GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 2nd 2020, 5:30pm via Zoom

# Members present:

GPSS President Aaron Yared

GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Genevieve Hulley

~~GPSS Vice President of External Affairs Hannah Sieben~~

GPSS Secretary Logan C. Jarrell

GPSS Treasurer Julia Overfelt

Executive Senator Monica Jensen

Executive Senator Terrence Pope

Executive Senator Andrew Shumway

Executive Senator Marty Varela

Executive Senator Britahny Baskin

ASUW Director of Internal Policy Antonio Gonzalez

Associate Director of Student Activities Rene Singleton

Associate Dean of Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Bill Mahoney

# 1. [Action] Call to Order 5:33pm

**Aaron Yared** called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

# 2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:33pm

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance)** moved to approve the agenda. **Greg Papp (Marine & Environmental Affairs)** seconded. No objections.

# 3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:33pm

**Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** moved to approve the agenda. **Genevieve Hulley** seconded. No objections.

# 4. [Information] Land Acknowledgement 5:34pm

***Julia Overfelt*** *gave the land acknowledgement.*

# 5. [Information] Breakout Room Discussion 5:35pm

**Aaron Yared** said that the Officers and the Executive Senators had worked on the new GPSS theme and mission and vision statements over the past couple months. He pointed out that the attendance word of the day was resilience which was the GPSS theme for the year. He said that when he ran for President, he wanted this year’s theme to build off of the theme chosen by last year’s President, Giuliana Conti. However, due to COVID, the Executive Committee decided that this year’s theme was going to be “resilience.” They also decided to change the mission and vision statements to fit their values and their method of teamwork. He asked Senators for feedback on the mission and vision statements since the Executive Committee existed to serve the students.

**Aaron Yared** asked everyone to share their thoughts on the new mission and vision statements in the breakout rooms.

*Senators were sent to breakout rooms for eight minutes.*

*Mission: GPSS amplifies the voices and experiences of graduate and professional students at the University of Washington and advocates for the eradication of inequities that exist within institutionalized academic settings.*

*Vision: A community of graduate and professional students that are empowered to study and lead with equity, accountability, and support.*

**Aaron Yared** directed Senators to put their feedback about the mission and vision statements into the PollEverywhere. He also encouraged Senators to share their thoughts verbally. He said that his breakout room members discussed how the mission mentioned the eradication of inequities but that the vision statement did not.

**Jennifer Emmett** said that it would be nice to add “lead with integrity” into the vision statement. She said others suggested omitting the word “support” and suggested that the Executive Committee swap “support” with “lead with integrity.”

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** said his group talked about rewording the mission statement to emphasize the point of advocacy on behalf of graduate students. He pointed out that the mission statement says it advocates for the eradication of inequities but does not necessarily say specifically for graduate students. He said his group had reworded the mission statement and would put the revision in the chat. He agreed about removing the word “support” and endorsed the idea of adding “integrity.”

**Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** explained that the mission statement explains what the organization is going to do and the vision statement is what its efforts lead to. She said that both statements do not need repetition, but that they should be supportive. She gave the example of having a mission to eradicate inequity and having a vision of living in a world where people have accountability and support or whatever they need.

**Aaron Yared** thanked everyone for their feedback and said that the Executive Committee would discuss the mission and vision statements next week. He said that he would report back on it at the first Senate meeting next quarter.

# 6. [Information] Sustainability Action Plan 5:51pm

**Christoph Strouse** introduced himself as the coordinator and project manager in the Office of Sustainability. He explained that his role encompassed developing and implementing the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) since the beginning of the fiscal year in July. He said he was also a graduate student studying urban planning and public policy. He said he would give the Senators an overview of the SAP and how to get involved with its implementation.

**Christoph Strouse** explained that the SAP was a tri-campus plan that spanned five years, until 2025. He said that the plan had five guiding principles, ten targets or goals, and twenty-five actions to achieve the targets. He said that every year, people would conduct an audit on how closely UW was on track with the SAP. He said that he would make some final recommendations in the winter quarter so that the final plan could be sent to the SAP’s Executive Committee by spring.

**Christoph Strouse** introduced the five principles of the plan. The first was decarbonization. He said that the biggest greenhouse gas emitter on campus was the Seattle campus power plant. He said that decarbonization also included processes like the UW supply chain and day to day operations. He said that UW should use resources responsibly and referred to the supply chain and said that the SAP examined whether purchasing decisions were fair, equitable, and responsible. He said that energy use and efficiency were monitored. He expressed the need for developing a sustainability lens for research and cited that many other universities had sustainability as a deeply embedded part of their research. He noted that many different departments on campus were already doing work around sustainability but cited the lack of a focused research initiative for sustainability which would be implemented through SAP. He said that SAP would promote sustainability literacy among UW students. He said that the developers of SAP were exploring the idea of a sustainability credit and potentially some sort of sustainability-related requirement for undergraduates. He said that equity and inclusion were centered in the SAP and acknowledged that sustainability has traditionally not been inclusive. He said that SAP aimed to reach students who may not have traditionally seen themselves as part of sustainability work and teach them that social sustainability and individual and institutional choices could contribute towards a more equitable society.

**Christoph Strouse** referred to the ten targets on the SAP slides. He said that the targets in the middle were actions that UW was taking to achieve those targets and the right hand panel explained how the targets aligned with the guiding principles. He said that the first target was to double student, staff, and faculty sustainability engagement by 2024. He said that the SAP endeavored to engage the community through professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. He said that the second target was to develop a sustainability framework by 2022 and that one of its core components was trying to come to terms with a university system-wide definition of sustainability. He said that the goal of this action was to help inform some of the other work around research and criteria and possibly determine the feasibility for a students’ sustainability hub. He said that a sustainability hub would function as an engagement space in the HUB or a research center that would promote engagement, equity, and research opportunities from co-curricular work to undergraduate capstone projects, to research. He said that the first two years of SAP would be to develop a feasibility study to determine the use cases and needs for a student sustainability hub.

**Christoph Strouse** said that target three would double UW’s sustainability-oriented research projects by 2025. He said this research would include graduate-level research and also expand opportunities for using the campus’ living lab. He said that UW had a campus sustainability fund that funded student projects of any level. He said that this target tied in with the idea of a sustainability framework and a definition that would inform learning outcomes and research. Target four was a comprehensive adaptable purchasing target by 2022. He explained that UW already had purchasing criteria that centered around contracting women and minority-owned businesses. He said that the Office of Sustainability wanted to expand the purchasing criteria to include circular supply chains. He said that target five was to lower emissions from professional travel by five percent by 2025. He said that this target would not affect students looking to study abroad and that it was really aimed at faculty. He said that Sustainability was confident that UW would be able to meet the goal, partly due to the pandemic forcing a lot of conferences online. He said that Sustainability was also considering establishing carbon offset credits and were developing some policy, a framework, and contracts around that as part of the SAP.

**Christoph Strouse** said that target six aimed to source 35% of the food locally by 2025. He said that UW already purchased a lot of food locally through housing and food services, but that Sustainability wanted to expand the program. He also said that Sustainability wanted to make sure that the purchased food was created sustainably and supported sustainable agriculture and ecosystem services. Target seven was to make 12% or less of commutes single occupancy by 2028. He said that this target was about improving transportation to campus. He expressed hope for the new light rail station. Target eight was for UW to lower its energy use intensity by 15% by 2025. He said it was aimed at monitoring energy use in UW buildings. He said that slightly more than one-third of buildings on campus were metered, but Sustainability was working to meter all the buildings. He said that all of the newer buildings met LEED Gold standards.

**Christoph Strouse** said target nine was to create 10% less solid waste by 2025. He said this target tied in with the procurement target and also the food target. He explained that the majority of UW campus solid waste came from dining through Housing and Food Services. He said that this waste also encompassed other types of waste such as demolished building materials. The last target was a 45% reduction of UW’s greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. He said that this target aimed to decrease UW’s dependence on its gas-powered campus utility plant, electrify all of UW’s fleet services, and implement more solar power on all three campuses.

**Christoph Strouse** said that the Office of Sustainability would start creating workgroups in the winter quarter to review the SAP on an annual basis. He said that the reports would be made quarterly in four areas: 1) purchasing food and waste, 2) transportation and carbon offsets, 3) buildings and energy, and 4) academics and research. He said that Sustainability envisioned having the workgroups lead the review process of the plan and come up with ideas of where the plan could be improved. He asked students of diverse disciplines for their perspectives and said he would give a presentation in winter quarter to report the current progress of the ten targets and actions. He invited everyone to provide input on ways that they can become more involved and said that especially interested students could make formal changes to the SAP through the workgroups and present their ideas to the Executive Committee of the SAP by spring quarter. The students would inform the SAP Executive Committee of any revisions to SAP and release the next annual action plan at the beginning of the fiscal year in July 2021. He invited Senators to email him with any questions and said he would follow up with Aaron Yared in winter quarter to present the progress of the plan.

**Genevieve Hulley** motioned to extend time by five minutes. **Marty Varela** **(Residential Community Student Association)** seconded. No objections.

***Genevieve Hulley and Julia Overfelt*** *read the questions submitted to PollEverywhere.*

**Question:** Does the SAP include any actions or goals related to UW financially divesting from fossil fuel industries?

**Christoph Strouse** said that it did not. He said it was implicitly part of the equitable purchasing target, and that the Office was creating a revolving green fund to fund projects. He said that there was a development organization on campus called Institutional Climate Action (ICA) which he was part of and that ICA’s goal was to get all publicly funded Washington higher education institutions to divest from fossil fuel industries. He said that the ICA had created a set of demands and that they were working on writing a petition. He said he was happy to follow up with the questions via email. He said that the ICA was currently gathering petition signatures and developing a resolution that was making its way through ASUW and GPSS.

**Question:** I'm concerned that a requirement for undergraduates to take a sustainability credit places the burden on the students, rather than the institution; what have ASUW or undergraduate representatives said about the proposed sustainability credit? New learning requirements can be onerous for transfer students, among others.

**Christoph Strouse** said he was unaware of how undergraduate students felt about the idea of the sustainability requirement, but that agreed with the premise that the burden should not be placed on students. He said that the goal was to use a sustainability framework and integrate a sustainability lens into the curriculum in a way that would advance teaching, learning, and research. He welcomed Senators in advocating for that approach and encouraged them to get involved come winter and spring quarters and make those recommendations for next year’s SAP.

**Question:** What can GPSS do to support this success of the SAP?

**Christoph Strouse** said it would be helpful if a couple of people participated in the review in the revision of the plan in winter and spring quarter. He asked for a passionate volunteer liaison to participate in the revision process and to take GPSS’ recommendations to the SAP Executive Committee. He asked for one person per topic. He said he would be in contact with the GPSS at the beginning of next quarter.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** motioned to extend time by five minutes. **Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences)** seconded. No objections.

**Question:** Is the university still considering a transition to hot water heating for the buildings? This is one of the largest reductions in building emissions that has been implemented by other universities across the country.

**Christoph Strouse** said yes but clarified that UW was not doing it yet. He said that UW had hired an energy manager who would review the different types of systems and facilities that UW could implement, but the first step was to move away from the gas-powered steam plant to an electric-powered hot water heating and cooling recovery system.

**Question:** Is divestment from correctional industries, such as the prison industrial complex, something that is part of your work?

**Christoph Strouse** said it was part of his personal work, but not part of the Office of Sustainability’s. He said the SAP’s equitable procurement policy touched on the issue. He said it would be great if GPSS brought the issue up as a recommended revision to the SAP.

**Question:** Can you speak more specifically to how you are including equity and accountability in the plan?

**Christoph Strouse** said there were a few actions that were outlined in the SAP. First, in terms of equity, the Office of Sustainability is trying to engage all student representatives from all three campuses. He said Sustainability was trying to reach minority students and students who would traditionally not participate in sustainability efforts. He said Sustainability was trying to get students involved in every step of potential decision making, such as equitable purchasing policy or through food procurement. He said that the SAP’s Executive Committee included Rickey Hall who is the Vice President for Minority Affairs & Diversity and university diversity officer. He said that Sustainability also had an Environmental Stewardship Committee and that had many different positions and that Sustainability was creating a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion position through the Campus Sustainability Fund. He said Sustainability was considering creating five student scholarships funded through the Campus Sustainability Fund that would promote environmental justice. He said Sustainability was actively exploring any and every opportunity to be more inclusive and equitable and in the process, but admitted it was challenging to reach every student on campus and motivate them to participate in the process. He said that Sustainability was trying to remove barriers of participation for students so that they would have more of a voice and more power in determining the policies and how SAP would be implemented.

**Christoph Strouse** thanked everyone for their time.

**Aaron Yared** asked Senators to email GPSS if they had any more questions for Christoph Strouse.

# 7. [Action] Election of Elections Committee 6:19pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that Officer elections occurred every spring quarter and that GPSS needed to elect an Elections Committee beforehand. He referred to an email he had sent out earlier and reiterated that the Elections Committee was composed of one Executive Senator and at least four other Senators. He said that anyone who wanted to run for an Officer position or an Executive Senator vacancy should resign from the Elections Committee in advance.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** said he served on the Election Committee last year and that it was difficult due to the pandemic. He said that the Committee basically facilitated the Officer elections in a fair and equitable way according to the Bylaws and the GPSS Constitution. He said that Committee members created an election guide each quarter that detailed the election procedure. The election guide was usually adapted from the previous year’s. He said that the Elections Committee had total freedom to publish whatever election guide they felt was appropriate. He said that the election guide would then have to be approved by the Senate. Upon receiving the Senate’s approval on the election guide, the Committee would collect and distribute candidate information to the Senate and monitor the election process. He said that on the day of the election, sometime in April or May, the Election Committee, not the Executive Committee, would run the meeting.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** said that the time commitment for being an Election Committee member was about one hour every other week during Winter quarter and variable hours during Spring quarter. He assured Senators that the overall workload was spread out amongst at least five different people so each individual was not burdened with too much of the workload. He said he had a great time on the Election Committee and recommended all Senators to participate.

**Logan Jarrell** invited nominations from the floor. He reminded everyone that the Elections Committee needed at least one Executive Senator and at least four other Senators.

**Julia Overfelt** asked whether an individual could still join the Elections Committee if they were unsure whether they wanted to run for a position in the future.

**Logan Jarrell** said that if a Senator wanted to run for an Officer position, they would need to resign from the committee at least thirty-five days in advance of the election, thirteen days if running for an Executive Senator position. He said that if Senators were unsure whether they would run, it wouldn’t hurt for them to join the Elections Committee now.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** recommended against Senators from joining the Elections Committee if they were sure that they were going to run for an Officer position due to possible conflict of interest.

**Tanvir Sethi (Applied Mathematics)**said he was new to GPSS and expressed his interest in volunteering for the Elections Committee given that there would be someone to guide him.

**Aaron Yared** said that there would be people to help him and act as a support system.

***Tanvir Sethi (Applied Mathematics)*** *self-nominated to the Election Committee.*

**Logan Jarrell** said that though he did not serve on the Elections Committee. As the Secretary, he would post the candidate information and connect the Elections Committee members to previous Executive Committee members if help was needed.

***Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)*** *and* ***Monica Jensen (Linguistics)*** *self-nominated to the Election Committee.*

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** clarified that having more than one Executive Senator on the Election Committee was permitted. He said there were two Executive Senators on the Election Committee last year.

***Pratima KC (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)*** *self-nominated to the Election Committee.*

**Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** asked whether having two Executive Senators helped meet the member quota of the Elections Committee.

**Aaron Yared** said the Elections Committee needed at least four Senators and one Executive Senator at minimum.

**Logan Jarrell** reminded that participation in the Elections Committee did not bar Senators from running for an Officer position or an Executive Senator position in the future.

***Lincoln Lewerke (Microbiology)*** *and* ***Greg Papp (Marine & Environmental Affairs)*** *self-nominated to the Election Committee.*

**Logan Jarrell** asked all nominees whether or not they currently sat on the Judicial or Finance and Budget committees.

**Greg Papp (Marine & Environmental Affairs)** said that he and Lincoln Lewerke (Microbiology) were both on the Judicial Committee.

**Logan Jarrell** said that Judicial Committee members were barred from concurrently sitting on the Elections Committee.

***Kira Sue Renfro (Art History),*** *and* ***Justin Pothoof (Chemistry)*** *self-nominated as members of the Elections Committee.*

**Logan Jarrell** moved to approve the nominees by general consent. **Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** seconded. No objections.

**Tanvir Sethi (Applied Mathematics)*, Pratima KC (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences), Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association), Monica Jensen (Linguistics), Kira Sue Renfro (Art History),*** *and* ***Justin Pothoof (Chemistry)*** *were confirmed as members of the Elections Committee.*

# 8. [Action] Second Reading of Non-budgeted General Fund Expenses Resolution 6:32pm

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** encouraged Senators to give any final suggestions on the Resolution. He said that the Resolution had been discussed extensively over the past few years. He expressed his confidence that the procedures outlined in the Resolution were sufficiently flexible, sustainable, and equitable and would help GPSS spend money effectively. He invited Senators to comment on the Resolution.

**Aaron Yared** read a question from the chat: *Do we need a formal motion to put edits in the document?*

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** clarified that the current comments in the document were his edits.

**Logan Jarrell** said that edits that were introduced ahead of the meeting did not need a motion to be included because the edits had happened outside of the session.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** said he would accept all the edits listed in the current resolution draft.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** asked Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences) to explain the current system.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** said that the current system was a collection of policies and memoranda that have been appearing over the years which pointed to some general principles as to what sort of projects and things money from the general fund should be spent on. He said that so far, all of those systems had only formally required a vote from the Executive Board to make a non-budgeted expenditure from the general fund. He said that this Resolution would be an alternative to that system. Theodore Cohen stressed the importance of having the entire Senate body talk about the issue because the student body had entrusted the large sum of money to the GPSS. He said he was open to all suggestions, especially the brackets of money for various levels of approval.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** expressed her concern that the tighter regulations would not restrict GPSS from disbursing money quickly in the future.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** said that the Resolution initially came about from a concern that the Executive Committee could potentially need to spend money over the summer when the GPSS body was not meeting. He said that the Resolution had broad guidelines to cover an emergency expense. He said that the goal of the Resolution was to provide as much transparency and accountability as possible. Theodore Cohen said that emergency expenses could be pushed through without approval from the GPSS general body in rare circumstances. He said this was outlined in the final statement of the Resolution to cover the potential emergency scenario, which also stipulated that the Senate body received a notice about any expenditure as quickly as possible

**Justin Pothoof (Chemistry)** asked whether there was a specific definition for what counted as an emergency expense.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** said he was not aware if the GPSS had a specific definition for what constituted an emergency expense.

**Aaron Yared** said that there was not a written definition of emergency, but that it was up to the discretion of the Executive Committee. He said that the Executive Committee would act as a buffer to make sure that money was actually used in the event of an emergency.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences)** thanked Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences) and the sponsors who helped write this. He asked how often GPSS made an unbudgeted expenditure of over $5,000. He said that he had been an Executive Senator for nearly two years and that it had never happened during his tenure.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** said it had not happened in the past. He said that unbudgeted expenditures that GPSS had made from the general fund had been for things like a computer or bus rentals, which were about $500to $1,500. He said it would be pretty rare for the expenditures to come before the full Senate.

**Logan Jarrell** motioned to close discussion in the interest of time and directly move to a vote. **Malikai Bass (Museology)** seconded.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences)** objected on the basis that there were still hands raised and questions in the chat which had not been addressed.

**Logan Jarrell** rescinded his motion.

**Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** moved to extend time by three minutes. **Logan Jarrell** seconded. No objections.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** noted that the Executive Committee and the Finance and Budgeting Committee were required to notify the Senate. He asked whether the last meeting of those committees happened before or after the last Senate meeting during the legislative session. He pointed out the possibility of the Executive Committee spending money after the last Senate meeting and then notifying the next year’s Senate of the expense.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** said that in his experience, the Finance and Budget Committee had meetings after the last Senate meeting to perform organizational tasks.

**Logan Jarrell** said that there were several cases where an Executive meeting was not followed by a Senate meeting that quarter. He suggested notifying Senators via email as an option.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** asked if one of the Resolution’s goals was about moving funds around for items that could suddenly increase in price based on demand such as bus rentals.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** said yes. He said that was what a lot of money had been spent on in the past. He said that the Resolution did not list high thresholds in order to give the Executive Committee flexibility to cover those sorts of unexpected things that did not cost much but created a big impact for whatever events were involved.

**Aaron Yared** said that he recalled the last Officer team discussing taking some of the money out of the general fund and giving it out as financial aid for COVID relief. He said it did not happen, but that there was discussion about it.

**Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** said that it was passed through the Senate.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** motioned to add the language in green on the document in two places. **Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** seconded. No objections.

**Theodore Cohen (Molecular Engineering and Sciences)** accepted the amendments.

**Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** moved to approve the Resolution through a PollEverywhere vote. **Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience)** seconded. No objections.

**Julia Overfelt** reminded everyone that proxies could vote.

**Aaron Yared** reminded everyone that only Senators and proxies for Senators could vote on the motion.

*The Resolution passed.*

# 9. [Information] Climate Working Group Joint Resolution Announcement 6:51pm

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** said he was speaking on behalf of the Climate Change Working Group to let all Senators know about a resolution draft. He said that the working group wanted feedback from the general Senate body. He explained that UW had partially divested from coal in 2014, but that it continues to financially support fossil fuel industries both directly and indirectly. He said that the Climate Change Working Group was partnering with its ASUW counterpart to draft a joint resolution calling on UW to end all financial ties to fossil fuel companies like many of its peer institutions. He said that this project was a continuation of last year’s work which had been halted due to the pandemic. He asked Senators for feedback on the current draft of the resolution and referred Senators to the link on the slide which would also be emailed out to Senators after the meeting. He invited Senators to also drop by the Climate Change Working Group after the meeting to discuss the resolution. He said that the Working Group anticipated finalizing the draft of the resolution over winter break, having it undergo first reading at the first winter quarter GPSS Senate meeting, followed by the second reading at the meeting afterward.

**Logan Jarrell** asked whether this resolution was the one that Christoph Strouse (College of Built Environments) referenced earlier.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** said it was and again invited Senators to give feedback on the resolution draft. He asked Senators to send him an email if they wanted to be more involved.

# 10. [Information] Officer and Committee Reports 6:54pm

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the U-PASS Committee had voted to suspend the U-PASS fee for the winter quarter. She said that GPSS would send out more information to all graduate and professional students about what to do if they wanted to buy a pass at the faculty and staff level.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that there would be a holiday trivia event held via Zoom on Wednesday, December 16 at 5:30pm. She encouraged Senators to send the information out to all of their constituents which would be distributed via GPSS social media channels.

**Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** said that the Legislative Advisory Board was working on getting everything finalized. She said she had one more meeting to attend this quarter and that there would be more meetings next quarter where Senators could get involved doing research and having influence on the legislative process.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Equity and Accountability Committee was taking applications for Diversity Funds on a rolling basis. He referred Senators to the GPSS website for more information. He said he planned to work on updating the Senator Handbook over the break. He said that GPSS would have a published Senate roster by the end of the quarter.

**Julia Overfelt** invited Stephen Lee, the GPSS Budget Specialist, to speak on Finance and Budgeting programs.

**Stephen Lee** introduced himself and announced that the Travel Grants had officially launched. He said that the purpose of Travel Grants was to provide financial support for students who needed to attend conferences or events for academic or professional development. He said he had worked with the Treasurer and the Finance and Budgeting Committee (F&B) to improve the Travel Grant application process. He said that F&B made the GPA requirement optional because academic performance did not fully demonstrate a student’s competence and the quality of their work. F&B also struck the layman's terms criteria that evaluated how understandable the application was. He said it created a barrier for students who struggled to speak English. He said that he had noticed there was a Google form for faculty recommendations but not for students, so he created a Google form for both students and faculty. He explained that the Google form had everything a student needed to apply, such as sections for students to upload their transcripts and ticket confirmations. Stephen Lee said that the form was on the GPSS website and would be shared through social media soon. He said that applications would be taken on a rolling basis. He noted that F&B had lots of available funding and that its members wanted to use it to fund students. He asked Senators to apply.

# 11. [Information] Announcements 6:59pm

**Genevieve Hulley** said that Graduate Students in Art History had an anti-racism reading group. She said that an invited speaker would be presenting via Zoom at 11am, Friday, December 11th. She said that the speaker would be Pamela Corey and that the title of the talk would be “Decoloniality and the Sensorium of Art History.” She invited people to reach out to her if they had any questions.

**Logan Jarrell** asked everyone to fill out UAW 4121 bargaining survey as it was closing soon. He said it would help inform the union of the priorities for collective bargaining.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that the Student Technology Committee voted to eliminate the Student Tech Fee for the next quarter. However, the Committee did not get the item to the Board of Regents in time, so it would not be enacted until spring quarter.

**Aaron Yared** said that since there were no more announcements, he would move to adjournment and working groups. He explained that each working group focused on a different subject to give senators the opportunity to explore topics without making a commitment to a committee. He said it was a gateway to further GPSS involvement. He referred to the shared screen for all the working group topics and said that the working groups would not meet for longer than twenty minutes.

**Aaron Yared** addressed a question in the chat on whether GPSS had any demographic information about who they had historically funded with GPSS funds and how GPSS measured the equitable distribution or granting of GPSS funds.

**Julia Overfelt** said that GPSS had some historic documents that kept track of who it had funded and the rates. She said she would be happy to work with Stephen Lee to create a publishable form with that information. She asked Senators to email her if they wanted a direct copy of the document.

# 12. [Action] Adjournment and Break into Working Groups 7:04pm

**Logan Jarrell** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Monica Jensen (Linguistics)** seconded.

Meeting minutes prepared by **Janis Shin**, GPSS Senate Clerk.