

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GPSS Executive Committee Meeting- 22 October 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:32 by meeting chair Alice Popejoy

Members Present:

Alice Popejoy
Douglass Taber
Alex Bolton
Natalie Gordon
Eddie Schwieterman
Elloise Kim
Evan Firth
Yasmeen Hussain
Aaron Vetter
Rene Singleton

Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda for Nov 5, 2014 - Eddie

Vote: Move to approve the agenda, seconded by Elloise

Resolve: Agenda for the meeting on 5 November 2014 approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: to approve the minutes (sent out by secretary) for Oct 22, 2014 - Yasmeen

Vote: Move to approve the agenda, seconded by Eddie

Resolve: Minute for the meeting on 22 October 2014 approved without modification.

Introduction of University Director

Aaron Vetter - Sixth year at UW. Second year at Evans. Worked with investors and donors at non-profit and government agencies.

Introduction of Executive Committee: bringing attention to issues that matter to the senators

Alex (Vice President), Yasmeen (Senator), Eddie (Senator), Elloise (Senator) , Doug (Treasurer), Evan (Senator) , Natalie (Secretary) , Alice (President)

Update on on MockingJay Premier with UWAA

Alice has 6 tickets. Alice is trying to accommodate all people and asked for more tickets. Alice might be able to get more. Alice is trying to spread the perks and love of being in student leadership positions (student alumni association). Hoping to improve relationship with the association and moving away from heavy undergraduate focus.

Bylaws Amendments Overview & Discussion

Natalie: liaison to judicial

Two sets of amendments: Yasmeen's edited version and Alice's version. The version you have is a mixture of both. Right now we just want you to look over and see if you have any recommendations.

Eddie: asked to clarify what was in the last email.

Natalie: I sent the emails to judicial, Alice sent this one out, and I am going to sent this out to the senators.

Alice: I hope everyone has looked over the edits Yasmeen made. I realize that it might not be fair that I made edits last minute and made amendment. Most of the changes I made are in line with the things we have discussed before. I have rearranged the staff descriptions and committee description, and I ordered them in the order of officers except for judicial and elections.

Yasmeen: Graduate Experience seems like a combination a few committees, can you address that, and why the issues in that list are there and not others.

Alice: There is one committee that I created, it is a combination of Student Life, and Graduate Program Review, and Academic Affairs. That brings up a question regarding diversity-whose responsibility is diversity. The Graduate Student Experience, if there is no one sitting on that committee, it gets lost. One of our PACS committee members said that he wanted to be in the diversity committee but I said if you want to make things happen you should take that perspective to PACS.

Eddie: I think the intention is really good. I think that U-pass is relevant, and the experience is relevant. What I am worried about is are those positions going to be filled, are they going to be able to fulfill their responsibility. This could be too ambitious. Maybe you can clarify, do we have people on all these committees, and are they going to show up every other week.

Alice: They are current voting members. The Graduate School is hiring a new director for the graduate student experience. We are fitting into an existing thing that is going on. To answer your question to liasons, Hall Health Committee is the only one that we don't have enough people to sit on. I can't answer the question on whether they will be fully committed to this, but what I can promise is that they will have all the information they need. We are condensing three or four committees that previously existed and now we only have one.

Yasmeen: There are some committees that are missing.

Alice: Services and Activity Fee can be stuffed back in because I definitely see that as an important committee.

Where we are at the process: The secretary has to receive amendments 2 weeks before the senate vote. Judicial Committee has to receive it ten days before the senate meeting. Senators have to receive it one week before the meeting. Now on the floor anyone can suggest friendly amendment. Do we have to accept this amendment?

Yasmeen: Can I just be the author if there are any other amendments?.

Doug: If it's not a friendly resolution to amend the bylaws, do we have to change the bylaws?

Rene: people will come prepared with the amendment they want to make. If it's not a friendly amendment, we need to vote on it.

Friendly amendments

Rene: what about tech fee? The biggest problem is that there is no GPSS representative there when they want to raise the fee.

Yasmeen: is there anywhere to fit this in better?

Alice: F&B?

Yasmeen: But it is dealing with internal budgeting

Eddie: if we have 5 members from the liaisons, and let's say if none of them show up, so if there is some way that we don't have to make them count as the quorum. Another thing is that the bylaws force us to have quorums, but it doesn't really force committee members to attend. It seems like there should be more addition to STF and SAF.

Alice: What do you guys think?

Eddie: I am leaning toward saying may instead of shall attend meetings when applicable.

- Change Section D Clause One part F point six to "at least" 5
- Change Section D Clause one part F point 2 Services and Activities Fee committee (SAF) and Point 3 Student Technology Fee committee (STF)

Yasmeen: there are some things that are added, for example sexual assault, we don't have a members from committee that was previously on the safety committee.

Alice: the two that you are singling out are child care and sexual assault for not being big picture enough. I think we can make the justification that these two issues are gradually grabbing more attention.

Natalie: I remember Rene said not to make these too specific.

Yasmeen: I think we should put it more like family health and rather just saying childcare. we should say "issue including, but not limited to"

Rene: just a recommendation it's sexual assault prevention and awareness. Not sexual assault

Alice: section D Clause 1 point f edited to add " at the discretion of the President" collapsing the numbers and turn it into a list.

Elloise: what about the health insurance?

Alice: Oh yes, so the reason SHIP is not included anymore, because the ObamaCare is now being practiced and they are encouraging students to go on the exchange market. But they still have a ISHIP which is specifically for international students.

- Section D Clause 2 Part D Point 3 added "health and transportation"

Yasmeen: I am in favor of making it less specific. We should just say "regarding student life issues"

Alice: Does anyone agree with the maintaining relationship part? I think rather than saying the whole thing, we should just say that this is our new language at the meeting.

Extend Time for Friendly Amendments

Motion: extend time -Douglass Taber

Vote: extend time for 10 minutes

Resolution: extended time for bylaws amendment for 10 minutes with no objection

Rene: F&B election process. The chair of the committee is not the Treasurer. I have been asked why the Treasurer is not running the committee. There are a few suggestions I have been hearing over and over - A) please appoint people before school starts or B) stick with previous process of which the Treasurer runs the committee.

Alice: it says in the bylaws that the Treasurer should foresee the function of this committee, why can't the Treasurer practice this function without the presence of this committee?

Eddie: I was the chair for the F&B committee. I was elected before the summer. I am wondering why the F&B committee is not up now

Doug: We have it up now. It took a while because I was trying to get someone with experience to be the chair of this committee. But we had Henry elected as the chair by October 26th.

Doug: I think it should be in the bylaws that the chair is elected in the spring. Just in case we don't have people to fill the position. And I think judicial might also consider that as well.

Alice: If you were just a senator, it is not guarantee that you are going to be a senator again next year.

Rene: But I don't think you have to be a senator to be a chair

Alice: But you do have to be a senator to be on the F&B committee though.

Yasmeen: so we have two sets of bylaws changes. So this would be a new amendment.

Because this is something that is going to be separate anyways, can we discuss this later on in the year. I will make a note on this.

Extend time for friendly amendment

Motion: Alice entertain motion to have 5 more minutes

Doug: so moved

Resolution: time extended

Alice: A couple other things that I changed was capitalizing and decapitalizing, and Eddie strongly disagrees with me with the capitalization of Senator, but the reason I decided to do this is because we capitalized in the rest of the bylaws.: Most of the changes are not substantial in a way that is more editorial. There are a few however that Yasmeen mentioned that I think deserve our attention.

Extend time for friendly amendment

Motion: Alice entertain motion to have 20 more minutes

Doug: so moved

Resolution: time extended

Alice: Article 7 Section C Clause 3, guidelines for appointment in reference to special committees. I didn't take this out, but I disagree with its existence.

Natalie: there is probably no harm leaving it there

Alice: I think the president has to be on there. The president has to be around there to appoint them

Alex: If we want more flexibility we can just change the language to "and, or"

Alice: would it be appropriate to take out "and two Executive Committee Members"

- Article 7 Clause 3 Section D, "and" is being taken out
- The president and the designated staff or two other Executive Committee Member

Alice: I think we should all just leave it as it is now, because I don't think the room would be comfortable with this friendly amendment.

Article 2 section B clause 2:

Alice: in the case that a Judicial Committee has not been covered for the academic year appeals may be made with the same stipulation to the GPSS Executive Committee

Yasmeen: why would someone appeal to two committee that the Secretary sits on if the Secretary made the decision that is being appealed. I just want to test the water with this one, and see how people feel about this one.

Natalie: it's unclear, it says the Secretary is ex-officio, not non-voting.

Evan: conflict of interest

Alice: I think for student government, conflict of interest is different from monetary conflict of interest. I am in a situation where there is conflict of interest all the time because I sit on every committee.

Eddie: It's more of a question of fairness

Yasmeen: does anyone have final comments on the bylaws?

Elloise: Article 2 Section D Clause - The "ASUW" ? or "ASUW"

Natalie: "the ASUW"

Yasmeen: point of information, do you have time to fix all these up before you send this out tomorrow?

Natalie: We need to present these as friendlies at the Senate Meeting. These are the amendments that have come to us from Yasmeen and Alice. We don't have the authority to change anything yet, we are just looking through the amendments now.

Alice: I will encourage officers and senate to bring up these friendly amendments at the senate meeting. Does anyone want to take responsibility for this? Can I invite someone to bring these up at the meeting?

Natalie: I have all of them written down, I can do it.

GPSS Senate Meeting Agenda 11/12

Yasmeen: I am going to throw in bylaws

Eddie: You can talk about how many voters GPSS got. Also I would like a brief update on the Metro funding update. We should also do a election update.

Yasmeen: I really don't like the way that the chairs are arranged. I think it decreased interaction, because people who came in late in not going to coming across the room.

Alice: until we get the HUB people to do what we want them to do, I think we will have the staff and officers to come to the meeting 15 minutes earlier to set up the meeting

Yasmeen: you should do a update on the STF too Doug. Because I got a technology email and they did absolutely no mention on the fee or anything. And I think that people need to know that we are doing something, especially now that they have a communication specialist.

Yasmeen: Rod came in the last time, and he was talking about funding cut. Was that a interactive thing or ..?

Alex: it was interactive.

Yasmeen: this is our second to last meeting, we are hitting the end of the quarter.

Alex: Legislative Agenda. We can present draft and solicit people's opinion on the agenda we well.

Extend time for Senate Meeting Agenda

Motion: Douglass Taber moved to extend time for 10 minutes

Yasmeen: Seconded.

Resolution: time extended

Evan: As much as I would love to do all these interesting things, I think we already have enough on our agenda.

Alice: What issues are important to you and your constituency.

Alex: One of the reasons I wanted to talk about legislative agenda is because whenever we talk about tuition increases, people kind of just stop listening because they think it is irrelevant to them.

Eddie: You can just send the draft of the legislative agenda to the senators and mention in the meeting and say if anyone has any concerns they should contact you.

Evan: You can also just put the overarching theme of legislative agenda.

Alice: Can we move the bylaws revision to before Olympia updates? We need to put a resolution on the Childcare topic. We need to gather support and information. Something else that I want to implement, the Regents meeting is always on Thursday. I would love to run the Regents meeting agenda by the senate meeting so we can make sure all the issues are up there.

Alice: I think we should invite Julia to our Executive Committee meeting before we hash out the importance of open access to senators. I think we should put a 5 minute information item for the childcare updates because ASUW are now boycotting the HFS whole plan on the new student housing plan.

Entertain the motion to approve the agenda

Motion: Alice entertain motion to approve agenda

Alex: so moved

Yasmeen seconded

Senate meeting agenda for 11/12 approved

Executive Senator Reports

Yasmeen: Firstly I hope you did not read the Daily article. Because they largely mis-quoted me about the smoking site survey.

Eddie: I talked to Toni about the union issue we discussed last meeting. There is a department that will not allow union information to be spread and apparently the graduate students in that department do not have an independent listserv. Which is really wrong because people should be able to have access to this information, because they are covered under the union contract whether or not they are union members. But they will let GPSS information go through. So what I suggest is that when Natalie sends out announcements, we can also include this information. All we have to do is to include union information in our update emails. There is another issue, since you are a member of the bargaining group, you have to decline or accept union membership with the union form.

Doug: In regards to GPSS paying a officer's tuition.

Eddie: We have run into this issue before for the F&B committee.

Alex: Do you have any idea what the past members have done

Eddie: well we don't really know

Evan: Travel Grants is up and running, and we will have our first meeting soon. F&B is also going well.

Officer Reports

Alex: Brian is the new Policy Analyst. He is doing really well. We have our first legislative committee meeting and legislative agenda meeting is under process. Alice and I were in SAGE in Texas, and we focused on outreach matters. Working on the innovation pipeline with Alice. Election update- buses passed, and we will go with that

Natalie: Judicial is meeting tomorrow and the diversity funding went up on the website yesterday.

Alice: We need graduate students to attend our WSA meeting this weekend. This is the one where we are supposed to show up with numbers. Is there anyone who wants to go to the General Assembly? I have the Graduate Council meeting, they do all the program review. The business school is proposing another program. I have hired a new Development Coordinator.

Yasmeen: The chair circle thing is suppose to encourage interaction right? But I think people ask questions and have comments, and we just bluntly answer, instead of saying "that's a great question". People want to feel like their questions are being answered. Just something to keep in mind.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Alice entertained motion to adjourn meeting

Yasmeen: moved to adjourn

Doug & Eddie: Seconded