I. Introduction

The GPSS resolution process allows the Senate to express the official opinion of the graduate student body at the University of Washington. Existing practices, however, do not provide a sufficient amount of time for deliberation on the merits of a resolution or an opportunity to express objections. I recommend the following policy change and updated timeline to provide a dedicated time for resolution deliberation and increase transparency.

II. Policy Recommendation

A dedicated period of deliberation regarding whether or not a resolution should be adopted by GPSS shall take place between the end of the second reading and voting. No further amendments may be offered during this period. The sponsors of the resolution may still field technical questions about the resolution during this time, but no sponsor should be acting as chair during deliberation or voting or otherwise hold a privileged position in the open discussion of the resolution’s merits.

Voting shall take place at the close of deliberation (unless the resolution is tabled, etc.). All votes shall be recorded and made publicly available so that constituents may evaluate the voting records of their elected representatives.

III. Resolution Timeline

The following timeline should be followed for all resolutions debated by the Senate, although the Senate may by a simple majority of those present and voting at a meeting with quorum waive any of the guidelines in extenuating circumstances, or in the case of moving directly to the second reading, a two-thirds majority. The time guidelines below shall be taken as amending and superseding those in previous policy memoranda.

Two Sundays before the scheduled Senate meeting for the resolution’s first reading:

- First draft of the resolution due to the Secretary by 8:00 PM

Resolution’s first reading:
• Sponsors introduce the resolution to the Senate, including the motivation/need for the resolution, how it fits into the goals, values, and mission of GPSS, and the main substantive clauses

• All present at the GPSS meeting may provide suggestions for strengthening or clarifying the resolution and/or concerns about the resolution’s content

Sunday after the resolution’s first reading:

• Second draft of the resolution due to the Secretary by 8:00 PM

Week between the first and second readings:

• The Secretary will provide an online discussion forum where all Senators and Executive Committee members may propose amendments

• Resolution authors may accept any amendments they deem friendly or reject amendments they do not wish to see included in the resolution

Monday before the resolution’s second reading:

• Final draft of the resolution due to the Secretary by 4:00 PM

• Any proposed amendments not already accepted by the resolution authors at this time shall be considered rejected, although they may be reintroduced during the second reading

Resolution’s second reading:

• Any Senator and Executive Committee member may offer amendments
  o All amendments shall require a majority of those present and voting to be adopted

• No further amendments may be adopted upon the close of the second reading

Resolution debate and final decision:

• At minimum five minutes of open deliberation shall be provided at the close of the second reading regarding whether or not the Senate should approve the resolution

• At the close of deliberation, the resolution may be adopted by a majority of those present and voting
  o Yeas, nays, and abstentions shall be recorded and made publicly available on the GPSS website

IV. Policy Implementation

With a majority vote of the GPSS Executive Committee, this memorandum shall stand as official GPSS policy, subject to review by the GPSS per Article VI, Section A, Clause 4 of the GPSS Bylaws. This memorandum may be amended by a majority vote of the GPSS Executive Committee.

1 “Any actions of the Executive Committee are subject to review by the GPSS.”