

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Executive Meeting Minutes - Session 12

January 6, 2016 / HUB 303

Members Present:

GPSS President Alex Bolton
GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Monica Cortes Viharo
GPSS Treasurer Kerstin Hudon
GPSS Secretary Soh Yeun (Elloise) Kim
GPSS Executive Senator Evan Firth
GPSS Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain (via Skype)
GPSS Executive Senator Joseph Telegen
Graduate School Associate Dean Kelly Edwards
ASUW Director of University Affairs Roy Taylor
GPSS Director of University Affairs Austin Kinney
GPSS Director of Events Sarah Loeffler

1. Call to Order: 5:33 pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Seeing no objection, the agenda is approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE Minutes

Seeing no objection, the minutes of the Nov. 4th and Nov. 23rd are approved.

4. STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE CLICKER PROPOSAL

5:37 pm

Yasmeen Hussain: The biggest concern about the Clicker Proposal is software issues - voting, registering names, etc. can be tricky. She has been trying to reach out to those individuals who developed the software for ASUW's clickers, but has not been able to get in contact with anyone. In thinking about Student Technology Fee's (STF) role in the GPSS this year, she would like to utilize it for software development to fund and develop absent software in order to improve student use on campus. This could be a great opportunity for both student governments to test out this new category of software development, and collaborate to help standardize software for student governments.

Joseph Telegen says Kevin hasn't been reachable by ASUW or GPSS. Right now they do not have the link to the software to begin fixing these issues, so it is a bit difficult.

Yasmeen Hussain will write the proposal, which is due on January 22nd, 2016. She asks if someone else would like to sponsor it since she is on the STF committee. Joseph agrees to sponsor it.

Evan Firth expresses some concerns regarding the security of clickers, because the hardware is unprotected and therefore can be easily hacked.

Rene Singleton says that security should not be an issue. If the clickers are programmed the way ASUW uses it, the votes are projected on a big screen, so everyone can see it. This real time voting keeps the whole process more secure.

Monica Cortes Viharo has attended workshops where a free texting system was used to allow participants to text their answer to the facilitator, and answers are projected on the screen. She wonders if they have looked into something similar.

Yasmeen Hussain believes the only issue with that method is that the text system does not automatically display everyone's name individually. However, this could be remedied by assigning everyone a number associated with his or her name.

Monica Cortes Viharo can see the pros and cons of both methods. Using phones as opposed to clickers could reduce their costs in the long term, but then again if someone forgot their phone it could be problematic.

Joseph Telegen agrees. The clickers would be GPSS' responsibility whereas the phone would be Senators'.

Yasmeen Hussain suggests that there may be a way to develop the software to allow people who have forgotten their clickers to use their phone, and vice versa. This is just something they will have to look into. She will write up a draft that the Executive Committee can vote at the next meeting.

5. HUSKY EXPERIENCE: GRADUATE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

5:48 pm

Kelly Edwards: The Board of Regents has been focusing on the husky student experience in their various meetings. They are interested in hearing more about the student experience specifically from the graduate student perspective at the January 14th, 2016 meeting. She has been working with Rebecca Aanerud to put together this event. So far, they are planning to discuss graduate school preparation including the first 90 days of graduate school and the different career possibilities that are available to students once they graduate. They are mostly interested in having students share their thoughts. She would love to have some conversation during the Senate meeting about what is most important for the Regents to hear about the graduate student experience right now.

Alex Bolton asks what they are actively trying to do to affect the larger graduate experience. So many students say that they want to be a part of the larger university, and coming to events that bring students together help them feel like they are a part of the university rather than just their

specific program. Programs such as Husky Sunrise and G3 are nice examples of these types of events.

Kelly Edwards adds that it might be nice to share with the Regents what the graduate school is not doing yet but what it would like to do. Is there an unmet need that has not been addressed? This does not need to be a presentation discussing how they have solved all the problems, because there is still a lot of room for growth.

Alex Bolton shares that one thing that comes to mind in talking about unmet needs is discussions around career opportunities. There are many students who would like to learn about opportunities outside of academia upon graduation.

Kelly Edwards says that every time they talk to the Regents it is an opportunity to discuss the graduate experience. It might be nice to share an example of broadening. A student may have had one thought about what she wanted to do before attending graduate school, but because of her experiences at the university she may have been launched in another direction.

Monica Cortes Viharo asks if they should talk about programs that are doing great work but might need more support. For example, the Engage program - a course that all graduate students can take but has limited space. Right now it is focusing on helping science students talk about their work. She is going to do a workshop with them on public speaking, and they mentioned wanting to grow the program by offering the course to non science students who want to talk about their work to laymen. Funding and sponsorship would allow this program to offer these courses for non-science students as well.

Rene Singleton adds that the GPSS's ability to give people current information in real time should be highlighted. Monica can speak on the implementation of many programs that were developed out of a need identified. Some quick start programs are becoming traditions. For example, in less than three months we were able to develop the Husky Sunrise after learning of such need. These programs demonstrate the GPSS's dedication to immediately meeting the needs of its students, and also highlights the connection between the GPSS and graduate students. She recommends adding a portion into the presentation about advocacy for disgruntled students go to be heard.

Kelly Edwards thinks about the school's support of the Veteran's Center and various programming that has been developed for LGBTQ students. It is really about whether diverse students feel that they belong to UW and the graduate school. Furthermore, the themes of connection, communication, and responsiveness can be the overall message her team is trying to convey to the Board of Regents.

Yasmeen Hussain wants to clarify whether they are going to present on the husky experience or what GPSS does.

Kelly Edwards: The husky experience from a graduate student perspective. As she understands, the Regents would specifically like to hear from two students who are able to discuss their unique experience.

Yasmeen Hussain suggest that they should tell the Regents what struggles graduate students have as well. They can frame it as that here is one thing that is great, but there is something that can be improved; it is great that there are so many opportunities for so and so, but there is lacking like so and so.

Kelly Edwards asks if Yasmeen will agree to be one of the students on January 14th, 2016 at 12:00-12:30 pm in Gerberding. (Yasmeen agrees.)

Joseph Telegen asks if there is a way that they could bring this to the Senate to get their input.

Alex Bolton says no, because the Senate meets only a day before the Regents meeting. However, they can start a larger conversation among graduate students about the needs the GPSS should focus on.

Joseph Telegen wonders if there is a way to bring it back to the GPSS in terms of what the GPSS' particular roles will be in the process beyond people going and speaking with the Regents.

Alex Bolton suggests to keep it on the table.

Monica Cortes Viharo adds that if they would like to get more specific feedback they can send out a survey email to Senators about their concerns. While this might be a little rushed, it would be an opportunity to get some feedback beforehand and give them something concrete to pull from.

Alex Bolton worries about the quality of the feedback if they rush it, but he appreciates her suggestion.

Yasmeen Hussain thinks Monica's idea is a good one, because it is better than just going off their own opinions only.

Kelly Edwards thinks that as officers and exec senators they have a good feeling for how it is going for fellow students, and thus they are able to speak on their behalf. She would not discourage a survey, but she wants to ensure that they give the Regents something to walk away with.

Joseph Telegen believes that the Senate should be aware of the decisions the Executive Committee is making as a collective in regards to the Regents presentation.

Alex Bolton agrees. Depending on who ends up presenting, they can put it as an agenda item for the next week's meeting.

Kelly Edwards can reprise the presentation for the Senate and get their feedback afterwards. The Thursday meeting is a starting point for the Regents to dive into these issues, and decide what they would like to do about them.

Evan Firth wonders what the Regents would benefit most from hearing about. More visible successes such as Husky Sunrise, or less visible successes like student involvement that helps the community.

Alex Bolton says that it is important that the Regents know graduate students do things less visible things, but it will not be very important for this presentation. It is more about what the experience here for a typical graduate student is – what is going good and what needs improvement.

Evan Firth: Then Husky Sunrise is a great example since it has been very visible and well received, and was directed around improving the graduate student experience.

Kelly Edwards: Grad programs are deemed decentralized because each holds specialized knowledge that is discipline specific. But it is a false assumption. Debunking this myth would be helpful.

Elloise Kim questions what kinds of struggles can be presented as an example to the Regents. Funding is talked about a lot, but differently from a common assumption not every graduate student is funded as a TA or RA. She believes that funding is one of topics that need to be addressed as a part of a typical graduate student's experience. She is also thinking that Rainbow Grads would be a good example of an organization that offers a community that includes all populations across disciplines.

Kelly Edwards agrees that the example connects with the idea of finding your people when you come to graduate school not just within but also outside of your program.

Evan Firth: Astrobiology is a program that is interdisciplinary. These students are receiving full funding because they are able to speak this interdisciplinary language. This is more evidence of how important these interdisciplinary areas of study can be; it is beneficial for finding jobs and bringing funding to the university.

Monica Cortes Viharo adds that the Digital Humanities is an exploding area that is also interdisciplinary.

Kelly Edwards thanks everyone for their help brainstorming.

6 & 7. RESOLUTION SPONSORSHIP AND SUBMISSION POLICY

6:17 pm

Alex Bolton: Resolution sponsorship came up as an issue last quarter, so he believes that it might be helpful to develop and formalize a policy around it. He shares that they have received a resolution from an individual who is not currently enrolled as a graduate student at UW but has cced many other people including one senator. It also had no sponsors. He has done some research to see how other groups on campus do such as Faculty Senate and ASUW Senate. Both groups require sponsors to be their senators. Faculty Senate requires a writer to be a senator in

order to submit a resolution. ASUW allows any student to submit a resolution, but it has to be sponsored by a senator. He has drafted a memorandum that suggests the GPSS has a same policy. He proposes that by endorsing it this memorandum will become their official policy. The Bylaws revision is subject to the whole Senate, but with a policy they do not need to do so. Therefore, rather than having everything in the Bylaws and making them difficult to change, it might be wise for them to do memorandums and have policy guides. (See attached document).

Joseph Telegen asks that if it is worth it to talk about whether undergraduate students should be allowed to write resolutions since it declares that graduate professional students will be allowed to submit resolutions.

Roy Taylor does not think so. If an undergraduate is not able to find a graduate student to write it, it probably will not get a traction.

Alex Bolton agrees, adding that GPSS' constituency is graduate students. He entertains a motion to endorse the memorandum.

Elloise Kim makes a motion.

Evan Firth seconds.

Memorandum on GPSS Resolution Sponsorship and Submission Policy is approved.

----- 10 minutes break -----

8. JANUARY 13th SENATE MEETING AGENDA

6:32 pm

Alex Bolton: So far the agenda they have:

- Second readings and voting of a resolution endorsing PACS recommendation
- Spotlight of the OMBUD office
- UPASS Advisory Committee update
- Good of the order
- Resolution Sponsorship and Submission policy

Joseph Telegen proposes a resolution that states the GPSS recognizes the New England Patriots as the official professional franchise hoping that this example may prompt others to do resolutions.

Alex Bolton is a little uncomfortable using a skeleton resolution as a placeholder for other resolutions. Maybe it would be fun at the beginning of the year, but they are too far along already having had many serious resolutions.

Joseph Telegen likes the fact that it is a resolution that will absolutely get rejected. This type of resolution may be a good way of letting people know they can vote no. The Senate has had predominately yes votes, and therefore it might be worth demonstrating that Senators can say no when someone proposes something preposterous.

Monica Cortes Viharo does not think this is necessarily a bad idea, but she believes that people are well aware that they can vote no.

Roy Taylor adds that if they are looking at a resolution where everyone will oppose, he can point to the BDS resolution at the ASUW Senate two years ago, which didn't end up getting watered down. Instead there was a lot of talk about it. If they should hold a hard line when it comes to resolutions, they may say: this amendment does not align with the original intent of the legislation. It would ultimately prevent the watering down of bills.

Alex Bolton thinks it should be up to the body to decide what to do. But it will take more processes.

Joseph Telegen would argue that watering down is what happened with the union resolution. He believes the response to the resolution would be immediate.

Austin Kinney questions if watering down would be up to an author.

Alex Bolton: Yes, but at the end of the day the body can propose amendments and either promote or shoot them down. Once one submits it, it is out of his hands.

Joseph Telegen just wants more people to propose resolutions.

Alex Bolton does worry about people proposing resolutions for the sake of proposing them. Having many resolutions does not necessarily show that the GPSS is successful and doing its job.

Elloise Kim mentions that she sees the point of having this type of resolution, but she understands Alex's concern at the same time. She has received feedback from many new Senators that the last couple of meetings were very long, despite the fact that the resolutions proposed were highly important. While a conversation about a resolution might be meaningful, some Senators feel overwhelmed by having too much focus on resolutions. Therefore, she does not think that every Senate meeting must deal with a resolution as if it is the main and only job the Senate has to and can do. They can have a different strategy to provide information to encourage Senators to cast authentic votes.

Joseph Telegen is happy to let go of the Patriots resolution for now. Yet, he rejects the idea that the Senate should not have a resolution at every meeting.

Monica Cortes Viharo helps to summarize some of the comments that have been made. She agrees that resolutions that ask an arduous discussion and debate at every meeting might be taxing on the Senate body. Some resolutions may not require as much debate as others. She also agrees that they have to look for quality over quantity. Maybe they can remind people of how easy a resolution process could be with another skit.

Joseph Telegen has heard that the Senate needs to move away from the idea of having a resolution every meeting. He wants to clarify that he never has said anything like “we have to have a resolution, good or bad.”

Monica Cortes Viharo agrees that is not what people understand his words to mean. They just want to be respectful of everyone’s time.

Roy Taylor wants to go back to the idea of watering down.

Alex Bolton asks if it is the role of the Executive Committee to steer a resolution one way or the other, watering down or not. He does not think the Exec should do it; it should be the purview of an author or the body.

Joseph Telegen adds that procedurally they should ask a sponsor if it is gotten too far away, but otherwise they should not have anything to do with it.

Kelly Edwards: When a group can add amendments and make revisions, they can get to quite a refined position that people feel they have ownership of. It would be hard to legislate what counts as reasonable and what is watered down. It would be good to check in with an author to see if the viewpoints are still in alignment.

Alex Bolton reviews what they have so far for the agenda.

Monica Cortes Viharo is not sure how long the UPASS report will take. It could be controversial. Sometimes the complaints regarding the mandatory fee are coming from people who are taking the course on behalf of their employer, which is not a big issue. However, there have been concerns for students outside of the Seattle area.

Joseph Telegen adds that ASUW did an advisory report last night (1/5). A lot of the questions dealt with theoretical ideas for changing the payment structure were made. This is why the school does not have an opt-out option. Also it suggests that someone concerns about U Pass and possibly varying the fee based on interest can bring it up during good of the order. It would allow Monica to have her full time for her presentation and the Senate to deal with additional concerns during good of the order.

Alex Bolton adds that every student that is charged with SAF fee pays UPASS.

Elloise Kim asks if the Foster School is exempt from the universal UPASS. (**Alex Bolton:** No.)

Austin Kinney adds that he recently got a complaint from them.

Monica Cortes Viharo says that a lot of the questions may be very technical questions that she would not be able to answer. But there are other fees that students pay as well. So, they should think about whether they had better open up a conversation about the universal good of these other fees.

Austin Kinney: UPASS is expanding to Spokane. Do they do the same system? If so, the problem with people opting out of the fee is where the school draws the line. Do people have to be on the outskirts of the Sound Transit? Maybe people cannot opt out, but the school can expand it to areas that are currently unable to use the UPASS for. The momentum that resulted in its implementation in Spokane shows that it can be implemented elsewhere as well.

Kelly Edwards: All students matriculated in degree programs are assessed quarterly fees. UPASS is not on the list of fees.

Elloise Kim asks if they can have time for a conversation among Senators in the form of icebreaking. It could take place after the UPASS discussion, and can be either formal or informal.

Joseph Telegen motions to approve the agenda.

Roy Taylor seconds.

The agenda for the Jan. 13th Senate meeting is approved.

9. GPSS OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW SENATORS

7:00 pm

Alex Bolton states that he and Elloise have planned to have an open house from 4:30 to 5:00 pm, right before the next week's Senate Meeting for new Senators. This event would allow people to meet with officers and get familiar with the GPSS.

Elloise Kim says that it is to give an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about GPSS for not only those who are new to the Senate but also people interested in learning more about what the GPSS does. Instead of having a formal orientation, this will allow them to have a casual and informal setting to mingle. If it is well received, they can plan a similar event next quarter. There will be some refreshment as well; Sarah will order food.

10. Executive Senator Reports

7:03 pm

Evan Firth has a SAF meeting coming up regarding the budget. If anyone has questions for Hall Health, let her now. She will meet with them early tomorrow morning (1/7/16). Other than that, she has been working on TA and grad school work.

Joseph Telegen shares that during the break he was fairly slack on his duties, because he was working on his dissertation. He will be working on the City Steering Committee with some folks. The group will propose ideas for local legislation - they have done it on a state and federal level previously.

11. Officer Reports

7:06 pm

Monica Cortes Viharo shares that on Monday she will be moderating an event called Speak Up,

which is being co-sponsored by the GPSS, School of Drama, Simpson Center for Humanities, Humanities Washington, and Seattle Repertory Theater. It has a panel on Muslim American Issues- What does it mean to be a Muslim American at this time? Anyone who attends will get a discount code to see *Disgraced*, which is a Pulitzer prize winning play written by a Muslim Pakistani American. She is also working on offering arts events with discount tickets without having to put out money in advance. She and Sarah are working on a February Valentine-esque event. She also mentions that Husky 100 applications are due in February.

Alex Bolton speaking for Brian Taubeneck: Brian is not with us today; he is in Olympia. They are doing a training with the Washington Student Association and all the other lobbyists. He and James are constantly having conversations. Along those lines, James and I attended an event this morning gearing up for legislative sessions to give everyone a heads up on what to expect and how to use the numerous university systems. They do a lot of bill tracking, and how to figure out if you want to follow certain bills. Check in with James if anyone has questions there.

Alex Bolton speaking for Kerstin Hudon: Kerstin is not here either. She is planning on submitting a paper for any meetings she will not make in lieu of her formal report. Mac will attend Senate meetings for her. She also bought some furniture for the office.

Elloise Kim: The Judicial Committee met this morning, though she was not able to attend. They have been looking through the bylaws line by line, and thinking about possible amendments for the next year. They may present a brief summary of the Bylaws to help Senators understand them better. The Diversity Committee is celebrating its first MLK event on January 20th, 2016. On the MLK Day the GPSS usually hosts volunteering service along with GO MAP. She is in charge of one of the service locations; it would be great for Executive Committee members to volunteer for cleaning. She has also been working on an event to help out international students' relationship with faculty with the Core Programs in February.

Roy Taylor reports that Noe Merfeld will be back as the ASUW representative from the next meeting.

Alex Bolton says the Exec Committee will miss him.

Kelly Edwards: Besides the Regents meeting, the Graduate School is currently working on transgender programming through its partnership with the Q center. They are working on a follow up workshop for international students on communicating with their advisor. There will be also a huge career symposium happening on January 20th, 2016 with a panel of recent UW graduates who are doing different career pathways.

Alex Bolton went to an event with James today on legislative things. He is getting things ready for the Regents meeting with Kelly. They are going to have a staff retreat on January 25th, and will be having regular staff meetings to build the team and have some cohesion. There have been a lot of interesting articles in the Daily; if anyone sees something relevant they may feel free to bring them up to him to have some conversations. For example, Yasmeen expressed some concerns for accessing the Biology building. They are particularly worried about how this will affect disabled students. So, he is planning to have some conversations with administrators about

these issues. Also, he is working on having rape kits on campus because the closest location is at Harborview Medical right now. Addressing these issues early on will be helpful.

Joseph Telegen adds that there were a couple of people promoting anti human trafficking; they are going to be sending him an email.

Kelly Edwards adds that a winter quarter is often really tough from a mental health perspective, especially in Seattle. She suggest the committee to look out for any colleagues that may need a need a little extra support or someone to listen.

Alex Bolton: The law school has the special lamp to help that; maybe they should look into getting one in the GPSS office. It will help make the GPSS office a more hospitable place to come.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7:20pm

Austin Kinney shares that he was supposed to meeting with the Ombud today, but the person was sick. They will meet next Wednesday before the Senate meeting.

Joseph Telegen announces three weekly semi-formal meetings he plans:

- (1) 3 pm Fridays- Chess Solutions at Café Allegro
- (2) 7 am Fridays- Sweatin' with the Senate at the IMA.
- (3) 9 pm Tuesdays- Senate'oke at Iron Bowl in Wallingford

Alex Bolton entertains a motion to adjourn.

Roy Taylor moves.

Evan Firth seconds.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 pm
