



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT SENATE**

Exec Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2019 | HUB 303

Members Present

GPSS President: Giuliana Conti
GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs: Sydney Pearce
GPSS Vice President of External Affairs: Kelsey Hood
GPSS Secretary: Amy Gabriel
GPSS Treasurer: Robby Perkins-Hood
GPSS Executive Senator: Zhiyun Ma
GPSS Executive Senator: Jackie Wong (via phone)
GPSS Executive Senator: Jacob Ziegler
GPSS Executive Senator: Chris Boylan
ASUW Director of Internal Policy and the Liaison: Casey Duff

1. Call to Order **5:38 PM**

2. Approval of the Minutes **5:38 PM**

Michael Diamond: Motions to approve the minutes.

Sydney Pearce: Seconds.

3. Approval of the Agenda **5:39 PM**

Robby Perkins-High: Motions to amend the agenda to strike the open forum.

Giuliana Conti: Says planned on doing that and forgot.

Chris Boylan: Seconds.

Sydney Pearce: Motions to approve the agenda as amended.

Michael Diamond: Seconds

4. Anti-Affirmative Action Bake Sale

5:39 PM

Michael Diamond: Asks if everyone saw this event happened last Friday. It's not a unique thing – it is a cookie cutter event, there have been others on other college campuses. Organizational partners have put out statements and thinks GPSS may want to as well.

Giuliana Conti: Responds was also going to bring this up as well. Gets at a larger issue of public statements and infrequency of Exec Meetings. Would like feedback about statements like these in general. ASUW did not put out a statement. Also thought did not want to entice the propaganda.

Casey Duff: Says ASUW talked about it at Board. Decided we would respond to people who e-mailed us, but didn't do an all campus e-mail because they wanted it to blow up. Didn't want to give it legitimacy. Happy to send out our response.

Sydney Pearce: Giuliana Conti and I also received an e-mail asking for a response. They discussed it before the university's response came out. It's important to see what the university's response was – the free speech point was valuable. Wanted to share alternative events. But it happened quickly, so would be good to have some responses ready.

Giuliana Conti: A memo!

Michael Diamond: Explains that thinks it was handled well.

Giuliana Conti: Notes will have the discussion again – about what to do in the event of free speech disagreement. Get e-mails from students who see blatant verbal violence and racism – does not feel in a position where can respond. At same time don't want to be perpetuating silences that oppress populations.

Michael Diamond: Adds it might be worth having a discussion about the underlying cause of the bake sale and what the passage of I-1000 would mean for the university.

Sydney Pearce: Says discussed with Matt about how it would change GPSS' hires. Would follow the university's lead on how they choose to incorporate it.

Rene Singleton: Responds imagines would be right back to where we are right now. University is living with I-200, whether or not I-1000 passes or not, it goes back to the statute as it stands.

Giuliana Conti: Adds it is helpful to read what the President thinks as well. There is an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Robby Perkins-High: Adds the Intellectual House is at SAF on Friday and one of the presenters is a member of First Nations, said they got so many donations, just gave out cookies.

Giuliana Conti: Agrees, saw the First Nations had a much larger line.

5. Elections Debrief

5:46 PM

Michael Diamond: Suggests separate between what happened in Elections that did not receive complaints and then what received complaints. Did everyone see the Elections Committee's official response? Does anyone have suggestions or things that you thought went well that we should pass on in some sort of transition document?

Giuliana Conti: Suggests in trying to be mindful of time, since in past meetings it is possible for certain parts of conversations to get lengthy, fielding positive feedback then less positive feedback, and conversations about serious disagreements. Then can make time at next meeting as well if needed.

Sydney Pearce: Says the timing of Elections was great and happy new Officers have time to become acquainted.

Giuliana Conti: Adds it was advertised well. Good number of candidates from within GPSS and outside.

Sydney Pearce: Notes can continue to do that next year.

Michael Diamond: Says thought the Treasurer and Secretary races had a large number of great candidates. Should think about when people step up to run, how do we make sure they stay involved in GPSS – because there was a lot of talent there.

Giuliana Conti: Notes that she drafted an e-mail saying thank you to candidates, but needs help with language.

Sydney Pearce: Responds can send what she sent to job applicants did not hire as staff.

Chris Boylan: Comments that whatever Elections Committee did to brief the candidates on their presentations must have been good because their presentations were good.

Jackie Wong: Agrees that it was great how many qualified candidates ran. In messaging to them, should highlight the open Exec Senator seat and important liaison positions.

Giuliana Conti: Adds the ballots were ready!

Sydney Pearce: Adds counting votes went quickly.

Giuliana Conti: Yes, take note of that.

Michael Diamond: Notes that GPSS has now used that system for two years, so pretty good until move to electronic.

Sydney Pearce: Comments that she appreciated that allowed to extend time for more questions. Considering there are positions with more candidates than others, it is valuable to have more time.

Giuliana Conti: Agrees, should be a ratio of minutes per candidate rather than a set time.

Sydney Pearce Adds and making clear can extend time.

Michael Diamond: Suggests having it be 3 minutes per candidate rather than 10 overall. Room for improvement?

Robby Perkins-High: Notes that he mentioned this before the elections. Thinks it would be beneficial to have space for people to meet candidates before the election. Only 3 minutes to talk and a few questions makes it hard for Senators to get to know people who have not been involved with GPSS.

Michael Diamond: Responds the Elections Committee was interested in doing something like that. The schedule was created to compress campaigning time – so there were no meetings in which they were declared and could talk.

Jacob Ziegler: Thinks compressed campaigning time is a good idea, but in practice it can be a bad idea. Especially when candidates do not attend a pre-meeting to ensure that everyone gets to interface. It gives people who cannot attend that meeting a disadvantage.

Michael Diamond: Responds that's why did not do a forum that is not during a regularly scheduled GPSS meeting.

Jacob Ziegler: Suggests that it should be mandatory or very clear that it is the time to interface with the candidates. Also should make sure people can call and Skype in if cannot make it.

Giuliana Conti: Suggests making time at next Exec meeting so can make it a priority considering the past few years. But thinks right now should just focus on a list of feedback. Discussion should be reduced as much as possible at this time.

Sydney Pearce: Notes should better define whether a closed session can happen, so that we are all prepared for it.

Paquita Esterly (Museology): Mentions that there were papers with everyone's names listed. Some Senators did not have it, so posting all of the candidates on a PowerPoint slide would be helpful.

Giuliana Conti: Adds did not mean to shut down Jacob's suggestions. Short feedback is okay, just want to cut down conversations.

Michael Diamond: Adds will be writing a memo, so more feedback can come to me.

Robby Perkins-High: Suggests the Elections Committee have more control over the meeting, so minimizing crowd generated think. Should suspend Parli Pro and timing and run the meeting as Elections Committee planned.

Michael Diamond: Clarifies, so no motions etc.?

Robby Perkins-High: Yes, Elections Committee designs it however they think it is fair. So not surprised during the meeting.

Casey Duff: Notes that ASUW has a moderator who is stringent about rules and time. So no one is given an unfair advantage.

Giuliana Conti: Thinks that Officers and Exec Board as a whole should try to be as removed as much as possible. There were a lot of questions coming from the Exec Senators and Officers, which could sway Senators. So limiting their capacity could be beneficial to Senators to be able to ask questions they need.

Amy Gabriel: Thinks it would be helpful if mandated candidates met with current Officers because that is where the questions came from. Could have been addressed before if had met.

Jacob Ziegler: Responds that if Senators do not get to meet the candidates beforehand, does not agree with Giuliana Conti. If knew any of them before hand, it would have been fine.

Sydney Pearce: Adds also strongly disagrees. It is important for candidates to know what the position they are running for is about. There needs to be opportunity for the knowledge at this table to be used. Should figure out a way to be fairer. Also has a statement from a candidate would like to read.

Leslie Michaud (Office Manager): Notes that when it comes to the sheet of candidates the full-time/part-time distinction does not say anything because part-time can mean many things. Thinks should say how many days a week the person can work when they are introduced. It will help Senators ask questions.

Amy Gabriel: Thinks exemptions to meeting requirements should be public. It led to more confusion about eligibility. So maybe Secretary can post it on the website or on candidate form, so it is more transparent.

Michael Diamond: Are there more improvements? Working on some sort of transition document.

Giuliana Conti: Adds one more – clearly delineating the compliant process and mandating that an advisor be a part of it for efficiency and transparency sake. Then for the Chair of the Elections Committee – providing training on leading meetings. Wants people to feel prepared.

Chris Boylan: Suggests making voting electronic.

Michael Diamond: What do you think would improve from electronic voting?

Chris Boylan: Responds sustainability – paper is a waste. It is also more time to count votes. It is better to have the immediate result.

Sydney Pearce: Notes would love clarity on which votes are public and which aren't. Got questions about how many votes people received. Have not published how much people won by. Assumes that they should be.

Rene Singleton: Responds that the votes are public.

Sydney Pearce: Notes have received requests for them to be public, so should find a way to make them public.

Michael Diamond: Do we publicize the tallies?

Rene Singleton: Notes that GPSS does not publicize in your minutes, but ASUW does. They can see how people vote. So if you do the electronic thing, it would be public. Right now they can ask and see the paper.

Sydney Pearce: Notes has had requests in regards to this election. Where would I direct them?

Michael Diamond: Responds he would send Sydney the tallies.

Rene Singleton: Comments that people do not typically care unless it is contested.

Sydney Pearce: Recommends making them public.

Michael Diamond: Notes that the Elections Committee was operating under the assumption would give the values if asked.

Rene Singleton: Comments they've been made available before.

Giuliana Conti: Says seeing no other feedback, Sydney will read the candidate statement.

Sydney Pearce: Reads statement:

I think that it is extremely inequitable that only one candidate was sent the minutes from the closed session. All thirteen candidates were asked to leave the room during the closed session with the understanding that this was time for the senate to discuss candidates. The candidate who received

the minutes was the only one privileged with what was said during the closed session. This process diminished any other candidate's ability to file a complaint with the elections committee within the 48-hour window based on the closed session minutes. To this day, no other candidate has been sent those minutes.

Giving one candidate the minutes without sending them to all participating candidates created unequal distribution of information that could have been vital to a candidate's appeal to the election committee.

I believe this was a massive oversight and one that unfairly favored one candidate with information over the other participating twelve candidates. This must be addressed by the elections committee and written into future elections guides to ensure a fair spread of information across all participating candidates.

Says that she understands that the timeline on getting the minutes turned around was tight. There were candidates who are not Senators and did not get notices about what was going on.

Michael Diamond: Notes that the Elections Committee referred someone with a request to the Secretary.

Sydney Pearce: Thinks this person was hoping to make it clearer about closed sessions and that this was a major oversight – to send the minutes to only one candidate – so other 12 people did not have the opportunity to contest.

Giuliana Conti: Comments could consider changing the 48-hour window. People are not required to leave the room, so this is a new situation.

Sydney Pearce: Suggests could be 48 hours after the minutes are completed, if we still decide to have a closed forum. But should be able to read them before complaints are due.

Rene Singleton: Asks how the candidate get the minutes?

Robby Perkins-High: Responds someone requested the minutes, so they were sent.

Sydney Pearce: Asks was that announced to all candidates, that they can request them?

Giuliana Conti: Responds no.

Robby Perkins-High: Says thinks it is no closed session or 48 hours starts after the minutes are finished.

Rene Singleton: Notes the minutes are not official until they are approved.

Michael Diamond: Responds the Elections committee said the “tentative minutes.”

Rene Singleton: When do you normally send out the minutes?

Amy Gabriel: Responds 4 days before the meeting.

Sydney Pearce: Thinks in light of the complaint, should address it as a Board. Thinks all of the candidates deserve as equitable of treatment as possible.

Giuliana Conti: Suggestions?

Robby Perkins-High: Thinks it is up to the Elections Committee. Suggests once finish the memo, sending it out and saying listened to feedback.

Michael Diamond: Notes the memo already addresses the closed forum. It suggests either disallow it or have set rules, like the minutes being published right afterwards or having complaint deadline be 48 hours after minutes are finished.

Sydney Pearce: Comments that was sent to Senators who are candidates, not all candidates. It was not equitable to send only to one candidate.

Michael Diamond: Responds the motion to forum was valid, there was nothing could have done. Not sure agree it was inequitable to not give the minutes to everyone. Amy can you comment on what you generally do?

Amy Gabriel: Thinks the solution is just notifying people that they can ask for minutes. Does not typically do it, because people do not request, but this year people wanted to see it quickly. People did not know it was something they could ask for.

Sydney Pearce: Comments that not all candidates knew they could ask for them. Only one person asked and somebody else would have.

Amy Gabriel: Notes it also comes back to the Senator/not Senator issue – because the candidate was not on the listserv and was not privy to how GPSS works with Parli Pro.

Jacob Ziegler: Suggests put a note in the Elections Guide and say it is feedback we are incorporating.

Casey Duff: Notes has to leave for ASUW candidate's forum. Says please come to HUB 145 to see candidates speak after Exec meeting.

6. May 15th Senate Meeting Agenda

6:17 PM

Giuliana Conti: Items?

Amy Gabriel: Says someone from MDAES, so the design wanted to come speak to GPSS about project working on related to grad school financial aid. To get feedback about whether a guide to grad school financial aid would be something that grad students are interested in.

Michael Diamond: Should we treat that as a speaker?

Amy Gabriel: Guess so, a mini speaker since it is only 10 minutes.

Giuliana Conti: Resolutions?

Sydney Pearce: There is one for U-PASS. It just came to me today, it is saying GPSS supports change to the MOU – that all students pay it except the student academic employees. The university will be covering the difference. Since Senate needs it two weeks in advance, cannot do it at this one.

Michael Diamond: Can waive that requirement if Senate votes to do so, because it is time sensitive.

Sydney Pearce: That would be lovely.

Michael Diamond: Could move to suspend the rules and move it to a second reading which we have done before.

Robby Perkins-High: Do we want a forum to elicit feedback from Senators?

Michael Diamond: Was going to have some time for the Election Committee to present the complaint and response, so maybe that can fall under Elections debrief. 15 minutes. I will not be in town next week, but would put it under Frances Chu.

Jackie Wong: In that vein, thinks it would be a good idea for an anonymous Poll Ev so people can put in concerns.

Michael Diamond: While we're talking about Poll Ev, Jackie, do think we could try to record the resolution votes since it is on second reading?

Jackie Wong: Yes, we can do that.

Michael Diamond: That's good because otherwise would need to suspend the memo.

Giuliana Conti: It would be good practice for next year.

Sydney Pearce: Upcoming Events.

Jackie Wong: Point of Information: When is our last Senate Meeting?

Amy Gabriel: May 29th.

Jackie Wong: Because Abbie Shew and I were talking about having the Student Council on Health Insurance Resolution completed before the end of the year as well. Unfortunately it is at a time that is challenging for me, but will talk with Abbie.

Giuliana Conti: Is it ready?

Jackie Wong: It will be. Abbie reached out to me today to bring it up at Exec. Didn't realize the next meeting is the only option. Will get it done.

Sydney Pearce: Thinks Amy would need it tonight to send things out to the Senators.

Giuliana Conti: If you do not have it by then, it is possible to go through both readings in the same meeting.

Michael Diamond: Thinks suspending the rules should be the last resort for time sensitive things. Since first reading is just soliciting feedback, it's okay if incomplete.

Jackie Wong: Yeah, we have a document we could send you so it is available for first reading.

Giuliana Conti: Executive Senator Elections. Concern we had a lot of people leave by the time we got to the notice.

Sydney Pearce: People were still there. Was wondering if could do the election before the elections debrief.

Rene Singleton: Is it possible to delay? You have an elections debrief. Do you have to do all of these things in a rush? For healing, because do not know how it is going to happen.

Robby Perkins-High: Would have to suspend the bylaws.

Rene Singleton: Is it the last meeting or second to the last?

Giuliana Conti: Interested in people's thoughts about when should do Exec Senator Election. Considering the last time we did one, there were not people interested. And we're going into summer.

Jacob Ziegler: The last Senate meeting is going to be around finals and graduation, so if want higher attendance, this next meeting is better.

Sydney Pearce: Also recommends so Exec Senator comes in not right at the end of the year.

Michael Diamond: Agrees.

Jackie Wong: Agrees.

Chris Boylan: Agrees.

Giuliana Conti: Can we put it after graduate school financial aid?

Robby Perkins-High: Disagrees if have an election before talking about the other would be dissuaded.

Chris Boylan: Agrees. Should apologize for what happened and say let's try it again.

Jackie Wong: Should reach out to the candidates to remind them the Exec Senator vacancy is available.

Michael Diamond: At least two of the candidates are Senators and eligible for the role.

Sydney Pearce: Should we do Executive Reports since did not do them last time?

Giuliana Conti: Thinks it could be nice.

Robby Perkins-High: Grad School Financial Aid is the speaker?

Amy Gabriel: Yes, she'll be a proxy as well.

Giuliana Conti: Then the Elections Debrief.

Sydney Pearce: Should we also put in the Resolution on Student Health Insurance.

Giuliana Conti: Can you get it to Amy by tonight?

Jackie Wong: Yeah.

Amy Gabriel: Or by the end of the week is fine.

Jacob Ziegler: Wants to make sure we have quorum, so maybe before the resolutions.

Giuliana Conti: But can announce and then do resolutions so can think about it.

Jacob Ziegler: But should announce, so people stick around.

Chris Boylan: Anytime there is an election thinks should announce it at the beginning.

Sydney Pearce: Motions to approve the agenda.

Amy Gabriel: Seconds.

7. Executive Session

6:34 PM

Giuliana Conti: Says have Executive Session on the agenda given the Elections Committee Report has come out. Are there any objections to going into Executive Session?

Rene Singleton: You can go into Executive Session for a personnel matter or real estate.

Giuliana Conti: It is a personnel matter.

Rene Singleton: How long will it last?

Giuliana Conti: It will end at 7:05pm.

In Executive Session

Giuliana Conti: Executive session is closing at 7:08pm. We apologize for the three minutes over. We are going back into Executive Session until 7:30pm.

Sydney Pearce: Motions to extend time for Executive Session.

Michael Diamond: Seconds.

Sydney Pearce: Rescinds motion and will try to stay as long as she can.

Zhiyun Ma: May need to leave soon.

Sydney Pearce: Motions to extend time until 7:20pm.

Michael Diamond: Seconds.

Giuliana Conti: Any objections? Okay time extended.

In Executive Session

Giuliana Conti: Okay it is 7:22 pm and I am calling Executive Session to an end.

8. Adjournment

7:22 PM

Robby Perkins-High: Motions to Adjourn.

Giuliana Conti: Seconds.
