

# Graduate and Professional Student Senate

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## Senate Meeting Minutes Session 11

*April 05, 2017 | HUB 332*

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### ***Call to Order 5:34 pm***

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#### **Approval of Agenda**

**5:34 pm**

**Michelle Brault (Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology):** Moves to amend the agenda by striking GPSS funding allocations and replacing it with Counseling Center.

**Mason Proffitt (Physics):** Seconds.

**Maxine Savage (Scandinavian Studies):** Moves to approve the amended agenda.

**Sarah Harbert (Earth & Space Sciences):** Seconds.

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#### **Approval of Minutes**

**5:35 pm**

**John Lurie (Astronomy):** Moves to approve the Minutes as presented.

**Benjamin DeTora (Asian Languages & Literature):** Seconds.

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#### **Services and Activities Fee: Abe McClenny**

**5:36 pm**

**Abe McClenny:** He is the Chair of the Services and Activities Fee committee. SAF is a student levied student distributed fee that supports and enhances the out of class experience of students. SAF fully or partially funds all non-academic units at UW. SAF has three fees. The first is the Operating fee is \$129 dollars per quarter funds day to day operations of our 17 entities. Also there is the IMA bond fee (\$32a/quarter) and facilities fee (\$70/quarter). They are used to pay off the principal and interest of bonds that are used to remodel the HUB, IMA, and ECC the operations fee is going up to pay for wage increases and program expansions. The IMA fee will stay the same. Also for the facilities fee there is some wiggle room in that there is some surplus there which can be used to make early debt payments or could be used to fund a capital project of up to \$30 million dollars without having to increase the SAF fee. The SAF committee is made up of 11 voting members, 6 from ASUW, 5 from GPSS, and 3 nonvoting members. GPSS representatives have been great in particular this year, especially in making the SAF committee aware of the Graduate presence and issues on campus. SAF supports 17 entities, Among them SLS, the Q center, the Daily, GPSS, Hall health, Student veteran life, and the intellectual house etc. Currently they are in the last week of budget hearings which is a time when all entities come in and give budget requests. After this Friday they will go into budget deliberations until mid-may then they will make budget recommendations for each unit and give the recommendations to the UW Board of Regents for approval.

There are a few units that have had some notable changes this year. The student parent resource center now has a quarterly application process rather than an annual process. Benefits students in two main ways. The first way is that it frees up money for more students because if a student only needs funding for two quarters rather than a full year then they can take the money for the quarters they need only. Also, students that are inelligible in one quarter of the year to receive funding they can still use the funding for the part of year that they need it. Student publications such as the Daily have changed to printing papers two day a week, and have increased their online prescence. The Intellectual house is expanding its program offerings. Student veteran life is building a strong community, they are usually pretty busy and have a need for a larger space. Student Veteran Life was recently given funding for a veteran support specialist. Goals in the government this year are for decoupling the SAF fee from tuition, currently SAF can't increase the fee more than the tuition percent increase as of right now they need an exemption every two years to faise the SAF fee more than the % of the tuition increase. Also, mental health is a big focus for SAF this year. Especially, because at UW our conselors are paid about \$20,000 dollars less than other northwest universities. They hope to fix that for the next year. Also SAF has spare utilization in bond funds, and will figure out how to best leverage that. They would love to hear how to better improve SAF offerings.

**Dan Herb (Education - Leadership in Higher Education):** What criteria do you expect from units that apply for funding?

**Abe McClenny:** There is no set criteria that we can use, because each unit is so unique. Generally we like to see support from students and student government and a flushed out budget, as well as the impact of the unit on campus.

**Julian Helmer (iSchool ALISS):** Explain decoupling more?

**Abe McClenny:** Every year the amount we can increase or decrease the SAF fee is limited to the % increase that tuiton is increased. Every two years the state gives SAF an exemption from that rule. One year, that exemption was almost forgotten which coincded for when the minimum wage was increased which would have made it impossible for SAF to accommodate their budget to the minimum wage increase. To prevent that kind of scare from happening again a bill was made with the purpose decoupling tuition and the SAF fee so they can raise the fee as they saw fit. Some people were worried that the UW administration would push through different things that they wanted through the SAF fee because that happened at another school, this is the main reason the bill is having so much trouble in the Senate.

**Sarah Harbert (Earth & Space Sciences):** Why are there some groups that are funded through an optional fee rather than the SAF fee?

**Abe McClenny:** Are you taling about the registration page fees? (Yes)

**Taylor Beardall (ASUW Board of Directors):** It has to go through the registrar through an initiative. It is something that has to be done by ASUW law. Those fees have to be renewed every three years.

**Elloise Kim (President):** Due to recent budget reductions, the central administration seems to give more and more responsibility for supporting units to SAF. So with that challenge what is the plan of SAF in dealing with limited funding, yet more units applying for funding?

**Abe McClenny:** They haven't seen much of that in practice this year. A part of that is temporary provost reinvestment funds. However, SAF always asks central administration for what other funding sources are available for new units and if they see that there administration support is decreasing and its an attempt to get SAF to pay for something that they used to pay for we do have those conversations with central administration. It hasn't been a big worry this year.

**Elloise Kim (President):** SAF meets weekly for two hours every Friday, they figure out the best way to allocate funding gathered from each student. They are very open to communication. If you have any questions or concerns they would be happy to talk with you.

## **Counseling Services Natacha Foo Kune**

**5:52 pm**

**Elloise Kim (President):** She is here to update GPSS on what the counseling center offers right now.

**Natacha Foo Kune:** She is the director of the counseling center. On this campus there is an interesting situation. There are two mental health units. Part of what they offer is mental health counseling to all registered students including Graduate students. Graduate students are their favorite clients, because they are ready to work on things. They know themselves better and are ready to work on issues. There are a number of services they offer, they have individual counseling, as well as couples counseling, and group counseling. Group counseling is the lab, a chance to try some of the things they are talking about. Some of the group counseling they have includes mens group, a womens group, a group for women of color, and a group for international students. They have international students that have been in the US for a little bit and there are people that have been in the US for a while that come. There is also a grief group, also there is their beyond label group (LGBTQ group) there is also a graduate group and undergraduate group. There is also phoenix rising which is their sexual assault and prevention group.

You can show up at Schmitz hall or call them to get an appointment. They have a couple options if you want a regular appointment. On their website they tell you how long that wait will be. The wait could be one or two days or three weeks. If there is an urgent need they have a crisis appointment, this is if people are having a panic attack. If people would like to be seen sooner then they have same day intakes. The best chance is to call at 8:30am in the morning and request a same day intake. They also offer career counseling, for people who want to figure out what do with their career or who want to take their future career in a different direction. They also offer light therapy if you suffer from seasonal affective disorder. They also have bio feedback software so if you are trying to figure out anxiety in particular they have a software to help people monitor anxiety and help decrease it you would have to be working with a counselor. They also have outreach to let people know what kind of services are available. She wants to get the message out to everyone that it is okay to not be okay. If you want to talk to someone they are here. Graduate students are their favorite group and largest group, about 30% of all clientele are graduate students. On their website they also have some podcasts to help with relaxation.

They also want to tell them a little bit about the two mental health units, there is some confusion about the difference. Last year GPSS passed a Resolution asking the counseling center and Hall health to work more closely together to try and make it more simpler and clearer for students because sometimes it becomes a barrier. Both hall health mental health clinic and counseling center offer counseling. Most of the time it doesn't matter where you go. Both units offer short term counseling, both units would be able to help with whatever is on your plate. At the hall health mental health center they have a psychiatrist, also if you have a chronic condition that impacts your mental health hall health would be better. If a person doesn't want their doctor to know what they talk about the counseling center is better. Also the counseling center doesn't charge for any of their services thanks in part to SAF funding. That is helpful if finances is an issue, if you have GAPE while hall health mental health charges insurance, if you have GAPE they will charge your insurance but with no copay cost to you it is good for you to know your options. Counseling center works more with people who may not have insurance or have financial difficulties they are more intune with working with students that have more difficult life circumstances financially. Also the counseling center typically has a shorter wait time for an appointment. Also they have a crisis counselor available each day. They have a collaboration with hall health, during the recession units were more worried about collaborating and losing positions, now more people are doing collaborations. Right now they are doing a collaboration called "lets talk" if you have a question about whether you need counseling it's a good service. There are two locations for this one from 2-4pm at the ECC, and one from 2-4pm at the Q center. If you are trying to get someone to go to counseling and they aren't sure about going that may be a good introduction for them. Part of the goal behind that program is since it takes a lot of guts to get into the counseling center their hope with "lets talk" is to go to where students already are to make themselves more available to people and also to serve people who are underrepresented in mental health. Another collaboration they are looking at is having a joint website, they found 80% of the clients that come in go to their website before coming in and they think that is a good way to disseminate information. A joint website can help students better understand where to go. Last piece in terms of new initiatives is they partnered with student veteran life and are in the process of hiring a counselor for student veterans in particular.

**Kelly brown (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance):** Can you reiterate what the cost is for students without insurance?

**Natacha Foo Kune:** The counseling center in Schmitz is free completely, the hall health one depends on insurance. Typically without insurance, the cost is \$200 dollars per session without insurance. If you are in crisis and show up at hall health they do have a crisis counselor and don't charge for crisis counseling.

**Elloise Kim (President):** There is also a health and wellness office, and they are the unit that reach out to people when they see a problem, in case of health and wellness if you see your friends are struggling with mental health issues you can let them know and they will reach out to the student affected.

**Natacha Foo Kune:** They provide referrals but not counseling.

**Jasmine Fleenor (Social Work MA):** She thinks these are great programs. However, she has heard from low income students that when they have gotten referrals for long term counseling they have gotten inappropriate referrals that do not take their insurance. She was wondering what the counseling center is doing to make sure they have adequate referrals for their low income students?

**Natacha Foo Kune:** They identified that need, so they went to SAF and said they wanted to do something about this. So they gave the counseling center some funding to hire a case manager, that person's job in particular is to help with referrals for students on apple health or who have complicated insurance. Insurance is a complicated process. The person is also building relationships with contracted mental health providers in the Seattle area, so they know who to refer to because before most relationships were with individual private practices. They are working to fill the gap, and help students get something that works for their insurance. She has figured out transportation maps for students who want to figure out how to get to each office so its much friendlier for the students.

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## **SAGE and Olympia Update**

**6:14 pm**

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Most intensive lobbying efforts have ended for the year. Who here knows what SAGE is? SAGE stands for student advocates for graduate education it is a coalition of 16 member institutions, represents 150,000 graduate students. It's the national public school graduate advocacy group for top tier research institutions. This past week James, Elloise, Sarah, Matt, and Austin were in DC and worked to advocate on behalf of Graduate students they went to the SAGE conference. They had business days where they do elections and discussions and meeting days where they meet with their representatives and another day where they intermingle with other universities and meet random congressional officers. As a side note, he served as SAGE's political director for this year, and their Director of Legislative Affairs Matt Munoz was elected the political director for next year. SAGE had 36 meetings with 19 different senators. He will go into themes and notes for what they gathered. They presented four white papers written by SAGE on immigration, research funding, student debt, and sexual assault. You can access the papers in the office or online. For research funding their asks were to increase federal investment for basic research specifically NIH, DOE etc. opposed possible cuts to other organizations. They did include humanities.

**Elloise Kim (President):** If you are not familiar with those words do not be shy to ask for clarifications.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** They also opposed changes to budget control act of 2011 and oppose changes to scientific autonomy. Basically everyone they talked to opposed cuts to NIH or NSF funding across the board. On NOAA, NEA, and NEH level there was generally lots of positive feedback on preserving programs but there was some pushback from Republicans on humanities funding. The EPA has a dark outlook it seems like the administration is determined to cut the EPA, they ask students to collect and send stories about why the EPA is

important. Send the stories to all representatives, they need to show why its important to maintain funding.

**Matt Munoz (Director of Legislative Affairs):** A lot of Senators said the white house budget that came out is a proposal and many people across party lines are not happy with those proposals so likely there will be many cuts in the white house budget will not be included in the official budget.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering):** What was said about DOE?

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Not many conversations at all. Most of the conversations were focused on NIH and NSF and they tried to push a lot of the humanities, there was positive feedback overall. Next they will talk about immigration. Their main asks were H1B visa reform, continue OPT periods, reintroduce the stable act which exempted PhD holders from H1B caps and supported the continuation of DACA.

**Dan Herb (Education - Leadership in Higher Education):** OPT periods?

**Elloise Kim (President):** Optional Practical Training. Time period after an international student visa ends after graduation that students can stay in the US legally and search for jobs.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Lots of support overall for these programs, there was an emphasis on international students and their benefits to the economy. There were a lot of “Dear Colleague” letters that are sent to leadership in the White House. There is not legislation on certain issues yet some issues are very important. What James asks is to call representatives and ask them to sign onto these “Dear Colleague” letters. Also push for continuation of DACA.

Sexual assault work was around supporting the campus safe act, and supporting CASA. UW administration does not support CASA. The reason is CASA imposes strict penalties on Universities that do not strictly follow it, so the administration is working out those issues with CASA right now.

**Julius Doyle (Anthropology):** Does that mean Universities are held accountatble for whatever sexaul assault cases happen on campus?

**Sarah Loeffler (Vice President of Internal Affairs):** In these cases there was a partnership with the police departments that held the university accountable whether or not police departments wanted to work with the universities or not. If that relationship went ary in some way the University is responsible for 1% of their entire budget fine that’s what UW Admin is against. They can’t hold the Seattle Police Department or UWPD accountable for that.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** That is a complaint they heard from a lot of University public relations teams. Our University is very active on trying to get that fixed. The strongest thing from sexual assault asks is they had a lot of passionate stories and people really listened to them. If people are not really involved with these issues they may not care about the issues as much, and we need officers to see why its important especially on campuses. There was a lot of Democrat support for CASA, not so much the case with Republicans. Most

offices were in support with working for Title 9 issues, that's a state level issue as well. A lot of the Washington State delegation may be the strongest in the nation on these issues.

The last issue they talked about was student debt, UW has led that charge for SAGE. The two asks were about reforming the tax code. Right now if you are in a certain number of repayment plans once those loans are forgiven, then you are taxed on your income + forgiven money which can significantly increase your taxes by a lot, while the ask was strong it seems like this is an issue that will be on the plan for years to come they asked that everyone keep this in mind. Will be on the agenda for a few years, they did ask about protecting and supporting existing student loan repayment programs. They talked about the public service forgiveness program and while they heard that may be going away, or that the administration may want to take that away, every office talked to said they don't want that to happen.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Public Service applies to people who work for a nonprofit. People reference jobs that are similar but are under different types of organizations (non-profit) and thus yield different benefits (loan forgiveness) as reasons why the forgiveness program may be tried to be cut by the administration. Those are reasonable concerns and need to be talked about more moving forward.

**Dan Herb (Education - Leadership in Higher Education):** Taxable income is not applicable to public service forgiveness loans as well as teacher forgiveness programs.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Most offices were pro on protecting payment programs but Republicans saw a growing bubble with repayment programs and believe it needs to be fixed.

The Graduate student debt issue is a big issue and keeps growing, any of you who can call and talk to representatives about it please do. Keep that on the mind of legislators.

**Dan Herb (Education - Leadership in Higher Education):** How much of this particular issue is in the hands of the administration of the college of education vs Congress?

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Depends, the Administration can propose changes to the DOE program but Congress has to ultimately approve it. Changes would mostly come from the administration then Congress would need to approve it.

**Julius Doyle (Anthropology):** You talked to Democrats and Republicans about sexual assault what was the basis for not having support for those issues?

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Some offices didn't see campus sexual assault as a big issue.

**Sarah loeffler (Vice President of Internal Affairs):** A lot of this conversation was that it was uncomfortable and they didn't understand it. Not a lot of people come with personal stories and she thinks there were a lot of people unsure of what to do because not a lot of people in Congress have experienced these issues. So making sure our legislators here and on the federal level keep it a priority is important.

**Austin Wright-Pettibone (Student Regent):** Was in the SAGE delegation, one bill they talked about was CASA. SAGE as a delegation supported CASA, the specific concern that administration have is that CASA was created in order to create these memorandum of understanding between universities and local police jurisdiction. So campuses that weren't compliant were fined up to 1% of their federal budget but there was no mechanism for local police jurisdiction to have the fine implicated on them. So Universities were pressured to sign but there was no mechanism to get other signatures on jurisdiction (local police) to actually sign. So one of the things we are working on as an insituation, and the people sponsoring that bill, is to negotiate those issues.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** When we met with females of the office, the office heard it much better than when we met with males.

**Elloise Kim (President):** We tried to emphaize that this is not just a womens issue, and that was better heard by male representatives and staff when it was presented that way. We tried to strategize this issue as something that affects everyone.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** Also they had the Olympia budget come out, he will recap budgets and progress. Four bills made it through the cut off from WSA. Notifications on transcripts for suspended students because of sexual violence, notfications on loan debt, educational resources (textbook granting program), and a bill that extends disability taskforce. Regrets to inform you that veterans mental health bill died in the House Appropriations committee. There is small lifeline for it, worse comes to worst it will be reintroduced next year.

In terms of operating budgets the House included a tuition freeze with backfill, expanded the state need grant funding by 6,000 students, and increased funding for rural medicine programs we run the Senate budget didn't have a tuition freeze and did not increase state need grand funding it half funded our bill 5525 and it did include increased funding for rural medicine programs. For Capital budgets House included everything except Parrington renovations and seismic renovations the Senate funded pretty much everything a little less for T wing renovations and did include money for parrington renovations and seismic updates as well as maintenance costs. Again if you are interested in any of these send a letter to representatives thanking them for pushing certain things and keeping other things in mind with that he will wrap up.

**Dan Herb (Education - Leadership in Higher Education):** The next step is they need to combine these two budgets into one budget.

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** He will go to Olympia tomorrow to push for some of these asks.

**Matt Munoz (Director of Legislative Affairs):** As a timeline, regular session ends April 23<sup>rd</sup> so its very likely we will go into special session. To keep up with what is happening in Olympia go to the legislative website or talk to James or him.

**Elloise Kim (President):** Would like to open the floor to any concerns or questions senators may have. Anything could be a part of the conversation.

**Tom Walton (Social Work PhD):** Does GPSS have any formal role when it comes to union negotiations?

**Elloise Kim (President):** Monica would you like to talk about that more?

**Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama):** No, GPSS does not have a formal role with the Union, she does know that GPSS has coordinated with the Union on shared priorities.

**Elloise Kim (President):** In general they try collaborate and update each other so when there is a shared agenda we can work together however we don't have a formal structure for collaboration.

**Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama):** The technical day to bargain is April 15th, they asked to open the bargain early because the Executive Orders have really changed the working environments. They want to reopen bargaining early to help students that are impacted by the Executive Orders. The vote to start the bargaining process is due tonight.

**Elloise Kim (President):** GPSS is in a good relationship with the Union but tries to stay neutral for political issues.

**Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama):** One of the reasons that Union was started was through a GPSS resolution in support for the Union.

**Elloise Kim (President):** Since there is no one else speaking she thinks it is okay to close conversation. (Everyone agrees.)

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## Officer Reports

6:43 pm

### Vice President of Internal Affairs

The spring social is May 4<sup>th</sup> it is in the HUB Lyceum. Tori can speak more about the event.

**Tori Hernandez (Director of Events):** It will be May 4<sup>th</sup> so it is about 4 weeks away, will have a "May the 4<sup>th</sup> be With You" theme. As always if people can help let her know. It will be in the HUB Lyceum.

**Sarah Loeffler (Vice President of Internal Affairs):** They will continue what they started last year. They decided some arts and entertainments events. Last year GPSS did a Mariners game and kinky boots. They have Mariners game on the agenda this year, and the game is on May 7<sup>th</sup>. They will try to get a Sounders game on the calendar, let her know if you are interested. Also, she is working on getting another show on the calendar, Tori is working on that. June 1<sup>st</sup> is Husky Sunset it will be by the columns and it will be a barbeque. Program review dates the Department of Genome Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, and Department or Rehab Medicine are in April. Also there are a few more site visits in May. If you know anyone from these departments let her know they are still trying to rally some stories so they can submit a program review proposal to get Graduate students more participation in their own program reviews. That is what she is working on this quarter.

**Jen Rhymer (Foster School of Business):** Whats a program review?

**Sarah Loeffler (Vice President of Internal Affairs):** Every degree granting program is reviewed every 10 years sometimes every 5 years, all program certificates are approved by the Graduate school council. In the past GPSS has been involved in program reviews and there is always a one hour time period during the site visit where the review committee comes in and students have about an hour to talk about their experiecnes in the program. GPSS thinks that is very little time for student input especially for such a big review. GPSS is working on increasing student input for program reviews, they need more student voice in program reviews. Program Reviews dictate a lot of financial aspects of departments, faculty and everything.

### **Vice President of External Affairs**

Continuing lobbying in Olympia, he will be pushing for hour Veterans Mental Health Bill a little bit harder to see if we can get it into the budget. He wanted to question GPSS Senate on feelings on continuing to push for a tuition freeze. One body (HOUSE) has included a tuition freeze in their budget, and the other hasn't which would mean that the UW tuition would increase due to inflation. It doesn't affect Graduate students just Undergraduate students.

**Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama):** What is ASUW's positon? If ASUW supports a tuition freeze she would want to support ASUW and their efforts.

**Max Nelson (Guest):** How would this tution freeze affect UW's bottom line?

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** As it stands in the House budget there is a tuition freeze but they fill it with backfill. There is money coming in anyway to deal with potential loss.

**Brad Copenhaver (Foster School of Business MBA):** If you don't lobby on this would this free up your time to work on other issues? (Yes)

**James Moschella (Vice President of External Affairs):** He is hoping to create lasting connections, and hopes to get Senators on campus and show them around the research labs. Rep. Jayapal's office has contacted them for positons on new bills, they will work with them on that for a little bit. They will also be having a advocacy day where students read of scripts that will allow them to talk to legislators. In other news, they have created a Pac-12 coalition. They will have the 2<sup>nd</sup> official conference call meeting for the coalition soon. They are trying to make it a more sustainable coalition. They continue to push fee based programs as a legislative priority.

### **Secretary**

Planning community outreach events for late May. Diversity funds are running low which is good. Focusing on organization this quarter in GPSS, that includes promotional material. Knows Austin may talk about this more, but the student regent applicaton is open and its due April 14<sup>th</sup> and our Officer Elections are coming up. In order to be an GPSS Officer a Grad student must attend 3 GPSS meetings.

**Matt Munoz (Director of Legislative Affairs):** Is that Senate meetings or Senate Executive meetings?

**Randy Siebert (Secretary):** Senate or Executive meetings.

The First nations powwow event was funded, its a two day event at Alaska airlines arena and it's a free event with food etc. Check that out.

## **Treasurer**

Presented budget to SAF and that was well received, increases in budget were well received overall. Budget deliberations will take place in the next few weeks, we will see if the budget is approved in mid May. She has been getting emails about departmental allocations and travel grants from the most recent round. There has been an issue processing those, and she is doing her best to get those transferred into the budget by the end of this week. The Spring travel grant application has just opened it covers conferences from May 11<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> it is on the website under the funding tab and she is in crucial need of people to serve for F&B this quarter. The meeting is Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm they are very short meetings. Needs people for this quarter. She wanted to also talk about some of the events that GPSS has funded that have yet to happen. The events are Malaysian night, UW night market, UW Worker memorial day, Keraton, Filipino night, Matsuri, Afro-Caribbean night and more. She would like to see more grad students at these events. If anyone is interested in joining F&B talk to her after the meeting.

## **President**

Included some photos from SAGE, the trips was 5 days of intensive working. Also there was a lot of walking. They worked hard and were very proud of their results. Wants to thank James and Matt for making the time successful. She is preparing with the help of Austin for next week's Board of Regents meeting to present a Graduate Students Experience panel. The Graduate Student Experience is usually not part of the Board of Regents conversation. They were actually preparing Fee based programs as a April agenda issue but because of time issues Fee based program work is being pushed to the Fall. However, This is a good chance for the Board of Regents to see what kind of unique and distinct experiences Graduate students have. She recruited a lot of diverse students to show diverse Graduate student experiences to the Board of Regents. A similar presentation of Undergraduate student experiences will take place at the meeting as well.

Also, ISHIP (Interantional Student Insurance Plan) because of the time change from the academic year to caelndar year the ISHIP committee met to talk about who's recommendation is better to adjust the health care plan. They were happy to come up with a suggestion that emoved one of the prime network units that was able to keep a stable rate but recently they communicated back to UW saying that the plan could not happen. So the plan must be renegotiate the committee will meet next week again and in the worst case scenario the increased rate could be as high as 9% but right now the committee is working hard to find out what the best way to decrease the increased rate is. she will get back to people on that. Fee based programs, PCE, and the Graduate school will for together for Fall Board presentation and James has been working to

make a recommendation about what the best way is to inform incoming students about options and benefits they have. Lastly, one of the reasons Michaela is looking for new F&B members is Erin Firth decided to leave the Graduate School. Due to her departure there will be a vacancy so there will be an election for a new Executive Senator if you are interested on serving on the Executive committee let Ellosie know. Michelle will introduce what Executive Senators do.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology):** Executive meetings are on Wednesday's when there is not a Senate meeting, they plan agendas for Senate meetings, and Executive Senators are the first line of volunteers for things, also they help get guests for meetings, and are meant to keep aware of issues that affect Graduate students.

**Elloise Kim (President):** It's a non-paid position, and many Executive senators in the past ran for officer positions later. On another note, Austin can you talk about the Student Regent application as well.

**Austin Wright-Pettibone (Student Regent):** Yes, it's a fun and dynamic job. There are a lot of demands with the job, but it will allow people to learn a lot about governance. The application is due next week, if anyone is interested in applying please reach out to him he would be happy to talk to anyone who is interested. Just to echo it's an incredible opportunity. It was personally a transformative experience for him, and an amazing personal growth opportunity. Definitely reach out to the him and if you want to apply.

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## Announcements

7:03 pm

**Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama):** For the Executive Senator position, it's a two year appointment?

**Elloise Kim (President):** Once you run you can be in the position for two years then you need to run again, there is no limit on the number of terms.

**Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama):** If somebody wanted to be an Executive Senator then after a year wanted to be an Officer could they do that? (Yes)

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## Adjournment

7:04 pm

**Michelle Brault (Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology):** Moves to adjourn the meeting.

**Laura Taylor (Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology):** Seconds.