

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 12 October 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:

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

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

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

Maleen Kidiwela motioned to approve the agenda. Jack Flesher seconded.

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

3. [Action] Approval of Minutes 5:32pm

Jack Flesher motioned to approve minutes. Maleen Kidiwela seconded.

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

4. [Information] Announcements 5:33pm

Carrie Moore informed the Executive Committee that a GPSS appointment to the board of representatives was needed for the fall. She said that a request would be sent.

A.J. Balatico asked when the first board of representatives meeting would be.

Carrie Moore replied that it will be scheduled for sometime in November.

Van Mai asked if a representative has to be a Senator.

A.J. Balatico answered in the negative, can be any graduate student. He informed the Executive Committee that the HUB scholarship application was open until October 31st. He said that the library workers are going on strike from 10:30am to 3:00pm on October 13th, 2022. He confirmed that a quorum was present at the meeting.

5. [Information] ASUW Fall Update 5:36pm

Brent Seto said that ASUW is currently working on filling committee vacancies. He said that ASUW is working on making bylaw amendments. He also said that they are working on their legislative agenda, spearheaded by Alex Davidson.

A.J. Balatico asked what Senate legislation is underway, what has passed, and what is being presented to the board on October 13th.

Brent Seto replied that the Senate had their first meeting last week. He said that they were working on a Campus safety bill.

A.J. Balatico said that there was a parking lot safety bill and two special orders of the day. One in solidarity with the protests in Iran and another related to Leda Health. He asked Brent Seto to summarize the LEDA health proposal.

Brent Seto provided a summary on the Leda health bill. He said that the issue raised with LEDA health was its for-profit model. He said that the kits are also not admissible in court. He also provided a summary on the upcoming bill showing solidarity for the protests in Iran.

A.J. Balatico added that the health programs have authored a message in solidarity with the protests in Iran. He encouraged health Senators to draft a parallel resolution.

6. [Information] Executive Senator and Officer Updates 5:40pm

A.J. Balatico said that this item can be used to make appointments to vacancies.

Matthew Mitnick said that he would like to fill the two (2) vacancies on the UW Transportation Committee on an interim basis.

A.J. Balatico said that there were three (3) positions on the Committee. He said that if filled, this item cannot be re-entertained until the October 26th, 2022 meeting.

Matthew Mitnick motioned to nominate himself as a potential candidate. He described his interest in the Transportation Committee. He said that he believes it is important that graduate students are represented, as he personally faces transportation challenges. He said that there are ways to remedy transportation infrastructure issues on the UW Transportation Committee.

Renee Singleton asked when the nomination and representation starts, and when it will end, as it should be included within the motion.

Matthew Mitnick said it would be from the conclusion of this Executive Committee meeting until November 1st.

A.J. Balatico apprised the Executive Committee that Erica Eggleton graduated, therefore rendering her position on the UW Transportation Committee vacant. He said that there are actually three (3) vacant seats on the committee.

Jack Flesher seconded the motion. No objections, motion was passed. Matthew Mitnick appointed to the UW Transportation Committee on an interim basis.

Matthew Mitnick asked if he could motion to nominate two (2) other graduate students.

Jack Flesher replied that the graduate students must be present at this meeting to accept the nomination.

A.J. Balatico presented a point of personal privilege. He asked captioner Michelle Anderson about the zoom live transcript.

Van Mai provided an update on the travel grant. She said that there were 10 completed applications. She said that GPSS can approve up to seven (7) students per month.

A.J. Balatico provided further context into travel grants, stating that while the full cohort of applications was 25, only some were completed with faculty recommendations and correct budget numbers.

Jack Flesher apprised the Executive Committee that an updated GPSS roster can be found in the Google Drive. He said that there were about 35 confirmed Senators. He also said that there was an appointment vacancy for the College of the Environment Student Advisory Committee.

Van Mai asked how the F&B Committee was formed last year. She said that there were still vacancies on the committee and asked what would be the process if no nominees were presented.

A.J. Balatico said that there was still time for nominees to be presented.

Jack Flesher informed the Executive Committee that time has expired for this item.

7. [Information] Town Hall on Campus and Community Safety Planning
5:51pm

A.J. Balatico updated the Executive Committee on the upcoming town hall. He said that GPSS is in the process of getting faculty panelists, in addition to Sally Clark and UWPD police chief Craig Wilson.

Davon Thomas said that there were scheduling challenges. He said that the current working time for the town hall is 7:30pm-9pm on October 24th, 2022. He said that the majority of planning for the town hall is completed. He also said that food will not be served due to event restrictions.

A.J. Balatico said that the town hall will be moderated to ensure productivity. He said that Don Blakeney will be invited to represent the U-District partnership. He said that there will be other programming to address campus and community safety.

Jack Flesher asked for clarification on the town hall's moderation. He asked if an individual will be moderating the event or if an upvote system will be used to present questions.

A.J. Balatico said that a hybrid system will be employed.

Rene Singleton asked why the Seattle Police Department (SPD) was not invited to the event.

A.J. Balatico responded that it was primarily due to jurisdiction and scheduling challenges. He recognized that the majority of patrols were . He said that they deliberately did not invite UW President Cauce, as she plans to address the issue in a separate forum. He said that the goal was to invite faculty experts and persons directly involved with campus and community safety.

Davon Thomas said that University Presidents usually defer to subordinate administrators. He mentioned the possibility of providing counseling services due to the sensitive nature of the town hall's subject matter.

Brent Seto asked if undergraduates would be able to attend the GPSS town hall.

Davon Thomas replied that he does not feel comfortable denying undergraduates entrance to the town hall.

A.J. Balatico said that undergraduates would be welcome to the event. He said that there will be an entry process and that the webinar will be open to the public. He said that GPSS will not explicitly deny undergraduates, however the target invitation audience has been graduate students. He also said that 700 attendees is the anticipated audience size.

Brento Seto asked if undergraduate outreach would be needed.

A.J. Balatico responded that GPSS was trying to get faculty to encourage growth in generative areas of research, which is more focused on graduate students.

Brent Seto asked if undergraduate students would be able to provide comments at the town hall.

A.J. Balatico answered in the affirmative.

Rene Singleton asked what time the town hall was scheduled for.

Jack Flesher responded that the town hall was scheduled for 7:30pm-9pm, as Kane Hall was only available during that time slot.

A.J. Balatico said that a 700-person capacity was the largest space that could be reserved. He said they wanted to avoid South Campus Center due to its distance. He said that planning for this event was ongoing and was open to feedback.

8. [Action] Senate Agenda Setting 6:07pm

A.J. Balatico presented the proposed agenda for the October 19th, 2022 GPSS Meeting. He informed the Executive Committee that the website was operational for voting purposes. He said that comments will be locked in by 5:30pm on Monday, October 17th, 2022 due to GPSS bylaws.

Jack Flesher confirmed that comments will be locked in 48 hours prior to the GPSS Meeting on October 19th.

A.J. Balatico informed the Executive Committee that four (4) Executive Senator positions are vacant. He said that he has received some nominations for the positions. He said that the positions were open until filled. He said that email announcements regarding F&B Committee vacancies can be sent. He also said that the Arts Council, the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB), the Diversity Committee, Science and Policy, and Travel Grants are open to graduate students.

Jack Flesher apprised the Executive Committee that one (1) Senator showed interest in serving on the Judicial Committee.

A.J. Balatico said that Officer & Committee Reports could be shortened by directing Senators to the website for updates.

Joel Anderson asked if officers could update or edit the website.

A.J. Balatico responded that GPSS Office Director Astrid Hunter is working on providing website access to GPSS officers.

Rene Singleton said that officer promotion and exposure to the Senate body was important.

A.J. Balatico responded that a quick information item could be added to provide an opportunity for officers to introduce themselves and promote their respective committees.

Davon Thomas asked if the Officer and Committee Reports item should be retained for this purpose.

A.J. Balatico responded that a truncated version can be retained. He also asked the Executive Committee if they were unopposed to the agenda order. He also asked if the Icebreaker item would still be necessary for the upcoming Senate Meeting.

Jack Flesher said that he believed the Icebreaker item would be useful as it was only the second GPSS Senate Meeting and new GPSS Senators were still being confirmed. He expressed his position on zoom usage vis-a-vis working groups and the logistics behind connecting in-person attendees with zoom attendees for working group deliberations.

A.J. Balatico asked Brent Seto if ASUW Committee Meetings were hybrid.

Brent Seto responded that this decision was up to the respective Committee Chair.

Van Mai said that she would recite the Land Acknowledgement.

Jack Flesher proposed the Icebreaker prompt and agreed to sponsoring the Icebreaker item.

Davon Thomas asked for clarification on the GPSS Website for Confirmed Senators item.

A.J. Balatico responded that the purpose of the item was to introduce Senators to the GPSS online voting system, which requires a UW netID. He said that the item may take more than 15 minutes, but no more than 30 minutes to cover.

Davon Thomas asked if the GPSS Senate Director email could ask Senators to provide a biography.

The Executive Committee agreed to reduce the GPSS Website for Confirmed Senators item from 30 minutes to 20 minutes.

Davon Thomas asked about the candidate speech timing for the Executive Senator Elections.

A.J. Balatico responded that in the past, three (3) minutes was provided to each candidate.

Jack Flesher said that the Working Group item time could be reduced from 25 minutes to 15 minutes.

Van Mai motioned to approve the agenda. Maleen Kidiwela seconded. No objections, motion passed.

9. [Information] Good of the Order 6:22pm

Jack Flesher asked if there was enough information to provide an update on the upcoming town hall event.

Davon Thomas responded that GPSS leadership could definitely update the Senate on the town hall.

Jack Flesher extended a welcome Executive Committee guests.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) introduced herself as a guest of the Executive Committee. She expressed her interest in an Executive Senator position.

10. [Action] Adjournment 6:32pm

Jack Flesher motioned to adjourn the meeting. Davon Thomas seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

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