

THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 19 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:

Elizabeth Lee, 2022-2023 UW Student Regent

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

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

2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:34pm

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) motioned to approve the agenda. Pratima K.C. seconded.

No objections. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:35pm

Van Mai, on behalf of the GPSS, gave the land acknowledgement.

4. [Information] Announcements 5:36pm

A.J. Balatico reminded the Senate about the HUB scholarships, which are due on October 31st.

Carrie Moore added that HUB scholarship applications are due at the close of business on October 31st.

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate about the UW Graduate School Public Lecture Series. He also informed the Senate about the Husky Leadership Certificate Mentor program. He said that the GPSS Town Hall on Safety will be on November 3rd at 7:30pm in Kane Hall 130.

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) updated the Senate about the UW Transportation Committee and an upcoming proposal that would instate hostile architecture against homeless individuals. He said that the proposal will be entertained on October 24th at 11am. He also announced that this meeting would be his last meeting as a GPSS Senator.

Jack Flesher reminded the Senate to fill out the GPSS attendance form.

Rene Singleton asked how many individuals were present on Zoom.

A.J. Balatico responded that there were over 30 participants on Zoom. He introduced Elizabeth Lee, the UW Student Regent.

Elizabeth Lee introduced herself and informed the Senate on her role as the UW Student Regent for the academic year 2022-2023. She thanked GPSS for having her.

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate that Elizabeth Lee's email is stureg@uw.edu.

5. [Information] Quick Icebreaker 5:42pm

A.J. Balatico introduced the meeting icebreaker: "What are your names, pronouns, and program? What is one word you find beautiful based on how it sounds, but not what it means?" He apprised the Senate that the icebreaker prompt was authored by Jack Flesher.

6. [Information] GPSS Overview 5:51pm

A.J. Balatico presented the GPSS Overview slideshow. He apprised the Senate of the Executive Senator election and nomination process. He raised a point of personal privilege and asked Michelle Anderson about the zoom captioning feature. He read the GPSS mission statement, presented the GPSS organizational chart, defined the GPSS Executive Committee, and introduced his role as GPSS President.

Davon Thomas introduced himself and described his role as GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs. He said that he oversees GPSS event programming, staff hiring, and communications and creative work.

Joel Anderson introduced himself and described his role as GPSS Vice President of External Affairs. He said that he supervises the GPSS Policy Director and GPSS Legislative Organizing Director.

Marty Varela introduced herself and described her role as GPSS Vice President of Equity and Inclusion.

Van Mai introduced herself and described her role as GPSS Vice President of Finance. She said that she oversees the GPSS travel grants.

Jack Flesher introduced himself and described his role as GPSS Vice President of Administration. He said that he oversees the GPSS Arts Council and is charged with records, attendance, and Senator confirmations. He also said that he is the Senate parliamentarian.

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate that GPSS social media will be shared. He presented the GPSS operating budget, amounting to \$612,000.

7. [Information] GPSS Website for Confirmed Senators 6:03pm

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate about the online GPSS voting system for Senators. He said that the system utilizes single sign-on (SSO) via a UW netID. He also asked Senators to submit a 400x400 image and short biography for the GPSS website. He informed the Senate that the next Senate meeting is November 2nd.

8. [Information] Attendance Vote 6:05pm

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate that there was an attendance vote, accessible via the posted QR codes and Google Form.

9. [Action] Resolution in Support for Classified UW Staff Represented by SEIU 925 6:05pm

A.J. Balatico apprised the Senate of the resolution amendment process.

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) read his Resolution in Support for Classified UW Staff Represented by SEIU 925.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked if UW custodial staff were designated as classified UW staff.

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) responded that some staff may be a part of the classified staff population. He asked the GPSS President if amendments can be made.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) presented an amendment to the resolution, adding the word “custodians” to the respective WHEREAS clause.

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) accepted the amendment as friendly. He informed the Senate that he has been working with SEIU 925 since Summer 2022. He said that it was important that GPSS was supportive of UW colleagues.

A.J. Balatico asked if the interim Dean of the UW School of Medicine should be added to the forwarding clause. He also asked if the forwarding clause could be amended to avoid formatting errors.

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) accepted the amendments as friendly.

Jack Flesher motioned to extend time by five (5) minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) requested clarification on the resolution terminology. She asked if this particular item was legislation or a resolution.

A.J. Balatico responded that this was a resolution, as GPSS cannot make or enforce law. He said that this resolution serves as an item of support and recommendation.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) presented an amendment to substitute the word “resolution” with the existing word “legislation”.

Davon Thomas motioned to adopt the resolution. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the resolution moved on to a vote.

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate of the QR code voting process and which individuals are able to vote. He said that confirmed GPSS Senators and organization representatives to GPSS could vote on items.

Requisite affirmative votes received, resolution passes.

10. [Action] Officer and Committee Reports 6:24pm

Jack Flesher updated the Senate that the GPSS roster is approximately 50-60 people. He said that GPSS needs more program representation. He informed the Senate that each graduate or professional program is allotted two (2) Senate seats.

Joel Anderson updated the Senate on the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB). He said that the legislative survey is coming to a close. He said that LAB will be meeting on October 20th in HUB 307. He said that LAB will be drafting a legislative agenda to be presented to the Senate. He said that the legislative reception with ASUW will be on Monday, December 5th.

Jack Flesher informed the Senate that the Arts Council will begin meeting next week.

Davon Thomas informed the Senate that the GPSS staff orientation will occur on Saturday, October 22nd. He said that those interested in the Science & Policy Committee should contact him at gpssvpin@uw.edu.

Van Mai updated the Senate on the GPSS travel grant. She said that she continues to receive widespread interest in the travel grant program. She said that she was looking for an individual to fill the final vacancy on the Finance & Budget Committee. She said that those interested should contact her at gpssvptfb@uw.edu.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked when the F&B Committee met.

Van Mai responded that meetings will occur on Fridays from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked if a student from UW-Bothell who works at the UW-Seattle campus can apply for the travel grant.

A.J. Balatico responded in the negative, stating that travel grant funds come from UW-Seattle internal fees.

Van Mai informed the Senate that a travel grant rubric can be found on the GPSS travel grant website page.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked about an outstanding travel grant from Spring 2022.

Van Mai asked Meshell Sturgis to email her.

A.J. Balatico said that he has met with various Deans affiliated with the health inter-professional groups.

Meshell Sturgis (Communications) motioned to extend by five (5) minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, motion passed.

A.J. Balatico said that he was attempting to nominate a student for the Access in Learning Committee. He said that the committee was led by Vice Provost Phil Reed. He also said that GPSS must nominate a student to the Teaching & Learning Committee.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked Marty Varela about 21 graduate students who were not compensated for participating in podcasts in the previous academic year.

Bill Mahoney responded that he will be working on this issue this week.

11. [Action] GPSS Committee Appointments and Executive Senator Elections 6:39pm

Jack Flesher presented a point of order, informing the Senate about the current action item.

A.J. Balatico said that five (5) to nine (9) senators are needed to self-nominate for the Finance and Budget Committee. He introduced the role of the F&B Committee. He also

introduced the Judicial Committee and said that the GPSS Vice President of Equity and Inclusion sits on the committee as a non-voting member. He said that at-least four (4) at-large Senators and at least one (1) Executive Senator are needed for the Elections Committee. He informed the Senate that compensation is available for the four (4) Executive Senator positions.

Jack Flesher said that those interested in running for Executive Senator positions should contact him.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) asked when the Executive Committee would entertain the Judicial Committee findings.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked if Executive Senators from the previous academic year were compensated.

Davon Thomas said that he was compensated for his time as an Executive Senator. He said that he was paid later than the initial payment date.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked if all other Executive Senators have been compensated.

Marty Varela said that she was compensated for her time as an Executive Senator.

Jon Choi (Foster School of Business) nominated himself for the F&B Committee.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) nominated herself for the F&B Committee.

A.J. Balatico asked for nominations for Executive Senator positions.

Gianarra asked if the Judicial and Elections Committee elections were being delayed.

A.J. Balatico responded that Executive Committee and F&B Committee nominations will be entertained first.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) nominated herself for the Executive Committee.

Sachin Nayak (Electrical and Computer Engineering) nominated himself for the Executive Committee.

Jack Flesher indicated that only confirmed Senators can hold Executive Senator positions. He said that while currently unconfirmed, Sachin's nomination may be voted on, however the seat may not be filled until a confirmation is made.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) addressed the Senate regarding her nomination for an Executive Senator seat. She introduced herself as a first-year PhD student in Chemistry.

Jack Flesher motioned to extend time for seven (7) minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Sachin Nayak (Electrical and Computer Engineering) addressed the Senate regarding his nomination for an Executive Senator seat.

A.J. Balatico moved the item to a vote via QR code ballot. He reported the number of votes for the record. He said that vote results will be published on the GPSS website. He asked for nominations for the Judicial Committee.

Megan Koretz (Architecture) nominated herself for the Judicial Committee.

Julia Saucedo (Architecture) asked what the time commitment for the Judicial Committee was like.

Jack Flesher apprised the Senate that GPSS bylaws require the Judicial Committee to meet at least once per quarter.

Julia Saucedo (Architecture) nominated herself for the Judicial Committee.

Gianarra nominated herself for the Judicial Committee.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) nominated herself for the Judicial Committee.

A.J. Balatico asked for two (2) additional nominations for the Judicial Committee. Hearing no additional nominations, he deferred the Judicial Committee vote to the next Senate meeting. He asked for nominations for the Elections Committee.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) nominated herself for the Elections Committee.

A.J. Balatico, hearing no additional nominations, deferred the Elections Committee vote to the next Senate meeting.

Jack Flesher announced that Ella Spurlock and Sachin have been elected as Executive Senators.

12.[Action] Working Groups 7:11pm

A.J. Balatico introduced the Senate to the working groups framework. He said that GPSS will find a way to incorporate in-person and Zoom participants within working groups. He said that working groups were ad-hoc in nature. He also said that his working group will cover healthcare and human rights resolutions. He apprised the Senate that Jack Flesher will be covering the arts and humanities, Davon Thomas will supervise safety town hall event logistics, Joel Anderson will supervise the legislative agenda work, Marty Varela will cover DEI issues, and Van Mai will supervise finance/budget/planning working groups, respectively.

James Sherrell (Nutritional Sciences) asked for clarification regarding working groups and committees.

A.J. Balatico responded that while working groups are not committees and are meant to connect Senators on specific challenges or issues, they can become ad-hoc committees.

Saiya Karamali (Linguistics) said that she would like to form an academic policies working group.

The Senate divided into respective working groups.

13.[Information] Good of the Order 7:30pm

A.J. Balatico said that he hoped the working groups were enjoyable and served the purpose of being generative and deliberative bodies.

14.[Action] Adjournment 7:32pm

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meshell Sturgis seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

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