

Graduate & Professional Student Senate

GPSS Senate Meeting- 8 April 2015

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

Approval of Agenda

Natalie Gordon (Secretary): Mental Health group no longer presenting, move to remove the presentation

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): moved to approve the amended agenda | Elloise Kim (English): Seconded

Agenda for the meeting on April 8, 2015 approved without objection.

Approval of Minutes

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

Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama): so moved | Brian Tracey (Marine & Environmental Affairs): Seconded

Minutes approved without objection.

Point of information: protest outside on the minimum wage issue

Application for Student Regent

Alice Popejoy (President): Student Regent is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in building experience and networking with high level administration. If you are interested, the application is up on the website. Natalie will send you all an email, please send it to your constituents. The application is due in a week and a half.

Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama): Point of information- Student Regent gets a parking spot on campus (for life).

Spotlight- Native Organization of Indigenous Scholars (NOIS)

Melissa Watkinson (NOIS): Our annual symposium is coming up.

Jordan Craddick (NOIS): The theme this year is indigeneity in motion. The event is on May 8th from 9am-5pm.

Melissa Watkinson (NOIS): We are fortunate to get two separate fundings from GPSS. We want to acknowledge indigenous art work. We also have a call for abstracts which is still open, they are due on Friday April 10. If you know someone or an organization that might have a vision that is in line with our objective, just submit a 250 word abstract. The information on where to submit the abstract is also on the flyer that will be emailed to you. Again the symposium is on May 8th. All are encouraged to attend the event. Food is provided at the reception.

Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama): if you want to attend, do you RSVP?

Melissa Watkinson (NOIS): Yes, I will send Natalie the link.

Natalie Gordon (Secretary): I will send out the link tomorrow with the GPSS update.

Elloise Kim (English): The paper presentation- how long is it?

Melissa Watkinson (NOIS): About 20 minutes, but it depends on the topics you want to present.

Student Tech Fee on second round RFP

Presented by Alton Lu (Program Coordinator) and Jared Miller (Committee Chair)

The STF funds the technological component of student life. Every year we accept proposals on how to spend that money. We decided to open second round proposal window. It will end on April 22nd. Some general ideas of the stuff we fund are computers in the Libraries, UW EcoCar, The Daily equipment. If you are interested, submit a proposal by the 22nd deadline (we are capping proposals at \$100,000).

Kristen Helps (Biobehavioral Nursing): What about fee-based programs?

Jared Miller (STF): We fund portable computing and equipment for student to take equipment off campus to learn. As long as it is for students, we generally will fund the proposal.

Elaine Klein (Education): Who can apply?

Jared Miller (STF): Anyone can apply. We encourage you to talk to your constituents. You just need a signature from someone who can ensure the administrative support.

Brian Taubeneck (GPSS Policy Analyst): If people that put in proposal in the first round didn't get it, can they re-submit?

Alton Lu (STF): Yes they can. We also provided suggestions on why we declined it in the first place, so we expect some edits and amendments.

Jared Miller (STF): We don't fund infrastructure or pay, and more information is on our website.

Bylaw Revision Update

Alice Popejoy (President): We restructured the officer and staff and the organization in general to make GPSS more efficient and more sustainable. In order to do this, it requires a few painstaking steps, one of which is the bylaws. So the Judicial Committee of GPSS is responsible for finalizing all the bylaws changes. If you want to change the bylaws as a senator, you have the power to do that as well.

Natalie Gordon (Secretary): First I will give an overview on what the changes are. 1) Article 5 Officers of the GPSS. We completely overhauled the officer positions. We created in the bylaws the Vice President of Internal Affairs and switched around some of the responsibilities and roles with the President and the Vice President of External Affairs to make each position more efficient. 2) Secretary and treasurer job descriptions did not change that much. 3) We made sure that we addressed external and internal VPs separately. 4) We added a fifth executive senator to maintain balance in the Executive Committee.

Noel Kim (Aeronautics & Astronautics): We reviewed the bylaws, and mostly agreed with the changes. There are some phrasing and typos, for example Article 5, Section C, typos in the UW Alumni Association.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Article 5, which section? | Noel Kim (Aeronautics & Astronautics): Section E

Monica Cortes-Viharo (Drama): Point of information- Natalie and Alex did the hard work of editing the bylaws.

Approval of the bylaws Revision

Alice Popejoy (President): We will accept any friendly amendments now.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): I have an amendment to the bylaws revision. Page 7, VP of External Affairs, I think it should add "external affairs". A more substantial proposal to change under the the VP of External Affairs, there are some redundancies in clause two. That same language is in "i", can we remove the second or the first one.

Alex Bolton (Vice President): Accepted as friendly.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): My last more substantial change, in Clause B "if a position is empty.." the stipulation language should also be add to president (currently under VP of Internal)

Natalie Gordon (Secretary): Accepted as friendly.

Alice Popejoy (President): What's the discussion process like for bylaws changes?

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): If there are potential controversies, can we separate it as other amendments?

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Either I propose to take it out of all of those, and everyone agree and hope that we have a good officer, and know to use judgements to make decisions and make comments, or we add it to both VP of Internal and President to make it more consistent. I guess we can put it as "under duty of all officers".

Rene Singleton (SAO Adviser): I will recommend just do it for all officers, just for consistency.

Vanessa Kritzer (Public Affairs): I agree we should put it for all of the officers, whether they are doing internal or external, it's important to represent GPSS.

Alice Popejoy (President): Is that already in the description? or is it understood as our job?

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): I propose on Page 5, moving the language from VP of Internal Affairs to all officers.

Natalie Gordon (Secretary) and Alex Bolton (Vice President): Accepted as friendly.

Alice Popejoy (President): Thank you Yasmeen. Anyone else have a suggestion?

Alice Popejoy (President): I will entertain a motion to approve our amended bylaws as presented by the Judicial Committee.

John Lurie (Astronomy): So moved, Lise Lalonde (Comparative Literature): Seconded. Bylaws approved with one opposed.

Revised Election Packet

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): This packet is almost the same as the last election packet, with the exception that the additional Internal VP position has been added, and we added all updated job descriptions. Also we have a little longer submission period- on Monday April 20th is the deadline to challenge the impartiality of external witnesses. In order to get your information on the website, you must submit your information by the end of April 13th. Only senators can vote, it is not a secret ballot, so please remember to write your name on the ballots when the voting time comes. If you can't come to the next meeting, you can email your vote. Here are some important dates:

- April 13th- candidate material is due, if you miss this deadline, you can still run from the floor
- April 22nd- elections
- Absentee ballot - if you can't make it to the 22nd meeting, make sure to send an email for absentee ballot.
- April 14th- ballots are going to be sent

Brian Tracey (Marine & Environmental Affairs): What are the positions?

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): president, vice president of internal affairs, vice president of external affairs, secretary, treasurer.

Natalie Gordon (Secretary): if you are interested in running but want more information- please come see us.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): the officer descriptions are based on the bylaws revision.

Alice Popejoy (President): We will update information on our website as well. We have extra copies of officer descriptions, so if you are interested, come see us.

Approval of Revised Election Packet

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Moved to approve | Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): Seconded

Revised election packet approved without objection

Alice Popejoy (President): Congratulations on accomplishing this- passing the budget and bylaws and adding an additional position of Internal VP, thank you guys so so much.

Minimum Wage Increase for Student Employees

Alice Popejoy (President): I just wanted to give you an update and open up to discussion on this issue. The City of Seattle passed a bill to increase the minimum wage incrementally. There was an article saying the UW hasn't made any response. The administration wasn't ready to make a decision. The previous president was engaged in efforts to figure out how to face this issue, but as we understand, he has left the school, so Ana Mari is currently steering through the issue. The administration admitted that they did not know that they had to make a decision now. This was an honest, good-faith oops, and we didn't foresee this happening. The university is prepared to increase all its employees to \$11/hr. But they are not giving that to students yet, because it is a bit complicated. The day the article came out, the school came to us and asked what the students wanted to do about this (ASUW/GPSS). We looked at the list of units that are fully funded by SAF that employ students. A lot of those student workers are paid under \$11. While GPSS doesn't have this issue, it's not the cases for many other student employees. We were asked to have a response in 8 hours. We decided that we did not have enough information to have a definitive answer to such a complicated issue. The university is ready to increase the minimum wage to \$11 for all student employees, but we won't be able to do this unless we raise the student activity fee by \$7 each year. So this is an important conversation that we should have. SAF funded units are now able to say that we will increase minimum wage to \$11/hr on the April 16th. We are working towards that end, but there is a lot of rhetoric that is going on around campus spreading ideas that the school doesn't want to increase minimum wage.

Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): Is the \$11 the current incremental increase to \$15?

Alice Popejoy (President): Yes but there is no guarantee we will go to \$15.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): I don't think we actually have a choice on whether we should follow the rules or not. So we either have to increase the student fee, or find out another solution. I think it's awfully convenient for the University to come to us and say we have 8 hours to respond, while they waited for months.

Alice Popejoy (President): Agreed. From an optic perspective, that make sense. But the University is a bureaucracy of very busy people, and some people are much better student advocate than others, while others focus more on generating revenue. So there's not one person that you can point to and assign fault or blame.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): Perhaps the blame does not reside in any individual, but the concern is there. We pay a lot of money to go to college. I think that frustration comes from a legitimate place when they waited for months to ask for our opinion.

Mahdi Ashrafi (Mechanical Engineering): Does the money have to come from students' pockets or is there any other source?

Alice Popejoy (President): As far as GPSS and ASUW are concerned, we don't want any University subsidy. We want to be able to remain completely student-funded. To say that the University has a bunch of extra money lying around to do this, I have seen the budget, it's not pretty. We are hurting in all areas in the University budget. In theory, we support student wage increases, however, more discussion and data are needed for the logistics.

Evan Firth (Oceanography): Here is some context from SAF. There is a \$400,000 increase in SAF requests for next year if we are to raise the wage to \$11. I think GPSS should be providing political opinions, while SAF can continue to focus on figuring out the logistics on the numbers.

Alice Popejoy (President): I think to make political statements without understanding the economic impact is not the best approach, but I understand that SAF is an independent entity that can examine that.

Elloise Kim (English): We should listen to students on how we can do this. We want to raise minimum wage, but we are not sure where the money is going to come from. They are not asking questions whether or not to increase wage, but rather, how we can achieve that and have that conversation.

Vanessa Kritzer (Public Affairs): Will the SAF Committee be doing the cost-benefit analysis? Another thing, is there anything else that would stand in the way of the interim President announcing the increase?

Alice Popejoy (President): I think SAF is the perfect entity to do this. From what we have heard, it is being taken care of, that they will increase all student wage to \$11/hr. To my knowledge, there should not be any holdouts. We are at time, I have 5 more people on the list.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): move to extend time by 10 minutes | Elloise Kim (English):
Second

Adrian Kane (History): Where is the University on legal issues?

Alice Popejoy (President): What I heard at first, the University wasn't sure whether this policy applies to them. They assumed that the state would say that "yes you must abide" but they

never heard back. There were just some legal grey area that the University was trying to figure out. So the University still doesn't know, sorry I don't have a better answer.

Luis Fernando Centurion (iSchool MSIM): It's hard to really have this conversation. I think we really need to see some analysis before we make any decision or judgment.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): I understand the concerns of student government and the student fee funding other students. I agree with Eddie that making a fake effort to follow city law means actually following the wage increases. I just want to say that I think these are kind of two separate issue. I think we need to make the increase in compliance with city laws. But saying we are not going to do it is not the right response.

Alice Popejoy (President): The University never really said that.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): By saying we have to think about it, they are implying that they are not going to follow the law.

Alice Popejoy (President): The official statement is that they still need to hear from students, and they were still waiting for a response from us and ASUW.

Evan Firth (Oceanography): Since we are talking about looking forward following the city law, I mentioned the effect of the \$11 is about \$400,000. The effect of \$15, we are looking at about \$2 million dollars with 15% increase of student activity fee.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): Two things; what Yasmeen is saying is that we are not in compliance with the current law. You can't say I am still deciding on whether I want to follow the speed limit on the highway. Not going in compliance isn't going to be free.

Jennifer Porter (Geography): I have a follow up to Yasmeen's comment- I understand that the University never actually said that but we should take responsibility that the students should be paid minimum wage. I want to raise awareness on the consciousness of giving student employees a better living.

Alice Popejoy (President): The university hasn't said that they don't want to pay students, it's student funded organizations that are having issues.

Gerald Mbara (Pathobiology): move to extend time by ten minutes | Elloise Kim (English): seconded.

Gerald Mbara (Pathobiology): We shouldn't speak for ourselves, we should be speaking for our constituents.

Alice Popejoy (President): Great point. If all of you want to go to your departments and constituents and ask about their hourly wage, it would be great data that we can have to allow us have a representative opinion, rather than personal opinions. We don't know the legal obligation, and we don't know the economic implications, so there are still a lot of complications.

John Lurie (Astronomy): The problem isn't that we don't want to pay students a higher wage, but that some programs are tied to student fees. If SAF can't do it, it's not sustainable , something needs to be changed.

Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering): When Seattle raised the minimum wage to \$15/hr, the public should also learn to be willing to bear the burden of that additional cost. If we want that \$15 increase, we should also think about whether we want to contribute to that fee increase.

Daniel Grafton (Public Affairs): We should take a step back and ask what exactly do we want to achieve right now?

Alice Popejoy (President): the Interim President has come to the presidents of ASUW and GPSS to ask our opinion, and ask if they can go forward with the wage increase. Now the general consensus is that they are going to go forward starting from the 16th. The purpose of putting this on agenda was to get more opinions from everyone else on this issue.

Daniel Grafton (Public Affairs): It sounded like that we had a choice in the discussion.

Alice Popejoy (President): The choice is where we go from now. SAF has said that they can pay \$11/hr, but after that point, we need to figure out something that works after that specific period. The decision to go to \$11 has been made, but other than that, this is just to inform you so you can tell your constituents about what is going on and ensure the transparency on this issue.

Douglass Taber (Treasurer): Would it be alright to have an opinion poll?

Alice Popejoy (President): I will hold off on that, but we can have a sign-up sheet for people interested in drafting the resolution on the minimum wage issues.

Election of New Judicial Member

Alice Popejoy (President): If anyone is willing to step on and be a senator in the judicial committee. We need a full judicial otherwise we wouldn't be in compliance with the bylaws.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Point of Information: you can't run for office, and you can't be on any other committees.

Alexandra Grier (Immunology): What's the duration?

Alice Popejoy (President): About 4 months now. Just for the duration of this quarter.

Alexandra Grier (Immunology): I volunteer. I am in a combined degree program, so this is my 6th year.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): move to appoint Alexandra as the new judicial member |

Brian Tracey (Marine & Environmental Affairs): Second

New Judicial member elected : Alexandra Grier, Immunology.

State and Legislative Update- Alex

Alex Bolton (Vice President): We are in the budget proposals now. This is just state support, in general the House proposal is better than Senate for higher ed. The governor authorized increases for faculty and staff. The House wants to authorize increases for all faculty and staff and provides funds for classified staff contracts. The Senate wants very different thing and wants to provide \$1,000 per employee. The part that get a bit more complicated -- they proposed a carbon tax. Senate wants to reduce in-state undergraduate student. The House budget just freezes the in-state undergraduate tuition. Then we will go over our state and capital budget- the top one being Computer Science and Engineering expansion. the Life Sciences building is a big disappointing one- we are asking for \$4 million , but the House and Senate include nothing there. Nursing Simulation, both houses seem to be on it.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): motion to extend time for 5 mins | Adrian Kane (History): second.

Alex Bolton (Vice President): The House Proposal would transfer all \$4.68 million per year from WSU to UW for the first year medical education in Spokane. UW and WSU feel like they

got divorce on this issue, and the government basically said - get back together. House will give WSU \$1.25 million per year for curriculum development. The House proposed funding to additional medical residencies. Feel free to send me an email if you have any other questions.

Officer Reports

Alex Bolton (Vice President): SAGE Update. Partnered with a lot of other school (13), some of the main issues we are advocating include student debt and student loan rates, research funding, visa reform and Open Source. Overall, we made really good progress.

Douglass Taber (Treasurer): SAF committee is making great progress preparing for the future changes and challenges. Alice and the Union came to our meeting and we talked a lot about what the future holds. Also the election is coming up, it is really a wonderful option to make an impact on other graduate students. Did anyone go to the valentine's day event? May 7th the Science and Policy Committee is having our 5th summit at Kane Hall at 5:00PM. You will get more updates from me. Spring Social is going to be Throwback to your Alma Mater. It's May 21st at Hub Game Areas. There will be free food and beverages and photo booth. Tell all your constituents it will be a lot of fun.

Natalie Gordon (Secretary): Biggest announcement- we are still looking for graduate students to sit on the Middle Eastern Student Working group. It's great opportunity to be engaged, so please send that information out to your constituency. It will not be a super big commitment. If you have an event coming up, Diversity funding still has \$2000.

Alice Popejoy (President): How many of you filled out the student census- hopefully you saw my all-student email for the census. That's a childcare survey as a census in disguise because we really wanted to get pure and true data. We haven't released any of the data yet, because the survey is still open, so please encourage everyone to participate. We have overcome the 10% response rate. The biggest issue is cost of education, next is career and professional development. That gave us some insight on what the priority for us might be. I am hoping to see a surge in the next two days in responses because there will be another all student email, and hopefully, you will also send it out to your constituents. The last issue is the update on students from social work on the issue of practicum. It directed me to support the issue, I have been taking that direction very seriously- this week social work student union will be coming to PACS to talk about why this is an important issue. GPSS will be a really great venue to have these conversations and mediate student groups and school administrators to get on the same page. Any question about it, happy to talk more with you.

Announcements:

Dustin Schmidt (Philosophy): This Friday at 7:00PM, if you care about global inequality, come join us

Mahdi Ashrafi (Mechanical Engineering) : K-12 outreach program- working to improve science related classes. Northgate elementary school is looking for more volunteers.

Brian Tracey (Marine & Environmental Affairs): general announcement- there are resources if you or if you know someone who is going/ went through sexual assault experience. There are ways that you can reach out. Join us at tomorrow at 5PM at Red Square.

Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy): If you are a student employee, TA, or just interested and want to be a part of the discussion in negotiating with Union, come to our meeting at April 15th on HUB 102.

Yasmeen Hussain(Biology): A thousand words challenge at Burke Museum at 5PM tomorrow. Food and beverages available.

Kristin Helps (Biobehavioral Nursing): May 15-16th UW Bothell, there is Health Hackathon StartUp Weekends.

Vanessa Kritzer (Public Affairs): The Legislative Affairs committee is open for membership- if you want to be more engaged in legislative conversations, contact me.

Christine Tran (Education): Emerging Leaders in Science & Society- Epidemic Preparedness on April 9th from 12:00-1:00PM.

Adjournment

Brian Tracey (Marine & Environmental Affairs): moved to adjourn, Evan Firth (Oceanography): seconded.

Alice Popejoy (President): Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.