

Graduate & Professional Student Senate GPSS Executive Meeting- 4 February 2015

Attendants

GPSS President Alice Popejoy
GPSS Vice President Alex Bolton
GPSS Secretary Natalie Gordon
GPSS Treasurer Douglass Taber
Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
Executive Senator Eddie Schwieterman
Executive Senator Elloise Kim
Executive Senator Evan Firth
SAO Adviser Rene Singleton

Meeting called to order at 6:32 by meeting chair Alice Popejoy

Approval of Agenda

Eddie moved to add social worker group after the Open Access resolution, Elloise seconded
Evan moved to approve the amended agenda, Natalie seconded

Approval of Minutes

Yasmeen moved to approve the minutes, Eddie seconded

Open Access Resolution- Juliya

Natalie: The authors of the Open Access resolution are requesting that the author who got left out be added to the list of authors on the resolution. My initial response was that we can't change a resolution once it has passed, according to the bylaws I wanted to open the discussion to the group.

Juliya: Gennie did not get the credit she deserves, we are not asking to change the bylaws, we just want to add the name in to give her credit.

Yasmeen: Because there are so many chances to amend the resolution, that to me implies after we make 2 weeks of changes that resolutions stay as they are written no matter what. Once they are approved, they don't change.

Juliya: I didn't know that resolution was up for amendment until two days before.

Elloise: We all sympathize that it was a very unfortunate case, but it would be against the bylaws to change or make amendment once it's passed.

Yameen: I'm looking at Article 4, Section E, page 4 of the printed version of our bylaws. During the meeting itself, people were making suggestions, those were friendly amendments.

Natalie: My biggest concern is that anything resolution-related has to be approved by the Senate. We don't have the authority to change things, even if they seem insignificant.

Alice: How would folks feel about adding this to the agenda and asking the Senate to pass it again?

Eddie: If we want to do that, we still have to follow the bylaws.

Evan: It would have to go through the original process.

Alice: I think that's the only solution. But as far as setting a precedent that we can edit or make amendments, I think it would set a bad precedent. I think all the executive senators are a bit uncomfortable with it. But I think you can go through the original process again, and just tell people that it's identical.

Juliya: Do you think it would spark discussion?

Eddie: I think people are going to have procedure questions rather than about the resolution.

Yasmeen: As Eddie said it shouldn't spark a conversation. But often times when these topics are up, people want to ask questions.

Juliya: I think I will ask Gennie first, because it is her idea. So if it happens, would it be this week?

Natalie: No it will be the week after, and I will need it by Wednesday.

Amended Item: Social Work Student Union (Jooree Ahn, Sean Johnson, Dimitri Groce)

SWSU students presented the issue at the School of Social Work: Master degree students are required to place 1,000 hours of often unpaid work to fulfill their degree requirement.

Problems with the current system:

1. many students are uncompensated
2. students are unprotected -if they are injured, students are responsible for the cost
3. time consuming - students have no other time for part-time jobs. It is also problematic for student parents.
4. students don't know where they will be placed.
5. Inconsistency of the program regarding compensation. Students are not entitled to compensation, it was designed to be a learning experience but these hours are getting billed. In many places students are also performing job-functions that replace staff. Some student placements have a stipend, but administrators have told us that this should be a learning experience.
6. students are questioning the legality of this. In order for an unpaid internship to be legal, it must fulfill six requirements. Some of these that students feel are being violated include:
 - a. the agency cannot derive from any material benefit from it
 - b. must resemble a classroom environment

Evan: Do they have to fulfill all six requirement or just one?

Jooree: All six, but it has to be a Practicum approved site. -

Dimitri: I got placed at a Practicum that will not let me work unless I am compensated because that is their organizational value, but most of my peers are uncompensated.

Rene: what are the standards for the agencies to be selected for placements?

Jooree: This is something that we are actually not sure how it is negotiated. We're not sure what is involved in the contract.

Sean: There are no specific guidelines. One thing that we continue to ask for is to do an evaluation that it is compiled with the legal rules and demonstrate that it actually serves education purposes. There is no tracking, there are not evaluations being done.

Alice: The School of Social Work just had their 10 year review, and none of this was brought up. I met with your dean and your assistant deans- there were fundamental philosophical perspectives that it is a practicum question, not unpaid work question.

Sean: The student advisory committee was developed because of the same issue. I think with the 2 year program, they depend on the high turn-over. That was the biggest issue; because student come and go. It just get silenced and move on.

Jooree: for a lot of the student body, it's kind of just like the status quo, I don't think the students are really concious about it because it is part of the tradition of School of Social Work.

Alex: I am wondering if other schools also have the same issue?

Jooree: I think there are some other schools that let you hold your job as long as it fits in the requirements. But for now, it has just been very inconsistent. They basically say that none of the requirements should be violated, but they can't do anything else.

Elloise: How much understanding among the professors is there regarding Practicum issue? Is there any support from them?

Dimitri: I think they were hazed into it the same way, there were a level of acceptance to it. Professors have their own agenda and problems to. I see a solidarity there, but the fact is that the students have to lead these.

Sean: Our first town hall had 10 professors, I just think that the administrators have now taken a harder line. Also there is monetary interest. That's also why faculty is not as vocal as they could be.

Yasmeen: So my question is, what is the outcome you want?

Sean: We want to be compensated. Paid would also mean being protected without being harassed. We want compensation and evaluation to make sure people get the education and the experience they were expecting.

Dimitri: I think the administration isn't very mindful of the process.

Eddie: Should we ask them to come to our senate meeting to solicit collaboration from other senators?

Alice: Last year we had the same presentation. There was a lot of momentum about it, and people had questions, but there were not a lot of follow up. So if you can have a list of priorities to get your goal accomplished by next week, that would be great.

STF Bylaw Revision and Communication (STF Chair:) Jared

Alice: I know you came to us with the bylaw revision and also some number proposals, and we should also talk about the communication breakdown.

Jared: These bylaw changes are so we can meet more often. So if we have more GPSS senators or reps at the meeting, we can have less from ASUW to help us meet quorum.

Alice: How many reps are there from ASUW?

Jared: There are 7.

Alice: There are 7 from ASUW, but there are 3 from GPSS. Devon said that he intended on attending the meetings. Who are the two other reps?

Jared: Jen and Kevin.

Alice: I am interested in the 30-70 representation of the quorum. I feel like we are underrepresented at STF. I just know that I have 4 very qualified people who would love to be involved. And it's sad to hear that ASUW members are not as involved in the process.

Jared: We can definitely revisit that and explore that, as long as it doesn't take away the percentage of 7-4.

Yasmeen: In article 3, I am curious about the reason for change.

Jared: We presented these to ASUW in fall quarter, and they also had some problems with the open meeting where members can call it, so it was an amendment to that.

Yasmeen: Is ASUW's lack of attendance due to communication?

Jared: They get two emails every week. It's hard to find a common time where everyone is available. Some people can't come due to personal conflict or class schedules. We try to accommodate as many people as possible. The other part of the problem is that undergraduate students are not fully aware of what the committee entails and what it means to be a part of it.

Alice: Are there any other specific questions that we didn't address?

Natalie: I know that this committee has some communication issue with STF, and I want to make sure who committee appointment conversations should involve. In these bylaws, there is no mention the main communication person, or who that communication person should be contacting within GPSS. Our president is in charge of committee appointments, so it should be clear that STF should communicate with the president on this.

Jared: I think the Chair should definitely be notified. Do you feel like that it's not specific enough?

Natalie: I just want to make sure that if he/she were to become a full committee member, the GPSS President should be the one who is told about it to give approval.

Eddie: What is the actual minimum number of appointed votes? There is a situation where everyone aside from the Chair can vote.

Rene: I think proxy vote, if you want to recommend a person. The proxy people need to be appointed by the executive committee or the senate. Otherwise what will end up happening is going to be interesting. I think this committee needs to standardize the committee times. You can't just start it all over every quarter. It should be established, that should be ingrained in the culture.

Jared: That's something that we would love to do in future years.

Yasmeen: Question on article 2- if GPSS is unable to appoint by the 8th week, how's GPSS going to appoint temporary members?. What I mean is, how would having a interim member solve that problem?

Jared: There should be incentive to let GPSS and ASUW appoint them.

Yasmeen: I think that would preclude the purpose of the amendment.

Alice: And there is no incentive to connect to us.

Jared: I hope you still get the incentive. You would rather have someone who is interested.

Yasmeen: That also takes away the incentive for you to connect with us.

Eddie: The committee chair is elected by the STF committee by the end of the spring quarter and endorsed by GPSS and ASUW. There seems like there is a conflict of interest where the Chair can manipulate the committee memberships and votes to remain chair. I just think Article 2 doesn't seem right to me.

Jared: I see your concern, in the interest of being as thorough as possible.

Alice: Is it possible to approve one of your amendments and not the other?

Yasmeen: I move to approve Article 3 but not Article 2. Douglass: second

Alice: hearing no objection, the motion is approved.

Jared: I would like to figure out the best way to do article two and also work on communication issues.

Alice: I think there are some concerns regarding communication. Whose job is it to communicate with GPSS?

Jared: It's not defined. Generally it has been the program coordinator.

Alice: I think you should normalize who should reach out to GPSS.

Douglass: My earlier contact was with Alton- my question never got answered.

Alice: I think I would love for you to clarify who to communicate with. I will open it up to other comments.

Natalie: Point of order- we should set a time limit for discussion.

Alice: I am going to say 5 minutes.

Evan: 10?

Alice: 10 minutes.

Doug: I think the bylaws should solve the ambiguity of the communication problem.

Yasmeen: I emailed the main STF email. I remembered when you came to talk to us, we talked about communication. There were fewer proposals than expected. I am wondering what kind of attempt has been made in terms of reaching out.

Jared: The communication job was not intended for advertisement purposes. His job is to compile a historical effort of funding, and write reports on how they are using the equipment. His mandate was never to advertise.

Yasmeen: It's baffling what has happened in terms of the situation. And it was my understanding that the communication officer was to communicate with students too.

Alex: Some engineering students approach me about their dean signing of on proposals and limiting the number of proposals.

Jared: Veto power of the engineering department. Last year we didn't know about the veto power until it was too late. We met with Ed Taylor and talked about the discussion with the Vice Dean of the Engineering. We met early on with the proposal process, and we decide that we are not going to allow them to do any proposal filtering. So basically the filtering has gone away.

Rene: GPSS representation has not been there with ASUW. All the things that are kind of popping out now is because of that.

Alice: We are 2 minutes over time. I would like to move on with our agenda. There are a few things I would like you to go back to STF with. Especially communication, and the issue with UW IT. Also the representation issue is worth having a conversation about. Given the historical issue, it might be worth entertaining a clause to say that students don't need to go through their deans.

Jared: We tried removing that last year, but without that, we won't have department support.

Alice: So rather than the dean's signature, what not just have something that says they will support the proposal?

Alice: I hope you can go back with the notion that communication specialist should do outreach as well. We are now going to go into executive session for 15 minutes.

7:59-executive session

8:14-resume

SAGE Delegation

Alex: Kianna Scott had to start working full time, so she had to resign from SAGE. I would like to appoint Alex Stone. He is a great resource for student loan knowledge.

Douglass: I concur with that.

Evan: He is always diplomatic and always smiles.

Yameen: I move to appoint Alex Stone. Eddie: Second

Higher Education Newsletter

Alice: Graduate students enjoy hearing from GPSS. I was thinking there are a lot of interesting things that are going on with higher-ed on a national level, I think people would be interested in seeing regular updates.

Evan: I was wondering if it's going to be a regular thing, if so, which staff would you assign this to?

Eddie: If SAF is going to do another pilot fund, I suggest an innovation fund for hiring another person.

Natalie: I can see this falling under the Office Manager or Organizing Director.

Yasmeen: I think people would be interested in seeing on campus affairs and events as well.

Evan: Can someone remind me where the staff handbook thing is going now? Are we going to have anything more?

Natalie: We have the job descriptions and the overview of GPSS functions.

Elloise: I agree with Yasmeen, I think a newsletter would be more friendly if it is about on campus events and activities.

Husky Sunset

Alice: Marlee who is the Development Coordinator has been working with UW Alumni. She is working with Advancement every week to look up 20 names on our roster to get the contact information. She is working hard to build that contact list. The idea is that we have an transition event. It would be end of the year party, but instead of just having senators, it would be alums, and others. And I know there are some leftovers with the funding, but in the future we can partner with collaborating with the Alumni Association. So if you guys agree with this, I will tell Marlee to proceed. It would be the first week of June, June 3rd. We hope all senators would come to meet alumni and raise the visibility of the GPSS.

Yasmeen: I like the idea, I don't like the name.

Executive Senator Reports

Eddie: I met with social workers, they are drafting a resolution, but they are iterating through that process. I think the idea is we have a final resolution with a clear direction. The union is in the process of negotiating the contract. I will announce that during the senate meeting. Another quick fact, the union created more seats, so it created more spots for bargaining. Lobby day, I am going to lobby day. For the Elections Committee, I have been in communication with the committee members and I will be meeting them on 2/11 before Senate. The Chair actually handles all the ballots, I figure it would be more appropriate if I don't handle that part due to conflict of interest so I will not be chairing the committee.

Elloise: I attended the Executive Liaison Summit. I think people had really positive feedback regarding being included in the conversation and having a voice. They feel like they are part of GPSS. It was successful, and I hope it continues.

Evan: I second that. They felt really in the loop. The Travel Grant applications are going well. I have some questions about the STF but we will talk about that later.

Alice: We haven't made the Senate agenda.

Yasmeen: I move to suspend the bylaws so we can amend the agenda to add Senate Agenda.

Eddie: second.

Evan: I move to amend the agenda to create action items of creating the senate agenda.

Natalie: second.

Senate Agenda Setting

Natalie: GPSS Spotlight from the Astronomy department. 10 Minutes. Are we having Marnie Brown (Regent)? 15 minutes?

Eddie: Social workers 30 minutes?

Douglass: STF is not coming right?

Eddie: I will suggest someone mentioning the STF problem at the Officer Report Session.

Natalie: Officer reports, how long?

Evan: We should say 20 at least for Officer Reports.

Eddie: We should have some action items.

Alice: Approval of agenda, minutes, spotlight-Nick Hunt-Walker, Marnie Brown (Student Regent) and that's an info item.

Eddie: While we elected the election committee, we need to officially announce it.

Alice: Let's have officers talk a little about it.

Eddie: I just think that it should be an official agenda item.

Alice: So GPSS officers and election committee. And that would go perfect after the Student Regent item too.

Natalie: Social Work Student Union presentation on Practicum

Alice: Social Work Student Union for 30 minutes?

Alex: Recap for Lobby Day and legislative update.

Yasmeen: That's it. If the officer report is added, that would be 1.28

Alice: Can we give announcements for 5 minutes, and STF, are we going to make an announcement about it?

Eddie: You should mention they have a record-low of proposals and let's do something about it.

Alice: Approval of agenda, approval of minutes, spotlight, student regent Marnie Brown, Social Work Union Presentation, Lobby Day recap

Douglass moved to approve the agenda, Yameen seconded

Officer Reports

Alex: Lobby Day. Sign up and come. Rally starts at 10:45AM. Most of the meetings will happen from noon to 2. There will be Chipotle for lunch. Dubs will be there for people to take pictures with. An update on what's going on in Olympia: Medicine is a big focus now. The concern is that WSU and UW are negotiating, and WSU is taking funding for it. I testified on the bill for it. We

want more funding, more medical spots. UW's general stand is that we are not opposed to this, just don't hurt the current program.

Doug: We received 47 travel grants applications. The new electronic system is great. I am looking forward to getting students funded.

Natalie: The diversity event happened on Monday, there was a small turnout, but the conversation was great. We also started some funding applications for diversity events. We got a lot of good response regarding the all-student email.

Alice: There is an issue with the U-Pass fee. They are proposing an \$8 increase. The ASUW director and I feel like it's a bit high. There are a lot of different factors in this issue. They are projecting increases based on the opening of light rails. They could do slight increases now, if the usership of light rail is astronomically high, they can talk about it later.

Eddie: Gas has been going down, so the cost should be going down instead, \$6 increase was a result of rising gas.

Yasmeen moved to suspend the bylaws to add U-Pass to the agenda, Evan seconded. Amended agenda, place 10 minutes for U-Pass after Marnie Brown.

Alice: We are tightening the belt from administration unit on ICPV. On PACS we are trying be a liaison to each of the college councils. Basically what's going on with the school of Public Health Council is the communication is very close to protect the dean. I couldn't get the college council to say anything about the 16% tuition increase in next year and the 25% increase the year after. The balance sheet of the School of Public Health shows that there is 50% money still in reserve. I had a great meeting with HFS today. They were receptive. HFS is going to save 2 million dollars a year which they are going to use to reduce the on campus living rate. The student code of conduct accepted our language. Aaron did a great job. They did not separate them, they just changed the whole category. They are going to send a new draft once that version is sent out. SAF is an issue that has come up for various reasons, potentially with childcare, they need to do a formal proposal. We will send you an all student survey for all grad students before we finalize it and send it out. President Young is leaving the University of Washington.

Recap of STF visit to Exec

Evan: Noted that ASUW and GPSS are tasked with forming STF oversight committee every 3 years

All: Discussed convening an oversight committee. Convening a committee would require collaboration with ASUW for membership and functioning specifics. (STF Bylaws, Article X, #5)

Meeting Adjourned

Douglass moved to adjourn, Eddie seconded

Meeting adjourned at 9:47pm