GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 5th 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

GPSS Senate Clerk Janis Shin

~~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~~

# 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

**Jules Overfelt** moved to approve the agenda. **Pratima KC (Environmental and Forest Sciences)** seconded. No objections.

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

**Logan Jarrell** tabled the approval of the minutes because he failed to get the minutes to the Senators before the meeting.

# 4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:35pm

***Antonio Gonzalez*** *gave the land acknowledgment.*

*The Graduate Professional Student Senate acknowledges 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 peoples whose lands the university currently occupies. It is everyone’s role and responsibility as guests to understand how their impact entangles the caretakers.*

# 5. [Action] GPSS Elections Information and Floor Nominations 5:35pm

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** welcomed Senators to the Elections meeting and introduced herself as the chair of this year’s Elections Committee. She said that the Committee had worked hard to create a simple, efficient election process. She asked everyone to check that they were able to log into their UW email accounts. She said that email forwarding would not work and that the GSuite had to be enabled through instructions on the link on the screen. She asked everyone to email Britahny Baskin if they had any technical issues.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** announced that the Elections Committee would now entertain nominations from the floor. She said that anyone could nominate themselves or someone else in order. She said that in order to be eligible, a Senator must have attended three GPSS meetings during the 2020-2021 academic year, one of which must correspond to their position as listed on the screen. She told candidates to be prepared to list the dates that they attended the three meetings. She said that candidates were strongly recommended to have 20 hours per week of availability during the summer.

***Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)*** *waited two minutes for Senators to consider the opportunity to nominate themselves or others on the floor.*

**Jules Overfelt** asked whether non-Senators were allowed to run for officer positions.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** raised a point of information and said that any graduate or professional student at the University of Washington Seattle campus could run for a position.

**Kira Sue Renfro** announced the end of the two minute waiting period and said that people could nominate themselves during the rest of the Senate meeting too.

# 6. [Action] U-PASS Resolution 5:40pm

**Genevieve Hulley** said that she had fielded some questions via email in the last two weeks. She asked if there were any further questions or proposed changes about the U-PASS Resolution.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that in addition to the U-PASS fee increase, there was a change to ASUW student appointees to committee and amount of time for budget forecasting. He asked what those changes were and what the impacts of those changes would be.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the budget projection deadline would change from November to March and clarified that the number of appointees would not change. She said that the ASUW was now allowed to appoint both graduate and undergraduate students to the U-PASS Committee at the same ratio.

**Genevieve Hulley** moved to pass U-PASS Resolution. **Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** seconded. No objections.

*Senators voted on PollEverywhere.*

*The Resolution passed unanimously*.

# 7. [Information] GPSS Composition Survey: Executive Report 5:47pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Equity & Accountability Committee had decided to present an executive summary of the GPSS Composition Survey ahead of the election to be respectful of everyone’s time. He said that the purpose of the Composition Survey was to understand the various identities that comprised the Senate and the extent to which the organization responsibly reflected and moved towards equal representation of the graduate and professional student population at UW. He said that the purpose was consistent with actions outlined in the E&A’s mission statement and said that action on the recommendations would move the UW towards this year’s GPSS mission statement. He said that after analyzing and discussing the data which would be fully presented later in the meeting, the E&A came up with five recommendations: 1) institutional accountability requirements; 2) building a more inviting community for everyone; 3) purposeful recruitment and retention, especially of international and BIPOC Students; 4) expanding accessible participation; 5) more meaningful recognition for GPSS members.

**Logan Jarrell** said that institutional accountability requirements require the composition survey and other anonymous internal surveys to be mandatory for GPSS members. He said that participation this year was higher than the previous survey, but that only 50% of Senators filled out the survey. He said that internal data collection made the GPSS more accountable to the people it served and that the GPSS needed to make the survey results accessible on the website.

**Logan Jarrell** moved on to discussing building a more inviting community for everyone. He said that this included more structured onboarding for GPSS members. He said that there was a need for group and one-on-one sessions and specific materials to do this. He said that the process should be measurable for accountability purposes.

**Logan Jarrell** said that Executive Committee members were the most powerful and potentially intimidating members of the GPSS. He said that Officers were required to maintain office hours. He said that the GPSS should strive to collect more data on the comfort and safety of GPSS. He said that it should follow up on questions asked about committee participation and comfort. He said that data collection should happen ideally once per quarter and could be informative with respect to onboarding, purposeful recruitment, and retention, especially of international students. He said that the GPSS needed to make a targeted effort to increase the representation of specific groups such as academic units with seldom GPSS representation and Black students, student parents and caregivers, and student workers.

**Logan Jarrell** said that hybrid-style meetings and events next year needed deliberate planning. He said that the GPSS should reassess its forms of recognition for GPSS members and explore other forms of compensation including financial, academic credit, and others. He said that this would contribute to breaking down systemic barriers that excluded students from participating in student government. He said that increasing accessibility to GPSS participation would enhance the GPSS presence on campus and that there should be a higher emphasis on the people of GPSS, not just its processes and our products. He said that valued members were more likely to participate in GPSS.

# 8. [Action] GPSS Officer Elections 5:53pm

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** announced special rules for the election process. She said that longer meetings posed accessibility issues and made it difficult for many Senators to attend, which could decrease the democracy of an election. She said that the Election Committee had implemented measures designed to keep the Senate within the allotted agenda time and Elections Guide timelines. She explained that any motion to extend time would go to a full vote every time instead of being passed through general consent. She said that candidates would also be muted at time limits to ensure timeliness and equality.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** invited Aaron Yared to begin his speech.

**Aaron Yared** thanked the Elections Committee for setting up the election. He said that he wanted to take the opportunity to look at what he had achieved through the GPSS and his future vision for the GPSS. He said that his platform for last year’s election was building off of the theme “connect.” He said that due to COVID, this year’s theme was resilience. He said he took advantage of the opportunity provided by COVID to listen and learn from graduate and professional students, departments, and organizations. He said that this was his first year at UW Seattle; prior to this year, he had been a student at UW Bothell. He said he learned a lot about how UW Seattle ran and noted that he was able to accomplish a lot this year. He said that he implemented liaison systems, increased graduate student presence to an unprecedented level with over 40 graduate and professional students sitting on different committees all across campus, amounting to about 60 different roles. He said that the GPSS committed to increasing accessibility and focusing on DEI issues, especially by changing the Secretary position to create the Vice President of Equity and Accountability position and by changing the E&A from an ad hoc to a standing committee. He said that these systems would help hold GPSS accountable and that despite COVID, the GPSS had really lived out the theme of resilience which he was proud of. He said that his plan for next year was to continue with the efforts on rolling out a strategic plan, improving Graduate Program Advisor Association (GPAA) relations, improving GPSS branding and awareness, and creating a Graduate Student Bill of Rights that will be codified by the Board of Regents. He said that his predecessors had worked on it and that it was time for it to become a real thing.

**Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** asked people to enter their questions for Aaron Yared in the Poll Everywhere.

***Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)*** *read questions submitted to the Poll Everywhere.*

**Question:** Can you tell us more about the Graduate Student Bill of Rights?

**Aaron Yared** said that graduate and professional students suffered in silence because there was no mechanism in place for them to talk about abusive relationships with faculty. He said that the Bill of Rights would be a list of expectations that graduate and professional students could rely on as guaranteed rights.

**Question:** How do we reach the larger UW community and graduate students not familiar with GPSS?

**Aaron Yared** said that through events and graduate program advisors (GPAs), the GPSS could reach more people. He said that GPAs often acted as gatekeepers to reaching students in departments.

**Question:** How will we maintain remote access for GPSS?

**Aaron Yared** said that the GPSS had teamed up with the HUB for an STF proposal to outfit meeting rooms with recording and streaming capabilities. He said that next year, the GPSS would have hybrid meetings. He said that this was part of a longer process, but that the GPSS would continue to commit to increasing accessibility where it was lacking. He said that he needed to know where the problem spots were in order to continue to do so.

**Question:** What is GPAA?

**Aaron Yared** said that GPAA stood for Graduate Program Advisor Association. He said that GPAs had access to communication channels like listservs and sent opportunities to one another to advertise opportunities to graduate and professional students. He said that GPSS related news was usually overlooked, so the GPSS needed to strengthen its ties with GPAs.

**Question:** What would be the proposed enforcement mechanisms for the Bill of Rights? How would we hold all parties accountable to upholding these rights?

**Aaron Yared** said that graduate and professional students currently had UCERO and the Graduate School to hold people accountable. He said that standards were vague and should be more explicit, student-written, codified, and approved by the Board of Regents so that faculty adhered to them.

**Question:** What is included in the Bill of Rights?

**Aaron Yared** said that he was not sure what to include in the Bill of Rights yet. He said he wanted to learn what issues various stakeholders faced and what graduate and professional students valued most. He said that he had worked on the Bill of Rights with his predecessor Giuliana Conti. He said that next year’s Bill of Rights project would include rules and expectations that faculty were expected to follow and a list of reasons why the faculty should not infringe on those rights. He said that it would serve as a mechanism for graduate and professional students to point to a list and specify which rule the faculty broke.

**Question:** How do we accommodate students who want to be Senators, but have classes during the Senate meeting time?

**Aaron Yared** said that increasing accessibility by posting recorded meetings will help Senators stay up to date with ongoing Senate business. He said that the Senators were responsible for representing the needs of their fellow classmates and that the pandemic had proved that Senators could fulfill their duties without having to be in person. He said that graduate and professional students could still send emails and be a part of committees virtually.

**Question:** How do you propose to increase participation of current Senators in GPSS?

**Aaron Yared** expressed hope that Senators were part of the Senate because they wanted to be involved. He said that involvement for events depended on accessibility, which the GPSS was committed to increasing. He acknowledged the Senators’ Zoom fatigue and said that Senate meeting participation might be easier when the Senate came back in person. He said that events could be made more fun.

**Question:** How do you propose to increase participation of non-represented graduate programs?

**Aaron Yared** said that the issue lay with the GPSS’s relationships with GPAs for unrepresented programs. He said that unrepresented programs had a right to be represented at GPSS. and that many students did not even know that GPSS existed. He said that if unrepresented graduate and professional students could not attend meetings due to time constraints, the GPSS could work on making meetings more accessible.

**Question:** Other than COVID, what obstacles have you encountered as President, and how do you plan to overcome them?

**Aaron Yared** said that the UW administration performed fake activism, meaning that they acted like they wanted change. He pointed out that not much had changed after one year of COVID despite students asking the administration to increase accessibility options. He said he planned to hold the administration accountable while still maintaining relationships.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** moved onto the Vice President of Internal Affairs position. She invited Gabby Rivera (Evans School) to give her speech.

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Elections Committee for arranging the election. She introduced herself as a first-year student and Senator for the Evans School.

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that she was committed to representation. She said that she wanted to improve the feedback loop so that she could accurately represent students on important committees that the GPSS VPIn sat on. She said that she would conduct a survey or visit other student bodies such as GO-MAP or school councils to learn about the impact of increasing the U-PASS fee and advocate for a slower increase in fee if appropriate. She said that she would look to better educate graduate and professional students on U-PASS structure or other student issues. She said that she was willing to go into communities and hear student voices to inform how to participate in committees.

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that she was committed to community-building. She said that GPSS should be fun and that it should offer a range of events that create opportunities for Senators to connect with each other and other students. She said that building relationships and knowing others’ stories will inspire and guide the GPSS’s actions. She said that it was important that the GPSS create events that were large enough to be attended by any student because GPSS was funded by student dollars. She suggested bringing back the popular Night at the Museum event, establishing new events, and bringing name recognition to GPSS. She aspired to make good use of student dollars and utilize campus resources for event programming to make sure events were accessible to all students.

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said she was committed to strengthening internal operations. She said that the role of the VPIn was crucial in serving the GPSS’s mission. She said that the recent Bylaw changes pioneered a new frontier. She cited her extensive hiring and leadership knowledge. She said that she hoped to work with the incoming GPSS President and the Executive Committee to ensure that the new job responsibilities matched the changes that were made to the Bylaws. She said that she wanted to integrate the GPSS jobs campaign and GPSS Senate at graduate orientations to increase awareness and lay foundations for stronger Senator recruitment efforts next year.

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that as an experienced student leader and a two-time Dawg, she had extensive knowledge of the available campus resources to be successful in the role. She asked everyone to vote for her.

***Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)*** *read questions submitted to the Poll Everywhere.*

**Question:** What experience do you have with event management?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that she was part of the ASUW Board of Directors as an undergraduate student. She said that she helped plan and coordinate homecoming and W Day. She said that she planned with the UW Alumni Association to create events and come up with ideas for major events that students could attend on campus all throughout the day.

**Question:** What do you expect to be your biggest hurdle this year as the VPIn and how will you overcome this hurdle?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said she expected her biggest challenge to be incorporating new job description responsibilities from the amended Bylaws. She said she would be able to handle the challenges by being strategic with how responsibilities were delegated among job descriptions for staff in the upcoming year. She expressed hope that all responsibilities would be shared and said that she intended to solidify expectations to make sure that neither staff members nor officers were overburdened.

**Question:** Can you say more about some specific projects or goals you would like to work on in the next year as VPIn?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said she was excited about committing to representation. She said that she wanted to ensure that Senators were aware of upcoming and impending votes in the committees that she sat on. She said that in a hybrid model, she could share the impending votes in the biweekly Senate announcements. She said that updating Senators in a section of Officer reports or emailing specific Senators to collect student feedback in a timely manner would enable her to represent the graduate and professional student in those committees.

**Question:** What are your thoughts or plans for returning to in-person events in the 2021-2022 academic year, e.g. Nightmare at the Museum, considering the tricky situation with COVID vaccinations and reopening?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that people looked forward to events, but she wanted to be mindful that some people were not going to be comfortable with in-person events. She said she would try to cater to both of those populations and host the traditional in-person events. She said that she would learn how to host in-person events while abiding by COVID standards. She said that she wanted to host strictly online events such as speakers that Senators or constituents are interested in, or things that Genevieve Hulley had posted in the past. She said that the GPSS needed to acknowledge that it should host both types of events.

**Question:** Can you speak more about how you plan to meet with and engage with different graduate communities?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that as the former ASUW Director of Community Relations, part of her role was going out into communities. She said that she would be invited to board meetings for student bodies at the beginning of quarters. She said that there were many spaces where graduate students were unaware of the existence of GPSS. She said she would reach out to academic advisors and program advisors and advertise GPSS as an opportunity for students to get involved and have their voices heard. She said that she was a big people person and that she would love to invite different communities into the GPSS space.

**Question:** How do you plan to create a sense of belonging for historically excluded students?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that those people needed personal invites. She said that as a woman of color, she felt that there were specific spaces on the UW campus that could be intimidating. She said that she would love to go to the places where students of color came together and offer GPSS resources to them. She said that she did not know how GPSS worked in a real-life, pre-COVID setting. She said she would love to work with the incoming Executive Committee to see how to invite more people to GPSS.

**Question:** Is there anything you would like to tell us more that you did not cover in your speech?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said she was five feet tall and that she was particularly excited about the role. She said that her experience as ASUW’s Personnel Director gave her a great platform to tackle the changes to the Bylaws and the new job responsibilities. She said that she was excited to share GPSS with incoming students. She said that she was excited to host a training orientation and that she loved people. She said that she could look into a hybrid orientation, but that she was excited to get new people involved with GPSS.

**Question:** Do you think you have all the resources you need to be successful?

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that her success was inevitable given the great team she would work with. She said that her extensive background in personnel gave her a lot of institutional knowledge to be able to perform as the GPSS VPIn. She said that she was a big collaborator and really loved working with people. She said that it would be a strong foundation for her to make big changes within GPSS in the upcoming year and that she hoped to bring change within her capacity.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** moved onto the Vice President of External Affairs (VPEx) position. She invited Caitlin Harrington to give her speech.

**Caitlin Harrington** introduced herself as an MPA candidate in the Evans School. She said that she previously worked in public affairs where she was employed to effectively communicate and help diverse populations relate to highly complex topics. She said she also led her local chapter of the Young Democrats through the 2020 election and connected the group with current and future elected officials. She said that she had written extensively about Washington politics and said she knew that the role was more than just being an effective lobbyist and communicator. She said that the role entailed deeply understanding the graduate school experience and knowing the realities of graduate and professional students to represent those realities in Olympia.

**Caitlin Harrington** said that she was the chair of the Evans Network of Women, a student interest group that advocated and built community for women and nonbinary students at the Evans School. She said that she was part of the coalition that coordinated a summit on race and equity in public policy which showcased the united student power. She said that groups and events like these pushed the UW administration to be more inclusive and accessible to students of all types. She said that these experiences, her determination, and her enthusiasm equipped her to be a powerful student advocate

**Caitlin Harrington** said she would focus on increasing representation on both the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB) and in GPSS advocacy efforts across UW during her time as the VPEx. She said that the LAB finished the year with roughly nine continuing students. She said she would recruit additional graduate students from a more diverse array of programs and work to increase representation from PhD and professional students. She said that the LAB should represent UW’s diverse student body. She said that it was clear that LAB should continue to evolve and outreach to the wider UW. She said that she had successfully built this type of diverse community through the Evans Network of Women. She said that she participated in Grad Day on the Hill specifically to advocate for the needs of women graduate students.

**Caitlin Harrington** said that she was eager to connect beyond the women graduate community to advocate for broader needs such as investments in mental health, faculty training in DEI, and more. She said that if she were elected, she would cultivate internal lines of communication with Senators and their constituents to ensure that GPSS external advocacy represented graduate and professional student priorities and needs. She said that she would build on the successful advocacy she experienced this year. She noted that part of the success was the level of engagement that was achieved through digital flexibility. She said that she would push for continued flexibility to reduce barriers to the advocacy process and ensure that all students can participate.

**Caitlin Harrington** noted that graduate and professional students were supremely accomplished multi-taskers working, studying, commuting, and caring for children with little time and space to advocate for ourselves. She said she would therefore work every day on behalf of the graduate and professional student body.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** invited Owen Saites to give his speech.

**Owen Saites** introduced himself as a first-year MPA student at the Evans School. He said that with his experience in policy analysis and education policy, he was excited to run for the VPEx position. He said he had been involved in LAB this year and was able to see the success GPSS could achieve even amidst a global pandemic. He said that he had his own ideas on what issues were important in higher education and in graduate school. He said that it was more important for him to be a representative for graduate students. He said that he would prioritize expanding accessibility and participation in all External Team activities, including Grad Day on the Hill and LAB. He said that decreasing barriers to LAB participation would allow him to more robustly understand graduate student priorities and their legislative agenda.

**Owen Saites** said he would inform the GPSS advocacy efforts in the state legislature and improve GPSS data collection to understand what UW graduate students wanted in their advocacy. He said that he would revisit prior surveys with a critical eye and develop a long term plan to collect actionable information and trends of which issues were most important. He said that this would allow the VPEx to become a better advocate both next year and for those who hold the position in the years to come.

**Owen Saites** said he would leverage his political science background to help improve GPSS’s external efforts. He said that his background in political science and education politics internship experience from political campaigning in the California Department of Education and the US Senate Committee on Education. He said that political and policy procedure was intimate. He said that he saw next year as an opportunity to advocate for graduate students more aggressively after being on the defensive for a period of time. He said that the Washington State budget was doing better than expected and that the new federal administration was opening opportunities to push for more graduate student support at the federal level.

**Owen Saites** said he would prioritize collaborating with SAGE at the national level to explore ways to influence new federal money and programs and advocate for progress in bills such as the reauthorization of a higher education packed with greater attention to support graduate students. He said that graduate students continued to be underrepresented in higher education advocacy. He said it would be an honor to serve the GPSS as its next VPEx to close this gap and continue making gains for graduate and professional students.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** invited Payton Swinford to give his speech.

**Payton Swinford** introduced himself as the Policy Director in the External Affairs Office. He said he was proud to have worked in the External Affairs Office during a period of such remarkable achievements. He noted that the GPSS had succeeded in passing nearly every piece of legislation that was introduced. He said that improving GPSS’s advocacy efforts directly improved the lives of graduate and professional students. He said that there were many goals that the GPSS needed to accomplish next year to ensure that the External Affairs Team delivered on the graduate and professional students’ goals.

**Payton Swinford** said that he would build on GPSS’s legislative successes and engage a broader, more diverse group of students to get a running start on the work. He said that this year’s External Affairs Office secured a brand new form of financial aid for UW graduate students. He said that the External Affairs Team had come close to improving graduate students’ access to health care and seen progress on expanding accessibility that must last after the pandemic. He said that he wanted to increase access to financial aid, continue to ensure that all graduate students had access to affordable health care, and build consensus on what accessibility would look like after COVID.

**Payton Swinford** said that he knew which stakeholders the GPSS needed to engage with early in the process and that he had a plan to take all GPSS priorities to the next step.

He said he would need to bring far more voices to the table to accomplish these tasks. He said that the GPSS’s political capital came from its ability to engage a larger and more diverse group of students. He said that in order to advocate for all students, the GPSS needed more perspectives at the table, not just public policy students. He said he had a plan to make every aspect of the External Affairs Team’s work more accessible and welcoming to students of every background. He said that he would get a running start on running the External Affairs Office. He said that he knew Washington State’s higher education policy and all of its key stakeholders. He said that he was experienced in political strategy, messaging, and organizing. He said he already knew how to get more students to support GPSS goals. He said he was prepared to execute on the goals from working under the current VPEx as this year’s Policy Director, leading conversations on statewide higher education policy as a counselor on the Washington Student Achievement Council, and spending years working in political strategy and organizing. He said that he was ready to pick up where Hannah Sieben left off and take things to the next level.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** announced that the Senate would move into a 12 minute Q&A session. She said that questions submitted to the Poll Everywhere should be intended for all the candidates. She said that she would ask the question to all candidates and the candidates would respond in alphabetical order.

**Question:** How can we increase participation from non-public policy students?

**Caitlin Harrington** said that she enjoyed interacting with students outside of the Evans School in LAB sessions. She said it was important to connect with people who were trusted and plugged into various communities around the campus. She said she would spend her time networking and building those connections and relationships. She said she would also cultivate open lines of communication with Senators to ensure that GPSS advocacy represented graduate and professional student priorities and needs, including current and future Senators.

**Owen Saites** said trying to get people who were not immediately interested in policy to help design our legislative priorities could be accomplished by finding different aspects of policy that interested them. He said that he would use that to show people how policy advocacy was important to them. He said he could help bring them in from outside of general policy circles.

**Payton Swinford** said that the GPSS would need to take a hard look at the barriers to participation. He acknowledged that graduate students were super busy. He said that the External Affairs Team needed all the medical students at the table when talking about medical student issues. He said that there were so many barriers to attend LAB that it was hard to know what to expect when entering. He said that GPSS needed to make it easier to know what to expect when attending LAB sessions.

**Question:** How will you engage international students or students who are not residents of Washington?

**Caitlin Harrington** said that the pandemic had made everyone used to connecting digitally. She said that this made it easier to connect with other students from different departments and campuses as well as with international students on different schedules. She said that she would actively utilize Zoom to connect with those people and groups. She said she valued surveys and felt that surveys were a great tool to connect with the broader graduate student experience.

**Owen Saites** said it was difficult to recruit people who were not Washington natives. He said that he was from California. He said that issues mattered more and that the GPSS had somewhat of a role in expanding federal policy as well. He said that there were a lot of different avenues that the GPSS could use to bring in non-Washington natives.

**Payton Swinford** said that the GPSS needed to bring students to advocate on issues that they cared about. He said that international students might have issues at the federal level and said that he wanted to make a subcommittee within LAB that could address specific issues or be part of partner organizations like ART, Federal Advocacy, and National Group, which worked on issues that directly impacted international students such as residency laws.

**Question:** Can you each elaborate on a specific policy or legislation legislative action you want to work on behalf of graduate students?

**Caitlin Harrington** said that she was interested in work on comprehensive health care for all graduate students. She said she wanted to start researching what it would take to get healthcare for graduate students at UW.

**Owen Saites** said that funding was one of the largest barriers to education, both at the undergraduate and graduate level. He said that there would be new opportunities coming up this next year for the GPSS to secure more funding and granting opportunities as well as better loans.

**Payton Swinford** said that the GPSS had put money directly into the pockets of the most underrepresented students. He said that the GPSS had already passed a $125,000 pilot program to strategically fund traditionally underrepresented students so that they could have more access to education. He said that ensuring that the pilot program continued would be a tough job and that he was the person to do it. He said that he had a great relationship with both the Chair of the Senate and the House.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** said that there had been a suggestion to alternate the order of the speakers. She said that she would rotate the order for each question.

**Question:** Which specific accessibility issues do you plan to prioritize?

**Owen Saites** said that his priority in accessibility would be to increase hybrid classrooms. He said that he recognized that there were many areas of accessibility that he was not as knowledgeable about. He said that his second priority would be to learn more about student barriers to LAB participation.

**Payton Swinford** said that he would make sure that the UW was not regressing in accessibility after COVID. He said that the GPSS made sure that students facing barriers to accessibility are the voices that led the conversation. He said that he would leverage his relationships with the Washington Student Achievement Council to make a student work group of students who face barriers to accessibility to have the opportunity to use their perspectives to shape state policy on this issue. He said that there was a lot that LAB could do internally to increase external results.

**Caitlin Harrington** said that she heard from Senators what practices UW should continue post-pandemic at a recent Senate meeting. She said that it was clear that policies supporting the continued digital and academic flexibility were necessary. She said that she would be a dedicated voice in Olympia to advocate for these specific needs.

**Question:** Which accessibility bills will you promote in Olympia? We've had great success with specific bills, but not so much with broad language.

**Payton Swinford** said that there were not many bills specific to accessibility in the last legislative session. He said that there were no current bills drafted for the next session yet. He said that GPSS could look into budget items, such as capital projects to increase physical accessibility to buildings, which he would work with state relations to be an advocate for. He said that there would be a lot of Bills that had not come up before, but that there were no bills yet.

**Caitlin Harrington** said that there were general talks about digital academic flexibility. She said she did not know any specific bills. She said that one issue that GPSS would have to overcome was the requirement for professors to have a certain amount of face-to-face time with students. She said she was excited to talk to the stakeholders involved to learn more about the issue and try to get legislation going in the next session.

**Owen Saites** said that this was an opportunity where many people, including himself, did not know what the language would look like. He said that it was important for UW to become more accessible and learn what could improve the accessibility on campus, what could be put in language, and what could be passed in law. He said that this went to the root of starting accessibility within the GPSS.

**Question:** How will you work with other GPSS Officers to accomplish your goals?

**Caitlin Harrington** said she would utilize internal lines of communication. She said she was a natural networker who easily related to people. She said that she had no problem reaching out first to introduce herself to all of the current Senators and committees to set up a time to talk informally. She said that she was generally excited to talk to everyone about what issues they cared about most.

**Owen Saites** said that the most important part was the people one surrounded themselves with. He said that whether in hiring or working with other Officers, he planned to rely heavily on his cohort to make sure that things were accessible. He said that he would specifically work with the Internal Affairs Team to bridge accessibility and bring people in to work with GPSS.

**Payton Swinford** said he was grateful to have had the chance to talk to many of the Officer candidates. He said that he felt some chemistry with them. He said that he would share an office with the Vice President of Internal Affairs and that he would collaborate on all sorts of different events and involve external goals. He said that he felt that Gabby Rivera would be a great ally and make GPSS amazing.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** moved onto the Vice President of Finance (VPF) position. She invited A.J. Balatico (College of Education) to give his speech.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** introduced himself as a third-year PhD student in Learning Sciences and Human Development in the College of Education. He said that he had been a Senator, a Finance and Budget Committee member, an Equity and Accountability Committee member, and the Student Technology Fee liaison for the last two years before starting graduate school. He said he had been a high school science teacher in Louisiana for six years where he had to constantly be creative with the limited resources in order to match diverse student needs. He said that he decided to pursue graduate school when he realized that many of his former students were attending graduate and professional school. He said that he was currently a research assistant studying gifted and STEAM education, as well as equity policies that addressed access to educational opportunities in and outside of classrooms. He said that his three years of UW research experience were directly transferable to the role of Vice President of Finance. He said that he conducted surveys with hundreds of responses and conducted interviews with thousands of generated transcript pages. He said that his mixed methods research methodology would inform how he would approach the role.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that he wanted F&B and GPSS to highlight the shared, methodological expertise of members. He said that the F&B had done excellent work over the past two years navigating complex issues about fairness and how to spend student money. He said that F&B members had a broad range of backgrounds and disciplines which he had been honored to take part in. He said that the F&B’s agenda and minutes were inaccessible for Senators to navigate. He said that the F&B could facilitate applications by revising Committee forms and rubrics.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that this year was a huge exception. He said that he was hopeful that the GPSS could meet the demands of different student groups and departments in the coming year, especially those who had not had access to GPSS resources in the past. He said that as the only graduate student who served on both SAF and STF, he would defend the interests of graduate and professional students by having ongoing conversations with stakeholders within GPSS and across campus. He said that the VPF was critically important for actively supporting other officers and fulfilling their roles. He wondered how to have an outcome-oriented approach.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** invited Trevor Hunt to give his speech.

**Trevor Hunt** introduced himself as a first generation student and an incoming MPA candidate at the Evans School. He said that he served as a senior finance and budget director where he served and worked alongside former GPSS Treasurer Shane Schrader on a number of wider campus initiatives and gained a lot of his relevant experience prior to running for this role. He said that he managed a $1.1 million budget, supported a staff of over 60, led his own Finance and Budget Committee, granted $75,000 to RSOs, and donated $100,000 to the Husky Pride Fund. He said that the GPSS gave an additional $50,000 which continued to provide much needed financial assistance to students facing COVID-19 related hardships.

**Trevor Hunt** noted that this was not the first time that he was presenting to the GPSS body. He said that he worked as the RCSA Director of External Affairs two years ago and successfully lobbied the GPSS in creating a non-academic seat to represent graduate students who live on campus. He said he was proud to have a positive impact.

**Trevor Hunt** said that he hoped to build a strong foundation that Jules Overfelt and Shane Schrader had left behind. He said he hoped to expand budget flexibility to meet the challenges brought by the upcoming return to in-person learning. He said that he looked forward to continuing to streamline GPSS funding requests for travel, departmental, special allocations, and media requests, so that money could be returned to graduate students and fund their innovative ideas.

**Trevor Hunt** said he looked forward to promoting financial transparency and accessibility by publishing screen-readable and comprehensible records as well as instituting a formal grievance and appeals process which would allow all Senators and students to rightfully scrutinize GPSS finances. He said he would ensure that all Senators had access to regular and easily digestible updates on everything from current budget levels to spending. He said that he looked forward to creating more opportunities for graduate students to be involved and grow, directly targeting departments that lacked Senate representation and actively recruiting committee members from a wider range of departments, backgrounds, and identities.

**Trevor Hunt** said he would lean on the connections he made over the years throughout the UW to connect graduate students to different communities and resources, giving them support to pursue professional development opportunities. He thanked everyone for having him.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** moved into the 10 minute Q&A. She said that the order of candidates answering the questions would rotate each time.

**Question:** Can you elaborate on a non-academic experience that you can leverage as VPF?

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said he had been in charge of advocating for student resources using Louisiana state funds as a teacher sponsor of a robotics team. He said that Louisiana had a special STEM education fund and that he directly transferred his experience to UW as a member of the Husky Robotics where he mentored undergraduate students in seeking sponsors.

**Trevor Hunt** said that his experience as the ASUW Finance and Budget Director translated perfectly into the VPF role. He said that he and Shane Schrader attended similar meetings, held similar roles, and have similar training. He said he was really excited to use a lot of his connections with the SAO, SAF, and all around campus and leverage his experience.

**Question:** How do you feel the VPF position and GPSS finances can best be utilized towards the diversity goals of GPSS?

**Trevor Hunt** said that the diversity fund was a great starting place. He said that he would like to work with other Officers to plan budget allocations and direct money towards DEI goals. He said that events and initiatives could be tailored towards empowering minorities.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that in order to advertise diversity funds, the GPSS should partner more closely with FIUTS, GO-MAP, and specific departments that had not been represented in the past. He said that this was reflected in the minutes and that he could make a report that would make the information accessible to everyone.

**Question:** Both candidates mentioned streamlining financial processes. What do they mean by that?

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that during his two years on the committee, there were a lot of situations where people would have to ask for more information or have to make decisions based on incomplete information. He said that forms could be changed to ask questions the GPSS wanted answers to, such as how other groups on campus advertised to graduate students and allowed graduate students to lead in their events. He said that the GPSS could front-load all of those kinds of things and include rubrics as well.

**Trevor Hunt** said that A.J. Balatico made a great point and said that to take A.J.Balatico’s point further, Trevor Hunt would make it easier for applicants. He said that he wanted to combine and redesign forms so they were more easily understandable. He said that he would try to make a universal form where people could indicate which fund they were applying for instead of having people submit multiple requests.

**Question:** How will you stay, impartial and/or nonpartisan?

**Trevor Hunt** said he had previous experience running an F&B Committee. He said that he would lean on that experience and empower his committee members to take charge of debating and discussing. He said he would serve as a referee which he had successfully done before.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that everyone had been in situations where they had to recuse themselves. He said that recognizing potential biases was very important. He said that one way to be impartial was to remember that the VPF’s role was to fulfill a need to enhance student experiences, whether controversial, as long as it was legal. He said that he could support a diversity of opinions across campus.

**Question:** What experiences or expertise do you have that you feel prepares you to do the accounting work required for the VPF position?

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said he had extensive experience with record keeping as a teacher and as a research employee at the UW. He said that he wished he could show everyone all of his notes and the things he kept track of, including where somebody might have indicated something in the minutes.

**Trevor Hunt** said that most of the accounting work was taken on by HUB Accounting. He said he wished that he could show everyone all the spreadsheets he made at F&B last year. He said that he had experience working with the back end portal that UW used for tracking expenditures called My Financial Desktop. He said that he would be able to jump right in without having to work to learn the complex software.

**Question:** How would you make the diversity funds more accessible?

**Trevor Hunt** said he would go to people once in-person activities on campus began again. He said that he would make the funds more accessible through streamlining the funding processes. He said that if he could make it easier for people to apply for funds, then they would.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that diversity funds were in the custody of the Empowerment, Diversity, and Accountability Committee. He said that there were two separate processes, but that he could streamline the process into a referral system. He said that one of the questions could be “Have you applied to this?” He said that it was part of the VPF’s job to ensure that everyone knew those funds.

**Question:** How will you manage our two STF proposals if we get those funds?

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that he was on the STF Committee. He said that the GPSS would be obligated to keep track of the funds for the next seven years, but the computer request would probably be fulfilled and used by the staff. He said that the CART proposal would only be a year long and would need to be extended. He said that he recommended moving it to a bloc funding model.

**Trevor Hunt** said he would defer to A.J. Balatico on the issue because he was not familiar with GPSS specific STF requests. He said that he had had experience working with STF in the past on ASUW STF requests. He said that he would not have a problem tracking the money and expenditures with the help of his spreadsheets.

**Question:** What is one specific change you would make to our current budget?

**Trevor Hunt** said he would change the current budget by condensing some of the object codes to allow the GPSS to move funds around more easily. He said that there was currently a process to move funds around and he wanted to increase flexibility by condensing some of the funds.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that he would prioritize reconsidering departmental allocations, which were heavily underutilized. He said that there had only been 5 departmental allocation applications. He said that the F&B had received about 27 special allocation applications. He said that if the GPSS were to fund the departmental allocations at the rate it was currently doing, it would run out of money. He said that rearranging some of those budget items to reflect extra words would be very important.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** moved onto the Vice President of Equity and Accountability (VPEA) position. She invited Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental and Forest Sciences) to give her speech.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** introduced herself as the current GPSS Director of University Affairs. She said that her primary task was to manage graduate and professional student representation across campus. She said that she had not received any transitional support from her predecessor, and had still doubled the GPSS’s presence across the campus in a pandemic. She said that the GPSS was able to enter the next academic year without a specific concept of what the status quo should be. She acknowledged that the last year had been a roller coaster and that the GPSS was staring at a laundry list of challenges. She said that the GPSS would tackle everything from maintaining and improving the accessibility measures that were forced upon the university to figuring out basic things like wearing pants again. She said that no matter the challenge, she would be present, transparent, and listening. She said she would highlight three parts of her plan for next year’s GPSS Officers, Senate, and administration.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that increasing GPSS’s accountability started with the Officers. She said that she would ask the Officers to host office hours that were accessible within the HUB and through Zoom with clearly posted schedules linked on the GPSS website. She said that if she was elected, all Officers would host two additional Office hours outside of the 8am to 5pm requirements because the needs of graduate and professional students went beyond business hours.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that graduate and professional students need more access to GPSS. She said that orientation and parliamentary procedure tutorials would be available on the GPSS website for asynchronous access. She said that her aim was to lift the veil of mystery around GPSS and encourage participation from new programs and more students, working toward GPSS truly representing the identities of all the graduate and professional communities.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that in June, she would go to colleges and schools requesting the GPSS speak at orientations instead of waiting for schools to come to the GPSS. She said that the GPSS represented all graduate and professional students and that she wanted every new graduate and professional Husky to know that the GPSS was here to support them.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that she was prepared to have uncomfortable conversations with the administration, just like she did today with President Cauce about mental health. She said that the GPSS could do better to meet the unique needs and challenges of graduate and professional students. She said that she would make these statements in every room until the administration acknowledged that graduate and professional students were tuition-paying students, employees, mentors, and educators. She said that graduate and professional students were over one-third of the university’s population deserving of commensurate and equitable resources.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** asked everyone to look at the statement of objectives she put forth. She said that if she was elected, she would show everyone exactly what was done with each objective, what came out of it, and what the GPSS needed to do moving forward.

**Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences)** asked everyone to keep in mind a pearl of wisdom from the Blues Brothers: no matter who you are and what you do to live, thrive and survive. There are still some things that make us all the same. She asked everyone to vote for her for VPEA.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** invited Meshell Sturgis (Communications)to give her speech.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** quoted Mia Mingus, a disability and transformative justice advocate: “The contradiction of having to survive in the oppressive world you are trying to change is always complicated [...].” Meshell Sturgis said that equity and accountability were part of everything that she did and who she was. She said that she had been invited to GPSS by Dean Kelly Edward in 2016, when she was a graduate student at UW Bothell. She said that she would never forget the inspiration that washed over her as she witnessed so many scholarly leaders pack into a pre-COVID room, eager to hear President Ana Marie Cauce speak. She said that she could also not shake the discouragement that simultaneously came over her during that first GPSS meeting. She said that she remembered searching for someone who looked like her and how her enthusiasm waned as she could not find another curly-haired, brown-skinned, young woman in the room. She said that she had sensed hidden barriers on the path she longed to take that day.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that she had been acutely aware of the exploitation and tokenization that she and her peers faced as graduate students of color. She said that she had cautiously participated in GPSS over the years, always wanting to engage more and always quickly reminded that she existed in the periphery, an interpersonal reflection of how the E&A had been structurally marginal to Senate operations until this year. She said that through cultivating a presence of absence and without compensation, she had managed, along with the team of amazing GPSS people, to pass much needed change in the committee and GPSS at large.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said she had redrafted the committee's mission statement using collaborative research that led to a publication, hosted a panel on diversity during the 2019 GPSS academic conference, and co-sponsored resolutions that supported students of color. She said that she had even sparked the idea for the creation of the very position she was running for. She said that she had forged a path to and within GPSS that did not exist prior and that she could not have done it alone. She said that GPSS looked dramatically different than when she first came to it. She said that everyone here and those who had previously been in GPSS had had something to do with the momentum of change that hung in the air.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that there was still much work to be done. She said that the newly formed role needed to enter the Officer board like a storm that brings refreshing rain and breaks tired branches, stirring the soil so the old roots are made bare and scattering seeds in the wind so that new blooms can grow like wildfire. She said that she was that storm, not because of her passion nor identity, but because of her qualifications and boldness. She said she looked forward to speaking to everyone about her qualifications and her plans for the role in more detail during the Q&A. She reiterated her name and put her resources in the chat.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** said it was time for the Q&A. She said that she would rotate the order of candidate responses to the questions.

**Question:** How have you or will you develop cultural competence?

**Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that there were a lot of ways for people to do this, such as through facilitating training with the entire Senate, incorporating that into Senator onboarding, and ensuring that the GPSS had a diversity of speakers and a diversity of issues going forward. She said that the GPSS could also keep tabs on the issues that it had on record to track its progress.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that cultural competency was cultural. She said that this was currently happening in GPSS due to increasing the diversity in this space. She said that as leaders of graduate students, Senators could go into the other spaces that they were in and spread knowledge very informally and through relationships. She said that this was the best way that everyone learned.

**Question:** Can you each say a little more about specific the E&A initiatives you want to work on next year?

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that she wanted to review staff hiring practices with the VPIn and also carry out the committee recommendations from the E&A. She said she wanted to also work on a strategic plan for that committee.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that she had been working on a tool to bridge accessibility gaps with the ADA Coordinator Bree Callahan because there are a lot of areas where people did not qualify for DRS. She said that this was something that the GPSS could operate anonymously and could transmit information to each professor in different classes without alienating students.

**Question:** How do you envision collaborating and working with the rest of the officer team within the new VPEA position?

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that she outlined part of it in her objectives. She said that she would speak on anything that the President was working on, particularly pushing the strategic plan forward. She said that she would work on advertising the diversity funds and making them more accessible. She said that she would work with the VPEx to make sure the GPSS was advocating for opt-out insurance, more support for student parents, and tuition standardization.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that this was another relationship question. She said that relationships were very important and that as a student that had been on collaborative projects, she was invested in building relationships. She said that the work became easier when people cared about the people they worked with.

**Question:** How will you work to improve equity within individual programs?

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that she was interested in operating with less is more in some ways. She said that the E&A had been considering ideas on how to create an umbrella group that brought all of the different departmental DEI groups together. She said that she wanted to pair with her advisor who was the Associate Dean for Equity and Justice within the Graduate School.

**Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that a huge component was a power dynamic issue. She said that no matter what department, there was a structural imbalance. She said that she wanted to work with the Executive team and Officers to work on the Bill of Rights to ensure that there were different arenas where things like funding were not held over a student, where students’ needs were met, and where students had access to all of the resources that they needed.

**Question:** Equity and accountability initiatives often need to be supported by university administration to be impactful. Can you elaborate on your previous experience in this area in respect to university administration?

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that she currently served on the Provost Advisory Council for Students where she interacted with Provost Richards and the other vice provost every single week. She said that the Council met every week to talk about these issues. She said that she was also on the advisory board for her college, where she interacted with all of the teams and doctoral committees at her academic department and college. She said that she interfaced with the dean, provost, and president very regularly. She said that they knew her name and face.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that she remembered every time that she had met or seen President Cauce on campus in various situations. She said that she looked forward to being in a space with President Cauce where she could share equity and accountability initiatives. She said that President Cauce was somebody that she looked up to. She said that it was very much a relationship-building thing. She said that she had been building a relationship with Dr. Joy Williamson-Lott, the Dean of the Graduate School, through the Black Graduate Student Association.

**Question:** What makes you hesitant about this role? What makes you excited?

**Meshell Sturgis** said that she had critiqued GPSS a lot over the last four years. She said that in her field of work, critique was care. She said that she was in a very competitive election. She said that sometimes caring could be a weakness and that it was something she was worried about, but it was also a positive thing that she had to bring and was ready to admit.

**Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said she was excited to be the only Native American voice in the room and that it was very powerful for her, her family, and her heritage. She said that the big challenge was that the accountability role required her to look at people such as the GPSS Officers and have to tell them on occasion that they were not being supportive of equity and accountability initiatives or that they could do something better. She said having to critique her peers was her biggest challenge.

**Question:** What do you think are the biggest barriers to increasing equity accessibility and accountability in GPSS?

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that there were a host of issues, most of them having to do with money. She said that the focus for international students would be just getting them into the room. She said that the GPSS would have obstacles with visas and vaccines. She said that students who needed to work might not have time for GPSS, so she was working to open up more funds to pay for their time.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said she slightly disagreed with Ashlee Abrantes’ response. She said that the GPSS did not necessarily need more money, but that it needed more participation. She said that there was far more power in numbers than there was in a budget.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** announced that the 10 minute Q&A session had ended.

**Logan Jarrell** addressed the question in the chat and explained that he had received all the candidate materials for posting at the same time.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** explained that there was a deadline for candidate materials to be posted to the website, but that this was not the same as the deadline for candidates to nominate themselves. She said that candidates could nominate themselves up to and during the election meeting. She said that Meshell Sturgis (Communications) had nominated herself and that the Elections Committee was grateful for the participation. She said that Meshell Sturgis’s information was in the chat so the Senators still had access to that information.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** asked all candidates how they would remain unbiased in their roles.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** said she may have become confused and asked for a moment to discuss with her team.

**Logan Jarrell** moved for 3 minute recess. **Jack Flesher (School of Music)** seconded. No objections.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** called the Senate back to order.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** asked all election candidates how they would stay impartial and nonpartisan in their roles.

**Aaron Yared** said that in his experience not only as the GPSS President but as the Policy Director before that, and the Director of Government Relations at UW Bothell, being nonpartisan was in his blood. He said that his main priority was to do whatever was best for the graduate and professional students at UW. He said that his personal beliefs did not play a role.

**Gabby Rivera (Evans School)** said that her experiences as the ASUW Personnel Director and Director of Community Relations and her experience as a Senator made representing students her biggest priority. She said that she hoped to carry this forward. She said that remaining impartial and unbiased was part of the role and something she had practiced and was willing to continue doing.

**Caitlin Harrington** said that she was a big part of ensuring that the GPSS advocacy encompassed and honored all graduate students and held a space for the many diverse experiences within GPSS. She said that she had been employed to write about Washington politics with a nonpartisan perspective. She said that her education at the Evans School had included looking at policy and issues in the world objectively. She said that she would use these skills to approach these situations as the VPEx.

**Owen Saites** said his postgraduate plan was to work in nonpartisan legislative analysis or something similar. He said that being nonpartisan and impartial came naturally to him. He said that the main goal of any elected official was to advocate for their constituents of which are graduate students GPSS and keep the priorities of GPSS and graduate and professional students at the forefront.

**Payton Swinford** said he would not avoid bias. He said that his job was to be an advocate for graduate and professional students and that he was biased in their favor. He said that he had been advocating for students all his life. He said that he had worked with people on both sides of the aisle and that he had made a career of talking to people of every political ideology. He said that he welcomed all perspectives, but that he was biased for graduate and professional students.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that GPSS was a collaborative and deliberative body. He said that his role as the VPF, if elected, was to be a facilitator of information so that the various committees could make decisions on behalf of other students

**Trevor Hunt** said that he would check himself and invite others to check him. He said that his role in ASUW was nonvoting and that he would approach the role, if elected, in a similar manner by providing information and being a resource on finances.

**Ashlee Abrantes** **(Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that a large component of the VPEA role was targeting bias, identifying it, and kicking it to the curb. She said that this required self-exploration. She said that beholden to the GPSS as an Officer to the Senate and all of the graduate students, so there was no room for bias or partisanship.

**Meshell Sturgis (Communications)** said that this felt like a trick question because she felt that the question was asking her to go against everything that she had been studying over the years. She said that she felt that research was incredibly important and what all graduate and professional students did. She said that she was an advocate for graduate students but, more specifically, she was an advocate for the most marginalized graduate students. She acknowledged that some may read that as bias, but that she believed she was striving for equity and uplifting the voices that were continually silenced.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** thanked all the candidates. She said that it was time for the forum and asked the candidates to enter the breakout room so that the Senate could speak freely in their absence.

**Logan Jarrell** announced that all candidates had entered the breakout room.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** said that the forum would be 10 minute long and that Senators were free to discuss the candidates. She recommended that the Senators use the time to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of candidates and their ability to perform position responsibilities.

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences)** raised a point of information. He reminded Senators that they were still in a GPSS meeting and that although the candidates were out of the room, minutes were still being taken and would be distributed as normal. He said that the idea of the forum was to speak freely and encouraged Senators to speak because choosing the next GPSS Officers was an extremely important task.

**Jules Overfelt** said they were looking for charisma from VPEx candidates or someone that they could envision in front of lawmakers and legislators. They asked for people’s opinions on where they stood.

**Malikai Bass (Museology)** said that he had had the opportunity to talk to a couple of the candidates because they had been interested in his perspective because accessibility overlapped with the VPEx role and because he had been outspoken about accessibility bills.

**Malikai Bass (Museology)** said that Payton Swinford did a good job in a one-on-one setting that was not reflected as well in his Zoom setting. He said that he found Payton Swinford very persuasive and prepared. Malikai Bass (Museology) said that Payton Swinford came very prepared, which he appreciated, and presented him ideas of what needed to be done to check if it matched his experience of his conversations with other disabled students.

**Malikai Bass (Museology)** said that Payton Swinford matched the personality that GPSS wanted to represent its students when lobbying. He said that the GPSS wanted someone who was prepared and forged connections with people in small group settings.

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** said that Jules Overfelt asked a great question that hit home at two points which were not necessarily in line with one another: 1) how the GPSS felt that each candidate would be perceived as the VPEx by legislators and 2) how the GPSS wanted to be perceived and represented. He said that those things could have values that were at odds. He said that he felt conflicted because some candidates for the VPEx role might be perceived in certain ways that could lend to getting more work done, but that he was not sure that his values agreed with and that he wanted to be represented as.

***Jules Overfelt*** *started to speak.*

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** raised a point of order and said that current sitting Officers were discouraged from leading the conversation. She asked if anyone wanted to discuss any differences in the VPF position.

**Jack Flesher (School of Music)** said that he did not personally know Trevor Hunt and that he had not worked with him. He said that he had been on a committee with A.J. Balatico (College of Education) throughout the year. He said that A.J. Balatico’s (College of Education) amount of dedication as well as always having statistics, knowledge, or resources ready to go would lend itself well to the VPF position and that A.J. Balatico (College of Education) would do a great job.

**Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** said that he had the fortune of working with A.J. Balatico (College of Education) to craft an STF proposal for CART captioning. He said that A.J. Balatico (College of Education) was helpful in making the proposal go well and commended him. He said that he did not get to work with Trevor Hunt, but that he looked forward to working with Trevor Hunt if Trevor Hunt won the position.

**Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience)** said that she thought that Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences) and Meshell Sturgis (Communications) were both incredibly capable and that she would be happy with either candidate. She said that she had had the opportunity to work with Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences).

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences)** interrupted Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) and raised a point of order. He reminded everyone that Executive Senators were not allowed to express opinions one way or the other, per the Elections Guide that the Senate passed a few months ago.

**Janis Shin** asked if non-Senators were allowed to speak.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** said everyone except people in positions of power was encouraged to speak.

**Janis Shin** said that both Meshell Sturgis (Communications) and Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences)were both great candidates. She said that she worked with both of them when she was briefly part of the E&A. She said that she saw Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences) more often because Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences) was a staff member. She said that Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences) not only talked the talk but also walked the walk. She said that Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences) accomplished a lot in promoting GPSS’s presence on campus.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** called time and said that the Elections Committee would leave to tally the votes.

**Jules Overfelt** asked for a moment to go over the ballot or filed questions to make sure that everyone had voting under control.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** started a minute countdown for the candidates to return from the breakout room into the main meeting.

**Logan Jarrell** announced that all the candidates had returned.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** asked everyone to finalize their ballots and that the ballot was available at the link that they had shared earlier. She asked people to email Britahny Baskin if they still had trouble accessing their ballot. She said that the ballot utilized ranked choice voting and that Senators should select the bubble next to the candidate's name in the order that indicated their preferences. She said that if a Senator favored one candidate over another, then they should bubble “1” for the favored candidate and “2” for the other candidate. She said that write-in candidates needed to have their names and their rank written in.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** said editing responses after submission were not allowed. She said that the impartiality witness Christina Coop had the final say on all ballot-related matters, so the GPSS was not able to offer changes to ballots that had already been cast. She announced that the Elections Committee would go to a breakout room to count votes.

**Justin Pothoof (Chemistry)** asked how long the ballot would be left open for submissions.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** said that the ballot would close in five minutes.

**Genevieve Hulley** asked what the Senate would do when the Elections Committee was gone.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Elections Committee and the Executive Committee had decided to present the full composition survey results.

**Aaron Yared** asked if it was inappropriate for him to take back the chairship.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he would defer to Christina Coop’s comment that Aaron Yared should wait until the ballot was closed.

**Jules Overfelt** asked Logan Jarrell and Rene Singleton whether election results had to be ratified. They asked if quorum was still needed to ratify the election results.

**Rene Singleton** said no. She said that quorum was necessary for the vote, but that a quorum count was not needed for the rest of the meeting. She said that when the committee finished counting, they could come back and make the announcement because the votes were what mattered. She said that the Senate could continue to have the rest of the meeting and that it would be best if Logan Jarrell or another Office chaired the meeting until the voting was completed.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the chair succession went to the VPIn before the Secretary.

**Genevieve Hulley** accepted chairship.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** announced the closing of the ballot. She thanked everyone for their patience and participation.

**Genevieve Hulley** asked Logan Jarrell to go over the Composition Survey results.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he had intended to present last week, but that he had decided to table the agenda item because there were more Senators present at the moment than at the last Senate meeting. He said that the Composition Survey had been a collaborative product of this year's E&A. He said that the E&A’s mission statement expanded upon the work of its predecessor, the GPSS Diversity Committee. He said that through the changes the GPSS ratified on April 21st, the E&A was changed from an ad hoc committee to a standing committee and was renamed the Empowerment, Diversity, and Accountability Committee (EDA).

**Logan Jarrell** said that the purpose of the survey was the same as the 2018-2019 survey. He noted that the survey was not conducted last year, but that the survey was intended to be an annual review. He referred to the shared screen and said that it would be the structure of the report. He noted that the identities listed were broken out separately and asked Senators to be aware of this.

**Logan Jarrell** said that several people within GPSS held multiple identities and that intersectionality was fairly critical to their experiences as graduate and professional students. He said that this was the first year of which response rates were broken out for different affiliations within GPSS. He said that the GPSS had a higher overall response rate than the prior survey, increasing from 43 to 51%. He said that if inactive Senators were excluded, the rate increased, but that this was not done because the inactive senators still held a seat that could otherwise be filled by somebody who was acting as a representative. He said that this was the first year that the GPSS asked for staff and liaisons to be included though their rate of participation was not as high as other groups. He said that Senator participation was the same as the total participation and that Senators represented the overwhelming majority of survey respondents. He said that the categories were not mutually exclusive; some Senators were also liaisons.

**Logan Jarrell** thanked everyone for participating in the survey. He said that three new fields were represented in this year’s survey: ethnic and cultural studies, communications, and mathematics and statistics. He said that there were more people from engineering represented compared to two years ago. He said that this was somewhat consistent as engineering was within the top five graduate and professional programs at the UW.

**Logan Jarrell** said that students had the option to select dual degree this year. He said that there was a slight shift compared to two years ago towards PhD students. He noted that the overall composition of graduate and professional students skewed strongly towards master students. He said that this was the first time that GPSS Executive Committee members were broken out. He said that there were several justifications for why that was necessary: 1) the Executive Committee members were powerful positions within GPSS and 2) the Executive Committee functioned to represent and control the GPSS. He said that the executive structure was weak in that all decisions made by the Executive Committee were subject to review by the Senate. He pointed out that their spread was different.

**Logan Jarrell** said that this year’s survey asked students to expand on their field of study in an “other” category which allowed the survey authors to recategorize respondents. He said that this was unlikely to happen in future years, and was something that was possibly an issue.

**Logan Jarrell** moved onto the employment and GPSS labor section. He said that this was the same as it was two years ago. He said that the majority of GPSS Senators also had a job. He said that compared to two years ago, the average amount that a member of GPSS worked had increased. He said that the responses included GPSS staff members which would be reflected in the numbers but that this increase was not solely due to the addition of staff members. He said that possible explanations for the increase were either because the online GPSS environment was more accessible to the students who would otherwise have to be in the environments where they worked or commuted or because people needed to supplement lost income due to the coronavirus pandemic. He said that it was likely a combination of those two. He said that the bottom right graph showed the number of unpaid hours that Senators spent on GPSS per week. He said that this was within expectations, considering that Senators were only expected to attend one GPSS meeting every other week. He said that the response may be artificially lower because of the committee participation results.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the UW collected data on first generation students, but not first generation graduate students. He said that first generation graduate students were the first in their immediate family to receive a degree beyond a two-year or four-year post-secondary education. He said that the number of first generation graduate students was similar with respect to two years ago, but exceeded the average for graduate and professional students. He said that GPSS Executives were less likely to be first generation students and more likely to be first generation graduate students.

**Logan Jarrell** said the largest gap identified in the survey was between international student representation in GPSS and the actual proportion of international graduate students. He said that the actual proportion of international graduate students at the UW was 21% while in the GPSS it was 6%, which was a decrease of 1% from two years ago. He said that there were no international students among Executive Committee members. He said that in the prior survey’s authors specifically recommended that the GPSS recruit more international students and that the GPSS had failed to do so.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the prior version of the survey asked respondents for the location relative to Seattle, such as University District or Ballard. He said that this year’s survey was changed to ask for respondents’ time zones since many people lived off of campus. He said that the majority of GPSS resided outside of Washington state and said that this had potential implications for GPSS advocacy efforts, especially with respect to state and local levels, because those students were going to be less likely to be registered to vote or find interest in those issues. He also noted that out-of-state students may have reduced access to funding compared to in-state students.

**Logan Jarrell** said that a marginal increase was observed for on-campus students. He noted that on-campus students were represented by the Residential Community Student Association which was a non-academic seat.

**Logan Jarrell** said that almost everyone in GPSS was within three hours of Pacific Standard time. He said that the largest time difference was 17 hours.

**Logan Jarrell** moved into the race and ethnicity section. He said that there were several areas where GPSS exceeds the UW average for graduate and professional students. He said that the GPSS had higher representation from White and Black students in the Executive Committee and GPSS overall, Latinx students in the Executive Committee, Asian or Asian American students in GPSS overall, and Pacific Islander students in GPSS overall than the UW’s average for graduate and professional students. He called attention to the areas which did not have any representation in the GPSS: Alaska Natives, Indigenous, and Native American students. He said that UW did not collect information about the number of North African and Middle Eastern students, so there were no comparisons for that data. He said that the three identities broken out for the Executive Committee were White/Caucasian, Black or African American, and Hispanic or Latinx. He said that outside of those three categories, all others were true zeros. He said that the number of respondents meant that numbers that were less than 5% represented three students or less in GPSS.

**Logan Jarrell** called attention to the size of the populations. He said that some communities that made up less than 1% of the UW population may have experienced the past year differently than people like him because of systemic inequities within the healthcare system, state violence, especially at the hands of police, or violence based on bigotry, often race. He said that their experiences impacted the experiences of graduate and professional students and speakers.

**Logan Jarrell** moved onto the gender identity section. He said that this was the first year that the survey differentiated trans identity separate from the gender question. He said that in the previous survey, respondents had the choice of selecting between male and transgender male and the respective female options. He said that this year’s survey authors chose to break transgender identity separately, because it was something that needed to be measured separately from gender, given the problems that trans and queer graduate and professional students had with accessing healthcare and gender-based violence.

**Logan Jarrell** said that GPSS, its Executive Committee, and graduate and professional students overall were predominantly female. He said that the UW only reported male or female genders, so there were no comparisons for anything outside of that binary. He noted that this was the first year that a member of GPSS responded to the survey and indicated that they identified as trans.

**Logan Jarrell** moved to the disability status and LGBT+ section. He said that these identities were grouped because these groups both had non-academic seats through the D Center and the Q Center respectively and because they were compared to national averages for graduate and professional students. He said that the UW did not collect these statistics. He said that the GPSS was closer to the average this year than it was two years ago. He said that it was likely due to the GPSS being more accessible. He said that compared to the national average, more members of the GPSS identified as LGBT+. He said that this was likely due to the history of Seattle, as well as the history of the UW, which does have an openly gay university president. He noted that even though the GPSS far exceeded the national average, it did not erase the stigmas that students faced.

**Logan Jarrell** moved onto the veterans and caregivers and parents section. He said that the GPSS had non-academic seats for student veterans who were represented by the Student Veterans Association. He said that these students were associated with a type of service, either veteran services in armed forces or parenting and caregiving service. He noted that the population of student parents and caregivers in the GPSS had doubled, compared to two years ago. He said this was probably because the GPSS had started offering remote virtual meetings which allowed parents to participate without having to find childcare. He acknowledged that having to spend more time at home during the pandemic might mean that these student parents and caregivers were taking on more duties at home.

**Logan Jarrell** moved onto the age section. He said that the most common age in GPSS was 24. He said that this was also true for the Executive Committee. He said that the graduate and professional students came from many backgrounds and that the survey captured this diversity to a degree. He said that Executive Committee members were a bit younger on average than the Senate overall. He noted that these were presented as means, so they were not resistant to skew and said that this was what the university reported.

**Logan Jarrell** moved onto the religion section and said that this was the first time that the survey had asked respondents about their religion. He said that this was part of diversity. He said that the most popular response was “prefer not to respond” and that the GPSS seemed to be more secular. He said that GPSS events and meetings could be inaccessible for those that participated in religious holidays.

**Logan Jarrell** addressed the section regarding comfort levels in the GPSS. He said that this was the first time the survey asked about comfort levels in the GPSS. He said that 68% of GPSS members were not associated with a committee. He said that a quarter of the respondents said that they felt uncomfortable about being listened to and voicing their opinions or felt neutral about it. He said that the survey did not ask people why they felt uncomfortable. He said that it could be due to not feeling supported, perhaps with onboarding or not feeling like they were part of a community. He said that it could also be due to not feeling safe in the GPSS. He said that of the students who answered neutral or uncomfortable, 79% of them were not members of a committee. He said that this question would continue to be asked in the future.

**Logan Jarrell** moved onto the recommendations. He said that they were the same as the Senators had heard at the beginning of the meeting. He recommended the purposeful recruitment and retention, especially international and BIPOC students, the inclusion of programs and non-academic groups without representation currently, and continued expansion of accessible participation. He said that data suggested that remote meetings enabled new voices. He said that the hybrid style meetings next year needed deliberative planning and reassessment. He also recommended building a more inviting community for everyone.

**Logan Jarrell** recommended more structured GPSS onboarding and Executive Committee engagement with people who might otherwise stay quiet. He said that people who stayed quiet would eventually become people who did not come to meetings. Logan Jarrell recommended more data collection on the comfort and safety within the GPSS. He said that while he did not have data to say why people felt uncomfortable, it was an extreme problem if people felt unsafe at GPSS events.

**Logan Jarrell** suggested creating institutional accountability requirements that required internal surveys like this to be mandatory. He also suggested creating an area on the GPSS website where people could give meaningful recognition for GPSS to enhance the visibility of the work that GPSS folks did and explore more forms of compensation. Logan Jarrell said that the only GPSS members who were compensated were Officers, staff members, and Executive Senators.

**Logan Jarrell** said that references were included in the full report which detailed how the E&A members drew conclusions.

**Genevieve Hulley** thanked Logan Jarrell for sharing the report. She opened the floor for questions and discussions.

**Jules Overfelt** asked Logan Jarrell to clarify if this was the first year that the trans question had been asked or if this was the first year that the trans question had been answered in the affirmative.

**Logan Jarrell** said that this was the first time that it had been asked as a separate question. He said that the prior survey had made a distinction between female and transgender female. He said that the survey authors had decided to break those into two questions. He said that the latter part of Jules Overfelt’s question was correct.

**Logan Jarrell** told the Senators to private message him if they wanted to ask a specific question but did not feel comfortable asking in the group chat.

**Logan Jarrell** addressed Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) question. He said that the comfort data did not have any trends when broken up by demographic. He said that there were some trends, but that there was not enough data to draw conclusions.

**Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forest Sciences)** said that the things that stood out the most when groups were broken out were smaller groups. She said that because there were three or fewer people in those groups, highlighting the group would be identifying and inappropriate.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the E&A tried to take steps to avoid identifying and singling anyone. He said that identifying groups would lead to othering and tokenization. He said that considerable effort had been made not to do so because doing so was not in line with the E&A’s mission statement.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the next steps would be to act on the recommendations. He said that there were several pathways to make change in GPSS and that Senators were one of the strongest agents of change. He said that he had been excited about the changes that the Senate had made and that he thought there would be a lot of action on the recommendations of the E&A.

**Logan Jarrell** said that if people had other questions, they were welcome to reach out to him. He said that he would pass their questions to the E&A. He recognized Meshell Sturgis (Communications) listing the names of E&A members in the chat who contributed. He said that for the many people on the committee, not everyone could participate regularly. He said that even participating at one meeting was helpful.

**Jules Overfelt** motioned for a 10 minute recess. **Hannah Sieben** seconded. No objections.

**Genevieve Hulley** called the meeting back to order.

# 9. [Information] Officer & Committee Reports 8:47pm

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the GPSS was hosting a short form, PechaKucha style academic conference in May. She said that the GPSS had sent out a call for papers and put the <[link](https://depts.washington.edu/gpss/gpss-research-symposium-call-for-submissions/)> in the chat. She said that presenters would have 10 slides and five minutes. She said that it would be more engaging than a traditional paper and that her team was aiming to include as many graduate students as possible through the shorter style. She said that she would send it out in the GPSS all-campus email

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the GPSS was redesigning its website. She said that she, Logan Jarrell, Janis Shin, and other people on the committee looked at the new homepage. She said that the website looked fast and sleek and said that she was excited to finish it by the end of the quarter.

**Hannah Sieben** said that she was still working on her report to mark the end of the legislative session. She said that the UW had received $125,000 in graduate student financial aid this year, specifically for UW students in high-need, public service programs, such as nursing, social work, pharmacy, and physician's assistants. She said that she would be part of a committee to decide who received the money and how it would be distributed. She said this was the first time that graduate and professional students received state-based financial aid. She said that bills were still being signed and that the GPSS could expect a rundown of all the legislation that had been passed soon.

**Logan Jarrell** said diversity funds were still available. He said that the E&A and the Secretarial Team were working on making a smooth onboarding process. He said that his Team was updating the Senate Handbook.

**Aaron Yared** asked people to endorse the CART captioning STF proposal and the HUB access technology proposal. He asked everyone to do it as soon as possible. He said that the HUB proposal’s presentation would occur on the 10th and that the CART captioning presentation had already happened. He said that the STF proposals were more likely to pass if they had more endorsements because the endorsements would indicate actual student needs for the proposed projects. He said that there were not enough endorsements on the HUB access STF proposal which was crucial to allowing all of the GPSS to be streamed or recorded when in person. He said that both the CART captioning proposal and the HUB access proposal would make GPSS meetings accessible.

**Antonio Gonzalez** said that the ASUW elections were happening right now. He said that today was the last day to vote and that the deadline was at 11:45pm. He said that people could access the ballot on [vote.asuw.org](http://vote.asuw.org/). He said that the only requirement to be eligible to vote was to indicate that one was an ASUW member, which graduate students were eligible to be.

**Jules Overfelt** said that it would be helpful if people indicated that they were graduate students in their HUB access proposal endorsements. They said it would also be helpful to explain why they were endorsing the proposal. They said that it helped the committee see the broad range of who would benefit from funding the proposals. They disclosed that they were a sitting member of the STF Committee.

**Aaron Yared** referred to the email that President Cauce had sent out about requiring vaccinations to come back to campus. She said that this likely meant that the GPSS Office would be open in person to varying degrees. He reminded everyone that they could visit the GPSS Office in HUB 314.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that there would be a vaccine drive tomorrow on campus. She asked if anyone knew of any union updates. She said that the union was in the process of bargaining.

**Logan Jarrell** raised a point of order. He said that the Elections committee wanted to come back.

**Kira Sue Renfro (Art History)** announced that Aaron Yared, Gabby Rivera (Evans School), Payton Swinford, A.J. Balatico (College of Education), and Meshell Sturgis (Communications) had won the election. On behalf of the Elections Committee, she thanked all the candidates and the Senate for participating

**Genevieve Hulley** congratulated all the new officers and thanked the Elections Committee for their hard work and great performance.

# 10. [Information] Announcements 8:57pm

**Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences)** announced that he was stepping down as an Executive Senator. He said that the next Senate meeting would feature an election for Executive Senator positions. He said that he was stepping down to focus more on research and PhD stuff. He said that he would still be involved in GPSS for the rest of the year. He strongly recommended any of the candidates who did not win tonight to run for the Executive Committee next year. He invited everyone to ask him questions about the role via email. He said that it was a great way to get more involved. He said that he had nominated himself on the spot two years ago and that anyone who wanted to be involved could do the job.

**A.J. Balatico (College of Education)** said that the Office of Educational Assessment was looking for somebody who could code the entire course evaluation system for UW. He said that the Office was starting from scratch so that students did not have to go to the Rate My Professors website and use the course evaluations. He said that the evaluations included qualitative data, so any written comments would potentially be included in the system. He said that the system was very important for teachers who were going into the job market and needed to pull their course evaluations. He asked everyone to refer people to the job listing.

**Aaron Yared** addressed Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) question in the chat. He said that the third Executive Senator position would not be filled until the fall.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the GPSS did not have six Executive Senators in this year’s budget. He said that the Executive Committee spoke last week about better defining the roles of Executive Senators. He said that the Executive Committee agreed to wait for the new Executive Senators to feel that they were taking specific action on it.

**Aaron Yared** thanked Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences) for all the work he had done for GPSS. He said that Andrew Shumway (Earth and Space Sciences) was such a valuable member of the Executive Committee and that he had permanently impacted the GPSS.

# 11. [Action] Adjournment 9:02pm

**Jules Overfelt** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Jack Flesher (School of Music)** seconded. No objections

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