- ***Meeting called to order at 3:37pm***
- **Approval of the Minutes**
  - Motion to approve, seconded. No objections to the approval of the minutes.
- **Announcements & Updates:**
  - Upcoming Events – *Kevin, Programming Coordinator*
    - First Friday Social Hour – tonight at The Tap
    - StepUp IU – 3/11 from 6-7 – how to support friends/colleagues when they are stressed/overworked, depressed, etc.
    - 3/12 7-9pm – free bowling at Back Alley
  - Awards process under way!
    - Travel Awards application are due 3/9
    - Faculty Mentor Award deadline – 3/30
  - Budget Update – *Ron, Treasurer*
    - *Postponed until later in meeting.*
  - President's Report
    - Commission for Higher Education Application
      - Public governing body in IN, student sits on commission. If you're interested, fill out the application! Pass it on to anyone you know who's interested. It is a two year commitment.
        - Is it paid? No, volunteer position
      - Strategic plan – Provost will discuss; you have the draft that was released; please look over the grad sections and provide feedback.
        - Townhall last week; faculty talking about it; we're gathering feedback; focus group on Monday; feedback will be forwarded to the Provost
      - Pages
        - Service offered by school allowing students to have a webpage allowing public access to research/portfolio. These pages aren't searchable presently, but faculty/staff could make their pages searchable. A few emails later,

this will be changed to allow student pages to be searchable, on an opt-in basis.
- Discretionary funding
    - We set aside $2000 each year for Exec Comm discretionary use, we want to open it up to committees/Assembly proposals. Send blurb and proposal.
- Legislation Update
    - Preferred Naming Resolution – email communication with VP of Technology staff looking into it; president is looking into it.
    - Fossil Fuel Resolution – many meetings; met with various VPs; working on what divestment is/isn't possible, what we can do with capital planning.
- International Students
    - Working all year with Office of International Services to secure better presence for international students, we finally have international student reps; we're going to continue to work with them about their specific issues.
- Dean of Students Advisory Board
    - President McRobbie there today; talked about culture of care, strategic plan, and online courses.
- **Business:**
    - **Speaker**: Lauren Robel, *Provost & Executive Vice President*
        - Y'all have been doing such phenomenal work this year – it's great to see the proposals come out one, after the other. Thrilled you're working to ensure international student representation because it is such an important population.
        - Strategic plan is online
        - What is the campus?
            - Not plan for individual schools, nor for athletics. Campus provides shared resources for academics – classrooms, research spaces, libraries, teaching support, cultural spaces, cross-disciplinary academics, student spaces
            - Will skip undergrad portion – ensure quality of programs
            - Graduate student issues – funding, external review of quality of programs/transparency, career counseling, cross-program initiatives, health/wellness.
            - Research – infrastructure, interdisciplinary centers, funding and inter-institutional support

- Faculty – recruitment, evaluation, development, and support for faculty governance mechanisms
- Internationalization – OVPIA (recruitment, infrastructural support, leverage international partnerships, etc.)

- Strategic plan charts a vision for the academic aspects of the campus along a reasonable time horizon; specific to this place, must account for overarching trends and environment; must be desirable and imaginable to internal/external constituencies; must be focused enough to guide activity at campus level; must be flexible enough to allow for changing conditions.
- Strategic plan is NOT: facilities plan, abstract statement of core values, etc.
- In August, went through environmental scan – looking at environment in which we seek funding/operate programs; 11 teams presented individual reports in December. The group reached out with large groups of staff, students, faculty and administrators and made 150+ data requests.
- This semester, multiple meetings with constituencies about the reports, which are also publicly available.
- Looking for public comment from everyone – trying to get as much feedback as possible. So far, over 200 comments online. Those vary in quality, but all read.
- Now in implementation process – assigning ownership of objectives, prioritizing objectives, developing implementation, assessing resource needs (reallocating resources and provost funds); working to ensure everything we're doing will have a clearly identified impact.
- Graduate education goal – to have a vibrant portfolio of high quality degree programs, characterized by deep intellectual engagement with faculty, systematic pursuit of transformative knowledge, interdisciplinary fluidity; strong institutional commitment to completion and success; and international routes to post-degree careers.
  - Focus: student success (time to degree completion, advising/career placement (many grad students are heading into places that may not all be encompassed in a research institution – what is available for these students?), certifications that will help with placement, internships, overseas study grants); taking our knowledge to the world (online modules – things that are happening in the professional student population; idea of expanding certificates to online, ex: teacher cert, SPEA programs).

- Research
  - Focus: grand challenges – coordinated, collaborative efforts from research universities, foundations, gov'tal entities, etc.
    - Focus on things that go across schools/disciplines; we are surrounded by poverty – we might want to think about having an impact on our surrounding communities.
      - Question: what steps are being taken to reduce tie to receiving degrees?
        - If you look across the disciplines, not the professional programs, the time varies from 10-11 years in humanities, to 8-9 years in the sciences – that's a long time to be in a degree program. Most universities are asking what keeps students – is this amount of time necessary to achieve goals or is it something else such as funding that stands in their way? Many complexities to time to PhD – crisis in funding for some of our PhD students. we're looking towards a philanthropic capital campaign to get funding for students.
      - Question: can you address how the plan will address disparities in career placement in different programs?
        - We've already put over 1B into career placement, but not focused on grad/professional level. Observation at this point is that schools devote different levels of resources to career placement. We're working on figuring out for dep'ts within the college, what kind of career advising can we support to allow students to pursue non-academic careers.
      - Question: overall idea to redistribute resources into programs that are successful? Is there a push to consolidate programs?
        - At this point, focus is what happens to our grads in these programs – are they having

an impact, where are they going? We've done some initial work on placement of PhD students, and I watch the professional schools too, that's what I'm interested in at this point.

- Question: time to degree, given that a PhD is mostly research, what are your thoughts on the 60 credits of coursework and 30 credits of research; any effort to reduce coursework and increasing research?

  - I'm open to hearing thoughts about this; dean of college has already said we need to be thinking of this issue. My position doesn't directly control curriculum, but I'm interested in looking at making programs a better fit for what our students need.

- Focus group on Monday March 10 from 1-2 at Kirkwood Hall, please register; small groups.
- Please send feedback on strategic plan.
- Elections – run by VP Dave
  - Really important, if you have questions feel free to slow down and ask, otherwise let's be timely. We have 5 elected positions. We'll do the elections sequentially. We'll start with further nominations, then President election. Each candidate will speak and take questions, then will be asked to leave the room. Time for discussion. Then election process. Should be five separate ballots. If you're not a rep/proxy, you are not able to vote. If you're an observer to see the meeting and accidentally took ballots, we can't take them. While only reps and proxies can make nominations, anyone can be nominated.
    - Also, note – no confidence option on all the ballots.
    - Reps can vote, even if running for election.
    - After each election, we'll announce the results of the election and then allow any further nominations for the next election. Will close floor to nominations before election process begins.
  - Floor open to nominations – any nominations?
    - Nomination for Andy Rettison for GPSO Liaison. Nomination not accepted.

- Floor closed for presidential nominations – moved and seconded. Closed through unanimous consent.
    - Candidates – Brady Harman and Jasmine Burditt
        - Brady – JD/MPA student, concentration on international development; rep for two years, now president; a year ago I was telling the Assembly what I wanted to do – I wanted to focus on advocacy. People didn't realize we're the student gov't for grad/professional students; we have a lot of responsibility – we need to be proactively looking at policy and bringing feedback to the admin. I really pushed for that culture of advocacy. A lot of the problem in the past was stifling the advocacy – goals were to have functioning committees, increase on-campus presence, etc.
            - Plans for next year? We have a good foundation; we're functioning how we should be. You should reelect me because the admin now recognizes student voice we need to build on the foundation we laid this year.
            - Any additional initiatives? I believe in tangible goals and ideas for next year – increase inclusivity, more active reps, creating president's council, polling students, and increasing transparency.
            - What is the president's council? Idea of community building across campus – infrequent meetings of grad organizations to share best practices and issues that are common across campus; broader feedback.
        - Jasmine – first year grad student at SPEA, running for president because big on creating an atmosphere of inclusiveness – I want to be close to the GPSO reps and I want them to be close to me. I'm interested in devoting my time to making sure your voices are heard on this campus. I'm all about what you're interested in so I can communicate that effectively. Resolutions are nice, but on an individual level my voice wasn't heard. I want to know to your committee meetings and see and hear what people are doing on the ground level. I want to keep

everyone in the loop. I'm about committing myself for the year.

- What are you going to do differently besides the close relationships? Structure wise Brady has done an excellent job about getting things done, I would go and sit in on each committee meeting at least once per semester; more updates.

- Given the fact that Brady has made this organization useful, would you keep in contact with Brady? Definitely; I'd include him on the initiatives I'd bring forward.

- What other leadership experience have you had? In SPEA I'm connecting with students, faculty and staff to bring forward diversity programming.

- Noticed running for VP/P, would you provide the same energy as VP? If so, which would you prefer? Most definitely; this energy is who I am.

- How realistic you think it is to do these things you're saying you'll do? With a 20 hour time commitment, I already work two jobs and am a full-time student; I've managed to hold it all together. I would definitely make time for my reps.

- Discussion –
  - No discussion.
- Vote:
  - Brady – 40
  - Jasmine – 9
  - No confidence – 1

- VP – any nominations? No further nominations. Floor for nominations closed through unanimous consent.
  - Candidates Jasmine and Justin –
    - Jasmine – same goals as before, regardless of if I'm vp or a rep.
      - I know you and Brady are trustworthy people; what if there is a conflict in opinion between you and Brady – how will you handle that? Conflict of interest is bound to happen, we have similar interests in policy, but at the same time, I'm all

about inclusiveness, so I'm sure we could reach a consensus about what is best for GPSO.

- o Justin – physics PhD program, I was studying for my master's a year ago and was recruited to form a graduate student gov't; we created the governing documents, but then I graduated before it got on its feet and was honored to be part of the building process – it's really important to have an informed and involved graduate student. I share Brady's views about advocacy and it's something we need to work to improve.
  - Why didn't you run for president? Time commitment – I knew I wouldn't have the ability to commit fully and didn't want to not commit fully.
  - What if you and Brady have a conflict in policy – how will you handle it? No issue is impassible, people can always work together to compromise to find something that works for everyone. It's tough, but doable.
  - Your voice as a grad student vs. professional students – is there a difference? I would have a unique perspective that I would bring to the conversation.
  - What are the kinds of leadership roles you expect next year outside GPSO? Mainly research in my department and taking a few classes, this year is my intense coursework year. Otherwise I won't have anything else on my plate.
  - Do you have the institutional knowledge to fully complement the VP position? I believe I do and I'm always learning more. I've familiarized myself with MN structure before, and I am doing the same here.
  - Does your funding from physics conflict with your GPSO funding? To my knowledge VP doesn't get money (informed $1000) – my research advisor is comfortable with this position.
  - Why did you want to pursue this? I really believe in strengthening graduate student voice; I have a cool

advisor who is also involved in shared governance and he's very supportive of my pursuits in this arena.

- Discussion
    - Are time commitments different from P and VP? P is significantly more; 20 hrs vs. 1-5 hrs.
    - How long will Justin be here? Continuity is important. He's still in coursework – this was his first year, he'll be here for a few years.
- Vote:
    - Jasmine – 22
    - Justin – 28
    - No confidence – 0

- Treasurer nominations? None floor for nominations closed without objection.
    - Candidate – Zach Bailey
        - Zach – MPA at SPEA, we're pretty fiscally sound. I'd like to do philanthropy events in the future; fundraisers, etc.
            - Philanthropy events? Pick an organization and from our social raise funds/resources for nonprofits we like.
            - Other treasurer experience? I've worked with the trial lawyer association of Indy, worked for a campaign as deputy finance director, also treasurer for student orgs in undergrad.
    - Discussion
        - No discussion
    - Vote:
        - Zach – 43
        - No confidence – 3
- Parliamentarian
    - No further nominations – floor closed with unanimous consent.
    - Candidate – Skyler Hutto.
        - Skyler – 1L, worked with sustainability council; vice chair of sustainability committee; I'm a little familiar with RONR, will become more familiar, looked over the constitution. Looking forward to next year.

- - - How do you think what you're learning in law school to this position? Parliamentarian is the most rule-based position; goal is to check our actions against our written constitution.
      - Discussion
        - No discussion
      - Vote:
        - Skyler – 43
        - No confidence – 1
  - Liaison – one further nomination; then floor closed without objection.
    - Candidate - Julianna Gjohnaj
      - Julianna – 1L, I'm a good fit –went to hotel school at Cornell, I know how to communicate effectively, before law school I was responsible for 40 properties.
    - Discussion
      - Is the fact that she didn't get nominated until now is that been significant? She's been talking about this for the past week.
      - What was her hesitation? She knew she could nominate herself day of.
      - Procedure if she didn't win? See bylaws/constitution.
      - Rep: I hope she is elected; I have no doubt she'll do a great job.
    - Vote:
      - Julianna – 37
      - No confidence - 1
  - Appointed Officer Process
- Meeting adjourned at 5:17pm