

## Graduate & Professional Student Senate

### GPSS Executive Committee Meeting- 7 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

#### Reading of Agenda

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

#### Approve of Minutes

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

#### Winter Recap

Alice announced her pregnancy. (The baby was a pleasant surprise, and she did not know she was pregnant when she started the campaign for childcare on the UW campus.)

#### Board of Regents Information

Alice informed the committee of the Board of Regents meeting, and gave an overview of the Board of Regents website. She also reminded the committee that the Regents meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend their meetings.

#### *-Undergraduate satisfaction and the UW experience:*

Alice mentioned that the current focus is still on undergraduate student's participation. They want to do more collaboration with graduate students. She thinks GPSS has a really big role in this and it is important for everyone to think about what it means for us.

Yasmeen: A Husky Experience Committee invitation was sent out by the provost. They are accepting applications for the liaisons now.

Eddie: This was sent out through the graduate school. The Director of Program Development did this.

Alice: The Graduate School's search for the new graduate student experience director is ongoing, we decided not to hire either of the two finalists. We are going to try with different criteria this time, so this is committee is probably to keep them moving forward in the meantime.

### *-Financial management*

Alice: UW is decreasing its loan interest rates. This is important because for example the College of Engineering and Computer Science building design is going through even though there is no funding yet. UW is taking loans out on ourselves. UW relies on long-term increasing tuition rates to support those loans and expect to have those revenues. Decreased interest rates is just a way of moving towards a more sustainable plan.

Eddie: Can you explain where the capital is eventually coming from? Ultimately are there bonds being sold by the university to purchasers?

Alice: the Regents have been asking for a long time for help understanding what is going, but no one really has good answers for these questions. There is background information about the project on the Board of Regents website. In the School of Public Health the tuition is increasing, but 50% of their operating budget is sitting in the bank. They are trying to quietly save enough money for a new building for the School of Public Health. Anything else that you want to ask about the Regents or that you want me to ask the Regents?

### **Aftermath of Ferguson discussion**

Alice: I would be interested in doing something in response to this event, like an event where a speaker comes and talks about it. I have had some conversation with Brian Tracey to talk about white privilege and diversity issues. It is tricky, so what are your thoughts?

Eddie: Are there any RSOs that are actively working on this topic? It would probably be better if we can have a group of people who have knowledge about this and we can bring GPSS support for what they are doing.

Alice: I went to the event last quarter at the ECC, which not many people went to but I thought was very interesting so there are some events going on.

Yasmeen: It is not something that we necessarily need to approve. I think we can talk to groups about how we can provide support and work together, especially since the Diversity Committee has funding to distribute.

Natalie: We are going to do a Campus Conversation on race. We will be talking about more details on Monday as a committee. I can also talk to Varsha, she oversees diversity efforts for ASUW.

Doug: do you think we can have someone to do a Spotlight?

Natalie: I think we need a longer agenda item because it is a heavy topic.

Evan: I think we can also offer non-monetary support like raising awareness and doing some promotion.

Alice: I think the reason I want to talk about it separately from the Diversity Committee is because oftentimes it is like preaching to the choir. But this is about a bigger issue, I feel like it is more than just about race. I want this to be able to appeal to someone who hasn't had that kind of experience.

Evan : I don't think it should be called white privilege but the concept should be in there.

Alice: What about the idea of educating the senators? I feel like a lot of people don't talk about it because they don't have the knowledge.

Eddie: I think there are some vehicles that we can use to bring up this topic, like a resolution. But I think it should come from someone that is not us. I am also a little bit concerned about how to approach such a political issue.

Alex: The one concern I have about a resolution is that it has a high fail rate and it makes it more high pressure because it creates two sides, but I am not sure what the alternative is.

Eddie: Maybe just a panel of stakeholders to catalyze the topic, but I can see the benefits and drawbacks this might have.

Evan: In answer to your original question, regardless of how, I think this is a discussion that we should have.

Yasmeen: I think we have to think about it really carefully, like who we are bringing in, etc. The training I had once was disastrous. People don't have the words to talk about the issues.

Doug: A few things, regardless how a resolution turns out, the strongest voices stand out rather than the voices in between, but we do want to appeal to the population in between and raise the awareness of that group of people.

Alex: I like the idea of doing a Spotlight. I think doing something that is more organic rather than something like panels would be good. Something like inviting law enforcement and different disciplines and hearing how they look at this topic over several meetings.

Alice: I think we should table this for now for the sake of efficiency. We should brainstorm about ideas on how to present this topic and bring this up in our next meeting.

Elloise: If we want to have an event, we want to think about how to frame this as an event sponsored by GPSS. We have to clarify who we want to target first. I don't know how it would fit in our Senate meeting, and whether people would stay with us or not.

Alice: I think I am hearing "cautionary". I think that is valuable. Last year some people thought the diversity efforts and events were a bit offensive.

Elloise: I don't think there is an absence of awareness, but I think the reason why Alice wants to have an event is to grab the attention of people who were previously not so aware of this topic.

### **Senate Meeting Agenda**

Call to order: 1 min

Approval of agenda: 1 min

Approval of minutes: 1 min

Welcome to Winter Quarter: 10 mins. Alice: We will come up with something fun but not cheesy.

Spotlight: 10 mins. Natalie: The spotlight is Emily Schmierer from Henry Art Gallery talking about programs that the Henry Art Gallery puts on for graduate students.

Judicial Committee Member Appointment: 10 mins. Natalie: one of the judicial members stepped down so we need to replace her.

MLK Day volunteer opportunity: 5mins. Natalie: I am just making an announcement about the volunteer opportunities.

Open Access Resolution: 20 mins.

Alice: we should do some welcome for the new incoming senators. Natalie, can you send an email to welcome them?

Evan: You might not have all the appointed senators available next meeting.

Doug: Is it possible to have the new senators come early?

Evan: Is it possible to have them come an hour early before the next exec meeting?

Alice: I think we should do something to welcome everyone back and also welcome the new senators.

Evan: If we don't have a busy agenda, we should spare some time for it.

Alice: We want to start off well. They seemed to be receptive. Someone brought up that we have record breaking retention and attendance this year.

Yasmeen: Do you want a fee-based program discussion? I think we should do that sometime this quarter.

Alice: Yes. That is important. A group was supposed to be doing stuff regarding this issue over the break. But a committee on this determined that there is no criteria to move to fee-based programs, it should not happen. We will make sure to include this in a future meeting.

GPSS Advocacy in Olympia. Alice: Alex you can put the lobby day in there also.

Officer reports

Doug: Maybe we can have someone bring up the issue regarding Ferguson here.

Natalie: I don't think that announcements is an appropriate time to talk about it.

Evan moved to approve the Senate Agenda for 1/14, Alex seconded.

### **Executive Senator Reports**

Evan: I don't have much, except I had people asking about STF.

Yasmeen: Speaking of the Student Tech Fee. The UW IT email came again, and again the information as we discussed in last meeting didn't show up. And they said they were on it. The person respond immediately but it should have been there.

Eddie: I have to say I am really disappointed about this. That was a requirement of our approval.

### **Officer Reports**

Alex: I will be spending most of my time in Olympia. This week has been about all the liaisons training together with the Washington Student Association. Session starts on Monday.

Something happened over break, the budget came out. There is just no new revenue currently. They have a new book for new revenue, but even with that, we are still over the budget. There is some new leadership on some of the committees. UW Impact is the alumni reception I went to last night. There were some conversations about raising the budget. I won't be around here as much but I will come back as much as possible.

Doug: I'm working with the Development Director about funding and where donor money goes and why we can't see where the money goes. I am also working on the processes of turnover. One of us should contact STF about what they want to do, because they said they would come and talk about how it would benefit students.

Yasmeen: When is your first F&B meeting?

Elloise: Next Friday.

Yasmeen: I was just wondering because some people submitted their applications during break and still have not heard anything back.

Natalie: I have been working with GO-MAP about the MLK Day of Service event. One is helping make gifts for families of terminally ill children at Soulumination. The second is painting at Community Psychiatric Clinic. The third is cleaning at Small Faces Child Development Center. The email I sent out to the listserv has an eventbrite registration link for each. The Diversity Committee identified our Campus Conversation topics for the year. The Winter topics are Race, Ageism, and Disability. Spring topics are Veterans, Childcare, LGBTQ Health, and HIV+ Status. Also Sri Harsha has done a lot of work for a mobile GPSS site.

Natalie: Brian and I have been talking, and something we have been talking about is better communication between the Diversity Committee and the Senate, so we will do a Spotlight in the future.

Alice: I am fully committed to having my Husky Experience Committee start meeting this quarter. Over the break a new position was created, a new Director of Childcare and Access Development. I have a meeting with the new director next Wednesday, and there are more meetings planned with the Provost. We are on track to move things along, and we are going to do something this year. Lastly, we are having our staff retreat this Saturday.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Alex moved to adjourn, Doug seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.