

# Graduate and Professional Student Senate

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## Executive Meeting Minutes Session 10

*February 01, 2017 | HUB 303*

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### ***Members Present:***

GPSS President Soh Yeun (Elloise) Kim  
GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Sarah Loeffler  
GPSS Vice President of External Affairs James Moschella  
GPSS Treasurer Michaella Rogers  
GPSS Secretary Randy Siebert  
GPSS Executive Senator Monica Cortes Viharo  
GPSS Executive Senator Michelle Brault  
GPSS Executive Senator Laura Taylor  
GPSS Executive Senator Erin Firth  
GPSS Executive Senator Peder Digre  
ASUW Director of Internal Policy Taylor Beardall  
Graduate School Liaison Kelly Edwards

### ***Call to order 5:35 pm***

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#### **Approval of agenda 5:35 pm**

**Michelle Brault** Moves to approve the agenda as presented.

**Sarah Loeffler** Seconds.

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#### **Approval of minutes 5:35 pm**

**Randy Siebert** Moves to approve the Minutes as presented.

**Michaella Rogers** Seconds.

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#### **James's Updates from Olympia 5:35 pm**

**James Moschella:** The Veterans mental health bill is being heard at 8am in the Senate tomorrow. Veterans are coming down to testify, it should pass through higher education with relative ease. In the House referred the bill has been referred to appropriations committee (money committee) then will hopefully go to ways and means committee. He has been working hard to make sure the bill gets funded, and many groups have come together to get the bill passed. He is hopeful about the bill being funded but it will be a long push to ask for about 1.2 million dollars. Elsewhere, a bill has been dropped in the House and the Senate to decouple S&A

fees form tuition. If that happens then a tuition decrease won't affect the way S&A fees are calculated. Hoping that will get pushed through Student loan bill of rights was heard in the House, there was positive support, the Senate may be the issue with the bill. There was some drama with a tie in the Senate that has now been taken care of because the Republicans appointed a Senator so again the Senate is. Met with the Lieutenant Governor today who is relatively receptive to many issues, doesn't know exactly how he will help but happy to have that relationship.

Lobby day is next Tuesday, matt can fill you in on the details, meetings are getting scheduled, a few House and Senate meetings have been scheduled which is a good way to get a formal push for issues. He has worked with SAGE to push some language regarding calling Senators and congressmen about different confirmation hearings as well as issues regarding research funding and immigrations and he has been collecting stories from those affected by those Executive orders. He has been trying to create a digital push with the droppings of PDFS that tells the stories of those individuals that were willing to talk to him and the Seattle Times will run an article about those individuals as well. SAGE day on the hill will be from March 26-29. He has been trying to schedule meetings with federal congress people right now which has been hard. However, Senator Murray and Cantwell have been receptive to emails he has sent out. One of the big goals this year is to get Senator Murray to visit GPSS office. Other than that he will be networking with Senators at an Evans school reception next Thursday night Sarah as well as some other members of the Executive committee will attend that. It's a good way to talk to legislators and get students down and into their hands. Any questions? (No) Feel free to email me if you need anything.

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## Campus Safety

5:41 pm

**Elloise Kim:** She added this too the agenda, due to what is happening nationwide. It would be great to discuss our personal experiences, or any stories to share about constituents. Also, we could talk about what we can do as the GPSS. She is opening up the conversation to all.

**Peder Digre:** Talked to the Q center today, and he thinks there are a few centers on campus that are representative of students who are currently feeling under attack by the political climate and they had an unfortunate situation a few days ago, where they had someone come to the office that made everyone uncomfortable. They asked UWPD to do regular walk throughs and are considering getting a panic button installed.

**Elloise Kim:** Last Saturday James drafted a short message on our Facebook to send out the message online that GPSS doesn't support policies that discriminate people for any reason. Sarah and her tried to reach out the communities, and let them know that GPSS is here. The effort was highly appreciated, but beyond that she doesn't know what GPSS can do.

One Graduate student who is involved in a lot of activism on campus has been stopped, and got a lot of derogatory comments on Rate My Professor. He couldn't go back to class due to safety concerns, however he was finally able to go back to class with a UWPD escort today. He did an interview with different media to share his story and how he feels unsafe and how the gunshot two weeks ago has affected campus safety. There are lots of stories being circulated. There was a

protest this Monday against Building a wall event that was pretty small. There were over 200 protestors and Ana Marie was confronted and had to talk to student activists for half an hour and some of the conversation was filmed and circulated in different medias so lots of things are going on. Kelly has a lot more information.

**Kelly Edwards:** She just came from a meeting with the chief diversity officer, and she asked about campus safety question and he is one board with moving us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the idea that words themselves can cause violence not just physical violence. We need to be prepared for cyber violence. UW IT has compiled a 2-page list of resources and references about privacy. They [IT] were talking with the administration for a while before any cyber bullying reports came up. They want to send out the paper to people soon. The Union is also taking action which is great. In term of an outside perspective she is thinking about getting an outside expert who can talk about these issues, she is curious about the Executive Committees perspective on getting an outside expert on cyber bullying to talk about prevention strategies and recovery strategies, it might be interesting. For the particular student instance that Elloise mentioned, their Rate My Professor has been cleaned up. Most search engines have been able to rapidly act in regards to hate speech issues.

**Laura Taylor:** Sits on UW safety committee, they discussed campus safety at large at the last meeting and had major concerns. UW PD wants to create more transparency about what they are doing and how it can relate to students. Their goal is to strengthen the relationship between the police force and student body. They are trying to create a poster campaign “Hate has no home here” One of the things the committee asked for is to bring up any large concerns that can be addressed by UWPD to the police.

**Elloise Kim:** Talked with the ASUW liaison to the same committee and she said there were some ideas being discussed but when it comes to political RSOs maybe the school can ask them to have an additional training about safety measures and what kinds of things they need to consider to have safe events for the community and how they can work with and contact UWPD for their own safety. The conversation should be developed further to see what kind of actions can be taken. Another idea is night walk hours can be extended but that involves money so they are not sure how that will go. Also, she is wondering if there is something that GPSS and the University can do to help those from the Muslim majority countries who won’t be able to travel for a while and with being international they cannot work off campus.

**Michelle Brault:** Would be nice if GPSS sponsored an extra bystander training in the evening.

**Elloise Kim:** Those trainings only happen once a month.

**Erin Firth:** She thinks they should do a two hour one, because one hour is just preliminary information. However, they have been cutting back on two hour and six hour ones they used to hold. Due to lack of volunteers they are cutting back hours.

**Kelly Edwards:** Went to a three-hour training and the information presented came out form a sexual violence perspective. She was frustrated by the training because it was very specific and

not about microaggressions on a broad level. However, the head of the program is amenable to tailoring a few trainings to fit Graduate student needs and circumstances right now.

**Erin Firth:** We need to have more, and in order to do that they need more student staff. Which could work out for international students who may need jobs.

**Kelly Edwards:** Seems like this is a good direct intervention for campus climate and safety to help us feel more equipped as bystanders.

**Elloise Kim:** It would be great if after this meeting, Michelle and Erin can make the bystander training happen and talk to other officer and discuss details.

**Erin Firth:** As a follow, up on the fact that certain students can't travel for a while and can't get work off campus. Is there an estimate of the number of students that can't go outside of campus to work?

**Elloise Kim:** From the Unions emergency immigration planning meeting, there are 96 international students on valid visas from those seven countries and 50 scholars including post docs on our campus.

**Erin Firth:** Do they have estimates for how much those students would have to make to survive?

**Elloise Kim:** They are not sure.

**Erin Firth:** The financial weight would probably have to be spread across a few institutions but thinks to create productive jobs through the bystander training is a good way to support those students that need extra financial help and increase on campus safety.

**Elloise Kim:** There is extra money called endowment but that's pretty tiny in comparison to the need for those students. Personally, doesn't think it's wise to use up that money for one time use.

**Erin Firth:** Also, SAF can only spend their innovation fund on a one-time basis.

**Elloise Kim:** It would be great if we can get an emergency funding set up for those students that need it, by pushing the University.

**Erin Firth:** There is a chance that we could offer to take half the load or split the load amount student funds later on but the University has to provide that emergency funding. She knows there is a lot of money out there that can be dispersed but not quickly. Also, she had a question. In The Daily article they said the suspected red square student was a UW student.

**Elloise Kim:** She heard a rumor that the shooter was a UW student but it was not confirmed until yesterday. When It comes to criminal action she doesn't think its UWs place to deal with it rather it is UWPDs place.

**Erin Firth:** She's more concerned about other student's feelings of safety on campus. The difference between the student being an outside instigator vs. a student definitely affects campus safety.

**Elloise Kim:** She heard from many students that they feel very unsafe coming to campus when the shooter can come back to campus. People expressed their anxiety pretty explicitly and thinks it's pretty legit. She hopes student life can decide quickly what kind of actions should be taken.

**Erin Firth:** Thinks it impacts protests as well, since a UW student brought a gun to a protest.

**Kelly Edwards:** One thing Ana Marie has talked about is that there will be a lot of post mortem work going on trying to understand the events on Friday and what can be done to increase safety. This includes locations of events that are controversial, like putting them in a space that can allow for screening of people who come.

**Laura Taylor:** Thinks it's an active dialogue.

**Erin Firth:** Thinks it should more of a conversation between the UW administration and students because students are only really hearing information about this from other students.

**Kelly Edwards:** Ana Marie has been saying she doesn't want to over communicate because she wants people to read things when she does communicate. Kelly thinks that we need to send information out more often. If anybody has an opportunity to be in the room with the provost or president, letting them know that updates from the campus safety committee or about what's being examined post mortem would go a long way towards restoring broken trust.

**Erin Firth:** She has been very good at communicating over Facebook.

**Kelly Edwards:** She has the information, it's about getting it out more systematically.

**Erin Firth:** Thinks that in these times of uncertainty constant contact goes a long way to bringing feelings of comfort more than anything.

**Elloise Kim:** Since last week there has been concern that UW alert has not been as good as efficient as it should be. There is some unconfirmed information left hanging in the air that forces students to make assumptions about what the best way to be safe is. She emailed chief Vinson to have a meeting and she will try to express students concerns as much as possible.

**Kelly Edwards:** The Faculty Senate was the day after the Senate meeting, she brought up Grant Williamson's point during that meeting and Ana Marie said that would be part of the post mortem analysis.

**Erin Firth:** We have one thing saying that we are a sanctuary school when it comes to the immigration order but doesn't think there was anything addressing the fact that a lot of the CBP agents were uncooperative and that there has been a lot of attempts in major cities of ICE under false pretenses trying to get people deported. And the fact that the CPB and homeland security reaches us and we are effectively under their jurisdiction and seemingly they are not responding to federal order. We can be a sanctuary city/university in theory but there could be more concrete steps created to what that means.

**Taylor Beardall:** ASUW and their policy analyst from OGR, a lawyer from UW law and Katelyn the University Affairs director put together a policy briefing. They are planning to send

it out in Danielle's all campus email. It will outline what you can do, what you have to do, and what this campus actually is.

**Erin Firth:** Have you used the student legal services for the policy briefing? (Doesn't know) They are a good resource. (Will look into that.)

**Elloise Kim:** Things are happening almost every day in a way that we don't expect so let's stay in communication and aware in this vastly changing situation to figure out what the best measures we can take are.

**Erin Firth:** All of the suspended federal grants, primarily affect science students. Does anyone have an input form students about how that is affecting them.

**Laura Taylor:** In the VA hospital, they hired a post doc that is being payed through another grant because they are not releasing money because technically her hiring was in transition when the order went down.

**Michelle Brault:** Anyone that was paid on an EPA grant is now not being paid. Might be good to reach out to the forestry service.

**Kelly Edwards:** EPA is the only one frozen right now.

**Michelle Brault:** A lot of our constituents are doing health sciences which almost never loses funding.

**Kelly Edwards:** A total of 20% of College of Environment funding comes from the EPA. She will send an email to their colleague in the office of research who is supposed to be watching this. She has not heard anything from her so far.

**Erin Firth:** That would be nice to hear. Sure that other federal funded people are worried that there is a draft going around to abolish the EPA completely.

**Elloise Kim:** Research funding is a part of the SAGE initiative but we cannot predict what we will happen and how the climate in DC will be in march we cannot guarantee anything.

**Erin Firth:** All of this boils down to wanting more concreted information from the UW administration.

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## **Financial Aid Service**

**6:07 pm**

**Elloise Kim:** The director of financial aid services was at the PACS meeting last week. Financial aid service was discussed during the meeting. According to a report done by student members who are not financial aid experts apparently 56% of UW students are using the financial aid service, but nobody has number for the number of Graduate students that use the service. She also heard for the first time that the financial aid office has a student advisory board and they sent out a meeting notification for the annual meeting only five days before the meeting. They did not consult her or Danielle if they could be at the meeting everything was very messy and disorganized however she insisted that her office is in good communion with students by having advisory committee. Usually they serve the student body by working with students on a case by

case basis when students come to the office. However, being the financial aid service office Elloise asked if they had set up any workshops to help with Graduate student financial literacy. They have not, and have no plans to do so. Elloise feels their services are kind of lost. She was just very disappointed. Randy fortunately could go to last Tuesdays annual meeting as a representative for GPSS.

**Randy Siebert:** Doesn't know if it was a student advisory board because she was only student there. They set the budget for financial aid for just room and board, books and supplies, personal and transportation and how these get filed into financial aid packages; they are not looking at tuition. They did a survey last spring of about 1,000 people and 500 Graduate students replied and that's how they came up with these numbers in terms of cost. They seemed to be looking for support not criticism or feedback on their proposed numbers. They want to finalize their document to send out to prospective students by next week. The big concern for creating estimated financial costs for prospective students is the higher the numbers are the less people will apply because it will look expensive to live in the UW area. However, the cost of living in Seattle is going up there is nothing around that. So they are trying to balance that.

**Elloise Kim:** They want to finalize this document as the expected living cost to live in Seattle to prospective students.

**Laura Taylor:** Transparency and honesty is important when looking at a school, they need to give students a good number to expect for costs. (Randy agrees.)

**Elloise Kim:** As you can see from the numbers in the first part there is no distinction between undergraduates and graduates every cost is evaluated at the same level regardless of their involvement. So she brought this up to say that we need to work with the financial aid office more to address what we want as Graduate students and to help out Graduate student financial literacy. Often people really have to be smart to play with their limited budget for school.

**Randy Siebert:** It's difficult for Graduate students because there are a lot more people who have children and/or are married.

**Kelly Edwards:** She is struggling with traditional and nontraditional categories, has anyone brought up another way to talk about that? Because all graduate students are nontraditional. Feels like there is an othering of Graduate students in the estimated cost outline.

**Randy Siebert:** They didn't really go into that much detail.

**Laura Taylor:** Thinks that the nontraditional undergrad is one that is married, or has kids and she doesn't fit in any of the three categories for nontraditional. So it is a weird assumptions to assume that every graduate student fits in that category.

**Elloise Kim:** We were told that as many as many as 500 Graduate students responded to the survey.

**Peder Digre:** How did they publicize the survey?

**Randy Siebert:** She has no idea, apparently, they sent it out to students last spring.

**Michelle Brault:** Why didn't they work with GPSS and ASUW to get the survey publicized?

**Peder Digre:** Are they subject to open public meeting rules?

**Elloise Kim:** She [Elloise] is the primary contact with various offices, she didn't hear about the meeting until like 5 days before the meeting, when that meeting only occurs once a year. Right before the finalization of these numbers. They never had documents shared with her to have any say about these final numbers.

**Laura Taylor:** The report about how they got numbers for the expected budget says the survey was sent out to 16,000 students and the number includes students' tri-campus. That doesn't represent all students very well.

**Elloise Kim:** There are very obvious gaps in communication with Graduate students and they are not doing information sessions that can benefit more students. One of her ideas is inviting them to an Executive meeting to ask them where they got their information. If everyone is interested she will schedule them for a meeting.

**Randy Siebert:** She also heard that they set FAFSA guidelines and she heard from a few people that they sent their FAFSA on the date posted but it was processed a few days later so their application was technically late.

**Elloise Kim:** Until then it would be great if you can reach out to acquaintances and hear about their financial aid experiences and how they felt about it and what they think could be bettered.

**Monica Cortes Viharo:** She saw emails from the financial aid office about FAFSA and that it can now be filed earlier.

**Randy Siebert:** They sent out dates that the FAFSA priority deadline was January 15 but it was not the submission date but rather the processing deadline so you'd have to submit your FAFSA January 10<sup>th</sup> to get the FAFSA in on time. On a positive note, they are making a lot of their processes electronic, they are moving it to the MyUW widget.

**Peder Digre:** You mentioned they didn't have an idea of the percentage of Graduate students that use the services.

**Elloise Kim:** She must know how many if she has a paper but doesn't think they usually are very clear about Graduate use of financial service because she couldn't come up with a number right away.

**Randy Siebert:** There was a comment that Graduate students come in with savings, she doesn't think that is true across the board.

**Elloise Kim:** Let's see what they say at our next meeting and we can give them suggestions after.

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## **Brief Review of the Last Senate Meeting**

**6:21pm**

**Elloise Kim:** Recommendations, suggestions?



**Randy Siebert:** There was a low turnout, but that might be because its mid-way through winter quarter.

**Peder Digre:** Thinks there was more energy in the first part of the meeting.

**Michelle Brault:** What happened with the Resolution?

**Monica Cortes Viharo:** It went fine, there was request for footnotes, and she added some scientific backing for the resolution. Overall, it went fine. Does think there was a little confusion with the Resolution because it had many purposes.

**Randy Siebert:** A lot of people seemed into the Resolution, it will be opened up for feedback on catalyst.

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## **Next Meeting Agenda**

**6:22 pm**

**Elloise Kim:** Call to order, approval of agenda and meeting, Ricky hall provost of OMAD, and Chad Allen will explain the diversity blueprint and how it will affect Graduate student life academically and non-academically. Nicholas Hill is someone from the office of global affairs and will explain the policy, in draft, that regulates UW students who travel for official university business such as study abroad etc. Before there were no unified rules that regulated travels. The University under the direction of the provost got a draft of these policies. Due to the current situation in the U.S. he might be a good person to talk about what people might want to be aware of when they travel for academic purposes.

**Randy Siebert:** Will have Resolution first reading for a Resolution about UW being a sanctuary campus, and a second reading for the Standing Rock Resolution. Then Good of the Order, officer reports, announcements, and adjournment.

**Peder Digre:** Are the two speakers together or separate. (separate)

**Randy Siebert:** There will be two speakers for the first topic, and one speaker for the second topic.

**Michaella Rogers:** Thought Good of Order was awkward last time, felt people just vented and it wasn't information GPSS could work with. Thinks that a template for discussions might be good.

**Elloise Kim:** Should we discuss a good topic for the next Good of the Order, or should we wait and see what happens.

**Renee Singleton:** Thinks its good to be flexible with Good of the Order because it has only has been 10 days since the new political administration has come in. We should appreciate the fact that people shared their feelings. You are not going to always be equipped or have experts on hand to get exact Infor that the Senators need. Take notes on what you hear to help where you can and hope there are no fights.

**Elloise Kim:** Should we just be flexible with Good of the Order?

**Peder Digre:** Thinks that last week's flexibility allowed us to understand the issue about the Campus alert system.

**Michelle Brault:** What was said? (She wasn't there for Good of the Order.)

**Erin Firth:** There was a group that was in the all glass building near red square when they got the UW alert about the shooting in red square and they stayed in the building for three hours until the next notification stated that people were leaving red square.

**Sarah Loeffler:** So to clarify, we are not going to have a template for the next Good of the Order discussion?

**Monica Cortes Viharo:** Might be good to have one in our back pocket in case it is deadly silent.

**Kelly Edwards:** Elloise in your opening remarks you are good at acknowledging these trying times Kelly thinks maybe during the first five minutes of the meeting with would be good to have a check in that allows people to talk with their neighbors about how their week has been going. If someone in the good of the order wants to pursue something they could do that.

**Elloise Kim:** Should we have a five-minute check in time after approval of the Minutes? (yes)

**Call to order**

**Approval of agenda**

**Approval of minutes**

**Check in**

**2 guests**

**2 resolutions**

**Officer Reports**

**Announcements**

**Adjournment**

**Laura Taylor** Moves to approve the agenda.

**Michelle Brault** Seconds.

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## **EXECUTIVE SENATOR REPORTS**

**6:31 pm**

**Monica Cortes Viharo:** There was an emergency Union meeting to talk about immigration issues. Usually they bargain every new bargaining cycle however they can bargain mid cycle if something happens that changes the work situation. They are bargaining mid cycle due to recent Executive Orders. They are getting information from people about the list of concerns from people and issues impacting international Graduate students. She just encourages people to go to the Union meeting tomorrow night 5:30-6:30 134 Sieg hall where they will talk about this in detail.

**Elloise Kim:** A few details they came up with for the coalition is noncompliance with IC, no disclosure of anyone's immigration status, prevention of loss of financial aid for people like DAKA students and research funding. They are finding ways to provide emergency financial services for those in need for those in need for things like Summer, and prohibition of discrimination based upon nationality and race they are the major points the Union wanted to negotiate with the University.

**Laura Taylor:** Will have a research advisory committee meeting Friday and she has heard they will get a big Federal update. Anything urgent she will email Elloise. She attended a meeting yesterday for an organization called 500 women scientists that are trying to get people to speak out to legislators about some of political actions taking place right now.

**Michelle Brault:** Nothing.

**Peder Digre:** On Monday PACs chair organized an all college council meeting for councils from different schools and colleges across campus that are advisory boards to Deans on budget issues. He spoke there for a few minutes and gave an example of the Evans school budget committee, thinks there was pretty good attendance there were almost forty or fifty people in attendance from different colleges they discussed best practices and how to collaborate more across units on campus.

**Erin Firth:** Outside of traditional funding committee meetings, there was thinking about the political climate for students and how it impacts students and how best talk to students. She attended one of the green dot training thing. The training would need some rearrangement before it could be launched successfully for Graduate students seems like the people running the program are open to the rearrangement.

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## OFFICER REPORT

6:38 pm

**ASUW Liaison:** A lot of big events for ASUW. Two in particular are Sean King, a social justice activist, will be here on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the HUB. Casey Neistat will be here next Monday tickets are twelve dollars and that is in the Hub. During the next ASUW meeting Ana Marie will be there at 6pm next Tuesday She is doing an open public forum. Ana Marie Cauce reached out to ASUW for this public forum. Taylor will send a link for the Sean King event to Randy.

**Graduate School Liaison:** CORE programs have been working on cyber bullying to be more prepared and responsive going forward and she will be meeting with one of the Union folks that is working on climate and safety to compare notes about how to support each other that's been the biggest thing. Also, they had the second first generation Graduate student mixture there were about 40 students again and she talked to Ricky Hall and he is very excited about first generation issues. He is on board for supporting the first generation Graduate initiative.

**Vice President of Internal Affairs:** Sam and her have word on communications and outreach. They just made a GPSS blog, the first post is about the Senate and what we do in general how the meetings go, and that will go up every other week or so. Also, they will highlight different event. It is a way to get a better understanding for everyone about what GPSS does. Sam and her

are also working on a proposal for the Graduate school for program reviews. They are currently outlining processes and what they think will encourage more student interactivity.

**Michelle Brault:** She has experience with program reviews.

**Vice President of Internal Affairs:** Sam and her will be making a working group to get student feedback before giving the proposal. Tori is working really hard on the winter social.

**Tori Hernandez:** Winter social will be Thursday Feb. 16. from 7-10pm in the HUBS game room. There is a go pro as a raffle prize. The poster for the event is almost done.

**Vice President of Internal Affairs:** The Science and Policy steering committee are preparing for the launch of the white paper project. The First launch date was originally Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> but was moved because of lobby day. It is now moved to Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. Point is to collaborate between Science and Policy students to make the white papers for the government. The new date can coincide with the formation of FLAB.

She is helping James with SAGE. SAGE decided last minute to make white papers on immigration policy to take with us in the spring to lobby, if anyone is interested in helping with that talk to Matt. From the U pass committee, she just found out there will be no proposal for a fee increase. U pass accounting found extra money that was misplaced. They have a formal letter that U pass wants to send out to people to let them know there will be no increase this year, even though most people were unaware there would be an increase in the first place. The way it's looking now they may increase the fee next year. The U pass advisory board is trying hard to look at more sustainable income sources. Also, about 500,000 dollars was found. Sam and her are also working on the GPSS video that will be a 2-min clip on what GPSS is. They will do video clips of different events. They will take clips at the Polar plunge, senate meetings, and lobby day. Last, she is still working on the GSE (Graduate Student Experience) committee, they had a few meetings but are trying a regular schedule.

**Secretary:** Raised 1,170 dollars and counting for Special Olympics Washington athletes, for Polar Plunge. Come Saturday they have a team put together it's going to be an awesome day; they will be decked out in UW gear. They will have champagne and mimosas in the morning to build some confidence before we run in, it's the big event coming up on Saturday. There will be sushi at the next meeting.

**Elloise Kim:** Wants to personally say thank you to Randy for being a loud voice in the financial aid committee meeting, she was really advocating for Graduate students.

**Treasurer:** Doing SAF (student activity fee) stuff, and working on the budget. Tonight, she will close another round of travel grants. In less than a month they have gotten 50 applicants. There have been a lot of Departmental allocations but the committee went through a lot.

**President:** The conference page is open, within 2-3 days there were 1,000 people who viewed the page on Facebook. There are currently two applicants for the conference, and there is reviewing of some Graduate school policies to understand what policies mean in the Graduate School's business. There are some policies that are required to be followed some are just

recommendations. The Graduate school itself is trying to figure out in what way it would implement policies. If you want to check the Graduate school policies just google it and there is a pretty well organized link you could read through about all the possible ways that Graduate school programs have to be run. She might be in Olympia with Matt tomorrow to hear the Senate meeting in which the Veterans mental health bill will be presented. Renee helped them get a U car this afternoon. Ana Marie might be able to come to the Senate meeting on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> still waiting for a conformation.

ISHIP has met since last December to figure out how to change the insurance plan because they have to shift from academic year to calendar year plan. Not by choice but it's a change they have to accommodate it includes lots of calculations and unclaimed costs they are going through a lot of data and information and they are doing a really great job. There is a chance that the quarterly charge onto each student could be raised from \$100 to \$200. There are two ways to go about the increase in cost. One every student may share the cost so that every single student who may use ISHIP will bear the cost together or people who use the service will pay more. There are many ideas on how to implement the raised cost. ASUW had the opinion that in order to make the plan universally beneficial they support dividing the cost onto all students. If you have an opinion of which is better let her know. There has been some deficit which is why the quarterly cost will go up. OMAD is discussing its 5-year anniversary plan for the next year. Soon the programs and expected guests will be introduced. If you have any good ideas about how to make the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OMAD more enjoyable and festive talk to Randy.

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**Announcements****6:52 pm**

**Randy Siebert:** If you have time and money, the GPSS Polar plunge team is still accepting donations. Special Olympics Washington.org, polar plunge teams, GPSS.

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**Adjournment****6:52pm**

**Michelle Brault** Moves to adjourn the meeting.

**Sarah Loeffler** Seconds.