

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 28 September 2022 at 5:30pm

In-Person and Remotely via Zoom

The following GPSS members and staff attended the meeting:

A.J. Balatico, GPSS President
Davon Thomas, GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs
Joel Anderson, GPSS Vice President of External Affairs
Marty Varela, GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion
Jack Flesher, GPSS Vice President of Administration
Van Mai, GPSS Vice President of Finance
Pratima K.C., Executive Senator
Maleen Kidiwela, Executive Senator
Matthew Mitnick, Executive Senator
~~Brent Seto, ASUW Director of Internal Policy~~
Rene Singleton, SAO Advisor
Carrie Moore, HUB Executive Director
Bill Mahoney, Graduate School Advisor
CJ Bermudes, GPSS Senate Director

The following persons also attended the meeting:

Dr. Ziyang Bai, CIRCLE Representative
Melissa Brown, UW-Transportation Representative
Caryn Walline, UW-Transportation Representative
Lucas Wang, Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee Chair
Trevor Hunt, Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee Director of Operations
Miguel Martinez-Gonzales, Leadership Without Borders Representative

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:33pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

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

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the agenda. Maleen Kidiwela seconded. Matthew Mitnick objected.

Matthew Mitnick reminded the Executive Committee that there were two (2) GPSS vacancies on the University Transportation Committee. He asked that discussion into these vacancies be included in the agenda, if possible.

A.J. Balatico said that a notice to public records has already been submitted and that the vacancies would have to be discussed at the October 12th, 2022 meeting.

No further objections. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Information] President's Update 5:34pm

A.J. Balatico updated the Executive Committee on the GPSS website's progress. He said that members would be able to vote through the website and would allow Senator's control over their respective program page. He also informed members that an all-grad email will be sent out based on the results of this meeting.

4. [Information] CIRCLE Non-Academic Senator Seat Discussion 5:35pm

Dr. Ziyun Bai introduced herself as the Center for International Relations and Cultural Leadership Exchange (CIRCLE) representative. She explained the mission and purpose of CIRCLE, which primarily supports coalition and exchange between international and domestic students. She provided background in her academic biography. She also provided information and statistical data regarding international student populations. She proffered possibility for CIRCLE liaison to sit in GPSS.

Jack Flesher extended thanks to Dr. Ziyun Bai and reminded the GPSS Executive Committee of the upcoming CIRCLE event.

Dr. Ziyun Bai presented the upcoming CIRCLE event flier to the Executive Committee and provided additional information on upcoming CIRCLE events. She also said that CIRCLE hosts professional development workshops, community activities, and possesses programs specific for students who have families in the United States as well.

Pratima K.C. asked if CIRCLE assisted in international student administrative questions. Dr. Ziyun Bai replied that this is on a case-by-case basis, as CIRCLE may not have student record access. Pratima K.C. clarified the question, asking if CIRCLE can assist in interpreting general international student questions. Dr. Ziyun Bai answered in the affirmative. Pratima K.C. looked forward to speaking further with Dr. Bai.

A.J. Balatico notified the committee that there were two (2) minutes left on the matter. will look into the possibility for CIRCLE to possess a non-academic Senate seat.

5. [Information] Leadership Without Borders Non-Academic Seat Discussion
5:44pm

A.J. Balatico entertained possible motion to table the item until the end of the meeting or to a consecutive meeting date.

Jack Flesher motioned to table item until representatives are present to speak on it. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, motion passed.

6. [Action] U-Pass Youth Fare Resolution 5:46pm

Melissa Brown apprised the committee that her team is ready to proceed with the item.

Melissa Brown conducted a presentation on U-PASS fare waiver for students under the age of 19. Brown provided general information on the Student U-PASS program, including the program elements, central funding, and Transportation Demand Management (TDM). She apprised the committee of budgetary caps and the responsibilities of the Student U-PASS Advisory Board. She said that discussion today is strictly on the amendment of the student population that is waived from payment. She said that in March 2022, the State of Washington passed the “Move Ahead Washington” bill that introduced free youth fare for customers 18 and under. Additionally, she added that in order to participate, UW was required to waive fares for students 19 and under. She provided graphics analyzing the youth transit fare fee and its impacts. She said that estimated savings to the U-PASS program would be \$145,000 in FY23 and that the Student U-PASS program had \$5.93M in reserves as of 30 June 2022. She provided clarification that if the resolution is not supported and quarterly fees are still accessed, transit agencies will continue to treat all U-PASS holders the same with no change. She stated that the University would provide a reimbursement to U-PASS users under 19 with fares incurred in Fall 2022.

A.J. Balatico apprised Melissa Brown that time had expired for this item.

Jack Flesher motioned to extend time by five (5) minutes. Joel Anderson seconded. No objections.

Melissa Brown stated that they came to the GPSS meeting to request that a resolution regarding the U-PASS waiver be brought before the Senate.

A.J. Balatico apprised UW-Transportation of GPSS history in legislating transportation resolutions. He clarified that the resolution is inclusive of the economics of

UW-Transportations proposal. He said that a decision on placing this resolution on the agenda would be made within this Executive Meeting.

7. [Information] Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee Update 6:01pm

Lucas Wang informed the Executive Committee that his purpose is to update the committee on Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee happenings. He said that STF is currently onboarding its executive team and taking the opportunity to migrate emails, calendars, and documents off of Google Suite and to Microsoft 365. He said that STF is also establishing bylaws and operational procedures and functions. STF has considered the upcoming proposal cycle. He said that there is no Fall 2022 proposal cycle.

Marty Varela said that she is curious if there is an STF process for emergency proposals.

Lucas Wang said that STF was aware that there are ongoing projects that need attention. He apprised the Executive Committee that there is a blanket extension until December 2022 to avoid fiscal issues and will extend it accordingly to support ongoing projects. He said that more dire situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

A.J. Balatico said that GPSS was looking forward to submitting STF appointees.

8. [Information] ASUW September Update 6:06pm

A.J. Balatico stated that Brent would not be present. He said that he was open to entertaining a motion to table until the next meeting.

Marty Varela motioned to table the item until the next meeting. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, motion passed.

9. [Information] State Legislative Issues Survey 6:07pm

Joel Anderson informed the committee that the survey was created and launched earlier than previous years, with approximately 85 responses as of the meeting. He said that the survey is going well and that the vast majority of students provided insightful feedback on the policy agenda.

A.J. Balatico asked for a recap of what students believed were particularly important.

Joel Anderson said that there was a balanced mix of doctoral and masters students. He said that most students ranked categories and impact at a 3, per the survey parameters. He said that it seemed to be receiving fewer comments of greater detail. Students spoke on

public safety, housing, cost of living, gun control, and DEI issues. He also said that there were a number of students asking about the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. [Information] WSA Fall General Assembly 6:13pm

Joel Anderson informed the committee that the Washington Student Association (WSA) Fall General Assembly was on October 1st and October 2nd, 2022. He apprised the committee that he would be unable to attend the assembly due to prior commitments. He said that the purpose of the assembly was to draft and approve legislative agendas. He said that ASUW and GPSS had two (2) votes at the general assembly. He said that he had not seen or received an agenda for the WSA Fall General Assembly. He noted that both A.J. Baltico and himself had been communicating with Marwa Ali, WSA's Vice President of Graduate and Professional Students, about child care proposals and coordinated with ASUW on a variety of policy issues.

A.J. Balatico informed the committee that there was an outstanding proposal for the divestment from fossil fuels at universities, originally prompted by the Institutional Climate Action (ICA) group.

Rene Singleton reminded the committee that it is preferable if GPSS and ASUW passed separate legislation before promoting the Washington Student Association's legislative agenda.

Joel Anderson informed the committee that he met with the incoming GPSS policy director, Nick Juno. He said that they are collaborating on the production of the first meeting agenda for the legislative advisory board.

11. [Information] Hiring Update 6:17pm

Davon Thomas informed the committee of the extensive GPSS hiring process. He said that joint email communications were disseminated to connect staff. He apprised the committee that there was a failed hire for the organization director position. He believed the issue lied in misinterpretation of roles, responsibilities, and job description. He said that eight (8) staff members were onboarded. He also said that next steps are to plan a staff onboarding orientation and was leaning towards a Saturday for two (2) hours due to scheduling challenges throughout the week.

Van Mai acknowledged Davon's email regarding the budget director position. She posed questions regarding the budget director's start date and usage of office resources.

Davon Thomas said that logins and passwords can be provided to the budget director. He informed Van Mai that office desktops are available for use and that staff schedules up to respective supervisory officers.

Jack Flesher stated that logins and passwords can be found in transition documents.

12.[Action] Senate Agenda Setting 6:23pm

A.J. Balatico conducted a presentation regarding the October 5th, 2022 meeting agenda. He said every agenda item, except COVID-19 review, can be maintained. He explained the rationale for agenda item ordering. He said that some of the Senate roster will be confirmed, allowing for a legitimate vote on academic seat resolutions. He stated that this is not a discussion of merits of agenda items, but simply a matter of item additions, editions, and ordering.

Van Mai said that she thought GPSS must approve the U-PASS fee waiver.

A.J. Balatico asked committee members how they felt regarding the placement of the U-PASS fee waiver approval on the agenda.

The Executive Committee agreed that the U-PASS fee waiver will remain an information item.

A.J. Balatico said that his philosophy was to place action items first due to quorum, followed by information items.

Davon Thomas asked A.J. Balatico what the GPSS overview item will contain.

A.J. Balatico responded that the GPSS overview would include the mission statement and information regarding the organization. He said it would essentially be a condensed version of the orientations.

Davon Thomas asked if there could be GPSS officer introductions at the upcoming Senate meeting.

A.J. Balatico stated that time could be extended for GPSS overview. He asked the committee members how they felt about icebreakers.

Davon Thomas asked that 12 minutes are added to time allotment for GPSS overview.

The Executive Committee agreed upon 25 total minutes for GPSS overview.

Jack Flesher said that a quick icebreaker would be nice to conduct. He also reminded everyone that meetings for the remainder of the calendar year are special meetings. He affirmed that agenda items cannot be added.

A.J. Balatico provided context delineating general meetings from special meetings. He also asked how long the icebreaker should be.

Jack Flesher responded that five (5) minutes should be adequate for an icebreaker.

Marty Varela asked if miscellaneous agenda items could be added to the agenda.

A.J. Balatico responded that in previous meetings, miscellaneous agenda allotments were called “Good of the Order”.

Marty Varela stated that five (5) minutes for “Good of the Order” items should suffice.

A.J. Balatico reminded the committee of the difference between action and information items.

Jack Flesher asked committee members for feedback on parliamentary procedure (“Parli Pro”).

Davon Thomas said that common parliamentary procedure issues should be reviewed. He expressed his belief that seven (7) minutes for parliamentary procedure should be adequate.

Van Mai asked for the difference between GPSS overview and GPSS committee overview.

A.J. Balatico provided a clarification on the difference, with the GPSS overview covering general GPSS information while the GPSS committee overview will cover committee operations and procedures.

Davon Thomas asked if there were actual appointments to committees or if there were elections.

A.J. Balatico replied that Senate votes will be held over individuals with interest in committees. He said that he wanted to recognize that Dr. Brit Baskin has returned as an alumni. He said that he wanted her recognized in an agenda action.

Jack Flesher said that he supported A.J. Balatico's proposal vis-a-vis Dr. Brit Baskin. Marty Varela concurred.

Item set to three (3) minutes.

Jack Flesher asked if people can be shown a list of open liaison positions.

A.J. Balatico answered in the affirmative.

Matthew Mitnick asked if an item regarding UW-Transportation Committee vacancies can be added.

A.J. Balatico responded that applications and preferences for committees are reviewed.

Matthew stated that these vacancies are urgent and proposed that an agenda item for open nominations for the University Transportation Committee be added.

Rene Singleton stated that Executive Committee members could be interim appointees.

Jack Flesher clarified that the ballpark on time with current agenda items would be 90 minutes.

Davon Thomas presented a motion to extend for five (5) minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, motion passed.

A.J. Balatico asked if the U-PASS waiver action should be moved up in the meeting to accommodate guests.

Marty Varela moved to approve the agenda. Maleen Kidiwela seconded. No objections, agenda set.

A.J. Balatico reminded the committee that the agenda cannot change after this approval.

Marty Varela asked that a note be attached to the agenda regarding the miscellaneous items period, stating that all communications should be directed to the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion.

13.[Information] Executive Senator and Officer Updates 6:45pm

Jack Flesher mentioned that GPSS has attended over 45 orientation events and reached over 1000 graduate and professional students. He said that he has received notable interest in the arts council.

Maleen Kidiwela said that he was working on bylaws for the STF committee. He informed the committee that it was not ready to be passed as of this meeting. He also said that they must be passed separately by ASUW and GPSS.

Pratima K.C. informed the committee that she was dealing with a family emergency over Summer 2022 but was ready to get back to GPSS meetings.

Van Mai informed the committee that GPSS has received three (3) applicants for travel grants. She said she was planning to meet with the budget director to finalize the travel plan.

A.J. Balatico provided an update on TABS (Tri-Campus Advisory Board). He said it will begin on October 12th, 2022. He said that GPSS will be meeting with ASUW, Bothell, and Tacoma to select the chair. He informed the committee that the two (2) applicants for the position were Janis Shin and Kaitlyn Laibe, former members of GPSS and ASUW, respectively. He also said that the meeting will not include President Cauce, but will include her executive staff and Provost.

Van Mai asked if there was a guidebook for the GPSS website.

A.J. Balatico replied that the communications director will be working on a style guide for the GPSS website.

Jack Flesher updated the committee that the final agenda has been updated for the upcoming Senate Meeting.

Maleen Kidiwela asked about the upcoming GPSS open house.

A.J. Balatico said that an email communication with details regarding the GPSS open house will be sent. The open house will be in the GPSS office.

14.[Action] Leadership Without Borders Non-Academic Senator Seat Discussion* 6:54pm

Miguel Martinez-Gonzales provided an update from Leadership Without Borders. He apprised the committee about the organization's mission, roles, and responsibilities.

Jack Flesher asked Miguel Martinez-Gonzales how many undocumented students attended UW, and how many are graduate students.

Miguel Martinez-Gonzales said that he does not have the numbers but can get back to the committee.

Maleen Kidiwela asked if Leadership Without Borders was a Registered Student Organization (RSO).

Miguel Martinez-Gonzales replied that the organization was not an RSO.

A.J. Balatico asked what training Leadership Without Borders provides on-campus.

Miguel Martinez-Gonzales replied that they provide trainings that inform individuals on how they can be allies of undocumented students. He said that events and further information will be published in the Leadership Without Borders newsletter.

A.J. Balatico informed Miguel Martinez-Gonzales that action items regarding non-academic Senate seats will be reviewed.

**item was scheduled as item #5 on agenda*

15.[Action] Adjournment 7:04pm

Jack Flesher motioned to adjourn the meeting. Maleen Kidiwela seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

*Meeting minutes prepared by **Clement "CJ" Bermudes Jr**, GPSS Senate Director.*