

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GPSS Executive Meeting- 4 March 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
GPSS Senator Brian Tracey
U-PASS Celeste Gilman and Michelle Rhoads
UPASS Student Advisory Board: Scott Bonjukian and Jairui Tao

Meeting called to order at 6:31 by meeting chair Alice Popejoy

Approval of Agenda

Alice: Entertained a motion to approve agenda

Evan moved to approve the amended agenda, Elloise seconded

Approval of Minutes

Alice: Entertain motion to approve minutes

Yasmeen moved to approve the minutes, Elloise seconded

Campus Conversation- Brian Tracey

What is micro-aggression? Individual incidents may seem insignificant, but added up they may be harmful. Examples included underhanded compliments, and subtle language.

- The importance of leaders generating dialogue and influencing other people around us.
- Definition of micro-aggression: allegedly intentional, inexplicit language and behavior
- Example: BuzzFeed Video- micro aggression mostly is rooted in stereotype.
 - Reaction to the video
 - Evan: most micro aggressions might be a little bit more subtle
 - Eddie: it shows the power dynamic in our society, people could brush this off as a joke because it is reversed
 - Alice: it's interesting that Evan thinks this is kind of blatant, because I feel like this happens all the time. We might not be aware of micro aggression coming from different perspectives
 - Doug: the video is showing how ridiculous to ask all these questions, but in reverse it should be equally ridiculous
- How do you identify with micro aggression? The imposer? The micro-aggressed?

- Alice: I spoke at a science panel back in Washington DC. The topics of questions were related to my research. The person said to me afterward said “that’s pretty good for a “whipper-snapper”
- What should we do next as micro-aggressors?
 - Eddie: Ask friends and people around to remind you and call you out.
 - Doug: Become more mindful and stand in other people’s shoes
- What should you do as the aggressed?
 - Elloise: Speak up, it can be a tough situation since we have to point out what’s being said is wrong and hurtful while remaining calm.
 - Eddie: At what point do we speak up as third person in these situations, especially with someone with power?
 - Elloise: I think being an ally is really important. Being checked by someone else and reaffirm that “hurt feelings” is really important for the aggressed.
 - Brian: it’s difficult because we have to readdress and think about whether I am being too sensitive, and then speak up and step in.
- Brian: It does not and can not stop here. If you notice things you don't agree with, speak up. Otherwise we become the perpetrator by not speaking up and allow the situation to worsen. If you see something, say something. Use your best judgement and calmly point out what’s being done and what can be improved. Be mindful and be comfortable with yourself.
- Alice: How can we foster allyship among senators? Sometime it’s not always comfortable. It can be done in a way that raises people’s awareness without getting in people’s faces. I am uncertain on how to foster this allyship, but I think it’s really important.
 - Brian: Be there for them when they want you to be there. Become more aware on how you feel about certain issues. Become an active listener. Always ask when you see something wrong, and how to assist them (when seeing someone with disability), just ask.
 - Evan: Have you thought about adding this in the first-year orientation?
 - Alice: Did you mean TA/RA conference or departmental?
 - Evan: Departmental
 - Yasmeen: I wonder if sharing stories would be useful. Alice was talking about “getting to know you” activities in the beginning of year. It would be a low pressure environment to build up the conversation. Start with “can you think of a time that you said something similar to this..?”
 - Brian: Before next year, I would like to hash out ideas and think of how to foster a better environment
 - Evan: Are there any on-going efforts to reach out to faculty?
 - Alice: There is a resolution that went through the faculty senate on training on implicit bias. It is something that we have been having conversations about. It has been an ongoing issue, and I hope during transition to next year senate, this topic would stay on top of our radar and help our faculty along. Some of the comments by certain faculty members indicate they don’t quite get it yet. I think

these conversations are happening very quickly, I realize the old problems are happening at micro levels.

U-PASS Fee Discussion and Vote

Alice: Are there any outstanding questions or concerns after last week's senate meeting?

- Alex: For students in Spokane, it doesn't feel quite right for students who are not local to Seattle paying for U-PASS
- Kyle: the resolution passed ASUW last week, that's something that we will be looking into at ASUW.
- Alice: We could say our vote in favor of the fee increase is contingent on staying on record with this issue.
- Celeste: ASUW's wording is a good model that we can continue to stay on track with this issue. We will be doing that research and bringing that to the advisory board, so that you have really informed understanding before going onward.
- Alice: All of those in favor of ASUW resolution amendment?

Unanimous support for ASUW provision on U-PASS looking into distance and online students paying the U-Pass fee.

- Yasmeen: Something I brought up and am concerned about, I heard from Josh that if this fee doesn't get increased, U-Pass will be pull out of universal program, and I am concerned about having such an ultimatum held over our head as we are voting. Can you talk to Josh about the intention of that statement?
- Kyle: It's being held over our head, but from my understanding, it was written that way.
- Yasmeen: It wasn't in any of the documents I was able to find.
- Evan: I agree with Yasmeen.
- Celeste: The program is not mandated to continue when experiencing loss
- Alex: It can be funded fully, it can be balanced out differently.
- Rene: One of the things you can look up now is the Transportation MOU.
- Eddie: Josh amended his statement later, and agreed with Yasmeen. There must be some other reason to say that.
- Yasmeen: I looked over all the papers online.
- Evan: It was worrying for me that it was presented falsely. It was only by the power that Yasmeen did it very diligently that we were informed that this is not the case.
- Michelle: I will be bringing this back to talk to Josh about your concern. I can't imagine that he wanted you to feel like something is held over your head. If I can say I am sorry for him, my guess is that he was trying to share the importance of making a commitment as student to each other and if we want the U-Pass program, we won't want to do that in a way that it suffers from loss. We will be looking into the perception that was being created at the U-Pass advisory board.
- Alice: Do the liaisons have anything to add to this?
- Alice: At the Faculty Senate planning and budgeting meeting, we had very in-depth financial and budgetary information discussion about this. Has the U-pass Advisory Board done a deep-dive into that information?
- Scott and Jiarui: Yes

- Alice: For the future, I think that information would be helpful, having those direct budgetary numbers. Having a bit more of a look into the budget would be more helpful for the senators.
- Alice: Entertained a motion to vote to approve the U-Pass fee increase with the contingency that Transportation Services looks into more fair options for distance and online students. Yasmeen: so moved, Evan: seconded
- Kyle: Point of Information: Yasmeen's concern, have we cleared that? Are we taking action on that?
- Yasmeen: We will start that conversation later on and make the transitioning Executive Committee aware of this issue, but we will vote on U-Pass today.
- Alice: All in favor of the U-Pass fee increase at \$4 for 2015-16 and another \$4 2016-2017?

Unanimous agreement on passing the fee increase for U-Pass.

Parking Pass Privilege for ASUW/GPSS presidents

- Alice: this privilege would enable the President who is always traveling to be on time for meetings so he or she is not always 5-10 minutes late.
- Eddie: move to approve the parking pass
- Doug: point of information- this is for next year right?
- Alice: Yes, so it doesn't benefit me
- Evan: How much would it cost?
- Alice: Around \$1,600.
- Elloise: That pass would be shared?
- Alice: No, it would be for the President only, because the Internal Vice President wouldn't be traveling as much.
- Elloise: What if the President doesn't travel around in the future?
- Alice: It goes back into the budget.
- Michelle: You can budget the maximum amount you are thinking about, but also think about other more economical alternatives.
- Alice: there was an motion, is there a second?
- Kyle: second.

GPSS Budget for FY15-16

New budget sheet emailed to everyone by Alice

- Doug: We are asking for a 7% increase of \$7,000 from SAF. We are moving things around. Considering we are adding new positions in the office, 7% is pretty good. Alice will speak more to ad-hoc committees. Our deadline is March 30th, but Exec needs to look at it, and F&B needs to look at it, but our last meeting is next week, and that's why we are looking at it tonight.
- Alice: FY15 is this year right? the jump between F14-FY15 is highlighted because Doug still needs to edit this. So the last Exec meeting on Monday, we discussed a particular timeline on how this would happen, that we would propose a specific budget to the Senate, and we would vote on it next quarter. Unfortunately I wasn't aware of the timeline and deadline. The only meeting before the March 30 deadline is next week.

- Elloise: When was the original deadline?
- Evan: February 30.
- Alice: So this is why we have the crunch time for the budget proposal. Do you want to go through this Doug?
- Doug: The admin line- highlighted areas and the areas that are in red, we are proposing cut to all events since we have been very successful with fundraising. That explains the \$6000 decrease for programing and events funding. We have projections, on the other hand, that Husky Sunrise will double next year. We will increase external fundraising as well, but unless we can build it in the budget, it will not be sustainable.
- Alice: Husky Sunrise cost \$16,000 this year. They also gave us a lot of breaks or it would have cost a lot more. It would be \$10,000 in our budget now, (highlighted part) 5 for Husky Sunrise and 5 for Husky Sunset.
- Yasmeen: Husky Sunset, it's nice to budget for an event, but it's hard to budget for an unprecedented event.
- Alice: We expect the same level of success like Husky Sunrise. We are trying to partner with the Office of Ceremonies for Husky Sunset. We modeled enough cuts in our budget that we can justify this funding.
- Elloise: When are you planning on having Husky Sunset?
- Alice: Around June 13th. Our discretionary budget this year, we have ability to do separate event for the last Senate meeting (end of year reception) and also a more general universal ceremony for all graduate students. I reworked it with Marlee today, and this is what we envisioned now.
- Yasmeen: Actual means...?
- Alice: Actual means how much we actually received.
- Yasmeen: Staff training and education funding? What is that?
- Rene: That's the retreat for the board and for staff. The facilitator fee comes from that.
- Alice: We are not asking anything for this year?
- Doug: I will have to consult Eli on that.
- Alice: Committee funds, we are cutting \$1,000. We are taking the summit budget out of President fund, and adding it to Internal Vice President's fund. We are not adding more funds, we are just transferring fund to those who are in charge and are associated with the responsibility. Programming- Arts and Entertainment was transferred from the Treasurer, Diversity was transferred from the Secretary. So we have a \$3,200- budget for Internal Vice President. That is not from adding more funds, but transferring funds from other roles.
- Rene: You should specivy that Arts and Entertainment is specifically transferred to the ASUW Spring Concert event given that a representative from GPSS participates in the selection process.
- Alice: Job resources, staff training and education was something Chris Erickson came up with, he believed his staff should be able to travel to conferences for training.
- Elloise: Internet cost, what does that mean?
- Alex: Making sure that the person has internet in Olympia.
- Eddie: We should focus on the big picture now.

- Alice: Treasurer's fund. Everything orange is being transferred out of the Treasurer's fund, so we are not reducing funds, we are just transferring that to Internal VP.
- Eddie: The real thing we are approving is the part to SAF right? Not the entire budget?
- Alice: But the whole thing is for SAF. We just have to do our diligence and be careful with it.
- Alice: Personnel- the addition of the Vice President of Internal Affairs makes a total of \$117,105 for tuition compensation and stipends of \$17,422.
- Yasmeen: I am concerned that the Vice President of External Affairs summer hours at 5 hours would leave the person absent again, which is contradictory to our original purpose. Would it be better to reduce other officers' hours to 15 and make them equal?
- Alice: Some officers definitely need all those hours though, but the External VP doesn't necessarily have a lot to do. In addition, we took out the Information Specialist for the summer. We are saying that although it is not ideal, we could do it without him in the summer. Director of Programs and Director of Communications in summer were specifically for Husky Sunrise. That gives us a net increase of \$250 for the summer. Now we go to regular hourly staff- we brought all the hourly wages to the same level, but that's not to say that we have to pay as that level, but it would give us a bit more flexibility. Policy Analyst, hours went down, we changed it from an entire-year position to just a 6-month position. Once the legislature ends, there wouldn't be a huge need for a Policy Analyst. Communication Specialist budget is being transferred to Director of Communications to give the position a bit more responsibility and power. Overall the net reduction is \$14,000 from the personnel budget to allow the new officer position.
- Eddie: There are no changes for the officer salary, but the union mandated a salary increase of 10%.
- Alice: I thought this year was the last year of the contract.
- Eddie: No, there's another for summer starting July 1st.
- Alice: So there will be another 10%?
- Yasmeen: And SAF won't be able to argue with us about that either.
- Alex: I am okay with all these changes, I guess there's a bit of concerns looking at current VP's purview and how this process has gone.
- Alice: I want to hear more about your concern.
- Alex: Important decisions are made when I am not present, I get why since I am away a lot, but every time we have conversations, more things happen to the VP than anywhere else. I didn't know about yesterday's meeting, but if I was available, I would be there.
- Alice: I hear you, I think you are right, I don't think we should move forward with this until your voice is heard.
- Alex: Sometimes not being heard and present at meetings is a bit frustrating.
- Alice: Does anyone have a proposal on how to change this? Because personally I am still for the reduction to 5 hours/week during summer? Because I don't remember for the last few years, that VP was here over the summer. Do we want to increase it to 10?
- Doug: proposal- we could lower all hours to 18 for all officers and raise the VP to 13 hours.
- Alice: What if we reduce the Treasurer to 15 and the VP to 10 hours?
- Yasmeen: Conference travel- can you explain more?

- Alice: That is for SAGE and WSA. So that can be \$2,500 to our budget? Doug, you guys need to work this out later.
- Yasmeen: Adding \$2000 seems very small to promote equality among officers and staff.
- Alice: But it seems unfair for the people who are here, while some are logging the hours remotely. My problem with going through this is clearly, there are still a lot of errors. Doug, you guys need to go back and check everything is correct and make sure everything is fixed by Friday.
- Evan: What's the process like? And where are we in the process?
- Alice: We are hoping the the Exec approves this budget and sends it to F&B and we trust Doug to work out the details.
- Evan: F&B is traditionally the one that goes and find these small errors.
- Alice: Let's bring VP of External Affairs at 10 hours, and increase Treasurer to 20, and we need to decide on the personnel.
- Elloise: Can we have additional 10 hours for additional roles?
- Alice: We are at a 12% increase, and adding things back in piece by piece is counter productive to the ad-hoc committee. About \$8000 is from the stipend increase from Union.
- Yasmeen: Can I get a timeline for all these things?
- Alice: F&B has to vote on it on Friday, and they will have to present it to Senate. The deadline to SAF is March 31st, we have to vote on it , and the only meeting before that deadline is next week.
- Alice: I will entertain a motion to approve and send the budget to F&B as is to turn this into a presentation to SAF.
- Eddie: So moved, Natalie: seconded
- Elloise: Have the members of F&B been informed of this?
- Doug: The chair already knows about this, but they don't know yet.
- Alice: Unless there is anyone who wants to meet at 10:00 pm for a special Exec meeting, there is really no time. The ad-hoc committee has spent a lot of time on editing the budget. I am drafting officer descriptions tonight, and the ad-hoc committee is meeting tomorrow at 8 am and we will be meeting next week for bylaws.

SWSU Ad-Hoc Committee Update

- Alice: I received an email from a dean of the School of Social Work saying that we were being misinformed about the situation by the student workers.
- Eddie: The email was so brief, and it didn't seem like that the dean was pointing out anything to counteract any point that the student workers presented. If they can provide any concrete suggestion that we are being misinformed, I don't think a meeting would be helpful.
- Alice: Perfect, I follow up with that. Anyone have any opposite opinion?
- Eddie: We have an upcoming resolution from the SWSU. They have had some grievances about how administrators can just stall progress and wait it out. I am concerned that the dean is not addressing the issue.
- Rene: Is there some kind of mediation after the resolution?

- Alice: The Graduate School. I had a thought of inviting the dean who emailed us to attend our Senate meeting when we vote on this. We are only hearing the student side of story, and if administrators have a really strong case, then we welcome them to join us at the meeting. We would set it up in a way that facilitates conversation, and we will let the Senate decide on whether they approve the resolution. It won't turn into a cat fight.
- Evan: I would be hesitant to bring that up to the Senate first, since it might jeopardize the idea of having a safe place to speak up at Senate meetings. I would love to see them come to our Executive meeting.
- Natalie: They already submitted their resolution, we will be voting next week.
- Yasmeen: I agree with Eddie's idea, if they are reading our minutes, they probably read our agenda too. I don't think we are under any obligation to invite them, I think it would lead to a more hostile environment rather than friendly outcomes.
- Eddie: We can just ask them to clarify their points, and remind them that our meetings are public.

GPSS Senate Agenda Item

- Alice: Who is our Spotlight?
- Natalie: Po-Chedley, sponsored by Brandon Ray, Program on Climate Change.
- Alice: Next we have the budget. Let's have the ad-hoc committee give updates on the restructure for 20 minutes. We will be presenting bylaws, officer descriptions, and the budget proposal. I will put Evan for the Ad-Hoc Committee on GPSS Restructure.
- Alice: And Presentation if GPSS Budget for FY15-16. Approval of FY15-16 budget.
- Alice: Then we have a resolution
- Natalie: The official title is Fair Labor Practices for School Of Social Work Practicum
- Alice: So that's going to be 20 minutes
- Natalie: One of the Judicial members is stepping down to run for an officer position so we have to elect one more Judicial member.
- Alice: Election of a new member of the GPSS Judicial Committee.
- Natalie: One more thing, ASUW is creating a working group for Middle-Eastern students, there is a graduate student seat. I will be presenting briefly about that.
- Alice: Anything else? I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda.
- Alex: So moved, Eddie: Seconded

Senator Reports

- Yasmeen: STF Ad-Hoc Committee has been looking for some ex-officio members, so it would be great if we can find someone to sit on that, we will have a meeting next week.
- Eddie: I have been selected to sit on a panel as mandated by Memorandum 33- if you have any academic grievance, you can set up a panel. I have brought up the possibility of having a ad-hoc committee on academic grievance, so we will see how that goes.
- Evan: SAF is going well. Travel Grants is going well, we got a non-quorum meeting, and we have another meeting on Friday. We are having a discussion on rolling Travel Grants- we are trying to expand or funding dates as much as possible.

Officer Reports

- Alex: House of origin cut off is passed. I am working to set up a few different types of meetings. I have a joint meeting with WSU and other schools to think about long-term grad student issues. I am also working with ASUW to talk about medical student issues.
- Natalie: Diversity Committee made it to the Daily front page. Twice in two weeks.
- Alice: I am really happy with where the restructure is going, I appreciate everyone's effort. My hope is that next year, the GPSS will be set up for success. I hope the changes we are making will inspire more people to run for officer positions. Once the budget thing is dealt with, the whole restructure should be a breeze.

Announcements

- Kyle: ASUW Fashion show is tomorrow at 6:30 at the HUB.
- Natalie: Our next Exec meeting is during Finals week, should we cancel it? I know that's what we did last quarter.
- Alice: in favor.

Unanimous agreement to cancel next Executive Committee meeting.

Adjourn

- Alice: Entertained a motion to adjourn
- Alex: So moved, Natalie: Second

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.