GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 7th 2021, 5:30pm 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 Monica Jensen~~

Executive Senator Terrence Pope

Executive Senator Andrew Shumway

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 5:32pm

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

# 2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:33pm

**Greg Papp (Marine & Environmental Affairs)** moved to approve the agenda. **Malikai Bass (Museology)** seconded. No objections.

# 3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:34pm

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** moved to approve the minutes. **Hannah Garland (School of Law)** seconded. No objections.

# 4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:34pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that the GPSS acknowledged the Indigenous peoples of this land and the land, which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations and the Duwamish people whose land the university currently occupied. He said that it was the students’ role and responsibility as guests to understand how their impact entangled the caretakers.

# 5. [Information] Officer Changes Update 5:35pm

**Aaron Yared** reminded everyone that he had announced changes to the Officer positions last quarter. He said that the Executive Committee had worked to amend the Bylaws to change the Secretary position into a new position that would be focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. He read a statement to explain the changes:

*Pending approval, the Secretary position will be changing into a Vice President of Equity and Accountability. With this change comes a change in focus of responsibilities. Originally the Secretary's two main responsibilities were administrative operations and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Now the administrative responsibilities have been divided up between the President and the Vice President of Internal Affairs, leaving the Vice President of Equity and Accountability the bandwidth to champion diversity, equity, and inclusion within GPSS and the larger university. They will also have the added responsibility of practicing internal and external accountability. This comes in the form of conducting internal reviews of GPSS on any issues relevant to diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as receiving grievances from graduate and professional students concerning inequities existing along lines of difference, including but not limited to racism, homophobia, sexism, ageism, bigotry, and xenophobia. They will also be chairing the Empowerment, Diversity, and Accountability Committee, a successor to the Equity and Accountability Committee, and remaining on the Judicial Committee as an ex officio. Following approval, the full list of responsibilities will be laid out in the Bylaws. The administrative tasks aforementioned that will be taken on by the President and the VP of Internal Affairs are as follows: the President is now responsible for managing internal and external communications from the GPSS office in collaboration with other officers. This means that the President will be taking on the Communications Director staff member which was formerly supervised by the VP of Internal Affairs. Meanwhile, the VP of Internal Affairs will now oversee most of the administrative upkeep of the Senate. This consists of overseeing Senate representation, maintaining the GPSS Senate mailing list, and administrating the official records and documents associated with the GPSS operations on the GPSS website. In practice, much of these responsibilities will be delegated to the Senate Clerk and Office Administrator which were originally supervised by the Secretary and will now be supervised by the VP of Internal Affairs. These changes will also be reflected in the Bylaws following approval.*

**Aaron Yared** said that he would send the Senators a copy of what language was changed in the Bylaws in advance of the Senate meeting where Senators would decide to vote on the changes. He said that he had sent the proposed changes to the Judicial Committee first, so more changes may be added.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Judicial Committee had received the changes. He said that since this meeting was already long, he and Aaron Yared had decided not to present the specific language and give the Senate an overview of the changes instead. He said that the Senate would receive the proposed changes soon and warned everybody that it was a large volume of changes.

**Aaron Yared** said that he was bringing up the topic for the sake of transparency. He said that he was aware that the changes were being made late into the election season. He said that he wanted to make sure that the people running for the position that had been changed were fully aware of the changes and had ample time to re-evaluate their candidacy for their positions.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** asked who, if anyone, would be responsible for overseeing remote accessibility of the Senate under the new officer framework.

**Aaron Yared** said that the responsibility would have to be worked out by the new officers.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he intended to elaborate very heavily on the topic in transitional documents depending on what funding the GPSS was able to receive next year. He said that administering high quality, hybrid or remote meetings was going to be partly the duty of the Vice President of Internal Affairs. He said that the effort was much larger and would likely require more of the Senate Clerk’s staff hours whose hours were increased in the proposed budget. He said that the new VP would evaluate whether the meetings were accessible

**Logan Jarrell** said that these changes would include changes to the Equity and Accountability Committee, which would receive a name change and a higher priority amongst the Senate committees.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** said that Logan Jarrell had said he would elaborate on the changes and asked when he would elaborate.

**Logan Jarrell** said he would meet with the Judicial Committee to help resolve any questions. He said he would explain when the Judicial Committee met to review and give a recommendation.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** clarified that she was asking for the Senate, not the Judicial Committee.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the full scope of the proposed changes would be presented at the next Senate meeting and discussed in great detail because the Senate would be voting on it. He said that a supplement, in addition to the actual language, would be sent to Senators on Wednesday or Thursday with the rest of the materials for the April 21 meeting.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** said that she had received the proposed changes in advance and thought that the Senate should look into the explanation of some of the changes before ratifying them. She asked that the Senators be given a week so that they could understand and read through the changes before they voted on them.

**Aaron Yared** said that the Executive Committee planned on sending the changes to the Senate in advance. He said that Logan Jarrell had first sent the changes to the Judicial Committee to ensure that there were no issues with the proposed changes. He said that once the proposed changes passed the Judicial Committee, the plan was to send it to the Senate.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he would send everyone the proposed changes that were not yet reviewed by the Judicial Committee for full transparency.

**Aaron Yared** said that whichever version would be proposed to the Senate would be sent in advance of the Senate meeting.

# 6. [Action] Officer Elections Update 5:48pm

**Aaron Yared** said that a lot of language was changed in the Bylaws and that there were certain requirements that the GPSS needed to follow in order to propose a Bylaw amendment. He said that the Officers were not able to meet the requirements for this meeting, so the amendment would be pushed to the next meeting. He said that it would not be appropriate to have a Bylaw amendment for a position at the same time as the election for that position.

**Aaron Yared** proposed that the GPSS postpone the election to the next Senate meeting. He said that the election would take place on May 5th, instead of April 21st. He said that the Executive Committee hoped that the candidates would have the opportunity to reassess their interest in the position. He said that the candidates would still have the opportunity to have their information posted on the website and that they would have to submit their information by April 12th, but that the candidates would not know by then if the amendment would pass or not.

**Aaron Yared** said he had spoken to the Elections Committee and said that the Committee had approved of postponing the election to May 5th. He said the postponement of the election still needed to be voted by the Senate.

**Logan Jarrell** asked if someone from the Elections Committee could confirm what Aaron Yared had described.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** introduced herself as Chair of the Elections Committee. She said that the Committee wanted to go along with whatever the Senate decided and that the Committee was open to postponing the election.

**Aaron Yared** said that in order for the amendments to be considered and still be fair to all the candidates who want to run for the positions, the election would need to be postponed by two weeks. He called on the Senate to act.

**Logan Jarrell** called a point of order and said that a complex motion would be required. He said that the Senate would need to first reconsider the Elections Guide, amend the Elections Guide, and then vote on the Elections Guide again.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** motioned to reconsider the Elections Guide. **Malikai Bass (Museology)** seconded. No objections.

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School of Public Policy)** moved to amend the date of the election by moving it back by two weeks. **Natalie Vaughan-Wynn (Geography)** seconded. No objections.

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** motioned to approve the amended Elections Guide. **Hannah Garland (School of Law)** seconded. No objections.

# 7. [Action] GPSS Budget 5:54pm

**Jules Overfelt** said that they had posted a <[link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18yMrJLWXUzbGedqefGlb8vpItKxn2_FV/view?usp=sharing)> to a Google sheet of the budget. They said that the goal for today’s meeting was to get the budget approved. They said that there were not a lot of changes that were made to the proposed budget from last year’s. They said that this was because it was hard to assess the efficacy of this year’s budget. They said that Shane Schrader had put a lot of work into this year’s budget and spoke with the Officers last year to optimize the budget. They said that they did not want to add new things to the budget based on the unusual circumstances of this year. They said that they were unsure what next year’s financial situation would be and did not think it would be a good idea to redo Shane Schrader’s work.

**Jules Overfelt** explained that the budget was broken down into sections. They gestured to the administration section and explained that it contained general line items. They gestured to the programming budget and the amount of money that GPSS could spend on food and alcohol. They said that the GPSS did not receive any Provost funding last year and said that they were requesting the full amount again this year.

**Jules Overfelt** gestured towards the bottom of the sheet and said that each officer had their own section in the budget. They said that some lines were left empty last year and were empty again this year. They said that some line items had been rolled into different categories and said that it was important to have some context for why the Executive Committee continued to make the same decisions this year. They explained that the VPs of Internal and External Affairs had some of the larger budgets because the VP Internal had supplemental funding for events and the VP External had extra funds for Grad Day on the Hill for their time in Olympia. Theysaid that the Treasurer had line items that did not fit anywhere else, so they were placed under the Treasurer.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the pricing was strange this year, so the numbers were kept the same. They explained that as mentioned in the earlier conversation, the Executive Committee was hoping to change the Secretary role, but that they would refer to the role as the Secretary position in the budget. They said that the Secretary had an added line item for general programming for $300 and said that the President received the same amount. They said that the discretionary funds were raised from $100 to $300 in the hope that the officer in the new role would have the financial resources to jumpstart the position.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the Executive Committee had been worried about putting new responsibilities on the new officer position and then not setting them up for success. They said that one of the ways that they could support the new position, as the Treasurer, was making sure that the position was financially supported through increased discretionary funds. They said that the discretionary funds could help the new officer buy specific training materials that would help them establish the new position or create general programming events that would help them establish their position.

**Jules Overfelt** explained that the amount of $300 for general programming was chosen because that was what the President received. They said that the GPSS had passed a resolution earlier in the year about GPSS approval for adding money to or changing the budget. They said that the dollar amounts listed in the budget could be added to with permission from either the Finance and Budget Committee or the Senate itself. They said that by adding a $300 line item, the GPSS was allowing next year’s officers and the Senate to add money to the line items as they see fit. They said since the line item was established, the Senate would be able to add more money to the line item.

**Jules Overfelt** explained that the value of the line item was not higher because there was a chance that the Secretary position would not evolve and they did not want to tie up a lot of money into the line item. They said that they were only hoping to get the budget passed and had made the new position’s budget section a bit conservative. They said that the salaries for the officers had remained the same and that the officers had kept the same working hours over the summer, which was 12 weeks at $30 an hour, 20 hours a week. They said that this system allowed the summer pay to be comparable to the rest of the year so that the salary remained steady throughout the year. They said that the officers had found the system to work well for them over the summer and that there did not seem to be a good reason to change it.

**Jules Overfelt** pointed out the next section and said that most of the changes occurred here.

They said that almost all of the staff positions had had their hours increased to 19 hours.

**Jules Overfelt** said that each position could only work a maximum of 19 hours and that only the budget specialist’s hours were not increased, because the budget specialist was the only staff member that was not tasked with a new set of responsibilities in light of the planned and hoped for Secretary change. They said that the biggest change occurred in the Senate Clerk’s position from 10 hours to 19 hours, a 90% increase.

**Jules Overfelt** said that Aaron Yared spoke earlier about the exact breakdown of who the staff report to and their responsibilities. They said that that information was not necessarily reflected in the budget. She referred anyone who had questions about the division of staff to Aaron Yared.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the Executive Committee hoped to add an additional Executive Senator that would specifically focus on supporting the Secretary position and diversity efforts. They said that the Committee had discussed having all the Executive Senators have a focus going forward. They said that from a budget standpoint, this meant that another stipend for an additional Senator had been added to the budget.

**Jules Overfelt** pointed out the budget total and said that the GPSS had asked the Services and Activities Fee (SAF) Committee if the GPSS could increase its grant amount. They said that the SAF Committee had denied grant increases for everyone last year. They said that they would have liked to ask for an increase this year, but instead opted to keep all the numbers the same with the understanding that the GPSS could pull from its general fund next year if needed. They said that the general fund acted as GPSS’s saving account. They said that all the money that the GPSS did not spend in previous years was transferred to the general fund. They said that the GPSS pulled from the general fund last year and that it would happen again this year for the sake of consistency.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that he and Jules Overfelt had discussed in an email thread that ASUW had recently managed to receive funding from the Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee for professional captioning services for their Senate. He said that Jules Overfelt had mentioned that they could add it to the staff budget request. He noted that it was unlikely that the STF Committee approved of an entire year’s worth of captioning and that he did not see a line item for captioning. He said that he was fairly optimistic of the STF Committee approving of captioning based on an earlier conversation he had with them. He asked Jules Overfelt to speak to the decision of not including captioning in the budget or whether there was another plan in place.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they did not put it in the budget because the budget was for requesting funds from SAF. They said that since they were going to request funds from STF Committee for the captioning, it did not belong in the budget. They said that if STF Committee was unable to provide that funding, the GPSS still had access to the general fund. They said that the GPSS should take advantage of where the money is coming from and whom to get it from in a way that makes the most sense. They said that the decision would be up to next year’s officers and next year’s Senate but that they could lay the groundwork and leave the idea in the GPSS legacy documents. They said accessibility was a priority for GPSS and that GPSS would strive to make steps toward accessibility.

**Aaron Yared** said he had talked to Justin Camputaro from the HUB and that the GPSS had been working together to create some accessibility technology for Senators moving forward. He said that the new officer team would work on the application possibly during the summer so that the funds could be dispersed in the fall. He said that if the application was written in the spring, then the funds would have to be spent by the end of June.

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** thanked Jules Overfelt, F&B, and everyone else who had worked on the budget. He asked if Jules Overfelt expected to see any budget item corrected. He asked if they anticipated any large changes that the GPSS could not immediately account for. He asked what the process would look like to make those changes.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they did not anticipate making any changes. They said that room rental charges might change dramatically but that they had not heard from the SAF Committee about that happening. They said that the cost of events could be much higher than the GPSS expects and that the same could happen for special allocations. They said that if RSOs were requesting GPSS money to rent rooms that were more expensive than two years ago, the GPSS would need more money. They said that another increased expense could be Grad Day on the Hill. They said that the GPSS had an amazing turnout and if the trend of increased participation continued, sending more people to Olympia would cost more. They said that it was possible that the GPSS could have a good turnout, but if the event was a hybrid virtual event, it could lower costs for GPSS.

**Hannah Sieben** said that Grad Day on the Hill had alternative sources of funding. They said that the Vice President of External Affairs had access to the Washington Student Association money that was paid through the optional fee for students.

**Jules Overfelt** noted that Logan Jarrell had put the resolution from December in the chat. They said that the resolution stated that expenses less than $1000 needed to be approved only by the Executive Committee. They said that expenses between $1000 and $5000 needed the approval of the majority of F&B and that the Senate needed to be alerted. They said that for expenses over $5000, the majority of the Senate had to approve of the expense.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** said that last year, fiscal year 21, the Executive Committee had proposed a large budget and ended up not spending all of the money because of the pandemic. He asked whether the extra money had been rolled over into the GPSS general fund and if the GPSS currently had an inflated general fund. He asked if the GPSS planned to pull money from the general fund if the SAF did not fund the budget at the amount that GPSS requested.

**Jules Overfelt** said that Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) was correct. They said that if SAF did not fund the budget, then money from the general fund would be used. They said that if the SAF did not grant the GPSS the full requested amount, then they would bring the budget back to the Senate and the Senate would have the opportunity to either approve spending money from the general fund or making changes to the budget. They said that they would present the budget to SAF on April 23rd and that budget deliberations would take place over the next two weeks. They said that they expected to hear back from SAF in the second week of May. They said that they would bring the budget back to the Senate with the assumption that anything not covered by SAF would be covered by the general fund.

**Jules Overfelt** addressed Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) question from the chat, “My understanding of the text of the resolution is that even for expenses less than $1000 the senate must be notified. Is that correct?” They said that he was correct and that the Senate will be notified of any additions in spending.

**Aaron Yared** said that A.J. Balatico (College of Education) asked “During the SAF voting meeting, do GPSS members abstain from voting, leaving ASUW appointees to approve/deny budget items?”

**Jules Overfelt** said that they did not know for sure. They said that they believed that they abstained because they created the budget. They said that it did not make sense for all the GPSS members to abstain, because GPSS members made up half of SAF’s voting committee. They said that they would have to go back and look at last year’s minutes to see what happened.

**Aaron Yared** asked if Jules Overfelt had any closing remarks.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they felt very confident in the budget proposal. They also recognized Shane Schrader for his previous work. They said that they kept a lot of Shane Schrader’s work because it was very thorough and could be repurposed for this year’s goals.

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** motioned to approve the budget. **Malikai Bass (Museology)** seconded.

**Logan Jarrell** asked Jack Flesher whether he wanted to approve of the budget through general consent or voting.

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** motioned to approve the budget through general consent. **Malikai Bass (Museology)** seconded. No objections.

# 8. [Action] Non-academic Seat Resolution: GO-MAP 6:25pm

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said she would present the Resolution In Support of a Non-academic Voting Seat for GO-MAP. She explained that GO-MAP stood for the Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program. She said that the Resolution was sponsored by herself and co-sponsored by Executive Senator Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association), Secretary Logan Jarrell, and President Aaron Yared. She thanked Ashlee Abrantes for writing the Resolution.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** read the Resolution and said that Black, Indigenous, and people-of-color (BIPOC) graduate students were underrepresented populations at the UW and that the GPSS was tasked with representing all graduate and professional student voices on the UW Seattle campus. She said that the perspectives of BIPOC graduate and professional students should be included when constructing policy and coordinating advocacy that may impact the BIPOC community and their campus experiences and that over 4000 graduate and professional students at UW currently identified as BIPOC. She said that GO-MAP had served BIPOC graduate students since 1970 and provided educational programming events and a community for BIPOC students. She said that GO-MAP was the primary recruitment and retention organization for underrepresented minorities at the UW, providing fellowships and other academic resources. She said that GO-MAP’s Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) advocated for community building, graduate student success, outreach, and alumni relations, thereby providing sustainable support for a representative for the seat.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that the GPSS should resolve to create a Senate seat for underrepresented graduate and professional minority groups as described in Article 3, Section C of the GPSS Constitution by graduate students selected by GO-MAP’s GSAB.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** moved to approve the Resolution through a vote. **Terrence Pope (Psychology)** seconded. No objections.

*The Resolution passed unanimously.*

# 9. [Information] First Reading of GPSS Accessibility Resolution 6:31pm

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** thanked Marty Varela (Residential Community Association), Malikai Bass (Museology), and Kira Sue Renfro (Art History) for helping to write the Resolution. He thanked Lesley Ellis and Devon Sheehan for their feedback.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that the UW Disability Resources for Students served over 1,700 students and that from 2015 to 2016, 11.9% of post-baccalaureate students had a disability. He said that the Center for Universal Design defined universal design as the design of products and the environment that was usable by all people to the greatest extent possible without the need for adaptation or specialized design. He said that universally designed events benefit both disabled and non-disabled individuals. He said that the GPSS hosted events, organized websites with funding opportunities for students, distributed flyers, and voted on matters to all students. He said that the GPSS meetings were open to the public and should be accessible to all graduate students, according to the GPSS Constitution, and noted that the ASUW was considering funding the Office of Inclusive Design (OID) whose mission was to provide funding and guidance to student clubs and ASUW entities who sought to make their events and offices more accessible to all.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that the GPSS should develop a plan to maintain remote accessibility of its meetings when they are again held in a physical location and that GPSS meets in a space equipped for remote lecture capture that such capture is available synchronously and asynchronously. He said that captions and the generated transcript should be provided during the GPSS meeting and on asynchronous recordings. He said that the GPSS should explore the possibility of adding professional captions and session notes provided by a dedicated notetaker to supplement the material, using visuals and image descriptions of visuals. He said that the plan should be developed by the end of the 2021 academic year and that the plan should identify an entity or officer accountable for implementation.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that GPSS should consult with existing organizations on campus, such as the D Center, Do It, and the Student Disability Center (SDC) to determine strengths and weaknesses of the accessibility of services it provides. He called on GPSS to collect information on the accessibility needs of graduate students, that GPSS work with graduate students with disabilities to implement universal design throughout its organization. He said that identified gaps should be addressed through design teams, OID mini-grants, STF grants, CREATE student mini-grants, and other approaches.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** asked that students with disabilities who assist in redesigning GPSS services be given credit for their work and that the Resolution be forwarded to President Aaron Yared, Secretary Logan Jarrell, and SAF Committee Chair Nina Cao.

**Logan Jarrell** said that GPSS would likely be ineligible for OID funding from ASUW. He said that the GPSS was ineligible from most, if not all, of ASUW’s funds.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** asked Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) to clarify what he had in mind for the note taker position. He asked if the task would be done by the Senate clerk who takes minutes for the meeting and whether the notes would be an abbreviated form of the minutes.

**Malikai Bass (Museology)** said that section notes were great for people who had cognitive or auditory challenges. He explained that this meant that they might miss chunks of the meeting. He said that people with medical issues might have to leave intermittently during the meeting to take care of themselves. He said that in other organizations, taking notes on a platform like Google docs allowed people to catch up on the part of the meeting that they missed. He said that it was helpful for people to see in writing what they had missed so that they had the same level of access to the meeting.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** said he thought it was a great idea and said it should be a paid position. He said that whoever took on the responsibility should be compensated for that valuable work

**Logan Jarrell** said the Senate could program a recess period into the meetings. He said that Senate meetings ran without breaks for efficiency and acknowledged that what was efficient was not always the best format for accessible participation.

**Aaron Yared** said that Ashlee Abrantes had volunteered to take on the job of taking notes during the meetings if the Resolution was passed. He thanked Ashlee Abrantes for volunteering.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** asked about the language in the second clause about meeting in a space that was equipped for remote lecture capture. He asked how that differed from a recording of the GPSS meetings. He asked if the authors of the Resolution should use more broad language so as not to be restrictive. He asked if there was a reason for the specific language.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that he had seen lecture capture done in a number of ways. He said that Panopto was the gold standard since it resulted in voice recordings synced to a slide presentation. He said that other groups solved this problem by hiring someone to stand with a camera and said that it had been an approved STF proposal when he was part of the committee. He noted that before the pandemic, there was an attempt to video record the Senate with an iPad at the front of the room. He said that his concern with regards to that method was that it would be difficult to hear what somebody at the back of the room said.

**Logan Jarrell** asked Aaron Yared whether the HUB’s installation of lecture capture extended to the rooms that the GPSS traditionally used for Senate and Executive meetings.

**Aaron Yared** said that nothing had been finalized yet. He said that the GPSS had planned to work with the HUB to endorse their STF proposal to install lecture capture technology in all of its meeting rooms. He said that if the GPSS continued to hold meetings in the HUB, there would not be an issue once the lecture capture technology was implemented. He said that the lecture capture technology included asynchronous and streaming capabilities so that the GPSS could hold meetings and people who were absent could watch the meetings live. He welcomed other suggestions for different technology. He said that both ASUW and GPSS would endorse the STF proposal so that every student government meeting could be as accessible as possible. He noted that Justin Camputaro was currently working to get quotes for the STF proposal.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** asked if the GPSS Senate meetings would continue to be accessible remotely. She asked if she could still participate in the meetings if she was unable to attend in person.

**Aaron Yared** said that the details of the proposal were crucial in making the meetings more accessible. He said that he envisioned that people had a chat of some sort so that people who were not present could still participate. He said that someone could keep track of the chat in case there were questions. He reiterated that the HUB’s STF proposal included streaming capabilities so that people who would not be able to attend in person could observe the meeting live with the added capability of them being able to participate through the chat. He said that this would most likely happen through Zoom but was something to figure out once the STF proposal was approved.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the goal was to allow people who were unable to attend in-person to also participate verbally, not just through chat.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that ensuring continued remote participation was one of the resolution authors’ big goals. He said that the first “That” clause described maintaining road accessibility of meetings when they are again held in a physical location and the third That clause mandated that lecture capture should be available synchronously. He said that the demands in the Resolution should be technologically possible and that he was open to amending the first clause to make them more explicit. He said he hoped that people could remotely participate fully as Senators, including making motions. He pointed out that there were many programs that were exclusively online only such as masters programs. He said he hoped that people from those programs and people from other programs could participate as full Senators and make motions.

**Aaron Yared** thanked everyone who had worked on the Resolution. He said that accessibility was a priority for GPSS and that the Resolution was important work.

# 10. [Information] Officer and Committee Reports 6:50pm

**Aaron Yared** said that Jennifer Emmett was present to report on behalf of Genevieve Hulley and Stephen Lee was present to report on behalf of Jules Overfelt.

**Jennifer Emmett** said that the GPSS had a couple of events coming up. She said that her team was planning a wellness event and a social event later this month. She said that one of the events would be a yoga and meditation class on Thursday, April 29th, from 6-7 pm PT. She said that the other event was an instructor-led painting class of Mount Rainier and would take place on April 23rd, from 4-6pm. She encouraged participation in both events and said that more information would be sent in the newsletter.

**Jennifer Emmett** said that her team had also been thinking about hosting a short research presentation in lieu of the academic conference that GPSS usually held. She said that more information would be sent out soon. She said that anyone with any questions could contact her or Genevieve Hulley via email <[gpssevnt@uw.edu](mailto:gpssevnt@uw.edu)>.

**Hannah Sieben** said that she had some exciting updates from the legislature. She said that as of yesterday, House Bill 1009 passed. She explained that this bill would require student health insurance plans to cover abortion for students. She said that this bill did not make it through last year and that her team was excited that it passed. She called attention to the amazing medical students who had advocated for building in health equity curriculum into the Medical School curricula and reported that the bill for that issue also passed yesterday. She said that a bill for a pilot program that would expand access to homeless college students passed today. She explained that the bill called for the inclusion of lockers, campus showers, and wraparound services. She said that those bills were big wins for the graduate and professional student community this year. She said that she had not expected to win much starting the legislative session, but the focus on equity in higher education had increased.

**Hannah Sieben** said that the state legislature had distributed $5 million across the state in stimulus checks for undocumented students. She said that it meant that about 16 graduate students at the UW had received $1,300 at the end of Winter quarter and again at the beginning of Spring quarter.

**Hannah Sieben** said that the External team was working with Representative Gerry Pollet to do a pilot program that would provide funding to underrepresented graduate and professional students, particularly serving in programs that are necessary for the state, such as social work, nursing, and public health.

**Hannah Sieben** said that she had recently sent an email with an action item and would appreciate it if the Senators fulfilled the request. She said that her team was working to put a graduate student on the Washington Student Achievement Council. She said that there were only three or four more days for the bill to get pulled in the Rules Committee or else it would die. She said that the GPSS did not have any bills of interest die this session and said that she cherished the bill like a baby. She asked the Senators to send a few emails if they had the time and noted that she had provided a template and email addresses for the Senators’ convenience.

**Aaron Yared** asked everyone to praise the External Team for their many wins.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Equity and Accountability Committee would present results from the composition survey at the next meeting.

**Stephen Lee** said that there was not much to update on the treasury. He said that at the last F&B meeting, the Committee had perused and approved the budget. He said that travel grants were still open and that the entire application could be done through Google forms which were available under the Funding tab on the GPSS website. He encouraged everyone to apply for a Travel Grant.

**Aaron Yared** noted that Greg Papp (Marine & Environmental Affairs) said that there were no updates from the Judicial Committee.

**Aaron Yared** said that he had been working on writing amendments with Logan Jarrell and that he and Ashlee Abrantes were still collecting responses for the UW Organization Survey <[link](https://forms.gle/2s1G7w5gYVp6ATBs6)>. He said that their goal was to map out the university to figure out which departments needed representation and which departments were already represented. He asked Senators to send the survey link to GPAs.

**Aaron Yared** said that there was also another open survey that was for figuring out how people felt about returning to school in person during the fall. He said that there had not yet been a plan laid out by the administration. He said that he had heard some things for faculty that made them worry. He said that the more information that the GPSS could collect, the better that he could communicate to the Provost and President how graduate and professional students felt about coming back to school. He said that the survey results were anonymous, but that gathering data and student stories was very important.

# 11. [Information] Announcements 6:59pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that it was graduate student appreciation week and said that he appreciated the work that everyone did regardless of their affiliation with GPSS.

**Terrence Pope (Psychology)** said that he would be stepping down from his Executive Senator position to focus on doing more intradepartmental work. He said that he was advised by the Executive Committee to time the Executive Senator election with the upcoming election. He said that anyone interested in the role should reach out to him with any questions they may have about the position. He said that he would also encourage someone within his own department to run for the position. He said that it had been a pleasure working with the Senate and said that he would continue to work on the projects that he had started. He thanked everyone for letting him serve as an Executive Senator and said that he had appreciated the opportunity.

**Aaron Yared** thanked Terrence Pope (Psychology) and said that all of his hard work had been noticed and felt. He said that the Elections Committee would figure out when the Executive Senator election would be.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that the STF Committee was currently accepting proposals for the Spring quarter. He said that STF Committee was currently sitting on a total of $6.7 million and that it was looking for any academic unit or departments across campus to apply. He said that the STF had been lowered to zero this quarter and that the STF Committee would revisit the implementation of the fee later this quarter.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** asked how long the Executive Senator term would be.

**Aaron Yared** said that Executive Senator positions lasted two full years. He said that if the election were to happen on May 5th of this year, then the term would last until May 2023.

**Malikai Bass (Museology)** said that he had spoken last quarter about a town hall meeting to reach out to neurodiverse and autistic students at the university. He said that the organizers of the meeting had received a lot of good feedback and interest so they decided to host another one on Thursday, April 15th at 4pm Pacific time. He said that all Senators were welcome to listen. He said that the discussion would be focused on the process to access accommodations and support at the university, how students felt about the workload that accompanied that, and what solutions students envisioned to make accessing accommodations less burdensome. Malikai Bass asked people to email him <[mbass2@uw.edu](mailto:mbass2@uw.edu)> in case anyone was interested in getting more information.

**Aaron Yared** explained that working groups happened after the Senate meeting was adjourned. He said that each working group had a specific subject that they focused on. He said that people could join any group they were interested in and that there was no commitment. He said that Senators could jump between working groups and that working groups were just an opportunity for Senators to get more involved if they want to. He said that working groups could also give people an idea of what it would be like to be an Executive Senator. He pointed out the free chat room for anyone who wanted to socialize with some GPSS people.

# 12. [Action] Adjournment and Break into Working Groups 7:06pm

**Gregg Papp (School of Marine & Environmental Affairs)** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** seconded. No objections.

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