

GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 8th 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 5:38pm

Aaron Yared called the meeting to order at 5:38pm.

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:39pm

Malikai Bass (Museology) moved to approve the agenda. **Greg Papp (Marine & Environmental Affairs)** seconded.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) raised a point of order and moved to amend the agenda by adding a public comment period after “Executive Senator Nomination Period” for 10 minutes.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) seconded.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to approve the amended agenda. **Malikai Bass (Museology)** seconded. No objections.

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:41pm

Malikai Bass (Museology) motioned to approve minutes. **Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** seconded. No objections.

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:41pm

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) 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 5:42pm

Aaron Yared said that the senators would do an icebreaker in breakout rooms and then share their answers with the rest of the Senate right afterwards.

The question was "How can GPSS better serve your constituents, or graduate and professional students in general?" Senators were sent to breakout rooms for 10 minutes.

6. [Information] Senate Check-In 5:52pm

Aaron Yared asked the senators to share their answers to the PollEverywhere so that others could see the responses.

Julie Emory said that she had been a senator before for a year. She said that this was the first time she had seen a community response team proposed by a senator. She asked the Executive Committee to confirm to their knowledge whether there had been any previous movement towards making a community response, prior to these two senators.

Aaron Yared said that he did not know. He said that he did not believe that the GPSS had done anything like that in this formal way. He said that the GPSS had previously teamed up with community organizations, but not in a format like this. He invited other people who might be knowledgeable about the topic to join in. He said that his big question about this issue was whether it should be on the GPSS or the university administration to initiate the program. He said that the students only had so much time that it really should be on the university.

Gabby Rivera noted that someone wrote "social events" into the PollEverywhere. She said that the GPSS had a budget for food. She said that the GPSS's first event would be in January and asked senators to be on the lookout.

Aaron Yared said that the event would not be a winter formal.

Gabby Rivera explained that the HUB closed at 9pm and that the GPSS needed an hour to clean up. She said that she decided to not hold a winter formal because 8pm was too early for a winter formal to end.

Gabby Rivera said that she liked the response “provide guidance to senators on how they can address issues to the Senate.” She said that she had noticed the issue prior to her own term and said that it was something that did not usually work.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS had been open about allowing senators to bring issues up to the Senate like an open forum. He said that if a senator wanted to bring an issue to the Senate, they should bring the issue to the officers first. He said that the officers could point the senators to other resources such as other senators who have also dealt with similar issues or give them options on potential solutions. He said that once senators had a solution in mind, they could then bring it to the Senate and present the matter as a resolution. He said that he was working on creating a more informal option this year.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that in regards to onboarding for senators, he knew that the Executive Committee had no control of the senator elections process for individual departments. He said that it was frustrating how the senator elections were staggered throughout the year. He said that many departments were not holding elections in a timely manner.

Aaron Yared said that it was frustrating because the GPSS did not have much control over when the schools held their elections. He said that if a school had its own government within their department, the elections were held fairly punctually. He said that this year had been strange given the pandemic situation. He said that for schools that did not have any formal governing body, getting a senator was like herding cats.

Aaron Yared thanked everyone for their input. He said that the officers would go over the responses and try to find new ways to help the senators and graduate professional students.

7. [Information] Executive Senator Nominations and Speeches 6:01pm

A.J. Balatico invited all senators to self-nominate for the executive senator positions. He said that those intending to run should self-nominate now so that the Executive Committee could put their names on the ballot. He said that Executive Senator candidates could make a speech for up to three minutes. He said that the order would be based on the candidates' last names. He said that the current speech order was Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) followed by Davon Thomas (Public Administration).

Aaron Yared opened up the floor for nominations.

A.J. Balatico referred to the slides which listed the duties of the Executive Senators.

Aaron Yared closed the floor for nominations. He invited Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) to give her speech and said that A.J. Balatico would time her so that she could not go over 3 minutes. He said that she would be cut off, not to be rude, but to give everyone a fair chance.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) introduced herself as an international student from Nepal. She thanked Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) for nominating her. She said she was interested in being an executive senator because she liked to give back to the community. She said that she liked to advocate on behalf of the represented community and international students like herself.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) said that she had a lot of leadership experiences from her home country. She had been involved in an organization for children where she had successfully organized regional and national level events. After immigrating to the United States, she had worked as a graduate counsel officer in her department for a year where she had organized many events and took the lead on creating a graduate student directory and website. She had also organized a Christmas social in her department and hosted incoming students a university tour and dinner. She had also worked on bridging the gap between students and administration.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) said she eventually became the Senate representative of the department and loved the role. She said that this was her second year serving as a liaison between the students and GPSS. She said she was excited to be the Executive Senator and said that she wanted everyone to know that she was a person who strived to make change and improve the system. She said she was particularly interested in DEI, international student issues, disability resources, and mindfulness and wellbeing resources for students. She said that she would look for areas to improve the GPSS and take on the roles required of the Executive Senator to help the GPSS to run smoothly. She said she looked forward to building communities and resources for improving the student experience at UW.

Aaron Yared invited Davon Thomas (Public Administration) to give his speech.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) introduced himself as a first year student and senator from the Evans School. He said he was originally from Sacramento, California and had attended UC Santa Cruz where he earned his BA in history. During his time at UC Santa Cruz, he served as the External Vice President and the President of the student body. Some of the issues he had worked on were health and wellness, college recruitment, and campus climate and safety. He had brought trauma-informed community counselors to Santa Cruz. He said he had attended therapy a few times and noticed that none of the counselors were ethnic, so he worked to address that problem. He had also lobbied the capitol for extra funding for the UC system for student outreach program to recruit high school students from minoritized communities into college. He said that UC Santa Cruz now offered sexual assault response exams because his office spearheaded the effort to bring them back within the county; previously, students had to travel over an hour away to receive the exam.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that he wanted to focus on campus safety during his time at UW. He said that the community response resolution spoke for itself. He said one of his big priorities was making sure that people were seeking help when going through tough situations due to COVID. He said he also wanted to work on retention and recruitment. He noted that retention and recruitment looked different between graduate and undergraduate students. He said that he had mentioned only seeing six Black students on campus to a second year graduate student. She said that it was more than the two she saw last year. He pointed out how this was a big problem. He said that the reason there were more Black students this year was because the GRE had been waived and he did not think that was a good reason for why the program became more diverse. He said he would prioritize taking proactive measures to increase diversity. He said he would be dedicated in fulfilling the duties required of the position.

8. [Action] Executive Senator Election 6:10pm

Aaron Yared referred the senators to the ballot link and asked them to vote.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) asked if she could vote for herself.

Aaron Yared said yes.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of information and said that officers could also vote.

Aaron Yared asked officers not to vote since they were facilitating the election.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) asked how long the ballot would remain open.

Aaron Yared said that it would be open for 10 minutes.

A.J. Balatico said that the quorum was 25 and that once 25 votes were submitted, the ballot would be closed.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) requested the ballot be open for 10 minutes since Aaron Yared had said it would be open for 10 minutes.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked if there would be an issue with quorum and asked if officers should vote “abstain” in order to meet quorum.

Aaron Yared said that 25 senators had filled out the attendance and because officers had not filled out attendance, the Senate should not have problems with quorum.

9. [Information] Public Comment Period 6:15pm

Aaron Yared opened up the floor for public comment in the interest of time. He asked if there was anybody who wanted to speak on behalf or about the candidates.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said she had worked with Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) last year on the Elections Committee. She said that the committee had started out with the requisite number of members, but by the end it was down to four. She said that Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) was one of the four that stayed tied to something that was very challenging and required a significant amount of meetings due to the important revisions to the GPSS's Bylaws and operations. She said Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) always showed up with a positive attitude and asked questions that indicated that she was thinking about others outside of her department and the larger GPSS community. Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said she had encouraged Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) to pursue the executive senator role and encouraged everyone to cast a vote in her favor as they would not regret it.

Julie Emory said that she was a reporter and that she was trying to stay as unbiased as possible. She said that she spoke with Davon Thomas (Public Administration) and was impressed that he went to the Sacramento to advocate on behalf of Black and queer voices. She said that this was something valuable he would potentially bring to the table.

A.J. Balatico said that the ballot would close in 3 minutes.

Aaron Yared asked senators to double check if they were logged in to Google with their NetID if they were having trouble accessing the ballot.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that he had worked with Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) last year on resolutions related to international students in the international student working group that was held after Senate meetings. He said he had been very impressed with and excited about her contributions to that effort.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that he had also worked with Davon Thomas (Public Administration) in the Legislative Advisory Board where they had discussed student safety. He said he had positive things to say about both candidates and that Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) would get his vote.

Aaron Yared clarified that there were two open Executive Senator positions so senators could vote for both.

A.J. Balatico called time and said he had closed the ballot. He asked Aaron Yared to send Justin Camputaro, Ashlee Abrantes, and Christina Coop to a breakout room to count the votes.

10. [Action] Resolution Second Reading— Condemnation of Racist Graffiti 6:25pm

A.J. Balatico pointed out that he had changed the title to Condemnation of Recent and Future Racist and Discriminatory Graffiti On UW's Campus and Recommendations for Communicating Campus Resources to Graduate Students due to the change in the resolution's scope. He said that the only two clauses that were changed were "that GPSS recommends that UWPD clearly state on their website on the community engagement/crime prevention tips page what appropriate actions students should take if they witness or find graffiti or vandalism on campus" and forwarding clauses. He said that the other "that" clause that was changed was "that, in Winter quarter, the GPSS hold a "town hall / listening session" event to address issues of student safety and security on and around campus, requesting the attendance of those mentioned in the forwarding clause."

A.J. Balatico said that he had made a few points to guide discussion. He said that Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) had made a good point at the last Senate meeting where the GPSS officers could do the things recommended in the resolution. He said that the resolution was the official opinion of the GPSS. He said that he had examples of when officers of both the GPSS and ASUW had sent out all-student emails on behalf of the students, which led to confusion and advised the Executive Committee to receive the Senate's backing and consent for sweeping changes.

A.J. Balatico said that statistics at the UW were transparent insofar as they were actually reported, but that people had to actually dig to find the statistics. He said that when he heard that students were not getting their concerns addressed by the administration and feeling that they were not able to address grievances that were very obviously hate crimes, advertising the available resources such as SafeCampus and the online bias incident reporting tool could help. He said that limited institutional data suggested that when these resources were advertised, reporting increased. He said that he had discussed the matter with Lincoln Johnson, the associate Vice President of Student Life who was the chair of the Bias Incident Report Committee. He said that in addition to the emails that Denzil Suite, the Vice President of Student Life, sends out, the GPSS could have a more direct influence over graduate students. He said that the resolution would not solve racism on campus, but was a step towards recognizing and addressing the real concerns of students who were not currently represented in the GPSS.

A.J. Balatico said that the only other thing was that the GPSS was making the distinction that it was specifically addressing the graffiti that demonstrated hate speech, not graffiti that expressed political opinions. He said that the resolution would address racial slurs in bathrooms across campus buildings which had not yet been addressed in an open email. He said that sweeping these incidents under the rug did not help the students who attended classes and worked in those buildings. He welcomed all suggestions and said he was willing to entertain friendly amendments or debate changes to the resolution's language.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motion to approve resolution as is. **Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography)** seconded. No objections.

A.J. Balatico said that he consulted with students who were not currently represented by the GPSS to write the resolution. He said that he did not think that they would like to be publicly identified.

Aaron Yared thanked A.J. Balatico and those who were not named for their work.

Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) congratulated Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) and Davon Thomas (Public Administration) as the new GPSS Executive Senators.

11. [Action] Resolution Second Reading—University District Crisis Response Team 6:34pm

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that two of the resolution's sponsors from ASUW were present and would speak as well. He said that the resolution had gone through a few revisions. He said that changes were marked in red.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the resolution was reframed as a community response team, instead of the initial idea of a crisis response team. He said that the resolution's authors were looking at other models such as response teams in Oakland, California and herd units in New York City. He said that the reason why he and the other authors had moved away from the crisis response team idea was because of the possibility of implicit bias depending on the caller. He said that the caller and dispatcher had a lot of discretion on designating which team would be dispatched. He said that a white person in crisis might be considered an individual in crisis whereas a person of color might be considered as a person in crime and that the subsequent response team would reflect that. He said that the authors of the resolutions wanted to be very conscientious of this because it defeated the point of an alternative response.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) pointed out that more sources were cited in the resolution. He said that previously the resolution mainly addressed mental health and behavioral calls. He said that the authors had changed the resolution to have a greater reach in the community and call upon the city to create a team for all non violent calls. He pointed out the "whereas" clauses and said that the data indicated that people in crises were best served by individuals who not only could build better connections with the community but also know how to give an informed response and connect individuals to resources like a caseworker for a sustained recovery, things which the police did not have the capacity, resources nor expertise to do.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) referred to the "that" clauses. He said that the clauses reflected the change from mental and behavioral health crises to all nonviolent calls for service. He said that he and his colleagues had met with the Public Defenders Association and a member of [REACH](#). He explained that REACH provided a lot of personal support, mainly to unhoused populations, but also to people experiencing mental health crises through individuals who worked as outreach workers and social workers. He said that his colleagues had also met with someone from LEED, the county's diversity program. He said that the person from LEED suggested, in addition to having 911 triage to this team, also having an alternative number that people could call which did not have the risk of potentially being triaged to the police. He said that people calling this number would know that their call for service would go directly to the community response team and this would address the point he made earlier regarding implicit bias.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that there was already the infrastructure at the state level to make it happen. He said that he was able to connect with Representative Frank Chop during the legislative reception. He said that he had scheduled a meeting with Frank Chop to further discuss this effort. He said he had also filed some open records requests and invited his fellow resolution authors to the podium.

Kip Diaz said that the ASUW held first readings of the legislation yesterday and would likely hold the second reading sometime in January.

Sephora-Clotilde Zoro said that the authors were open to suggestions and changes. She said that the resolution would not necessarily be implemented the way it was currently written. She hoped that the resolution passed so that the program could be further developed.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that there was a notable change to funding the program. He recalled that the authors had previously explored the possibility of having either the GPSS or ASUW fund the program. He said that that idea was thrown out because the authors agreed that student fees should not increase due to the program. He said that there were available pools of money that could be used to fund the team.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that passing the resolution would allow the resolution authors to continue working on the project with the GPSS's buy-in and support. He said that some of the potential funding sources at the state level he had identified could be used to start this program. He said that he had set up a meeting with King County Medic One Levy and Councilmember Andrew Lewis who had led a lot of the crisis response initiatives at the city level. He said that not all of the initiatives went through the budget, but that there was a political opportunity to get both buy-in from the city and funding allocated for this specific purpose. He said that this program would be the first of its kind both at the state level jurisdiction and a municipal level jurisdiction.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the program would have access to more funding than a lot of other models across the country which put the program in a unique position

to make an impact. He said that the program had the potential to take an unconfirmed estimate of 97% of call volume away from the UWPD. He said that his records request should be fulfilled by January 3rd, so he would have all the data then. He said he had confirmed that the community response team would take away 66% of call volume away from the Seattle Police Department. He said that from a budgetary perspective, the program would not defund important resources but reallocate them. He said that there were stipulations that needed to be considered which was why the authors had escalated their tactics to meeting with politicians who controlled the money and sat on relevant committees. He said that every politician he had spoken to so far about the program was in support and was willing to meet with the authors of the resolution. He opened up the floor for questions and comments.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) expressed his appreciation for the sponsors' work on the resolution. He said that creating a crisis response team could be a very good thing. He referred to the "that" clause which read "in line with recommendations from the Anti-Police Terror Project." He expressed concern that the Anti-Police Terror Project was not beholden to UW students in any way. He suggested that the sponsors replace the line with "in consultation with the Black Student Union" with the rationale that the BSU had taken a leadership role in creating alternative crisis responses and were accountable to UW students. He expressed that he was open to being corrected and entertaining other suggestions.

Sephora-Clotilde Zoro agreed that the BSU had taken a leadership role in initiatives to create alternative response, defunding the UWPD, et cetera. She said that the consultations and interactions that the sponsors had with the BSU had been very limited, so she and the authors felt that it might be inappropriate to write the BSU into the resolution or to replace the current line when the information presented in the resolution was obtained directly from consultation with other entities.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) rescinded his motion to amend.

Meshell Sturgis said that she was going to ask about the actual amount of participation that the resolution authors had from the Black Student Union, as well as the Black Graduate Student Union. She said that Danielle Brown had been a research assistant on a task force appointed by the President Cauce's office to look into this specific issue. She wondered if the resolution authors had fully consulted the GPSS's diversity committee or DecrimUW. She said that it seemed that the resolution authors had met with many off-campus entities.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that someone from Seattle's Department of Civil Rights had already started communicating with DecrimUW and said that the resolution authors were also hoping to meet with them as well. He emphasized that the resolution authors wanted the effort to be successful and needed as many people as possible to support the effort. He said he appreciated the introductions as it was his first quarter at UW and he did not know everyone. He said that he had marked the next GPSS diversity committee meeting on his calendar and wanted to invite the other people working on this effort to that meeting too.

Sephora-Clotilde Zoro said that she was an undergraduate student who was part of ASUW. She said that her knowledge of the number of organizations on campus that were leading similar efforts was limited but that she had specifically attempted to reach out to the Black Student Union and the Black Student Commission. She said that she had received some feedback from them but had not been able to get a lot of information or meetings with them because they were busy. She said that she was still open to working with them.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. **Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

Meshell Sturgis said that she felt that it was very premature for the GPSS to vote on the resolution at the moment. She said that she and A.J. Balatico had discussed ways that the GPSS could offer support in further developing the resolution. She said that people being unreachable or too busy was an inappropriate reason to not include them and to proceed with the resolution. She said that continuing without these people could undermine the whole purpose and value of the proposed effort outlined in the resolution. She asked what support the resolution authors needed. She asked how the diversity committee could facilitate meetings between the resolution authors and other on-campus entities. She said that the GPSS diversity committee meeting dates had already been scheduled out for the rest of the year. She said that if the resolution authors needed the space to have consultations with people or receive support from her officer position in that way, she was happy to offer it. She said that a motion could be made to make the arrangement concrete if necessary.

Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) agreed with Meshell Sturgis and said that she needed to know what all relevant stakeholders felt and thought about the resolution before voting on it. She said that these issues would not be solved over the holiday break, so it was important to take the time to get all of the information and everybody's input

Malikai Bass (Museology) asked if there was any element of urgency to the resolution that he might not be aware of. He said he understood that this was a very urgent issue in the fact that it could affect people, but that it did not have any sort of deadlines. He said he was considering recommending that that resolution be tabled.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that outreach could always be improved. He said that the resolution authors had been working on it for the past few weeks and would continue to do so. He said that given the timeline the authors had with ASUW and with potential funding sources, it was imperative that the resolution passed unless members of the GPSS had issues with the policies outlined in the resolution. He said that the resolution was not a concrete plan. He said that resolution outlined certain specifics that would happen and would give the authors a leg to stand on when meeting with decision makers at the university and decision makers regarding funding. He said that the invitation to relevant stakeholders could be extended afterwards. He said that changes could be made moving forward. He asked when the resolution would be voted on if it were tabled or whether it would be killed.

Aaron Yared said that the resolution would most likely be tabled until the next meeting but that it depended on the motion.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said it would improve the authors' advocacy efforts if the resolution were passed today. He said that the ideas expressed today could be enacted upon passing the resolution.

Naomi Litwack asked if the resolution could continue to be amended if it was not passed tonight.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that many of the "that" clauses expressed that the GPSS supported the stance outlined in the resolution. He said that the GPSS could edit the document the way they saw fit and that the resolution did not constrain the GPSS. He said that the resolution would open doors for the resolution authors. He said he disagreed with the process of having to go through ASUW or GPSS, but that it was the current system in place.

Aaron Yared said that once the GPSS voted to pass a resolution, it would not be able to change it and that the resolution would represent the GPSS's stance unless there was another resolution that amended or contradicted the first resolution. He said that the resolution would not be able to be edited after it was sent out to all the people listed in the forwarding clauses.

Meshell Sturgis said that the definition of urgent was "requiring immediate action or attention." She said that the GPSS should be very intentional about drawing a distinction between immediate action and attention. She said that attention was not quick but came when one was very thorough and provided a lot of care. She said that though the resolution represented an urgent matter, it did not mean immediate action in a specific way. She said that the issue required more care and attention before she felt comfortable voting on it.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of information and recommended that the GPSS create an ad hoc committee or send the resolution to an existing committee within the GPSS for the resolution. He said that it was within the Bylaws and something that could be voted on if somebody made a motion. He said that the motion would require the consent of all the authors on which GPSS committee would be appropriate to supervise the work on the resolution and noted that Meshell Sturgis, the chair of the diversity committee, seemed open to helping.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) motioned for a 5 minute recess. **Davon Thomas (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

The Senate entered a recess at 7:01 p.m.

Aaron Yared called the meeting back to order at 7:06pm.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to extend time for only 5 minutes. **Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** seconded. No objections.

Aaron Yared addressed the resolution sponsors and asked if they had seen President Cauce's email last Thursday or Friday. He said that it had been about the reorganization of a bunch of the safety departments, such as SafeCampus, Title IX, EH&S, UWPD, all into one department which would be the Department of Campus safety. He asked the resolution sponsors if the email had had any effect on their plans or on any of the wording in the resolution.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he was aware of the email. He said that the email had been very vague and did not address the issues outlined in the resolution. He said that in his personal opinion, the email was a way for the administration to get ahead of the resolution before they had to deal with it. He said that he wanted to meet with Sally Clarke to discuss the reorganization further and said that the authors had several other comments that they could provide offline.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the resolution authors all appreciated the feedback. He said he agreed with Meshell Sturgis's point on urgency and immediateness. He said that nothing would happen over finals nor over winter break. He said that the resolution authors would use that time to organize and make sure all relevant stakeholders were included in the conversation. He said that the resolution authors were open to voting on tabling the resolution until January and noted that this would match up with ASUW's timeline perfectly. He said that the authors were open to forming an ad hoc committee to facilitate bringing on-campus stakeholders and resolution authors together.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) acknowledged the current points on needing to consult with more organizations that are beholden to UW students, particularly marginalized students, as well as the points that members of the Senate had raised. He said it was good that there were a lot of county and state level stakeholders and reputable organizations that were invoked, but emphasized that the GPSS represented the student voice.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to table the resolution until the resolution authors consulted with the Black Student Union, the Black Graduate Student Association, SafeCampus, DecrimUW, the Executive Task Force, Disability Activist Student Alliances, Crip Riot, the Student Disability Commission and other relevant student-focused organizations. **Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences)** seconded.

Malikai Bass (Museology) offered a friendly amendment to also include Mad identifying and mentally ill perspectives because of the ways that they interacted with the issue at hand. He said that the Accessibility Activist Student Alliance was a group that was beholden to students and said that the current president of SDC might be Mad identifying if he recalled correctly. He suggested that the resolution authors also reach out to Crip Riot, a Seattle-based organization organized by a former UW student who was working on behalf of Mad identifying people, so that the authors do not miss any nuances or unique perspectives on how people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities uniquely interacted with authorities.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) accepted the amendment.

No objections.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked if the resolution authors needed to motion to form an ad hoc committee.

A.J. Balatico said yes.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to close the item after making the motion to create an ad hoc committee named "Alternative Emergency Response" supervised by Gabby Rivera to engage with stakeholders and continue work on this resolution. **Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** seconded.

Senators voted on Poll Everywhere.

Meshell Sturgis urged the resolution authors to be very careful with using language like "including these groups in what you are doing." She said that it may be offensive and disrespectful to many of the groups who had already been doing this work on campus. She advised the authors to be intentional in their relationships with groups on campus to ensure that they are on board with what the authors presented to them. She noted that BSU had already been doing work like this on campus and that the authors should research who participated in these groups and offer to support their work instead of tacking them onto the author's own efforts.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if the GPSS had already decided the committee members for the new ad hoc committee.

Aaron Yared said the GPSS had not. He said that the GPSS had only decided who would be responsible for the committee in a supervisory role, and said that Gabby Rivera, the Vice President of Internal Affairs, had been chosen. He said that it would be up to her and the resolution sponsors to figure out who they wanted on their committee. He suspected that the authors would be open to anyone interested in helping.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the ad hoc committee would be an open committee.

Aaron Yared addressed what Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) and Meshell Sturgis said in the chat. He said that there had been some activism around the first day of the Board of Regents meeting at the beginning of the year.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of information and said that Gabby Rivera would decide when the ad hoc committee would first meet. He said that Gabby Rivera would have to present a memorandum of understanding within one week of the first meeting of the committee.

The motion passed and the ad hoc committee "Alternative Emergency Response" supervised by Gabby Rivera was created.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked how people could join the committee.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS would communicate through the Senate email. He said that the committee would be open to everybody and that the GPSS officers would let people know when the committee sets a date for its first meeting.

11. [Action] Committee Nominations 7:24pm

Aaron Yared asked Alexis Mulkey (Law) if she was still interested in sitting on the Judicial Committee.

***Alexis Mulkey (Law)** self-nominated for the Judicial Committee.*

Meshell Sturgis moved to confirm Lauren Gonsalves (Microbiology), Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences), Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering), Chianaraekpere Ike (Law), Alexis Mulkey (Law), and Sachin Nayak (Electrical and Computer Engineering) to the Judicial Committee. **Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** seconded. No objections.

A.J. Balatico said that the Finance & Budget Committee did not need more members for quorum but that he was open to having more people join. He said that the GPSS needed one more at-large for the Elections Committee.

Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) said that she and Christina Coop were strategizing on how to make managing GPSS elections easier

***Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography)** self-nominated for the Elections Committee.*

A.J. Balatico motioned to confirm Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography), Pratima KC (Environmental & Forestry Sciences), Lincoln Lewerke (Microbiology), Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences), Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) to the Elections Committee. **Davon Thomas (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

Aaron Yared said that all the GPSS committees were finally fully staffed. He said that anyone interested in joining any of the committees should reach out to members of the Executive Committee. He said that new senators joined in winter quarter and asked the current senators to point them to the committees if the new senators wanted to get more involved.

12. [Information] Evans School Budget Council 7:32pm

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) yield his time to Naomi Litwack from Evans School Budget Council

Naomi Litwack introduced herself as a student of both the Evans School and the Department of Urban Planning and the chair of the Evans Student Budget Council. She explained that the Budget Council was a body of students that reviewed the Evans School budget before the Evans School administrators sent the budget to the Provost. She said that members of the Budget Council gave feedback on the budget to the finance staff at the Evans School based on the Budget Council's understanding of student priorities from student surveys and interviews. She said that the Evans School finance staff had adopted some changes in their budget proposals based on student feedback in the past.

Naomi Litwack said that last year, many of the Budget Council's suggestions were met with "Well, we'd like to do that, but central [administration] won't let us." She asked the Senate if there were other budget councils at other schools, or if it were possible to create other budget councils at other schools and have students discuss their priorities with their schools. She said that if all the budget councils could ask their schools to prioritize the same things, then it would become an issue for the central administration. She noted that the UW Mental Health Services employed fewer than 30 people and the fact that the UWPD existed. She said that students had opinions about those budgeting decisions and that their opinions should be heard and taken more seriously.

Naomi Litwack asked to connect with people in other schools to see if other budget councils existed. She said that she did not expect incredible budget changes during her time at UW, but that the changes were possible in five years if budget councils were established now. She said that the schools would probably benefit from the relationship with the administration. She said she would share her email so that people interested in starting budget councils could reach her.

Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) said that every college and school established budgets differently. She said that in her department, the budget was shared with her department's student advisory council. She said that students were able to go into the Office of Planning and Budgeting's website to see every school's budget from last year. She said that the budgets were public record and that the website would show the students or the student organization contacts at the bottom of the last page.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that interested people could also reach out to him and that he would connect them with Naomi Litwack.

13. [Information] Officer and Committee Reports 7:37pm

Aaron Yared said that he was currently working with the president of ASUW as well as the Presidents of Bothell and Tacoma on writing a letter of support to get a class C legislation

through the Faculty Senate. He said that the legislation called on all academic units to create more consistent language around accommodations. He explained that the legislation was controversial because in some disciplines it did not go far enough but in disciplines, it went too far. He said that once the Faculty Senate passed the legislation to operationalize accommodations, the changes could be passed onto the department level, school level, and perhaps all the way up to the entire university. He said it would take time for change to happen. He said that the administration's initial reaction to the proposed legislation was that the problem did not exist which was why the student body presidents were banding together to support the faculty members that had brought forth the legislation.

Aaron Yared said that the Tricampus Advisory Board for Students which was chaired by Gabby Rivera had its first meeting. He said that the Tricampus Advisory Board was a transition from the previous Provost Advisory Committee for Students. He said that the Tricampus Advisory Board not only talked about budgetary matters, but also discussed school policies and policy decisions with the President and Provost, which was a big deal because it forced the President and the Provost, or a representative on their behalf, to be a part of conversations that they had been avoiding. He said that the meetings would cover everything from accommodations to infrastructure to UWPD to campus safety to housing. He said that he and Gabby Rivera would update the GPSS as the meetings continued.

Aaron Yared referred to the President's email about reorganizing campus safety departments. He said that the email had been very broad and unspecific, which was why he and the ASUW president were going to keep a very close eye on what happens, and make sure that students had input at every level of decision making.

Gabby Rivera thanked everyone who came to pick up food tonight. She said that it was one of the GPSS's first events and reported that the GPSS ran out of all of the dinner packages within 45 minutes. She said that the GPSS was able to collect sign-in information from nearly all of the attendees. She thanked the Senate for publicizing the event and said that the GPSS would host larger programming events in January.

Gabby Rivera said she hoped to give the GPSS a report at the end of winter quarter about what the Tricampus Advisory Board had discussed. She said that Aaron Yared and Ashlee Abrantes (Environmental & Forestry Sciences) represented the GPSS and encouraged people to share their priorities with them.

Joel Anderson introduced himself as the policy director for GPSS and a Public Administration student. He shared on behalf of Payton Swinford that the 14th annual ASUW and GPSS Legislative Reception took place last week. He said that the GPSS took on a larger than usual role in planning and attending the event this year, partially due to the fact that last year's reception had been virtual and many accommodations had to be made.

Joel Anderson recognized the GPSS organizing director, Laura Newton for her hard work in making the event successful. He said that many graduate students attended the reception which

gave them a great opportunity to share student stories with state leaders. He said that the GPSS also received a lot of positive feedback about the policy agenda from legislators. He said that he sat with Senator Joe Nguyen who shared the GPSS's ideas with another legislator via text while talking. He said that Payton Swinford had done a great job of presenting the GPSS's agenda in a digestible way and referred to the slide which displayed the final draft of the policy agenda. He reminded everyone that the policy agenda would lead the GPSS's lobbying efforts during the legislative session next quarter, and that the GPSS's External Team was looking forward to it.

Aaron Yared thanked Michelle Anderson for captioning the GPSS's meetings this quarter. He said she was amazing and had made the GPSS's meetings so much better, especially given tonight's mic issues. He said that being able to read the captions made it really easy to understand people despite internet issues and that her work had made a world of difference. He thanked her on behalf of everyone at the GPSS and hoped that she would come back winter quarter.

A.J. Balatico referred to the slides and presented a list of items that the Executive Committee and F&B had discussed about how the GPSS could spend its SAF budget request and general fund. He said that the Executive Committee would again discuss how it would spend the general fund in the winter quarter. He said that the GPSS had \$300,000 and a lot of options. He said that the money was a tremendous resource, but would become a liability when the GPSS asked for money from the SAF if it was not spent. He said that for the last couple years the GPSS had decided to keep its reserves due to COVID. He said that the time had come for the GPSS to make decisions on how to spend the money, whether it was through reviving the secretary position or doing other things with structuring personnel. He said that the only way that the GPSS could gain interest on its money was if it put its money into its endowment. He said that the endowment had a 4% interest rate and that the GPSS tended to spend the endowment money to pay for certain allocations because the doubling time was so long.

A.J. Balatico referred to the slides which reflected the GPSS's fall expenditures and said that the GPSS had only one application for a special allocation from the American Red Cross at UW. He said that it had been a graduate student panel event that was hosted for healthcare undergraduates. He encouraged other people to apply and said that the F&B had a stack of applications ready for winter quarter since events happened in winter and spring. He said that there had been no departmental allocations. He said that if everybody had suddenly applied, the GPSS would run out of money. He said that the F&B had received applications and that the applications were scheduled for review in January. He said that the F&B had approved seven travel grants and that the GPSS was receiving applications from people as a response to an all-campus email. He said that students were applying in the winter and in the spring and that anybody who was attending a conference, even if they were not presenting, could apply.

A.J. Balatico said that the GPSS had spent \$3,600 on fall events and that it was going to spend more. He said that the GPSS had not utilized most of its large budget, so the GPSS could host

larger events in the winter and in the spring. He said that two non budgeted expenditures had been approved: the GPSS fridge and the GPSS Zoom account.

A.J. Balatico reported that the SAF had approved a COVID Mitigation Fund at \$2 million and the 18 units that reported to the SAF for student money could apply for up to \$500,000 of that money. He said that if the units asked for more after the first round of deliberation, the SAF could allocate more. He said that the SAF expected to spend all \$2 million. He said that the SAF unit orientations, including GPSS, would begin on January 21 and said that the officers needed to plan a time to strategize how it would present to the SAF.

A.J. Balatico reported that the STF Committee approved \$338,796 for 11 of 12 fall cycle proposals. He said that the only proposal that had not been funded was the Center for the Studies in Demography and Ecology. He explained that the rationale was that this was their fifth proposal in the last five years, so they had asked the STF for over a million dollars. He said that the STF had asked for usage data as a response. He encouraged graduate students to apply. He said that the STF had \$7.3 million remaining for the winter and spring quarter. He said that any proposal under \$10,000 would have an extremely high chance of receiving funding.

Meshell Sturgis said that the GPSS's diversity committee would be allocating diversity funds. She said that the application should be live by the end of this week and that she would publicize it. She said that applications would be accepted on a rolling basis. She said that the diversity committee planned to submit a manuscript on the necessary research when crafting a land acknowledgement for the GPSS to a book on DEI issues on campuses.

Meshell Sturgis said that the *Lux sit* podcast project had been slightly delayed due to not having found all the participants for the dialogues. She said that she was waiting to hear from a few executive senators. She asked the executive senators to get back to her about participating in the dialogues, so that the *Lux sit* podcast could move forward. She said that the podcast would be showcased next quarter.

Meshell Sturgis announced that the Judicial Committee had finally formed. She encouraged Judicial Committee members to introduce themselves to each other on Discord. She said that if anyone had any issues for the Judicial Committee to review, they could reach out via Discord or by emailing her.

14. [Information] Announcements 7:53pm

Malikai Bass (Museology) said he was collaborating with Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) and several ASUW senators to write a resolution regarding UW's emergency planning. He said that the UW had a 300 page emergency plan which was not ADA compliant. He referred to how elevators were turned off without any warning during an emergency drill which was unacceptable given that there were people who relied on elevators. He invited everyone to help or connect him to people who would be interested in helping him write resolutions.

Julia Emory advertised that *The Daily* offered advertisements for RSOs at discounted rates. She added that she would be doing a graduate student feature in *The Daily* and that she had recently written an article on the community response team. She invited people to email her if they were interested in being featured.

A.J. Balatico referred to the slides and advertised the [UW converge event](#) which was planned for December 10th from 6-7 p.m. He said that people needed to register to attend.

Aaron Yared reminded everyone that next quarter's Senate meetings would be held fully virtually and that the Senate would revisit the matter at the end of winter quarter.

15. [Action] Adjournment 7:57pm

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

Senate meeting minutes prepared by **Janis Shin** (gpsssc@uw.edu), GPSS Senate Clerk.