GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

# Wednesday, April 15, 5:30 pm HUB 332

**Members present:**

* GPSS President Giuliana Conti
* GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Matt McKeown
* GPSS Vice President of External Affairs Maggie Dunham Jordahl
* GPSS Secretary Leslie Michaud
* GPSS Treasurer Shane Schrader
* Executive Senator Olivia Sanderfoot
* Executive Senator Michael Diamond
* Executive Senator Andrew Shumway
* Executive Senator Jackie Wong
* Executive Senator Terrence Pope
* ASUW Representative Cooper Robertson
* Graduate School Representative Bill Mahoney

1. **[Action] Call to Order 5:36 pm**

**Giuliana Conti** called the Senate meeting to order at 5:36pm.

1. **[Action] Approval of Agenda 5:36 pm**

**Giuliana Conti** entertained a motion to table Senate seat resolutions.

**Michael Diamond** (Atmospheric Sciences) motioned. **Leslie Michaud** seconded. No objections.

**Giuliana Conti** entertained a motion to approve the amended agenda. **Britahny Baskin** (Neuroscience) motioned. **Colin Trobough** (Jackson School) seconded. No objections.

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1. **[Action] Approval of the Minutes** **5:37 pm**

**Giuliana Conti** entertained a motion to approve the minutes. **Fiona Murray** (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance)motioned. **Jared Canright** (Physics) seconded. No objections.

1. **[Action] Protocol for Meeting 5:38pm**

# *Giuliana Conti handed over chairship to Fiona Murray.*

**Fiona Murray** (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance): I am really excited for elections today. Candidates are allowed 3 minutes to speak. We will then have 10 minutes for questions for positions that have 2 candidates. If there are some positions that have more than 2 candidates, we will have an additional 2 minutes per candidate. During that period, we will ask candidates questions in order of popularity via Poll Everywhere. After the speeches and questions are done, we will have a 10 minute open forum (on record) where Senators can voice their opinions on the candidates. Candidates will not be required to leave the room, but they cannot answer or field questions during this open forum. After the forum, voting will begin using digital ballots. The ballot requires you to be logged in using your UW account. The ballots are broken up by section and are in the same order as the candidates. You cannot select two in the same ranking. Anyone who is not selected is automatically tied for the last position. We will send the link to the official ballot in the chat.

**Fiona Murray** (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance): At this point, I will read out all the officer positions and the candidate names in alphabetical order, after which I will entertain a motion to nominate. First off, for the President we have Jeremy Moon and Aaron Yared. For the Vice President of Internal Affairs, we have Genevieve Hulley and Tammy Senior. For the Vice President of External Affairs, we have Beau Bryan, Hannah Sieben and Colin Trobough. For the Secretary, we have Logan C. Jarrell, Brittany Collins, Austin Raymond, Paige Victoria Gagliardi, and Amber Chen. Lastly, for the Treasurer we have Julia Overfelt and Christina Madonia. At this point in time, I will entertain any nominations from the floor. Hearing no nominations from the floor, we can go ahead and get started with candidate speeches.

# [Action] Officer Elections 5:40pm

**Jeremy Moon:** Hi everyone, my name is Jeremy Moon. In my current role, I am the chair of SAF. I am running for President because I believe that this role is the most well suited to advocate on behalf of and affect change for graduate students across the University. I am running for this role this year because we have a very unique opportunity to make major progress on key issues that affect all graduate students across campus. The budget year is coming up which gives us tremendous opportunity to work directly with legislators. Additionally, some key reforms are happening on campus related to mental health. We are going to have a completely new set of officers elected this evening and that is going to be a unique opportunity on its own. We are also recovering from a global crisis, or we might still be in one. In all of this, there are a couple key issues that I want to take to the University administration, to students, to Washington state and federally as well. The key issues I would like to highlight are: (i) student health care – a large portion of our graduate students are not covered and we have to make considerable strides to address that, (ii) mental health – this is a huge and growing crisis across campus, (iii) expand support for our student parents and caregivers, especially in the current climate, (iv) ensuring that the University is affordable and sustainable. In the past, as SAF chair, I have worked with students and administrators on a number of key issues such as developing a plan for the future of mental health resources and other Hall Health services.

**Aaron Yared:** Thank you all for attending this meeting. I know, right now, with the COVID-19 pandemic happening that a lot of us are going through some hard times, some of us harder than others. So I really appreciate how many of you have come out today to participate in this. My name is Aaron Yared, I am the currently the Policy Director for GPSS. I am running for the position of President. Before this, I was at UW-Bothell for my undergraduate and my master's program. I was the Director of Government Relations for the UW-Bothell student government, which is basically the equivalent of VP of External Affairs. I was also the Elections Committee Chair before that. During my time at UW-Bothell, I rewrote the bylaws and constitution for the entire student government and introduced a system for resolutions because up until this point, they didn’t actually have a system. When I came here, I realized two things: (i) graduate students have significant and unique challenges across all three campuses and (ii) nobody seems to want to step up for us, so we have to step up for ourselves. One of the things I noticed with GPSS is that they've been having themes each year. Last year was “spring cleaning” and this year the theme was “connect”. The theme I would propose for next year would be to “build” on the great set of foundations we have established over the past two years. And I think we need to start building off of that and expanding our group. With that being said, all my priorities are structured around that. So the first priority is rolling out the strategic planning phase one to ensure consistency across years. That has been one of the biggest killers of student governments – the fact that they are not consistent between administrations. The second priority is improving relations with the graduate and professional advisors, because they are the key to reaching those graduate schools that right now are not being represented fully. One of the biggest problems I've observed this year is that we want to reach out to all our constituents, yet we just don't know how some of them feel. We don't know what they're going through and that's something we need to change. My third priority is to improve branding and spread awareness. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there's going to be situations where we're going to have to create virtual events, and that's something we're dealing with already. And so that's something I want to work on for next year as well. All in all, I just I really care about this campus and I really care about UW, so I would love to help out. Thank you!

**Fiona Murray** (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance): Thank you both for your speeches. At this point in time, we're going to move on to the Q&A portion.

*Question 1: As President, how would you voice the concerns of graduate students who don't necessarily have faith or confidence in GPSS to affect change?*

**Jeremy Moon:** Theory of change and getting things done within the university takes a lot of time and is really difficult. But I think what we really need to do and one of the things that I feel like I'm uniquely positioned to do is to build on the connections that we have within the administration and across campus and outside of campus as well with our stakeholders to work on getting things through. A lot of times, our administrators and the folks we are working with don't actually even know that students are concerned about certain things. So we need to really work on bringing awareness of issues through our personal connections, and throughout the connections that we can make. This year I've had the unique opportunity of working with some wonderful people in the Student Life Office and in the Executive Office. I really do feel like I've built some of those strong connections, and can build on that to bring forward the ideas that we really need to be working on. In fact, right now, I'm working with folks in student life to build a plan of action to transition mental health into a more centralized, more effective model but also to make sure that we are doing the best that we can do with Hall health and offer the best services that we can. So building those out those plans and building on those relationships is really key.

**Aaron Yared:** This question actually falls right in line with what I was saying our theme should be for next year – “build”. I think that the reason students might not have faith in GPSS is because they don't know what we do. They don't know that we even exist in some cases and that was something that I dealt with at UW-Bothell. One of the most effective ways of changing that and getting them to participate and getting them to come to us with their concerns is to just show them what we are doing and show them that we are there for them by continuing to reach out to them. I think a great example of this is the fact that GPSS and ASUW came together to get the U-PASS fees refunded for spring quarter through the help of people such as Matt McKeown, which was awesome. What I saw online on Facebook groups was that students thought the administration was slapping a band-aid on this entire situation. If they know the administration had no interest in refunding anything, and it was us fighting to get money back, they might have actually thought that that was a real win. So it's those kind of things that I think that we need to prioritize – we need to start spreading the word and letting people know that we exist and we are doing some great things.

*Question 2: What is your plan to mitigate budget costs to graduate student resources in the next legislative session’s budget?*

**Aaron Yared:** The external team did quite a bit of work on this. We did quite a bit of work in Olympia getting people to know that graduate students exists, and that our problems are very real. COVID ruined some of these things, but we've built up a lot of momentum through the work of Maggie, Abby and myself and many other people who are in LAB. I think that we are not going to have to worry about cuts, I think we're actually going to get some help!

**Jeremy Moon:** I think this is going to be the most paramount issue that we face this this coming year. And it's going to take a broad scope coordination across all of the partners that we can work with including ASUW, our tri campus community and other legislative partners across the state, including the Washington Student Association and universities.

*Question 3: How do you plan to intentionally involve marginalized populations without tokenizing them?*

**Jeremy Moon:** We have to continue work on our diversity seats that we've been working on in the last several years. I think we really need to put push that through. We do need to be careful about not tokenizing them.

**Aaron Yared:** I think that tokenism comes into play when you give somebody a seat at the table, but you don't actually give them a voice. We should continue to try to reach out to those groups, but we should actually give them a voice and make sure that what they're saying is heard and that we're actually acting upon it. If there's a reason why we can't act upon it, we need to tell them why it's not actionable and try to come up with a better solution that both of us can be happy about.

*Question 4: What is your vision for promoting GPSS within the university communit?*

**Aaron Yared:** I would go back to my third priority and continue to spread awareness about GPSS by showing the successes that we've already accomplished, as well as coming up with new events that bring in more and more graduate students. In terms of the actual successes that we achieve, not just showing up to the graduate students, but showing that to everybody as a whole, the staff, the faculty, the students, undergraduates and graduates so that everybody knows that we exist and everybody knows that we are a force to be reckoned with. That would be my priority.

**Jeremy Moon:** I think one of the key things that we can do here is to continue working on our strategic plan, rolling out our strategic plan, and working with ASUW to make sure that we are creating a strong partnership between ASUW and GPSS. Oftentimes, when we think of a student government, a lot of folks think of ASUW, but we have to show that GPSS is here to represent graduate students. I think there's a lot that we can do in our strategic planning to make that happen.

*Question 5: With so much uncertainty in these times, it is important to have a leader who can adapt to unpredictable change. Can you tell us how you plan to strike a balance between serving your graduate student community and making progress in your graduate program while finding time for yourself?*

**Jeremy Moon:** When you're in student leadership, oftentimes, there is no time for yourself. I have felt that a lot this year. Right now, just in the past few weeks, I've worked over 60 hours because of the current crisis to make sure that we are providing programs support and responding well to students going through the crisis. So, it really is about dedicating time.

**Aaron Yared:** I think that both Jeremy and I are the perfect people for this question, because we are both so involved in student government already. One of the things that I've been doing on the side that I haven't really talked about too much is we've been dealing with our own race-based issues at the law school. I've been working on that as well as being the Policy Director. I don't plan to stop doing that.

*Question 6: How will you specifically support the Union?*

**Aaron Yared:** I'm going to be perfectly honest, this is my first year at UW-Seattle so I'm not completely familiar with the Union. So my first mission will be to learn about the Union, learn about the issues both good and bad, and then try to figure out what they need because I know that next year is a negotiation year. So figuring out what the full story is first is going to be my first step and then figuring out how I can best help will come next.

**Jeremy Moon:** I echo what Aaron said. I have not worked a lot with the Union in the past. I have worked with them a couple of years ago back when I was an undergraduate on a on a few small issues. But one of the things that I remember from that time is that the last time when we were negotiating about U-PASS, the Union was largely shut out. One of the things that I would do as President is to make sure that the Union is brought in to the Board of Regents negotiations and such to make sure that they actually are heard.

**Fiona Murray** (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance): So at this point in time, we're done with our scheduled question and answer period for the President. I will entertain a motion to extend time to ask more questions. However, I just want to remind everyone that we have four more officers speeches and questions to get through. So at this time, I will entertain a motion to extend time for the question and answer period.

**Cooper Robertson** (ASUW representative) motioned to extend time by 5 minutes.

**Logan C. Jarrell** (Marine & Environmental Affairs) seconded. No objections.

*Question 7:* Can you speak to how you plan to build relationships between departments and within your role as President*?*

**Jeremy Moon:** Building a relationship with departments, especially the department heads across campus, can be done just by sitting down and actually starting to have conversations with folks. I have just found that it has been very helpful to just go and talk to a person about a specific issue that I keep having.

**Aaron Yared:** Echoing what Jeremy was saying, I would try to connect different departments. As I mentioned earlier, we were dealing with some race based issues at the law school and a possible solution that I found was actually given to me by an engineering student. The engineering school has been getting students connected and getting departments connected based on the problems that they're having so that they can all come to the table and find a way to jointly address the issue.

*Question 8: What will you do as President to ensure good working relationships with ASUW and other undergraduate coalitions while maintaining focus on our unique needs as graduate students?*

**Aaron Yared:** One of the biggest things that I've noticed this year is that there's been some confusion of roles when it comes ASUW and GPSS. That's something that luckily, this administration has already been working to outline. I would continue those efforts on making sure that the relationship is always positive, but also understanding that we are not the same and so our struggles are going to be different.

**Jeremy Moon:** I would make sure that we're communicating with all of the different coalitions across campus about the key people who are involved. This past year, I've had the unique opportunity to work with Kelsey and Juliana, and bring student voices together for the representation of one of the key task forces going on across the University. One of the things that is really powerful is to come together with ASUW to recognize our distinctions, but also recognize what binds us.

*Question 9: Is there a plan to push for more environmental legislation?*

**Jeremy Moon:** In terms of environmental leadership, as a university, there are definitely things that we can do. Something that is an ongoing process is building the capital plan for the university. And I have some relationships working with the folks who actually build capital plan and I think we should be working with them to make sure that sustainability and environmentalism is ingrained into the future of the university so that UW can lead by example. That would give us credibility when we go to the legislature to push for more environmental legislation.

**Aaron Yared:** Echoing what Jeremy said, keeping the environment in mind with everything that we do, I take a lot of issue with things that UW does – especially in terms of building new buildings when we have old buildings that are falling apart. I will continue to voice those frustrations whenever I can, and whenever it won't hurt us. In terms of the legislature, we have been trying our best but it's such a big issue with a lot of enemies.

**Genevieve Hulley:** I just want to first thank our healthcare and frontline workers and all of you for showing up tonight. My name is Genevieve Hulley and I'm running for VP of Internal Affairs. I'm in my second year in a PhD program in art history. Some of you may hopefully recognize me as I've served on the Senate for the past two years. About this time last year, I was physically standing up in front of you pushing for the founding of the Graduate Arts Council. As an experienced graduate student and Senator, I know how to serve this community as Vice President of Internal Affairs. I have three main platforms that I want to support. What all graduate students need to have access to is basic services. We need to have a united orientation for graduate and professional students so that every graduate student starts their program with the same knowledge. I want to work with the existing student groups to make sure that parent and caregiver students have the support they need. And we need better health care options for graduate and professional students, as well as access to affordable housing resources. I want to support transparency between faculty and administrators and the graduate and professional student community.

Part of the mission of GPSS is to help graduate students organizations. I will support the formation of graduate councils within individual departments. The Art History Department has successfully created a graduate council, of which I'm the president. These councils allow graduate students to gain transparency about things like funding, RA and TA shifts and issues with faculty and advisors. We also need to stay engaged as a graduate student body, especially during this time when we are all even more isolated from each other. I am committed to supporting programs that increase access to mental health. I will continue the excellent event programming that Matt has championed which is important now when most of us are connecting virtually.

Please vote for Genevieve Hulley for VP of Internal Affairs. I have proven that I can lead as a senator and I will build on that legacy as a GPSS officer. Thank you!

**Tammy Senior:** Hi, everyone. My name is Tammy Senior and I have been serving as the Communications Director for GPSS for this past year. I have lots of experience in event planning and staff management. Before I was Communications Director, I worked as the Director of the Student Health Consortium and I managed a team of nine interns, put on events with over 500 students and faculty in attendance, and also advocated for student voice which is one of my passions. There's going to be a lot of change next year, both internally and externally. We are going to have all new GPSS officers, new Executive Senators, and a budget year, but I believe that I have the institutional knowledge and experience to have GPSS be successful next year. As Communications Director, I've done marketing for all of the events and sent out the all-campus emails. I’ve also helped set up for Nightmare at the Museum and Astro Prom, which involved transporting a lot of alcohol. I also created the Resources tab on the GPSS website. And if you don't follow us on Facebook or Instagram, please do. Basically, as this university is returning from a quarter of online classes, facilitating community and resources are going to be really important. My goals as VP of Internal Affairs are threefold – creating purposeful programming, campus partnerships and facilitating a positive office culture. Under purposeful programming, my goal is to replace the current graduate student experience committee with the graduate student event committee (conveniently keeping the same acronym). Basically, this committee will support the Events Director in informing and executing the programming needs for graduate students. It will also inform the two professional development events a quarter and the goal is to partner with graduate departments that are already putting on professional development events to reduce redundancy and also increase accesses to resources. Under campus partnerships, my goal is to create a video that shares who GPSS is as an organization and how to get involved in committees or Senate. This video can be shown at orientations that are held online or where officers are unable to present at. Plus, the video would also be linked on our website. My goal is also to work with the Executive Committee to create a one-page document to outline senator position descriptions and benefits, and to use this to market senator positions to more departments and increase representation. As part of facilitating a positive office culture, my goal is to send weekly Monday morning newsletters that include a couple memes, report on staff spotlights also during Senate meetings. These are the few of the goals that I had in mind and if elected, I'd be sure to reach out to senators to hear even more suggestions about how to make GPSS an even better organization. Thank you for your time and consideration!

*Question 1:* *What challenges do you anticipate in managing internal affairs during periods of social distancing? How can you address these challenges?*

**Genevieve Hulley:** We are already learning that we all need to find new ways to stay connected during this period of virtual connection, which I think could continue. All of the work that we do in the summer to set up for the fall, we're going to have to plan alternate options for both virtual and in-person events. I think we need to remember that people need connection now more than ever, and it's something that sells.

**Tammy Senior:** Echoing what Genevieve said, I think this is a time of change, a time of flexibility. In terms of this position, specifically, being able to offer programming for this Zoom era, specifically how to interview online and how to be able to hold an effective webinar, be able to offer programming for students that is relevant.

*Question 2:* *How will you ensure remote accessibility of GPSS events?*

**Tammy Senior:** Understanding what remote accessibility looks like, we can look to what Giuliana is doing right now, in terms of putting on a *‘How To Outsmart Today's Job Market’* event. Being able to create events that are available online and accessible, and being able to market these events is important. I think sending all campus emails will be very important and creating clear guidelines on how to access these events is going to be very critical.

**Genevieve Hulley:** I think that one of the challenges we're facing with fair accessibility is making sure that people have WiFi that is fast enough so that they can attend virtual meetings. We have already started doing things like handing out laptops and making sure that people have video cameras so they can attend these kinds of events. I also think we need to partner with campus groups that are already doing these kinds of functions like GO-MAP, who is doing their power hours, which are career-focused events for graduate students of color.

*Question 3:* *What do you foresee being the biggest challenge in launching a campus wide graduate student orientation in light of the university's response to COVID-19?*

**Genevieve Hulley:** This is something that's really close to my heart as I experienced a lot of dis-orientation during my own orientation. I think that in a way, doing this kind of orientation online, giving people a whole week where they can access videos, but also attend things live where they have to sign in with a password to get into the meeting would be helpful. Also, presenting every single type of resource so that everyone knows what kind of funding they're allowed to apply for, and everyone has equal access to those kind of resources.

**Tammy Senior:** I think my goal is to create a GPSS video about how to get involved with GPSS and committees. It is going to be really important for graduate students to know what and who GPSS is. I know that for my graduate orientation, I did not have a speaker or officer come talk to me about who GPSS was. And I think being able to have online resources, especially as an organization, is going to be critical. Being able to partner with other organizations, which I'm sure are going to do the same thing, and create a centralized tab, which we have on our website and be able to really advocate and advertise those resources for all graduate students equitably.

*Question 4:* *What would a united orientation mean for existing departmental orientation programs?*

**Tammy Senior:** In my statement of objectives, the orientation would ideally seek be started in 2021. Because there's going to be a lot of change and the first actionable thing would be to create this video, what my goal would be is to create department-wide orientations just like the College of Environment is currently doing. So I’d propose starting on that level, because graduate students are much more likely to want to network with other students in their departments and then further take that model out.

**Genevieve Hulley:** I think, Tammy, what you're getting at is maybe they need to complement the existing orientation. There is an RA/ TA orientation that I've attended twice already. I still need to go to that to be able to teach and that's different for different departments. What would be nice is if the whole university orientation happened a day or two before the orientations for every department, and I also think that GPSS needs to work more with these advisors and admins in these various departments because they're not talking to each other.

*Question 5:* *Can you speak to your management and hiring experiences?*

**Genevieve Hulley:** Yes, I have worked in various management roles in museums and office settings. I am very experienced in hiring interns, office staff, managing people and dealing with the hiring process, so I'd be really excited to hire our staff. It's really important to me that in this role, I would get to be the person who hires staff and also manages office culture. If you ask some of the senators in this group, you know, I love creating events for staff, not just for GPSS, to keep people involved.

**Tammy Senior:** My actual major is health management. So I have lots of experience, even in just coursework with change management and transition. I've also had various positions where I was in charge of nine interns and was also an office lead for an RSO called Community Health outreach. I have a passion for working with people and I believe that working with the GPSS office staff and promoting a positive office culture will really lead to impactful events.

*Question 6:* *How will you improve awareness of GPSS and promote greater participation in GPSS activities?*

**Tammy Senior:** As Communications Director this year, that's a lot of my role currently- how to improve communication and awareness of GPSS. I think we've done a lot of great things. In fact, this year was the first year we had a Communications Director and really continuing to push all campus emails, really continuing to meet in person with various departments, and improving the relationships with GO-MAP and the Core programs that are already putting out newsletters to all the graduate students.

**Genevieve Hulley:** The strongest way that we can build awareness is through partnerships with administration, faculty and existing campus groups. If we build these partnerships, and we present, say, an event together, then we bring everyone who's already aware of GPSS and everyone who's already aware of say, the Q-center that sits right across from us.

**Beau Bryan:** Hi, all! My name is Beau Bryan and I am running to be your next Vice President of External Affairs. I am currently a first year student at the UW School of Law. I'm proud to be a double dog, receiving my Bachelor's degree in both political science and communication from UW as well. I'm running because I am very passionate about this University and its student body, and I strongly believe I can make the most meaningful impact as VP External based upon my experience, my legislative network and my commitment to diversity and inclusivity. With regard to experience, I have served as a legislative intern and legislative session aide during the 2016 and 2018 Washington State legislative sessions. Additionally, I interned as an intern with an Olympia-based lobbyist, the Arledge group during this past session, which taught me a great deal about creating a legislative agenda and building legislative support to get it passed. In terms of my network in Olympia, having worked for both a Democrat and a Republican, I have legislative connections on both sides of the aisle. Moreover, I worked for the chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, giving me key insights into how that committee operates and allowing me to meet many of the key stakeholders in higher education. I truly believe this will be instrumental and essential to getting our legislative priorities passed. As an openly gay man, I am committed to supporting the UW race and equity initiative and increasing diversity and representation on GPSS. If elected, I will email out a catalyst survey to all graduate and professional students ensuring their voice and drafting our legislative agenda.

Currently my top priorities for the 20-21 academic year are: first, health care for Huskies, reinstating student health insurance, the Student Health Insurance Program for graduate and professional students, and increasing access to mental health services. Secondly, maintaining UW’s funding and capping tuition prices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Third, ensuring a smooth transition of leadership and maintaining momentum through finalizing the 2021 legislative agenda by the end of spring quarter and creating an earlier and graduate specific lobbying day. And lastly, ensuring all GPSS decisions are evaluated through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusivity. I am very excited about the prospect of returning to the state legislature and I hope you will let me use my experience, my legislative network and my commitment to inclusivity to advocate for the issues that matter to graduate and professional students most. I am passionate about this position and I will work tirelessly every day to prove that I'm the right person for the job. Thank you!

**Hannah Sieben:** Hi everyone! My name is Hannah Sieben. I'd really like to use this time today to talk about what I envision for the VP External role next year. I would be honored to serve as the Vice President of External Affairs and if I were elected, I would really focus my efforts on three main priorities: advocating for grad students, increasing grad student participation in the democratic process and effectively collaborating with stakeholders. I believe that GPSS has done a great job advocating for students and I really hope to continue that this year. I want to develop a legislative agenda that fits the needs of our current graduate students. I plan to do this by serving senators as well as their constituents, inviting more members to collaborate in LAB and discussing potential crossovers between the external team and the science and policy committee. When meeting with legislators and their staff, I want to use data and stories to convey the impact that specific legislation has on grad students. As an Evans student, I've taken coursework in management, policy analysis and finance. All of these courses have prepared me to be an effective student lobbyist, advocate and GPSS teammate. My second priority is to encourage grad student participation. As we know, 2020 is an election year and I am particularly excited about helping facilitate student engagement around voting. Prior to starting at the UW, I served as a civic engagement program manager and registered 5300 new young voters. In that role, I collaborated with Secretaries of state, governors and US senators and representatives to ensure the success of our program. If elected, I hope to go to orientations (if virtual), and get people registered and ready to vote. I want to have a voter registration table at Nightmare at the Museum. But mostly, I want my peers to know that GPSS is here to support that experience and make it easier for them to participate. Participation and collaboration are both incredibly important to me. So lastly, I hope to collaborate with grad students across all our campuses. I want students across all programs and campuses to feel empowered to be involved with GPSS and help the external team lobby for our interest. Until I expressed interest for this position, I didn't know that there even was a UW stage delegation that actually gets to travel to DC to advocate for issues that impact grad students. I plan to promote the values of equity and inclusion by helping our peers know which opportunities are available to them. As VP External, I will find better ways to communicate opportunities for the participation for all grad students, whether that's through student lounges, e-blasts, office hours or anything else. I will do my best to represent all of the UW and the interests of our diverse student body and I hope that you'll consider voting for me this evening.

**Colin Trobough:** Hi, everyone. My name is Colin Trobough. If you haven't had a chance to look at my materials, I encourage you to look at my statement of objectives and my resume on the website. So without further ado, my name is Colin and I'm running for the position of Vice President of External Affairs. Since the beginning of fall quarter, I've been deeply involved in GPSS and committed to serving the graduate and professional student body. I have regularly attended Senate meetings, LAB committee meetings, participated in the legislative reception and led a group of students during Graduate Student Day On The Hill. As we move forward towards the 2021 legislative session, a budget year, there are many challenges our state government must face and budget decisions they must make as a result of government. Governor Inslee has already cut roughly 235 million from the current budget and a further 210 million from the next biennium. Regarding the State's economy, Washington State Office of Financial Management Director David Schumacher stated “The decline will likely be at least as bad as, if not worse than what we saw during the Great Recession.” Make no mistake, we will be facing many budgetary challenges in the years to come as the economic consequences of COVID-19 continue to unfold, as graduate and professional student needs will likely not be at the top of our lawmakers budget priority list, unless we can lobby effectively.

This is where my unique experiences working with the office of the Lieutenant Governor has prepared me to fulfill the duties of Vice President of External Affairs. During my six months with the office, I built a strong network of professional relationships within the State government, including a number of key decision makers and leaders in both chambers of the legislature. In fact, using this network, during Graduate Student Day on the Hill, I was able to secure several additional meetings beyond those that were scheduled for my group. Also, I'm acutely aware of the best strategies lobbyists and lawmakers use to achieve their policy and budget goals. In addition, I researched, tracked, wrote and delivered daily briefs on the offices legislative priorities. Finally, I've had to do budgets for several of the offices affiliated programs, where I had to account for hundreds of thousands of dollars. And this experience puts me in an exceptionally strong position to advocate for the necessary UW graduate student resources to be included in next year's budget. Although the consequences of COVID-19 affect all of our lives, if we have a strong plan of action, and a committed group of GPSS officers, we can work together as a community to mitigate the negative effects of this crisis. One of the primary duties of the GPSS Vice President of External Affairs is to advocate for the policy and budget demands of the UW graduate student body. So if you want to see results, trust me as your next Vice President of External Affairs – a person with the relevant skills, experience, networks, dedication is needed to meet those demands in the face of these trying times. Thank you!

*Question 1:* *How do you intend to learn about the UW grad student body you will represent to external stakeholders? What part of the graduate student experience do you feel you least understand at this point in time, and how will you remedy that gap?*

**Beau Bryan:** I think that being open to listening to what people bring to the table in terms of their legislative priorities is important. I also think that getting out the catalyst survey or some sort of Poll Everywhere survey we can send out to the greater graduate student body so we can get their take on what's important to them and who they are is essential. And then I'll remedy this gap by reading those and including them in my legislative priorities.

**Hannah Sieben:** I would also like to use surveys. I want to meet with the current Senators this year and meet with new Senators that are elected next year to make sure that we are gathering the voices of people who typically might not be involved with LAB specifically. I feel that I probably don't have a great understanding of the PhD experience since I'm in a two year master's program. And something that I would like to do to remedy that is to continue to collaborate with those people to try to better understand what their needs are.

**Colin Trobough:** I would also utilize surveys, particularly surveys targeting the current graduate student body as well as incoming students to get a gauge on what the experiences of the entire student body are. Then, in terms of what I least understand at this point, I am not very well in tune with the arts aspect of the school. So I would really strive to get in contact with Senators who are representing the arts departments, and really work towards having a better understanding of what their work is about and what their needs are, so I can better represent that.

*Question 2:* *How will you manage working three plus days a week in Olympia during winter quarter? Do you have any academics or other commitments that would impact your ability to work during session?*

**Hannah Sieben:** I am actually really excited about that opportunity. I am really confident in my ability to manage my course load. I also understand that we are allowed to take a lower course load during that time, so I plan to prepare myself by taking a legislative relations class in the fall. I know that Evans School is really supportive of students being involved in GPSS. In fact, I think this is pretty much directly correlated with my both my academic and professional interests. So, I really look forward to that opportunity.

**Colin Trobough:** I was the legislative intern for the Lieutenant Governor during the 2019 legislative session, and during that time, I was also taking a full credit load. I was taking 20 credits in my undergrad, in addition to that internship, and I was working full time (40 hours a week) but I never really struggled. It kept me busy but I never really struggled with managing my time and prioritizing my work. So I don't foresee any problems there. In terms of future academic commitments, I don't have any plans to track academic commitments that would interfere with my duties as VP of External Affairs. I feel very confident in being able to manage the workload.

**Beau Bryan:** I participated in the Washington State Legislative internship program, where I also took a full-time course load, managed submitting a research paper and working 50 hours a week for the legislature while being enrolled at UW full time. So I do not anticipate any academic challenges for myself in the role of VP External. I also plan to take a reduced credit load in order to further ensure that.

*Question 3:* *Can you speak to your experiences with LAB?*

**Colin Trobough:** My experiences with LAB has been great. I got involved pretty much from the start of fall quarter very early on. What has been great about those experiences is I've been able to get a feel for what LAB is all about and how to actually go about executing what needs to be done in preparation for legislative session. So I've been a part of that since day one. I think that is something that really sets me apart here. I attended the legislative reception, as well as the Graduate Student Day on the Hill, both of which were activities that were pioneered by LAB.

**Beau Bryan:** I have not had a tremendous amount of experience with LAB, and that's something that I really want to bring awareness to. I think there are a lot of really talented and intelligent political minds at the University of Washington. I just think that the Legislative Advisory Board is not very well publicized. So, my main goal would be to bring awareness to LAB and be able to incorporate more of those diverse and talented voices and get them in our meetings so they can contribute as well.

**Hannah Sieben:** I have been attending LAB since the end of February when I realized that that was a thing that was available to students. I think that we can do a lot more with LAB and get more people involved and that is certainly a priority for me next year. I've been really interested in the conversations that LAB has been having about doing census work and planning voter registration and voter engagement opportunities in the in the upcoming months. So that's something that I'm really looking forward to continuing working on.

*Question 4:* *How will you work interdepartmentally to ensure all students’ legislative agendas are represented?*

**Beau Bryan:** I feel like I've hit this point a couple of times, but I really do think that it's important to utilize technology, especially while remote, like Poll Everywhere and other technological platforms, such as catalysts surveys to get legislative priorities of different departments into one uniform place and be able to incorporate bits and pieces of all of those. I think that there are a lot of general things that are important to all departments regardless of the program and so I will work to get all those in the legislative agenda.

**Hannah Sieben:** I have already begun to survey some of the representatives that we have. One thing that I really pride myself on is being a “woo girl”, which is winning over others. I think that that goes a long way when trying to build relationships across departments. I've worked this past year in the biology department as a teaching assistant. It has been really incredible to get to meet and work with people who are outside of my program in school and that's something that I really look forward to doing as VP External as well.

**Colin Trobough:** For me, I would really first start by talking to the Senators of the various departments and then discuss what the best course of action is, in terms of representing their department’s legislative agendas. When it comes to the legislative agenda as a whole, the VP of External Affairs can only lobby on the legislative agenda that is passed by GPSS. So in that sense, you can't explicitly lobby on what these departments want, unless it falls within that agenda. But I would work my best to make sure that it would fit within the GPSS legislative agenda.

*Question 5:* *In relation to the 2008 recession, where in budget cuts were made and most departments, particularly arts and humanities departments did not see that money come back. How would you address budget cuts that are likely to occur due to the pandemic?*

**Hannah Sieben:** I think that we are certainly going to be seeing the effects of the pandemic in the next school year. Some of the things that I really want to continue doing is working on legislation that is related to funding for graduate students. I hope to lobby for opportunities for grad students to have more meaningful employment on campus. I would like to see subsidized student loans for graduate students, but I also just really want to highlight the stories and impacts that the pandemic has had on graduate students, and I plan to do that while speaking with legislators.

**Colin Trobough:** At the end of the day, when it comes to the legislators, it really is all about relationships and being persistent. I would engage with my current network of relationships within the legislature, as well as working with different schools, and different departments to identify common policy goals – in terms of protecting funding that gets cut and funding that doesn't get cut.

**Beau Bryan:** I couldn't agree more that relationships at the legislature are essential to getting things on the committee agendas and getting them past. And I strongly believe that I have an incredibly strong legislative network, having worked for the legislature twice previously and for lobbyists. I think the most important thing is to staunch the bleeding. There will be budget cuts. We need to make sure that the VP of External Affairs is aggressive in his or her ability to maintain minimal budget cuts while working with legislators to increase access to scholarships and other grants that are available.

**Christina Madonia:** Hi, I'm Christina! I'm a first year Masters student in the school of Marine and Environmental Affairs, which is interdisciplinary between some biology but focusing more on marine policy. My intent for running for Treasurer is to become involved in a form of service to my pure graduate student community. I'm really focusing on that, but in addition further develop my understanding of policy processes, leadership skills, and supporting fellow students in their time in graduate school the way that I would like to gain from the GPSS as well. My background academically is in biology, where I focus on conservation and research. During my undergrad, I was on the board of two RSOs, one of which I helped develop and launch the currently running program which essentially allowed space for the collaboration of like environmentally minded students across specialties to build, engage and empower each other for interdisciplinary field work, especially as the challenges they face were growing in complexity and across borders. I worked on gaining financial support through fundraising and introductory outreach to administrative authorities on campus alongside outside entities to promote an advocate for supporting experiences students have the option of participating in. Professionally, I dabbled in field work after undergrad but then I moved here to Seattle. I worked for a commercial fishing company for over two years in accounts payable. I was primarily tasked with bills, reconciliation statements, managing payments, and quarterly projects which focus on aspects of financial records assessing historical spending behavior with the aim of pulling efficiency opportunities to be aided in the use of the coming years budget conducted by our controller and CFO. There, my knowledge was introductory of like, and then elaborate on for Excel spreadsheets and like other software, but I would like to lean further on that. And then my experience at orientation was also disoriented. I only knew about GPSS through quarterly events. So I just recently became engaged this prior quarter. But I really liked learning about the ability to voice our graduate students’ concerns at higher levels and then lobbying for support. Objectives I would be looking at if elected are effectively providing funding, networking and development opportunities through participation in the discussed surveys of assessing what student needs are on a continuous basis, utilizing the GPSS funds to benefit those students, especially through the unprecedented COVID situation. And I would also like to understand if there's any equity opportunities that we could elaborate on through how we distribute our funds across different departments. Really, I just wanted to embody service to my community through the fiscal aspect of it. Thank you!

**Julia Overfelt:** Hi, everyone! I'm Julia and I am just finishing up my first year at the Evans School of Public Policy, and I am thrilled to be running for Treasurer. I worked in accounts payable for a financial institution for the last few years. I really liked the numbers part of my job, but I really wanted to do something that was more fulfilling and so I went back to school. Working with GPSS has really been one of the best parts of being in graduate school for me. I love being involved in a structural and institutional level. I really enjoyed my work with finance and budgeting and travel grants. I really enjoy seeing what's going on behind the scenes and seeing how we're building the budget and how we are applying the funds that we have within that budget. As treasurer, I really want to make sure that everyone knows how they can spend GPSS’s money because it's their money too. It's really important to me that people understand that special allocations and travel grants are not just for large purchases. So you don't need to apply for the full amount. If you're a small organization and you just need a small amount of money, you can apply for $50 for craft supplies, or you can apply for $100 for more craft supplies, or you can apply for $700 for a room rental. Similarly with travel grants, I feel like a lot of people know about travel grants as far as traveling out of state, traveling across the country, traveling halfway across the world. But travel grants can be awarded to people who just need the $75 for a registration fee for a conference that they are presenting at across town. It's really important to me that beyond just being able to build a budget that's equitable, but being able to take the money that we have within our budget, and make sure that we are using it creatively and with flexibility to make sure that we apply them to the issues that students are having currently, and that we can use that money for all students and make sure that they are aware of the opportunities that they have to utilize their money through GPSS. I'm just really honored to be here, and I'm really excited to be running for the role of Treasurer!

*Question 1: How do you plan on keeping senators in the loop budget-wise through the year instead of a single yearly vote?*

**Christina Madonia:** My intent would be to, if we're still in the virtual sense that we're in right now, communicate via email or have a monthly or a quarterly update/ newsletter, with our budget attached – what we're doing and where we're at in order to determine what they can do next as the situation evolves.

**Julia Overfelt:** Similarly, I would want to make sure that we are giving regular updates. I think this would be a great opportunity for members of the F&B Committee to speak if they'd want to because I feel like they might have a different perspective on what Senators want to hear than just the Treasurer. I will, of course, be happy to give those updates too. But I think that it might be helpful to involve other people to make sure that they are also aware of what's happening.

*Question 2: How will you increase awareness of SAF, STF and other funding sources to graduate departments and organizations?*

**Julia Overfelt:** I would love to find a way to highlight these. I don't know if that would best be done through our website or through announcements at the Senate meeting or in the announcements that we send out after Senate meeting. I do think that it is very important that students and Senators are aware of where our money comes from, and to some extent, where it goes and how it's being spent. I know that transparency is a little bit of a buzzword. But I do think that it is very important.

**Christina Madonia:** I would second the transparency aspect. I would really emphasize that by increasing awareness. I can relate to some of the students who aren't aware of where to go or what to look for. While the Senators can relay that information back to their departments, I think giving an infographic type sheet of summarizing how our money can benefit those students would be helpful. Also, it'd a flyer that they can give out to their departments as well or something that we can post outside of the site.

*Question 3: How will you ensure that the distribution of grants is equitable and need based, not just merit based?*

**Christina Madonia:** I think this is a multifaceted issue. Even beyond that, looking at if we have any biases on how we distributed it in the past, and then honestly creating some kind of criteria to evaluate that going forward. I don't know if I have such a quick straight answer.

**Julia Overfelt:** So, going off of the criteria that she was speaking about earlier, our current methods do actually have a certain amount of criteria. That really helped with need based not just merit based. I do think that it's important to have those maybe looked over by other bodies that are not just within Treasury or F&B to make sure that we are accomplishing what we are setting out to do, when we are trying to be equitable and need based.

*Question 4: How do you believe GPSS should balance maintaining our available reserves for maximum flexibility versus investing in our endowment over the next several years?*

**Julia Overfelt:** So this is kind of a tough one, because I feel like it's very involved with who is on the Executive board and who the other offices are, as well as, who we have in Senate. Personally, I lean more towards investing in our endowment, but I know that that is not how everyone feels. So I would definitely be careful to seek out opinions of people who are more on the flexibility side and make sure that their voice is represented as well when we're making these decisions.

**Christina Madonia:** I would definitely see for equitable participation in who gets a say and how that is conducted. Quite frankly, I would like to develop a greater understanding of how our reserves and some of the funding that we get from SAF versus the endowment would be spent over the next couple of years. I feel like even though there's no insurance that the endowment is given each year, the investment in that could allow for a greater diversity of opportunities for students.

*Question 5: How would you prioritize the allocation of travel grants? Do you believe we should fund travel to conferences even if a student is not presenting themselves?*

**Christina Madonia:** So, coming from somebody who has presented at some conferences, I would probably prioritize allocation for travel grants for people who are presenting. Well, I think in the meeting minutes, they talked about arts and humanities and other aspects that don't necessarily have some of the funding that GPSS has given when they're not presenting. I think if we needed to cut funding, that would be something that we should prioritize for students who are presenting their work because they need that exposure.

**Julia Overfelt:** I think this is where we're going to disagree a little bit. I do think that there should be a criteria for taking into account whether or not people are presenting but I do think it's important that we don't cut out so many departments that don't have the opportunity to do original research or to do projects that they can present on, to leave them out have the opportunity to network and be exposed to different ideas that they wouldn't otherwise. I would want to create language specifically around how we would allocate funds for those presenting and those not presenting.

*Question 6: How will you advocate strongly and equitably on behalf of graduate student needs at SAF and STF meetings?*

**Julia Overfelt:** I think that the first step will be to make sure that I understand the needs of graduate students and that's going to come through people's ideas for surveys and such. I think that it's important to remember that on those committees, I'm not there for myself. I'm there for all the graduate students and I'm there to make sure that decisions that are made, don't just impact these graduate students, but graduate students going into the future.

**Christina Madonia:** Yeah, first off, understanding the needs of the people that we're representing. I think through a lot of the different surveys that were discussed, that will be accomplished, or at least better known. Then aiming to be responsible, transparent and understanding that I'm hearing what they're saying accurately and then representing that and their needs at those meetings.

*Question 7: How will you make sure that all graduate students, not just those who are very communicative, or GPSS officers and senators are aware of GPSS funds?*

**Christina Madonia:** Making sure that all graduate students is a high aim but to get the very most that we can be an effective organization is important. Again, sending out infographic type newsletters, posting them around campus in addition to giving them to Senators. Some kind of visual material that students can relate to and posting them on things outside of our general website, so that there's multiple avenues to be aware of GPSS funds.

**Julia Overfelt:** I think a few ways to make sure that people know about these is through the orientation that we've been talking a lot about, having some literature in there to let people know that that's an avenue that they can explore. I would really like to work with the Communications Director or VP of Internal Affairs to make sure that we can get this out as much as possible. I think that that's something that I would really have to consult more with someone else, but I do think that it's a really good point.

**Zih-Hua (Amber) Chen:** Hi, everyone! My name is Amber and I'm a graduate student from Taiwan. I'm currently pursuing my master's degree in the Bioengineering department which is under the College of Engineering and UW Medicine. I believe my previous work experience has equipped me with adequate organization skills for this position. I have been Secretary of engineering summer camp for more than more than 100 high school students and I have worked as a full time research assistant in the lab for one year. My duty also include maintaining documents, expense reimbursement, and communication with business specialists from equipment suppliers. So if I'm elected as the Secretary, I intend to work more on the following things. First, to support diversity on campus. I'm going to propose a crazy idea here. I would like to extend the purpose of the funds for diversity to form a new organization because, if some students feel that they cannot be represented by any of the existing organizations and would like to start a brand new one, I think we're here to support them. The second part is to involve more senators from different departments or academic communities. So, as a student from the College of Engineering and School of Medicine, I'm happy to communicate with the faculty in these communities. The third part is freedom of information. By this I mean to make information from GPSS more accessible to every graduate and professional student through the GPSS website. For example, we could create a mailing list that everyone can subscribe with their government ID (even if they don't have a GPSS Senator in their department). This way, we could deliver announcements or more resources to them after the Senate meetings. Thanks for your time and consideration!

**Brittany Collins:** Hi, everyone! Thank you so much for your consideration. My name is Brittany and I'm running for the position of Secretary. I am a student at the Evans School of Public Policy. I consider myself to be a very good communicator as well as very organized, but I'm sure that you're going to hear that from any of the candidates that are running for the Secretary position. The thing that I think sets me apart from the rest of the candidates is my background. Before I returned to graduate school, I was working as a social worker. I'm incredibly passionate about serving under-served communities and about using the resources that I have at my disposal to advocate for improvement of services to those community communities.

My undergraduate degree is in social work with a minor in law and justice, which I think provides me with an understanding of judicial procedures although I have not served as a senator on GPSS. I also served in my undergraduate as an officer on the Rainbow Alliance at my school so I am familiar with parliamentary procedures. The reason that I want to run for this position is because I'm incredibly passionate about the goals of GPSS, and particularly about the Equity and Accountability Committee. I feel that although so many amazing strides have been made to make the University of Washington and GPSS more inclusive, I think that there is more that we could do. Ss a commuter as well as someone who was working through my graduate program, I felt that the GPSS meetings were somewhat inaccessible to me, because I had to make the decision to choose between working and earning income to support myself, or attending meetings which I really would have loved to do. I think that there is more that we could do to make the meetings more accessible moving forward. I also want to improve the representation on GPSS of under-served populations at UW, including departments that don't typically participate, as many of the other candidates have mentioned. I think next year is going to require some really creative thinking in regards to determining how we can continue to serve the UW community around the guidelines that are likely to still be in place in some way or another around as we recover from COVID-19. Particularly on equity and accountability, as their purview is primarily overseeing funding for diversity events, we're going to have to brainstorm how we can continue to serve that mission, even though those events might start to look a little bit different. It is my goal to work with the staff and the senators and UW faculty to achieve the mission of GPSS with positivity, compassion and clear communication. I sincerely appreciate your consideration for the position of Secretary!

**Paige Victoria Gagliardi:** Hi there, my name is Paige and I just want to thank everybody for being here. I'm a first year law student running for GPSS Secretary. Something that you should know about me is that since working for the Walt Disney Company, I've applied their four key philosophy of prioritizing safety, courtesy, show and efficiency to all work I do. I hope to bring this philosophy to this organization, especially in this time of great change with the pandemic and a whole new Executive Board being elected. I'm going to actually hone in on what I believe would make my time occupying the role of Secretary so unique. My personal mission is to become a resource for Senators, staff and graduate students alike. I want to increase University accessibility. I have a brother with autism, a father with multiple sclerosis, a hard of hearing friend, and I am proficient in American Sign Language. So issues of accessibility are always at the forefront of my mind and gaps in equity have become even more stark in this time of the pandemic. So by leading the E&A committee and by working with RSOs and university faculty, I am excited to actually propel and assist equity and accountability efforts as Secretary. Furthermore, I also hope to elevate issues pressing under-served graduate student populations, such as those formerly incarcerated, those learning online, those commuting, those caring for family, because all graduate students deserve to have their voices heard, and to have easy access to equitable accommodation.

Also, I want GPSS to have more administrative transparency. This is something that is only increasing in importance and I hope to provide not only Senators and staff, but all graduate and professional students clarity regarding GPSS’ procedures so we can all feel connected on a new level and involved in University advocacy together. As a law student, I extremely excited by the administrative processes and duties I will be taking on a secretary. I also believe my museum archival, office banking and parliamentary procedure experience notably sets me apart from other candidates in preparation for this administrative heavy role. I don't want to bore you with my resume, which I hope you read, but I have chaired many committees, held many officer positions, including President of an award-winning resident hall council and led statewide efforts to curate a women's suffrage exhibit. Finally, I came to law school to make change and I don't want to wait until after I graduate to do so. I'm driven, experienced and organized, and I long to make new connections. So I hope you will choose me to be your next Secretary. It would be a privilege to dedicate myself to this organization and to the community it serves. Thank you so much!

**Logan C. Jarrell:** My name is Logan and I am a Master’s student in the School of Marine Environmental Affairs. I'm also a GPSS Senator, member of LAB and member of the Strategic Planning Committee, as well as the only GPSS Senator running for this position. I'm running specifically for the Secretary position because of my diverse experiences that I feel have prepared me for this position. I have been an electoral student organizer, NAACP political action chair, an undergraduate Senate committee chair, a fundraising Manager for $100,000 charity event and a mentor to at-risk high school children. I interviewed the candidates for Coastal Carolina's diversity inclusion center and helped found the equivalent in their student government. I have worked with activists, administrators, politicians and more.

I'm specifically interested in helping lead the equity and accountability committee's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I recognize the issues that are already distressing our graduate and professional students are only exacerbated by this situation. I know a bit about disaster response from my experiences with hurricanes at Coastal Carolina University. It requires grounding your self-interests, the balance between selflessness and selfishness. I have no health insurance. I have family members at risk. I've been a caretaker for those with disabilities. My thesis has been disrupted by this and I'm willing to be vulnerable about all those things. Our response must listen to the most stressed groups of our university community – student parents having to juggle work at home, international students now separated by vast timezone differences, among many others. We must listen to build an imperfect understanding of what it means to be those communities. We also must go beyond just listening to them, we must strive for empowerment of these groups under frameworks of equity, justice and inclusivity. Our allyship should feature collaborations with existing partners and fortunate ones as we take action. We must have the guts to take the actions these students need. No one fights alone. Our response must be unprecedented during this unprecedented time. Since specific actions I recommend are to pass all of today's resolutions to add specific new seats to the Senate, to become more diverse. I encourage Senators to remain vigilant and encourage their departments to fill out the upcoming COVID-19 survey. I welcome any changes to the Secretary position from the Strategic Planning Committee so that our response can be just while our administrative needs are met. I also encourage Senators to join the equity and accountability committee with me should they be passionate about this as well. If you've been moved by what you've heard, I'm asking for your vote for Secretary this evening. You're all wonderful people. Thank you very much.

**Austin Raymond:** Hello everyone, I'm Austin. I just want to start off by saying, I feel so honored to be running with so many incredibly passionate and highly qualified people. So this is really exciting. I am an Evans School Master of Public Health student and an outgoing graduate student assistant at the Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center. My work experience is in higher education student affairs and diversity, equity, inclusion and community outreach, consulting for local and state government.

As GPSS secretary, I’d like to focus on helping GPSS integrate equity into all aspects of its functioning from finance and budgeting, to hiring of staff to elections, and everything in between. I really want to look at working closely and collaboratively with fellow officers in a way to audit and improve processes and to make sure that equity is not just the work of the Secretary or the committee for equity and accountability, but is the purview of GPSS as a whole governing body. I'm especially interested in helping improve equity within GPSS in terms of Senator recruitment and retention. So this will look like looking at where there are gaps in representation in academic and non-academic units and in terms of how the identities of GPSS senators are representative of our broader graduate and professional student community. And then, over the summer, working to build relationships with academic advisors and working with non-academic units to really build a strong and effective plan for recruitment and orientation for early fall. As a multicultural affairs person, I'd say retention is something that's really near and dear to my heart. Diversity does not equal equity and inclusion – I think it's a really important thing for everyone to remember that. So I really want to look at making sure that Senators, especially new Senators, have access to the information and resources they need to feel supported and effective as student representatives, and advocating for other students on campus and also themselves. So wanting to make sure that there's multiple ramps to accessing information online, in-person and communicating with me as Secretary, as well as multiple ramps to participating in Senate processes. Thank you all so much for your time. I really appreciate your consideration. I look forward to any additional questions you have.

*Question 1: The Secretary is also the Senate Parliamentarian. How do you see yourself helping with parliamentary procedure issues in meetings and assisting senators who may be less familiar.?*

**Amber Chen:** I will send out send out the agenda prior to each meeting. I think that's really essential. I will also strive to make information more transparent to everyone in Senate.

**Brittany Collins:** I am somewhat familiar with parliamentary procedure from my undergraduate experience but also as a social worker. A lot of that work requires you to very quickly learn rules and procedures so that you can explain them to other people. That's something that I feel very comfortable with. If elected, I would definitely want to spend the summer re-familiarizing myself with parliamentary procedures so that I can be as up-to-date as possible when the fall quarter begins and be an effective leader in that capacity.

**Paige Gagliardi:** I'm familiar with parliamentary procedure from law school and from my undergraduate experience, but before then I had no clue what I was doing. I had no idea about it. So I would make sure that anybody elected to Senate has access to parliamentary rules at all times. And it is sent out immediately at the beginning of the year so they can become familiar with it and have it on hand to access if they have any questions. Also, just if anyone has a question, taking the time to listen to them and just answer their question and explain the rules to them.

**Logan C. Jarrell:** This is an issue that I faced during undergrad when I was a Senator. One of the ways that we addressed this was, at one of the first meetings just having a very chill open session about parliamentary procedures. Another thing that we specifically did was we planned retreats that focused on this. This was one of the biggest issues that we identified in our Senate – it made people feel in ways that they didn't want to contribute and sometimes they didn't want to come. So it's an issue I take very seriously.

**Austin Raymond:** I really love Logan's idea about having an initial chill meeting where we're going through parliamentary procedure. I would love to make myself available to senators in having parliamentary one-on-one videos, or I'm also graphic recorder so I love synthesizing information into really accessible graphics. So just helping share information and make it accessible and make parliamentary procedures seem less intimidating to folks. I'm quite familiar with it myself but it's definitely an area that I want to learn more about and I want to help other people feel like they are empowered to learn more about it.

*Question 2: If you haven't served as a Senator, how will you familiarize yourself with the Senate bylaws and processes and the projects that the E&A committee has started? If you have served as a Senator, how can you leverage your experience?*

**Brittany Collins:** I haven't served as a senator on GPSS. But I have sat in on the E&A committee and I am familiar with how that runs. I feel that, if elected, my biggest priority would be spending the summer familiarizing myself with ongoing projects, really speaking with Leslie to understand what they're hoping translates in the next year and speaking with the other Senators regarding their priorities and making sure that that gets on the legislative agenda.

**Paige Gagliardi:** I haven't served a Senator but that’s because I didn't really know that GPSS existed until a few months ago because of my law school bubble. Since then, I've become really entrenched in everything just to make sure I learned everything. Also everything is public record and that's something as Secretary we have to do. So I would just make sure I'm continuing these projects that we've started in the E&A committee. I loved the E&A committee meeting I attended. So, making sure I talke to Juliana who's leading it right now and her goals for the future are being followed.

**Logan C. Jarrell:** I have served as a GPSS senator my entire time in graduate school and I've sat through bylaw changes. I'm aware of how the bylaws work. One thing that I do not have as much experience with, though, is the equity and accountability committee because I've had time conflicts. I recognize its importance, even more so its importance in how we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm very interested in being on that committee and continuing to contribute whether or not I win or lose this position.

**Austin Raymond:** I have not been served as a Senator myself, but for me, in terms of familiarizing myself with the bylaws and processes, it's really about relationship building and reaching out to current officers and senators and really spending my time over the summer familiarizing myself with all the documents and building relationships with folks and hearing about their personal experiences with GPSS. As for equity and accountability, that is like my heart. I am very tapped into groups that are doing equity accountability work here on campus and would love to continue conversations with Leslie over the summer on how to continue her work.

**Amber Chen:** I haven’t served as a Senator before. But I will make sure to read all GPSS documents during the summer and make sure to talk to all the officers and reach out to current Senators to make sure I understand the Senate bylaws and E&A committee processes.

*Question 3: As chief officer of diversity on the Equity and Accountability committee, how do you plan to uphold the mission statement? Please explain how you will carry out strategic actions to eradicate the historical inequities inherent in institutionalized academic structures and settings?*

**Paige Gagliardi:** So I'll try to address this as best as I can in 30 seconds. But actually, Aaron spoke to this a little bit earlier. The Law school had had some racial tensions going on in winter quarter and possibly still going on. My brother is autistic. My friend is hard of hearing and my father has multiple sclerosis. This stuff is my passion. It's always at the forefront of my mind. And it's really just about becoming involved, listening and making sure that the people that need to be heard or at the table, are represented – that's probably our biggest problem in E&A.

**Austin Raymond:** I definitely would want to leverage the partnerships that I've built as a student leader of color, as someone who's working for OMAD currently and tapped into various committees around equity, inclusion and diversity, as well as teams on and off campus to pull upon those networks and really use the power that is all of us working together. This is a very decentralized and huge campus. So I think not reinventing the wheel as much as possible and bringing this all together will be really helpful to maximize diversity efforts.

**Logan C. Jarrell:** One thing first is to recognize that these structures exist. And I want to address them in two ways (i) empowerment of these marginalized communities to help them overcome these barriers and (ii) doing everything within my power to dismantle these institutions.

**Amber Chen:** This is a big question! And so what I will do is go get more voices to be heard and summarize what their need is. Then, I will come up with strategic actions with the whole community and do my best to carry out the those actions.

**Brittany Collins:** I agree absolutely with Amber that this is a really big question. Someone asked a question before about preventing tokenization while including people and I think that the best way to do that is to identify what barriers are present or preventing people from being at the meeting. One of the things we're already learning how much more inclusive, it can be just having an option for people to be there remotely. I think there's a lot of other ways that we can really reach out to the community and find out what is preventing them from being at the table and how can we support them being at the table and having a voice.

*Question 4: What kind of international student outreach will you pursue to ensure that information about GPSS is transparent and accessible to those populations.?*

**Logan C. Jarrell:** I would want to consult with international students about their needs. I want them on E&A, I want them at the table. I want them making decisions. It's a population I don't know as much about, since it wasn't a big population at Coastal Carolina University. However, I already am aware that some of my friends, including people in my program, are being impacted by the pandemic. They are time zones away. A student who was leading the diversity efforts in my program is now back in Hong Kong. Another friend of mine is in Europe and can't participate. No RSOs anymore.

**Austin Raymond:** Just from my work and doing community engagement work for local and state government and nonprofits, the thing that's been really important is finding the folks who are the nexus, who are the people who are trusted and connected and plugged in to various communities across campus. So, in this case, reaching out to folks at ISS, other folks who are leaders and representatives within international student communities and like Logan said, getting them at the table and making sure they have a voice within E&A and other parts of GPSS.

**Amber Chen:** I am part of the international student community.From my point of view, FUITS and Circle are the most active communities that are working with international students. I think it would be very helpful if GPSS works closely with FIUTS and Circle.

**Brittany Collins:** I think one of the best ways to really make sure that the international community is feeling involved is, like Austin said, not only reaching out to ISS and seeking their input, but also I think that GPSS could do a better job of making sure that information is provided to all incoming students regarding GPSS and its functions. Someone mentioned to me that international students have their own orientation. So even if the program that they're in has an orientation that includes information on GPSS that might not be included in it for international students. So making sure that all students have access to information before they even step foot on campus.

**Paige Gagliardi:** I want to echo what everybody else has said that we need to actually talk to international students, ISS and get them involved because I'm not an international student. I can't speak for them. I don't know what they want. But also, I think that if we had a place on our website where we could request for information, because all our things are public record, but they're in English. So if we could have a place where you could request information in their native language, that'd be amazing. Also, it's just about getting more international students involved with GPSS. We have a large international population at the law school, and I look forward to getting to know the international student population better.

*Question 5: How would you determine if the Senate is truly representative of the Graduate Student Body?*

**Austin Raymond:** That's a really interesting question. I think it's also hard to answer because all of us are walking around with visible and invisible identities at all times. So will we be able to get to a point in which we're truly representative of the graduate student body? I don't think that's possible because we're so incredibly diverse as human beings. But I think the power of surveys and outreach to non-academic units such as FIUTS, the Q-Center and the D-Center and other campus partners who work with marginalized students would be really great to tap in to and see how they're feeling.

**Amber Chen:** I would say that we will never reach this point, but unless we can make sure that every departmental and every organization is represented on GPSS. We could count the percentage of how many people represent the different degrees at the UW campus.

**Brittany Collins:** So this is a really tricky one because if you focus too hard on creating a certain subset of the Senate, then it starts to look like tokenization. But I think that the biggest thing you can do is maybe lowering the bar so that people can participate in GPSS even if they have other things going on. Sometimes, there is an intimidation factor that people don't feel like they can go to the meetings every week. They don't know if they will have the time. Additionally, last year they created a non-academic position and I think that that was a great start.

**Paige Gagliardi:** Yeah, until every graduate student knows about GPSS and/ or is involved with GPSS, it will never be truly representative of the student population. So until that point, we just need to raise awareness. We need to lower the bar of participation and all of the lessons around accessibility and equity that we have actually been learning from COVID-19 should propel us forward on how to make things easier for people to access going forward.

**Logan C. Jarrell:** I agree with a lot of what has been said. It's hard to measure that point when you got to the goal. Personally, I don't think there ever is a point where you've done that. Our student body is continually changing and in our efforts to ensure representation, we need to be continuous as well. It's not like we can just fill a quota of x, and we've achieved representation. It's a continuous process.

**Fiona Murray** (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance): Thank you all for the speeches and also the question-answer rounds. At this point in time, we will go into the 10 minute forum for Senators to discuss the candidates.

**Olivia Sanderfoot** (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences): Point of information – so this time is for senators to just share what they're thinking about candidates and ask questions of other senators?

**Fiona Murray** (Evans School of Public Policy & Governance): Correct.

**Olivia Sanderfoot** (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences): Okay. I would be interested to hear from other Senators about the value of electing somebody for the role of Secretary, or any other position but I was thinking specifically Secretary just because there are so many candidates, who has had more experience with GPSS? Is that something that other people are thinking about?

**Marty Varela** (RCSA Representative): I have considered that. I think another thing that is even broadly more important to consider is that unlike previous officer groups, this group will be entirely new. So, the less experience someone has, the more likely it is that that lack of experience can be an impediment and it's something that I think that we should consider when we're making our decisions about all of the candidates. We're not just looking at who's the best candidate for each role, because that's our natural tendency, but we should be considering how everyone will work together and how balanced the collective officer candidate group could be. So, I think your point about experience is critical. I also think that people's responses regarding managing competing priorities is important. I think that equity and inclusion and their desire to have our Senate be more representative is also important. All of those collectively need to be considered making the decisions about the candidates. So I appreciate your bringing that up.

**Olivia Sanderfoot** (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences): I agree with you in all points. Marty, Does anybody else have something they'd like to add to that?

**Meshell Sturgis** (Communication): In general, I was thinking about it as how much their platform aligned with the mission statement of the equity and accountability committee, and I think that it's very possible that somebody who is not within GPSS currently could still have their own personal mission statement aligned with the committee's mission statement. And likewise, I think that it's also possible that based off difference between the committee's mission statement and GPSS’s overall mission statement, that there is room for misalignment. That's just how I'm thinking about it in general.

**Olivia Sanderfoot** (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences): I was just going to say that I was really excited as Executive Senator to see so many qualified people apply for these positions. I've really, really enjoyed hearing you all share your campaign platforms and what you'd hoped to accomplish in these roles. I think that all of the ideas were incredibly valuable and just interesting to hear what you had in common and the different ideas that you had presented tonight. So thank you so much for the time that you put into these presentations. I think you've given us all as elected leaders a lot to think about.

**Terrence Pope** (Psychology): Based off of what the different people who have spoken today, have said about their desire to increase the representation of different groups from around campus, I was curious to hear which ideas sounded really compelling to people? Because one of the things I've really appreciated about today's elections process is that, regardless of what happens and who ends up in any of these positions, we've heard a bunch of great idea. As Olivia said, there's been a lot of professionalism and preparation that has went into these. So I'm curious to hear what ideas stood out to other people.

**Marty Varela** (RCSA Representative): I just want to highlight the recommendation that Paige Gagliardi made to give students the opportunity to request via the GPSS website, translated information in their native tongue, if that would be helpful to them. I think that that's a really small thing from an execution perspective that could reap significant rewards in our effort to increase the international student presence on GPSS. So thank you for that.

**Alexander Novokhodko** (Mechanical Engineering): I would like to highlight Amber’s idea regarding using GPSS resources to help put together RSOs directed towards diversity and inclusion. I think that is a very promising idea. So, I just wanted to highlight that.

**Cooper Robertson** (ASUW Representative): One of the points that I would like to push back on is using ISS as the sole arbiter and sole provider of international student opinion. There's been some negative history between members of the international student community and ISS. So relying on one source of international student opinion is not sufficient. Regardless of who holds these positions, if international student outreach is of concern, there needs to be a significant outreach that is not just targeted at ISS.

1. **[Information] Executive Senator Update** **8:27pm**

# *Fiona Murray handed over chairship back to Giuliana Conti.*

**Giuliana Conti:** We've got some announcements from our two Executive Senators Jackie and Michael, so I would like to invite them to speak now.

**Michael Diamond** (Atmospheric Sciences): After elections, I have to say I'm very impressed by everyone who ran today. I think it was a really inspiring election. In case you are inspired by this and looking for a way to get more involved on the Executive Committee but not as an officer, there will be two Executive Senator seats opening up that will be voted on at the next meeting. I have announced my intention to resign my seat at this meeting and I believe there's another announcement as well.

**Jackie Wong** (Dentistry): I have also announced my resignation. So we're looking forward to bringing in the next couple of new Executive Senators. I really enjoyed my time being here as an Executive Senator. I've learned so much and it's been just really amazing to serve everyone and to interact with all of the Senators and officers, and it's really meaningful work.

**Michael Diamond** (Atmospheric Sciences): Yeah, I 100% echo what Jackie just said. For anyone who is potentially interested in these positions, please do reach out to me or Jackie. We are very happy to talk to you about what this role entails and talk to you about what you might be able to expect if you do want to step into it.

**Giuliana Conti:** After having participated in the Executive Committee now for a number of years, we've had the incredible fortune of having Michael and Jackie on board. We are lucky to have had you with us because our organization has changed as a result of your leadership and involvement in GPSS, especially as Executive Senators.

Your involvement is part of the impetus for us to move for compensating our Executive Senators because of the high level of involvement that you've contributed. So I think that as an organization, we're better because of you. I'm really grateful for all your energy and your kindness, but also your stubbornness, with memos and bylaws, because we were all better as a result.

For everyone else, I do encourage you to consider running because it's going to be an entirely new board of officers and Executive Senators next year. This means that with some of the guidance that we are providing, by the end of this year, you'll really have the opportunity to sink in and enjoy the process for the rest of the year. I'm excited for the new ideas and the new energy that you're going to bring to this organization.

1. **[Information] COVID-19 Discussion 8:38pm**

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| **Breakout Room 1** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  Advisor expectations and boundary setting needs to be established (many advisors are keeping time expectations similar to pre-COVID19); IRB HSD confusion with what research can be conducted. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?**  Real talk about how graduation timelines are affected. |

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| **Breakout Room 2** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  Townhalls, Funding/Grants are in question, different departments are uniquely acting and it is frustrating, extensions on tenure, extensions for students research(?) |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:**  Resilience strategies, summer internship help, togetherness of the graduate and professional schools. |

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| **Breakout Room 3** |
| **How is your department responding?:**Pushing back all department milestones. Making all classes C/NC until in-person classes resume. Giving students the option to choose C/NC and have it count towards graduation. Creating an emergency support fund for students affected by the pandemic. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:**  Financial support, more library resources, support for disrupted timelines |

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| **Breakout Room 4** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  C/NC for some departments, regular scaling for others; teachers being lenient on deadlines, participation, providing support and extra office hours if needed. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:** Stimulus checks are a concern for some, most not but other funding/financial concerns are present |

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| **Breakout Room 5** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  Medicine: mobilizing students to sort through misinformation and do service work that helps support the medical front line; creating new courses for clinical students to gain enough credits to graduate in the absence of standard clinical rotation credits. Also weekly town halls to hear concerns, and a live FAQ on the departmental intranet. A group Strava page and weekly Zoom workouts. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:**  Health insurance for Washington residents who are currently trapped out of state for clinical placements. |

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| **Breakout Room 6** |
| **How is your department responding?:**Physics (Jared): Lots of chaos around trying to figure out how to bring lab courses online. There is a notable lack of collaboration among lab instructors, which has led to a great deal of reinvention and spinning of wheels.  Pathology (Jenny): The definition of “essential personnel” has been a problematically vague one.  Communication: Lots of changes across the board and restructuring courses, but the department has a particular interest in how to adjust communication practices in this time. Future funding is a concern.  Rehab Medicine (Julian): We are having difficulty navigating a course load that has all practical/hand-on coursework. The department is supported though and advocating for graduate students. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:** A more reliable way to get in touch with my advisors.(Virtual town halls were suggested)  Apart from COVID concerns, interfacing with UW travel office(s) is consistently a miserable experience which often ends with students fronting money to the university or even coming out having paid out of pocket for expenses they should have never been responsible for, or accruing credit card interest due to glacially slow reimbursement. This could use GPSS attention even outside of current circumstances. |

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| **Breakout Room 7** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  They have created zoom meetings to check in with students to see if we have resources to continue to work toward our degree, etc.  And they have set up an emergency fund. They have been communicative and overwhelmingly supportive. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:**  Access to the library and the archive that I do research in. Also, most summer internships have been cancelled or postponed. |

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| **Breakout Room 8** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  Some departments have been responsive in terms of shutting down lab work early. Mandatory non-credit sections added. Changing expectations on data work now that we’re digital - some PIs have been helpful. Some TAs are still being asked to go into a lab by themselves to record lab sections. Variations by labs/advisors about lab requirements |

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| **Breakout Room 9** |
| **How is your department responding?**  Law School: Library shut down, created a fund to support students who have been especially affected by COVID-19. They also created a class where professors talk about the legal aspects of the pandemic. Administration and student leaders have been advocating for mental health focus.  A&A: Has been very proactive in making sure that students have access to what they need in order to succeed in class. Admin has been very understanding and lenient towards students.  Atmos Sci: Most grants have not been immediately impacted. Admin put out a survey asking what resources students need but did not get much response from students. Admin encouraged students to stay home when possible and practice social distancing before the quarantine went into effect.  Environmental Science: Concerns due to advisors expecting students to come to campus for one-on-one meetings before the quarantine went into effect. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:**  Lab work has been disturbed which has affected some grants, graduation is also a bummer. |

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| **Breakout Room 10** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  School of Marine and Environmental Affairs: Pretty good!  Extensions granted for thesis and capstone  Oceanography:  Pretty strict about distancing.  They still have essential workers to check on cultures and labs.  Actively discouraging to take advantage of the opportunity to go in for anything else.  Disruption to research and still not sure what’s going on.  School of Business: They’re having regular surveys in some courses.  A lot of people are struggling with internships being pulled back. |
| **What do you need most right now as a graduate/professional student?:**  Evans School: lack of student involvement in decisions  Marine Environmental: Same (even if it’s mostly agreed upon, it would be better to have student agreement). |

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| **Breakout Room 13** |
| **How is your department responding?:**  Biostatistics - buddy system with social distancing, peer-to-peer support (both to address incidents of xenophobia and racism related to COVID-19)  Chemical Engineering - effective communications, department wide town hall with department head  School of Business - petitioning for different class times since many students in time zones that do not match up with class times (students having class at 1 am) |

1. **[Information] Elections results 9:45pm**

**Andrew Shumway** (Earth and Space Sciences): Thank you so much for waiting. Without further ado, the winner for President is Aaron Yared. The winner for VP of Internal Affairs is Genevieve Hulley and for VP of External Affairs Hannah Sieben. Our next Treasurer will be Julia Overfelt, and our next Secretary will be Logan C. Jarrell.

**Giuliana Conti:** This was a close election because the Elections Committee was spending a lot of time trying to figure out different ties. What it means is that for all the candidates that ran tonight, it's been a very close race because you all were incredible and dedicated and passionate and had incredible ideas that really would have advanced GPSS. The organization is grateful for everyone who ran. I'm also incredibly grateful for the Elections Committee for putting this together, being really efficient with their time, and for dealing with us asking for constant updates. For all the people that are still on this call, I'm incredibly proud of all of you for asking questions that got to the heart of the issues that our graduate and professional students face and the way that our organization operates. Without you, we wouldn't be here and you help ensure that everyone who did run ran for a good cause and wanted to be part of this because you have made it an incredible organization. Thank you to all the candidates! Thank you to the Elections Committee! Thank you to all the Senators and to all the visitors who have been with us tonight! This was a really long meeting, but you kept it engaging.

**Giuliana Conti:** Obviously, not everyone got the results that they wanted tonight. But I've been heartened by the people who already asked if they could run for Executive Senator positions after this. Check in with the people that you voted for and the friends that you have and make sure that people who might otherwise be alone tonight are not alone tonight. We would all be celebrating very differently tonight if we were hear in person. As we move forward, we're going to be preparing for the next steps but for tonight, I am incredibly grateful for everyone's energy and for being so supportive of our candidates and this organization. Congratulations to our elected officers! We are excited to have you on our team!

1. **[Action] Adjournment 10:00 pm**

**Giuliana Conti** entertained a motion to adjourn the Senate meeting.

**Cooper Robertson** (ASUW representative) motioned.

**Terrence Pope** (Psychology) seconded. No objections.