



Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Executive Meeting Minutes Session 20

MAY 28, 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
GPSS Treasurer Kerstin Hudon
GPSS Secretary Soh Yeun (Elloise) Kim
GPSS Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
GPSS Executive Senator Brian Tracy
GPSS Executive Senator Joseph Telegen
ASUW Director of Internal Policy Noe Merfeld
Graduate School Associate Dean Kelly Edwards

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:13 pm

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alex Bolton moves to add “Grad School and the GPSS College Council” to the agenda.

Brian Tracy seconds.

Kerstin Hudon moves to add “Executive Liaison Appointments” after the 5th agenda item.

Brian Tracy seconds.

Monica Cortes Viharo notes she has to leave soon and asks whether there is time during the next Senate meeting for a Husky 100 report. They have a lot of data on how things went this year that she would like to share.

Alex Bolton: Thinks this would be better for next year, rather than the last meeting.

Joseph Telegen moves to approve the amended agenda.

Brian Tracy seconds.

Seeing no objections, the amended agenda is approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

6:23 pm

Brian Tracy moves to approve the minutes.

Brian Taubeneck seconds.

The minutes are approved.

4. STUDENT TECH FEE LEADERSHIP VISION PART 2

5:40 pm

Alex Bolton invites the STF leadership to begin their presentation, but shares the Executive Committee will not be able to vote until they have a quorum.

Kiehl Sundt updates the Executive Committee on the STF committee. The current STF fee is \$41. After assessing this fee, the committee realized that it is only charged for fall, winter, and spring quarter. The committee voted to extend the fee to summer quarter as well. Additionally, STF has been chronically under spending in recent years. As such, the committee voted to reduce the fee by \$3 to offset the increase in revenue they would receive from extending the fee to summer quarter. Despite this decrease, revenue for the STF committee is still expected to increase next year. They need a vote from the Executive to implement this reduction. The STF has also been working to address the issues presented by the GPSS. They are in the midst of revising their bylaws to address these issues. He asks the GPSS to entertain having a special meeting next week to vote on a finalized set of the STF bylaws and discuss changes. In order for the bylaws to take affect they must be approved by both the ASUW and the GPSS.

Q&A

Alex Bolton asks them to give a preview of the bylaws.

Kiehl Sundt gives an overview of what the STF bylaws. They plan to go from a yearlong funding cycle to a quarterly system. They currently take requests during winter and vote to fund them in spring. This leaves fall quarter fairly dead, while spring quarter is overwhelmed with work. Under the quarterly system, fall quarter will be used to orient committee members. This will break the long voting meetings in spring quarter, and people will receive their money more quickly. There have also been changes to how the committee handles requests. There will be a greater emphasis on the committee funding projects for the broader campus, and more coordination between departments to reduce the cost for everyone. There are also a certain number of departments that continuously request the same funding, such as Odegaard Library. The committee will function more like SAF units, and provide these departments a certain level of assurance that they will receive this funding. Finally, this new quarterly model will give students whose proposals are not funded to redraft and give it another go the following quarter.

Bryce Colton shares a visual of what Kiehl has been discussing.

Rene Singleton asks the committee to explain the rationale for summer quarter fees because she anticipates complaints. Next she asks whether the committee has discussed the process for choosing and training leadership in the future. Finally she asks that the committee to provide them a timeline for next year.

Kiehl Sundt: Summer students receive the benefits of the STF fee without having to contribute to the funds; therefore, they thought it was only fair these students get charged. Additionally, the fee will not apply until next summer so that it should not be a surprise to these students. Next year, the committee will begin using fall quarter (a traditionally dead quarter) to train new committee members. Finally, the committee is happy to include a timeline for the STF committee next year during the special meeting.

Alex Bolton asks whether the new funding model will increase the committee's workload.

Bryce Colton believes the new funding model will actually decrease the workload by spreading it more evenly throughout the three quarters.

Kerstin Hudon asks whether the committee still plans to have every group present in person.
Bryce Colton: Yes.

Elloise Kim suggests they'd create a standardized rubric to evaluate each proposal, so that students know what criteria they are going to be evaluated against. The rubric does not need to be extremely detailed; rather it would express the committee's core values and what they look at when assessing proposals.

Bryce Colton: The committee currently uses the metric system to evaluate proposals. The committee is there to make a judgment at the end in addition to these metrics. They will be sure to enumerate their policy within the bylaws to show students what they look at when choosing to fund a proposal.

Rene Singleton recommends using same language in their bylaws and on their website that will be easily understood by the vast majority of readers.

Bryce Colton agrees and thanks her for the recommendation.

Monica Cortes Viharo asks whether there is an opportunity for students to speak with the committee prior to submitting their proposal.

Bryce Colton: On their website they maintain a full contact list which students are free to use. They do not maintain official office hours, but could institute them if necessary. He also shares that STF is looking to lower the number of committee member from 6 (ASUW):4 (GPSS) to 6 (ASUW):3 (GPSS) and make the chair a voting member as well. This membership count is more in line with the SAF committee.

Kerstin Hudon sums up everyone's comments. The purpose of this presentation was to rethink the mission and overall vision of the STF committee. She asks whether there are any additional questions regarding the overall vision of this committee.

Alex Bolton expresses concern with lowering the number of GPSS votes and the ability of the chair to vote.

Kiehl Sundt: Traditionally the STF chair has been an undergraduate and has had a vote, although the chair generally has refrained from exercising that right. If the GPSS feels that a 5 (ASUW):4 (GPSS) split would be better, they are open to discussing it.

Kerstin Hudon: Hearing no more questions, she concludes that Alex and Elloise will chat offline in terms of the membership counts. She asks the committee to list which documents they plan to submit to the GPSS to justify the special meeting.

Kiehl Sundt: The new bylaws as well as the existing Bylaws for reference. They would also provide a summary of changes being executed. He asks whether there is any additional information they would like to see.

Kerstin Hudon: The timeline with dates, a training draft, and a list of things the committee is planning on writing policies on with a brief description.

Joseph Telegen asks them to repeat the three main functions of the committee moving forward, before the Executive Committee votes on the fee change and special meeting.

Bryce Colton: A quarterly funding model, concurrent funding of blocks, and improved inter-

departmental communication.

Joseph Telegen: Thank you.

Alex Bolton entertains a motion to extend the fee summer quarter beginning in 2017.

Kerstin Hudon moves to approve the extension.

Noe Merfeld seconds.

Alex Bolton entertains a motion to have the tech fee be reduced to \$38/quarter moving forward.

Elloise Kim moves to approve the decrease in the tech fee.

Kerstin Hudon seconds.

The Executive Committee vote that the STF will be issued for students who take a summer quarter as well beginning in 2017 Summer and STF will be lowered by 3 dollars to \$38 per quarter.

5. TECH FEE SPECIAL MEETING

6:15 pm

Alex Bolton asks whether people are opposed to having a special meeting on June 8th so they can vote on the STF committee's new bylaws.

Noe Merfeld shares that she will not be able to attend.

Kerstin Hudon suggests a special meeting in the GPSS office before the Senate meeting next week.

Kelly Edwards notes that it seems like a lot of documents to look over in under thirty minutes.

Kiehl Sundt: Due to time constraints, he offers to email out the relevant documents beforehand.

Alex Bolton asks who could be available for a special meeting *after* the Senate Meeting next week. That way, there will be enough Executive Senators for a quorum.

Elloise Kim asks whether this will be enough time for the STF committee to prepare their documents.

Kiehl Sundt: Yes, they will be ready.

Kerstin Hudon moves to approve the special meeting on June 1st after the Senate meeting at 7 pm.

Brian Tracy seconds.

6. EXECUTIVE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

6:24 pm

Kerstin Hudon moves to approve the Executive Liaison appointments presented.

Elloise Kim seconds.

The list has been provided to the Executive Committee via email.

7. STATUS OF EXECUTIVE SENATORS

6:25 pm

Joseph Telegen: After looking through the Bylaws and Constitution he was not able to find anything in terms of being involved with the ASUW elections while being a GPSS Executive Senator. He would like to have an informal conversation about everyone's understanding regarding

this partnership. He believes Executive Senators function as volunteers for the GPSS and provide institutional knowledge. With Yasmeen leaving, he asks whether there are do's and don'ts that Executive Senators need to be aware of, thinking that this needs to be articulated before new people are elected.

Alex Bolton believes that endorsements have been more of a protocol rather than a hardline rule. No one said he could not be involved with the ASUW elections, though historically Executive members remain neutral.

Joseph Telegen: Had he known prior that executive members were not supposed to get involved, he would have informed the group when they first came to him.

Alex Bolton: The GPSS cannot tell you not to endorse ASUW candidates, as it violates freedom of speech.

Rene Singleton: The liaisonship between the GPSS and the ASUW primarily serves as a method of information exchange. This is the first time anyone from this body has been active in the ASUW in that way, so it presents a new challenge. The issue with supporting one ASUW party over another is that the one you endorse may not win. This could cause contention when the GPSS has to work with a prevailing party.

Joseph Telegen: He has had conversations of the nature that his status is with the GPSS Executive, not ASUW. He believes the distinction could be made clearer.

Brian Taubeneck: You have to work with the prevailing party regardless of which ticket you support, which is why he believes senators and officers should remain neutral in terms of campaigning. He states that he has been involved with the YourVoice ticket, but made a point to stay fairly neutral. He was able to advocate for them as an individual student, rather than as the VP of External Affairs. It is important not to use your position on GPSS Executive Committee to support any candidates.

Joseph Telegen asks what it would look like to use your office for the purposes of endorsing an ASUW election or resolution.

Brian Taubeneck: For example, if you stated in an endorsement video that as VP of External Affairs I worked closely with x, y, z and therefore they should win.

Rene Singleton adds that the ASUW officers cannot use their own titles to endorse future ASUW people, either. They were even told not to wear campaign apparel to the meetings, so this is something to keep in mind.

Joseph Telegen thanks everyone for the comments.

8. GRADUATE SCHOOL AND GPSS AS COLLEGE COUNCIL

6:34 pm

Alex Bolton: They have had informal conversations regarding what it would look like to have the GPSS College Council. Originally they thought it could be handled by the Executive Committee, but they did not want to increase Executive Senators' workload considering that it is a non-paid position though elected. They were also thinking that it could be something the Treasurer handles. This person could meet with the Graduate School to go over the budget and provide input. He asks

Kelly how she imagines this relationship.

Kelly Edwards: They are always seeking more graduate student advice in their decisions; she thinks this Council would be a great opportunity for students to share their input. She expresses disappointed that there has not been a huge GPSS presence in Grad School Council and Grad School Executive Committee meetings this year. They do not currently have a decision making process for prioritizing budget requests, but would love more input and transparency from graduate students on this matter.

Kerstin Hudon: Since the F&B committee does not have a lot of work with the GPSS during fall quarter, they believe this committee would be a good liaison to the Graduate School. They are happy to slot out positions to serve in this capacity.

Kelly Edwards agrees the timing would be good; they put together the budget request for provost during fall quarter.

Kerstin Hudon believes it would be rewarding for F&B committee members and may attract more members.

Elloise Kim agrees that it would be great for F&B committee to take on these additional duties. However, if F&B serves as a Council to the Graduate School there should be more diverse representation in terms of race, gender, and programs.

Joseph Telegen hopes that it will bump up recruitment, but notes that this year there were quorum issues regardless of demographics.

Kelly Edwards adds that financial savvy is nice, but the graduate student experience is equally important. She thinks increasing diversity would definitely help. They want to ensure their budgetary decisions are conscious and align with graduate student concerns.

Brian Tracy: It seems that this committee will mostly be comprised of already established leadership. He would like membership to extend to Senators in general.

Kelly Edwards agrees. She asks whether it could parallel some of the other committees, which are chaired by an officer, but ran by Senators.

Brian Tracy: Yes, that would good.

Yasmeen Hussain expresses that while she likes the idea of this role being absorbed by an already standing committee, she thinks this can create a redundancy in input.

Elloise Kim suggests that utilizing the Graduate Student Experience Committee, which was inactive this year. Next year they will be under the VP of Internal Affairs, and could work in conjunction with the Graduate School.

Rene Singleton asks how many students would be necessary for this role.

Kelly Edwards asks Alex what he envisions.

Alex Bolton: It could vary. Some departmental committees have as little as three members while others have as many as twelve members. It may depend on how many people are interested.

Kelly Edwards suggests three members to start, with no cap. She likes the idea of aligning with the Graduate Student Experience Committee.

Brian Taubeneck: He favors making the Council a separate committee. The GPSS is comprised of both professional and graduate students. He believes there are other ways to represent the full body

without utilizing the F&B committee. The graduate students are a sub population.

Alex Bolton: Overall, there seems to be interest in forming a GPSS College Council. He suggests the new Executive Committee meet up this summer to discuss how this committee will be implemented.

9. 6/1 Senate Meeting Agenda

6:50 pm

Elloise Kim: There will be a second reading of and vote on the Black Lives Matter resolution. There will not be a Spotlight presentation—she has not heard back from Chad Allen.

Brian Tracy reminds everyone about the Executive Senators election.

Alex Bolton adds Senator Awards.

Kerstin Hudon: The transition ceremony should be added to the agenda.

Brian Tracy: Officer reports to sum up yearly duties.

Kelly Edwards shares that last year one of the Executive had Senators turn to their neighbor and discuss what their proudest moment from the GPSS was that year.

Alex Bolton likes that suggestion.

Kerstin Hudon motions to approve the agenda.

Joseph Telegen seconds.

The agenda for the June 1 Senate Meeting is approved.

10. SENATE AWARDS

6:56 pm

Kerstin Hudon: Since it is the last Senate Meeting they will be giving out Senate Awards. She asks the group to think of award titles and the people they would like to receive them. She throws out some suggestions.

The Executive Senate brainstorms and comes up with the following nominations:

Rookie of the Year: Seth Bergeson

Elections Extraordinaire: Michelle Brault

Most Enthusiastic Senator: Laura Taylor

Truly Committed: Ted Chen

Community Engagement: Meixi Ng

Fresh Voice of the Year: Matthew Childs

Bylaws Boss: Brandon Ray

Voice of Accountability: Mahdi Asrafi

Best Vice Chair: Luis Fernando Centurion

Senator of the Year: TBD

Kelly Edwards thanks the GPSS for their awesome work this year.

The whole committee thanks her contribution as well.

11. EXECUTIVE SENATOR REPORTS

7:10 pm

Brian Tracy has been working on editing the Black Lives Matter Resolution. Next Wednesday there will be a Race and Equity Initiative forum on access hosted by Chadwick Allen. The Diversity Blueprint will be finalized this week, so be on the lookout this summer.

Yasmeen Hussain has nothing to report.

Joseph Telegen is currently formulating the different ways he will constructively annoy people in both the ASUW and the GPSS next year.

11. OFFICER REPORTS

7:10 pm

Monica Cortes Viharo will be meeting with Becky Aanerud to discuss options for program reviews next year. G3 had its end of year celebration on Monday and it will stay alive this summer with the help of the graduate school.

Brian Taubeneck has nothing to report.

Elloise Kim asks whether anyone is available to interview the new website development person who will be working with both the ASUW and the GPSS on clicker software next year. The interviews will be next Thursday (6/2) and they would like someone from the GPSS to attend. Other than that she has been working on her normal duties.

Kerstin Hudon: We will all be in Husky Sunset during that time.

Elloise Kim will see what can be done and report back.

Kerstin Hudon: The STF bylaw changes are starting to wrap up. The ABB Phase II committee meeting is May 26th, and they plan to finalize their recommendations. She has also been working on transition documents. Her big update concerns the Drop-In Childcare Center. SAF was protested two weeks ago by student parents. At the time of the protest the committee had already made the decision to freeze new entrances into the program starting in Fall 2017. As a result of the protest many members of the committee were frustrated, and decided to forgo implementing the Drop-In Center next year.

Joseph Telegen asks what the committee can do next year to ensure that efforts to create the drop-in childcare center are continued.

Kerstin Hudon plans on writing a section about it in her transition documents, and suggests pushing the administration to take SAF money to design the center. Just keep it on the priority list for next year.

Brian Tracy asks what she means by protest.

Kerstin Hudon: They asked for a public comment period during their meeting, which they were granted. During this time the SAF committee was told how inequitable they were.

Rene Singleton asks how many protestors showed up.

Kerstin Hudon: Ten, so they outnumbered the committee members.

Brian Tracy takes partial responsibility. He did not share the information from the last Executive Meeting regarding the childcare center on time. He will make it a priority to get this information out, so misinformation does not continue to spread.

Kerstin Hudon adds that no one is to blame. It is just an unfortunate circumstances and timing.

Noe Merfeld: This is her last meeting—she will be leaving campus next Wednesday. May 23-27 is

the mental health awareness week. They are hiring new ASUW staff for next year. She introduces Taylor who will be serving in her position next year. She believes Taylor is overly qualified for this position, and will do a great job.

Alex Bolton takes a second to recognize how amazing Noe has been this year.

Alex Bolton shares that he took his last final today! The University announced a new Athletic Director today. Otherwise, he has been wrapping things up and getting ready to hand over the reign.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7:39 pm

Elloise Kim will be sending out an email for students to submit GPA nominations. She asks whether she should send out a link to Catalyst for the Senator of the Year nomination with this email.

Alex Bolton: Yes, that would be great.

Joseph Telegen suggests informing Senators that they cannot vote for current Executive Senators.

Brian Tracy shares that he will be in Seattle this summer, so he is happy to help the new Executive with any business. He should be around until August.

Elloise Kim thanks him.

13. MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:41 pm
