



## MEMORANDUM

To: GPSS Executive Committee  
From: Matt Munoz, Vice President of External Affairs, and the State Legislative Advisory Board (SLAB) / Federal Legislative Advisory Board (FLAB)  
Date: April 2, 2018  
Subject: Legislative Advisory Board

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### Introduction

The State and Federal Legislative Advisory Boards, SLAB and FLAB respectively, have functioned as committees within GPSS since their authorizing memoranda in 2016. Since then, the committees have assisted in the creation of the state legislative agenda, in researching talking points and data to bolster the GPSS positions, supporting the GPSS Vice President of External Affairs' work with the Washington Student Association (WSA), and contributing to GPSS's work at the federal level, especially in collaboration with the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) Coalition. Although they exist as separate committees, the two have operated as one for the past two academic years. This has proven to be more efficient in terms of committee operations and more effective in terms of membership retention.

### Policy Recommendation

For continued effectiveness and efficiency of the committee, I am recommending the following changes:

1. SLAB and FLAB be consolidated into one committee
2. The committee adopt a vision statement, a mission statement, and a set of fundamental values by which to operate

### *Consolidation of Committee*

Much of the work in SLAB/FLAB this year crossed government levels within individual meetings, alternating between state and federal issues. Once the state legislative agenda was approved by the committee, few meetings were solely about state issues or solely about federal issues. This has been consistent for the past two years. Because interest areas of committee members tend to align with both state and federal issues, and because state and federal issues are often interconnected, SLAB/FLAB will be consolidated into one committee, herein known as the GPSS Legislative Advisory Board (LAB).

The composition of LAB will be:

- The GPSS Vice President of External Affairs (Chair)
- The GPSS External Affairs staff
- Any number of volunteer members that are graduate and professional students
- One (1) liaison from the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW), designated by the ASUW

The Vice President of External Affairs shall act as the LAB Chair. The LAB Vice Chair shall be determined by an internal committee vote, to occur by the third meeting of Fall quarter.

The functions of LAB include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting the Vice President of External Affairs to develop a state legislative agenda for the Winter quarter legislative session by Thanksgiving break
- Advising the Vice President of External Affairs and the Policy Director on issues related to the GPSS's state-level advocacy efforts, including Lobby Day
- Under the direction and at the approval of the Vice President of External Affairs, contributing to advocacy efforts during the interim Spring, Summer, and Fall quarters, including meeting with relevant stakeholders and policymakers, organizing on-campus advocacy efforts, and contributing to social media campaigns
- Contributing to the work of the Vice President of External Affairs and GPSS with the WSA and the SAGE Coalition

### *Vision, Mission, and Values*

To ensure better continuity from year to year and to better outline the work of the committee, LAB is adopting a mission statement, a vision statement, and fundamental values.

**Vision:** An actively engaged and well-informed graduate and professional student body at the University of Washington that contributes to robust, effective, and visible advocacy.

**Mission:** To contribute to the advocacy efforts of GPSS through diligent research, honest collaboration, and sincere efforts that convey the positions of the graduate and professional student body at the University of Washington.

**Values:**

- **Nonpartisanship** – Higher education is an issue that is relevant to all, regardless of ideological identity. LAB is committed to conducting research and crafting messages that appeal to policymakers and stakeholders irrespective of political affiliation.
- **Collaboration** – Ideas are better developed with multiple perspectives included. LAB is committed to honest and open conversation that will lead to inclusive, multifaceted, and refined ideas to present to policymakers and stakeholders at the state and federal levels.
- **Innovation** – New ideas and efforts are the driver of true change. LAB is committed to exploring new issues that arise for graduate and professional students and ways to address them at the state and federal levels, while also continuing efforts on the perennial issues that affect GPSS's constituents.
- **Responsiveness & Communication** – Policy actions can be quick and unexpected. LAB is committed to tracking these policy actions diligently and crafting timely response messages and efforts. LAB is also committed to communicating these policy actions, as well as the committee's response efforts, to the graduate and professional student body as

soon as possible, and to welcoming any graduate and professional students who wish to be involved in those response efforts.

## **Policy Implementation**

With a majority vote of the GPSS Executive Committee, this memorandum shall stand as official GPSS policy, subject to review by the GPSS per Article VI, Section A, Clause 4 of the GPSS Bylaws.<sup>1</sup> This memorandum may be amended by a majority vote of the GPSS Executive Committee.

This memorandum shall replace the following standing GPSS policy memoranda:

- M-05-16 Memorandum on State Legislative Advisory Board
- M-06-16 Memorandum on Federal Legislative Advisory Board

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