



## Graduate and Professional Student Senate

---

### Executive Meeting Minutes Session 14

FEB. 5, 2016 / HUB 303

***Members Present:***

GPSS President Alex Bolton  
GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Monica Cortes Viharo  
GPSS Vice President of External Affairs Brian Taubeneck (phone)  
GPSS Treasurer Kerstin Hudon  
GPSS Secretary Soh Yeun (Elloise) Kim  
GPSS Executive Senator Erin Firth  
GPSS Executive Senator Joseph Telegen  
GPSS Executive Senator Jennifer Kirk  
ASUW Director of Internal Policy Noe Merfeld

---

***1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:35 pm***

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Kerstin Hudon** requests to move her officer report directly following approval of the minutes.  
**Elloise Kim** seconds.

**Joe Telegen** moves to strike item 6.  
**Elloise Kim** seconds.

**Erin Firth** moves to approve the amended agenda.  
**Kerstin Hudon** seconds.  
The amended agenda is approved.

---

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Kerstin Hudon** motions to approve the minutes.  
**Erin Firth** seconds.  
The minutes are approved.

---

**4. OFFICER REPORTS: TREASURER**

**5:36 pm**

**Kerstin Hudon:** She is currently on the third version of the budget. F&B will review and make their recommendations on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The following Wednesday the Executive will have an opportunity to

look over this final draft before F&B votes to approve on February 12<sup>th</sup>. She will be attending the entire Executive meeting on February 17th, when they will hopefully be approving the budget. They had 47 completed Travel grant applications this quarter; the biggest problem continues to be faculty not submitting their recommendations on time.

**Elloise Kim** asks whether the travel application has been fixed. She has heard some students expressing issues submitting questions.

**Kerstin Hudon:** It always works, but students must be logged into their UW Google App with their student identification number in order to submit the application.

---

## 5. DIVERSITY FUNDS BRAINSTORM

5:38 pm

**Elloise Kim:** This year the Diversity Committee has \$6,000 to give to graduate students. They have not received as many applications as they would like. She proposes the following:

- She will announce availability of Diversity Fund at Senate Meetings more frequently.
- F & B Committee may help to encourage their applicants to apply for Diversity Funds if they are eligible.
- She can ask to Abe McClenny, ASUW Finance & Budget Director and Jazmine Perez, Director of Programming to mention the GPSS Diversity Funds to groups they get an application from.
- Ethnic Cultural Center has agreed to direct students needing funding for projects involving graduate students to the GPSS.
- She has let OMAD SAB & JCC members know about the funding availability.
- She can email GPAs and SAOs to inform about the remaining funding.

She asks everyone to share ideas to promote the Diversity Fund better as well.

**Kerstin Hudon** adds that the GPSS has not spent Diversity Funds, and have been significantly under budget the last couple of years. If these funds are not spent well for another year, it would be fiscally irresponsible to include them in the budget for 2017-2018.

**Erin Firth** asks if there are any significant hindrances that are discouraging people from applying, such as an overly complicated application, or if the funding is too limited to make it worthwhile to apply.

**Elloise Kim:** The only difference between the standards for accepting applicants this year and previous years is a greater emphasis on graduate student participation. Rather than saying 10 to 20% of those attending the event may be graduate students, they need to be more concrete with these numbers.

**Brian Tracey:** There seems to be a gray area regarding which events will get funding, because last year the majority of the events funded were mostly attended by undergraduate students. While it is great these students are attending, the goal is the increase graduate student participation.

**Erin Firth** suggests modeling the selection process after F&B. Graduate student led events are most preferred, followed by events funded by RSO's that have graduate students in governing body, followed by events that are going to have graduate student attendance. The events that will not get funded are those with little or no graduate students attending. This approach helps F&B decide which

events to funds and which not to. Additionally, a general guideline for funding is roughly \$10/graduate student.

**Monica Cortes Viharo** asks whether it has to be a Registered Student Organization that submits Diversity Fund applications. If so, this might also be a barrier for student applying.

**Elloise Kim:** Yes, they have to be either a department or a RSO to get funding. But the policy cannot be changed because it has to do with the state funding.

**Joseph Telegen** adds that part of the underlying responsibility rests of the GPSS. Elloise already mentioned, but it is important to say again that we should be continually announcing this funding source in the Senate Meeting.

---

**6. GUEST: JOSH KAVANAGH, DIRECTOR OF  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**5:55 pm**

**U-PASS**

**Josh Kavanagh (U-PASS):** When the U-PASS first became universal it cost \$76/quarter. This price was guaranteed for two years, but held steady for an additional two years because the program over-performed. After four years, the price was increased to \$80/quarter, and then it will be \$84/quarter the following year. They then received indications that the City of Seattle was conducting an audit relating to the Commercial Parking Tax. During this audit it was discovered that the university owed back taxes for transportation, which meant that the U-PASS program would owe its proportional share of these taxes. Luckily, since the Rate Stabilization Fund reserve was in place, the U-PASS fee should not need to be increased above \$84 next year. He also shares that they are currently in negotiations with Spokane Transit, and are looking to branch out to other transit services as well.

**Alex Bolton** asks whether the university is paying back taxes on the city parking tax as well. He also asks how much the U-PASS fee will increase in the next couple of years.

**Josh Kavanagh:** Yes, the university paid \$3.5 million in back taxes. They will need to spend about \$1.2 million/year in order to comply with the tax in the future. The student share of this is around \$500,000. He is unable to say by how much the UPASS will increase because it is predicated on a number of factors such as light rail, number of students walking, etc.

**PARKING**

**Josh Kavanagh:** The university is undergoing a parking system modernization. New gate arms have been installed in the E1 and Portage Bay parking lots. ABI stickers will now allow the gates to open automatically when vehicles pull up. Next month they are going to start requiring guests to swipe on the way out of the parking garages; this will allow transportation services to check duration of stay better. Students have figured out that they can store their car long-term in the E1 garage because it requires them to pay on the way in, rather than on the way out. Since the light rail is coming, they are concerned it could become a park and ride for the airport. He also shares that students have expressed frustration over parking rates. When they are only going to be on campus briefly and have to pay the daily rate of \$15 to park their car, it can be frustrating. They will now offer one-hour rates to allow students to pay for what they actually use. They expect both systems to be implemented within three years. The parking pass will be increasing by 3.3% next year. Students will receive a discount on the

permits equivalent to what they are paying on the U-PASS, since faculty and staff get discounts.

**Alex Bolton** asks why three years.

**Josh Kavanagh:** IT migrations are never perfect. Since this migration will be happening in four phases: (1) gates (2) gate houses (3) parking management system (4) events/cleanup. Three years is the outer limit for all of these parking systems to be reconfigured.

**Jennifer Kirk** asks whether the features allowing students to swipe multiple U-PASSes for a discounted rate will change.

**Josh Kavanagh:** That already changed in the fall. Now it requires three U-PASS to get a discount.

**Alex Bolton** expresses concern about a visitor's ability to access to campus. With the parking lot by the Burke Museum getting redirected to the Foster Business School parking lot during construction parking will be limited.

**Josh Kavanagh:** The N5 lot is a terrible place for Tent City III; construction on the Burke means they will be squeezed for space up there. If students feel similarly they should make that claim, and Transportation Services can approach it in that way. Also, it is highly likely that there will be a garage built in either N5 or N1 parking lots in the near future.

**Alex Bolton** asks whether there is anything dealing with 520 constructions that will affect campus.

**Josh Kavanagh:** The west side connection out to I5 might be a little concerning. They do not want to disrupt the primary passage, but there are not a lot of options out that way. He notes that this is a number of years out. There will be a bike lane added.

---

## 7. OFFICER REPORTS: VP of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

6:21 pm

**Alex Bolton** motions to move Brian Taubeneck's officer report up, as he needs to leave early. Seeing no objections, the agenda is amended.

**Brian Taubeneck:** Senator Lias has made student loan forgiveness a priority, and has come up with a few ideas for the cause. He will back the study to reduce graduate student loan interest rates. He is also working to provide business occupation tax credit to employers who would help students pay off their loans. The student liaisons in Olympia representing undergraduates have drafted a record number of bills. Two bills that were heard today and will likely be voted on in the House on Friday are: (1) free community college and (2) free to finish. Free to finish funds students within 15 to 20 credits of finishing their undergraduate degree who dropped out because of financial difficulties. This program would cost around \$10 million to execute.

**Alex Bolton** asks what criteria would qualify students for this program.

**Brian Taubeneck:** He believes they have to be out for three years and have documented proof of financial need (FAFSA).

**James Moschella** shares that they must have not been enrolled in an institution of higher education the prior semester or quarter.

**Elloise Kim** asks when students want to go back to school using this bill, what are their options for

schools.

**Brian Taubeneck:** Typically, they would go back to the school they previously attended. However, the universities will be flexible in allowing them to finish, if they have moved and are located closer to another institution.

**Brian Taubeneck** goes on to discuss the following bills:

- Free Text Book Bill: Grants would be up for competition amongst the public universities to use for textbooks. Money incentive to professors to find cheaper textbooks. Students have been pushing this bill heavily.

- Transfer Student w/ Disabilities Bill: Purpose to try and make transfer between community college and four-year (and vice versa) easier. Right now they have to do a lot of paperwork and people they need to speak with.

- Repeal Initiative 200: Initiative 200 was a ban on affirmative action in education and contracting. This bill would repeal this ban. Right now it looks like the bill is only about contracting, so there is not a lot of tracking now.

Lastly, he announces that Lobby Day is Monday (02/08/16). There will be a rally and the regents are discussing paying to have the mascots attend. He asks if James has any additions regarding the Lobby Day.

**James Moschella** shares that 65 students (1/3 of which are graduate students) have registered, and registration is still open for those who would like to attend. Working to have a few groups of graduates meet with legislatures. People who are coordinating their own transportation are welcome to attend the training but should communicate this with the event coordinators.

**Joseph Telegen** asks whether the affirmative action bill draws a distinction between business and higher education, or was it outlawed for all public positions. He also asks how the district portion of the Lobby Day will work.

**Brian Taubeneck:** It applies to state government, which would be employment or school. They want students grouped into districts so they can meet with their constituents individually.

**Rene Singleton** asks whether the regents are speaking at the rally.

**Brian Taubeneck:** He is unsure about the regents, but imagines someone will. Hans Zeiger is confirmed, but they are looking for a Democratic speaker, too.

---

## 8. ELECTIONS TIMELINE

6:42 pm

**Elloise Kim:** According to the Bylaws the Elections Committee was supposed to be formed no later than February 1, 2016, so they are running a little late. They will form the committee this coming Senate Meeting. The second meeting (04/20/16) of next quarter seems to be the election date according to the last year's plan, but since they are running a little late they are thinking of moving it to the third meeting (05/04/16) of Spring quarter to give the candidates more time to promote themselves. Also, there would still be two meetings after this meeting. She asks the Exec Committee for their opinions.

**Rene Singleton** asks whether the GPSS still has the rule that they have to attend a certain number of

meetings in order to run for elections.

**A:** Yes, they have to attend a certain number of Senate and Executive meetings.

**Monica Cortes Viharo** asks to announce this at the next Senate meeting, so that interested members can have the greatest opportunity to attend an Executive meeting.

**Elloise Kim:** Since Executive does not have a strong opinion about pushing the elections to May 4<sup>th</sup>, she will present the timeline to the Senate next meeting.

---

## 9. 2016-2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

6:47 pm

**Elloise Kim:** There are typically five meetings per quarter, with an additional sixth meeting spring quarter that the new leadership would decide. They will tentatively schedule this date, and if the future leadership chooses to cancel that is their prerogative. She asks the group their thoughts regarding the Executive Meeting scheduled a week after the Thanksgiving week. This means that two meetings will be pushed back by one week, and December 7<sup>th</sup> will be the last Senate meeting of the quarter. She does not think this is too late, but would like everyone's input.

General consensus that pushing the last meeting to December 7<sup>th</sup> should be fine.

**Rene Singleton** asks whether the Senate Meeting will take place at the same time.

**Elloise Kim:** Yes, the meetings will continue to start at 5:30 pm.

**Rene Singleton** also advises allowing time for voting the agenda next year, since it is an election year tempers will be running high, and students will want their input considered in creating the agenda.

**Elloise Kim** asks the Executive for their room preferences next year; both Room 332 and 334 are being considered.

General consensus that Room 332 would be better, because it is right next to the GPSS office.

---

## 10. 2016-2017 MEETING SCHEDULE APPROVAL

6:52 pm

**Joseph Telegen** moves to approve the calendar.

**Jennifer Kirk** seconds.

The 2016-2017 Senate and Executive meeting schedule is approved.

---

## 11. EXECUTIVE SENATOR REPORTS

**Erin Firth** requests to move her officer report earlier.

**Elloise Kim** seconds.

**Erin Firth** has taken over the STF Clicker proposal for Yasmeeen. They have set up a joint the GPSS and ASUW proposal for electronic voting. The proposed unified clicker system for both organizations will cost around \$10,500. Around \$6,000 will be devoted to software development. They are hoping to

have a UW student develop the software. The GPSS will be receiving about 100 clickers, and ASUW already has 150 clickers so they will not need to share. She is happy to answer any questions regarding the proposal. She also met with Hall Health to ensure that student dollars are being spent appropriately. Dr. Mark mentioned reaching out to ASUW and the GPSS on their involvement on a survey increasing the presence of hall health services, and has not received a response. Erin will help reconnect Alex, Austin, and Dr. Mark via email chain, as their communication seems to have gotten lost. Hall Health is asking for one or two representatives from the GPSS to share input on the survey. Erin is happy to be one of the representatives, and asks anyone interested in the other position to shoot her an email.

**Rene Singleton** suggests they make sure the clickers will work well for Room 332 before solidifying the room reservation.

**Joseph Telegen** thanks Erin for all her hard work on submitting the STF Clicker Proposal. The application was both complex and time consuming.

---

## 12. TRANSFERRING SELECT COMMITTEES FROM BYLAWS TO MEMORANDA

7:00 pm

**Elloise Kim:** Many of the Committees' duties and obligations in the Bylaws are either too descriptive or restrictive. For example, the Community Outreach & Events Committee has too many functions. They must help with event organization and planning, while also assisting the Secretary for orientation, Senate Handbook, press release, and social media. She does not see how one committee can handle all of these responsibilities. Also, many of the Community Outreach's job is being done by officers and staff in summer and early fall. It is hard to form a committee before the academic year begins when the office does not know well who is continuing or who is new yet. She proposes retaining only the essential committees (Executive, Judicial, F&B, Elections, Ad Hoc, and Special) while the other committees would be removed from the Bylaws and transferred to Memoranda. This will allow the GPSS for more flexibility in pursuing the goals of each committee. So, she has asked officers to revise each committee's function, mission, and membership to make more sense to what it actually does and can in a memorandum style. The current version of those committees will be further revised, yet she asks the Executive to provide feedback before it becomes finalized.

**Alex Bolton** provides additional context. The previous Executive was feeling overwhelmed, so they changed the Bylaws to include the necessity of more volunteers. The current leadership feels that it is easier to make staff do a job, than to direct a group of volunteers. If future leadership decides they want to change something, it is easier to amend a policy memorandum than the Bylaws.

**Monica Cortes Viharo** adds they have restructured the position descriptions in the Bylaws because they were too prescriptive. This will allow the committees work in a way that suits their needs.

**Elloise Kim:** If there are no strong objections, she will draft a more finalized version to share at the Senate Meeting in Spring when the Bylaw amendments are done.

**Joseph Telegen** asks what the difference is between policy memoranda and ad hoc.

**Alex Bolton:** As of now, Ad Hoc really only exist throughout the year, whereas the policy memorandum would continue on from year to year. To be amended it would need to be voted on.

**Jennifer Kirk** asks why the Bylaws became so prescriptive in the first place.

**Rene Singleton:** It comes down to personality. Those individuals, who are more egoistical, will put policies in the Bylaws so they stick around for a while.

**Monica Cortes Viharo** suggests removing the committees from the GPSS website that are no longer active.

**Alex Bolton** agrees. He also shares that this will not be the only Bylaws change coming to the GPSS. They would like to build more flexibility into the Officer Positions as well as reallocating duties.

**Monica Cortes Viharo** thanks Elloise for all her hard work. She sent her the draft this afternoon, but Elloise was able to put together a polished draft in just a few hours.

---

**13. GPSS EXECUTIVE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS 7:16 pm**

**Elloise Kim:** Adam Bell (Education) and Caleb Knapp (English) were elected last week by the Senate to the Judicial Committee. She motions to approve these two members.

**Joseph Telegen** moves to approve the Judicial Members for the remainder of the year.

**Jennifer Kirk** seconds.

Adam Bell (Education) and Caleb Knapp (English) are approved to be Judicial Committee members by the Executive.

---

**14. FEB. 10<sup>th</sup> SENATE MEETING AGENDA 7:17 pm**

**Alex Bolton** sends out a Google Doc to the Executive with the Senate agenda for next week. The following agenda items are added:

- ASUW BOARD OF DIRECTORS (GPSS SPOTLIGHT)
- ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ELECTION
- ELECTIONS TIMELINE
- SECOND READINGS of RESOLUTION FOR TENT CITY III & STATE HOLIDAYS
- MORE ATTENTION TO WINTER SOCIAL- EVENT/VOLUNTEERS
- GOOD OF THE ORDER

**Monica Cortes Viharo** asks that they tentatively schedule a report back from Anna, the U-PASS Representative. She will confirm with her before solidifying.

**Elloise Kim** shares that the Wine Society is interested in a Spotlight position at a future Senate Meeting.

**Rene Singleton:** If it is a Registered Student Organization then it is fine, but if it is a sponsored event then it is not a good idea. Also the GPSS would need a liquor license if wine will be served in any form.

**Monica Cortes Viharo** moves to approve the agenda.

**Joseph Telegen** seconds.



The agenda for the Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting is approved.

---

**15. EXECUTIVE SENATOR REPORTS**

**7:24 pm**

**Joseph Telegen:** He has been helping Erin with the STF Clicker Proposal. He is interested in creating a local legislative advisory board, and would be interested in feedback on how to go about this. He attended his first program review for Material Sciences & Engineering, and found it very interesting. He is still working on the resolution commending the Seattle Police Department for their efforts during a shooting that took place downtown. The ASUW Senate confirmed their support for affirmative consent legislation and will be pushing that during the Lobby Day. They also confirmed their campus wide support for Planned Parenthood. He announces the following events a) Chess Solutions - 3 pm Café Allegro; b) Sweating with the Senate- 9:30 am IMA; c) Senate-oke<sup>3</sup> - still seeking a location.

**Jennifer Kirk** shares that she has been working with Elloise to host a forum on homeless next Thursday (2/11). She asks the Executive to help promote the event, and encourages them to attend. If the event goes well, they will look to partnering with Tent City III to host another event. She also shares that she is interested in organizing a mature discussion on partisan issues.

**Monica Cortes Viharo** agrees. She has heard feedback from students that it can be difficult to be moderate or conservative on campus. She thinks this will be a great thing.

**Rene Singleton** suggests connecting with the Presidents of College Republicans and Young Democrats. They could help you find interested students.

**Brian Tracey:** Ed Taylor and Sheila Edwards will be at the College of Environmental Affairs tomorrow to have an in house discussion with graduate students. They will also be attending the next OMAD staff meeting, so he will have more updates after that. He will be conducting a learning community this quarter on microaggressions and keeping the faculty accountable. This seems to be the biggest roadblock in developing REI.

---

**16. OFFICER REPORTS**

**7:32 pm**

**Monica Cortes Viharo:** Husky 100 applications closed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. They had around 280 applications, and are currently going through the review process. The winners will be announced on April 1<sup>st</sup>. In lieu of the spring social they will be having two or three events out in the world- “Out and About in the City”. They are thinking about tickets to Kinky Boots, and a Mariners Game. They will also be hosting a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for the GPSS at the horticulture center. On February 18<sup>th</sup> the GPSS will be hosting a “Throw Back to your Alma Mater” bowling night. They need to asking for volunteers for check in and clean up, but they only want the Executive, faculty, and staff serving drinks. Husky Sunrise is tentatively scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>. The \_\_\_ Monologues is happening February 11<sup>th</sup>, through 13<sup>th</sup>. Ten women have written and will be performing original monologues, and she is one of them.

**Elloise Kim:** Tomorrow (Feb.4<sup>th</sup>), the GPSS DC and the Core Programs will be conducting a workshop for international graduate students to help them communicate with faculty from 11:45 am -

1:15 pm in HUB 334. She has been working on the homelessness forum with Jen, scheduling meetings for a next year, finding a better way to promote diversity funds, and working on committee descriptions.

**Noe Merfeld:** There are many events all month long in honor of Black History Month. HFS has been serving different meals relating to Black History Month. Husky's on the Hill is Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Tyler Wu will be sending out a survey regarding Tent City III to ASUW. She encourages students to take the survey, as it will be a good gauge on student opinion. The ASUW is almost done updating position descriptions to reflect officer's current responsibilities.

**Alex Bolton:** He met with Rovy Branon, Vice Provost of Educational Outreach and they a fruitful conversation regarding student concerns. They discussed the idea of creating a student advisory board for fee-based programs. He asks that everyone spread the word about the Lobby Day.

---

**17. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**7:41 pm**

**Alex Bolton:** Hearing no announcements, he asks for a motion to adjourn.

**Elloise Kim** moves to adjourn.

**Jennifer Kirk** seconds.

---

**18. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:41 pm**

---