GPSS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 31st 2021, 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 Jules Overfelt

Executive Senator Andrew Shumway

Executive Senator Terrence 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~~

Senate Clerk Janis Shin

# 1. [Action] Call to Order 5:31pm

**Aaron Yared** called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

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

**Jules Overfelt** moved to amend the agenda by adding the Senate Approval of Budget after the Secretary Discussion but before the Senate Meeting Agenda. **Andrew Shumway** seconded. No objections.

**Hannah Sieben** moved to approve the amended agenda. **Antonio Gonzalez** seconded. No objections.

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

**Jules Overfelt** moved to approve the March 3rd minutes. **Andrew Shumway** seconded. No objections.

# 4. [Action] Non-academic Seat Resolution: GO-MAP 5:34pm

**Meshell Sturgis** said that she was co-sponsoring the resolution. She said that BIPOC graduate and professional students were underrepresented populations at UW and that the GPSS was tasked with representing all graduate professional student voices on the UW Seattle campus. She said that the perspectives of BIPOC students should be included when constructing policy that would impact the BIPOC community and their campus experiences. She said that over 4,000 graduate and professional students at UW currently identify as BIPOC. She said that GO-MAP was the primary recruitment and retention organization for underrepresented minorities at the UW, providing fellowships and other academic resources and that the Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) for GO-MAP was in charge of advocacy, community building, graduate student success, outreach, and alumni relations. She said that GO-MAP could therefore provide sustainable support for a representative for the seat.

**Meshell Sturgis** said that the purpose of the Resolution was to create a seat staffed by GO-MAP through GSAB. She noted that the GSAB changed from year to year and that students in the GSAB went through an application process to be a part of it. She explained that GO-MAP had two to three graduate student assistants each year and that in the event of some turnover with GSAB, there were permanent positions with GO-MAP that could take on the GPSS seat.

**Andrew Shumway** thanked Meshell Sturgis. He referenced the fact that she mentioned GSAs and asked for clarification on what a GSA was.

**Meshell Sturgis** explained that GO-MAP stood for Graduate Opportunity for Minority Achievement and Programming. She noted that the GO-MAP might undergo a name change. She said that GO-MAP had a student advisory board, GSAB, that consisted of less than a dozen graduate students of color who helped GO-MAP with programming. She said that the GSAB had several different segments, such as an advocacy segment. She said that people that applied to be on the GSAB changed annually and the conditions of what they were asked to do also changed annually. She said that there were people who stayed consistently on the GSAB, the GSAs. She explained that if the GSAB was unstable, GO-MAP always had GSAs to rely on, so the person who would fill the GPSS seat would be somebody from GSAB which may or may not be a GSA.

**Logan Jarrell** asked whether the person filling the seat would be compensated.

**Meshell Sturgis** said that this year, GO-MAP piloted compensation commensurate to what an Executive Senator received. She noted that because it was a pilot, it was not yet determined whether or not GSAB members would be paid next year. She said that before this year, GSAB members were not paid. She said that while the GSAB itself seemed very stable, there seemed to be some instability around budgeting.

**Meshell Sturgis** said that GSAB members did most of their GO-MAP work on their own time, hosting events at times that were convenient for them. She noted that GPSS had set meetings which was a different kind of commitment. She said that the GSAs were more than willing since they were paid to be on GSAB whether or not there was a stipend.

**Gabby Rivera** said that from the few GO-MAP events she had attended, she thought that GO-MAP was a tight-knit community. She said that the way they engaged with their student body probably would carry over to GPSS in that they would be very active. She commented that GO-MAP would be a really great contribution if the Resolution were to go through.

**Meshell Sturgis** asked if she could make an edit to the minorities part and use the word “minoritized” instead of minorities.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the change could be considered grammatical.

**Meshell Sturgis** referred to the recent GPSS Composition Survey that was done and said that there could be an additional cause added that draws on the survey data to explain why this representation would be needed specifically within GPSS for equitable means.

**Logan Jarrell** said that this type of resolution was technically a petition and that it could not be amended by the Senate. He said that between first and second reading, it was not unusual for resolutions to receive amendments from their authors. He said that procedurally, it would not be unusual for the authors of this Resolution to make a change like that before being received by the Senate.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he planned to send the drafted survey report to the people who had volunteered to look over it tomorrow. He said that the entire Equity and Accountability (E&A) Committee would see and review it in detail on Friday before it was sent out to the Senate on Sunday.

**Meshell Sturgis** said she would reach out to Ashlee Abrantes about adding in one additional clause before Logan Jarrell sent it out to the Senators.

**Logan Jarrell** said that it would not be good to send out a version of the Resolution that had an additional action clause and an additional whereas clause that adds more information that is in line with the other information that is there. He acknowledged that petitions worked differently than normal resolutions because they were first approved by the Executive Committee, rather than the Senate, which meant that they were procedurally in a grayish area.

**Marty Varela** said she was willing to make a conditional motion to approve the Resolution on the condition that there would be an additional whereas clause. She said that if she were to make the conditional motion, she wanted to be certain that the data was going to present a picture that supported GO-MAP. She said that having data that deviated from the assertions made would be unhelpful. She said that the condition should be that the clause should only be added if it supported the case; if it did not, the clause would not be added.

**Meshell Sturgis** said she agreed with Marty Varela. She said that checking the demographics of the graduate student population against the racial demographics of GPSS to see if they were commensurate would be an added reason why the Resolution was needed.

**Logan Jarrell** said he had finished doing the statistics for the GPSS Composition Survey, but that he had yet to type up the report of results.

**Aaron Yared** asked if the numbers reflected any large trends.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he had not broken up the numbers by type of affiliation with GPSS. He said that people involved in GPSS were not involved in only a single role. He said that one major area identified in the survey was the presence of international students in GPSS. He said that the presence of BIPOC students was not always proportionately representative of the graduate community. He said that the survey showed this result without statistical significance, but said that it was difficult to find significance in data where members were not mutually exclusive.

**Marty Varela** said she was comfortable seconding his motion on the condition and that the timeline should still work because the Executive Committee was not going to email this Resolution until later this week or early next week right. She said that the E&A could write up the conclusions from the survey and add a clause to the petition in line with the current “whereas” statement. She said that if the survey results did not support the “whereas” statement, then the petition would just be left the way it is now.

**Logan Jarrell** gave a point of order that the Senate should receive the Resolution within the next 24 hours. He said that it was fine if the Resolution incorporated another “whereas” statement as long as the statement was a friendly amendment that did not change the purpose.

**Marty Varela** said that if the author changed the language, it was not an amendment but a modification because the author was not changing the requested outcome for the petition. She said that the clause would only enhance the argument for why the action was being requested.

**Logan Jarrell** moved to approve the Resolution with an additional whereas clause with data from the GPSS Composition Survey. **Marty Varela** seconded. No objections.

**Aaron Yared** said he would be surprised if the Senate had issues with the Resolution and said that he did not expect any pushback.

# 5. [Information] Secretary Discussion 5:52pm

**Aaron Yared** said that he and Logan Jarrell had met on Monday to lay out the specifics of the new system, such as the necessary Bylaw changes. He said that they had realized that Genevieve Hulley needed to be involved in the conversation as well. He said that the three of them had arrived at a good idea of what the new position would look like and how other positions might be affected. He said that he would start a document brainstorming ways to solve the issue of distributing staff fairly amongst officers. He posted a [link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S-KRlHmTJfl2TcCH7JuFd53utAW-pGtuf4Ca75KA2mw/edit?usp=sharing) to the document in the chat.

**Aaron Yared** said that some staff members were moved around because the Bylaws did not specifically mention staff; staff responsibilities were officer responsibilities that had been delegated to them. He said that he, Logan Jarrell, and Genevieve Hulley took those responsibilities and distributed them to different Officers. He said that on paper, it looked like the officer responsibilities had changed drastically, but in reality, staff members had been moved around.

**Logan Jarrell** clarified that staff members were not mentioned by name in the Bylaws, but that a personnel manual was mentioned and that management of personnel was codified. He said that the term “managing” had been traditionally interpreted as hiring, but that it was not exclusively limited to hiring.

**Aaron Yared** said that he, Logan Jarrell, and Genevieve Hulley transferred the interactions between the Officers and the Senate, which had historically been the Secretary’s responsibility, to the Vice President of Internal Affairs (VP Internal) position. He said that the Secretary’s role would be split between the VP Internal and the new Vice President of Equity and Accountability (VP). He added that the new VP’s title was not yet determined and said that they did not want to have an officer position share the same name as a committee.

**Aaron Yared** said that he and Logan Jarrell agreed to keep the accountability factor in the new VP’s role because they envisioned the VP taking on some of the administrative responsibilities although those responsibilities were typically delegated to the Administrative Office Manager and the Senate Clerk. He said that since both the Administrative Office Manager and the Senate Clerk positions would both be moved under the VP Internal, the responsibilities would also be moved to the VP Internal in the Bylaws. He said that the Communications Director role would be placed under the President but said that the Communications Director would still work with all Officers as needed, which had been the case this year.

**Aaron Yared** said that the new VP position would focus on promoting inclusivity and diversity in GPSS as well as holding GPSS accountable. He said that the new VP would be an ex officio member on the Judicial Committee and still be the Chair of E&A. He said that Logan Jarrell had been working on elevating E&A to a standing committee.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Executive Committee had seen a memorandum that would function as a stopgap for that elevation and that a new organizational chart would be made after the Bylaws were fully written and submitted to the Judicial Committee. He said he planned to ask his staff members or members of the Executive Committee to help make the chart. He said that he intended to review specific Bylaw language related to E&A’s role as a standing committee on Friday. He said he was looking closely at the Judicial Committee to make sure that there were no redundancies between the two committees.

**Aaron Yared** said that the new VP would act as the parliamentarian for GPSS meetings because the parliamentarian responsibility fell under the accountability aspect. He said that the role of managing contact with the Senate would be split between the new VP and the VP Internal. He said that the new VP would be in charge of personal issues and the VP Internal would be in charge of procedural issues. He said that personal issues were things like helping Senators find ways or resources to solve their constituents’ problems. He said he was also giving the new VP the responsibility of managing all the GPSS surveys which had been split between his team and Logan Jarrell’s team this year. He noted that the Bylaws stated that the responsibility for managing surveys fell under the VP Internal, but that it had been all over the place in practice. He said that he and Logan Jarrell felt that it was the new VP’s duty to find problems within GPSS and figure out how best to solve them.

**Andrew Shumway** asked whether the Diversity Council still existed as outlined in Section G of the Bylaws or whether the Diversity Council had been renamed as E&A.

**Logan Jarrell** explained that the Diversity Council was a campus-wide entity that was headed by Ricky Hall. He said that the Diversity Council met on a regular basis and was currently focused on redoing the campus’ diversity blueprint. He said that GPSS’s efforts at diversity were mentioned as the “Diversity Committee.” He said that he was working to elevate E&A to a standing committee so that it had a set task so that it would not be dismantled like the Graduate Student Experience Committee.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said she had a similar question about the Faculty Council. She said that the Faculty Council was not staffed by the Secretary and asked whether it was meant to be changed or whether it had just stopped happening.

**Aaron Yared** said that there were many instances in the Bylaws where a certain position was given a responsibility, but the responsibility was carried out by a different position.

He said that he had copied and pasted what was in the Bylaws to the new document. He said that he did not rewrite or change anything apart from the notes he had written at the bottom from the discussions he had had so far.

**Ashlee Abrantes** asked whether the Bylaws could be flexible in allowing people who had served in a position to maintain continuity in doing a role or whether certain tasks were automatically given to the new position if written in the Bylaws.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Bylaws were already flexible. He said that it said the Secretary or designee, which referred to the Liaisons. He said that someone who had done the job well could continue to serve, but that if there was not a Liaison, it would be the expectation that the position be in the outlined body.

**Aaron Yared** said that it was the Officers’ responsibility to raise the voices of graduate and professional students. He said that the Officers should remove any barriers for graduate and professional students who wanted to participate in those committees or boards. He expressed hope that future officers would work to maintain the continuity of the system.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that the manner in which the language was constructed mattered. She said that the process of appointing a designee versus a liaison should be covered.

**Aaron Yared** said that he and Logan Jarrell were very worried that the changes made to the Secretary position would radiate into other positions. He said that current election candidates might feel that they were robbed in some way.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that she thought five staff members for the VP Internal position were too many. She pointed out that the distribution of staff amongst officers was imbalanced. She said she was happy to talk to people who were applying for the VP Internal position. She said that she did not do some of the tasks and said that other officers may be a better resource when discussing some of the tasks listed under the revised VP Internal position since they had experience performing them. She said whoever got elected into the positions also had the opportunity to change around staff tasks within the parameters of the budget. She said it was also up to the new team to find the right balance.

**Aaron Yared** said that the Office Manager role would be expanded to a Chief of Staff position where they would help the VP Internal with responsibilities such as setting up staff meetings or team meetings.

**Andrew Shumway** asked whether any one officer would be more burdened than others because of the transition. He specifically asked about the President’s role to confirm that the role was not overburdened with responsibilities.

**Aaron Yared** said that he had a very hands-off style of managing his staff. He said his biggest worry was that adding two more staff members under the VP Internal position would be burdensome to the VP Internal. He said that he hoped that the Office Manager would mitigate this by acting as a Chief of Staff.

**Logan Jarrell** said that having a staff member that functioned as a Chief of Staff would help bridge the disconnect between the entire GPSS staff and the GPSS, especially the Senators. He said that some Senators had relative unfamiliarity with staff members. He asked Aaron Yared to speak on graduate school orientations and asked if Aaron Yared had spoken to the Elections Committee about the magnitude of changes to the VP Internal position.

**Aaron Yared** said he had not yet had the opportunity to do so. He asked Genevieve Hulley if the compromise that they had come to about shifting staff members around was not considered a major change. He asked present members of the Elections Committee to speak up if they thought that it was a big issue.

**Aaron Yared** said it was not in the Bylaws for GPSS to attend each graduate or professional program’s orientation and introduce GPSS to new students. He said that the Secretary had traditionally taken the role of organizing a GPSS introduction to new students and noted that it would take more of a concerted effort among all the officers and that someone would have to lead the effort or it would not be accomplished. He said that he and Logan Jarrell had discussed the President taking on that responsibility because the President should act as the face of the organization and reach out to the rest of the campus.

**Logan Jarrell** said that this was a case where he was not sure if he wanted to write into the Bylaws so that the roles could remain flexible. He said that he wanted to create content that was part of University 501, the online orientation available to all graduate students, that would help make orientations more manageable. He said that the speed of his proposed timeline made it likely to happen.

**Hannah Sieben** asked how they planned on communicating all of this new information to this year’s officer candidates. She said that the election was close and that management of positions was a big responsibility. She said that it would be bad if somebody's expectation of their role was different from what was actually needed of them. She said it was also important to let people know that they had the flexibility to prepare over the summer and make those decisions as a new team.

**Genevieve Hulley** said she was trying to identify the tasks based on her conversation with Aaron Yared and Logan Jarrell yesterday. She said she was reading Aaron Yared’s document which stated that she was supposed to share the changes which concerned her because she did not totally understand the changes herself. She suggested that some of the Office Manager responsibilities be delegated to the more senior Executive Senators. She noted that the Senate Clerk was required to come to attend every Senate meeting and asked if there was enough money in the budget to require the Office Manager to attend every meeting as well.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that per her conversation yesterday, there were a lot of tasks that were changed or added to the VP Internal position. She said that she wanted to make sure that her successor was set up for success and suggested postponing the election for a couple of weeks to clarify the changes to all the candidates.

**Logan Jarrell** moved to extend time for 10 minutes. **Marty Varela** seconded. No objections.

**Aaron Yared** said that he thought that the changes made to positions were really between the staff. He said that the officer duties remained unchanged for the purposes of running for the position. He said he acknowledged Genevieve Hulley’s point of having to manage more staff members than one expected to. He noted that staff responsibilities were not explicitly listed in the Bylaws: understanding staff positions required meeting with current officers. He acknowledged that it was more complicated because it was not written in a document.

**Aaron Yared** referred to Hannah Sieben’s point about notifying the current officer candidates. He said that he had planned to be as transparent as possible with them, though he had not yet had the chance to meet with the Elections Committee yet, which was his next step. He said he planned to bring this up at the Senate meeting next week and said that his goal was to share the information through as many avenues where potential candidates would be.

**Aaron Yared** said that the Officers had already taken steps to notify candidates for the new VP of Equity and Accountability position. He said that the Executive Committee had been transparent about the changes to the position since the last quarter. He acknowledged that it was a messy situation, but that it was necessary to accomplish.

**Logan Jarrell** said he somewhat disagreed with what Aaron Yared said. He said that Aaron Yared’s characterization of the change to the VP Internal role as just as change on paper was misleading. He said that there was a difference between what was on paper and the traditional practice. He said that the question was if whether there was staff to support those duties and whether there were some specific historic tasks that were moved appropriately.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the changes could be considered appropriate, but that they should not be characterized as staying the same.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that she did not think it was appropriate to categorize some of the items as staff items because staff members were unable to record meetings, minutes, and agendas in the summer. She said that the hiring was a huge, challenging process. She said that hiring should be assigned to an officer, because that Officer, at the end of the day, would be able to make sure that duties get fulfilled over the summer. She said that the VP Internal position seemed to be overburdened in a way that would make the role seem impossible.

**Aaron Yared** clarified that the responsibilities that would be given to officers would, in practice, be handled by staff members. He said that all of the responsibilities within the Bylaws were under the Officers, so it ultimately fell on the Officers for the tasks to get done. He said that this practice could change.

**Marty Varela** said that when presenting the opportunity of officership with GPSS, everyone should understand that there is a dynamic quality to it every year. She said that since each year’s officer cadre was different, there was no guarantee of replicating one year’s performance the next year. She advised the Executive Committee to amplify the point during Senate meetings on the off chance that someone did not understand it. She said it was more important to create a catalog or a visualization that showed the changes. She echoed Genevieve’s point that while the VP Internal may have the ability to utilize staff members to get their work done, there was a period of time where they would have to complete the work without the help of staff. She said that candidates had an idea of how the VP Internal role currently worked but would have to be told what the Executive Committee was proposing for the future for every officer role.

**Marty Varela** asked what Aaron Yared’s plan was if the changes to the officer roles did not pass in the Senate. She said that she did not want people entering the officer roles to feel blindsided once they received their roles.

**Aaron Yared** said that he was taking as many steps as possible to give the Senate more opportunities to say no if they did not want this to happen. He reiterated that the Executive Committee worked for the Senators and said that if the Senators were to say no, then the current Executive Committee would work with the newly elected officers to find a more equitable solution that the Senate would prefer. He said that one backup plan that he and Logan Jarrell had discussed was adding a staff position. He said that since the budget needed to be approved, the backup plan did not seem likely. He said that from his talks with past Officers, this issue has lingered for years and was part of the reason why he felt motivated to try and push the change through because previous Officers had failed to figure out solutions until it was too late and pushed it off to the next Officer cadre.

**Marty Varela** moved to extend time for 10 minutes. **Logan Jarrell** seconded. No objections.

**Jules Overfelt** recalled that Genevieve Hulley mentioned earlier about being able to move around for hours. They said that Genevieve Hulley was correct as long as the hours moved were moved within an Officer's own team. They said that in the budget, the maximum employee hours were accounted for. They said that if the hours were not maxed out, then people could “borrow” other people’s employees, but that hours could not be given to someone else’s employees. They said that they were proposing a budget with increased employee hours. They said that it was not imperative to approve a budget with increased employee hours and that the Executive Committee could propose a budget with smaller numbers for some of the employees. They said that if the Services and Activities Fee (SAF) did not fund the budget, the GPSS had the opportunity to not spend the money that got passed. They said that some of the staff should have a higher capacity to take on some diversity efforts. They said that the documentation and kind of tasks laid out would look very different than previously discussed, but that there would be more employee hours that could potentially be used to address the diversity efforts.

**Jules Overfelt** said that in a year without COVID, the Treasurer should be able to take on some additional tasks over the summer. They said that it involved some cleanup work and getting used to some things, but did not involve building a budget nor tracking a lot of charges over the summer. They said it was part of a larger conversation the Executive Committee could have about taking on more responsibilities. They said that they felt comfortable giving the Treasurer more summer responsibilities.

**Andrew Shumway** wanted to clarify the reason that the changes were happening in the first place. He said that to his understanding, the reason why these changes were being made is that the Secretary did not have enough time to complete the tasks that they were assigned, specifically the diversity and equity tasks. He said it would not solve the problem if the burden was moved to another position and did not want to repeat the process of changing an officer role next year.

**Andrew Shumway** asked if some of the tasks could be done by the new VP. He said that recruitment was an absolutely essential part of keeping GPSS equitable and accountable and suggested that tasks like organizing orientation introductions could be given to the new position and lighten the workload for other officers.

**Genevieve Hulley** said it would make more sense for the new position to have a staff member because it was more balanced. She said that the staff member could also help the person in the new VP role with their responsibilities.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he was trying to make sure that the number of tasks currently assigned to the new Officer position reached 19.5 hours, because of how small the role of diversity had historically been in the Secretary’s position. He said that he was cautious about giving the new role a lot of “Secretary” tasks because if the person has too much to do, they may fail to be able to focus on the equity and accountability tasks.

**Jules Overfelt** asked what the goal of the discussion was or whether people were just talking to generate ideas.

**Aaron Yared** said that he meant to discuss the topic to solicit perspective. He said that it had been a very beneficial and productive conversation, but his point for bringing up the topic was to ask how to pass the amendment in such a short timeframe or reschedule the election.

**Aaron Yared** explained that there were a couple of options on how to move forward. He said that in an ideal world, the amendment would be ready to pass by the upcoming Senate meeting. He said that this was impossible because he needed to have had the amendment submitted before the buffer window, which had already started.

**Aaron Yared** said that this meant that the amendment would have to pass at the election meeting which was not a good idea. He said it was not fair to the candidates nor the Senate to do so. He said he had thought of two other alternatives.

**Aaron Yared** said that the first alternative was to suspend the Bylaws at the upcoming Senate meeting and pass the amendment then. He said that this would give potential candidates enough time to reconsider whether they wanted to continue running for a position. He said that this route also meant that the Executive Committee would be ramming the process through without following the necessary procedures.

**Aaron Yared** said that the second alternative was to cancel the next Executive meeting, make that a special Senate meeting, and pass the amendment then. He said it might be difficult to set up the meetings and that having a special Senate meeting would mean that two extra Executive meetings would also need to be scheduled, one for setting the agenda for the special Senate meeting and one for setting the agenda for the election. He said that this would not only put stress on the Senate but also on the Executive Committee because the Committee would have to hold two special Executive meetings on off days after the Senate meetings.

**Aaron Yared** said that the second option would be the cleanest way to add the amendment before the election and asked for feedback on his plan.

**Marty Varela** asked if there was a third option of postponing the election. She said that the election was very held early in the year to facilitate a transition between the Officers. She said that in the case of substantially changing everyone's role, there may not be as much need for passing on the intellectual capacity from one officer to the next, because the person taking on these rules will be taking on a role that does not match exactly what the person who's leaving the role was doing. She asked if Aaron Yared had considered delaying the election by two weeks so that the Executive Committee had enough time to get the Senate to weigh in on this and give potential candidates the ability to see the changes to the roles and decide if they still wanted to pursue those roles.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Elections Committee could propose an amended Elections Guide with the date change. He advised Aaron Yared to propose the idea to the Committee during his meeting with them.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the Executive Committee would also need to consider how to pass on knowledge. She said that candidates for the new VP would need time to meet with Logan Jarrell and that the Committee needed to do a little more work to make it clear.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the elected officers were not compensated for their time until their new term started. They said that while the Executive Committee members encouraged the Officers elect to meet with them for training, it was not required because the Officer-elects were not compensated for their time.

**Marty Varela** moved to extend time for 10 minutes. **Logan Jarrell** seconded. No objections.

**Jules Overfelt** said that another possible alternative would be to wait until after the elections to make the amendment. They said that it was not a particularly desirable option, but that it was still worth considering. They said they were not sure if it was fair to the newly elected officers, but that it was a consideration that the Executive Committee could make if the Elections Committee did not want to consider changing the date. Jules Overfelt said that the Senate would still have the opportunity to say no.

**Aaron Yared** said that the main issue he foresaw was that the candidates would be elected for the position as it stood. He said that amending the positions after people were already elected begged the question of whether the elected candidates were fit for the amended positions. He said that pushing back the date sounded like the easiest thing to do. He said that the potential downside to that plan would be that there would be more stress on the unpaid new officers. He expressed hope that the candidates’ awareness of the required effort when they ran for their positions would serve as a mitigating factor. He said that this was all conditional on the Elections Committee signing off on the change and being willing to push back the election date. He asked Logan Jarrell whether the Senate would also have to approve of the change.

**Logan Jarrell** clarified that it was in the Senate’s power to approve of the Elections Guide but that it was in the Election Committee’s power to propose it. He said that it was not unprecedented for some kind of change to be made to this sort of election. He said that ASUW rescheduled their election last year.

**Marty Varela** said that the Elections Committee had already made a change to the Elections Guide to accommodate the movement because its members believed in the importance of diversity, equity and accountability and that it reflected the intention of the Senate.

**Andrew Shumway** asked whether amendments needed to be made to the Constitution if the Secretary was language included in the Constitution

**Aaron Yared** said he had looked into it and that there was only one line that needed to be changed. He said that there was a single instance where the Secretary was explicitly referenced in the Constitution and that the instance should be changed to the name of the new VP’s title.

**Andrew Shumway** asked if the plan was to change the Constitution at the same time the Bylaw changes were made.

**Aaron Yared** said yes.

# 6. [Action] Proposed GPSS Budget 6:54pm

**Jules Overfelt** said that she shared the [link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10edcjE6qI8tXfCbBg0su_FXPFWTjwQlA/view?usp=sharing) to a Google Sheet through email and had also pasted it in the chat. They said that the only change that they had made to last year’s budget was the increase in staff hours. They said that there was not a lot of precedent for changing the rest of the budget because this year was so unusual in terms of COVID spending. They said that they had discussed the budget with Officers and team members and stated that their intention to present the budget to SAF with the expectation that GPSS would be funded at the same level it had been in past years. They said that if funding was denied, they would restructure the budget to utilize more money from the GPSS reserves and general fund.

**Jules Overfelt** suspected that SAF would not fully fund the GPSS budget and said that they planned to trigger a conversation with SAF about what they were willing to fund and what the GPSS would fund. They offered to go through the budget line by line and pointed out column K, which was the percent change in difference from last year’s budget. They said that every staff member’s hours were maxed out at 19 hours except the budget specialist’s. They said that the budget specialist’s time was not increased because the budget specialist did not tend to be “borrowed” by other Officers. They said that they had reviewed the budget specialist’s workload and deemed that the budget specialist could restructure some of his work and take on additional tasks.

**Aaron Yared** asked how the proposed Bylaw amendments would affect the budget.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the short answer was no. They said that the long answer was a maybe. They said that the Secretary was only allotted diversity funds and discretionary funds. They said that it was possible that the new VP position would need event funds or money for other things. They said that the new VP could work with other officers to pull from their budget line items. They pointed out that the VP Internal had a lot of supplemental funding available to them. They said that there were also rules, guidelines, and Bylaws in place to pull money from the general fund for any specific changes or expenses that came up.

**Jules Overfelt** said that there were processes in place for adding extra money to the budget that was not initially listed in the budget. They referred to the recent Resolution Regarding Non-budgeted Expenses in which items over $2000 needed to obtain approval from the Finance and Budget Committee (F&B) and items over $5000 needed to be approved by the Senate. They said that the budget was not changed much because they were not sure whether school would be held in person or remotely next year. They said that the GPSS could adjust the budget as needs arose.

**Meshell Sturgis** noted that Jules Overfelt had implied a possibility for movement in the Secretary’s funds. She said that she had previously expressed in E&A the idea of an honorarium. She asked whether it was possible to reallocate funds from events that end up not costing anything or whether there was extra money elsewhere. She asked if it was possible to get some of the seats in E&A paid, not like a staff position but as a guest of honor.

**Jules Overfelt** said that Meshell Sturgis was suggesting a type of stipend. She said that that was not something the GPSS had as a line item in its budget. They said that once the budget was passed, line items could not be added. They said that honorariums could be paid for events. They said there were certain rules for paying honorariums to speakers such as the speaker could not speak anywhere else if the GPSS paid for their travel. They said that it could not be granted a stipend once the budget was approved because of budget codes. They said that there could be a potential workaround in adding the members of E&A to the budget as additional Executive Senators since Executive Senators were an existing line item. They acknowledged that it would be a workaround and that the Executive Committee could propose the budget with that line item added in.

**Meshell Sturgis** asked that if GPSS could give an honorarium for a panel of members from E&A if GPSS held an academic conference featuring the panel.

**Jules Overfelt** said yes.

**Meshell Sturgis** asked when she would need to take action for it to happen. She asked if the plan needed to be voted on immediately or if she could get in touch with Jules Overfelt later.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the change needed to be made immediately since next year’s budget discussion was currently taking place. They said that the Executive Committee needed to pass the budget in this meeting so that it could be proposed at the next Senate meeting.

**Jules Overfelt** corrected themself and said that the GPSS would not be able to pay honorariums to the panel of E&A in the event of a GPSS-hosted academic conference.

**Rene Singleton** explained that the GPSS had stipulations on paying honorariums. She said that the people receiving honorariums had to be experts in their area and that student volunteers would not be paid. She said that that was something that the Executive Committee had to incorporate in the budget as a whole, not just for people in E&A, but also for those in F&B and other committees. She said that the GPSS would need to pass policy to allow for it to happen since there was not yet a mechanism to pay a student a fee for service.

**Marty Varela** moved to extend time for 10 minutes. **Britahny Baskin** seconded. No objections.

**Meshell Sturgis** asked for clarification on the reason that students could not be paid honorariums and asked if it was because they were not considered experts in their field.

**Rene Singleton** said that a conference sponsored by GPSS could not pay faculty or staff in that manner unless the person was registered as a student assistant. She said that for committee members to be paid a stipend, they had to be treated similarly to Executive Senators and the Senate would have to vote on approving of this change. She said that the Executive Committee should prepare to do something similar for the many volunteers of GPSS. She said that there were different types of ways that the GPSS could pay an honorarium and that it was currently not available for students and student volunteers within GPSS. She said it was doable but that she was unsure if the Executive Committee had time to make that happen since it had to be a part of the main budget.

**Marty Varela** pointed out that the new VP position did not have any discretionary funds. She said that it was hard for someone to walk into a role without an employee or discretionary funds that they can have without having to rely on other officers being willing to give up their own funds. She suggested that the budget be revised so that the new VP had some discretionary funds and a staff person associated with them. She noted that the role had no precedent, but pointed out that the whole purpose of the role was to show GPSS’s commitment to equity. She said she felt that the role was being handicapped before it was created.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the Secretary had the same amount of discretionary funds. They said that each position had about $100 in discretionary funds. They said that the President had $200. They said that because they did not have a grasp on what kind of tasks that the new VP would have that would require funding, they did not add a line item. They said that they would add a line item for general fund or general programming, the way the President did. They said that the budget contained a line item for conference travel that had been rolled up into the officer travel fund. They said that it was the same amount of money in a different section of the budget.

**Jules Overfelt** offered to add a line item for Secretary travel but said that the travel money would be rolled up into the officer travel fund which was funded by the GPSS’s travel endowment.

**Marty Varela** asked Jules Overfelt to move one of the four Executive Senators and make them an Executive Senator of E&A so that E&A was supported. She said that shifting the Executive Senator did not change the bottom line of the budget but showed an overt commitment to supporting the new VP role so that the new VP could support the Senate by increasing the representation of graduate and professional students in proportion to their presence on campus.

**Marty Varela** said she did not want to put the new VP in a position where they would need to ask other officers for the money that they needed. She said that she wanted the budget to reflect some flexibility for the role because the role had no precedent. She said that if the budget did not get approved it could be amended, but pointed out that the Executive Committee would be making every effort to support the proposal so that it could be successful.

**Jules Overfelt** said they were willing to add a line item under the Secretary section in the budget.

**Terrence Pope** said he wanted to endorse the idea of making a substantial commitment to equity and accountability. He noted that the Executive Committee seemed to be quite flexible in its ability to adjust the budget in subsequent quarters based on what he had observed in previous years. He said he saw no reason why the GPSS could not give a strong financial endorsement of the autonomy of the new role. He said that if the GPSS decided in future years that there was too much discretionary money in the position, future Officers could adjust the budget.

**Jules Overfelt** asked Terrence Pope if he was suggesting that the Executive Committee add another line item or adding more money to the discretionary funds. They said that they could see a really strong argument for having a larger discretionary fund this year, particularly as there was a chance that there would be a lot of one-time expenses, She said that the VP External had purchased books to help them with their job. They said that they could see that there were potentially higher upfront costs to set up the new position.

**Terrence Pope** said that it was an interesting idea to experiment with discretionary funds. He said that at the very least, the Executive Committee could bring the issue to the Senate and get feedback. He referred to Marty Varela’s idea of taking an Executive Senator’s stipend and retooling it to be the Executive Senator for E&A for a member of the E&A to be able to receive the stipend as their compensation. He said he was very interested in the idea that Executive Senator positions could be special officer positions. He noted that his work as an Executive Senator was focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. He said that it was not unprecedented for Executive Senators to lean into working with a committee.

**Jules Overfelt** asked how people felt about increasing discretionary funds for what was currently on the budget as Secretary.

*People reacted with a thumbs up.*

**Jules Overfelt** said that the President had $200 in discretionary funds. They proposed raising the number to $300.

**Janis Shin** asked what the discretionary funds were used for and whether there was a precedent for how much people used per year.

**Jules Overfelt** said that people usually did not use all of it. They said that it just existed and that the only example they were given was that the VP External previously bought books or some other resources to stay up to date with the state legislature. They said it was to be used for items specifically to help Officers with their jobs. They explained that the discretionary fund amount might need to be higher when a position was being initialized since people had to purchase position-specific tools or resources that the GPSS did not currently own.

**Marty Varela** moved to extend time for 10 minutes. **Jules Overfelt** seconded. No objections.

**Logan Jarrell** said that discretionary spending was potentially important in honing the new position as it offered the ability to experiment

**Jules Overfelt** said that since a line item existed, it was easy to ask for more money in that line item. They said that requesting less than $2000 for a line item did not require the approval of F&B or the Senate. They said that it only required some documentation. They asked if there was any line item that people wanted to see in the current Secretary section of the budget.

**Jules Overfelt** cautioned against putting a ton of money in the Secretary section since the Secretary section would be changed. They recommended having line items with lower dollar amounts that would just serve as placeholders until the Executive Committee was sure the line items would be needed or not.

**Marty Varela** asked if the GPSS could add a sixth Executive Senator and have the Executive Senator serve as an Executive Senator for E&A. She asked if the Executive Senator for E&A could be paid $1200 or a low amount that would enable adding a role specifically for diversity equity and inclusion under the purview of the new VP.

**Jules Overfelt** said that $1200 was not a deal-breaker.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the number of Executive Senators was controlled by the GPSS’ governing documents more than the budget. He said that the governing documents could be changed to change the composition of the Executive Committee and noted that this move would create the first Executive Senator position that was unique among Executive Senators. He said that the Executive Committee had discussed this earlier in the year unfavorably and asked if the Executive Senators had changed their opinions.

**Marty Varela** said that when she had talked about it previously, the Executive Senator role that was specific to E&A did not exist. She said that she wanted to fix everything in one go and reiterated that having an Executive Senator specifically for the E&A showed a real commitment on the part of the Senate to the idea of equity, inclusion, and diversity.

**Britahny Baskin** said that placing an expectation of a job before they started in the role than afterward was better.

**Jules Overfelt** said that it was quite possible and reasonable at this point to increase the dollar amount in the Executive Senator’s “stipend” with an asterisk that hinted at an anticipated increase. They said that assigning work roles to the Executive Senators would be part of a larger discussion that would happen when the Executive Committee was looking to change the composition of the Executive Committee.

**Logan Jarrell** moved to approve the written changes as reflected. **Terrence Pope** seconded.

**Jules Overfelt** made a point of order that they preferred to approve the budget through a roll call vote.

**Logan Jarrell** amended his motion to approve the written changes as reflected through the roll call vote. **Genevieve Hulley** seconded. No objections.

**Terrence Pope** voted yes.

**Marty Varela** voted yes.

**Britahny Baskin** voted yes.

**Antonio Gonzalez** voted yes.

**Andrew Shumway** voted yes.

**Hannah Sieben** voted yes.

**Genevieve Hulley** voted yes.

**Jules Overfelt** voted yes.

**Logan Jarrell** voted yes.

# 7. [Action] Senate Meeting Agenda 7:38pm

**Jules Overfelt** said that having the Secretary discussion before the budget might be helpful because it would inform the Senators on why staff hours had increased at such a dramatic rate and why another Executive Senator position had been added. They proposed making two items on the agenda where Aaron Yared would first announce changes to the Secretary position and the Elections Committee would follow up with explaining the changes prior to the budget presentation.

**Logan Jarrell** noted that the actual Bylaw language would be available to the Senators next week without having been reviewed by the Judicial Committee. He said it would be a lot for the Senators to review and that he agreed with Jules Overfelt of making two items because the Elections Guide needed to be reapproved.

**Aaron Yared** asked whether the Senate needed to approve of the changes.

**Logan Jarrell** said that changing the date of the election required Senate approval. He said that the GPSS would need to change the filing deadline as well, which would be up to the Election Committee. He said that he strongly suggested doing it the way he had described. He said that the Elections Committee and the Judicial Committee would be able to review the changes, but that the review was not necessary if the GPSS was transparent with its procedure.

**Marty Varela** said that the Elections Committee and the Executive Committee could get together and have this conversation, then the Election Committee could support making the change and figure out the new dates for the election. She said that the Elections Committee could announce what it planned to do and request the Senate’s support with Logan Jarrell’s clear explanation on the changes that were being proposed. She said that having the Elections Committee announce that whatever the outcome was, ideally to support what was being proposed, then having the Senate approve of the change, and changing the budget to reflect the proposal would tie it all together in one meeting. She suggested creating a visual for people who would have questions about the major changes.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if the Elections Committee announcement should only be one item.

**Logan Jarrell** said he was not comfortable listing an item that was sponsored by somebody on the Elections Committee without their consent. He said that the GPSS could amend the agenda on the day of and suggested that the Senate add the item on the day of the meeting.

**Aaron Yared** said it might be misleading if the Executive Committee did not include it in the agenda and suggested adding the item with either him or Logan Jarrell as the sponsor and then amending the sponsor to someone on the Elections Committee on the day of the meeting.

**Marty Varela** respectfully disagreed with Logan Jarrell and said that if the Executive Committee was not confident that the item would happen, then it would be reflected when a change was made on the day. She asked how the Executive Committee could propose a budget that reflected a major change without being confident that the major change would be possible due to the actions of the Elections Committee. She reminded Aaron Yared that he had the option to either suspend the rules and focus exclusively on this topic so that the GPSS could meet the deadline of the election, or place it on the agenda signaling his intention and hope that the Election Committee agrees with him. She said that it was an action item and that in the worst-case scenario, Aaron Yared had two other options to choose from.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they did not feel disingenuous about putting the item on the agenda because a member of the Election Committee was present at this meeting. They said that if the Executive Committee was worried about it, then it could add the item as an informational item and amend it to be an action item.

**Marty Varela** said that the Election Committee might be uncomfortable with the Executive Committee’s plan but that their goal was to do what they felt like the Senate wanted them to do. She said that the Elections Committee was taking their direction from the Executive Committee and wanted to be prepared for any questions that arise. She said that the Executive Committee should prepare their talk beforehand and said that exhibits would be crucial in answering questions from Senators and people who were interested in the positions.

**Marty Varela** asked Jules Overfelt to send out the budget with the meeting announcement and a short description of the budget that highlights the five significant changes and encourages the Senators to preview the budget before the meeting to limit the amount of time spent on the budget during the meeting.

**Jules Overfelt** said that F&B would look over the budget on Friday. They said they would send the final version of the budget after the F&B meeting to Logan Jarrell with a short write-up.

**Logan Jarrell** said that there was a precedent for people sending important documents on Sunday. He noted that the Bylaws stated that things should be received in a timely manner, but did not define the word “timely.”

**Marty Varela** said she wanted to present the Composition Survey at the upcoming meeting and did not want the survey results to be upstaged by the budget.

**Andrew Shumway** asked if it was necessary to present the Composition Survey at the next meeting. He suggested pushing it off until the next Senate meeting unless it was urgent.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the results could be shared with Senators to review on their own, but said that it may not receive sufficient attention.

**Aaron Yared** said that E&A deserved an opportunity to present its survey results to the Senate. He said that there was a huge chunk of time during the election when the Election Committee counted votes and suggested that E&A present their survey results then.

**Logan Jarrell** told Aaron Yared that the E&A members would not be disappointed if they were unable to share their survey results before the election, on the assumption that the election was postponed.

**Aaron Yared** said that the E&A members could present at the next Senate meeting if the election was postponed, and at the elections meeting if the election was not postponed. He said that if the Elections Committee did not want to postpone the election and the E&A members felt strongly about presenting results at the upcoming meeting, the agenda could be amended.

**Jules Overfelt** moved to approve the agenda. **Britahny Baskin** seconded. No objections.

# 8. [Information] Announcements 8:07pm

**Terrence Pope** announced his intention to resign as Executive Senator. He said he would encourage someone else in his department to run for the Senate position because he believed that a person should not hold a position for too long. He said that he had had his chance to accomplish things in the Senate and that he wanted other people to have a chance too. He also said that he had work to do in his department and that he was hoping to graduate soon. He asked everyone when he should announce his resignation.

**Logan Jarrell** said it depended on when Terrence Pope wanted the election to replace him to happen.

**Terrence Pope** said that he was thinking about having his election during the upcoming election. He said that it would be bittersweet because he was not sure that he was doing what he wanted to be doing but that nothing he did as an Executive Senator was impossible to do as a Senator.

**Andrew Shumway** announced his intention to resign as Executive Senator. He said that Executive Senator terms were two years and that he had been elected on May 15th. He said that he had intended on stepping down after the election. He said that it would be a good idea if he and Terrence Pope both stepped down at the same time and had the Executive Senator elections at the same time to reduce the load on the Elections Committee. He said that it would also be easier for people who would be interested in running and said he planned to step down on May 15th.

**Hannah Sieben** said that there were three weeks left of the legislative session so business was winding down for her team. She said that previous Vice Presidents of External Affairs would have stopped, but that she was going to continue because she had the bandwidth to participate. She said that she would request an action item from everyone and explained that she was trying to coordinate some collective action to ask state senators to support HB 1472 that would add a graduate student to the Washington Student Achievement Council.

**Britahny Baskin** said that she was the graduate student representative for the committee on finding a new director for Hall Health. She said that she wanted to let everyone know that she would mention it briefly at the Senate meeting. She said that the committee had not yet made any decisions, but that her role was to meet with potential candidates and then make a recommendation.

**Aaron Yared** thanked Terrence Pope and Andrew Shumway for all that they had done during their terms as Executive Senators. He said that they had been invaluable to the GPSS, the Executive Committee, and to him. He said that they were awesome and that he understood their reasons for stepping down. He said that he would miss them but said that they had left their mark on GPSS.

**Aaron Yared** acknowledged the Asian-American, Pacific Islander (AAPI) violence that had occurred over spring break. He said that he had said he would send an email in support of the AAPI community but that every department had started doing that. He said that he had a letter that he could send out thanks to Ashlee Abrantes, but that he wanted to have an actionable item. He said that the GPSS could say that it was in solidarity with everybody else, but that he wished to offer something else.

**Terrence Pope** referred to the survey responses about the AAPI violence that Logan Jarrell had collected during the last Senate meeting. He said that most people said that things were okay with regards to this specific issue in their departments. He said that there were a few cases where people felt like there could be a conversation. He said that he and Logan Jarrell had resolved to work together to bring an expert to come in and speak on some of the issues. He said he had envisioned the speakers giving the Senators tips on how to be stewards of the conversations, how to be mindful, and outlining a toolkit of informational resources.

**Britahny Baskin** asked everyone how they felt about giving people information on how to attend bystander training as a potential action item. She said she frequently received the training for free online.

**Logan Jarrell** said he had included at least two links to training incentive announcements for at least two weeks in a row. He said that some people could still register for the training and that he would send out the announcement again.

# 9. [Action] Adjournment 8:17pm

**Terrence Pope** motioned to adjourn the meeting.

**Logan Jarrell** made a point of order and asked if any guests wanted to speak.

**Andrew Shumway** seconded. No objections.

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