Hood:** We recommended two people because the DOH is a good experience. UW was a founding member of SAGE. It is a powerful thing because provide an important voice on the Hill and the offices look forward to seeing us and are receptive to what we are saying. Want to open opportunities to Senators, and this is a useful, good experience for students. Giving people the option to go is worthwhile. The UW delegation can be up to six people and it is important to hear from different student and program backgrounds – so want to open it up to as many people as possible.

**Shane Shrader (Foster School of Business):** F & B was thinking could have 1 person guaranteed and then use reserve funds for someone else who wants to go, rather than securing funding for both.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** There was also discussion that F & B would like to see more Senators attend the event. Did not only want it to be just staff, so that was also part of why cut it from two to one. So if more Senators want to do it, there is more money in the reserve.

**Robby Perkins-High:** All proposals need to be considered in context of total budget. So it's not that F & B didn't think it was worthy, but there are limited funds.

**Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry):** The application was open to everyone this year correct?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Yes, with the requirement to be on a SAGE working group. Only staff applied.

**Kelsey Hood:** Another consideration to make. The VP of External has two staffers, so those two staffers will be applying because those two students normally serve on SAGE working groups and work on policy issues. The organizing director for this year was elected to the SAGE Board and will be required to go.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Presents a staffing proposal for next year. Re-working of responsibilities, but nets to same total of positions. Did not have a Director of Communications this year, which was an issue, so that position will be reinstated. Shows how many hours each staff worked this year. Everyone had different allocations. For next year, it is flattened, with clerk with fewest at 10 and everyone else is 15 or 17. Everyone will be paid \$18/hour next year. In the Exec proposal there would be money to fund two full weeks of training, F & B suggested funding for one week only. This past year attempted to have a training week, but staff was not hired in time, so there was a training day – so staff was on-boarded while they started working.

**Sydney Pearce:** Explains that Exec wanted two weeks because in the past hoped to have staff during the summer to lighten the load of the Officers. It is difficult to expect people to work 5-10 hours, while moving here etc. So want them to be able to train earlier because it is important to be able to prepare before school so not onboarding at work at the same time as starting school.

**Giuliana Conti:** Adds that learning that summer is crucial for prep for school year, since we are all students, but running a business. So things like events, or legislative advocacy, or the Secretary and their staff – it makes them feel prepared and able to execute position efficiently, while the Officers are also able to do their jobs as well.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Notes that one more week of work for staff is about \$2,500. F & B recommended one week instead of two because this year happened without any training weeks, so going from none to two is a big jump, so going to one or half week would serve the purpose. Executive Senator Stipends. We have five Executive Senators who do additional work other than being just a Senator. They go to Exec on off weeks and participate on committees. Learned that similar positions at other schools are often paid, so there is a suggestion to pay them a “stipend.” Cannot just give them a lump sum of money – one idea is to pay them as part-time staff members, 3 hours a week for a quarter. But there could be a challenge if they are already working 19.5 hours a week in another position. Also could give it through travel grants to go to an academic conference or something else related to school. Would be same as the Officer’s travel fund. There were concerns about people not having conferences they need to go to or the costs of travel exceeding \$1250.

**Giuliana Conti:** Adds that when went to Fall Summit for SAGE, Exec Senator equivalents were paid, so initiated a conversation of equity and fairness. For us who interact with Exec Senators, we recognize the volume of time they volunteer, not just in Exec meetings, but also on committees. I mostly initiated this because want them to be compensated fairly. Would love input. Thinks payment could show our appreciation and increase interest in Executive Senator positions.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** Why are those numbers different?

**Robby Perkins-High:** There are marginally different because one is 3 hours per week at \$15 an hour and the other is conference travel of \$1250 per conference. It varies depending on how it is paid out – if paid out as employees, it will be 20% more because of benefits.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** F & B agrees with the principle behind it because they do a ton of work and important to have a solid incentive for taking on the position.

**Shane Shrader (Foster School of Business):** If an Exec Senator is contributing a lot and do not have any conferences to go, presenting as a travel grant would not be the same incentive as others.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** A lot of Exec Senators come from hard sciences with funded Phd programs and they have funding for travel through those grants, so wouldn’t need travel grant money.

**Robby Perkins-High:** If paid out – each Exec Senator would get \$450 a quarter.

**Dean Allsopp (Evans):** Very supportive of it. Leaning toward part-time employees. Deserve the benefits, consistency and support from institution.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Both groups advocated for increasing all grant making programs. Special allocations, funding for graduate students and events they attend. Have \$17,000 for that and will zero it out. Have been funding at about 75% – even applications really like do not fund in full. Exec recommended bumping it up by \$3,000. F & B, who handles the applications, would like to bump it up by \$5,000 which reflects and increased demand and HUB room reservation rates are going up, so events just cost more for groups.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** There is less money for events like these in other places.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Notes that the cumulative fund rate of applications is 62%, including two events opted not to fund at all.

**Robert Levine (Oceanography):** What do we have left in the budget?

**Robby Perkins-High:** We have about \$4,000 left and every other entity is out of money, so we are the last show in town. As you all know – GPSS funding is from a few sources, mainly from SAF, but also have received \$30,000 from the Provost and there are two other sources of funding. In 2014, formed an endowment because reserves were too big. The endowment not been touched. We should spend at least \$10,000 and could spend up to \$25,000, it is meant to be spent every year and no one has spent it. The general fund is how much we are spending down out of our total reserve fund – will have around \$270,000 in reserve funds which is too big. Both Exec and F & B have voiced opinion about transferring to endowment and spending it down each year, but won't discuss it today. Both suggestions of general fund spending are within the ballpark of what we could reasonably spend out of it. So will have total budget – will pick how much to spend out of endowment, distribution and general fund. Suggest it adds up to, at a maximum, our request from SAF last year, which was \$442, 570. F & B recommended cutting SAF request by a little bit. Concerned that if we cut it, it would be hard to get it back up again. The SAF chair recommendation was to hold it at what it has been and then spend down the reserves for any new projects. Any other items people would like to debate pros and cons on?

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** Motions to move back into Parli Pro.

**Casey Duff (ASUW):** Seconds.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Will first vote on the ones Senate must do. DOH travel - \$1,500 for one person or \$3,000 for two people. Will need a motion for funding level.

**Dean Allsopp (Evans):** Motions to fund at \$1,500.

**Colleen Bickel (Rehabilitation Science):** Seconds.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Objections? Seeing no objections, will move to vote.

**Vote: Majority votes to set it at \$1,500.**

**Robby Perkins-High:** For staffing: the difference was due to disagreement on the number of training weeks, 1 week from F & B and 2 weeks from Exec.

**Tafari Clark-James (Math):** Motions to fund one week.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Science):** Seconds.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Objections? Seeing none.

**Vote: Majority votes to fund one week.**

**Robby Perkins-High:** Executive senator stipend. The decision is how much to set it at and whether it is paid out as a travel stipend or part time start.

**Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry):** POI: As a note for travel stipend, the Exec Senator has the option to turnover in the middle of the school year – the travel grant could make it difficult. It is a great idea, but it would be really hard if a Exec Senator took the travel grant and didn't finish the year.

**Brittany Bishop (Chemical Engineering):** Motions to set at \$6,750 and have it as part time staff.

**Neil Cragg (Nursing):** Seconds.

**Mason Proffitt (Physics):** Objects: You mentioned it could conflict if someone already has a certain number of hours on campus. What is the issue and the way around it?

**Robby Perkins-High:** For international students, if they were working 19.5 hours, they cannot have any more hours processed, but it could be processed over weeks when they are not working like breaks.

**Mason Proffitt (Physics):** So it is only an issue for international students?

**Rene Singleton:** It depends on your department and how you are getting paid within the unit. So more flexibility would be a better way to go – you could approve both, then they could get travel or pay.

**Dean Allsopp (Evans):** Could we just pass the \$6,750 today and decide how it is allocated later?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Yeah the only issue is the requested amount will be higher if processed as a paid amount because of benefits loading. But he could figure it out if it has to get changed. Any other points of discussion?

**Vote: All in favor of funding at \$6,750. Majority approves.**



**Robby Perkins-High:** Special allocations: the recommended options were \$20,000 or \$22,000.

**Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry):** Do we know our relative number compared to ASUW – how much they allocate for special allocations?

**Robby Perkins-High:** No – they give out a lot more, but have a bigger budget.

**Giuliana Conti:** POI: They also have a larger population, so would need to calculate the ratio.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Our budgets are quite proportional.

**Mason Proffitt (Physics):** Is there a public record of what these allocations go to?

**Robby Perkins-High:** Yes. I can make it accessible, but they are currently in the F & B minutes.

**Mason:** Would like examples of what this typically goes to.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Normally smaller grad student only events. Funded career development for physicists and astronomers. So smaller events where other funding sources are limited. Also fund larger cultural events that have a certain percentage of grad students who are going.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** Turban Day. We make a lot of considerations on the larger cultural events – they are mostly organized by undergrads, but grad students participate in them. So for those events we fund at a lower level than grad student specific events. We consider whether they have other sources of funding, when the event is and whether they have time to get more funding.

**Casey Duff (ASUW):** ASUW requests \$1,55, 871, and \$75,000 went to special allocations. So about 5%.

**Robby Perkins-High:** ASUW gives money to the bike shop and bean basket which makes it a little bit higher.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Science):** Why did Exec request \$2,000 less?

**Shane Shrader (Foster School of Business):** F & B got the proposed change from Exec, then we realized we were getting a lot of larger requests because of HUB fees. So we saw what they did and we wanted to add more.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Recently we have been fielding a high number of requests.

**Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry):** We cut the special allocations budget in FY 2017, so we would be raising it from what we cut it down to.

**Robby Perkins-High:** We got a big cut from SAF in FY 17-18 so a lot of budgets went down.

**Mason Proffitt (Physics):** Motions for \$22,000 for special allocations.

**Robert Levine (Oceanography):** Seconds.

**Vote: Majority sets it at \$22,000.**

**Robby Perkins-High:** Need to put in numbers for endowment distributions and then the general fund will self populate, assuming SAF request is held the same. Endowment distributions just get transferred into general account, so doesn't make a big difference. Ted suggested we put it at \$20,000 because then can think about fewer accounts, which is reasonable.

**Johnathan Metz (Atmospheric Sciences):** Can we leave the distributions in the endowment?

**Robby Perkins-High:** We could reinvest them, but looking at adding a bunch of money anyway, and they are intended to be spent on students.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** Motions to set it at \$20,000.

**Colleen Bickel (Rehabilitation Science):** Seconds.

**Vote: Majority approves \$20,000.**

**Robby Perkins-High:** That means we have to spend \$12,602 out of general funds in order to maintain SAF request. F & B suggested spending a bit more out of general fund, ultimately cutting our SAF request, because SAF is in a position where they are going to receive more requests for money than they have, so if people are comfortable with our annual budget going down year to year to provide more to the other 16 entities SAF funds, that something to consider as well.

**Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry):** POI: SAF does budget in benefits increases, so a request that doesn't change from last is already essential a cut in SAF's eyes.

**Robby Perkins-High:** Was in favor of cutting SAF request, but since the SAF chair said to keep it the same, this seems reasonable. Will also go to SAF and they can change their minds.

**Shane Shrader (Foster School of Business):** Our endowment distributions down the road will be higher by putting it in – so requesting less from SAF will not change GPSS's budget down the road if the endowment is producing more.

**Robby Perkins-High:** There are recommendations to increase the endowment by \$100,000 or more, which would give us about an extra \$5,000 a year that we can spend as well.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Science):** Moves to set general fund at \$12, 602.

**Jonathan Metz (Atmospheric Sciences):** Seconds.

**Vote: Majority approves at \$12,602.**

**Robby Perkins-High:** Final overview. Holding SAF request same as last year. Spending \$20,000 of endowment distributions, which were intended to be spent on students, and spending down our general fund by approximately \$12,000.

**Genevive Hulley (Art History):** Motions to approve the budget.

**Neil Cragg (Nursing):** Seconds.

**Vote: Majority passes the FY 20 budget as presented.**

**Robby Perkins-High:** Will present to SAF in about 2 weeks. Will let Senate know about any changes.

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## 6. President's Poll

6:49 PM

**Giuliana Conti:** Since people do not have access to the first question, we can motion to table this until next time.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences):** Motions to table this item.

**Phil Leung (Molecular Engineering):** Seconds.

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## 7. Upcoming Events

6:51 PM

**Matt McKeown (Events Director):** Consent Scenarios are coming up next week. Partnering with SARVA since April is Sexual Assault Awareness month. They are bringing in the Consent Academy.

The Academic Conference is coming up. Also the student loan repayment session with the Office of Financial Aid since individual departments do not always have them. Will bring in some information about policy stuff that is coming up. Golfing with Grads event, which is increasing our partnership with the IMA and sharing resources not everyone knows exists. You can come out and hit a bucket of balls. The End of the Quarter Social is coming up and need ideas for names. It will be on the last day of classes.

**Giuliana Conti:** A little bit about the Academic Conference – we have everything put together now. Part of platform was to bring an academic conference back to GPSS because of the challenges with funding for conferences and for some of us trying to do boundary pushing within our fields. So want space for interdisciplinary studies. Have an amazing keynote address. Will be in the Intellectual House. Have 31 presenters, including the keynote. The Facebook event is live and the

website is updated. The first 100 people to register will get free lunch. In order for presenters to have a valuable experience, they must have an audience. The abstracts will be on the website soon as well. Please share posters in departments and the Facebook link. It will be in the HUB.

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## 8. Session Overview

6:56 PM

**Kelsey Hood:** Says that she is back from Olympia. Session is still going on because it is budget year. Today is the policy cut off for opposite chambers. The only thing that has died is the comprehensive sex education bill. State Need Grant – it is unknown what is happening because it might be considered necessary to implement the budget. If it is, it will not be subject to cut off. Everything else is moving forward which is really amazing. Things are moving at light speed so if interested in being involved, let her know.

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## 9. Announcements

6:58 PM

**Brittany Bishop (Chemical Engineering):** Beth McLaughlin is coming to UW to talk about #metoo and inequality in STEM.

**Robert Levine (Oceanography):** The annual ASUW and GPSS inauguration will be May 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30p HUB 250.

**Erika Vetter (Drama):** The third years are doing solo shows tomorrow night at the Penthouse Theater at 7:30pm.

**Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** Plug for Washington Yacht Club, will have an event this Friday to learn how to sail.

**Colleen Bickel (Rehabilitation Sciences):** The second years in rehab science need volunteers with injuries to come get worked on by students.

**Robby Perkins-High:** There is an open seat on STF. Meetings are Mondays from 3:30-5:30pm. Would be great to fill it.

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## 10. Adjournment

7:01 PM

**Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry):** Motions to adjourn.

**Mimi Krutein (Pathology):** Seconds.