



M-01.20-21 Memorandum on the Creation of a Joint Resolution Process

To: GPSS Executive Committee
From: Logan C. Jarrell, GPSS Secretary
Date: March 3, 2021
Subject: Joint Resolution Process

I. Introduction

The GPSS resolution process allows the Senate to express the official opinion of the graduate student body at the University of Washington. There are some issues for which this opinion alone is insufficient, however. Likewise is true for the opinions expressed by the ASUW Student Senate. On such issues, a truly united student opinion is particularly meaningful. The most recent example of this was [04.20-21: Resolution Regarding Divestment of UW Resources from Fossil Fuel Companies](#) in GPSS and [R-26-10 A Resolution in Support of Ending UW's Investment in Fossil Fuels](#) in ASUW Student Senate, though other examples also exist.

Aware of this, the ASUW Student Senate Leadership, ASUW Director of Internal Policy, and GPSS Secretary have collaborated to develop a Joint Resolution process. In the ASUW Student Senate, this has resulted in [OA-27-2: An Organic Act Formulating a Joint Resolution Process between ASUW Student Senate and the Graduate and Professional Student Senate](#) containing Bylaw and Rule amendments for the ASUW Student Senate. The final step of this collaboration is making equivalent changes to GPSS. To this end, the following recommendations are made.

II. Policy Recommendation

Following review by the GPSS Judicial Committee and approval by the Senate, Joint Resolutions are added to the GPSS Bylaws under Article IV, Section E, Clause 5:

Joint Resolutions are collaborations with the ASUW Student Senate on issues affecting students within and external to the graduate and professional student body and are intended to express a united student opinion.

Once this or successor language is approved, Joint Resolutions are to be submitted to the GPSS Secretary consistent with GPSS Bylaws Article IV, Section E, Clauses 2 and 3 (except where [M-01.18-19 Memorandum on GPSS Resolution Deliberation Process](#) provides more clarity) regardless of whether they originate in the GPSS or ASUW Student Senate, expanding on the requirements of [OA-27-2](#). For Joint Resolutions originating in GPSS, the GPSS Secretary shall forward the Resolution to the ASUW Student Senate Vice Speaker and the ASUW Director of Internal Policy and without their confirmations prior to first reading, the Joint Resolution may not proceed as a Joint Resolution (but may proceed as a traditional resolution with GPSS sponsor consent).

During first and second reading, Joint Resolutions originating from ASUW shall be presented to the GPSS by an ASUW Senator sponsor, the ASUW Director of Internal Policy, or a proxy of the ASUW

Director of Internal Policy consistent with GPSS Bylaws Article IV, Section F. Upon final adoption, the GPSS Secretary shall provide notice to the ASUW Student Senate Vice Speaker and the ASUW Director of Internal Policy.

Consistent with the process as outlined in [OA-27-2](#), a reconciliation process is triggered when legislation that would be adopted at time of second reading by the GPSS or ASUW Student Senate differ in ways that are not grammatical. In such cases, the ASUW Student Senate Oversight Committee and the GPSS Executive Committee each shall independently review and vote on whether versions are equivalent.

In cases in which either body determines substantive differences between versions exist, ASUW Student Senate and GPSS representatives will meet to reconcile the bills, consistent with [OA-27-2](#). The GPSS representatives for this reconciliation process shall include: the GPSS Secretary, one GPSS Executive Senator, and any GPSS resolution sponsors. This group of GPSS and ASUW representatives shall reconcile any differences between the GPSS and ASUW versions of the bill, then submit identical, amended versions to the ASUW Student Senate Oversight Committee and the GPSS Executive Committee, who under [OA-27-2](#) must vote to bring the reconciled versions back to their respective Senate bodies at which no further amendments may be proposed. The GPSS Executive Committee forfeits this responsibility and instead shall allow reconciled versions to automatically advance back to the Senate.

In the special case that the reconciliation process described above fails to produce an aligned Joint Resolution, or the ASUW Board of Directors veto a Joint Resolution from the ASUW Student Senate and the ASUW Student Senate fails to override the veto, the Joint Resolution as passed by the GPSS is converted into a traditional resolution with GPSS sponsor consent. Should no GPSS sponsor exist, the GPSS Executive Committee shall make this determination by majority vote.

III. 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.¹ This memorandum may be amended by a majority vote of the GPSS Executive Committee.

Presented to the GPSS Executive Committee on March 3, 2021

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