



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT SENATE**

Senate Meeting Minutes

May 15, 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
GPSS Executive Senator: Zhiyun Ma
GPSS Executive Senator: Jackie Wong
GPSS Executive Senator: Michael Diamond

1. Call to Order **5:35 PM**

2. Approval of the Agenda **5:35 PM**

Samer Fouad (Art): Motions to approve the agenda.

Samer Fouad (Art): Rescinds motion.

Amy Gabriel: Motions to amend the agenda to remove the President's Poll item.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Seconds.

Dean Allsopp (Evans): Motions to include 5 extra minutes in the Elections Debrief.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Seconds.

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

Nate Dreeman (Nursing): Seconds.

3. Approval of Minutes

5:36 PM

Samer (Art): Motions to approve the minutes.

Jared Canright (Physics): Seconds.

4. Graduate School Financial Aid

5:37 PM

Samer Fouad (Art): Introduces Piper and her projects. 5 mins explaining and 5 mins for opinions.

Amy Gabriel: Questions will be run through Poll Everywhere.

Piper Loyd (Art): Notes that is Masters of Design candidate at school of Art, Art History and Design. Working on a project about financial aid in graduate school. Says coming back to school and making this commitment at times has been very stressful, so has been thinking about aid and scholarships – the web of things to consider. Working on a project that would be a resource for grads students specifically, but could be scaled to students generally. Thinks an additional resource for grad students would be helpful. There are two parts: starting with personal stories, hearing other peoples’ experiences make people feel less alone and less stupid in how navigated process. So would be beneficial for students to hear when navigating the process in school, post-grad or even when considering applying. Working on a podcast that will be anonymous where people share experiences. Will also have a panel of experts that could advise individuals about what could do or decisions made along the way that could make it easier. A lot of it has to do with personal finance and financial literacy which is difficult unless have a lot of money to play with. Right now in process of learning what resources are out there – has been in touch with financial aid – they are helpful, but swamped, so getting in there can be hard. Also looking for personal stories, so if willing to share yours, would be helpful. If willing to have a confidential, anonymous conversation, would love to hear from you to make this process a little more human. The more this is talked about the more we learn and the less alienating it can feel.

Samer Fouad (Art): Adds that it’s challenging for people when they are happy to get into grad school, but then not sure how will pay for it. A lot of programs are fee based, but also helpful to hear from fully funded programs.

Piper Loyd (Art): Notes this can be a sensitive subject, treading lightly because knows there is so much emotion involved in finances. So anyway want to get in touch is fine. Any questions or feedback are welcome.

Giuliana Conti: Asks for any initial questions while submitting questions online.

Samer Fouad (Art): Notes this is just a resource, not trying to sell on anything.

Zhiyun Ma (Leadership and Higher Ed): If at all, to what extent, can people who are not impacted by student loans support this or be a part of it?

Piper Loyd (Art): Thinks just having curiosity and empathy for people who are navigating student loans and also if know of any resources please share. It is a huge help.

Samer Fouad (Art): Says thinking about incoming graduate students as well, especially international students and fee-based programs. So any professional additions would be beneficial.

Giuliana Conti: Any other questions? This is a topic has covered with Ana Mari in meetings. Asks whether Senators with student loans have done entrance counseling with your program before signing off on them? Was it mandatory? Has been thinking about mandating loan training online. Training is helpful for thinking about how much of a burden will have moving forward.

Samer Fouad (Art): Trying to help future students think about how they are paying for it.

Matt McKeown (Director of Events): Will you write your e-mail on the board?

Piper Loyd (Art): Yes.

5. Elections Debrief

5:46 PM

Frances Chu (Nursing): Introduces herself as representative of the Elections Committee. Has copies of the Committee's response to the complaint if want it. Will summarize the four complaints: the open forum and requirement candidates leave the room was not in Elections Guide. The audio recording was turned off. Officers may not endorse and had impression there was an endorsement going on. Factually inaccurate information was given about the candidate. The candidate saw summary of complaints and agreed with what was written.

The open forum was a valid exercise of authority. The Elections Committee does have concerns about it and will be talking about it with the next Committee. Will talk about banning it or having specific guidelines. The second is the audio recording. That was a mistake because there was confusion. It was very brief. The Secretary explained what happened and committee agreed with it.

The VP of External Affairs offered a formal apology. The VP External did not formally endorse a candidate, but it ended up sounding like it.

With the inaccurate information, the Elections Committee apologizes for the misstatements during the open forum. The VP of External has provided an apology and will read it now.

Reads:

Thank you all for sticking through a long meeting on the 1st and for choosing to be here again tonight. I know that the Elections Committee will be debriefing everyone shortly about the specifics of that meeting, but I wanted to take a moment to address the complaint made, and the committee's decision.

I sincerely apologize if I made anyone feel uncomfortable at any point during our elections meeting, and if my actions made any member of our Senate question my impartiality as an Officer. My intentions were never to hurt anyone's feelings or endorse any candidate, but rather to voice concerns I had. Unfortunately, there is ambiguity in our election's procedures about the role Officers play in all facets of the process, but I believe these can be clarified to ensure situations like this can be avoided in the future.

I want all of you to know that I take this complaint very seriously and I understand that the way I made my statement was a mistake. I am truly sorry to anyone that it has negatively affected and my door is always open to anyone who would like to discuss this further.

Giuliana Conti: Do we have Poll Everywhere set up?

Frances Chu (Nursing): Does Dean want to come up?

Giuliana Conti: We have this poll first.

Frances Chu (Nursing): Explains the poll is going to be like the previous one. You submit your questions and I will go through and answer them.

Giuliana Conti: Notes the purpose of this is to ask questions anonymously to the Elections Committee about the process or anything.

Frances Chu (Nursing): Says can also take questions if technology is not working, or can provide feedback and will give recommendations to Elections Committee for next year.

Christian Love (Higher Ed): This was started last year or two years ago. What are some of the pros of an Open Forum?

Frances Chu (Nursing): Responds cannot address that right now. Will pass it on to the next Elections Committee to think about.

Questions from Poll Everywhere

If a Senator believes a candidate's statements are factually incorrect, what methods exist for fact checking in real time?

Frances Chu (Nursing): Cannot address that either, will pass on to next Elections Committee.

What steps are being taken to ensure this will not happen in the future?

Frances Chu (Nursing): Making recommendations to the Elections Committee to make the guidelines more specific or completely ban them.

How will you ensure next year's Elections Committee will be made aware of the events from this year and will act to prevent similar situations in the future?

Frances Chu (Nursing): All of the documentation has been archived and will be given to the Elections Committee next year.

Why can't the current Officers endorse candidates?

Frances Chu (Nursing): I can't...there is a probably a bias there. Wants to make sure there are no biases.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Will leave poll open so can ask other questions.

Does the Elections Committee read through the official statements to fact check them ahead of time?

Frances Chu (Nursing): Try the best we can.

Wondering if most Senators thought the open forum was a problem?

Frances Chu (Nursing): Cannot address that.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Says can also poll Senate with these questions.

Robert Levine (Oceanography): A lot of these issues that arise as a Senate, wants the Elections Committee to bring them back to Senate so can say whether they should change the Elections Guideline.

Giuliana Conti: Can you raise your hand if you think an anonymous poll everywhere would be useful?

Vote: Majority yes.

Jared Canright (Physics): What aspects would this be asking about?

Giuliana Conti: Will leave up to Elections Committee. Sorry to put that on you all, we can do it in house as well.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Notes discussed some positive and constructive things about the Elections.

Frances Chu (Nursing): Will need our feedback on that questionnaire. Does Dean want to come up?

Dean Allsopp (Evans): Good afternoon Senators, my name is Dean and I am here to address the past elections cycle. First and foremost not here because bitter about the election, has made peace with it and like told Morgan, is very confident will do an amazing job representing GPSS and graduate students in Olympia. Very proud of behavior and campaigns of all of the candidates. As a group showed professionalism and care for one another that does not think we get to see enough in the elections process here at UW.

Here to bring up a few reforms and lessons has taken away from this experience. Ran on a platform for justice in the education system and the irony is does not think there was a fair election or justice that happened two weeks ago. Is here for future candidates who will be running for this position so the same thing does not happen to them. Few recommendations for next year: would like Officers to consider making it very explicit what their expectations are for how to prepare for a position, thinks it should be included on website and included and sent out to students as early as possible to give every student the opportunity to start preparing. Also would like a student advocate to be elected or the responsibility given to an Executive Senator, this process has been very time consuming – filing the complaint and researching – has had no one to teach rules on how GPSS works and bureaucracy here, so thinks it would be really helpful to have an Executive Senator there to assist if this did happen again. Thinks life lesson – to consider the information getting and power dynamics around that information. Finally, would like to say GPSS needs to continue to advertise the Elections as early as possible, preferably in the beginning of winter quarter to give candidates enough time to prepare. That’s all would like to add. Will finish with a note to anyone that is interested in improving the Elections cycle, that is here and willing to give feedback that can. Has been a pleasure to be a part of GPSS and looks forward to next cycle of Evans students who will be given the opportunity to collaborate and possible serve as an Officer in the future.

Frances Chu (Nursing): Thanks fellow Elections Committee members for working on this. We’ll try again.

6. U Pass Resolution

6:01 PM

Giuliana Conti: Explains this is first reading, so can take friendly amendments, voting will happen at next meeting after have the chance to go online and make suggestions.

Sydney Pearce: Mentioned this before. Academic student employees will have their U Pass fee covered by the university. The way the UPASS was created was through an MOU that states all students must pay the U Pass fee, but now since these negotiations, need to edit it to say all students, besides the members of the union. The one edit that has changed so far – the AG’s office came back with some preferred language which is just a slight change. Would like to change this so union members do not have to pay the U Pass fee.

Jared Canright (Physics): Asks in the top paragraph, to which GPSS vice president does it refer?

Sydney Pearce: Should just say President, will change.

Hawley Helmbrecht (Chemical Engineering): Asks clarification question around who still will pay the U Pass fee.

Sydney Pearce: Explains the union members would not need to pay. It creates an exception for students who are members of the union.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences): Thinks all academic student employees are automatically members, do not need to pay union dues.

Sydney Pearce: Correct.

Hawley Helmbrecht (Chemical Engineering): That's what I was clarifying.

Nate Dreesmann (Nursing): Those of us on fellowship grants, do not believe are RAs/TAs, thinks we are classified as faculty departments, could we seek membership and if we did would that apply to us?

Sydney Pearce: Does not believe so. It only applies to academic student employees who are eligible for the union. Before they had decided whether the university would cover it, were concerned would fall on other students. So that's a situation where could open door up to more groups getting it covered, but currently just union members.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Not sure if it is pertinent, but wondering if there's a "that" clause to protect the rest of the students who are not a part of the union.

Sydney Pearce: In the MOU or resolution?

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Resolution.

Sydney Pearce: Notes the ASUW and U Pass Resolutions are the same. Thinks that is what the MOU says. The issue with it is by opening up the MOU and renegotiating, the university could technically pull back 10% contribution.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): More to prevent university from raising the fee.

Sydney Pearce: Says it will be passed again for the university to still contribute the same amount. Doesn't think would cover cost for some students and take away from others.

Giuliana Conti: Notes can engage online with the resolution for specific questions, so Syd can connect with people and do research to make sure questions and recommendations are included. Other questions?

Sydney Pearce: Will be talking more about transportation later in report.

7. Student Health Insurance Resolution

6:09 PM

Jackie Wong: Abbie Shew, the author will be presenting.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): If you remember, from way back in Fall quarter, went over this and not a lot has changed, a few things have been clarified. Going to go over briefly. Feel free to stop if have questions.

History of health insurance at UW. There used to be an opt-in student insurance plan, that any student regardless of income or citizenship could buy into. It was discontinued in 2014 as result of the ACA.

Currently at UW there are two options: ISHIP for international students which is required by federal law, so not going to go away. The second is GAIP insurance which all academic student employees are eligible for, and will not likely go away anytime soon.

There is a need for health insurance – most probably know. Discuss common health costs and problems that grad students have that would be covered by insurance if had it.

Had a couple of ideas in terms of what a new SHIP plan might look like. Cornell is a good model because partner with Medicaid. This section is background research.

The current barrier to universal student health insurance is law in place in Washington state which is interpreted to say that universities are not required to provide health insurance, so it is the biggest legal barrier to reinstating SHIP.

Immediate needs – health insurance is expensive and difficult to obtain. Two great bills passed this session. Raised the income level where can buy-into state health insurance (so cheaper than other plans), so now most students can buy in. Also the creation of a long-term health fund that states people can buy into large state health fund if come into any illness or disability that requires long term care.

Short term requests are that the university reinstate a buy-in option for students ASAP, long term request is making that program sustainable.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Offers friendly amendment to add dental, vision and mental health.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Notes removing current barriers – continued lobbying efforts to remove law that says universities do not have to provide.

Early on in year wanted to commission statewide study, still thinks that it is important and also want one across three UW campuses to figure out needs and gaps, so have better information of insurance needs. Any questions or friendly amendments?

Giuliana Conti: Points out this is a joint resolution with ASUW.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Notes ASUW had their first reading last week, but it is tabled for Elections.

Nate Dreesmann (Nursing): Point of Information highlighting head of UW medicine. Currently there is a plan for UW Medicine employees – this year offered UW plan which has cheaper buy-in. PPO included Hall Health, UW neighborhood clinics, UW Med Center etc. Any talks of approaching UW medicine and inquiring whether could have such a program for SHIP?

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): There has been conversation about doing that, but has not been done as far as she knows. UW Medicine has had a complicated relationship with Hall Health and students in the past.

Nate Dreesmann (Nursing): Thinks Hall Health is a great resource, but heard may have financial issues, so may not be able to sustain that into the future. That's why recommended UW medicine.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Appreciates that. Pursuing dental side of things with dental school, for path of least resistance. So good to hear UW med has started process with staff.

Kelsey Hood: Is there a reason why do not have this going to anyone in Senate at state level? May want to add Senator David Folb given that he was the major proponent of all of the major healthcare related bills in the Senate.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Yes, we can look into adding people for second reading.

Giuliana Conti: That can be done in next two weeks.

Phil Leung (Molecular Engineering): Point of Information: The way of reducing the financial risk pool is switching from opt in to opt out, is there any other way the financial risk pool is being reduced in this proposal?

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Notes has talked about combining SHIP with ISHIP, since currently an opt-out program from international students. In past were coupled as a risk pool. Hope if can repeal the RCW, can be combined into risk pool so all students buying into same insurance plan, but because of the relationship between international student insurance and domestic student insurance it is complicated.

Phil Leung (Molecular Engineering): Do you have data that suggests the enrollment rate is higher with an opt out program? It seems logical that it would be but the higher ups may like data showing it.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Believes it was part of UC system study.

Sydney Pearce: Yes.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): So don't have data about UW specifically, but does exist in California.

Jackie Wong (Dentistry): Comments that currently the ISHIP rate is very good. Have had comments that students came here because ISHIP is so good. So trying to protect this in these conversations.

Mason Proffitt (Physics): Notes is concerned about burden of implementing it as a requirement of students because health insurance is always expensive. Did not see anything about data on how implementing such a model effects students. Worried about students on lowest end of socioeconomic status.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Responds SHIP was partially subsidized by university – it was cheaper to opt-into SHIP than to get state assistance. So hopes the university would subsidize it.

Giuliana Conti: Asks about implications for undocumented students.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Does not know the answer, but hopes that SHIP would be available to anyone regardless of citizenship status.

Mason Proffitt (Physics): Suggests adding data on how this kind of model effects the costs that students bear – especially students that are most vulnerable, like those with chronic conditions versus those that are healthy.

Mimi Krutein (Pathology): Have you spoken at all about dependents?

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): Also a clause, so yes it is a part of it.

Nate Dreesmann (Nursing): Notes that those at very low end of income spectrum are able to get Apple Health. This is aimed at people who are in donut hole. Make too much income to apply to Medicaid, but not enough to buy own healthcare. There is a substantial amount of people who are in that position. For students who are stuck in that middle position. While being an alternative for other people who need it.

Abbie Shew (Organizing Director): That is right. The income bar has changed for Apple Health. The goal of this is to get at the people who are not eligible for state healthcare.

Giuliana Conti: Notes item is at time. Unless motion to extend, encourage you to communicate with resolution authors and interact online with it. Will come back for second reading at next meeting. Which will be last meeting with pizza.

Giuliana Conti: Says have been blessed to have Zhiyun Ma as an Exec Senator. Has participated at every level. Has become a dear friend. Has conducted a study on international students in GPSS and won award for perfect attendance last year. Loss for us, but exciting for her. Also means will have someone new join the Exec Board, to come in with positive, constructive and engaged discussions about how to serve you best and do better. Also to keep Officers on our toes and accountable. At this time taking nominations. Can nominate yourself or someone else. Two things to keep in mind: Per the Bylaws need to meet as an Exec Board once a month per summer. Additionally, there is a stipend for Executive Senators. Finally, provide adequate compensation for volunteers.

Amy Gabriel: Adds the summer meeting requirement is not necessarily in person, can be via phone.

Giuliana Conti: Any nominations or questions?

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences): Nominates himself.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Seconds.

Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences): Notes is a first-year grad student. This is first year as a Senator in GPSS but has a history in student government. Went to Georgia Institute of Technology and was in undergrad assembly. Served as Sargent in Arms, similar to parliamentarian in terms of enforcing order in the house. Has a deep knowledge of parliamentary procedure, but use a different set of rules in this body so has taken a moment to adjust. Interested in taking a more active role in GPSS next year. Would be humbled to be exec senator.

Giuliana Conti: Any other nominations? Seeing none. All those in favor of electing Andrew Shumway for Exec Senator position.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favor.

Giuliana Conti: States by unanimous vote, Andrew Shumway is a new Executive Senator. Says is particularly excited about this. Has been very involved and outspoken and thinks will be a fantastic addition.

9. Upcoming Events

6:35 PM

Matt McKeown: Golfing with Grads event is coming up. 2-5pm at UW Golf Range. Can bring partners. Bring Husky ID for discount on bucket of balls. June 7th is Spring Sendoff in Sylvan Grove. There will be music, games and photobooth. Please take posters to advertise.

10. Executive Board Reports

6:36 PM

Robby Perkins-High: Says a couple of events funded by F & B are coming up. SAF voting meeting is this Friday. Colleen, Jacob and I will be there.

Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering): Have you met with SAF about our budget?

Robby Perkins-High: The voting meeting hasn't happened yet, but thinks it will be passed as requested.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Yes, there are other more controversial things.

Amy Gabriel: Says DivCom end of year meeting coming up and will be talking about next year. Want to get it more wrapped up with Senate. It is Tuesday, May 28th at 5:30pm. Free Indian Food. Will be checking Senator absences soon so let her know if any unexcused ones because will be checking. If planning on being a Senator next year, let her know.

Sydney Pearce: Last week presented at Board of Regents about proposed changes in regards to transportation. Discussed whether faculty/staff U Pass rates would go up. There was a lot of opposition since need to reduce parking spaces, so instead of increasing the rates, doing a 12% rate increase for parking. That is a win for sustainability because will continue to prioritize reduced rates for U Pass. Transition meetings have been happening with Officers, so any feedback on this past year, feel free to come meet and let us know. Liaisons are switching to President, so talk to Giuliana Conti if interested. Starting a marketing plan for GPSS, so talk to Matt if have thoughts.

Giuliana Conti: There are a series of teaching evals that are happening right now for task force on teaching evals on campus. Could not find the dates. One is taking place tomorrow. And want RSVPs, so e-mail them. The forums are at the ECC. There are three different days to give feedback. Really looking forward to working with you next year and learning about all of your different experiences.

Sydney Pearce: Also Science and Policy has a lunch and learn coming up. Also going to have an end of the year wrap up for Sci and Policy on Thursday May 30th from 5:30-7pm.

11. Announcements

6:43 PM

Andrea Shelton (Nursing): Looking to continue the conversation regarding SHIP, specifically for any programs where required to have health insurance, so if want to discuss, find afterwards.

Amy Gabriel: At the next meeting there will be pizza!

Samer Fouad (Art): Is the VP of Printmaking Association on campus. Annual sale is on Monday, May 20th and Tuesday, May 21st. 8am-9pm.

Paquita Esterly (Museology): Museology student has an exhibit at the Renton Art Museum if want to visit.

12. Adjournment

6:45 PM

Ted Cohen (Molecular Engineering): Motions to adjourn.

Jacob Ziegler (Chemistry): Seconds.