

Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Executive Meeting Minutes Session 15

FEB. 17, 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 Erin Firth via Skype
GPSS Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
GPSS Executive Senator Brian Tracey
GPSS Executive Senator Joseph Telegen
GPSS Executive Senator Jennifer Kirk
ASUW Director of Internal Policy Noe Merfeld
Graduate School Associate Dean Kelly Edwards

GPSS Special Assistant to the President Michaela Rogers
GPSS Director of Events Sarah Loeffler
GPSS Policy Analyst James Moschella
GPSS Director of University Affairs Austin Kinney

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:36 pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Erin Firth moves to approve the agenda.
Elloise Kim seconds.
Seeing no objections, the agenda is approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES 5:36 pm

Brian Tracey moves to approve the minutes.
Kelly Edwards seconds.
Seeing no objections, the minutes are approved.

4. GPSS BUDGET 5:37 pm

Kerstin Hudon shares the Finance & Budget committee (F&B) approved version five of the GPSS budget for the 2016-2017 school year on February 12th. There was an overall increase of 2% or \$1,023, in the budget since last year. She reviews the budget with the Executive committee for their approval.

■ Administrative Budget

The administrative budget increased this year. There is a small increase in the line item for office supplies, which is based on the GPSS spending this year. They decreased the postage line item by half since this money has not been used in the last two years. If this happens again next year she will recommend the line item be removed. The officer materials and copy duplicating line items were deleted. The arts and entertainment line item was increased by \$5000, as the cost of entertainment is continually rising.

Yasmeen Hussain asks whether the staff training and educational opportunities line item includes food.

Kerstin Hudon: Yes, this pays for the room rental, facilitator, and any food.

Elloise Kim asks why the line item is titled small events rather than winter social when this is typically where those funds are spent.

Kerstin Hudon: Titling it small events allows for flexibility. That way if the winter social is under budget they can allocate those funds elsewhere to other small events.

Alex Bolton asks that if a winter social were institutionalized within the budget that would replace the small events line item or be in addition to it.

Kerstin Hudon: The event categories could be dissected into fall events, winter events, and spring events. They will consider these friendly amendments, as it does not materially change the budget.

Jenn Kirk asks whether separating the small events line item by quarters would restricts funding.

Kerstin Hudon: No, funds from line items can be reallocated at the discretion of the treasurer.

Yasmeen Hussain asks what the conversation was like about increasing the entertainment budget. She heard talk of getting graduate students more involved in the process, but she has not seen it materialized.

Kerstin Hudon: They have communicated that the problem with including graduate students in the planning is finding interested participants. If a graduate student were to approach them, they would be thrilled to include them in the conversation. The conversation centered on the caliber of artist they would be able to attract with the additional funds.

■ VP of Internal Affairs Budget

Since there has only been one Summit put on in the last two years, the F&B committee advised cutting this budget in half. A conference travel line item was added to provide travel expenses for the SAGE conference. These are the only funds allocated to the VP of Internal Affairs, as the programming line items have been moved elsewhere.

Elloise Kim suggests that the VP of Internal Affairs should have some discretionary funds as well.

Kerstin Hudon will accept that as a friendly amendment.

■ President Budget

Everything has remained consistent since last year, other than the advancement efforts line item, which has been removed. It was intended for fundraising costs, but has not been used for this purpose in two years.

Vice President of External Affairs Budget

The amount of money allocated to travel expenses was exorbitant, so it was decreased. The line items for legislator correspondence and Internet costs were removed because things are rarely mailed and Internet is included in rent.

Yasmeen Hussain notes that the travel expenses allocated for the president and vice president budgets seem arbitrary. She asks if these varying amounts correspond with the amount of travel each officer is asked to do.

Kerstin Hudon: It is a little arbitrary. There is freedom to reallocate these funds based on any increase or decrease in travel for a given year.

■ Treasurer Budget

A slight increase in telephone and copy machine funds. The budget for computer equipment and software increased from \$1000 to \$3000. The idea is this line item will slowly save toward the next computer upgrade; it will allow the GPSS to pull from these funds rather than the general fund as they did during the most recent computer upgrade.

Yasmeen Hussain notes that the line items in the Treasurers Budget look like office administration items. She asks why they are under the Treasurers Budget.

Kerstin Hudon: The office administration budget is more supply related, whereas the treasurer budget contains items that need to be paid regularly.

■ Secretary Budget

The HUB Administration Fee and Insurance were moved to the Treasurer's budget. She notes that the Diversity Fund has not been spent correctly for the last couple of years. She will recommend this line item is reduced if these funds are not utilized appropriately next year.

Joseph Telegen asks what percentage of the \$6,000 diversity fund budget would need to be spent in order to justify retaining it.

Kerstin Hudon: 70%

Elloise Kim notes that the Senate Meeting budget for food is high. She wonders if it would be better to spend these funds on good food such as the two large meals that were provided last year as well.

Alex Bolton: Providing a meal at important meetings provides great benefits; this is something they would like to keep.

Austin Kinney asks whether a meal has been planned for the Elections meeting. Everyone likes the idea.

■ Personnel Budget

She explains the differences between last year's budget and the 2016-2017 budget. Several positions have been allocated more or less hours and money depending on how much work has been required of these positions in the past.

Elloise Kim asks whether the Director of Graduate Student Relations is the position Bryan is holding.

Kerstin Hudon: Yes, it should actually be changed to Director of Graduate Partnerships.

■ Departmental Allocations

There is no evidence of an advertising budget being used, so it has been eliminated.

■ Special Allocations

Kept the same.

■ Travel Grants

They added \$5000 to the travel grant budget specifically for the summer program, which received a lot of positive response.

Yasmeen Hussain moves to approve the 2016-2017 budget.

Elloise Kim seconds.

The 2016-2017 budget has been approved.

5. GPSS EXECUTIVE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

6:12 pm

Austin Kinney is sitting on the Graduate Student Council in Monica's place, as she has a time conflict this quarter. He reports they have elected two senate members for the Hall Health Advisory Committee, and recently found someone to handle library fine appeals.

Elloise Kim moves to approve the GPSS Executive Liaison Appointment.

Joseph Telegen seconds.

6. FEBRUARY 24th SENATE MEETING AGENDA

6:13 pm

Alex Bolton shares the agenda and invites the Executive Committee to propose agenda items.

Elloise Kim suggests having the Judicial Committee as the Spotlight. She has contacted two RSO's. One expressed they did not have enough material to present, and she is still waiting to hear back from another RSO. She believes the Judicial Committee will require 15 minutes to present and answer questions. Additionally, Kirby Conrod (Linguistics) and Adam Bell (Education) will propose a Resolution to Protect LGBT Rights under laws against Discrimination.

Kerstin Hudon will need twenty minutes to present the GPSS Budget and vote to approve.

Joseph Telegen asks whether it would be appropriate to present officer descriptions and

encourage people to run.

Elloise Kim: The election committee is planning on presenting the Elections Guide in a couple of weeks. Also the job descriptions are still in the process of being updated.

Yasmeen Hussain moves to approve the agenda.

Erin Firth seconds.

The agenda for the Feb. 24th Senate meeting is approved.

7. EXECUTIVE SENATOR REPORTS

6:26 pm

Erin Firth shares that she has been working with the Trans Equity Working group, and will be sharing more information as it comes. Additionally, two volunteers have agreed to help develop the Hall Health survey; she will send their names to Mark.

Yasmeen Hussain shares the Student Tech Fee is in full funding swing. She also reviewed the ASUW tent city survey, and notes that it does not seem to gather input on the location of Tent City on campus. Rather it asks questions, such as: Have you heard of Tent City?;How do you feel about homelessness?

Noe Merfeld shares that the survey was meant to gauge student opinion about having Tent City at UW in general, not necessarily where it would be located if it were to come.

Jenn Kirk hosted a forum on homelessness with Elloise last Thursday (2/11). A lot of people who wished to attend the forum were unable to for valid reasons, so they are contemplating having another forum in the spring. She also shares the Elections Committee is currently trying to find a time when everyone can meet.

Brian Tracey encourages everyone to check out the work plan for the Race and Equity Initiative and provide feedback.

Alex Bolton asks whether student involvement on the advisory committee has increased at all.

Brian Tracey: Not really. He is finding a lot of people want to be kept in the loop about what is happening, but few are willing to get involved. They are still looking for student facilitators, and welcome ways of incentivizing students to join.

Joseph Telegen- Chief Vinson will be holding a Student Advisory Board Meeting on Campus Safety on March 1st. They reviewed 47 travel grant applications! He has also been working on several resolutions. Encourages anyone interested to contact him. See the Information Section of your binder for more details.

8. OFFICER REPORTS

6:36 pm

Monica Cortes Viharo had a fruitful meeting with Kelly on G3. They have 10 students who have shown interest in being mentors, as well as several students who expressed interested in being mentored. G3 is looking to redesign their logo, so they will be in contact with Tabi regarding this. She finished the program reviews for School of Nursing, and will be turning it in later tonight. She would also like to add a U-PASS update from Anna, to the next week's Senate agenda.

Elloise Kim suggests rather than amending the agenda, the U-PASS update could be done during the Good of the Order.

Alex Bolton: If Anna wants to come, it would be nice to have it be a separate item rather than Good of the Order.

Monica Cortes Viharo will confirm with Anna if she would be able to make it and get back to Elloise by tonight.

Brain Taubeneck via Alex Bolton: Everyone is waiting for the budgets to drop for the house and the senate, which are supposed to drop next week. The forecast for the budget is down \$400 million, which means the pie everyone is fighting for became much smaller.

Kerstin Hudon: 1) She recently purchased new computers for the entire office, so she is the process of getting those set up for everyone. 2) SAF is on track for having a drop-in child care facility for use by students beginning fall quarter of next year. They are potentially going to have a new SAF unit. 3) The Intellectual House wants to subsidize rates for students; SAF is interested in pursuing it, but are waiting to see what the programming component will be. 4) Travel grants were successful, with 47 applicants. They awarded almost 50% of applicants and provided around \$9100 including the allocations from early winter. 5) F&B is starting to see more departmental allocation, and are responding positively to the increased cap of \$750. 6) The Department of Health and Wellness is interested in doing Green Dot training for TA's and RA's specifically, so be on the lookout. 7) She will be working with Abe to implement changes to the Student Tech Fee. There have been concerns regarding which projects are funded and issues with communication.

Elloise Kim shares 1) there were an increase in Diversity Fund applications and most of which came from graduate students. 2) Active Shooter training will be done by the end of March; she encourages those who have not participated in the training to do so. 3) Every room in the HUB is not available for the first Senate meeting of the year, and the first Senate meeting of spring. Additionally, there are two dates, in which board rooms are not available for the Executive Meeting. Demi and she will work on it to resolve the issue. Lastly, they are considering to rent a nicer room for the last meeting of the year like they did last year.

Noe Merfeld: The ASUW has hired a new director and Webmaster. The API Metro Health Summit is this Saturday, February 20th, at the ECC. She encourages everyone to attend.

Kelly Edwards gives an update on the Tacoma and Bothell Graduate Student Initiative. There was a lot of discussion around the idea that graduate program advisors could more actively recruit someone to the Graduate Student Initiative, which would in turn lead to a more representative body. They are making progress on the online orientation for all graduate students across three campuses. They have students sharing what they wish they knew before coming to the University of Washington. It includes a montage of encouraging and uplifting advice. She will be sending it out to all graduate students for input.

Alex Bolton asks if this video could be shared with professional students as well.

Kelly Edwards: Yes. She shares they have had difficulties incorporating all three campuses, as well as all the various graduate programs within them, in a manner that is relevant for the most individuals.

Alex Bolton shares 1) there were good graduate student turnout on the Lobby Day. 2) The Regents meeting provided information about trends in graduate and professional student enrollment. There seems to be a shift away from tuition based toward fee based programs. There were mixed feelings. Students do not want programs to go away, but they are also not happy with the current trends. 3) He has been working with the head of Educational Outreach to create a Fee Based Student Advisory Committee. 4) They also approved changes to the conduct code; questions can be directed to him.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6:59 pm

Brain Tracey: On March 17th there will be a meeting with Ed Taylor regarding the Race and Equity Initiative. He will provide updates at the following Senate Meeting.

Alex Bolton notes that if there is an idea to get more students involved on campus, the GPSS would be happy to help increase involvement.

Elloise Kim: There is a student group on campus in support of Donald Trump. They have a Facebook page on which they posted threatening language, and students have reported feeling unsafe to UWPD and other offices. While their FB has been deleted, there are still deep concerns regarding their activity and student safety. Please keep it in your radar.

Joseph Telegen will have *ChesSolutions* at 3 pm, Fridays at Café Allegro, *Sweatin' with the Senate* at 9:30 am Fridays, and *Senate'Oke* - he is still seeking a location.

10. MEETING ADJOURNS at 7:05 pm
