



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT SENATE**

Exec Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2017 | HUB 303

Members Present

GPSS President Soh Yeun (Elloise) Kim (on Phone)
GPSS Secretary: Giuliana Conti
GPSS Vice President of External Affairs: Matt Munoz
GPSS Vice President of External Affairs: Tori Hernandez
GPSS Treasurer: Brad Copenhaver
GPSS Executive Senator: Grant Williamson
GPSS Executive Senator: Michelle Brault
GPSS Executive Senator: Peder Digre
GPSS Executive Senator: Laura Taylor
ASUW Director of Internal Policy and the Liaison: Bo Goodrich
Associate Dean for Student & Postdoc Affairs, Grad School: Kelly Edwards
HUB Director: Justin Camputaro
Assistant Director of Student Activities: Renee Singleton

1. Call to Order **5:32 PM**

2. Approval of the Agenda **5:33 PM**

Tori Hernandez: Approves the agenda

Matt Munoz: Seconds

3. Goals for 2017-2018 School Year

5:33PM

Tori Hernandez: Shares the GPSS goals for School Year 2017-18. Some of the goals include writing resolutions from Officers and Exec, also different ways GPSS wants to advocate to students. Opens up the conversation to see what goals everyone has for the next year.

Shares her goals: 1) Update the website with better information for Senators and better information for GPSS as a whole. 2) Updating information of Exec Senators and having bios as well on the website.

Giuliana Conti: Shares her goal which is ways of better representing the GPSS departments so that during meetings, its more representative than personal. Invites ideas.

Peder Digre: Says, that it should be about being representors of job than people so that people know what they are signing up for.

Michelle Brault: Shares her goal which is to update the Bylaws and make it less interpretable and ensure consistency.

Brad Copenhaver: Shares his goal which is to do better marketing of the resources so that students can take opportunity of funding resources etc.

Tori Hernandez: Shares another goal which is to build better contact with other Senators through Atleast one open house every quarter.

Laura Taylor: Shares her goal which is to create a more inclusive environment for GPSS where people are open to speak up even if they are the minority.

Peder Digre: Adds, that GPSS should better follow parli pro and maybe do an orientation for everyone.

Giuliana Conti: Shares that although parli pro is her responsibility, there might be others who can do it better. Also, when someone become co-chairs of the committees, suggests having letters sent to the Advisors about nomination of the position of the committees similar to a Senator recognition.

Laura Taylor: Points that not all programs are kind to extra-curricular activities especially in the sciences as it takes up too much time from research. Therefore, suggests making it optional.

Kelly Edwards: Agrees and shares that something similar had happened with Postdocs. So, suggests best to avoid or keep it optional. Regarding parli pro and making it inclusive, it's important to highlight that it's a tool that gives voices to Senators.

Peder Digre: Suggests taking help from ASUW as they had talked about it a lot in the past year.

Bo Goodrich: Volunteers to help with that.

Laura Taylor: Points that the Executive Body needs to work more cohesively together. In the past, there were tensions between the Executives. If there are tensions in the leadership, it won't translate well into the Body as a whole. Therefore, recommends everyone to work in harmony.

Rene Singleton: Shares that one of the goals is to facilitate orientations and trainings for the whole of Exec which would include learning about Parli pro, group dynamics, resources available. Also volunteers to share knowledge from other schools and history of GPSS and the best practices. Suggests having an engagement oriented session for GPSS and Exec.

Giuliana Conti: Also suggests conflict-resolution training for GPSS Senators in knowing how to react on certain topics. Given that there were few tensed situations in the past meetings, these trainings could help handling rough topics.

Justin Camputaro: Shares that the Body enables diverse opinions to be shared and voiced out. Talks about the history, and going back to the elections, recollects being one of the best that happened as far as student government is concerned where so many diverse opinions were put on the table and considered. The avenue was more about allowing people to voice than look at solutions. Highlights that in meetings, people will not get their way in different times. But that is how most successful organizations function. It's really about how to make sure that all of the voices get on the table and not get carried away by emotions. Doing things in a productive way would help gear towards success. There are resources on campus that can help with that, such as Ombuds, HR professionals etc. The SAO and Hub Staff can also help identify people on campus.

Tori Hernandez: Shares that she is in contact with Ombuds already for conflict resolution training for Exec.

Kelly Edwards: Another goal for grad students is professional development. Investing in student leaders is something that has been a goal for a while and look at better investments in leadership development. Recommends talking about it in one of the open houses.

Matt Munoz: Shares that because the next legislative assemble is going to be a short one (60 days), the primary focus is going to be on policy and budget amendments regarding inquiry. His goal is to expand the conversation and include grad education into it. Also, to ramp up federal advocacy as there is a lot more happening at the federal level that affects grad school students and a lot of constituents are looking at ways to get involved in it.

Bo Goodrich: Shares that one of his goals is to have a successful partnership between ASUW and GPSS this year. In the past there has been unclear communication and therefore the two organizations have to be working together and support each other in the coming year. Another goal is to have all of the protected seats filled in ASUW committees.

Elloise Kim: Shares that when it comes to Parli pro, there is a need to train themselves better. Agrees with Giuliana's idea of having someone else provide the training on Parli pro than GPSS Officers. Recommends it to be someone from Judicial. Also agrees on conflict resolution training and better partnership between ASUW and GPSS. Also highlights that different opinions should be respected to ensure diversity of the Body. There have been feedbacks in the past that the Senate

is not as welcoming as it should. Therefore, instead of having just the Senate voice, it should also welcome other's opinions and create an inclusive environment.

Michelle Brault: Adds on to Rene's goals of doing the training at the beginning of the year. Wants to put together something for the incoming Senators in place that they can have instead of formal training. Recommends having an onboarding packet with the copy of Bylaws and other information that's required for an Exec Senator to know.

Kelly Edwards: Also recommends having fun for themselves while doing their jobs so that they create a row of memories.

Justin Camputaro: Shares that The Hub has changed its mission statement and one can notice a definitive engagement with everyone. But the partnership statement is around three primary points: 1) help to enhance the UW community 2) fostering student engagement 3) to focus on educational side of what The Hub does.

In the end, the job is to help UW in its success. His job is to make provide the tools that are necessary for GPSS to perform its duties. Can rely on Rene and Justin anytime they need.

Grant Williamson: Recommends that as an Executive Body, they all need to agree on clear vision and align with it to be most effective.

Michelle Brault: Agrees and adds that on updating the Bylaws, every Officer must read and understand what their responsibilities are because that is GPSS overarching vision. Every year things are done differently. Ignoring things that people have done in the past is not acceptable. Also recommends all Exec Officers to read the Bylaws as well and be the eyes and ears for Senate when they can't be there themselves.

Justin Camputaro: Shares that The Hub has developed something for the leadership called as Commitments that each one is supposed to abide by. It includes things such as "we all are committed to reading the Bylaws and living it", "we are committed to engaging in healthy conflict" etc. These will help in adding to the vision component that guides the results and the commitments will ensure one is on track. Suggests GPSS and Exec to think about having something similar as that has kind of helped The HUB's Leadership to come together as a team.

Giuliana Conti: Shares that from her conversation with Senators, she learned that there needs to be many more people from the Arts Department – Drama, Music, Landscape Architecture etc. She will try to get more representation from Arts. Ensure resolutions are updated and have them active. Another self- goal is to connect more with Advisors for better communication. Create direct communication with them especially with departments that do not have Senate representation.

Grant Williamson: Shares that for his department, he has requested access for list from his Advisor so that he can send the announcements directly. Recommends that solution to Senators if they face trouble with sharing announcements directly.

Kelly Edwards: Suggests having Senators share their way of doing these things so that one can consider and try given that every department is different.

Giuliana Conti: Also shares that several Senators shared that they did not have an idea what their jobs or roles were as Senators. A way to address the concrete ways people can get themselves involved is something that needs to be looked into.

Michelle Brault: Shares that's something Exec Senators can help with. Can introduce themselves as well as share best practices.

Elloise Kim: Suggests having these info sessions during open house. Since there are new Senators coming in throughout the year, they seem lost as they miss out on introductions etc. So, a workshop led by Exec would be great to educate them about their responsibilities.

4. Summer Plan – Staff Hiring & Meeting Schedule

6:03 PM

Tori Hernandez: Wants to hire a Director of Events by the end of Aug'17 to help with Husky Sunrise. Opens up conversation on what they want to see in Staff Members.

Laura Taylor: Shares that in the past, she has met staff members only through sheer co-incidence. Most times, she doesn't know who the Staff members are what they do. So, sharing that information would be helpful.

Michelle Brault: Agrees and shares that she know what half of the staff members do but not the other half. Recommends hiring someone for the role of Parliamentarian so they are more apt to come to the meetings and take the responsibility seriously.

Rene Singleton: Highlights that the Officers and the Exec Senators are the ones who know inside and out of, Parli pro, Bylaws and resolutions. It's high time they are trained and made comfortable with Parli pro so that they can share comfortably with others. Says that she is happy to help if required in providing the training.

Giuliana Conti: Shares that as a Secretary, being a Parliamentarian is her responsibility. However, shares her confidence in someone who can follow the conversations better doing that. A lot of time was taken last year about having conversations on how to have conversations.

Rene Singleton: Clarifies her point that not all Execs are busy all the time and some of the Execs wanted to have more role. So, can do this collectively. Undergrads spend a lot of time on training themselves and they memorize things. So, making it part of the process would be great. Recommends using Sturgis' rules.

Michelle Brault: Asks why its recommended to follow Robert's and Sturgis' rules vs. ASUW's training materials.

Rene Singleton: Clarifies that the Undergrad Senate uses Roberts. Board of Directors, Board of Regents, House of Washington uses Sturgis as it's an easier process to follow and has less restrictions.

Giuliana Conti: Shares that she will be looking for videos to make it fun for Senators to watch and learn from.

Kelly Edwards: Shares that it would help as they are also looking at re-populating the Judicial.

Grant Williamson: Shares that currently Judicial Committee has people that know the least that's going on because it was restricted that the members cannot be present on any other committees. Suggests having people from other committees get involved when there are committee specific issues to be dealt with. Basically, include people who are not all that involved with GPSS.

Elloise Kim: In terms of instrumentalities, suggests educating the Judicial Committee better about other Committees; having said that, it doesn't mean that they cannot participate in other committees. They can participate, but cannot Chair or be a part of the board of those committees. GPSS must extend better support.

Michelle Brault: Recommends setting clear expectations in terms of having them called upon anytime to help with other Committees. Recommends them having a flexible schedule, be present and actively participate.

Laura Taylor: While she agrees that it's important to be transparent with the role of Judicial Committee, the problem with getting involved with the committee is because they cannot be a part of any other committee. Need to find a way to change the Bylaws for people to be on Judicial better than be active.

Rene Singleton: Shares that in the past, Judicial Committee would meet once in two weeks Atleast. That's something missing right now. It will help keep them connected.

Michelle Brault: Shares that it is the way the committee is talked about and put across. Highlighting the importance of the committee would be better.

Elloise Kim: Suggests re-looking and revising the Bylaws regarding roles of Judicial Committee. The Secretary's role is very important to keep the Judicial Members engaged.

Matt Munoz: Approves the motion to extend time by 5 minutes

Michelle Brault: Seconds

Laura Taylor: Suggests sending an email before the first Senate meeting that says election for Judicial Committee will be conducted and highlighting the responsibilities of the members so that they get to start thinking about it.

Tori Hernandez: Goes back to staff hiring. Director of Events, Office Manager and Senate Clerk to be hired in September. All of the other positions will be hired after that during the year. Regarding Exec Meeting schedules; Aug 9th, Aug 30th, and Sept 13th, 2017. The September meeting to be decided over an online poll.

5. 2017 Officer Elections Review

6:23 PM

Laura Taylor: Shares that she had a lot of issues with the way the elections went down in the past. Needs to revise election standards. Shares some of her discomfort with regard to Leadership endorsing candidates, having secret tickets, having closed door sessions etc. were inappropriate. Suggests highlighting them on Bylaws as well as many ran based on transparency which was only talked about but not practiced.

Grant Williamson: Shares is discomfort of being added to the Election Committee just a day before the elections. It all comes back to not having the right people in the right place at the right time. In need for clear guidelines and people must know well to make decisions. The Bylaws don't need to be drastically re-written.

Michelle Brault: Agrees and clears that the Bylaws confused them with the aspect of Officers can vote or not. That confusion needs to be cleared. The Bylaws needs to be very clear pertaining to communication. Also suggests putting together things that need to go in the Election's guide for next year. Particularly, a baseline on code of ethics in campaigning.

Tori Hernandez: Agrees and adds that a point of that comes from Election Guidelines on what can be done or not. Therefore, the changes that needs to be done is on Election Guidelines and not on Bylaws. Suggests writing a guide for elections next year.

Michelle Brault: Shares that the guide needs to be approved by the Senate each year.

Laura Taylor: Shares that she had no idea what needed to be done and that the Elections Guide did not mention anything on what needed to be done. So, she personally made the decision that everything was off the table. So, it's important to inform candidates about the expectations.

Elloise Kim: Agrees and shares that the Election Guide should serve as a rule book that needs to be following rather than allowing assumptions to drive actions. In the previous election, the Senators were not allowed to vote until the end and hence many of them left without casting their votes. That was a deprivation of the Senator's basic right of voting which cannot happen again.

Giuliana Conti: Suggests having a way for tie-breaker if there is a tie-on Election's day so that by the time the meeting is over, someone is elected rather than waiting for two weeks. In the past,

there have been instances of people losing their energy and feel frustrated knowing they have to wait for two weeks for the results to come out.

Grant Williamson: Makes another Bylaw suggestion of making dispute resolution process better specified. Important to specify that the disputes can be resolved best and cannot extend longer than two weeks.

Brad Copenhaver: Suggests discussing on campaign tactics and procedures ahead of time. Also suggests talking about how GPSS does its election. Suggests having the meetings prior, having the speeches ready beforehand, have them online and use one of University's systems to vote online which would avoid having everyone in one room for hours going through with the process. Also highlights that it was inappropriate to ask the Officers and Candidates to leave the room after the speech on Election's day. There was absolutely no transparency. Suggests highlighting the process on the Elections Guide, what the new process is, what new changes can be expected etc.

Michelle Brault: Shares that meeting with the Elections Committee had to happen in the second week of the Spring Quarter. If that meeting had happened, there would have been plenty of time to discuss the disputes and Judicial process to be carried out. So, first and foremost, that needs to be done and the Bylaws needs to be followed. As part of her goal shared earlier, she is going to ensure those discrepancies are cleared out and propose it to the new Judicial Committee. Requests Laura to help looking into it and propose ideas.

Laura Taylor: Agrees

Matt Munoz: Shares that the 15 minutes time limit that was imposed did not actually come from the Elections Committee but came from a Senator. Hence suggests not discussing that at the current meeting as no Officers had no control over that.

Brad Copenhaver: Disagrees and shares that it is appropriate to have all of those conversations as they are the Leaders and Senate represents the whole of Grad School. As leaders, it's important to be thinking about these. It comes down to Expectations vs. Reality.

Tori Hernandez: Makes a motion to extend time by 10 minutes

Michelle Brault: Approves

Justin Camputaro: Shares than in comparison to others, voting electronically is something that's great as it gives an opportunity to all. Regarding timing, feels that the elections are lengthier. Suggests evaluating timings of elections in Elections Guide and Bylaws. Also encourages looking into best practices that are changing across country in Student Governments/Groups which is the timing of transitions. It is a practice happening earlier in School year and not necessarily in Summer time. Suggests looking at doing things differently and not stick to doing things the way it is done. Suggests taking a more radical and practical approach.

Laura Taylor: Shares that, as per Bylaws, someone from Executive Committee should sit on the Election's Committee. Discussing these ideas would be ideal and volunteers to take on the seat and role.

Elloise Kim: Agrees with Justin that the election time was lengthier. It was more of adjustments in the past years. Points that there is no time limit that can be imposed whatsoever. Bylaws could be as prescriptive as needed, however it cannot be a trap for GPSS where a prescriptive Bylaws needs to be followed as specified. Needs to be more diligent on updating Bylaws and working closely with Judicial. Also highlights that Senate must express its opinions on what went wrong in the last elections.

Rene Singleton: Recommends getting rid of closed sessions as they are outdated. Rather give endorsement abilities to people for them to express themselves. Important to discuss if Officers should or shouldn't endorse anybody. It all boils down to values.

Matt Munoz: Highlights that it's important to remember that it's the Senate that's directing them what to do and not the other way around. Senate has the final say. Even if dissatisfied, execution must be made as he Senate recommends.

Michelle Brault: Shares that it couldn't have been on Election's Guide since it came from the Election's Committee. Understands why it made candidates uncomfortable but don't get to decide on what makes campaigns uncomfortable vs. what the Senate wants.

6. Executive Senator Reports

X:XX PM

7. Officer Reports

X:XX PM

8. Announcements

X:XX PM

9. Adjournment

X:XX PM

: Approves to adjourn
: Seconds
