

# **Graduate & Professional Student Senate**

## **GPSS Senate Meeting- 11 March 2015**

Meeting called to order at 5:31 by meeting chair Alice Popejoy

### **Approval of Agenda**

Alice Popejoy (President) entertained a motion to approve the agenda for March 11, 2015.

Eloise: so moved. Eddie: Seconded

Agenda for the meeting on March 11, 2015 approved without objection.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Alice Popejoy (President) entertained a motion to approve the minutes

John Lurie (Astronomy): so moved | Brandon Ray (Atmospheric Sciences): Seconded

Minutes approved without objection.

### **Middle Eastern Student Working group**

If you are interested in looking into Middle Eastern student interests on campus and would like to serve on the working group, please let Natalie know as soon as possible. Please email [gpssec@uw.edu](mailto:gpssec@uw.edu)

### **Spotlight - Program on Climate Change - Brandon Ray, Steven Po-Chedley**

- UW stands in the center of climate change studies. There are lots of collaborative institutes like SAL, but also increasing professional science schools, including the College of Education. Climate change affects every aspect of society
- Some of things PCC does- we do a winter social, summer institutes, and an annual student-run climate conference which we helped organize last year that had students from 8 different countries.
- One of the best ways to get involved is in our bi-weekly student climate seminar
- We have a certificate program, and we also do a ton of education and outreach. There is also a fellowship opportunity.
- Certificate Program: The certificate program has three courses- physical climate, application of climate, a communication course, and a capstone project working with different departments
  - example: Fake Icecore- let high schoolers explore and experience
- How to get involved: You just show up (there is always free food and beer)
- All events are posted on our mailing list or on our website, or you can ask Brandon and Leah at Senate meetings if you have any questions.
- Douglass Taber: Is there a facebook group? Yes there is a facebook group and twitter too

### **Update from Ad-Hoc Committee on GPSS Restructure**

## Officer descriptions + Staff + Budget + Bylaws

- Evan: I am a GPSS executive senator, Travel Grants chair, and I sit on the Finance and Budget committee.
- Evan: Adding one officer would cost \$19K salary + \$23K tuition.
  - Small cuts through events will create more room for cuts. The end results is an 11.6% increase in our budget ignoring mandated increases (includes shifts in event funding)
  - We are getting rid of 3 office staff positions, 4 more will be added
- Alice: We are not cutting overall events, but we have been very successful fundraising externally through SAF, so we are just cutting some of the event funds, we are just shifting the focus of where the funds are coming from
- Alice: The following is an overview of the new officer job descriptions.
  - The President remains the CEO of the organization, the spokesperson of GPSS both internally and externally. There are mainly two staff which are Special Assistant to President and University Affairs Director (develops policies, becomes proactive rather than reactive)
  - Vice president of Internal Affairs: this officer will be the deputy of the President. The VPI will step in when needed and work closely with the President. Anything internal will default to this Vice President. This person will be taking on leadership roles and responsibilities including internal operation, hiring, overseeing events, the peer mentoring program (currently run by volunteers). One thing that is moving from President to VPI is the Graduate School Program Review facilitation of student focus groups and students surveys. This year the Special Assistant to President has been doing that, but we will be moving it to VPI. They will have two staff including Director of Programs and Development Director.
  - Vice President of External Affairs: This officer will be the deputy to the President on external affairs. Staff would be reduced to one person, the Policy Analyst.
  - The Secretary doesn't change much. The Secretary manages the communication of GPSS by maintaining emails and the website. The Secretary will be taking on more internal events. Staff includes the Office Manager, Director of Communications, and Information Specialist (website)
  - Treasurer: The Budget Specialist will still work with Treasurer and all other responsibilities will mostly stay the same.

## GPSS Reconstruction - Bylaws

- Evan Firth (Oceanography): We have not yet gone through the bylaws line by line but most changes come from indicating internal or external when saying VP in the bylaws. We are revising the job descriptions, and changing the executive senators section from 4 to 5 (by adding one officer we have to add another executive senator). We will be sending that to the Judicial Committee to make sure everything is consistent and other small details are addressed.
- John Lurie (Astronomy): Will the committee will be identifying things in bylaws that GPSS is no longer doing as well?

- Evan Firth (Oceanography): All that is covered in the job descriptions part in the packet, and that's where we are going to make all the bylaws changes out of.
- Alice: We are moving half the committees, and reducing things GPSS is no longer doing. It has be an on-going process. Judicial will be presenting the bylaws with you in the first week of spring quarter. Process wise, the Election Committee now has the job descriptions, they will work on the revised job descriptions for the packet.
- Evan Firth (Oceanography): We have condensed officer and staff responsibilities by figuring what what jobs were double listed. If you have questions, please let me know. More information to come in first meeting of spring quarter.

#### **FY15-16 Finance & Budget - Henry Olson (Biochemistry)**

- GPSS is asking SAF for a 14% increase of \$56,963 for our budget next year.
- Here is the actual excel spreadsheet, and the pay mandate says that we have to increase budget by 1.9%, but we are also asking additional 12%.
- Highlights of budget increases
  - 10% mandated increase for officer salaries.
  - Budgeting for Husky Sunrise and Husky Sunset events
  - Parking pass for the President
  - Addition of a new GPSS officer position
  - Account for increased tuition
  - Increasing Departmental Allocation by 21% (\$1500) - opportunity to address current need in physical and meaningful ways

#### **FY15-16 Finance & Budget Q&A Session :**

- Amirah Majid (iSchool): Why there is there a 0 in Husky Sunrise?
  - FY16 is next year, and FY15 is this year
  - \$30,000 all together go to Husky Sunrise event
- Amirah Majid (iSchool): Why the increase in departmental funds?
  - Henry Olson (Biochemistry): restrictions, we ran out early this year, so there is a need
  - Evan Firth (Oceanography): I thought the cap was \$700
  - Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): you can request up to 200% if you were not funded the previous year.
  - Douglass Taber: Which happens a lot with capital items that will benefit students' learning experience
- Brandon Ray (Atmospheric Sciences): The summit, why is it disappearing?
  - Douglass Taber: Blue cells are new items, the other disappearing items are being moved for the restructuring purpose
- Devin Bedard (Earth and Space Sciences): How much money do you have for Travel Grants?
  - Douglass Taber: \$7,000 for international travel, \$350 for domestic travel, \$22,000 for special allocations.
  - Evan Firth (Oceanography): We typically have 40%-50% acceptance rates.
- Devin Bedard (Earth and Space Sciences): Should we increase the request, I would be hesitant to advertise more if we already can't fund them all

- Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): We recommend everyone apply. Judging is based on needs and merits, and we then prioritize those who have urgent needs and merits.
- Jennifer Kirk (Biostatistics): Why are we increasing departmental grants, and not travel grants?
  - Douglass Taber: For travel grants, there is a big gap between the times people can get funded. Departmental grants are the lowest- so that category is easier to increase. The committee is aware that once the travel grants committee become more efficient we may be able to increase it. If your constituency didn't hear back from us and they applied for winter quarter, please just send us an email
- Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): There was a lot of dissatisfaction- very few people succeeded in getting funding. We reinstated it last year as pilot program. We want to balance benefits to only a few individuals versus the departmental allocation which funds events and items that benefit hundreds of thousands of people.
- Why does Husky Sunrise cost as much as travel grants?
  - Douglass Taber: This year it was \$16,000 with lots of help and substitutes. It's not taking away funds from travel grants, it is its own individual fund
  - Evan Flrth (Oceanography): In travel grants so far we haven't come across a situation where we have to essentially not fund the people we feel deserve the travel fund. We haven't yet run into those situations. Right now, we are right on that borderline, we might be able to carry it over over the summer, in addition to the five-week travel grant windows that we would like to extend, but for this physical year, we are not asking more
- Jennifer Kirk (Biostatistics): is this content posted somewhere?
  - Douglass Taber: it's on the website, and it's also in email .
- What determines what department get what, and how do you apply?
  - Douglass Taber: All the information is on the website, it's under funding. The amount your department gets is based on need, and if it hasn't been funded for the previous years, you can asked up to 200%.

### **Approval of FY15-16 GPSS Budget**

- Yasmeeen Hussain (Biology): If there is a non-substantial error in the budget, can that be changed after approval?
- Alice: Yes in the transfer process, if there are errors, it does not require approval
- Alice: I will entertain motion to approve budget of FY 16-17
- Elaine Klein (Education): Do we have to approve the new officer position, before we approve this?
- Alice: We wanted to bring everything to you the first meeting in the spring quarter, including bylaws, budget, and descriptions. Unfortunately, with the timeline and deadline from SAF, this our only senate meeting before the 3/31 deadline, so we won't be able to postpone it or wait on it anymore. Job descriptions can still be negotiated, this is just the overall budget approval

- Luis Fernando Centurion: move to approve| Monica: seconded | Unanimous Approval of GPSS Budget

### **Resolution on Fair Labor Practice for School of Social Work Practicums**

Sponsored by Eddie Schwieterman

Presenters: Ben Packard, Dimitri Groce, Sean Johnson, Jooree Ahn

- Why is it important: We are asking the University to do an audit to make sure practicum is in compliance with the labor laws, recognizing that our work is labor. Internships are fuzzy legal grey areas. We are trying to rectify this unjust situation, but we are experiencing a lot of resistance from the school.
- Ben Packard: This would be a huge step that GPSS can take to formally recognize that the situation for students is unfair and unjust.
- Elaine Klein (Education): If you are getting resistance from the school, who are you asking? UW or the School of Social Work?
- Sean: Since we have been organizing for over a year, the school did their own survey that is not very transparent to public, and we had to asked for month to get those surveys, we are looking for an independent body to look into it.
- Sean: We are looking for an independent agency because we don't trust the school administration to audit themselves.
- Rene Singleton (SAO adviser): what's the timeline?
- Alice: We have been open-ended. The reason why there isn't a lot of change, it's because students are transient population, so putting a timeline on it would be great.
- Sean: We are hoping for the audit to happen before the next round of practicum- next year winter, so it almost gives them a year of time.
- Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Line 93 friendly amendment: " by the body of ... independent"
- Dimitri: The shifting language is reflecting how programming is handling the grey issues. Consistent auditing would make sure that we have something to count on.
- Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): I would move the change to " to add a specific time for the commissioning of the independent body, for example, by the time of next practicum assignment"
- Alice: so line 93, that's what we have. Replace it with " placement"
- Brandon Ray (Atmospheric Sciences): You mentioned regularity- you want it to be an annual thing? Who is going to pay to do that? You are going to have evaluators.
- Henry Olson (Biochemistry): Why annual- we have shifting practicum responsibilities. If you are on the ground doing the case manager work, we might have a place that's not in compliance.
- Sean: We have asked them clearly what students are making ( 2.4 million) .
- Jason Young (Geography): I propose in line 88, remove "(SSW)" - just do UW SSW
- Amirah Majid (iSchool): In line 92, define independent body as being independent of the School of Social Work...
- SSW: amendment accepted

- Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Who is going to pay for things is actually a really good question. Giving it as an ideal can be a good place to start.
- Branden Audet (International Studies): I was on the fence the last time, and you have persuaded me
- Eric Kernfeld (Statistics): Line 105, there is a period.
- Alice: Remove by and change to “ to”
- Jason Young (Geography): I suggest taking out all the specification of all the independent bodies. Just suggest that this audit needs to be carried out by an independent body.
- Alice: I will entertain a motion to extend time | Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama): move to extend by 10 minutes | Federico Fabbri (French and Italian Studies): Seconded | No objection
- Brandon Ray (Atmospheric Sciences): Line 96- there should be a semi colon
- Jennifer Kirk (Biostatistics): I think it is important that we support these students, and ensure that it is consistent with all the other schools. This is completely out of norm that the School of Social Work is not doing this.
- Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): I propose to amend second clause in line 98- “ and that the results of these audits are public”
- SSW: Accept
- Maggie Hughes (Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences): moved to approve | Branden Audet (International Studies): seconded | unanimous approval

### **Judicial Committee New Member Election**

GPSS has openings on the Judicial Committee, two members are stepping down.

- Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama): I have to resign because I am interested in running for office, but I will continue to work with committee members, you don't have to be committee member to join our meetings
- Alice: We need two interested parties.
- Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): What's the quorum number now?
- Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): If no one calls quorum, we can continue to conduct business.
- Brandon Ray (Atmospheric Sciences): Who is the other member that is stepping down?
- Alice: Joseph Telegen
- Alice: Is anyone interested becoming judicial committee member?
- Branden Audet (International Studies): Branden Audet, international studies, I am interested
- Noel Kim (Aeronautics and Astronautics) : I am interested
- Alice: entertained a motion to elect the nominees
- Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): So moved | Brandon Ray (Atmospheric Sciences): seconded

Officer Reports

- Alex: Today is the deadline of House of Origin. There is a policy bill so WSU can now create a medical school, but they don't have the money to do that. People intend to protect the Spokane UW Program. Two lobby days coming up. Med students will be there to support their colleagues and support the Spokane programs. Next Wednesday, my colleagues will come to town and we are planning to have some discussion on the upcoming policy
- Douglass: We passed a budget today.
- Alice: There is a Board of Regents meeting tomorrow. We need two graduate students who might be interested in innovative space, humanity, or art, is anyone interested?
- Evan Firth (Oceanography), Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama), Branden Audet (International Studies), and Brian Tracey (Marine and Environmental Affairs) were all interested.
- Alice: Can all of you send me a brief email about where you are coming from, and I will select two to forward the emails to. Tomorrow we have representation from Divest UW. The Ad-Hoc Committee on a fee base program has 13 members on it now. We had a productive meeting for the Graduate Student Experience committee- we are working on the higher education summit (a modified higher ed summit to raise awareness and focus on how graduate students care) and planning Husky Sunset. We also had a childcare coalition meeting today. April 23rd is bring your child to school day. The goal is to raise visibility of students parents on campus. We will send the survey of childcare initiative out in the next couple of weeks. Finally, Aaron, our University Affairs Director went on a tour of on-campus housing, and we are inviting HFS to come and talk to us.

#### Announcements

- Brian Tracey (Marine and Environmental Affairs): I just want to encourage everyone to use the diversity community as an avenue to have a voice. I want to encourage everyone to come to our Diversity Committee meetings
- Brandon: Husky Vet hosting rock climbing event, april 8th
- Alex: Legislative townhalls. take your chance to engage if you want to.

#### Adjourn

Brian Tracey (Marine and Environmental Affairs): moved to adjourn

Evan Firth (Oceanography): seconded