

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

November 20, 2019 | HUB 332



Agenda

1. Call to Order - 1 min
2. Approval of the Agenda - 1 min
3. Legislative Agenda - 20 min
4. Senator-Department Communications - 10 min
5. Hall Health Update and Executive Forum - 10 min
6. Bylaws Amendments - 15 min
7. Elections Committee Selection - 10 min
8. External Update/Olympia Send-off - 5 min
9. Working Group Feedback - 5 min
10. Announcements - 5 min
11. Adjournment - 1 min
12. PIZZAZAAA 🍕🍕🍕

Total Time: 80 min

Estimated End Time:
7pm

Approval Of Agenda

Legislative Agenda

Outline:

- **Legislative Agenda Overview** (1 mins)
- **Top 4** - briefing & discussion (4 mins each)
 - State Finances
 - Healthcare
 - Sexual Misconduct
 - Mental Health
- **Additional Statements** - briefing & discussion (2 mins)
- **VOTE**

Legislative Agenda Overview

1. Review of Agenda Creation Process

- a. 98 responses on LAB survey
- b. 11 participants in LAB committee over Fall Q

2. Setting Top 4 Priorities

- a. Survey feedback, past examples
- b. Adjusting for feasibility in supplemental year

3. Addition to backpage (from survey)

- a. Climate Change

State Funding

Legislative Asks:

1. Expand Workforce Education Investment Act (ESS HR 2158) to allow grad student eligibility
2. Provide low-interest loans or state grants for grad students

Healthcare & Insurance

Legislative Asks:

1. Reinstate university-provided health insurance plan
2. Create task force to study insurance across WA universities

Sexual Misconduct Prevention

Legislative Asks:

1. Mandate training programs for students; faculty; staff for prevention and response
2. Require all state campuses to issue annual Title IX report

Mental Health & Wellness

Legislative Asks:

1. Increase funding and resources to provide better counselor-to-student ratio on campuses
2. Increase statewide resources for mental health and wellness



PRIORITIES



Expand State Grant and Loan Programs to Graduate and Professional Students

Current funding options are insufficient to cover the cost of graduate and professional education without burdening students with enormous post-graduation debt. To address the growing student debt crisis in Washington State, GPSS supports:

- Expanding the Washington College Grant and all other Washington State student finance programs to include graduate and professional students,
- Providing low-interest state loan, grant, and work study options for graduate and professional students.

Reinstate University Student Health Insurance Options

Many graduate and professional students cannot access affordable health insurance as they are often ineligible for state-sponsored programs, too old to remain on parents' plans, or lack options to purchase affordable private plans. Because of this, GPSS supports:

- Reinstating a university-based, affordable health insurance plan open to all students,
- Implementing a statewide task force to study the health insurance usage of all Washington State Universities in order to inform the expansion of healthcare options.

Improve Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Institutional Response

GPSS recognizes that existing sexual assault prevention and response measures and resources, including campus-affiliated advocates for survivors, are insufficient. Therefore, GPSS supports:

- Implementing mandatory training programs for all students, faculty, and staff to help provide necessary skills and resources to prevent and respond to sexual assault.
- Requiring all state campuses to issue an annual Title IX report of categorized allegations and findings in order to improve transparency.

Promote Graduate Student Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Washington counselor-to-student ratio is substantially lower than the national average, and student wait times to see a counselor often exceed six weeks. In order to address prevalent mental health concerns, GPSS supports:

- Pursuing legislation to increase the University of Washington mental health counselor-to-student ratio and provide an increase in mental health resources.
- Increasing access to mental health resources in Washington State to address the prevalence of mental health concerns among graduate and professional students.



ADDITIONAL POSITION STATEMENTS



GPSS supports increased access for:

Underrepresented Communities

Expanding outreach, pipeline programs, and other resources will increase equitable access to higher education for underrepresented communities at the UW and beyond.

Students with Disabilities

Promotion of accessible physical and technological infrastructure will expand support and protections for students with disabilities.

Student Caregivers

Initiatives that increase availability and lower costs of student resources will contribute to more equitable support for student caregivers and their dependents. Limited availability, long wait lists, and high costs prevent student caregivers from obtaining care for their dependents or obtaining on-campus housing.

Student Voices

All state task forces, committees, commissions, and other advisory boards or councils should include at least one undergraduate and one graduate student to ensure student representation.

Open Science

Free access to all scholarly peer-reviewed articles, grey literature, and research data will increase public knowledge of scholarly work, better support reproducibility, and promote higher quality scholarship.

GPSS supports increased state investment in:

Climate Change Solutions

Climate change and the impacts on health, wellbeing, and environment are a concern for graduate students. Recognizing the success of UW-affiliated programs such as the Washington Ocean Acidification Center and the Clean Energy Institute in preparing our state for the challenge of mitigating and adapting, GPSS supports increases in funding and other resources for climate change related endeavors.

Predictable Tuition

State support is essential to prevent drastic graduate and professional tuition and fee increases. Increased funding to the UW's state-supported budget ensures continued affordability for graduate and professional students and maintains the UW's contributions to the Washington economy.

Financial Aid Resources for Fee-Based Program Students

Approximately one third of all graduate students at the UW are enrolled in fee-based programs, some with debt as high as \$100,000. Resources should be established to ease this debt burden on fee-based program students and provide long-term financial stability.

Expanding UW Health Science Programs for Underserved Populations

Increasing funding for these programs builds regional healthcare networks by improving healthcare provider recruitment and retention, as well as expanding resources for new healthcare providers to practice in rural and underserved communities.

**“Increased
Access for”**

&

**“Increases state
investment in...”**

- Primarily for reactive advocacy on specific bills
- Remain fairly consistent year-to-year
- New Addition
 - Climate Change

Last Questions or comments?

VOTE

Attendance

[Pollev.com/gpsspoll](https://pollev.com/gpsspoll)

Departmental Communication

[Pollev.com/gpsspoll](https://pollev.com/gpsspoll)

Hall Health Update

Hall Health Task Force

— — —

Background of Hall Health

- Part of HSA (Has some existing ties to UW Med)
- Exact proportion of HHC funding comes from SAF
- 43% From SAF, 36% of all SAF funds
- Overview of existing services
- Financial position
- ~\$800K deficit for the current fiscal year

The task force

- Makeup
 - Only one “student”
- Timeline
 - End of February
- Intent
 - Reevaluate HHC business model
 - Resolve their deficit
 - With UW Med take it on or will students continue to be responsible?
 - UW does not financially match the student financial investment in mental health care or general wellness

What's next:

Questions:

- What health services do people want to continue or add?
- Is there anyone interested in being involved in the background? We may need a student liaison ready for the task force

Bylaw Amendments

Question 1: Recall elections (Article II Section C Clause 2)

- “The Elections Committee shall ~~(GPSS Executive Committee shall appoint an election Officer to)~~ conduct a recall election among students of the representative constituency. If the Elections Committee has not yet formed, the GPSS Executive Committee shall appoint an election Officer to conduct the recall election;”

Question 2: Tie-breaking (Article V Section H Clause 4.m.8)

- “In the event of a tie after votes have been recounted... If the candidates have equal numbers of first-ranked ballots, the Officer shall be elected via toss of a United States quarter dollar coin... If more than two candidates have equal numbers of first-ranked ballots, the Elections Committee shall determine an equivalent game of chance giving equal probability of election to all tied candidates.”

Question 3: Judicial committee (Article VI Section B Clause 1.d)

Should Judicial members be able to sit on the committees that are not restricted to Senators?

- “Voting Judicial Committee members shall not sit on ~~(any other GPSS Committee)~~ the Executive, Finance and Budget, or Elections Committees. Voting Judicial Committee members participating in other GPSS Committee activities shall recuse themselves from any Judicial Committee investigations regarding that committee.”

Everything else

[amendments](#)

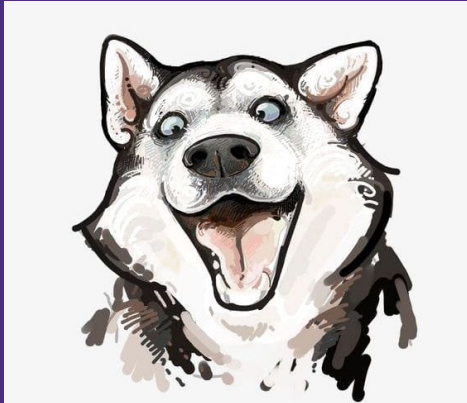
- **Define “majority”**
- **Remove election responsibilities from Exec and place them with the Elections Committee as much as possible**
- **Clarify that Executive Senators are elected for 2-year terms, not appointed by Exec (!!!)**
- **Give Elections Committee more time to revise Elections Guide and try to pass it earlier**
- **Clarify responsibilities of Elections Committee chair**
- **Clarify which committees must operate with Parli Pro**
- **Standardize elections language**

Elections Committee

VP External Report

5 min

VP External Report



- **You already heard me talk (a lot) about our agenda...**
- **Legislative Reception**
 - thanks for those who came!
 - Rep. Pollet spoke to lack of funding for us (yay! kinda...)
- **LAB:**
 - Winter Q will be current events and student outreach
- **Graduate & Professional Day on the Hill!**
 - February 11th, 2020

Senate Working Feedback

4

Polls

49

Participants

47

Average responses



Average engagement

Do you feel these working groups are a valuable use of your time?



Response options

No

Not really

Sort of

Yes

Count Percentage

3 7%

4 10%

20 48%

15 36%

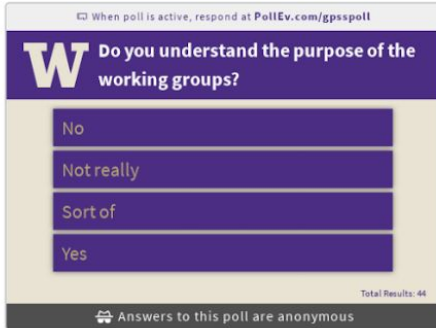


Engagement

42

Responses

Do you understand the purpose of the working groups?



Response options

No

Not really

Sort of

Yes

Count Percentage

1 2%

2 5%

14 32%

27 61%

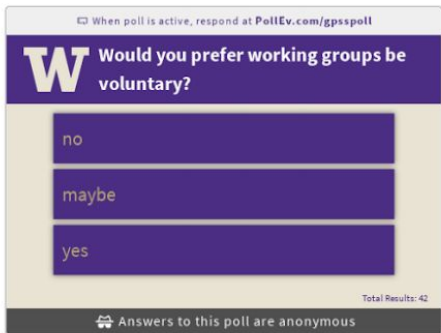


Engagement

44

Responses

Would you prefer working groups be voluntary?



Response options

- no
- maybe
- yes**

Count	Percentage
13	31%
12	29%
17	40%



When do you prefer working groups be? (select all that apply)



Response options

- Held during senate**
- Held directly after senate**
- Be ongoing outside of senate

Count	Percentage
25	41%
25	41%
11	18%



Announcements

Email announcements to gpssec@uw.edu

ADJOURNMENT

**Thank you for a great
quarter! Have a
wonderful winter
break, and see you next
year!!**

Next Meeting | January 8

THANKS FOR COMING!

gpsss.uw.edu | gpssssec@uw.edu
(206) 543-8576 | HUB 314

