

# Graduate & Professional Student Senate

## GPSS Senate Meeting- 28 January

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

### Approval of Agenda

Alice Popejoy (President) entertained a motion to approve the agenda  
Joseph Telegen (English): moved to approve the agenda  
Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama) Seconded

### Approval of Minutes

Alice Popejoy (President) entertained a motion to approve the minutes  
Colin Bateson (Mechanical Engineering) so moved  
Eddie Schwieterman (Astronomy) seconded  
Joseph Telegen (English): Objection to the minutes, moved to add that there was a brief question and answer session after the lobby day discussion.  
Bree Herndon (Family & Child Nursing): Move to approve the amended minutes.  
Elloise Kim (English): Seconded.

### How to Craft A Resolution: Joseph and Monica

Alice: We have had a low number of resolutions proposed this year. I would like to empower all of you on topics that you are interested to make your voices heard. We have two senators that are here teach everyone on how to craft a resolution.

Skit with Monica and Joseph:

3: three weeks before the GPSS meeting- visit GPSS website and do research on existing resolutions and draft your resolution. Email GPSS Secretary, Natalie Gordon.

2: two weeks before the GPSS meeting- Natalie looks at resolution and makes edits and sends it back for approval.

1: one week before the GPSS meeting, Natalie puts the resolution on Catalyst to collect friendly amendments

48 hours before the GPSS meeting, I can incorporate any friendly amendments into the final draft and send that back to Natalie so she can make sure the final version that I agree upon will show up on the agenda item in the Senate.

You could present it in front of exec board, but you don't have to.

Proposing resolutions is a way to be more active. Creating a resolution also make others care about an issue that you care about as well.

### How to Craft A Resolution Q&A

Doug: what is resolution for?

Monica (Drama) & Joseph (English): A resolution is a way of expressing the opinion of the student body, especially the students at the University of Washington. One example is the Open Access Resolution that recently happened. Think of it kind of like setting the agenda on what we want to accomplish this year.

Alice: I have meetings with the Provost and Deans, but resolutions become the official word of student body, which is much more powerful than coming from me.

Monica (Drama): Explore the proper wording about an issue that you care about. Some questions may also appear through collaborations with others.

Branden Audet (International Studies): Was the concept the Whole U and Your Kids Too started as a resolution too?

Alice: Childcare has been an issue since the 1970s. We currently have a childcare resolution in the works. There is a coalition of students, senators and faculty that are behind this cause and are working on this issue. It would be helpful for me to have a resolution to clarify my own advocacy so I can represent all student voice.

Joseph (English): Monica deserves credit for thinking of the systematic 3-2-1 resolution crafting.

Monica (Drama): It really is that easy though. Don't be daunted.

Sanjay Srivatsan (Medicine): It seems like there are already on-going resolutions. Is there a way for people to jump on and know what's happening?

Alice: We could have something on our website that provides contact. Natalie, do you think you can do something like that? Ideally we would use the wiki to draft a resolution. We can go on there and see the draft of resolutions. If you have any ideas, reach out to me or other senators.

Monica (drama): What if there is a link to the wiki when we go to the GPSS resolution page?

Alice: Now only officers can edit the wiki, but we will make it as flexible and accessible as possible.

Joseph (English): I will be proposing a resolution on gender pay equity. I don't know where we are in terms of what GPSS has done in the past, but I will be looking into that.

Alice: also the Graduate Experience Committee will be starting to have committee meetings soon, so if you are interested, please let me know.

### **Spotlight -Jennifer Kirk, Biostatistics**

Natalie: Jennifer is from Biostatistics, and she is also the person that set up the Childcare Survey.

Jennifer Kirk (Biostatistics): Biostatistics is an important part of your life.

There are new types of data being collected every day. Part of biostatistics is figuring out what methods to use. To give an example, most people are familiar with averages, but why is average important? We also have a Statistical Consulting Center. Graduate students in our department take this class. If you need help designing your study or analyzing your research, they would help you out with your problem. It's a free 50 minute consultation, and you can sign up for as many times you want.

Alice: At which point should we go see you?

Jennifer: come as early as you can. Come early we can help you with your study design and help you with the process.

Vanessa Kritzer (Public Affairs): Is this only for students?

Jennifer: It's open to faculty and students. We have really extensive service.

Luis Fernando Centurion (MSIM): What are the hours like?

Jennifer: It depends. But toward the end of the quarter, you are unlikely to find an open slot since previous customers come back for the previous research to talk about analysis. Go early in the quarter, there are a lot of free times then.

## **Election Committee Formation**

(Natalie & Eddie Schwieterman)

Natalie: The Elections Committee is in charge of the elections guide, which provides information about elections and running for office. We need 4 senators tonight. The main role is to create or update the packet, and facilitate the elections like counting the ballots, and you also filter the applications.

Eddie: The footprint on your time is not that extensive. It is mostly upgrading the packet to make sure that it fits the rules, and changing dates to make sure everything's updated and everyone is clear on the rules. If you are on the election committee, you cannot run for an officer position. If you know you would like to run later, please be aware of it. Rene, our advisor, will help you along with the ballot counting process. Any questions?

Alice: This is election for officers. There are four officers- president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Do you want to talk about the perks of being an officer?

Douglass: Your tuition get paid by GPSS.

Alice: If you are at all interested, please come to us, we will convince you to do it. It is a great learning experience, and a great thing to put on your resume.

Eddie: If you are considering running for a position, please come attend our executive meeting. There are certain requirements on how many meetings you need to attend. All the information in the packet.

Kevin Liu (Statistics): Is this open for international students?

Federico Fabbri (French & Italian Studies): Does this count as a job? For example, you mentioned that the tuition is waived for so I am just wondering what does it count for?

Eddie: It falls under the Union contract.

Alice: The officer positions are salary positions.

Branden Audet (International Studies): How many hours a week is the job?

Alice: In the job description it says 19.5 hours a week. In reality, it really varies. The vice president is in Olympia. I am not counting my hours, but it's a substantial commitment. It is what you make of it. It's an important job because administrators often think of undergraduate students' benefits more than graduate students. They often don't see as much of us as they should. It's a great experience.

Natalie: We can have more time to talk about it later, but now we really need to form our election committee.

Elliot Koontz (QERM): When is the election?

Natalie: Second meeting of spring quarter.

Luis Fernando Centurion (MSIM): I will sit on it.

Elliot Koontz (QERM): I will sit it as well.

Meixi Ng (Education): I volunteer.

Sanjay Srivatsan (Medicine): I volunteer.

Jeremy McGibbon (Atmospheric Sciences): Point of information, international students are only allowed to accept appointments that are approved by the ISS, or it has to be related to your study.

Alice: We can hire international students. We currently have staff members that are international students.

Eddie: Come to us, don't be discouraged, we will find out for you.

Alice: Eddie is a great resource, we now have a great committee.

### **Campus Conversations- Diversity Committee**

Natalie: The Diversity Committee is hosting three Campus Conversations this quarter- race, ageism, and disability. Our Senator Brian Tracey is leading the one on this Monday at noon. Please come. I will email the posters for the other conversations to everyone once the time and locations are confirmed, there will also be hard copies of poster that people can distribute. Brian will talk to you guys more about the Campus Conversations.

Brian Tracey (Marine & Environmental Affairs): The goal is to create a space where people feel comfortable talking about these issues. I wanted to start off by generating conversation. These conversations really have to start with ourselves. Ask yourselves how we feel about it. Ask, how do you know what you know?

Monica Cortes Viharo (Drama): Questioning definitions. Women feel this way, men feel that way. I am making generalizations, but questioning assumptions and definition that I carry all the time.

Brian: It is important to be having conversations with yourself and asking yourself how you know it- what is influencing my thoughts and emotions, what is the lens that you see the world through? Can you guys throw out some characteristics of leadership? What makes a leader? Shout-out answers: Commitment, listening, taking care of people, passion, charisma, guidance, voice.

Brian: Does anyone know who these people are (Black Panthers and Captain America)? Talking about how you know what you know and what influences your thoughts, based on what you think, what categories would you put these people into? Both of these pictures emulate leadership. They both fight for justice. Black Panthers focus on social justice. You probably grow up looking at this, Captain America is also on the leadership side. This is an example of how what you think becomes your action, becomes who you are. We will also talk about microaggression, simple question like "what are you" may evoke feelings of negative past experience with oppression and aggression.

Stephanie Cruz (Anthropology): More often than not, I am interrupted when I am speaking, most often because I am a woman.

Alice: I had an amazing mentor, and she advised that when someone interrupts you, just keep talking.

Amirah Majid (iSchool PhD): Peer 101 covers a lot of these topics, if you are looking for extra-curricular opportunities. I once had a faculty member tell me you can call me by my first name only if you are married or have a child.

Eric Kernfeld (Statistics): In my program, most Master's students are from China. Most PhD students are Americans. There is obvious separation between the two groups and it causes simple but not easy to solve problems. It's a big adjustment that the Statistics department has had to make.

Brian: Think critically, and above all, question yourself. Form your own conclusions, but be honest with what you think. Like Evan said "what's your gut reaction". Become aware of it. You all are leaders of your constituencies, and we should become more comfortable to go out and

start these conversations. At the event on Monday, we are going to talk about race. It tends to be separated into black and white, but it's more than that and we will discuss that on Monday. Alice: Brian also sits on PACS, and I am really glad he is here, he is a very active Senator.

### **Take Action: Lobby Day 2015**

Alice: Lobby Day is next week, so this is our final big push. Alex, tell us what's happening and why it is important.

Alex Bolton: Lobby Day is next Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Our rally in the morning is to show that we care about our school, about how it is funded, and the quality of our education. Your story would make a huge difference throughout the session. Some logistical details, we are starting off at 8:15, and we have buses to take us down to Olympia. Please sign up and we will give you more details. We will have buses leaving at 9:00. We will have our rally at 10:00. We will also have budget chair speaking to us. Starting at noon, we will have meetings with legislators. We will pair you up with the legislators that you are interested in meeting. Especially for graduate students, this is the chance to share your work with legislators. We are calling it the Graduate Student Spotlight. Free transportation and free lunch will be provided, and the buses will be leaving Olympia at 3:30 and we will be back to Seattle around 5:00. Also please help hand out these flyers. Leave your contact information so we can reach out you.

Alice: This is not just for senators, this is for everyone. Alex's vision of this is for it to be inclusive. Just show up and talk about who you are and what your story is. Higher Ed is on the chopping block, and we need to show them the benefit we bring to the table.

Amirah Majid (iSchool PhD): Is this ASUW or GPSS?

Alex: It's a joint event except for the spotlight event. People who have the most credibility in Olympia are students and TAs. All students are welcome. We have stacks of flyers for you to fill out and stacks for you to hand to your friends and colleagues as well.

Justin Bare (Computer Science): Can you tell us the difference between the spotlight and poster session?

Alex: We changed it to be more inclusive. If you don't have a poster, just show up and share your story.

Jennifer Kirk (Biostatistics): What's the parking like down there?

Alex: Ideally we will have carpools.

Alice: We will get in touch with you for the logistical details. Don't compare the state capital to D.C. It's pretty simple once you get there.

### **Valentine's Day Sign Up**

Doug: After you go to lobby day, we have our V-day mixer to celebrate our victory. We really appreciate our event volunteers who are there to help us.

Joseph Telegen (English): I have volunteered before, and it was a delightful experience.

Doug: Be sure to talk to your constituencies about this. It is in the HUB games area. There will be snacks, food, and beer.

Natalie: How do I sign up to volunteer?

Doug: Come to the front table to sign up. Our Office Manager can also help you sign up.

Joseph Telegen (English): What sort of drinks would be available?

Doug: Water, soda, beer.

### **Officer Reports**

Alex (Vice President): Lobby Day, next Friday, sign up. Also Pharmacy students, if you have anyone who is interested in Lobby Day or have any questions, please see me. If your school is having a lobby day as well, please let me know as well. Remember, February 6th. We are working on getting money for childcare. The big thing is how that would affect our funding for higher education.

Douglass (Treasurer): Come to the V-day mixer. I know that there are new senators, if you are interested in the Science and Policy Committee, please feel free to contact me. Come to our meetings. If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact me.

Natalie (Secretary): Officers' office hours are on our website. Also to follow up on resolutions, if you have any questions regarding the process, send me an email and I am happy to talk to you about it. We still have more than \$5000 in the diversity fund that we would like give out and help support diversity efforts of graduate students across campus, so please spread the word and apply.

Alice (President): The Student Technology Fee (STF) has a lot of money left. If you have need for tech related funds, go visit their website. The deadline has been extended I believe. We will be getting more information in the next senate meeting.

Douglass: What's STF?

Alice: STF is Student Technology Fee. It is a fund that you can apply for technology related things.

Alice: If you are interested in sitting on a University administrative committee, we have seats. We have had some really active graduate students serving as Executive Liaisons this year, and this Friday, we are having an Executive Liaisons Summit. There is one at 1:00 and there is one at 5:00. It will be a chance for us to talk about the joint issues and check in with each other. Also if you are interested in sitting on a committee, please feel free to come. It will be in room 303 or 304, depending on the session you attend.

### **Announcements**

Alice: Health Equity Circle is meeting Thursday at 6:30.

Brian Tracey (Marine & Environmental Affairs): Friday from 4:30-6:30 at ECC, there will be the first LGBTQ and Allies mixer.

Meixi Ng (Education): There is an event on Black Lives Matter on Friday. I will send the details to Natalie.

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology): Our constituencies thank everyone for the announcements, keep them coming.

Rene: GO HAWKS

Alex: Lobby day, grab posters and flyers on your way out.

**Adjourn**

Yasmeen Hussain (Biology) moved to adjourn

Jason Young (Geography) seconded

Meeting adjourned at 7:04.