GPSS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 12th 2021, 5:30 pm via Zoom

# Members present:

GPSS President Aaron Yared

GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Genevieve Hulley

GPSS Vice President of External Affairs Hannah Sieben

GPSS Secretary Logan C. Jarrell

GPSS Treasurer Jules Overfelt

GPSS Senate Clerk Janis Shin

Executive Senator Andrew Shumway

~~Executive Senator Terrence Pope~~

~~Executive Senator Monica Jensen~~

Executive Senator Marty Varela

Executive Senator Britahny Baskin

ASUW Director of Internal Policy Antonio Gonzalez

Associate Director of Student Activities Rene Singleton

Associate Dean of Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Bill Mahoney

Husky Union Building Executive Director Justin Camputaro

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

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

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

**Jules Overfelt** moved to approve the agenda. **Antonio Gonzalez** seconded. No objections.

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

**Jules Overfelt** moved to approve the April 28th minutes. **Marty Varela** seconded. No objections.

# 4. [Action] Senate Meeting Agenda 5:34pm

**Logan Jarrell** said that the agenda had room for a speaker. He said that Executive Senator elections needed to happen. He said that three resolutions had been submitted. He said that two of them concerned similar accessibility issues.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if the resolutions were related or separate.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the resolutions would not be introduced together. He said that he heard about the Time Schedule Transparency Resolution about a week ago. He said that the other resolution was still being worked on. He said that the other resolution was a joint resolution. He asked Antonio Gonzalez if the resolution had already gone through its first reading in the ASUW.

**Antonio Gonzalez** said that the joint resolution had not been read.

**Aaron Yared** said that the speaker would be Mags Aleks from the Title IX Office. He said that she would speak about a curriculum that the Title IX Training and Education Committee was putting together. He said that the specific curriculum was tailored toward online education and that new members of the UW community would be required to complete the training. He said that she was looking for feedback on the curriculum.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if the speaker was presenting on required DEI work and asked if it was passed in the Washington State legislature.

**Hannah Sieben** said that the two items were not connected.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if the GPSS could send out anything in advance if the speaker was soliciting feedback.

**Aaron Yared** said that Mags Aleks offered to send a Google form survey with a description of the curriculum as an alternative. He said that it might be redundant.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the Executive Committee could see what the form said, but that it might still be useful for Mags Aleks to come to the Senate meeting and give her presentation about the goal of the curriculum.

**Bill Mahoney** said that this was a training made by Kiana Swearingen. He said that he participated in a dry run of the training and that the team was still working on rolling it out. He said that it would be mandatory for new students, staff, and employees. He said he was unsure which group would receive the training first. He said that he looked into the curriculum because he wanted to make sure that postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, and others that were in positions of less power were recognized in the Title IX curriculum’s case studies. He said that if people saw themselves in the training, they would be more likely to follow through. He said that the curriculum was not yet ready to be rolled out, so the Title IX Office did not have anything that they could share, but that it would be required of new employees.

**Bill Mahoney** said that ASEs appointed in the summer may be treated as new employees and may have to take the new training. He said that if existing students or new students did not attend training, he was unsure who would hold them responsible in an equitable way. He said that undergraduate students had holds placed on registration, but that many graduate students did not register for classes until they were ready to defend in their last quarter. Bill Mahoney said that it might be worth asking those types of questions but that the speaker may not have an answer, since he had asked them himself and not yet received a response.

**Aaron Yared** said that he told Mags Aleks that she could come to speak with the GPSS as long as the Executive Committee was okay with it. He said it was just a matter of whether or not the Executive Committee wanted to ask her to send out a form ahead of time.

**Jules Overfelt** asked if Mags Aleks’ presentation would also cover the Title IX Office in general or whether it would be specific to the curriculum.

**Aaron Yared** said that he understood the presentation to be specifically about the curriculum. He said that he could ask the speaker to do a quick intro of the Title IX Office.

**Logan Jarrell** asked if there was a request for a specific amount of time. He asked if 15 minutes was sufficient for the presentation and questions.

**Aaron Yared** said that the speaker did not request a specific amount of time. He said that 15 minutes was fine and that Senators could extend. He said that the speaker was interested in collecting information, so there might not be too many questions during the presentation.

**Logan Jarrell** addressed Jules Overfelt and said that he would set up a Poll Everywhere.

**Aaron Yared** said that he could ask her to send over just a little description so that she could expand on it during her presentation.

**Logan Jarrell** asked if the Election Committee was aware that they were administering the Executive Senator elections.

**Marty Varela** said that the Election Committee was aware but unprepared.

**Andrew Shumway** said that the Executive Senator elections were much easier to organize and told Marty Varela not to stress, especially after the amazing job that the Election Committee did last week.

**Jules Overfelt** said that it was API heritage month. They said that the breakout room discussion should revolve around how people were celebrating API heritage month and what people could do or what events were happening on campus.

**Aaron Yared** said that the Executive Committee should compile a list of ongoing events. He asked Genevieve Hulley if she was aware of such events.

**Genevieve Hulley** said no, but that she would look into it on Monday with her staff.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he shared one event through the Senate announcements, but that it was not the only event that was being offered by the UW.

**Janis Shin** volunteered to give the land acknowledgment.

**Logan Jarrell** asked Jules Overfelt if Stephen Lee was giving Jules Overfelt’s report during the Officer and Committee Reports item.

**Jules Overfelt** said yes. They said that Stephen Lee would say how the budget was approved with no changes. They said that the STF Committee passed $2 million in COVID mitigation funds for next year. They said that all of the missed revenue would show up in next year’s budget. They said that the money was not given out during budget hearings for COVID mitigation, so they were giving up the COVID mitigation funds.

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

# 5. [Information] Elections Debrief 5:46pm

**Aaron Yared** recognized Marty Varela, Kira Sue Renfro, and Justin Pothoof for their amazing job at the elections meeting. He asked Britahny Basking if anyone had any problems with the ballot.

**Britahny Baskin** said that only one person emailed her.

**Aaron Yared** said that it was probably due to the Election Committee’s fastidious preparation. He noted that counting the ballots did not take long and surmised that there were no ballot issues. He said that the election was very well done and thanked everyone who helped out.

**Aaron Yared** opened the floor for other comments about the election. He asked people to mention what things could be improved and what went well.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the Bylaw changes needed to be submitted to ensure that the GPSS could continue to administer electronic elections. He said that the Executive Committee still had time to submit those changes or that it could be done early next year.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the progress bar was super helpful and that they enjoyed seeing it during regular Senate meetings. They said that the progress bar was very helpful in elections, especially when everyone knew things were going to run long. They recommended continuing the use of a progress bar moving forward.

**Jules Overfelt** recommended having a dry run of a Zoom meeting or presentation with an audience present. They said that using Zoom features alone in Zoom was different from using Zoom features with somebody else hosting. They said that it would be beneficial to build time in for a dry run of meetings, especially if the HUB did get its upgrade. They recognized that this was a big request for someone’s time.

**Hannah Sieben** said that meetings three hours or longer should have built-in breaks. She said that the Executive Committee could do a better job of building in breaks into the agenda, and said that it would also increase accessibility because it would allow people to step away without missing anything.

**Aaron Yared** said that previous Executive Committees tried to finish meetings as soon as possible so that people could go home as soon as possible. He said that the online environment allowed people to spend more time in the meeting and agreed that adding breaks into meetings was part of the GPSS meeting evolution.

**Ashlee Abrantes** suggested having great food at the GPSS meeting. She said that all the candidates talked about GPSS’s food in the breakout room.

**Aaron Yared** said that it would have been helpful for candidates to have come prepared for some predetermined questions for each position so that if there was a lull in the meeting, the facilitator could give a general question specific to the position. He said that the conflict of interest question that all candidates had to answer in the end was a good question to ask the Vice President of External Affairs candidates and should have been asked of them because it was such an important question for that role.

**Logan Jarrell** said that the familiarity with the elections guide was a little low this year. He suggested that future Election Committees go over important changes and the basics when presenting the Elections Guide. He acknowledged that the “election season” was extended this year. He said that as the process went on and changes continued to be made, the familiarity dropped. He said that some of the questions, had high familiarity been held, could have been bypassed.

**Aaron Yared** said 30 seconds to respond to questions was a bit intense, but that it just came down to prep time.

**Jules Overfelt** said it would be helpful to remind candidates that the 30 seconds started when they began talking. They said that candidates should know not to start talking until they knew what they would say because if they started the period with filler words, then the 30 seconds would fly by. They said that having a list of tips and tricks or lessons from past years could be helpful. They said that this list could include what kinds of questions were asked, that the 30 seconds started when a candidate started talking and that candidates could ask the facilitator to repeat questions. They said that 30 seconds could be very limiting, but that there were ways candidates could help themselves through if they needed a little bit longer to put a thought together.

**Aaron Yared** said he liked the idea of adding a page of tips and tricks or an FAQ page to the Elections Guide.

# 6. [Information] Return to In-person Learning Survey 5:57pm

**Ashlee Abrantes** said she went through the In-person Learning Survey responses with a little team to help her. She said that the survey received over 3,000 responses and that she tried her best to highlight all the trends. She shared her screen to the document of results <[link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G92OvTID8dnNwhxH49a9riJWanYlIsa0/view?usp=sharing)>.

**Ashlee Abrantes** asked the Executive Committee for feedback on her survey report.

**Hannah Sieben** said that the report was well made and had interesting information. She said that she loved seeing how students had or did not have access to health insurance. She said that the 56% range was so large that it was difficult to contextualize. She asked Ashlee Abrantes to break down the percentage further.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that the responses collected were freeform, that people expressed their opinions in so many different ways. She said that she wanted to show the data in a form that was easy to understand and asked Hannah Sieben if she should present a median number or an incremental change.

**Hannah Sieben** said that both were good options. She said that she would like to see statistics like “10% of students are spending over $2,000 a month on health care and nurses,” and “90% of students are spending at least $100.”

**Britahny Baskin** said that was interested in the health information. She referred to the document and said that 288 students did not have health insurance. She suggested that Ashlee Abrantes convert the number to a percentage. She also said that the mental health and wellness graphs were hard to read because she was confused about the scale. She said that it was unclear whether the year label applied to the numbers on the graph’s axis. Britahny Baskin also pointed out that in the section above, titled “Returning Autumn,” the facts should have different colors from the pie chart. She said that she assumed that the fact corresponded to the slices of the pie chart.

**Jules Overfelt** said that the mental health and wellness bar graph might be better portrayed if it were centered around zero. They offered to send Ashlee Abrantes an example and said that it was a great way to juxtapose the data using the same units. They suggested that Ashlee Abrantes convert the “480 students identify themselves as parents and caregivers” to a percentage. They suggested that Ashlee Abrantes increase the font for the number of respondents and create a larger heading with the word “students” in it. They said that the entire report did not have to be in UW colors, but that having something at the top might help it look more official.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that she agreed with being more specific with the numbers of respondents. She said that she could quantify a lot of the figures and that she would be more diligent with trends.

**Jules Overfelt** said that they were confused by the statement “what do you miss about in-person learning?”

**Logan Jarrell** noted that the colors used were colorblind-friendly. He agreed with Jules Overfelt and said that he did not understand the intent of putting the “nothing” response out on its own.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that many people liked the accessibility of online courses. She said that she could not assume that people preferred a virtual experience unless they explicitly said so.

**Logan Jarrell** asked if the question about non-Washington students asked where students were currently located or what their state of residency was.

**Ashlee Abrantes** answered with the former.

**Logan Jarrell** said that Ashlee Abrantes should specify that in the report.

**Logan Jarrell** said it was a little different to say that international students comprised 30% of out-of-state responses because some international students lived in Washington state. He said that the information needed to be clarified or presented differently. He noted that location was extremely important at present time and that the E&A asked in its GPSS Composition Survey.

**Aaron Yared** said that he understood the “nothing” response to mean that graduate and professional students were not benefiting more from in-person classes than from virtual classes.

**Genevieve Hulley** said the “nothing” response was startling and suggested rephrasing the statement “More students stated they miss ‘nothing’ more than interacting with professors [...]” without the use of the word nothing. She suggested that Ashlee Abrantes say something like “Students felt that they had the same level of engagement, even though they were not on campus.”

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that it was hard to extrapolate too much information from freeform questions. She said that many students literally wrote “nothing” or a synonym. She said she could share the survey responses with Genevieve Hulley so that Genevieve Hulley could give her feedback.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that she could give feedback and said that the graphics were visually engaging. She suggested that the counts of non-Washington students be put in a box so that it had the same visual weight.

**Bill Mahoney** thanked Ashlee Abrantes for using a colorblind-friendly color palette. He said that other administrators may interpret the “nothing” response as an indication that the faculty rose to the challenge and were able to accomplish a valuable learning environment experience for people in the context of a pandemic. He said that the administration could credit the faculty, which would have the opposite effect of what the GPSS intended to convey. He said that Ashlee Abrantes should prepare a rebuttal to that interpretation.

**Aaron Yared** said that students often viewed student survey responses with a cynical lens and thanked Bill Mahoney for his perspective.

**Bill Mahoney** noted that 3,000 out of 15,000 was 20%. He said that this was slightly lower than the campus-wide climate survey response rate. He said that if anyone pointed out that the survey respondents only represented about 20% of the graduate and professional student body, Ashlee Abrantes should compare the attention that the climate survey results received and frame the response in a way to use existing comparative data to the GPSS’s advantage.

**Ashlee Abrantes** said that the Return to In-person Learning Survey surpassed the number of climate change survey respondents by a small margin.

**Bill Mahoney** reminded Ashlee that he was playing the administrator’s advocate and posed the question of why the administration would consider the opinions of 20% of the graduate and professional student body. He said that there were other survey results that the UW spent a lot more time and money on. He said that the UW shut down every other survey on campus to give the climate survey attention and commended Ashlee Abrantes for running the survey on the fly. He said that his personal argument for whenever people said that the campus looked good relative to its peers was that the UW should work to protect the people who were most affected by the inequitable systems more than those who felt that things were fine. He said that change should happen for those who were targeted.

**Bill Mahoney** said that the same thing applied to this survey. He said that if a proportion of students responded to a survey, more attention would be given to them just because they filled out the survey.

**Aaron Yared** thanked Ashlee Abrantes for her amazing work.

# 7. [Information] Announcements 6:16pm

**Hannah Sieben** gave a quick update on where ASUW 4121 stood in terms of negotiations. She said that she spoke with David Parsons last week who said that there was just a single sticking point. She said that the stipend amount did not match the cost of living over the next three year period. She said that the UW administration had given their last, best, and final offer as of Friday.

**Hannah Sieben** said that UW administration’s last, best, and final offer was not at the level that the union was prepared to accept and share with graduate students. She said that the administration was not concerned about the timeframe of negotiations, but that there were two programs at risk if things did not move forward in the next month: the U-PASS which was paid for by the UW if a student was a 50% full-time employee and EPIC training which was for sexual misconduct training and onboarding. She expressed dismay that UW had the power to say that the students could not continue to implement those programs that were not protected under the current contract if bargaining was extended.

**Britahny Baskin** said that the percentages offered in the last, best, and final offer was a 2% base pay increase the first year and a 3% increase in the following two years.

**Genevieve Hulley** shared her screen which displayed the new website homepage design. She said that the redesigned website was not yet live. She showed everyone the blog function for announcements, the events tab, buttons, and the contact page. She said that the contact page would be changed to a grid format to reduce scrolling. She said that the website development team met every Wednesday and invited anyone who had any ideas to get in touch with her and Logan Jarrell. She offered to show the redesigned homepage to Senators at the next Senate meeting.

**Aaron Yared** said that the work looked amazing and asked if the layout was responsive for mobile devices.

**Logan Jarrell** said that certain things responded a little differently on mobile devices, such as grids, but that the general answer was yes.

**Genevieve Hulley** said that the webpage had a very friendly user interface. She said that she had discussed with Andy Madrick how the next Officers could update their images during the summer. She encouraged newly elected officers to get in touch with her if they wanted to know more about the website building process. She said one of the new Officers would need the password information after June 15.

**Aaron Yared** said that the website looked amazing and that he was excited to unveil it after it was completed.

**Logan Jarrell** said he did not finish a memorandum on attendance. He said that he was looking at GPSS’s SAGE peer institutions for some advice on how to continue.

**Aaron Yared** suggested that Logan Jarrell speak with Abbie Shew since she was the chair of SAGE.

**Logan Jarrell** said that he had already visited the SAGE website.

**Aaron Yared** said that the presidents of all three campuses met with President Cauce and Provost Richards. He said that they discussed attendance, vaccinations, and COVID-related matters. He said that President Cauce told them that she planned for the fall quarter to be fully in-person. He said that students will most likely be wearing face masks in class, but that social distancing may not be required. He said that the three presidents expressed concern about students spreading COVID through social activities such as parties, especially if a new COVID variant appeared in Washington. He said that UW was taking advantage of its relatively late start to the academic year and that the UW would have a couple of weeks to watch its peer institutions like Washington State University to see how they fared and react accordingly.

**Logan Jarrell** moved to extend time by 2 minutes. **Genevieve Hulley** seconded. No objections.

**Logan Jarrell** asked Aaron Yared if the presidents and Provost Richards had discussed any incentives for students on campus to get vaccines or students who were registered for classes but would not otherwise get a vaccine.

**Aaron Yared** said that they discussed some incentives. He said that there was currently a program where either King County or the city of Seattle teamed up with Dick’s burgers and that vaccinated people could redeem a free burger or a fry. He said that the UW administration wanted to promote the program, but did not discuss other incentives. He said that President Cauce had announced that all students, aside from those with religious or philosophical differences, were required to vaccinate before coming to campus. He said that this would most likely be the case with student-facing faculty and staff as well. He said that President Cauce said that this was also a point to negotiate with the Union that she did not want to speak too much about that. He said that President Cauce was meeting with the Faculty Senate tomorrow for their input.

**Andrew Shumway** announced that this was his last Executive meeting as an Executive Senator. He said that it had been an absolute pleasure to work with everyone for the past two years. He said that he would miss working as an Executive Senator, but that he would be happy to have biweekly Wednesday nights to himself. He said that he would still participate in GPSS and that he would be happy to act as a resource. He said that he looked forward to next year and was excited to see what next year’s Officers would accomplish.

**Aaron Yared** spoke on the behalf of GPSS to thank Andrew Shumway. He said that GPSS appreciated all of Andrew Shumway’s work in the GPSS. He said that he looked forward to Andrew Shumway’s future endeavors and that Andrew Shumway had a bright future ahead of him.

# 8. [Action] Adjournment 6:29pm

**Marty Varela** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Andrew Shumway** seconded. No objections.

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