

GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17th 2021, 5:30pm at HUB 332 and via Zoom

Members present:

GPSS President Aaron Yared
GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Gabrielle Rivera
~~GPSS Vice President of External Affairs Payton Swinford~~
GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion Meshell Sturgis
GPSS Vice President of Finance A.J. Balatico
GPSS Senate Clerk Janis Shin
Executive Senator Marty Varela
~~Executive Senator Britahny Baskin~~
Executive Senator Ashlee Abrantes
Executive Senator Malikai Bass
ASUW Director of Internal Policy Nicole Hishmeh
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 5:43pm

Aaron Yared called the meeting to order at 5:43pm.

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:43pm

Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) motioned to amend the agenda to add "A.A. Department Problem" after the Senate Check-in item.

Mengyuan Wang (Aeronautics & Astronautics) seconded.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) motioned to amend the agenda and add a first reading of a resolution after agenda item 8.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) seconded.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned for a friendly amendment to have Matthew Mitnick's (Evans School of Public Administration) resolution read after the legislative agenda to make sure that there was a quorum to pass the legislative agenda.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) accepted the amendment. No objections.

Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) moved to approve the amended agenda. **Davon Thomas (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:48 pm

Gabby Rivera moved to approve the minutes.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) seconded.

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:48pm

Aditya Ramnathkar 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. [Information] Icebreaker 5:48pm

Aaron Yared said that this time, the icebreaker question would also be the Senate check-in question. He asked senators "What campus resource do you love? What campus resource do you wish was available?"

Senators were sent to breakout rooms for ten minutes.

6. [Information] Senate Check-In 5:58pm

Aaron Yared commented that it looked like everyone wished for food. He said that he should have separated out the questions to ask what people appreciated and what people wanted more of. He invited people to verbally share or use the chat to share what resources they wished they had on campus? Or, what resources they loved and could not live without.

Meshell Sturgis read the comments in the chat:

Angela Yang (Business Administration) wrote "Would love it if GPSS funds could go towards food for events."

Cassie Maz (Linguistics) wrote "The Student Technology Loan Program saved me last summer!"

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) wrote "I wish our hospital and laboratory IDs could be combined with our husky cards instead of being separate badges."

Aaron Yared thanked everyone for their responses and said that he hoped people had learned about the existence of certain resources from others. He remarked that there were plenty of

hidden gems on campus, but that there were also plenty of things that could be improved and added to make life easier.

Janis Shin said that she felt that Aaron Yared was moving on too fast. She asked what the GPSS could do to address Rachel Jecker's (Medicine) concern.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS could try talking to the administration, but that the system was currently set up that way because the hospital and laboratory were owned by two separate entities. He said that the GPSS could look into it and asked Rachel Jecker (Medicine) to follow up with him after the meeting.

A.J. Balatico read **Malikai Bass's (Museology)** comment in the chat:

Malikai Bass (Museology) wrote "I wish we had more consideration for disabled people in the campus' infrastructure. One issue is hand rails. On the slight hill leading to campus from the U-District station, there is only a handrail on the far left side where most people walk down. So, when I need to walk up that area using the handrail people bump into me. I don't understand why we cannot or do not have two handrails. This is also an issue with the stairs near Red Square and other places."

Aaron Yared acknowledged Malikai Bass's (Museology) complaint and said that there was a lot to be desired from the infrastructure at UW. He said that a big reason for the current state of infrastructure was because many of UW's buildings were super old. He said that the GPSS did not know what conversations were had when the buildings had been designed. He said that the GPSS brought the issue up to the administration every year and that the administration dismissed the issue with the excuse that adding such infrastructure would be expensive. He hoped that given last year's COVID situation, the GPSS could try to put pressure on the administration to improve their efforts. He said that it was an uphill battle.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) said that they had noticed accessibility issues in a lot of places in the medical school, too. They said that many interior doors that required tap access to unlock needed to be pulled open and were not equipped with an automatic door-opening button. They said that these doors were not ADA compliant and failed to meet the bare minimum standard.

Aaron Yared said that he was interested to see if the newer buildings that had been built in the past 15 to 20 years had any serious ADA issues. He said that the administration had cited building accessibility issues on the fact that the buildings in question were old. He said that it was inexcusable for newer buildings to have any accessibility issues. He asked if anyone knew of any accessibility issues in newer buildings.

Jacob Gershon said that one of the downstairs loading dock areas of the Molecular Engineering building. He added that he had spoken with his student cohort and said that, as a first year graduate student, he thought there were very limited quality food options on campus.

He asked if anything could be done to make food options more accessible not only spatially, but temporally as well.

Jacob Gershon asked how much energy the Drumheller fountain required. He asked if the money used to run Drumheller fountain could be diverted to producing food for people on campus.

Aaron Yared said that it was a great idea.

Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) motioned to extend time by 2 minutes.

Mengyuan Wang (Aeronautics & Astronautics) seconded.

Meshell Sturgis offered a friendly amendment and asked if the Senate could come back to this item after announcements so that the Senate could maintain quorum for voting matters.

Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) accepted the amendment to the motion.

No objections.

7. [Information] Aeronautics & Astronautics Department Problem 6:08pm

Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) said that the Aeronautics & Astronautics (AA) Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) was a student organization recognized by the AA department. He said that the GSAC functioned according to its Constitution and Bylaws which was passed by the majority of the students in the AA department. He said that the department had initiated the GSAC's establishment. He said that the GSAC's Constitution and Bylaws required that the student representative in the GSAC to be elected by a student majority vote through a fair election. He said that this election process had run successfully for the past four years. He said that the GSAC was not a registered student organization, but was recognized by the AA department on its website. He said that other engineering departments had similar student organizations, such as the electrical and computer engineering department's Student Advisory Council and the mechanical engineering department's Mechanical Engineering Department's Graduate Student Association.

Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) said that the AA department had suddenly decided to ignore the GSAC's Constitution and Bylaws which were passed by a majority of AA students and had been in place for many years. He said that the AA department had overridden the election and how the GSAC functioned by having the chair of the department directly appoint a student representative. He said that this had brought concern and discomfort to graduate students in the AA department. He asked if there was any policy in the school level or College of Engineering level that protected the independence of student associations, especially if they had their own Constitutions and Bylaws. He asked if any other department had faced a similar problem and asked the GPSS for advice. He asked how the AA students could help fix this issue. He invited people to ask questions.

Aaron Yared asked the Senate if anyone else had faced a similar situation. He noted the silence and interpreted it as a negative to his question. He acknowledged the unusual situation. He said that if the AA department was not following the student organization's Constitution and Bylaws, the student organization could refuse to recognize the chair-appointed student as the student representative and continue to select its own through the process that was laid out in the Constitution and Bylaws. He said there were no mechanisms to hold the AA department's administration accountable for their actions. He said that, to his understanding, the only two student organizations that could hold the administration accountable for not following policies were the GPSS and ASUW, but only at a very high level, not at the school level. He said that the GPSS could send a message of disapproval to the AA department and try to get some explanation on why the administration is acting that way.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked if the GPSS funded the student organization in question through any departmental allocations. He asked if any of the GPSS grants were impacted by the situation.

Aaron Yared answered no to both questions. He said that the situation was specific to the school. He asked Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) to follow up with the GPSS leadership so that the GPSS leadership could reach out to the department and get a straightforward answer on what was happening. He said that the GPSS could help Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) write a resolution and stated that the GPSS did not condone the administration abusing its relationship with the student body.

Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) thanked everyone for their time and said he appreciated any help and support from the GPSS.

8. [Information] Liaison Program 6:14pm

Aditya Ramnathkar introduced himself as the GPSS Director of University Affairs and as a graduate student in the Information School's information management program. He said that he was here to introduce the GPSS liaison program. He said that GPSS liaisons represented graduate and professional students across campus when making university-wide decisions in various committees and task forces. He said that GPSS liaison representatives were expected to attend those committee meetings; engage with the conversations, research, planning; make decisions; and submit feedback to the GPSS so that the GPSS could track how the meetings and committee decision-making processes were being facilitated across campus. He encouraged everyone to publicize this opportunity to their respective graduate programs so that the GPSS could start matching up applicants to committees and have applicants start attending the various meetings scheduled for this quarter as well as for the rest of the academic year.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked when the application was due and who would match up the applicants to the committees.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that the opportunity was a volunteering opportunity and that the application form inquired what topics and issues the applicant was interested in participating in. He said that based on the interest, he and Aaron Yared would map them to the appropriate committee. He said that the application would be open until Thanksgiving weekend.

Aaron Yared thanked Aditya Ramnathkar and said that this position was a great opportunity for students to network within their own departments. He said that he would probably not have gotten into law school if it were not for the fact that he had so many connections because he had sat on many committees at UW before he applied.

Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) said that the faculty council on information technology and cybersecurity is specifically looking for a GPSS representative.

Aaron Yared agreed and said that many decisions were made on faculty councils. He said that the GPSS needed graduate students in those conversations. Else, people would make decisions for graduate students without their input.

9. [Information] Resolution First Reading 6:18pm

A.J Balatico read his [resolution](#) condemning recent and future racist and discriminatory graffiti on UW's campus verbatim.

A.J Balatico said that he wanted to discuss this topic after speaking with affected graduate students, especially those in the College of Engineering and the College of Education. He said that the students were frustrated by the lack of transparency on what exactly happened and who the affected parties were. He said that the administration's response to the graffiti was that they were mobilizing all the things that they could do. He said that the administration was satisfied with their response because they deemed the situation to be stable. He said that students were concerned with safety and the possibility of future violence on campus. He said that the second reading of this resolution would be held on December 8th and invited everyone to publicly comment on this resolution.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) asked what specific goal A.J. Balatico was trying to accomplish with this resolution. He asked if the goal was to send a message to the administration and UWPD. He said that the GPSS did not need a resolution to send an all-campus email or to host a town hall. He said that the GPSS was more likely to be taken seriously by the administration and achieve its goals if the GPSS clearly and concretely laid out what it wanted from the administration.

A.J Balatico said that one of the concerns from the long comment chain on the actual resolution was related to whether the GPSS should have a separate resolution specifically about UWPD's reporting procedures. He said that the GPSS could not legislate what the UWPD did; the GPSS could only make recommendations on behalf of the students. He said that he could ask for opinions through a town hall or survey, but that the resolution established the

GPSS's stance and why the GPSS was committed to resolving the issue. He said making a public declaration of the GPSS intentions would also serve to invite feedback from the Senate. He said that the GPSS could not address this issue unless it came up. He said that, in his personal opinion, if the GPSS did not do something as a student government, then the GPSS was complicit in the status quo of how the UWPD conducted its business. He said that the resolution was a way for students to formalize their opinions. He said that the resolution would be sent to individuals in the Office of Student Life who would be notified of how graduate students felt about this topic. He said that the GPSS would have the ability to address UWPD through the Office of Student Life.

10. [Action] Legislative Agenda Second Reading 6:28pm

Aaron Yared said that he would read a statement on Payton Swinford's behalf because Payton Swinford was currently in class.

Gabby Rivera pointed out that Lauren Newton and Joel Anderson were also present.

Aaron Yared said that Payton Swinford was technically also on the Zoom call and commenced reading Payton Swinford's statement:

Senate, I am currently in class and am joining on mute. If there are super important questions, I can step out and talk for a quick moment, but this new agenda just makes a few alterations based on feedback, so I'm hoping there won't be any confusion.

At the first reading, there were three main areas that feedback suggested we should include more about that subject. Undocumented students. After doing more research we found that previous legislation to improve education access for undocumented students has not solved the intended barriers. Further improvement is still needed for the new undocumented student loan program, and that is now reflected on the agenda. Things specific to DACA students are mostly federal level policies and are not reflected on the agenda specifically. There are more limitations on the scope of our federal level work.

Next is housing. Housing is an expense that makes education far less affordable. Funding specifically to subsidize housing is a less efficient way to get aid to students than giving students direct cash. Another issue area that was explored was policies that generally make housing more affordable. I don't see a strategic path that leads to more dense housing development. However, as an alternative to lobbying on this issue, I will be looking for more ways to bring student voices to those more local policy discussions. What I am envisioning falls outside the scope of what needs to be represented in our official agenda. I can explain that more offline if you are curious. Finally, we did include one additional policy about supporting a program that helps students experiencing homelessness.

And then finally, safety. We had some valuable discussions about safety on campus, but I don't want to pretend that we are ready to introduce any safety related legislation during this upcoming legislative reception. Due to it being a short session, the best strategy for tackling this issue area will be to begin the work to develop a thoughtful policy to introduce next year.

Aaron Yared asked that the legislative agenda be shared on the screen. He asked if anyone had questions, comments or concerns?

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he appreciated the discussion at the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB) meeting following the first reading of the Legislative Agenda. He said that he felt that his comments and concerns had been addressed and that he supported the current draft of the Legislative Agenda.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) raised a point of information and asked if the senators could be shown the amendments?

Aaron Yared said that there had been no major changes. He suggested that Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) look through the revision history himself.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) noted that one of the changes was improving undocumented student loan program options. He asked if that was the only major amendment.

Aaron Yared said yes. He said that according to Payton Swinford's statement, it seemed that there was a change to "students experiencing homelessness," under the Barriers section. He said that the changes highlighted on the shared screen.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said he could not see the changes because the screen ended at Accessibility Infrastructure. He thanked Aaron Yared.

Philip Leung (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) asked if the word "homelessness" could be changed to "houselessness."

Joel Anderson said that Payton Swinford had the final decision, but that he thought the change was fine.

Aaron Yared asked Payton Swinford to write his opinion in the chat.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said he thought it was important for the GPSS to add a point under Wellness stating that the GPSS supported public funding for basic health services. He understood the concern that had been raised about the GPSS lobbying on issues that were not received as student-specific. He admitted that he had been on the fence about this matter until he had discussed the financial state of Hall Health in the GPSS Discord.

He pointed out the financial impact of increased EPIC fees on Hall Health, the many replies to the GPSS's legislative issues survey about how many people were unable to access health care services, and his own experience attempting to get a vitamin D test this summer (which, after eight phone calls to different organizations, ended up with him finding out that it was not covered by insurance and would cost over \$100 though it was prescribed by his health care provider). He felt that the GPSS should have language in the Legislative Agenda stating that the GPSS supported action by the State of Washington to pay for healthcare for people in the State of Washington and to bargain for lower prices given the rising prices for healthcare services which, as far as he could tell, threatened the solvency of Hall Health as an entity.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to amend the to add “public funding for basic health services” as the final bullet point under Wellness. **Rachel Jecker (Medicine)** seconded.

Payton Swinford objected. He said that his general philosophy for the agenda was to only include things that he would work on. He said that legislators would not care about his perspective on some of the bigger policy ideas that were not directly related to students. He said that he did not want the agenda to mislead the GPSS by indicating that he was working on this specific issue when he was not.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) thanked Payton Swinford for his feedback. He said that he had been on the fence about bringing the issue to light. He said that given the points about the financial solvency of Hall Health connected to rising costs of EPIC that were raised in the LAB's Discord channel, he thought that this was an issue that the GPSS needed to work on. He said that if the GPSS did not work on it, the GPSS would see the impact in its own healthcare system on campus.

Aaron Yared directed everyone to vote on Alexander Novokhodko's (Mechanical Engineering) motion through Poll Everywhere.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) to explain the situation of Hall Health's funding. He said that he assumed that if it were a big issue, the administration would work to address it. He asked if the fact that the administration was not doing anything about it signaled that it was not a big issue.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that he copied the Discord discussion into the Zoom chat. He said that the discussion pertained to Hall Health and EPIC.

Aaron Yared read the chat:

“Ultimately, Hall Health visits for students are going to be affected by our SAF allocation, and we expect an increase of \$1M/year due to keeping EPIC electronic medical records (currently we have a \$750k discounted rate, but EPIC wants to charge the normal rate of \$1.7M based on the size of Hall Health). For context, SAF grows around \$750k per year, so there is no way we'd be able to cover that increase for this upcoming year if we keep

EPIC; alternatives are tough since it will require a transition to another medical record system and it'll be different from what UWMC uses.”

Aaron Yared said that based on that discussion, Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) was advocating for public funding for health services.

Lauren Newton introduced herself as the GPSS Organizing Director. She said that the problem statement under Wellness read “that students are at high risk of avoiding care if there are high out of pocket costs.” She said that while the problem statement was not a specific action item, it did include Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) point. She said that this opened the conversation to Hall Health’s funding. She agreed with Payton Swinford that there was not much the GPSS could specifically work on, so putting Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) point down as an action item might be misleading. She also said that it would be more difficult to have a conversation about it, since it was so specific.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked if the current language in the problem statement was sufficient enough for the GPSS to lobby for public funding for health services such as Hall Health.

Lauren Newton said that she did not have an exact answer on whether it was sufficient or insufficient. She said that the statement recognized the problem which could lead to many different conversations. She said that Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) point on Hall Health was excellent.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that as someone who would lobby legislators on the topic that Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) had brought up, he personally felt that the language in the Wellness section specifically covered Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) concerns. He cautioned against adding extraneous language that could potentially take away from other points.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that if there was a clear statement from any of the LAB staff that the current language under the Wellness section related to out-of-pocket costs gave them the necessary tools to lobby for state support for Hall Health and bargaining on graduate students’ behalf, he would withdraw his motion. He said that since he was not hearing a clear statement that the current language in the agenda gave that tool, he would keep his motion until he heard so. He said that the legislative agenda was fundamentally a tool for the GPSS to lobby, and that he wanted to make sure that the GPSS had the tool.

Joel Anderson said that he wanted to reiterate the same points that Payton Swinford and Lauren Newton had made. He said that the LAB staff wanted to be as transparent and accountable as possible to the principles listed in the Legislative Agenda. He said that the LAB staff could stress the need for better access to mental and physical health care and include public funding options as part of their discussions on student health and wellness. He said he deferred the decision to Payton Swinford and wanted to make sure that the Legislative Agenda

was as accurate as possible in describing what the LAB staff would talk to legislators about this year.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to close debate. **Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

The motion passed 15-7-3 and the Legislative Agenda was amended.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) moved to pass the Legislative Agenda through general consent. **Rachel Jecker (Medicine)** seconded. No objections.

Aaron Yared thanked Joel Anderson, Lauren Newton, Payton Swinford, and LAB members for all their work.

11. [Information] University District Crisis Response Team Resolution 6:56pm

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he wanted to make sure that everyone received a copy of his resolution. He put a link to it in the Zoom chat and on Discord. He thanked everyone for letting him amend the agenda to discuss his resolution. He said that the resolution was a joint effort and that the individuals in the back of the meeting room were his colleagues from ASUW. He said that the purpose of the legislation was to create a University District crisis response team. He prefaced by saying that he would give background and explain some of the conversations that had led up to the resolution before going over the final clauses which were called on the GPSS to take action.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that one of the first crisis response teams in the U.S. was started in Eugene, Oregon, in 1989. He said that the purpose of a crisis response team was to respond to nonviolent or mental health related calls. He said that the crisis response team was composed of community paramedics and social workers who attended the call first. He said that he included some statistics about the crisis response team in the legislation. He said that about 24,000 calls were triaged in New York City in 2019 and that only about 150 required police backup which was less than 1%. He said that the constant critique about crisis response teams was that police were required on the scene of crisis. He pointed out that something like this is, oh, what if the police need to be there. He referred to the statistic and said that the evidence for police presence was not there. He said that if a situation was triaged appropriately, then there was no need for guns when responding to the crisis.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that there was additional data that the senators could review. He said that this data outlined the need for the crisis response team. He said that he and his team had considered implementing the crisis response team both on and off campus because many UW students lived off campus. He noted that students who live off campus interacted with many public systems whether they commuted by walking or taking the bus, for

example. He said that the crisis response team should not just be limited to city or state grounds. He said that there was clear evidence that the Seattle police department had been extremely problematic, violent, and biased. He said that members of the community had called on the city to specifically implement some sort of crisis response model. He said that people who had attended the Seattle city council's budget hearings would know that there was some pending legislation around this topic. He said that he and his team were pursuing a potential partnership with the city.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) explained that Seattle currently operated on a co-responder model which meant that in addition to a service provider or a mental health professional going to the call, the police were also dispatched to the scene. He said this differed from crisis response because of the presence of the police. He said that his resolution identified King County Medic One, a public service organization that had trained community paramedics. He said that King County Medic One was under King County's Public Health department and that some of their paramedics were trained by the University of Washington Medical Center.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the resolution outlined an early negotiation period where the GPSS would turn to King County Medic One to bring this plan to fruition. He said that SPD computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data revealed that about 60% of calls within the University District were for nonviolent situations. He said that none of those calls should have police presence, but there was. He said that early estimates of the last CAD data from the 60 days suggested that 97% of UWPD calls did not need police presence. He said nonviolent situations ranged from alcohol-related incidents to calls about suspicious behavior which disproportionately affected certain populations. He said that he added two whereas clauses based on suggestions from Malikai Bass (Museology) about disaster preparation and crisis responses for disable students. He said that he felt that those were important add ons to show what situations a crisis response team could most appropriately respond to. He welcomed further edits.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the UWPD had a budget of \$8.1 million, which was larger than pretty much any other police department in the country. He noted that the budget was definitely within the top 30 police department budgets. He said that there were documented patterns of racism, bias, and violence from this department, as well as calls from students, for years, to disarm the department and have an appropriate response that did not involve UWPD. He said that this legislation would have the GPSS call for the creation of a crisis response team to respond to all non violent and mental health-related service calls. He said that his goal was to find a way to get students the help they needed when they called while preventing instances of violence and discrimination coming from these departments.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his colleagues from the ASUW wanted to collaborate with the GPSS because this plan would impact both undergraduate and graduate students on campus. He said that he also wanted to get in touch with the unions to ensure that staff and faculty interests were represented as well. He said that he would pursue this collaborative approach and hoped that the resolution would pass on December 8th. He said that

he and his team would look into what a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with King County Public Health would look like. He noted several people who had been assisting with the effort: Lisa Daugaard, the co-executive of the Public Defender Association; Professor Katherine Becket from the Sociology department and the UW Law Society; David Delgado from REACH, a program outreach worker in the University District; and SoDo community member who had tried to do a very similar crisis response in their neighborhood and could advise the GPSS on what they had learned in that process and things they would recommend.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) called on everyone at the meeting to also get involved. He said that he wanted to get as many people involved as possible and that one of the first steps to passing this resolution was to publicize it. He said that the MOU would resemble a partnership with ASUW where both the GPSS and the ASUW would fund a one time capital cost associated with establishing the program. He said that prior to attending graduate school at UW, he attended the University of Wisconsin Madison for his undergraduate degree. He said that last year, he and the students at the University of Wisconsin Madison had basically done the same thing where students decided to allocate money to fund the capital equipment such as ambulances, radios, and other necessary supplies. He said that the GPSS and the ASUW would call on King County Public Health to fund the continuing operating costs, so King County Public Health would shoulder most of the cost.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) clarified that the resolution did not specify any budget numbers attached. He said that the resolution was not a financial commitment. He said that the resolution gave the GPSS the ability to enter negotiations. He said that before any budget numbers were decided or signed, the proposals would come back to the GPSS where the Senate or the Executive Committee would make the final say. He said that King County Public Health, the GPSS and the ASUW could create a funding structure and outline what exactly that would look like. He said that he and his team had had some preliminary discussions with UW health service staff members and that they had wanted something like the idea outlined in the resolution for a long time. He said that they had not had the external support to make it happen.

Gabby Rivera motioned to add 10 minutes. **Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences)** seconded. No objections.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that this plan would require money, but under no circumstances would graduate or undergraduate fees go up as a result of this. He said that he was very confident that the GPSS could work with the university to use current resources. He said that using student money to enact this plan would be a problem, especially during a pandemic. He asked everyone to take control of the legislation and said that it was imperative that the Senate came together. He said that the GPSS could rededicate itself to supporting student mental health through a team like this, and establish a system where anyone who was facing a mental health crisis, homelessness, food insecurity, etc. would not be punished.

Shahriar Talebi (Aeronautics & Astronautics) asked how Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) would ensure that the 2% of situations that required police presence would receive an appropriate response.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he would send out a flowchart that outlined how a response was formed the moment a call took place. He said that the GPSS would work with King County Public Health which meant that calls would be sent to the city's triage system, the city's communication and safety center which was not part of the police department. He said that King County Public Health professionals would triage the call based on its contents and forward it to the most appropriate budget numbers for a pilot program which could be used to start the program. He said that the draft budget numbers were intended to fund appropriate staff and additional staff such as in the operations center. He said that this was not addressed in the legislation because his team wanted to first verify which system would come second. He said that in many cases, the resources were available meaning that trained professionals responded to the call; however, his team did not want the trained professionals handing over the people in crisis to a police station or holding cell.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his colleagues had been working on this part of the plan. He said that the Public Defender Association had some resources to ensure a correct second response and stated that he and his team wanted to provide ongoing care through the crisis response team, not just have someone respond and then leave. He said he wanted to avoid a situation where the police would be called on to respond later.

A.J. Balatico asked what existing unit would oversee the administration of the program. He said that the GPSS did not have the power to oversee these programs and were not allowed to have capital costs. He said that the program would probably be led by the Student Activities Fee (SAF) Capital Subcommittee who could only deal with existing programs.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said he would be willing to amend the resolution to make sure the program was funded. He said that under no circumstance would GPSS actively administer this program. He said that as the resolution was written, King County Public Health would be solely responsible for administering the program. He said that the country would work with the university to allow the crisis response team to operate on campus based on the identified boundaries. He said that the legislation would just allow the GPSS and the ASUW to fund the capital costs to start the program. He said that in his many discussions, he was told that it might even be possible that the GPSS would not have to fund the capital cost depending on how the partnership proposal was written. He said that funding the initial capital cost might be a better route forward to begin, because, in his opinion, partners should provide something to each other.

Julie Emory asked how the crisis response team would interact with SafeCampus. She asked if there would be established mechanisms for collaboration between both organizations.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he could talk about it more in the next two weeks. He said that any pre-existing campus resource could be integrated into the crisis response team, and that a call could be triaged to them if deemed appropriate from the triage center.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that the only time he ever had to call UWPD was when he had locked his belongings in a room after hours. He said that a gun was unnecessary to help him with his problem. He said that he was also aware of someone who had been involuntarily committed during a mental health crisis. He said that the experience had been traumatic for them and that having more mental health focused response services would be good.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) addressed Shahriar Talebi's (Aeronautics & Astronautics) earlier question and said that to his understanding, the resolution would not abolish the UWPD; UWPD would still exist to respond to those 2% of calls but would not respond to the bulk of other calls like instances of stolen bikes, mental health crises, and people locking their laptops in rooms.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked if it was possible to fund capital costs with outside funds. He asked if the language should be made to reflect that the GPSS would explore funding these capital costs instead of the idea that GPSS and ASUW would fund these capital costs. He said that if the resolution indicated that the GPSS and ASUW would fund these capital costs, outside entities could refuse to help on the basis that the program was already funded.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said he was willing to amend the resolution in the next two weeks. He said that when negotiating with external agencies, the GPSS could first ask if the external agencies could fund the program before offering to help.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. **Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** seconded. No objections

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) asked if Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) had thought about how the crisis response team would interact with the resident advisors. They said that they had worked as a resident advisor for four years during their time as an undergraduate student. They said that many of the resident advisor protocols required that they call UWPD in many situations where having a person armed with a gun exacerbated the situation. They said that she saw that the proposed borders included UW's main, west, and south campuses. They asked if Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) had thought about including UW's Housing & Food Services (HFS) or student staff members in order to increase utilization of this team as opposed to the police department.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that Rachel Jecker's (Medicine) point was why the program had started in Madison, Wisconsin. He said that it was interesting that the Seattle

Police Department was not allowed to walk into any apartment lobby or building without probable cause, but the university could have the police department go wherever they wanted. He said that the crisis response team would be the ones who would be called in those types of situations. He invited his colleagues from HFS for Students to speak to Rachel Jecker's (Medicine) question.

Kip Diaz said that their group demanded that police be removed from the dormitories and HFS properties.

Sephora Zoro said that though legislation might not abolish UWPD, it would still redirect funding away from them and towards the crisis response team instead.

Alisha Foster said that their group would talk with resident advisors about their demands and get their input. Alisha Foster said that HFS for Students would work as the middleman to get these thoughts into the conversation.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that though the crisis response team seemed like a lofty goal, he had seen it play out successfully before. He said that he was currently talking to two city council representatives about the project and said that he believed he could secure local legislative buy-in as well before needing to bring this up to the UW administration. He said that the plan seemed feasible and that there were many people both internally and externally who were willing to support the cause.

Aaron Yared asked Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) if he had considered making the resolution a joint resolution. He said that ASUW and the GPSS had a joint resolution process.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) thanked Aaron Yared for the suggestion and said he was open to it.

12. [Action] Election/Committee Nominations 7:23pm

Aaron Yared said that the Judicial Committee still needed one more senator. He asked people to self-nominate. He said that if anyone changed their mind or if there was an absent senator who was interested, they should let him know as soon as possible. He said that the GPSS leadership wanted to fill the committees so that the committees could operate at full capacity.

A.J. Balatico said that there were two open seats for executive senators. He said that the GPSS was accepting nominations tonight and on December 8th. He referred to the Bylaws on the slides and said that those were some of the executive senators duties. He invited current and former executive senators to elaborate on the listed duties and said that executive senators received a stipend of \$450 a quarter.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that executive senators had a lot of freedom to pursue interests that were important to them. She said that she became an executive senator because someone thought that she would be able to make a positive impact. She had not yet identified what that impact could potentially be, but that it turned out to be a more heavy involvement in the diversity committee and supporting the changes that were made last year. She said that she found the experience to be very rewarding. She said that the most fantastic aspect of it was that she had access to information firsthand and directly. She was able to disseminate this information to the parties that listened to her and cared about the things that happened to graduate students at UW. She said that executive senators could serve as much or as little as they wanted, but they had to recognize that there was a minimum responsibility. Executive senators needed to be able to attend meetings and take on some project of their own choosing. She said that previous executive senators had prioritized monitoring and amending the Bylaws. She said that there had been others who had been interested in legislative activities or taking care of the needs of graduate student parents. She said that there was a lot of flexibility and opportunity for students to be active around issues that are important to them.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that the most important thing was that executive senators acted on the behalf of the many students that the GPSS represented. She said she was happy to answer specific questions and to talk offline if anyone wanted to have a more direct, private conversation.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) nominated **Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences)**.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) accepted the nomination

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) nominated **Davon Thomas (Public Administration)**.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) accepted the nomination

Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) asked if it was okay for Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) to run for an Executive Senator position since she was on the Elections Committee. She asked if a seat needed to be filled immediately or if the Elections Committee could host an election with three members.

Aaron Yared asked if the Elections Committee had met yet.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that the Elections Committee had not. She said that the Elections Committee needed one more member.

Aaron Yared said that **Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences)** was good to run for an Executive Senator position.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) was not precluded from simultaneously being on the Elections Committee and being an Executive Senator. She suggested that Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) consider leaving the Elections Committee so that she could run for office in the future.

Aaron Yared said that it would be a conflict of interest for Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) to be on the Elections Committee and running for the Executive Senator position.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said Aaron Yared would be right if the Elections Committee was handling the Executive Senator election. She said that the GPSS previously had Executive Senator elections that were not organized by the Elections Committee.

Aaron Yared said that the Executive Committee could facilitate the election if the Elections Committee had not convened yet. He said that he did not find a conflict of interest.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) affirmed that the Elections Committee had not convened. She said that she thought that the Elections Committee needed one additional member. She said that she had sent out communications to two of the members of last year's committee trying to encourage and entice them to do it again. She said that she had yet to hear from them.

Aaron Yared said that it was fine and said he trusted Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) to know whether the Elections Committee had sufficient members.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. **Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences)** seconded. No objections.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) asked for clarification on whether she was able to run for an Executive Senator position if the Election Committee was not organizing the election.

Aaron Yared said yes.

A.J. Balatico said that GPSS elections were not straightforward because the GPSS used single transferable votes. He said that it meant that if there were three candidates and if a vote was passed for somebody who had already won, then a voter's second choice received their vote. He said that this point was moot if there were only two candidates.

13. [Information] Officer and Committee Reports 7:35pm

Aaron Yared said that the presidents of ASUW, GPSS, ASUW Bothell and ASUW Tacoma had all come together to create a tricampus advisory board for students which would work closely with the President and Provost. He said it was basically a committee that would discuss budgetary and policy issues through a tricampus lens. He said that board was composed of all of the presidents as well as one elected student member from each student government, and one at-large student from each population. He said that he was looking for an at-large student. He asked everybody to have interested persons reach out to him. He said that the board would meet every two weeks on Wednesdays at 3.

Gabby Rivera said that she was the GPSS representative that sat on the ASUW Board of Directors. She said that she could share updates from them. She said that if people were interested in joining [Students Advising on Graduate Education \(SAGE\)](#), which was basically LAB with representatives from different schools, she could help facilitate the opportunity for them. She said that there were opportunities for planning events and lobbying in person.

Joel Anderson said he was excited that the GPSS passed the Legislative Agenda. He said that there would be a LAB meeting at 1 pm on Friday at HUB 314 or on Zoom. He said he did not know what the agenda for the meeting would be other than a little debrief about the Legislative Agenda and some discussion about creating one pagers.

Meshell Sturgis said that the diversity committee had met and that the next meeting was on December 1st, 4:00pm in HUB 303. She said that the virtual resource fair had also happened on the Gather platform which was available through the HUB. She said that the platform was really cool and recommended it for future GPSS or group events. She said that the Judicial Committee needed one more member.

Aaron Yared said that the Elections Committee needed one more member.

A.J. Balatico said that the Finance & Budget Committee (F&B) had convened and approved the purchase of the GPSS office refrigerator in concurrence with the Executive Committee. He said that the refrigerator was currently plugged in and working. He said that the F&B had elected the vice chair of F&B, senator Matthew Mitnik (Public Administration). He said that the F&B had received its first special allocation request since the beginning of the pandemic on Friday from the American Red Cross at the UW and that Matthew Mitnik (Public Administration) would chair the review.

A.J. Balatico said that the Travel Grants Committee had approved the application of six graduate students and six different departments, including Biology, the School of Music, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Earth & Space Sciences, and the School of Medicine. He encouraged senators to keep giving information to students in their departments and programs. He said that the travel grants could be applied to both in-person conferences and virtual conferences. He said that applicants

attending virtual conferences and domestic conferences would receive \$300 while international conference goers would receive \$500.

A.J. Balatico said that the departmental allocation requests were under review. He said that if the GPSS funded all of them, it would run out of money. He said that this was a good thing because that meant that departments were getting feedback from their senators and asking for different things such as retreats or capital improvements to their student lounges. He said that the F&B also wanted to pivot to a point where the GPSS knew the demand for departmental allocations so that the GPSS could submit an ask to increase the amount. He said that if everyone submitted an application at the same time, the GPSS might have to prioritize and choose not to fund certain people.

A.J. Balatico said that the SAF and Student Technology Fee (STF) committees had met. He said that both SAF and STF were still in discussions of providing stipends to its volunteers. He said that these stipends would amount to \$750 per quarter, and that the STF was going to have an adjusted amount that was equivalent to SAF's compensation rate. He said that the GPSS still needed two representatives for the SAF committee and that one more position would open up in the spring quarter. He said that GPSS had found all of its representatives for the STF committee.

14. [Information] Announcements 7:42pm

Gabby Rivera told everyone to email her preferably a week in advance if they were interested in adding things to the Senate agenda so that she could add it during the Executive Senate meeting.

Aaron Yared said that the Executive Committee set the Senate agenda during its Executive Senate meeting the week before. He said it would make life easier for everybody if people sent in their materials ahead of time. He announced that the Senate unanimously voted to hold all Senate meetings virtually during winter quarter. He said that the December 8th meeting would be the last hybrid Senate meeting for the foreseeable future. He said that the Senate would revisit the issue in the spring. He said that the GPSS would distribute survival kits.

Gabby Rivera said that the GPSS would distribute survival kits to those who came in person to the last Senate meeting of the quarter on December 8th. She said she was not sure if they would be distributed before or after the meeting. She said that the GPSS would also provide a prepackaged dinner and prepackaged snack packs that included on-campus wellness resources and affirmation cards. She invited people to come meet the GPSS leadership in person.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) announced that the Husky Toastmasters organization had been challenged about their organization status because they had difficulty retaining student participants. She encouraged anyone that knows anything about Toastmasters to join and said that the Toastmasters organization was over 100 years old. She

said that Toastmasters had a time-proven methodology for how to improve one's speaking and communication skills, which led to people improving their leadership capacities. She requested that anyone who had an hour available on Thursdays at noon consider participating and added the information into the Zoom chat. She said that the Toastmasters club appreciated anyone affiliated with the university, but especially graduate students because they needed student participants in order to retain their registered student organization status. She invited people to reach out to her with questions.

A.J. Balatico said that the UW Office of Global Affairs was specifically looking for graduate students with experience traveling abroad and from all over the world to be a part of their global engagement student group. He said that it was not quite a liaison position, but that the position had an application. He announced that November was Global Month.

Lauren Newton thanked everyone for passing the Legislative Agenda. She said that if people wanted to see it read to legislators for the first time, they were invited to come to the GPSS's legislative reception. She said that the reception would be held on December 2nd from 5 to 7:30pm in the HUB. She said that attendees would have a chance to hear it read and talk face-to-face with state legislators and policy makers about the agenda. She referred to the slides for the link and QR code to the RSVP. She said that there were a limited number of spots and that the organizers of the reception were trying to make the event COVID conscious. She said that the organizers were also looking for one graduate student speaker to also share their story as it related to the GPSS Legislative Agenda. She asked senators to publicize the application.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he attended an HFS for Students meeting last week. He said that HFS for Students had been advocating to address housing and food insecurity which was an issue that applied to graduate students as well due to the high cost of graduate student housing. He said that HFS for Students had a proposal for a 2021 study on housing and food insecurity and a specific request on conducting that proposal which would then be used in conversations with administration. He requested that senators who had connections with Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies or had experience in data collection and interpretation for help.

Janis Shin said that the GPSS was trying to revamp its website. She said that the GPSS wanted to know what the senators thought about the website and asked people to take a one-minute, nine-question survey.

A.J. Balatico said that the UW had over 200 programs which served over 25,000 individuals under 18 years of age on campus. He invited everyone to join the Youth Protection Advisory Committee by filling out the linked form.

15. [Action] Adjournment 7:50pm

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** seconded. No objections.

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