

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GPSS Executive Committee Meeting- 21 January 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:34 by meeting chair Alice Popejoy

Members Present:

GPSS President Alice Popejoy
GPSS Treasurer Douglass Taber
GPSS Vice President Alex Bolton
GPSS Secretary Natalie Gordon
Executive Senator Eddie Schwieterman
Executive Senator Elloise Kim
Executive Senator Evan Firth
Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
ASUW Finance and Budget Director Kyle Curtis
SAO Adviser Rene Singleton

Reading of Agenda

Eddie moved to approve the agenda, Elloise seconded.
Agenda for the meeting approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes

Yasmeen moved to approve the minutes, Natalie seconded.
Minutes approved without modification.

Intro of Kyle from ASUW

Kyle is the Finance and Budget Director of ASUW. He is currently a senior and is sitting in as the ASUW representative to GPSS for the quarter.

GPSS Staff Retreat

Alice: The feedback we got from staff about the retreat was all positive.

Natalie: The retreat gave us the time and structure for a lot of team building which was very beneficial for us as a whole.

Alice: Something that came up at the retreat was transitions. Mostly they were fuzzy and not clear and that has been a recurring issue. That is also something that we should think about in Exec since some of us will be moving on with other things in life after this year.

City Council Transition

Alice: Rene brought up the transitioning within the Seattle Council that we should be aware of.

Rene: Seattle is going from an at large system to a district model. Everyone is going to be more focused on the benefits for their own district, and everyone is going to be running for the district positions. We should think about how this might impact GPSS. Housing and transportation are issues that students have constantly brought up, but I don't know how the city will respond after this change. Some districts don't have as many resources, which will likely be another issue.

Alice: They started talking about Childcare in the City Council, and that may be an interesting place for us to get involved and intercept.

Issues on Practicums and Actions

Alice: Last year a City Councilwoman made a comment about Social Work and unpaid internships. Also a group of students from Social Workers Stand Up had a petition signed up by half of their students, which is a lot, but they are not happy with the way the School of Social Work has addressed the issue. They feel that it's unfair, they don't have safety or health care benefits, which can be potentially dangerous for them. I have been contacted by a professor from the School of the Environment. He is very passionate about this. He wants to explore ways to help fight the problem, and help come up with a mechanism that can help to paid internships get strong, academic and transparent footing at UW. But he's not going to pursue this any further unless ASUW and GPSS go after it as well. I wanted to bring this to the board before I do anything more.

Eddie: Personally I think this is absolutely an issue that we should be advocating for. There are students who are our constituency who have been taken advantage of for their labor. This is absolutely a case that GPSS should be advocating for students. It could potentially make a big impact.

Yasmeen: I am curious, did the professor approach you as a person that can do something about the issue? Because students at the School of Social Work are already doing something. Could you connect them? It doesn't really make sense to go around them.

Alice: He is kind of like their advocate. He is connected to the student group, but the student group is a bit disorganized, and it's a bit hard to get a response from them. I did a bit of follow up on this but didn't we have a resolution last year about it?

Natalie: I think it never became a resolution, but rather intense conversation.

Eddie: At the last UAW meeting, I talked to someone from the School of Social Work, and offered to help guide them if they want a resolution.

Alice: The issue is that they are not getting anywhere. They are having meetings. I talked to the deans about this, and my meeting with the Dean of the School of Social Work was fully loaded. She had three assistant deans there and they were ready to talk about the issue. They were upset that it was misrepresented in the GPSS meeting. They read our minutes, and they were upset that it is called unpaid work. They called them practicums, and they think it's a philosophical problem. They think the learning experience is worth more than the wage. How the students feel is that they are being exploited for their labor. Not all students feel that way, and that makes it harder. The deans said that we can have a conversation, but they are not really getting anywhere. The first step the professor recommended was talking to the Faculty Council on Student Affairs and Academic Standards, and create a joint sub committee on internships to look at the problem and collect data. I have a plan to send that email, but I don't think that's going to do the trick.

Elloise: I have a question: I do believe the School of Social Work does not believe there is a problem with asking students to do an internship or some kind of labor that is not a money-involved experience before graduation. There a compelling case that we can make so the School of Social Work may reconsider the practicum relations. Their emphasis not as a labor issue, however students are working too many hours to be just taken as a learning experience. They are working more than 11000 hours. The idea for this practicum is great, but the

administration definitely took a different route on this issue. It's really a labor issue, and I think they are just putting an excuse saying it's a learning experience.

Eddie: It's clear that the Federal law says that you can't call it an internship if the company that you are working for gets material benefit out of your work. And it's clear in many cases that the social workers are contributing to these material benefits. What's worse is that students are actually paying to work all this hours.

Elloise: So it's kind of like double losses for students working unpaid and paying tuition.

Doug: Two things: for the Evans School, we have practicum of 200 hours. That's manageable. You work a minimum of 10-20 hours a week during the summer. But for students of Social Work, they have to work so many hours of practicum that it is cutting out other opportunities.

Yasmeen: It is a similar thing for medical education. They need more than 11000 hours of experience. But it's a different experience in learning and it doesn't replace someone, and they are still paying a lot more for it. If we go ahead with this, framing it in comparison to something that is actually a learning experience would be appropriate.

Alice: It sounds like there is a lot of support for it. We are not ready to bring this to the Senate yet, but we can get the committee going talking about the issue and collect information on this. We can even invite the councilwoman to come in and talk to us at the Senate. I will reach out to the people at the School of Social Work and just have everyone brainstorm on how we should approach this. This is a divisive issue so I would like to approach this carefully and maintain current good relationships with the school administrators that we have built, but I am also moving forward with this.

Eddie: Do you think it's divisive among students or is it divisive between students and faculty?

Alice: I think it's divisive between students and all the other stakeholders. I think in general students are pretty united in that they want to get paid for the work they are doing and not being forced to pay for work.

Eddie: I would argue that our job is to advocate for students.

Alice: You are right, but we also have a lot of priorities, so we have to approach this carefully.

Yasmeen: If we stay specifically in the School of Social Work, we stand with these students to say that this is not right, and say that they should have a learning experience and get paid for their work. And if we say it like that, we can roll it into something bigger later on, but stopping now would just be sad because people have been thinking about this for so long. I don't think we should need to be as careful as you might be thinking

Alice: It's just I met personally with the dean and her assistant dean that they are so on guard with the issue, if there is a way for us to move the needle without doing something more combative, that would be a better route.

Eddie: I think in this circumstance, it make sense to do what Yasmeen says since we have higher turnover rates than the administrators. They can just wait us out and do the same thing over and over again.

Alice: I am thinking maybe we can do a higher ed summit on practicums, and unpaid internships across the university. If we start down this track, we are going to get bigger.

Evan: If we have students come to us to talk about practicums, then we should go forward with it. We are guided by students coming to us anyway.

Alice: So next steps?

Evan: Pass a resolution. And if more people come to us, we will go from there.

Yasmeen: Do you think the people from School of Social Work would be interested in passing a resolution? Because really, they were the ones who first started it.

Rene: To remind you guys, there is a split between the School of Social Work as well. Because last year when they brought the issue up in our meeting some of the senators didn't necessarily agree with it.

Yasmeen: Maybe someone can contact someone from SAS to start touching base.

Natalie: A good contact would be Tiffany, she may know people.

Alice: We will do some work behind the scene.

Elloise: Sarah Jen is also a good connection, she is a Social Work Senator.

Alice: Does someone want to volunteer to reach out to them?

Eddie: I can do it, just send me a quick email with their contact information.

Childcare Update:

Alice: I had meeting with the new Director of Worklife and Childcare Access on campus, Amy Hawkins. She is fantastic. She shares my naive optimism with me for on campus childcare. She has been working for the HR department for a long time, so her position is under HR. It sounded like there was some push back from the Faculty Senate. For whatever reason, it was believed that faculty were not behind childcare. The leadership of the Faculty Senate cares a lot about the new policy proposal for salary increases and they have fundamental philosophy that they have limited capital and they can't talk about anything else other than faculty salary increases. We are not getting a lot of support from them. The subcommittee is drafting a resolution, and we'll see if that gets presented. During the full-house meeting, the Provost said that her number one priority is finding buildings that we can do something about. She is looking at the north campus renovations. Brandon Ray is interested in this issue and has been drafting a resolution to pass about childcare on campus. I want to bring this to you before I bring it to the Senate. I have been meaning to send out an all student email, and I am seeking your guidance on how to draft this. We are developing a survey for the committee, and it is almost finished. Should I bundle the email with something else?

Yasmeen: Bundling is great. Maybe push Lobby Day with it too. The survey can be the first thing.

Student Code of Conduct Under Revision

Alice: There is a committee working on the Student Code of Conduct and they are reaching the final stages. Luckily our University Director Aaron joined in and started giving input about the classification of sexual misconduct, harassment and assault. Before there were no distinctions between sexual assault and misconduct, so you could either be charged with inappropriate touching or rape in the same category. So students were really upset about it. Separating those out into different categories is important. The administration feel that they don't want the distinction, because they are not adjudicating a crime. I just want to double check with you that this is a direction that you all agree with.

Eddie: I think it's more important that someone who might have been accused of rape can now play is off as " inappropriate touching" and I think that's heinous.

Alice: If sexual misconduct is the most extreme form of misconduct then the person may receive the most extreme form of punishment compared to if we categorize it differently.

Eddie: Can you illuminate how this works in practice? How many students get expelled from student code of conduct content?

Alice: Those are data that I don't have. I will send around the current copy of the Student Code of Conduct. If you would all give me suggestions and let me know what you think about it so I can provide the suggestions to the committee by Friday that would be great.

Lobby Day

Alex: Lobby Day is Friday February 6. We are working with ASUW with transportation and food. We are going to have some training, and we are going to have rally in the morning. We are going to have a room reserved, and part of the room will be for a poster session, similar to what we had for the Innovation Pipeline. We will arrange meetings with legislators that care about higher ed.

Yasmeen: Do you have an exact schedule?

Alex: Yes.

Rene: Are there any other groups that are doing presentations aside from ASUW and GPSS? Are there any other schools?

Alex: Some schools did their own already, but there were some joint ones. We decided as a WSA board not to have a joint one all together. I will draft up an email about the schedule.

Alice: So as far as the advertising? I sent out the flyer that our Organizing Director put together. My feeling was that these issues don't reflect our legislative agenda that was passed by GPSS. They focus on undergrad issues more. I don't know if that's because Rod has been working with ASUW. So now is a good time to talk about how to brand, and what are the main messages because I think that people are pretty skeptical in terms of advocacy. Can we do some quick brainstorming around some of the more clear messages we can put together?

Alex: So state support and have bullets underneath explaining why it affects everybody?

Yasmeen: The main thing that stood out to me was that in registration it says "do you support the GPSS and ASUW legislative agenda?" so I think the one that stuck out is the defining metrics of affordability. Maybe just switching that out to fair and competitive compensation will highlight that this is for graduate students

Alex: It's difficult to have graduate student voices stand out on campus, let alone in Olympia so I think it's important to market this Lobby Day to let all the graduate students see it.

Rene: You guys can incorporate some of this theme with the ones you had when the Innovation Pipeline happened and talk about what you do. Because I saw state representatives understand what graduate students do, the research factor, and I think that's something that they were really interested in.

Eddie: In terms of flyers, have we thought about targeting different graduate populations? Because for example tuition is important to professional students whereas it's not as important for class size and all. But I agree with Yasmeen that "defining metrics" wasn't very exciting.

Alice: Another thing that came up in the Senate meeting was people asking about the poster session, and what about the people who don't have research yet, or don't do research. They don't have posters. Can we call it something else rather than a poster session?

Alex: Maybe something about service? For law students maybe show data on the clinics and products people work on.

Yasmeen: Maybe research and product highlights.

Alice: I feel like we need to stick with pipeline. If you want labor, you have to educate. It paints an advocacy picture of what needs to happen. Some of the legislators told me that they really like the pipeline imagery. So something around that. Think about the title for it. Are you part of the graduate pipeline? Come support us.

Yasmeen: Pipeline may be engaging for the legislators but it's not super engaging for the graduate students. When I was telling people about the Innovation Pipeline event, people didn't seem to be very interested.

Alice: So maybe just tailor it with a different buzzword. I think for each of us with different disciplines, what would appeal to people in English, Evans, or the Business School. Thanks Yasmeen, that was very helpful.

General Information

Alice: Who do we want to come visit us in Senate meetings from Olympia or from campus? Is there anyone that Senators are interested in hearing from?

Alex: We want people who are engaging.

Alice: So like President Young who went to the ASUW Senate Meeting? How did that go Kyle?

Kyle: It was great. I think the President coming generated a lot of good conversation and it was very engaging.

Alice: Maybe we can have the Provost.

Campus Conversations

Alice: The Diversity Committee is planning around, race, ageism and disability, so we kind of want to mirror around that to have mini campus conversations with our senators about cases like Ferguson. The first event is on February 2. That's a bit of a short timeline to organize that kind of event in Senate though. Do we want to put Brian on the agenda to talk about the event and say here's an update on the stuff we have been doing in diversity committee. Just sell the idea rather than having a fishbowl.

Natalie: Yes, Brian and I have talked about that. I will reach out to him.

College Councils

Alice: Senators were really engaged in the College Councils discussion, so I think this is something we should pursue more and maybe give it an agenda item.

Yasmeen: I heard a lot of confusion about College Councils.

Doug: There were a lot of "ah-ha" moments because it has different names in different schools.

Elloise: I think we should have almost a spotlight session for college councils because when Aaron was explaining it, it was very helpful and informative. I think people learned a lot more about what it does.

Yameen: I remember vaguely about bringing a list college councils. I think that would be something that's really helpful to have before we bring this back to Senate.

Alice: So like the Evans School, they are very well organized, but they couldn't get in touch with the dean. The College of Arts and Sciences is the most robust in terms of all these conversations. Do you want a discussion, table it, conversation, spotlight? What should we do with it?

Elloise: I think a report would be really helpful to have updates.

Eddie: If we have a specific goal like filling x number of seats, we need to work specifically toward that goal. That's what we should do if we are going forward with it.

Alice: We have 5 seats, not including the Law school and other professional schools.

Eddie: I think we need to make a case on why this is a priority and why this would impact them.

Alex: It could be tricky for us to do the recruiting though.

Alice: What I am hearing is that we will have Aaron come to give a presentation on the college councils we have identified and we will take note of it, and we will call out appeals, to see if anyone is interested, but also asking them to recruit.

Eddie: I just think that there will be questions on when these meetings will be and you don't have that information, and I think it'd be helpful to have Emma come provide that. Also another comment, our University Affairs Director is suppose to keep tabs on the vacancies and creation of college councils.

Evan: I think there is a strong probability that people may never show up or not be held accountable to report on what they have learned. I just don't think a random someone from one particular department should be assigned to a council. What's their accountability?

Alice: In this case though, it's not so much doing work, but providing a link. So ideally, we want someone who is highly involved in GPSS.

Yasmeen: I think these details are something that we can work out later once people decide to do it.

Alex: From my experience, the Law School is similar to Public Health, there is no structure for the college council. I think we need to set specific descriptions, and set meeting times. We need to somehow have some sort of structure.

Alice: So I am hearing wait on this, but do more ground work and research, and see what we can get with this with Emma on PACS.

Senate Agenda

Natalie: I was approached by Monica and Joe. They would like to do a "how to do a resolution" drama. Part drama, part questions. I thought it was a good idea and I said I would bring it to Exec.

Eddie: I think proactive action should be encouraged.

Alice: Sponsored by Monica Cortes Viharo. How much time do you need?

Natalie: I think they will be fine with 10 minutes.

Alice: Resolution 101. How about Resolution 101 with Judicial?

Evan: Resolution Drama.

Alice: Who is our spotlight?

Natalie: Jennifer Kirk.

Alice: Oh great. She is also putting the child care survey together.

Natalie: We also need to form an elections committee.

Alice: Can someone give a presentation on what the election committee is?

Natalie: I can.

Eddie: I can also help.

Alice: How long?

Natalie: 10 minutes.

Alice: That's an action item right?

Eddie: I am concerned that we are doing a lot of presentations.

Alice: Do you want Campus Conversations with the Diversity Committee? How much time?

Natalie: Maybe 10 minutes

Alice: I would like it to be interactive. Do some things. I will leave you as the sponsor. So far we have how to craft a resolution drama, the spotlight, the election committee, the campus conversation, that's 40 minutes.

Eddie: Do you have Lobby Day?

Alice: No. What do we want people to do?

Alex: Something interactive.

Eddie: Print the surveys out for people to hand out

Doug: We have a lot of material for people to hand out. The Valentine's Day mixer, and others.

Alice: Maybe conversation on legislative issue.

Eddie: I think we spent a lot of time discussing. I think we should take action now.

Alice: Lobby Day sign up for the poster session. How long we want it?

Alex: Maybe 15 minutes.

Eddie: I think the action part is useful.

Alice: Take Action: Lobby Day 2015 Assignments.

Yasmeen: How about just Lobby day 2015, Take Action.

Alice: Should we leave it an action item? Anything else? That's a really short meeting, but that's okay.

Eddie: If we need a better place to ask for volunteers, we should still have a sign up section.

Alice: V-day sign up. I think that will do it. Agree?

Alice: I will entertain the motion to approve the agenda.

Douglass moved to approve the Senate agenda, Eddie seconded.

Exec Senator Reports

Yasmeen: About the Student Tech Fee email: I emailed them again, and they still didn't respond to me. They still didn't deliver their promise.

Alice: I will reach out to them.

Officer Reports

Alex: Conversations in Olympia have been interested. Everyone has been avoiding the budget. Another idea that we have been working on is student loans. Also we are working on a childcare matching grant. There is conversation hoping to get that funding back to pre-recession level. One issue is that community colleges brought this bill that veterans don't need to pay fees, so there is a request to ask us think about what we think on this issue. In general, we want everyone to pay fees, and we don't want anyone to be exempt. We can support it, not have strong reaction, or oppose it.

Eddie: I think helping veterans is a really positive thing to do. I think it should be done in a way that shouldn't be framed as unfair. If there is program that they can somehow find another way to pay, that would be totally great. How much attraction does this have? Are we going to see this next month? I can imagine they are busy with the budget.

Alex: There is also the undergrad tuition setting authority. There is some momentum to stand behind the tuition freeze. The senate has a bill to get a new tax to help fund learning from early

child care. Higher ed is becoming a lower and lower priority, but that's just something to think about. Any questions?

Douglass: Kate from SAF came in. Travel grants are due on the 30th, so we are working on that.

Natalie: The MLK Day of Service event went really well, so that was great. Around 50 people showed up. And we already talked about the diversity event but things are moving forward with that.

Kyle: I have been working on Lobby Day really hard, I wish the communication between GPSS and ASUW could be improved. Another thing is that the special appropriations grants is now officially closed. If we were to grant all these groups as the proposals request that would be around \$40,000 and we only have \$15,000, so we are going to deal with that soon. How many groups do you want me to send your way?

Douglass: We have about \$1500 left. We will only be able to fund 75% of each of them.

Natalie: Also if they are diversity topic related, please send them my way, because we are just starting the process.

Meeting Adjournment

Douglass moved to adjourn, Alex seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23.