GPSS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 4th 2020, 5:30 pm via Zoom

# Members present:

GPSS President Aaron Yared

GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Genevieve Hulley

GPSS Vice President of External Affairs Hannah Sieben

GPSS Secretary Logan C. Jarrell

~~GPSS Treasurer Julia Overfelt~~

Executive Senator Andrew Shumway

Executive Senator Terrénce Pope

Executive Senator Monica Jensen

Executive Senator Marty Varela

Executive Senator Britahny Baskin

ASUW Director of Internal Policy Antonio Gonzalez

Associate Director of Student Activities Rene Singleton

Associate Dean of Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Bill Mahoney

~~Husky Union Building Executive Director Justin Camputaro~~

# 1. [Action] Call to Order 5:32pm

**Aaron Yared** called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

# 2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:32pm

**Logan Jarrell** motioned to amend the agenda to add an item after the “Approval of the Minutes” item called “Special Recognition” lasting 2 minutes. **Genevieve Hulley** seconded. No objections.

**Britahny Baskin** moved to approve the agenda. **Monica Jensen** seconded. No objections.

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

**Logan Jarell** said that these October 21st minutes covered discussion on working groups and themes.

**Marty Varela** motioned to approve the minutes. **Hannah Sieben** seconded. No objections.

# 4. [Information] Special Recognition 5:34pm

**Aaron Yared** said that the previous week marked 30 years of service for Rene Singleton. He spoke on behalf of the Executive Committee to say that they all appreciated her service to all students at UW. He invited all Executive Committee members to congratulate Rene Singleton.

**Rene Singleton** said that if one thought forward and about the present day, they did not have to worry about the length of time. She said that if one was lucky and found a place they enjoyed being at and like the clients they work with, it’s wonderful. She thanked the Executive Committee and said she felt very lucky.

# 5. [Action] Senate Meeting Debrief 5:37pm

**Aaron Yared** said this was the first Senate Meeting with working groups and a guest speaker. He said that the guest speaker was only given fifteen minutes and asked for feedback on this time restraint.

**Hannah Sieben** recommended that the GPSS send information about the speaker out in advance. She said that fifteen minutes was very appropriate and noted the large amount of questions answered.

**Logan Jarrell** agreed with Hannah Sieben and said that there was only one question left unanswered. He said he forwarded the question to Aaron Yared. Regarding advance information about speakers, Logan Jarrell said he linked the Student Regent’s biography in the announcement. He asked whether a link to the biography was sufficient or whether he should include more information.

**Aaron Yared** said it made sense to share the Student Regent’s biography because she was representing her position. He said that for organizations like SafeCampus or the Title IX office, giving a primer on their main talking points. He gave the example that the Title IX office wanted to speak to the GPSS about Title IX changes to the Student Code of Conduct and the Washington Administrative Code and suggested that the announcements include a short list of “before and after” of Title IX policy changes and how GPSS will adapt, so that Senators can come up with specific questions regarding the policy instead of what the policy is prior to the Senate Meeting. He said that linking the Student Regent’s biography was appropriate, but that for speakers who will talk about issues, as opposed to introducing themselves to the GPSS, sharing their main points would be more appropriate than a biography.

**Genevieve Hulley** asked how many people each member had in their working group. She said she had one.

**Marty Varela** said she had zero.

**Logan Jarrell** said he had five.

**Andrew Shumway** said it is not a terrible thing that certain working groups have few people. He said that the Bylaws do not specifically state that there must be nine working groups.

**Logan Jarrell** said half of the Zoom attendees left the meeting after adjournment without participating in a working group. He recalled Andrew Shumway’s comment that the decision to keep working groups last year was 50/50 and speculated that the exodus of meeting attendees post-adjournment reflected this comment.

**Hannah Sieben** said members in her working group said they were unaware that the working groups would happen after the adjournment. She said that GPSS could do a better job communicating that in advance so that Senators are more interested and engaged in showing up at the working group at the next Senate Meeting.

**Genevieve Hulley** said it was still early in the year so the Executive Committee could be flexible about either keeping or doing away with a working group, especially if the group topic was not popular.

**Britahny Baskin** said that having few people in a group was not necessarily bad as long as progress is made. She reiterated that people were not aware that working groups would happen after the meeting’s adjournment.

**Genevieve Hulley** asked whether working groups were always held after adjournment.

**Britahny Baskin** said that working groups were previously held in the middle of the Senate meeting and then switched to being held afterwards.

**Terrénce Pope** said his group, the International Solidarity group, had four to five people. He said everyone seemed invested and came up with a common goal and talking points. He said that the work done in the working group led to a collaboration with UAW. He said Danielle Brown (Geography) and Logan Jarrell were also involved. He said he got in touch with people from other departments who were working on international solidarity tasks and have worked to write a resolution. He said he believes that his first working group meeting was a success and that people were very excited to work.

**Marty Varela** said that the Executive Committee should figure out whether the topic “virtual connection” was of any interest. She said that there was work to be done, and if people know that the working groups happen after the meetings, then they will plan for it. She said that people may have voted for “virtual connection” but this interest may have been short-lived as students have gotten more used to Zoom and virtual meetings. She suggested that the Executive Committee switch out the topic “virtual connection” with another topic from the working group poll or ask the Senators again to see if a new topic is of interest.

**Aaron Yared** expressed his worry that someone in the future would ask why a specific topic did not have a working group if that topic was cycled out. He said that the working group topic could cycle all the way down the list of proposed topics but expressed his concern that the Senator in charge of the working group would find it difficult.

**Marty Varela** said that it was not difficult because she joined a different group. She expressed her desire to help with the different topics. She said that this strategy would allow the Executive Committee to be flexible in catering to the needs of GPSS. She said that the Executive Committee should host a “virtual connection” working group one more time to make sure that the Senators are no longer interested in the topic. She recommended that the Executive Committee make the topics of the working groups clear to Senators and ask Senators whether some working groups were empty due to lack of planning or lack of interest.

**Genevieve Hulley** expressed her support for giving all the working group topics a second chance. She asked whether the timing worked and what the Executive Committee could do if it did not. She said the question had two facets: whether people wanted to stay online and whether people were interested in the working group topics.

**Logan Jarrell** asked how much time would be allotted and where in the agenda working groups would go if working groups were added as an agenda item.

**Monica Jensen** said that the working groups could be given a second chance. She recommended that the Executive Committee communicate more clearly that the working groups would happen after the Senate Meeting. She said she preferred having working groups at the end of the meeting.

**Britahny Baskin** said that putting the working group in the middle of the meeting would force Senators who do not want to participate in working groups and disrespect their time whereas having working groups at the end would ensure that only Senators who want to stay would stay for the working groups. She said that having the working groups at the end would allow the working groups to be flexible on how much time they wanted to spend working.

**Aaron Yared** said that prior to the pandemic, some Senators followed their friends into working group meetings and quietly listened in, but because of the pandemic, people are just stuck online. He said that working groups could possibly happen in place of icebreakers, but this would still carry the same limitations of having working groups during the meeting. Aaron Yared recommended having working groups post adjournment.

**Hannah Sieben** said that having a small but passionate group would be more effective in getting work done. She said she had four people in her group and that four people was a good number for writing and passing resolutions. She said that the Executive Committee could discuss the time commitments of the working group would be so that Senators have a clear expectation of how long they would stay and work after the Senate meeting.

**Monica Jensen** said that the general space in the Zoom meeting was used for catching up with others. She said it was nice to have a space to socialize with others about Dungeons and Dragons.

**Aaron Yared** said that once he was done working in his working group with one other person, he came to the general space and listened to Monica Jensen’s speech about what constitutes a language. He said that the general space still had the vibe of a Senate room where most people had gone home but some Senators were hanging out because they had extra time. He said it was very enjoyable and that it was the first time in a Senate context where he felt part of a community. He stressed the importance of having a space where a person could stumble into a conversation, be interested in the topic and join to learn more.

**Logan Jarrell** said that it was important for GPSS to have a space where hallway chatter could take place. He said that this (Senate Meeting Debrief) agenda item was an action item just in case someone wanted to change the format of the working groups.

**Andrew Shumway** said that one piece of feedback he received from the Senate Meeting is that it was not clear what was happening and that the Executive Committee should be more explicit about what is happening at all times.

**Aaron Yared** said that the chat for the common space remained open after meetings, and that the video call portion should remain open for hallway chatter as well. He addressed Andrew Shumway’s point and said that the Executive Committee is still learning and that the Executive Committee runs Senate meetings after being filled in on Senate meeting details in their Executive Senate meetings. He said he would try to provide more context to Senators at the next meeting.

# 6. [Action] Senate Agenda 6:01pm

**Aaron Yared** said that the Officers had a meeting on Tuesday and discussed making the Senate agenda earlier in the Executive meetings. He said the Title IX Office wanted to come and speak to GPSS as a guest speaker. He said he reached out to them to schedule their speaking engagement, but they have not yet responded so it is tentative. He invited Logan Jarrell to speak to an upcoming resolution.

**Logan Jarrell** referred to Terrénce Pope to give details about the resolution.

**Terrénce Pope** said he got in touch with some student parents and talked to them about their issues to identify possible ways that GPSS could help provide access to resources. He said he shared a list of resources earlier with the Executive Committee, but received little feedback. He said he did not have a concrete resolution in mind and asked the Executive Committee for suggestions on producing something tangible to help student parents. He said that there are not a lot of resources that UW provides for student parents at UW. UW just directs graduate students to resources provided by the state which means that graduate students must compete with all other student parents in the state. He said that it seems that UW is not meeting the need for student parents at UW, such as providing mental health support services and childcare support services. He asked for suggestions on resources that GPSS could gather or identify to help support student parents.

**Britahny Baskin** said two student parents left the neuroscience department because they could fulfill their responsibilities as a parent while attending school. She said childcare was a big issue for them: one of the parents who left was a single mom who had to bring her child everywhere, which significantly impacted her PhD experience. She said that although UW has a childcare service, it is always full and suggested that the Executive Committee look into this problem.

**Logan Jarrell** said he acknowledged the weight of the student parent issue, but that he referred to Terrénce Pope to speak to the International Scholar Task Force which is part of UAW 4121 International Solidarity Workgroup. He invited the Executive Committee to remember that the members signed a petition to create the Task Force. He said that the intended legislation would bring the question to the Senate. He said he communicated with Danielle Brown, who put the resolution on his radar. He said this issue was last discussed when Olivia Sanderfoot was on the Executive Committee. He offered to share the original petition with the Committee to help them remember and said it was predominantly in response to action by the US Department of Homeland Security against international students and UW’s COVID-19 response. He said that the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to sign the petition.

**Terrénce Pope** said that the resolution was a direct response to the changes made to the J1 Exchange Visitor Program, the H1 Specialty Worker Program, and the O1 Program for International Scholars. He said there was a presidential proclamation that suspended the entry of non-immigrant Chinese students specifically.

***Terrénce Pope*** *put a link to the International Solidarity Workgroup Task Force Memorandum Resolution.*

**Hannah Sieben** said that the GPSS Legislative Agenda needed to be made at the next Senate Meeting. She noted that the next Senate Meeting would be a busy one. She said that 10 minutes seemed too long for breakout rooms. She said that 5 minutes was long enough to build community.

**Logan Jarrell** clarified that the working groups would not appear in the agenda.

**Aaron Yared** said that working groups should be put on the agenda so that people know ahead of time that the working groups will be meeting. He said a note should follow saying that the working groups are not technically part of the agenda, but that the “Working Groups” item was included in the agenda to let people know.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that if an item is not added to the agenda, then Senators would not plan for it. She recommended that the “Working Groups” item have an allotted time so that people can plan to spend time. She asked if allotting time to an item after the meeting made it an official activity and subject to being recorded.

**Aaron Yared** referred to the structure of the Board of Regents’ meetings and said that after adjournment, the regents entered an Executive session. He added that the Board of Regents takes minutes for everything so that this specific example may not apply. He suggested that the last item on the agenda be called “Adjourn and break into working groups” so that working groups are officially on the agenda but not constrained by time.

**Marty Varela** said the Executive Committee should reconsider their expectations on how long the meeting should be. She shared her personal experience of being told that the meetings would take an hour and a half of her time but that the time target was never met. She said she realized through experience that GPSS did good work but could not accurately predict how long this work would take, so she stopped scheduling anything after GPSS meetings. She said it was a lot of time to ask people to commit and that the Executive Committee should strive to work in a more rigid window of time or communicate to Senators that the time commitment for GPSS was difficult to gauge.

**Aaron Yared** said he viewed the timeframe of the Senate agenda as an idealistic version of how fast GPSS would accomplish all the items. He said that before the pandemic, he observed that some Senators had a hard time limit of how long they would stay at the meeting, either due to transportation or other commitments. He expressed his interest in polling the Senate on how they felt about the length of the Senate meetings.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that GPSS has stayed under an hour and a half. She said there should be some expectation because it was respectful and professional to set a meeting time. She said that in meetings that are run well a moderator cuts off items to stay within time. She said that adjournment should never go over a certain time so that everyone can respect that boundary.

**Aaron Yared** said the Executive Committee knew in advance that the upcoming Senate meeting would have a packed schedule, especially since the deadline for the Legislative Agenda was known. He said that the Committee did not predict that the Title IX Office wanted to speak to GPSS and said that every Senator had the right to introduce a resolution. He said that this upcoming meeting just happened to be a freak accident of all three and that omitting the Legislative Agenda and the resolution would result in a meeting under an hour. He said that he did not want to set a precedent for this year in creating long meetings just because large issues happened to converge and asked the Committee for suggestions on how to address all issues at the Senate meeting while being efficient with time.

**Genevieve Hulley** moved to extend time by two minutes. **Terrénce Pope** seconded. No objections.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that in the past, the item “Officer and Committee Reports” took ten minutes. She suggested taking the item out of the agenda and putting the contents in an email after the meeting. She also suggested cutting down or cutting out the breakout rooms. She said that letting a Senator introduce a resolution was higher priority than those items and if the Executive Committee wanted to stay within a rigid timeline, they would have to cut down on low priority items.

**Hannah Sieben** said that if something can be done in an email, then the Executive Committee should take advantage of that. She recommended that the Executive Committee make it clear to the Senators their expectation of reading emails in exchange for making the GPSS meetings shorter.

**Aaron Yared** cautioned against prioritizing the brevity of a meeting rather than getting information out to the Senators. He supported Monica Jensen’s suggestion of giving people a one or two minute cutoff for speaking.

**Monica Jensen** motioned to extend time by three minutes. **Logan Jarrell** seconded. No objections.

*The Senate meeting agenda was made.*

**Logan Jarrell** moved to approve the agenda. **Marty Varela** seconded. No objections.

# 7. [Information] Mission, Vision, and Theme 6:33pm

**Aaron Yared** said that Logan Jarrell reached out to him to explain that the ASUW’s Board of Directors collectively established their values.

**Logan Jarrell** said that each ASUW Board member said a single word and then the board tried to incorporate each of those words into a mission statement. He said that the Executive Committee had worked on a mission, vision, and theme, but that none of the three had been presented to the Senate.

**Aaron Yared** said that the Executive Committee would think of a word that encapsulates what GPSS is and present their words at the next Executive Senate meeting so that everyone could craft a mission or value statement together. He said that the Officers had come up with and presented a mission statement to the Committee over the summer but had not voted on it. He confirmed that the mission statement made by the Officers over the summer was in the Google Drive. Aaron Yared said that he would send it around to everybody so that next week everyone would be able to contribute a word that is missing from the mission and value statement. He said this process would allow the Executive Committee to introduce the mission and value statement at the last Senate meeting.

# 8. [Information] Graduate and Professional Student Resource Fair 6:39pm

**Genevieve Hulley** said that she set the date for the Graduate and Professional Resource Fair for Tuesday, November 17th. She said the fair would be at 4, 5, or 6pm and would last forty-five minutes. She said a representative from Hall Health would come and talk about the Counseling Center, the Resilience Lab, and Hall Health, and SafeCampus. She said someone would come from GFIS, and that she was waiting to hear back from GO-MAP and the Black Student Union. She invited the Executive Committee to be involved by showing up and said that she was setting up a webpage for the event and would record the event. She said she would start promoting the event next week and said she was not sure what the engagement would be. She said she would send out a survey to Senators to ask them for questions and asked the Executive Committee to submit questions as well. She expressed her worry that attendance would be poor and said that she might ask the Executive Committee to show up and support the event out of respect for the invited speakers. She said she was currently working on the website and would show the Executive Committee once it was up and running.

# 9. [Action] Executive Meeting Scheduling 6:41pm

**Aaron Yared** said that because the Senate meeting was pushed back one week, the Executive Committee meeting would also have to be rescheduled.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the next two Senate meetings were on November 18th and December 2nd. Traditionally, the GPSS does not schedule a meeting on the week of Thanksgiving. Logan Jarrell said that in order to plan for the December 2nd meeting, the Executive Committee would have to meet before then.

**Aaron Yared** recommended that the next Executive meeting be held on November 20th so that there were no meetings on Thanksgiving week. He acknowledged that having two GPSS meetings in one week would be tough, but that the meeting did not have to happen at 5:30pm.

**Marty Varela** asked whether scheduling an Executive Committee meeting on the 20th gave enough advance notice to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

**Logan Jarrell** said yes. As long as the Executive Committee gives three days notice and presents an agenda three days before the meeting, the Committee would be in compliance with OPMA.

**Aaron Yared** offered to send out a poll to the Executive Committee to see when people would be available to meet.

**Logan Jarrell** asked whether Aaron Yared would prioritize achieving quorum.

**Aaron Yared** said he would prioritize achieving quorum. He said his schedule was clear on Fridays so that he could focus on GPSS matters.

**Logan Jarrell** asked to confirm that there were no other competing dates. He said that November 20th worked best for him.

**Aaron Yared** proposed Veteran’s Day as an alternative to meeting on November 20th. He said it would be less effective to meet on Veteran’s Day as it was before the November 18th meeting, so the Executive Committee would not know what exactly they would want to accomplish in the December 2nd meeting.

**Marty Varela** suggested Thursday, November 19th.

***Terrénce Pope****,* ***Hannah Sieben****,* ***Logan Jarrell****, and* ***Antonio Gonzalez*** *all had prior engagements on Thursday.*

**Aaron Yared** said he would send out a when2meet poll to the Executive Committee for November 19th and November 20th, and based on everyone’s availability, he would pick a time that would maximize attendance. He asked everyone to fill out the poll by Friday so that he had time to figure out the logistics of the meeting.

# 10. [Information] Announcements 6:51pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Equity and Accountability Committee (E&A) were in the process of finalizing the Diversity Fund applications. He said that E&A discussed criteria, scheduling, and nonacademic seats. He said that E&A gave a little more emphasis in the criteria on events which were predominantly attended and for the benefit of marginalized communities and how they could be flexible to support student groups, but that this would be done on an “as needed” basis. He thanked everyone for the warm words of encouragement on the Slack channel.

**Aaron Yared** asked whether E&A had discussed the potential changes that the Executive Committee suggested, and, if so, planned to implement the ideas.

**Logan Jarrell** said that E&A discussed the changes and were in favor of most of them. He said that E&A wanted to make sure that these changes would translate into actions, and not just be words. He said he could write a memorandum to rename E&A but was unsure if he could write a Bylaw amendment since it would require both a Constitution and Bylaw amendment to make all changes the Executive Committee discussed.

**Terrénce Pope** asked for suggestions for actionable items to increase student parents’ access to resources.

**Andrew Shumway** welcomed Britahny Baskin to the Executive Committee. On behalf of everyone, said that they were happy to have her on the Committee. He invited her to speak a little about herself.

**Britahny Baskin** thanked everyone and said she was excited to be a part of the Executive Committee. She said she had considered running for Executive Senators a couple times but hadn’t found the right time until now.

***Britahny Baskin*** *introduced herself.*

**Britahny Baskin** announced that GPSS Director of University Affairs Ashlee Abrantes connected her to Natasha at Hall Health, so Britahny would be the liaison between Hall Health and GPSS.

**Logan Jarrell** said that ASUW, The Daily, and GPSS sponsored a Free Speech Forum for Friday at 5PM. He said that people needed to register in advance and that he would send out the registration link in the Slack or through email.

**Aaron Yared** said he was working with Genevieve Hulley’s team to send out a post-election email that will include a link to the Free Speech Forum as well as resources. He encouraged everyone to stay safe and take care of themselves.

**Monica Jensen** invited everyone to join her Zoom meeting to watch election results and eat dinner together.

**Marty Varela** said that she appreciated Logan Jarrell, Monica Jensen, and Ashlee for making themselves available for virtual election drop-ins on a short notice.

# 11. [Action] Adjournment 7:00pm

**Marty Varela** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Terrénce Pope** seconded. No objections.

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