



## Graduate and Professional Student Senate

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### Senate Meeting Minutes Session 14

JUNE 1, 2016 | HUB 334

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#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER: 5:45 pm**

#### 2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Monica Cortes Viharo (VP of Internal Affairs)** motions to amend the agenda. She would like to make her annual officer report after approval of the minutes, as she will be leaving early.

**Mahdi Ashrafi (Mechanical Engineering)** seconds

**Laura Taylor (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** moves to approve the amended agenda.

**Ted Chen (Bioengineering)** seconds.

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#### 3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**5:45 pm**

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** moves to approve the minutes.

**Elliot Koontz (QUERM)** seconds.

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#### 4. **ANNUAL OFFICER REPORTS**

**5:46 pm**

**Monica Cortes Viharo (VP of Internal Affairs):** The theme for her work this year has been innovation. They created a new position, Director of Graduate Partnerships. Bryan Namba helped run the GPSS graduate school program reviews and the G3 mentorship program. They decided it was a lot of work for one person. Analyzing the data from the graduate school program took up much more time than anticipated, so she recommends this be taken into consideration when allocating duties next year. The graduate school is taking a year to rethink how these surveys are conducted. This summer they will talk about how Husky 100 went and how it will be implemented in the future. This year they offered discounted tickets to a Mariners Game and Kinky Boots. They hosted a public speaking workshop for international students, and a forum for being Muslim American in Seattle. This year was the GPSS 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Center for Horticulture. Husky Sunset is June 2<sup>nd</sup> between 5:00-8:00 pm, and invites

everyone to come—bring your Husky card and state issue ID. Met with Bothell and Tacoma students interested in starting their own version of the GPSS. She has also worked closely with the new UW school pantry this year to address food insecurity on campus.

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## 5. BLACK LIVES MATTER RESOLUTION

5:53 pm

**Elloise Kim (Secretary)** asks them to explain which amendments have been made since the second draft.

**Mackenzie Barton-Rowledge (Guest)**: Since the second draft they have added more footnotes explaining the terms contained within the resolution. She addresses questions and comments received online. (1) Criminal history should not be brought up in the beginning of the application process. First employers should determine whether the person is qualified for the position, and then address criminal history. (2) I-200 was not to outlaw discrimination, but to get rid of affirmative action. (3) The white and male privilege classes would be mandatory because in her experience, those students that need to take these courses the most will not take them unless they are mandatory. There are many requirements that students must fulfill before graduation; this would not be too much of a burden to add. (4) The lack of specifics regarding these courses was left up in the air purposefully. There is still a lot of research that must be done to find out what method would work best for implementation. (5) They are urging a 25% increase in faculty of color. Currently, there are 117 faculty of color across all three campuses; an increase of 25% would be around 30 individuals.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** points out a typo on Line 47.  
**Mackenzie Barton-Rowledge (Guest)** accepts as friendly.

**Grant Williamson (Molecular Engineering)** points out that Line 84 indicates the today's date, June 1<sup>st</sup>, as when these demands must be implemented.

**Mackenzie Barton-Rowledge (Guest)**: These are the demands they were given on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Grant Williamson (Molecular Engineering)**: This is problematic. The earliest these will be issued is today, which gives the administration no time to respond.

**Mackenzie Barton-Rowledge (Guest)** notes that a similar resolution was passed in the ASUW. They could include a THAT clause that explains these are the list of demands as they were presented.

**Joseph Telegen (English)**: This is a list of demands that were made previously. The purpose of the resolution is to issue support of these demands; the group that created them should do any content changes if necessary.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** adds it would be easy to add a footnote explaining that this is the date from the original document.

**Alex Bolton (President)** points out that the third THAT clause speaks to this was a list of demands made on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Elliot Koontz (QUERM)** moves to extend by ten minutes.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** seconds.

**Yasmeen Hussain (Biology)**: We should be able to edit the list of demands; especially the spelling errors. She does not whole-heartedly agree with every demand.

**Brian Tracy (Marine & Environmental Affairs)** notes that some sponsors are in favor of changing, while others are not. Personally, he believes it should be edited.

**Laura Taylor (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** asks whether it would be feasible to table until the authors can agree on whether they wish to edit the list of demands. If they are in contention it seems unfair to have it debated in front of everyone.

**Joseph Telegen (English)** believes that a conversation about what changes are desired by the body should take place before tabling.

**Ted Chen (Bioengineering)**: The second paragraph demands renaming Whitman Court and Stevens Way because they were named after men responsible for Indigenous genocide. Asks whether the University of Washington should also be renamed because it is named after George Washington who owned slaves.

**Joseph Telegen (English)**: Not named after George Washington, but the state where the school is located. This type of issue is more appropriate for the state legislature.

**Brian Tracy (Marine & Environmental Affairs)** believes it should be remained, but one victory at a time!

**Brian Tracy (Marine & Environmental Affairs)** moves to table. Laura brought up a good point; there is some contention within the group. They need to talk before this can be discussed further.

**Laura Taylor (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** seconds.

**Kerstin Hudon (Treasurer)** agrees to table, but thinks the speaker list should be able to make their comments before tabling.

**Kyle McGrath (Chemistry)** objects to tabling.

**Mackenzie Barton-Rowledge (Guest)** objects to tabling as well.

**Alex Bolton (President)**: There is a motion on the floor to table. He calls for a vote. All those in favor of tabling raise your hand. (21 ayes, 16 nays, and 2 abstentions). The ayes have it—will move to table.

**Seth Bergeson (Evans)** commends the work that has been done on the resolution. He believes that the amendments should be moved to WHEREAS clauses. There should be more context around I-200, and what it does. He also questions the feasibility of these demands.

**Joseph Telegen (English)**: Thinks it's important to put it on the mental cue next year. Very close to the spirit. Right now it seems we are editing the language that was

produced.

**Mahdi Ashrafi (Mechanical Engineering)** suggests that the percentage of black professors with PhD's should be the target percentage used for hiring diverse faculty next year.

**Jenn Kirk (Biostatistics)** seconds Mahdi's comment. She adds that it is important to clarify within the committee whether it will be edited or supported in its entirety.

**Brian Taubeneck (VP of External Affairs):** When discussing I-200 within the resolution, he suggests being as general as possible on the race and equity initiative. He cautions that if you give Legislators an opportunity to say not, they will take it.

**Dan Herb (Education)** asks whether it was purposeful that the OMAD is not listed as one of the organizations in need of funding. He shares that there are currently no Pacific Islander faculty at the UW.

**Brian Tracy (Marine & Environmental Affairs):** They are funded through an alternative means.

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## 6. EXECUTIVE SENATOR ELECTION SPEECH

6:26 pm

**Alex Bolton (President)** shares that there is currently one position available in the fall, though they anticipate another opening soon.

**Elloise Kim (Secretary)** adds that running for an executive senator position is a good way to make an impression on the Senate even if you're not chosen this time around.

**Nicole Arroyo (Immunology)** nominates Michelle Brault, and she accepts.

**Yasmeen Hussain (Biology)** nominates Laura Taylor, and she accepts.

**Alex Bolton (President)** gives each nominee two minutes to present.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** shares she is a 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD candidate in the Molecular & Cellular Biology Department. In her year in the Senate she has been very active member. She chaired the elections committee, which allowed her to get to know the current executive board. She has also been active on the science and policy front. She travelled to Washington D.C. for a Science Symposium and was able to bring that information back to the GPSS. As an Executive Senator should would like to continue to strive toward progress.

**Laura Taylor (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** shares that she is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD candidate in the Molecular & Cellular Biology Department, and this is her second year as a GPSS Senator. She has been impressed with the direction that the Senate has taken, and would like to keep that momentum going forward. She considers herself an experienced Senator, as she has attended every single meeting this year, and believes that this experience gave her a good understanding of how this body runs.

**Alex Bolton (President)** invites them both back up for a question and answer period.

### Q&A

**Dan Herb (Education)** asks the nominees take on the Black Lives Matter Resolution.

**Laura Taylor (Molecular & Cellular Biology):** The Senate represents the voice of all graduate students. She thinks that putting the statements in WHEREAS clauses or changing the language would require serious discussion.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology):** Copying and pasting lists of demands without having the body agree is not the purpose of this body. She recommends these demands are looked at, and the spelling typos are fixed. Everyone should agree with language before it passes.

**Joseph Telegen (English)** asks how they feel about resolutions in general. How much focus do they believe the GPSS Senate should give to resolutions.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology):** She thinks resolutions are really important. It is a way for this body to highlight what they feel is important to them, and makes change on campus in those areas. She has been impressed by the discourse between students this year, and thinks resolutions are a great metric of growth.

**Laura Taylor (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** agrees. Resolutions are one of the most important things the GPSS does. This is an area where this body can exact change across campus. She notes that the childcare initiative and active shooter training, both began as resolutions in this body, and are now being discussed by the administration. She believes the Senate and these resolutions in particular, is about empowering change across campus.

**Yasmeen Hussain (Biology)** asks since both of the nominees are in Molecular & Cellular Biology and have done a lot of great work this year, what differentiates them. She also asks whether they plan to stick around next year even if they do not win.

**Laura Taylor (Molecular & Cellular Biology)** notes that she has been in the Senate longer, and therefore knows how different executive boards have ran the GPSS. She believes this gives her a strong foundation going into next year. Since she is only a third year PhD candidate, she will definitely stick around. She loves the GPSS.

**Michelle Brault (Molecular & Cellular Biology):** While she has only been a Senate member this year, she would have liked to join earlier but the position was not open. Despite only being on the Senate for one year, she has made the most of her time since joining. She has only missed one meeting, and that was to attend a Science and Policy forum, which she brought back to the GPSS. She has also stepped up into leadership roles, which has allowed her to establish great relationships.

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## 7. EXECUTIVE SENATOR ELECTION

6:39 pm

**Alex Bolton (President)** asks the candidate to leave the room, and calls for a vote. Laura Taylor wins!

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## 8. SENATOR AWARDS

6:41 pm

**Kerstin Hudon (Treasurer)** announces the Senator Awards for this year:

*Perfect Attendance:* Laura Taylor, Adam Bell, and Norma Kaminsky.

*GPSS Volunteer of the Year:* John Lurie

*Fresh Voice Award:* Matthew Childs

*Rookie of the Year:* Seth Bergeson

*Voice of Accountability:* Mahdi Ashrafi

*Truly Committed:* Ted Chen

*Bylaws Boss:* Brandon Ray

*Elections Extraordinaire:* Michelle Brault

*Vice Chair of the Year:* Luis Fernando Centurion

*Community Engagement:* Meixi Ng

*Most Enthusiastic:* Laura Taylor

*Senator of the Year:* Bryan Tracy

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## 9. SENATE ACHEIVEMENTS

6:45 pm

**Alex Bolton (President)** takes the time to recognize Rene Singleton who has been extremely influential in the GPSS this year. He also asks all graduating students to stand up; he thanks everyone for their work this year. Finally, he gives a shout out to Yasmeen and thanks her for her contribution. She always approaches things with a critical eye and is a great asset to the GPSS.

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## 10. ANNUAL OFFICER REPORTS

6:47 pm

**Brian Taubeneck (VP of External Affairs):** He focuses on next year and the years to come in the GPSS. The most important thing this body can do is contribute their stories. Legislatures respond to stories. He asks the body to oblige the VP of External Affairs next year by sharing these stories. He thanks everyone for their great work this year.

**Kerstin Hudon (Treasurer):** The Senators were able to start the F&B and travel grant committees early this past year. She has been really proud of the work they have done. They were able to pass the budget on time this year! She also happy to report the GPSS has clean books and accurate accounting. As treasurer she worked on three big initiatives this year. (1) The ABB was able to change tuition to 80% based on credit hour and the remainder major in enrollment; (2) The restructuring of the STF committee; and (3) a small committee within the SAF committee started laying the

groundwork for a new drop-in childcare center. They found a space, determined job description, and acquired funding. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful in implementing it due to factors beyond their control. She hopes next year's committee continues this work. She thanks Alex and Rene for all their mentorship this year. She also thanks the body as a whole.

**Elloise Kim (Secretary):** This year the attendance rate has been 54.4%, which is an increase from last year. They have created new the GPSS: logos, stickers, and banners. They were able to amend the bylaws with the help of the Judicial Committee. She is happy to announce that the Diversity Committee was able to spend their entire budget this year! ☺ She has tried to invite a wide variety of guests to the meetings, but welcomes recommendations. She is looking forward to her role as president next year!

**Alex Bolton (President):** He shares he would not have been able to be successful this year without his fellow officers and the Senate Body. There were a number of staff changes to meet the GPSS's changing needs. They created the role of VP of Internal Affairs position; Monica has been amazing. They divided the positions of Senate Clerk and Creative Director. Bryan joined the team as Director of Graduate Partnerships. Elloise was pivotal in amending the bylaws and ensuring they are followed. They are now much less than perspective. Brian has been instrumental in the role of VP of External Affairs; he managed to get legislation passed in the House and Senate during a time of polarity. He thanks Kerstin for her fantastic work this year. He has appreciated being a part of a large community. The fact that there are 200+ people at quarterly events is really impressive. This is only able to happen because of the body, so he thanks everyone for spreading the word about the GPSS.

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## 11. CEREMONIAL TRANSITION

7:04 pm

**Alex Bolton (President)** ceremoniously passes the gavel to Elloise.

**Elloise Kim (Secretary):** She is going to miss having Alex around. Whenever there was an issue she could always go to him. She thanks him for being a great colleague and mentor.

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## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7:05 pm

See the addendum for a full list of announcements. Announcements are collected after a Senate meeting. Senators who have made announcements may send information including a link and a flyer if available to Elloise Kim at [gpssec@uw.edu](mailto:gpssec@uw.edu) by tomorrow at noon.

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## 13. MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:07 pm

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