GPSS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 28th 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~~

# 1. [Action] Call to Order 5:30pm

**Aaron Yared** called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

# 2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:31pm

**Jules Overfelt** moved to approve the agenda as written.

**Logan Jarrell** objected and proposed adding a 5 minute item discussing the all-campus email from ASUW as the last item on the agenda.

**Jules Overfelt** moved to approve the amended agenda. **Andrew Shumway** seconded.

No objections.

# 3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:31pm

**Logan Jarrell** moved to approve the April 14th minutes. **Genevieve Hulley** seconded. No objections.

# 4. [Information] Executive Senator Discussion 5:32pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that based on the changes approved by the Senate last week, the Executive Committee had to discuss how to create a defined procedure for an Executive Senator to select their focus. He asked whether the intent was to only have an Executive Senator who focused on equity and accountability or whether all Executive Senators each had a focus. He said that the Executive Committee also needed to discuss the upcoming Executive Senator elections.

**Andrew Shumway** said that based on his reading of the Bylaw changes, there only had to be one Executive Senator on the Empowerment, Diversity, and Accountability Committee (EDA). He said that unless there was a Bylaw or a statement that necessitated Executive Senators having a focus area, the only requirement was that EDA required an Executive Senator.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they understood that the Executive Committee would create a nonbinding memorandum. They said that the Committee had not passed anything official so the Committee could do either. They encouraged the Committee to write the intent down.

**Logan Jarrell** said he agreed with Jules Overfelt and that the Bylaws did not specify any changes to the Executive Senator duties. He said the one Executive Senator was required to serve on EDA and help with the new vice president position since the new role did not have any staff members. He said that he looked at this year’s budget as it related to the election. He said that if a new Executive Senator was elected this quarter, then they would need to be paid. He said that the Bylaw amendments technically went into effect on June 21, but the incoming Executive Committee without the additional Executive Senator to support the new position may be underequipped.

**Jules Overfelt** asked whether the goal of the discussion was to try to come up with what to address in the memorandum or figure out if any current or ongoing Executive Senators were interested in taking on the EDA role. They said it would be good for the Executive Senators to outline the memorandum. They said that they were also checking to see if anyone was interested in helping with the transition period, even if they could commit to sticking with it throughout the fall. Jules Overfelt said that they were open to hearing other goals for this discussion.

**Logan Jarrell** said that Jules Overfelt had hit on the goals well. He said that the Executive Committee needed to outline the commitments before asking people to commit. He said that recommended writing a memorandum since the duties of Executive Senators were not defined in great detail in the Bylaws.

**Aaron Yared** said that he had brought up the topic to Andrew Shumway and that Andrew Shumway had said that when he was first elected, he had had a certain focus area to commit to. Aaron Yared said that Andrew Shumway had done many different things because he found new interests as he learned more about the GPSS and the issues that graduate and professional students faced. He said that he thought a memorandum was the best plan of action because it was a guideline, not a forceful measure to be written into the Bylaws. He noted that the Executive Committee did not have a good idea of what the Vice President of Equity and Accountability’s (VPEA) responsibilities would be. He said that problems would come up eventually and the Executive Senator would be expected to provide support in that area. He said it might be hard to come up with guidelines.

**Ashlee Abrantes** asked for clarification on the Bylaws. She said that the Executive Committee had provisioned for the non-academic seats to have a home on EDA. She asked if the Executive Senator position would be sourced by a Senator in one of the non-academic seats. She asked that the Executive Committee bar any non-academic Senators from being the Executive Senator sitting on EDA because all of the nonacademic Senators were already guaranteed a spot on EDA. She asked that the language be clarified.

**Marty Varela** said that the intent for having an Executive Senator position associated with the VPEA was so that someone could be compensated to help the VPEA. She said that while non-academic Senators had seats on EDA, they were not compensated by the GPSS to sit in that role.

**Andrew Shumway** said that based on his interpretation of the Bylaw amendment, one person could have both a non-academic Senator role and an Executive Senator role with the understanding that each role came with different responsibilities.

**Aaron Yared** said that he had not changed the eligibility requirements for Executive Senators. He said that the current requirement was to be a Senator and affirmed by the rest of the Senate.

**Logan Jarrell** said that nothing barred a non-academic Senator from serving as an Executive Senator. He said that he was not sure exactly what the support role for the VPEA should look like. He said that he needed to know how the Executive Senators could select their focus and design how an Executive Senator could shift their focus. He said that Executive Senators could finish their focus task during one quarter and want to focus on a different matter in the next quarter. He suggested creating a system that allowed Executive Senators to select their focus quarterly.

**Andrew Shumway** suggested that instead of having people find what they want to work on, having a quarterly deadline could help encourage accountability amongst Executive Senators and motivate them to work on a particular task.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he liked the idea of reporting, while still maintaining the Executive Senators’ freedom to select the topic of their choice. He said that the Executive Committee could suggest different topics but that the equity and accountability topic was required to be filled.

**Aaron Yared** said that during his experience in UW Bothell’s student government, he found issues with quarterly reports. He said that some people gave genuine reports while others simply used filler words without having done any concrete work. He said that he assumed that the Executive Senators all wanted to work hard and said that quarterly reports would add structure to the job.

**Logan Jarrell** said that quarterly reports would help with transitioning. He said that to his understanding, Executive Senators did not receive much help transitioning into their role. He asked if there were any major downsides to implementing the proposed policy other than that some people might not do the reports.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if it was more appropriate to ask for a year-long commitment or a three-quarter commitment from the Executive Senator working in EDA. They said that the Executive Senator in EDA would have a consistent focus.

**Aaron Yared** said that as long as one Executive Senator sat on EDA, the requirement would be fulfilled and that Executive Senators could switch off between themselves.

**Andrew Shumway** said that his interpretation of the Bylaws was very similar to the Elections Committee. He said that the Elections Committee was required to have one Executive Senator on the Elections Committee. He said that it was not necessarily different because Elections Committees only lasted for a quarter and a half. He said that there was nothing in the Bylaws that specified that an Executive Senator had to be on EDA for a full year. He said that the memorandum could specify so if that was what the Executive Committee wanted. He said that there was merit in having someone consistently working in EDA since it would build institutional memory. He said currently, as the Bylaws were written, the requirements were quite flexible for replacing Executive Senators on EDA. He said that the memorandum should clarify the commitment that an Executive Senator would have to give to EDA.

**Logan Jarrell** said that in its first year, the EDA needed high commitment to ensure that the new VPEA position was supported. He said that multiple Senators could serve on EDA. He said that he favored making an additional requirement to make sure the VPEA position was supported. He said that Executive Senators and the Executive Committee had the ability to revisit memoranda. He said that the incoming Executive Committee could decide that a person did not need to make the full-year commitment. He said that the commitment could be on the basis that Aaron Yared had described.

**Britahny Baskin** said that she agreed with Aaron Yared about Executive Senators switching their foci every quarter. She said that in her experience, it was difficult to get enough done in one quarter in one area.

**Logan Jarrell** acknowledged Rene Singleton’s comment in the chat; Rene Singleton had said that the memorandum had to be written now or after the new VPEA was elected. He noted that the new VPEA would be elected by the next Executive meeting.

**Jules Overfelt** said that Rene Singleton made a good point and said that this was something that could be possibly done over the summer. They cautioned against assuming that incoming officers would spend a lot of time with the older Officers. They reminded everyone that new Officers were not compensated for their time until the summer. They said that it was the new Officers’ prerogative to meet with the older Officers outside of their paid period. Jules Overfelt said it was possible to wait to have the conversation with the new Officers so that they could give their input. They said that Logan Jarrell could still start the draft but that people were likely to want to be on a committee to decide the process.

**Aaron Yared** agreed that there was a short timeline and that the Executive Committee should set up the system because the current Executive Committee created the change and put the new Officers in the situation. He said that the new Executive Senator position was created because the new VPEA was not given any staff members and the Executive Committee recognized that the VPEA would need help. He said that it would be more responsible for the Executive Committee to create the memorandum before the start of the new Officers’ terms.

**Aaron Yared** said that Andrew Shumway said to have a draft and that continuing officers, Executive Senators, and next year’s Executive Committee could make changes as desired.

# 5. [Action] Senate Meeting Agenda 5:55pm

**Jules Overfelt** suggested building the Senate agenda around the election. She asked Kira Sue Renfro how long the election would take.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said she did not have an estimate. She cut and pasted the proceedings section of the Elections Guide into the agenda. She said that each of the eight candidates was allotted three minutes.

**Logan Jarrell** said it would take about 76 minutes for candidates-related events. He said that speeches would take 24 minutes and there would be 50 minutes for questions. He said that one of the positions had three candidates, so an additional two minutes would be needed.

**Kira Sue Renfro** asked for additional time and said that the Elections Committee anticipated nominations from the floor. She said that the Elections Committee suspected that some people were taking longer to react to the changes to the VPEA position. She acknowledged that the Elections Committee also took a while to post the Elections Guide. She suggested leaving room for five nominations from the floor but anticipated two or three to happen.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if the Senate had the option to extend time on questions. They said that last year, the Senators had the option to extend time for additional questions. They said that there would be a chance that only half the candidates would be able to answer the question if time was extended. They asked if the agenda should reflect extra time for questions. Jules Overfelt said that the language in the Elections Guide made it sound that time extensions were allowed. They suggested adding an extra 30 minutes in addition to the 74 minutes to cover the introduction change period, adding time floor nominees.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that this year’s Elections Committee was responding to the fact that Elections Night was very long and hard for everyone to attend. She said that there were additional reasons why having a long meeting over Zoom posed accessibility issues, such as time zone differences and the fact that some people were financially obligated to work early in the morning. She said that the Elections Committee had planned to make a motion to increase time that would go to an official vote each time to emphasize the fact that adding time was to be taken seriously.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he had not included the 10 minutes of free time after all candidate speeches. He said that the total time for candidate-related events was 86 minutes.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that the Elections Guide had a clause that said that candidates would leave the meeting before discussion time. She said that she planned to start the night by announcing the intent to make the election go as quickly as possible. She expressed her hope of not being on Zoom until midnight.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if it would be useful to give periodic timestamps of how far through the agenda the Senate was. They said that they personally lose track of where they were in the Agenda item, timewise. They suggested giving verbal time checks to help people stay on track of time.

**Aaron Yared** suggested having a slide deck that showed the list of candidates and positions.

**Kira Sue Renfro** expressed support for Aaron Yared’s idea and said that she would also need to add a slide at the end for candidates from the floor.

**Ashlee Abrantes** asked for clarification on how to summon active Senators who were also candidates back into the meeting.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said she would use the breakout room function. She said that last year, some people felt uncomfortable discussing the candidates because the candidates were still in the room. She said that this year, the candidates would not have the option to stay in the room so that the Senate could have a productive discussion.

**Logan Jarrell** said that Kira Sue Renfro had the option to breakdown the election item into smaller items or leave it as one block in the agenda and use a slideshow as a visual aid for transitions within the election.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said she liked the idea and asked Logan Jarrell for help implementing it. She asked everyone if it was possible to put a timer on the Zoom that was constantly going so that candidates and Senators could see how much time was being spent.

**Andrew Shumway** suggested pulling up a computer timer and sharing one’s screen on Zoom.

**Kira Sue Renfro** asked if the timer would keep going as the candidates were switched. She said that she would not be sharing her screen the whole time because candidates would want their faces to be big while giving speeches. She asked if one continuous timer was possible.

**Antonio Gonzalez** said that the ASUW screen shared a Google timer. He said that it worked because each candidate could only speak for a certain amount of time

**Marty Varela** proposed adjusting the process so that entertaining nominations from the floor was done first and elections proceeded after that so that the Senate did not have to pause and wait for people to think about floor nominations when considering all the candidates. She said that this was advantageous because people who are nominated from the floor would have some time to prepare for their three minute presentation since they will know in advance whether their nomination was accepted by the Senate. She said that this would also give the Senate a heads up regarding how to track time. She said that the election would not be as bad as it had been in the past because some positions were uncontested. She said that the rest of the meeting could proceed while votes were counted.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if the Elections committee could go over ranked choice voting and post the ballot to make sure everyone had access to it at the beginning of the meeting. They said that it would give people an opportunity to troubleshoot any technical issues while other agenda items were discussed.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he could send supplemental information ahead of the meeting to make sure that people understood ranked choice voting and other election procedures. He said that Senators were already promised an absentee ballot.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that the absentee ballot made ranked choice voting so straightforward that a supplemental was unnecessary.

**Jules Overfelt** said it might be useful for Kira Sue Renfro to quickly share her screen at the meeting to show what the ballot should look like. They said that it should be shared at the beginning of the meeting so that troubleshooting did not happen during the election.

**Justin Pothoof** said that he anticipated issues arising from how to vote for people nominated from the floor. He said that the time difference between nominations and the Elections Committee updating the ballot to include people nominated from the floor might cause confusion.

**Marty Varela** said that the Elections Committee could make a dummy version of the ballot without names that showed what the ballot would look like and how to utilize the ballot. She suggested putting the ballot up before the election and emailing it to the Senate so that they were familiar with the ballot at the meeting. She said that the Elections Committee could update the form on the evening of the election. She said that having a video presentation to walk people through the ballot beforehand would be useful. She noted that people failed to access the form because they were not using their UW credentials. She said that there was a lot of stress associated with the election and that preparing people beforehand would help people think about candidates properly.

**Aaron Yared** said he received about 40 emails from graduate students saying that they did not know how to access the Return to In-person Learning survey. He said that graduate students kept trying to sign in with their personal emails instead of their UW email accounts. He seconded Marty Varela’s point that even though the process seemed simple, a lot of people might run into issues on the simplest thing, so it was worth being explicitly clear.

**Jules Overfelt** moved to extend time by 10 minutes. **Logan Jarrell** seconded. No objections.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if it was appropriate to have a breakout room open for troubleshooting. They asked if it encouraged people to leave the room and, if that was not appropriate, if the GPSS could designate someone as technical support for the meeting. They said that the Senate could privately message the technical support person during the meeting and that the Elections Committee should make it clear who to contact at the beginning of the Senate meeting so that people with issues did not disrupt the entire Senate. They suggested putting the contact information for the technical support person in a corner of the election slides.

**Andrew Shumway** said that in the previous year, there was a member of the Elections Committee who was in charge of the ballot and technical issues. He noted that someone wrote in the chat that the Elections Committee would not have the bandwidth for troubleshooting. He said that having one person who had already read through all the candidate material focus on helping people access the ballot worked very well for last year’s Elections Committee. He highly recommended that the Elections Committee spare one person to help others troubleshoot.

**Marty Varela** said that the Elections Committee had trouble getting people to show up. She said that the only people working on the Elections Committee were her, Kira Sue Renfro, and Justin Pothoof. She said that it was hard to designate one person for troubleshooting when only three people were working in the Committee.

**Aaron Yared** suggested that an Executive Senator or an Officer who was not running help troubleshoot.

**Genevieve Hulley** agreed to do it.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he already offered troubleshooting services to Senators during meetings and said he felt comfortable helping Senators with Zoom-related problems. He said that Officer participation in elections was supposed to be limited, but noted that this was among the first times in GPSS that an Officer held a position that would no longer exist. He said that given the challenges that the Elections Committee was facing, he suggested that the Elections Committee reach out to the Judicial Committee for additional support because they would be the ones who would handle election challenges, and they were also barred from running. He said that as the Officer who interacted with the Elections Committee the most, he saw the work that the Elections Committee put into the elections. He recommended that the Elections Committee work closely with him for administrative needs like slideshows, videos, or emails. He wondered if more administrative tasks could be delegated. He suggested anticipating troubleshooting questions from the Senate.

**Andrew Shumway** said that the overwhelming majority of problems stemmed from people not being able to access the Google form.

**Jules Overfelt** said that Logan Jarrell’s position had changed. They said that two or three years ago, there had been some tension between some of the candidates and the officers regarding transparency and cautioned Officers from participating in the election. They said that a lot of the Officers wanted to support the Elections Committee, but that it might create more problems.

**Britahny Baskin** offered to help out.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the election required an independent observer. He said that he could ask for an additional independent observer or just request more help and support from the Student Activities Office (SAO).

**Marty Varela** said that she had not officially been put on the Elections Committee. She said that she had hoped to be a part of the Committee with Monica Jensen but that her hope had not been realized. Marty Varela said it was not good to bring attention to the significant absenteeism in the Election Committee because the Committee was required to have a certain number of members, and the significant absenteeism was concerning. She said that the absenteeism caused the need for the three remaining members to do everything. She said that the Committee only needed troubleshooting assistance on election night.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that the main support the Elections Committee needed was somebody reachable to explain Google to people. She said that Andrew Shumway encouraged her to make one person match ballots to names to make sure the ballots were valid and then anonymize the ballot before having someone else count the votes. She said that this meant only two people were counting votes. She said that this would make the Committee even tinier. She said that if this was only a recommendation for anonymity, not a requirement, then she would not follow it.

**Andrew Shumway** said that the Bylaws were horribly outdated and did not apply to electronic elections. He said he meant to submit Bylaw changes but failed to do so. He said that the Bylaws said that Elections Committee members had to physically tear the name off of the ballot which made no sense for digital platforms. He said that if Kira Sue Renfro wanted to act based on precedent, she would have to check to make sure that the ballot was cast by an eligible voter and put all of the votes from eligible voters in a separate tab. He said to tally the votes from eligible voters. He acknowledged that it was hard to be part of a committee where other members were not there for each other. He said as far as the Bylaws were concerned, the Committee was doing a commendable job and shouldn’t be ashamed for needing extra help on election night. He said from a parliamentary perspective, the Senate did not need to vote to add anyone to the Committee unless they were going to handle the votes.

**Andrew Shumway** moved to extend time by 7 minutes. **Britahny Baskin** seconded. No objections.

**Rene Singleton** said that the assigned SAO advisor would be there to make sure that confidentiality is maintained. She said that the Elections Committee did not have to worry that students would suspect that the Committee was acting dishonorably. Rene Singleton said that it was part of her role as an advisor to make sure that students could trust the results of the election and that she was happy to help.

**Andrew Shumway** said that last year’s election was a complete anomaly and that he did not anticipate it happening the same way this year. He said that last year’s Election Committee realized that they had counted the ranked choice votes incorrectly and had to go back and count again. He said that the actual counting process was quite fast. He said that he anticipated easy counting for this year’s Elections Committee.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the GPSS wanted to make diversity more of a priority. He said that E&A was content with sharing an executive report before the elections. He said that if there was downtime during counting, E&A would present the rest of the report.

**Jules Overfelt** suggested not holding working groups at this meeting.

**Andrew Shumway** asked why information about the elections was put in the front of the meeting before two agenda items followed by the actual election. He said that business and elections should be streamlined.

**Marty Varela** said that it was so that people nominated from the floor could have some time to compose themselves before having to compete against people who had already entered the election. She said that it would help the election run more smoothly because the Elections Committee would have time to make adjustments to the ballot

**Jules Overfelt** said having the time would allow Senators to troubleshoot prior to the election and would not take them away from hearing what candidates had to say.

**Logan Jarrell** moved to approve of the Senate meeting agenda. **Marty Varela** seconded.

**Jules Overfelt** objected and said that there were grammatical changes to add, as well as times.

**Aaron Yared** said that times for each item were listed out in the agenda and the total time would just be a sum of those minutes.

**Jules Overfelt** withdrew their objection.

No other objections.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if Officers could send questions to the Elections Committee prior to the election so that the Committee could verify that the questions were appropriate.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that that was what the Elections Guide advised, but that she was not against people adding more questions later because she would be using PollEverywhere. She said that Jules Overfelt was free to send her questions as early as they wanted and that they could add more later in the Poll Everywhere with the rest of the Senate.

# 6. [Action] Non-budgeted General Fund Expense 6:58pm

**Genevieve Hulley** shared a <[link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_r6rmex1QpefgF7d2Tb4PwHt6p6Kj3mT/view?usp=sharing)> to the document. She said that the GPSS website was being redesigned. She said that the GPSS Creative Director aimed to have the redesign done by the end of the year. She said that the best way to redesign and host the website would be through using Webflow, which would cost the GPSS about $500 per year. She said that whoever took the position in subsequent years would also be able to edit it pretty easily. She said it was an accessible way to keep the website updated while looking nice. She said that the website would also load faster if it was hosted on Webflow and said that since the expense was less than $1,000, it just needed to be approved by the Executive Committee.

**Andrew Shumway** said he was not familiar with Webflow. He asked if the Webflow platform was something that would be well received by next year’s staff or if anyone with familiarity in the field would be able to learn how to use it very quickly.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that Webflow was the most popular format for web design right now. She said that Andy Madrick, the GPSS Creative Director, was in the same program that many of the creative directors were recruited from. She said that he said everyone in his classes was doing a project using Webflow and said that she imagined that the GPSS would hire a person with a similar skill set next year. She said that it was the most accessible platform and easier to use than WordPress.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the current website was difficult to work with because WordPress did not have a command panel at all―one had to access the WordPress backend through a Linux environment and know how to use MySQL, which was not a language that most people making regular content updates would know. He said that WordPress was an approachable but limited platform. He said that it was structured like a blogging site and that the GPSS needed something that went beyond that.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the annual cost to host the website on Webflow would be $500/year. She said that people would be able to update the website. She said that for this year, money would be taken from Special Allocations, but going forward, it would be a line item.

**Andrew Shumway** said that most of the information on the current website could be thrown out. He asked if documents from the old website would be safely transferred to the new one. He said memoranda and other files that were hidden in WordPress would need to be considered when transitioning.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the contents were hard to find, but not intentionally hidden. He said that there were documents on the WordPress site going back to 2008 when GPSS launched its website. He said that he had no intention of throwing the documents away, but that old graphics for events could be scrapped. He noted that WordPress had an export feature.

**Jules Overfelt** asked Genevieve Hulley to explain why the GPSS could not use any free options that it had at its disposal.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the design services were never free. She said that ASUW paid for design services through a tech grant they received. She said that GPSS could also do the same. She said that she had met with Rene Singleton and UW-IT. She said that the reason the website was so slow was that it was on a department server. She said that third-party hosting would make the website load significantly faster, which was a critical issue because it was almost impossible to update a page that took so long to load. Genevieve Hulley said that the GPSS could also buy its own server and put it in the GPSS office, but said that this would cost a lot of money. She said that this plan would make the website faster and easily editable for people who did not have specialized skills.

**Marty Varela** moved to approve the expense. **Britahny Baskin** seconded. No objections.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if the Executive Committee needed to add an agenda item to tell the Senate that the Executive Committee pulled the money. They asked if the Committee could tell the Senate during the announcements section.

**Aaron Yared** said that it should be said in the announcements.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they did not think it was appropriate to put it in the announcements.

**Aaron Yared** said that Genevieve Hulley could notify the Senate in her officer report.

# 7. [Action] Summer Work Exemption 7:08pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that in the Elections Guide, the Executive Committee was tasked with providing exemptions for candidates who were unable or only partially able to meet the summer work requirement required of Officers. He said that the Committee could grant either a partial or full exemption. He said that he attached a request for an exemption. He said that the Elections Guide stated that the exemption needed to be addressed to the Secretary which was why he was the sponsor. He said that the candidate asking for the exemption was present and if the Committee found it appropriate, it could yield some time for the candidate to further elaborate.

**Aaron Yared** said he found it appropriate.

**Gabby Rivera** introduced herself as the Evans School representative. She said that she was running for the position of Vice President of Internal Affairs. She said that she had a full-time, remote summer internship. She said that she provided some suggestions in the email on how she would compensate for the work if she were elected. She said she could answer any questions, but that most of the details were provided in the email.

**Jules Overfelt** asked Logan Jarrell and Genevieve Hulley if this was an appropriate amount of time to be able to evolve with that position.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he presumed that the expectations for the Vice President of Internal Affairs (VPIn) would be based on the Bylaw changes that were approved by the Senate. He said that the VPIn would have to file a special meeting with the Office of Public Records every time the Executive Committee met. He said that this was critical. He said that outside of this task, most of his summer work entailed learning about OPMA and learning how to be a parliamentarian. He noted that the VPIn was not responsible for being the parliamentarian. He said that Gabby Rivera had some familiarity with the way open public meetings were run, so he did not expect her to need to relearn much.

**Logan Jarrell** said that most of the communication tasks were under the President, so it fell to the President to make the agendas with some support from others. He said that the Executive Committee only had to meet once a month during the summer. He said that Officers were welcome to meet more frequently, but the requirement in the Bylaws was to meet once a month during the summer. He said that he also prepared to lead a diversity committee and did a lot of reading over the summer, but that the VPIn would not be in charge of EDA.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he also prepared the Senate roster by checking which Senators had graduated and worked on orientations over the entire summer. He said that the GPSS usually received its first orientation request by the first week of July. He said that the Executive Committee had not reached a consensus on what the process would like in the future. He said that in the past, the Officers felt that it was appropriate to push the responsibility of coordinating orientations onto one position, but that it had not worked that way in the past. He asked Genevieve Hulley to talk about the traditional duties of the VPIn position.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that it was great that Gabby Rivera had already done hiring in the past. She said that it took her a long time to hire through Handshake but it seemed that Gabby Rivera was already familiar with the system. She noted that Gabby Rivera’s email specified an end date for the internship and stated Gabby Rivera would have a large amount of time to interview everyone. She said that as long as Gabby Rivera had enough time for interviews and onboarding in September, there did not seem to be a large conflict. She noted that Gabby Rivera said that she would be able to work 5-10 hours a week.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that terminating a position before the quarter began was not currently guaranteed. She asked who the hiring process would fall to if Gabby Rivera held the position and did not have time to start the hiring process. She asked if Gabby Rivera’s summer salary would be commensurate with her effort.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that Officers had to post their hours in the summer. She said that hiring only took two weeks. She said that many hours of work needed to be done before Labor Day so that people could be present for interviews.

**Aaron Yared** said that if the hiring did not get done, then another Officer or staff member for an Officer would step up to get the job done.

**Logan Jarrell** encouraged Executive Committee members not to limit their thinking to what could be done. He said that the new Officers could hire in a radically different way. He said he planned to elaborate on new ideas in the transitional documents.

**Jules Overfelt** motioned to approve the full summer work exemption with details up to the discretion of the incoming team. **Britahny Baskin** seconded.

**Logan Jarrell** objected and said that candidate was asking for a partial exemption.

**Jules Overfelt** motioned to approve of a partial summer work exemption with details up to the discretion of the incoming team. **Britahny Baskin** seconded. No objections.

# 8. [Information] Welcoming Candidates 7:22pm

**Ashlee Abrantes** said she would prefer to field questions over talking. She said she did not want to be redundant and talk about what she already wrote in her statement.

**Aaron Yared** asked Logan Jarrell to chair this agenda item.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he preferred not to have questions answered because he believed questions should be asked in front of the Senate. He deferred to the chair of the Elections Committee for a second opinion.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said she would go along with Logan Jarrell’s and the Executive Committee’s expertise. She said that she thought it was fine for questions to be asked now.

**Logan Jarrell** said that questions could be asked as long as the questions were asked again during the Senate meeting.

**Jules Overfelt** said they were concerned about the present candidates having more face time with GPSS members. They said that they were not comfortable with hearing from the candidates directly. Jules Overfelt said that unless the candidates were only introducing themselves by their name, Jules Overfelt would excuse themself from this item in the meeting.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the intention of the agenda item was not to create a forum for questions. He said that this agenda item was based on precedent. He said that candidates were able to quickly introduce themselves last year and thought that the opportunity should be offered to this year’s candidates as well. He said that if Executive Committee members disagreed, then they could move to table the agenda item. He offered to create a breakout room for people to go into if they did not want to hear about the candidates.

**Andrew Shumway** asked if this offer was extended to all the candidates.

**Logan Jarrell** said that candidates were able to attend the meeting.

**Andrew Shumway** clarified that an exclusive invitation for the meeting was not sent out. He said that the introductions could be simply name, pronouns, major, etc.

**Logan Jarrell** agreed as the chair and overruled the recommendation from the Elections Committee chair.

**Logan Jarrell** moved into hearing the name, major, pronouns, and a fun fact from each present candidate, not to exceed 45 seconds. He offered a breakout room for those who did not want to hear. He said he would call candidates in alphabetical order.

**Aaron Yared** introduced himself as a rising 3L at the Law School. He said he was running for President and that he was currently the President of GPSS. He said that he had seen the pyramids of Giza.

**Ashlee Abrantes** introduced herself as a PhD student in the School of Environment and Forest Sciences and a rising MPA student in the Evans School She said that she enjoyed eating fish eyeballs.

**Gabby Rivera** introduced herself as a first year student at the School of Public Policy and Governance. She said that prior to coming to the Evans School, she traveled for her sorority organizations and visited a new university every single week. She said that if anyone had questions about college towns or small towns in general, she had a lot of good memories in random places.

**A.J. Balatico** introduced himself as a student in Learning Sciences and Human Development in the College of Education. He said that he completely uninstalled all video games from his laptop because he was in the midst of general exams. He said that he was reading the 40th anniversary Empire Strikes Back comic books.

# 9. Context for Today’s ASUW Email 7:34pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that everyone may have received an email from the ASUW leadership concerning something in The Daily. He said that on Monday, The Daily, the largest student newspaper at the University of Washington released an opinion article in which they did not endorse any candidates for the ASUW Board elections. He said that this was part of the dissatisfaction that The Daily had taken with ASUW and said that The Daily had described candidates as unprepared in the editorial. He said that the article was published on Monday, April 26th and that in the cartoon section that day, there was a cartoon titled “ASUW Write-in Suggestions” which included pictures of campus landmarks, such as the metal dome sculpture in front of the Law School Library. He said that the cartoon also depicted some animals including a goose, Dubs I (the UW mascot), and a monkey.

**Logan Jarrell** said that BIPOC students, especially the candidates who were running for the ASUW students, took issue with the characterization of being compared to animals in the cartoon. He said that the cartoonist explained that it was not their intent to draw such a comparison. He said that the cartoon was taken down on Monday, hours after it had been published. He said that there had been no action on Tuesday and that the email had gone out on Wednesday from the ASUW leadership.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he had not voted on the issue as a member of the ASUW Board, so he was not sure what the email was referring to by “ASUW leadership.” He said that he understood that the Board would discuss the issue in further detail tomorrow with the Black Student Union. He invited Antonio Gonzalez to correct him if he had mischaracterized anything.

**Antonio Gonzalez** said that everything Logan Jarrell had said was correct and would be discussed tomorrow at the ASUW Board meeting. He said that the letter reflected the thoughts of the ASUW leadership and said that the Board would probably retroactively sign onto it tomorrow.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that as chair of the Elections Committee, she sought the advice of the Executive Committee. She said that she had a candidate who would like to speak to this issue in this meeting and said that she would appreciate it if people weighed in on whether or not it should be allowed. She said that she had looked through the Elections Guide and did not see any direct reasons why it should not be allowed. She said that the reason was that another candidate was a participant in The Daily, so there was potential for conflict. She said that the language that she found in the Elections Guide stated that there was no campaigning allowed during any event that was run or sponsored by GPSS. She said that the candidate wanted to make sure that by talking about the event, the candidate would not be considered negatively campaigning during a meeting.

**Logan Jarrell** motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. **Marty Varela** seconded. No objections.

**Andrew Shumway** said that the current meeting was an open meeting and that there were candidates in the meeting who had already spoken. He said that if someone was speaking as a Senator out of general concern, then it would be above board, but if it was specifically related to their running for a GPSS officer position, it would count as campaigning. He said that the interpretation would be ultimately up to the Judicial Committee but that he would advise against it. He said that anyone is allowed to give their opinions in open meetings. Andrew Shumway said that if any questions arose on whether or not it counted as campaigning, the issue could be brought to the Judicial Committee.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that from her understanding, the candidate wanted to speak broadly about The Daily.

**Aaron Yared** said it might be fine if the candidate spoke about the organization as a whole, as opposed to a single person.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he agreed with Andrew Shumway’s recommendation that speaking about The Daily was probably not in the candidate’s best interest. He said that the candidate could choose to use a surrogate instead if they felt that what they wanted to say about The Daily could be expressed by somebody else. He said that this was a gray area and might not be in the best interests of Executive Committee members or the candidate.

**Andrew Shumway** clarified that he was not advising anyone to do or not do anything. He said that the Executive Committee was not allowed to choose who could or could not speak at the meeting. He said that it was just that complaints could be filed to the Judicial Committee and that was something to be aware of.

**Jules Overfelt** asked Kira Sue Renfro to clarify if she was asking whether it was appropriate. Jules Overfelt said that to their understanding, the candidate had approached Kira Sue Renfro and asked whether it was appropriate for them to speak on the item at hand and Kira Sue Renfro had responded by telling them that she would ask the Executive Committee tonight. Jules Overfelt asked whether the candidate was planning to speak on the matter during elections or in general.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that the candidate was asking if they could speak to the Executive Committee right now.

**Jules Overfelt** said they agreed with Andrew Shumway’s recommendation.

**Britahny Baskin** said that she also agreed with Andrew Shumway and said that while it would not be appropriate for the candidate to speak about another person, it could also be considered campaigning if the candidate spoke about a specific organization because they were presenting their view on a UW organization. She said that UW organizations could impact what candidates did as officers. She said that she did not advise either way.

**Antonio Gonzalez** said he also did not advise. He said that the only reason why this rule was currently applicable was due to the context of the campaign. He said that principally, it was probably not appropriate.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that she had an alternative solution that the candidate proposed. She said that the candidate had sent her a couple of links to pages on the internet and said that they would be satisfied if she put the links in the chat. She asked if the alternative solution was appropriate.

**Marty Varela** said that anyone could attend Executive Senate meetings. She said that in the same way that Logan Jarrell added the topic to the agenda because of its timeliness and relevance to the GPSS constituents, the individual wanted to share their perspective on how the current situation was impacting them as a Senator. She said that she did not view that as campaigning, and said that she would not discourage this individual if they were brave enough to bring their perspective forward from doing it. She said that she would not hold it against them when considering them as a candidate. She said that the purpose of the meetings was to discuss topics relevant to the Senate.

**Aaron Yared** said that he was in a delicate position because he was also a candidate and a chair of the Executive Committee. He said he agreed with Andrew Shumway in that it was not the Executive Committee’s call to determine whether or not someone could speak. He said that if a candidate broke the rules, there were consequences to that which were determined by the Judicial Committee. He noted that the current meeting was recorded and minutes would be made which would reflect if the rules were broken, based on the Judicial Committee’s ruling.

**Kira Sue Renfro** said that the candidate had decided to speak.

**A.J. Balatico** said that he wanted to share these three links <[link1](https://depts.washington.edu/gpss/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Resolutions-2008-2009.pdf)>, <[link2](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13IP7TW8JoIC_TITQsHKLnAS7PXnRbOpJ)>, <[link3](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qxwuiizp3PMuuoAyTUMTofhKma2iX992/view)>. He said that the links were parallels to the current situation. He said that the first included a resolution from 2008 and 2009. He said he did not know about this particular incident until he looked up The Daily on Wikipedia. He said that in the page’s Controversy section, a similar situation happened between the GPSS and The Daily. He said that there was a student publication budget request with meeting minutes for the March 5th meeting. He said that page six stated that one of the representatives of student publications declared that they were $600,000 in debt, which was a huge number for a campus organization. He said that if it were any other organization, there would be consequences. He said that the debt was forgiven because of the timing. He said that this fact should be considered in the decision for SAF funding because the publication budget request was not itemized in the SAF budget request.

**Jules Overfelt** said, for context, that the budget provided in the SAF document was the format that all departments were provided and required to fill out. They said that they did not know that anybody else provided more detail when looking at pages six and seven specifically.

**Jules Overfelt** moved to extend time by 2 minutes. **Logan Jarrell** seconded. No objections.

**Jules Overfelt** asked Logan Jarrell if he had hoped to arrive at a decision or action for this item.

**Logan Jarrell** said his intent was just to inform people because graduate and professional students had been curious about the email since ASUW President Camille Hattwig had provided little context in her email.

**Aaron Yared** said that the situation was still unfolding and that the GPSS would wait and see if the ASUW wanted assistance in writing a joint resolution condemning racist art. He said that he was open to discussing it further at the next Executive meeting.

# 10. [Information] Announcements 7:55pm

**Jules Overfelt** said that the election for the STF chair position would be held near the end of the quarter. They said that candidates should have attended at least three STF meetings, but that they suggested that the STF Committee vote to suspend the requirement this year because the election had not been publicized well. They said that they were coordinating with Logan Jarrell to publicize the news. They said that more information would be available and encouraged anyone who was interested to reach out to them.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they would be out of the office from May 18th to the 24th for health reasons. They said that it was possible that the Senate would need to reapprove the budget on May 19th. They said that even if SAF did not provide full funding, issues were unlikely to arise and that Stephen Lee was more than capable to handle the budget.

**Logan Jarrell** said that ASUW’s version of the joint resolution that the Senate had approved concerning UAW 4121 had been amended to be identical to GPSS’s. He said that there was no need for reconciliation and that the resolution would be submitted to the ASUW Board tomorrow. He said that if the Board vetoed, the GPSS version of the resolution would automatically advance as a normal resolution.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that the Return to In-person Survey was close to having 3000 respondents. She encouraged everyone who had not taken the survey to take it.

**Britahny Baskin** said that the committee for selecting a director for Hall Health only found one person available for the role in their internal search. She said that the person was the current interim director. She said that the application for the role had opened up to everyone outside of UW and that the application closed on the 30th. She said that the committee hoped to have at least three different candidates and wrap up the interview process by the beginning of July.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the student regent application closed tonight.

**Aaron Yared** said that there were a lot of applicants for the student regent position this year. He said he did not know how many were graduate students, but that he had received a lot of emails. He said that it was hard to keep track of all the emails and expressed regret for not making the process better. He said that he and Ashlee Abrantes would work on determining the three best candidates next week.

# 11. [Action] Adjournment 7:59pm

**Logan Jarrell** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Jules Overfelt** seconded. No objections.

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