

GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 6th 2022, 5:30pm 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 Malikai Bass
Executive Senator Pratima KC
Executive Senator Davon Thomas
~~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 5:48pm

Aaron Yared called the meeting to order at 5:48pm.

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:48pm

Malikai Bass (Museology) moved to approve the agenda. **A.J. Balatico** seconded. No objections.

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:49pm

Jack Flesher (Music) moved to approve the minutes. **Malikai Bass (Museology)** seconded. No objections.

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:49pm

Aaron Yared gave the land acknowledgment.

The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Squamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations. The GPSS acknowledges that we are uninvited

visitors to their homeland, also the homeland of the Duwamish people that continue to pursue their federal recognition. We recognize that indigenous people were fundamental to the settlement of Seattle and continue to be central to our community and to the management of natural resources.

We share their waters, their lands, their mountains. We acknowledge that we live in an indigenous world, a world for indigenous rights. Our Senate wants to honor the Tulalip, Squamish and Muckleshoot nations to revive their Lushootseed language and invite you to learn more about their history, culture and current community by visiting their nations' websites.

5. [Information] Senate Check-In 5:50pm

Question: What's your favorite place you have traveled to? If you have not left the country, where would you like to go?

Senators were sent to breakout rooms for 7 minutes.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) shared that Dez Coleman () was awestruck by Seattle. She said that it made her appreciate where she was and think to take a second look and see what there was to be awestruck about.

Aaron Yared said that when his cousin from Australia came to visit his parents, she was amazed by all the greenery. He said that it gave him perspective.

6. [Information] Parliamentary Refresher 5:58pm

Aaron Yared said that most of the school had returned to full in-person operations on campus. He said that masks were now recommended but not required and that it was only a matter of time before the governor lifted the exception for OPMA sanctioned meetings to be fully virtual. He said that this was the context for wanting to give the Senate a parliamentary refresher and that the intent was so that people did not feel out of place if the GPSS meetings were held in person again.

Aaron Yared said the GPSS used Sturgis as its standard code of parliamentary procedure. He said that the GPSS did not use Robert's Rules, but that Robert's Rules were very similar to Sturgis. He said that GPSS meetings were conducted in Sturgis parliamentary procedure to maintain order in the meetings and respect people's time. He said that it was easier to be orderly over Zoom because he could permanently mute everyone if he wanted to and because it was harder to engage in crosstalk due to Zoom's audio infrastructure.

Aaron Yared said that once GPSS meetings were held in person, it would be easier to talk over each other. He said being respectful of one another ensured senators and recognized guests had the opportunity to speak about agenda items and have their votes counted. He said that the GPSS wanted people to be comfortable and would assist people with making motions. He referred to the slides and said that it was a simple chart on how to utilize parliamentary

procedure. He said that a link to the slides had also been put in the chat and would be sent out later as well.

Aaron Yared explained that each senator at in person GPSS meetings would have a name tag and that there would be a small chart on the back of it that listed a few parliamentary procedure pointers. He said that the Executive Committee had decided that a role play scenario would be the best way to help people practice parliamentary procedure. He invited people who were shy or nervous about speaking in public to engage in parliamentary procedure. He said that the topic on hand was about crowd management in the quad when people viewed the cherry blossoms, and referred to the checklist on the slide. He reminded everyone that each new speaker should state their name and program.

Malikai Bass (Museology) said that many people loved to sit in the quad and hang out near the trees to get their vitamin D, which he wholeheartedly supported. He said that some people felt that the best way to hang out was to lean against the hand railings, forgetting that the railings and stairs were architecture that served a purpose in a space that had only one ramp entrance. He suggested that the GPSS write a public information resolution as a purpose of this exercise or resolve for the UW's terrifying mascot to make an informational media piece to remind people about the function of handrails. He said that it would benefit the GPSS's constituents to think about the issue.

Megan Koretz (Architecture) said that she loved the cherry blossoms. She said that the location of cherry blossoms could potentially be expanded either near the fountain or near the German building to give people more area to spread out.

Maria Bejenov (Epidemiology) said that she was anti-crowds because they significantly damaged the lawn which had to be restored. She said that the trees were old and that some people were not respectful of the trees. She said that having large crowds with COVID ongoing made it difficult for students to get by and was possibly a source of COVID-19 transmission.

Aaron Yared asked for a volunteer to move to close debate and make a motion regarding cherry blossoms.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) moved to cut down all the cherry blossom trees to end all crowd control.

Aaron Yared reminded Davon Thomas (Public Administration) to state his name and school and asked Davon Thomas (Public Administration) to first close debate before making the motion.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to close debate and to cut down all the cherry blossom trees to avoid any and all crowds on campus.

Megan Koretz (Architecture) amended **Davon Thomas' (Public Administration)** motion to not cut down any cherry trees over five years old.

Aaron Yared asked Megan Koretz (Architecture) to first raise her hand and state her

amendment once he called on her.

Megan Koretz (Architecture) amended **Davon Thomas' (Public Administration)** motion to not cut down any cherry trees over five years old.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said he accepted the amendment as friendly.

Payton Swinford asked if the second came before the amendments because amendments were not considered to be on the floor unless they were seconded.

Aaron Yared said Payton Swinford was right and acknowledged that he was at fault.

Payton Swinford seconded.

Aaron Yared asked A.J. Balatico if he intended for someone to intentionally break the rules.

A.J. Balatico said that anyone could role play that or the Senate could move on to a voice vote.

Aaron Yared suggested moving on to the vote.

Payton Swinford interrupted Aaron Yared and asked if interrupting Aaron Yared counted as intentionally breaking the rules.

Aaron Yared reminded Payton Swinford that he had not recognized him to speak.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) raised a point of order and said that Aaron Yared should have raised a point of order

Aaron Yared explained how voting would have worked in person. He said that he would say "Those in favor say aye" and that people would say "aye." He said that he would then say "those against say nay," and people would say "nay."

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said that "point of information" can be used to interrupt anyone and ask what is going on.

Aaron Yared said that point of order would be used to indicate that parliamentary procedure was not being followed. For example, he would raise a point of order if someone spoke without being recognized by the chair first.

7. [Information] Spring Quarter Senate Plans 6:14pm

Aaron Yared said that at the end of fall quarter, the Senate had voted to decide whether to continue GPSS meetings in a hybrid format or go fully virtual. He said that the Senate had voted to go fully virtual for the winter quarter with the stipulation that it would vote again at the end of winter quarter. He said that the Senate did not have the opportunity to do that because it lost quorum halfway through the last meeting. He said that the Senate would vote now to make an

official decision on whether to continue in this fully virtual format until the governor forced the Senate to go back in person. He asked senators to cast their votes via Poll Everywhere.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) asked if the Senate needed to make a motion to vote first.

A.J. Balatico said yes.

Jack Flesher (Music) moved to close debate and move to a vote.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) objected and said he had a question.

Jack Flesher (Music) withdrew his motion.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) wondered if university regulations allowed the GPSS to have food at in-person/hybrid meetings.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS was allowed to have food at meetings. He said that the plan would be to provide food for in-person meeting attendees.

Jenna Lee (Law) asked if there would be a required percentage of meeting that senators had to attend in person if the Senate chose to go hybrid.

Aaron Yared said no. He said that the reason the GPSS was able to hold hybrid and virtual meetings was because the governor had issued a proclamation creating an exception to the Open Public Meetings Act which allowed for virtual meetings. He said that he did not know what would happen if the exception was lifted.

Megan Koretz (Architecture) asked where the meetings would be held if they were hosted in person.

Aaron Yared said they would be held in HUB 332.

A.J. Balatico said that the GPSS had \$3,000 of Provost money dedicated for food. He said that the GPSS only had four Senate meetings left which meant it could spend a lot on food.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) moved to close debate and start the vote. **Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience)** seconded. No objections.

Senators voted on Poll Everywhere. It was decided that the spring quarter meetings would continue in hybrid, 1: 4: 15, in person only: virtual only: hybrid.

8. [Information] Legislative Session Recap 6:21pm

Payton Swinford said that the 2022 legislative session recently ended. He said that the legislative session was short this year and had taken place from mid January to mid March. He said that this session, unlike sessions that occurred in odd years, were non-budget years. He

said that this year was a supplemental budget year which limited and changed the strategies and priorities of the work that the GPSS was able to do. He said that sessions also moved faster. He said that the GPSS was lucky to work on issues that cost money.

Payton Swinford explained that the legislators had anticipated a poor economy due to COVID when making their previous budget. He said that things ended up working out much better than expected. He referred to the slides and said that his team tried to get legislators to discuss graduate student issues in general policy conversations. He said that graduate student voices had traditionally not been represented in higher education policy decision making. He said that his team had thought about different strategies for how to make legislators remember to consider graduate students when working on education policy. He said that graduate degrees played an increasingly important role in Washington State's economy, and policy makers needed to start thinking about graduate student issues now. He said that everyone was currently discussing the inequities in who was attaining other types of degrees, but that there was not much attention being given to inequitable access to graduate school. He said that another priority was getting a larger foothold in expanding graduate student financial aid. He said that the GPSS wanted to see more state funding for low income students to be able to go to graduate school. He said that the GPSS worked to get closer to this long term goal. He said that the GPSS also worked to make sure that students of all levels of education received increased funding and increased access to education. He noted that people had to first obtain their undergraduate credentials to pursue a graduate degree. He said that more equity and diversity was necessary in the education pipeline for students to expand the diversity of graduate students.

Payton Swinford said that the GPSS worked on a few bills this year. He referred to the slides and said that the GPSS had discussed some of its larger policy issues during Huskies on the Hill such as low interest loan programs, faster completion rates, and raising college grant award levels. He said that one of the big wins for graduate students this year was the low interest loan program. He said that this program was introduced to provide low interest loans to undergraduate students and that his team had created a big push to also add graduate students to the bill. He said that the GPSS also worked on a bill that would expand a program that was made to support students with housing and food insecurity. He said the effort to create a health insurance access study involved one legislator and noted that it had been one of the GPSS's most important priorities in the past three or four years.

Payton Swinford said that he had not expected every key priority that the GPSS worked on to pass in some capacity. He said that it was a year of many victories and that he was very thankful to the legislators and everyone who worked on these issues. He said that the GPSS had successfully lobbied to get a lot of money in the pockets of students. He said that the GPSS finally passed that health insurance study that particularly impacted graduate students because graduate students tended to be too old to stay on their parents' health insurance plan and because university-based health insurance was eliminated once the Affordable Care Act came out. He said that studying health insurance access for students was the first step to potentially bringing back university-based health insurance coverage. He said that the GPSS had been working on the effort for years, and seeing the effort pay off was exciting.

Payton Swinford explained that the GPSS was able to add graduate students to the low interest loan program. He said that having this piece of legislation on the table to discuss allowed the GPSS to talk to legislators about the importance of graduate student financial aid. He said that it gave the GPSS an opportunity to discuss how graduate students were vital for the state's economic development and what the state was doing to increase equitable access to graduate school. He said that the funds in the student loan bill were divided between undergraduate and graduate school. He said that it provided a great model for how the GPSS could adapt other financial aid programs to allocate money for graduate students. He said that that bill was critical for building up momentum for the GPSS's larger priorities.

Payton Swinford said that the GPSS was finally successful in getting a graduate student advocate on the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). He said that Davon Thomas (Public Administration) had been introduced to the executive director of WSAC during the GPSS legislative reception and that Davon Thomas (Public Administration) had successfully been appointed by the governor to WSAC.

Payton Swinford said that he was excited about this year's accomplishments and said that the GPSS had set itself up for future successes. He said that the GPSS had been successful in both the legislative reception and Huskies on the Hill. He said that GPSS attendees were overrepresented in participation. He said that the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB) and staff had been helpful this year. He said that though the UW administration had not always shown up for student interests, UW State Relations and the Faculty Union had shown up and voiced their support for student issues this year in a way that they had not in the past. He said that the GPSS was thankful to those bodies for caring about students. He said that ASUW and WSAC were great partners and also referred to a short list of legislators that had helped the GPSS accomplish its priorities for the year.

Aaron Yared thanked Payton Swinford, the external team, and the LAB for their work. He congratulated Davon Thomas (Public Administration) for being selected and said that it was good to have a GPSS representative represent graduate student interests.

Jack Flesher (Music) raised a point of order and asked if voting issues were figured out. He said that he wanted to verify that they were taken care of before the Senate moved on.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) said she had one person message her. She invited everyone who was having trouble voting on Poll Everywhere to message their vote to her so that she could note it.

9. [Action] Resolution in Support of a Non-academic Voting Seat for the Union UAW 4121 6:38pm

Aaron Yared said that this agenda item had been discussed extensively in the Executive Committee but had not been introduced to the Senate before. He said that it had been written by the 2020 diversity committee and that the Executive Committee had decided to bring it before the Senate to vote on it.

A.J. Balatico read the resolution verbatim.

A.J. Balatico said that the Executive Committee was aware that many of the GPSS members were union members. He said that this designated seat was specifically chosen or elected by the union in order to represent union interests and that the person in the position could serve as a point of contact for the official opinion and calls to actions afforded by the union. He said that though the resolution had been drafted in February 2020, due to OPMA restrictions, the Executive Committee was not allowed to bring anything to the Senate unless it was related to COVID or the existence of the body. He said that the resolution had not been a priority at the time and that the only non-academic seat that had been added last year was the D center.

A.J. Balatico said that the union would hold elections to fill this seat, but that the seat had to exist first. He said that the Executive Committee had talked with union leadership on how to do this.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said he was strongly in support of this resolution, but asked how the Executive Committee was defining “underrepresented minority”?

Aaron Yared said that the question had been the subject of a lot of debate last year. He said that there was no definition listed in the bylaws.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said he was a member of the union and that he supported the resolution. He said that he had been part of the Return to Campus Work Group for the past few quarters. He said that the work group had discussed returning to campus and the lightening of the mask mandate and that having the union perspective in these meetings would have significantly helped.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) addressed the resolution’s sponsor and said that the Bylaws stated that this was the process for creating a Senate seat for underrepresented graduate and professional community groups. He asked for a concise explanation on how the union qualified as an underrepresented graduate and professional community group.

A.J. Balatico said the diversity community’s rationale back in 2020 was that underrepresentation was not measured by number of people, but more so the amount of collective power a group had. He said that there were power dynamics within the university that would create situations in which graduate students who needed leverage were underrepresented. For example, though the graduate and professional student population at the UW was 16,000 strong, graduate students did not have a voice on the faculty councils though they were a part of it.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) pointed out that the slides presented factually inaccurate information. He said that in addition to the seat for the D Center, the GPSS had also passed a resolution in support of a non-academic seat for the Graduate Opportunities for Minority Achievement (GO-MAP) program on April 7, 2021. He said that he was not opposed to the resolution, but was concerned that there was inadequate outreach to fill the seats that the GPSS had already created.

A.J. Balatico said that he had made a clerical error. He said that he had written in GO-MAP, but that GO-MAP had changed their name to GSEE and that this name had not been updated. He noted that the GSEE seat was not currently filled. He said that the PSS had a roster of Senate seats which included the D center, the Q center, Student Veteran Life, GSEE, and the Residential Community Student Association. He said that the GPSS had also planned to give seats to other groups like FIUTS, formerly incarcerated students, and others. He said that the issues with those seats were related to identifying the deciding body that represented those student populations. He said that the GPSS had had issues with students having to identify themselves as formerly incarcerated.

Aaron Yared said that after the GPSS had voted on the resolution to give GSEE a seat, there was an unsuccessful search for someone to fill the seat and the subject was eventually dropped.

Meshell Sturgis said that when trying to provide representation to underrepresented groups, it created an extra burden on those populations. She said that since the populations were smaller, it was harder to fulfill the requirements of being a seat. For example, Meshell Sturgis acted as a GPSS representative. She said that she volunteered with GSEE weekly and was on their student advisory board. She said that she was also one of their fellows and outreaching graduates. She said that she represented GSEE and brought GPSS issues to GSEE when it met. She said that served more as a proxy fill because members of GSEE were taxed already. She said that GSEE also used a strategy to not tax the students of color so much. She explained that students of color were already being tapped in their department to be the token speaker for their department at different events.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) moved to extend time by five minutes. Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) seconded. No objections.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said he was reframing his earlier question because he was not following the train of logic. He referred to the memorandum on the GPSS non-academic seat petition process. He said that the goal stated in the memorandum of this process was to permit non-academic programs advocating for underrepresented graduate and professional minority groups. He said that he interpreted this goal as “Does this make GPSS membership and voting rights more accessible to underrepresented groups?” He asked someone to speak to that and asked how adding a seat for the union would make GPSS membership and voting rights more accessible to under-represented groups. He disclosed that he was a strong supporter of the union, but was unsure that this was the correct process to get the union more connected with the GPSS.

A.J. Balatico said the union had a mechanism to amplify underrepresented groups, especially when very specific groups were affected, such as international students, students who faced houselessness, or other minoritized groups. He said that this resolution was a catch-all method to represent diverse groups through a representative of the union. He said that the GPSS could amplify the voices of their particular concerns more effectively and would create another option for them to express themselves rather than making students compete for different issues or different spots from within their academic programs.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to extend time by three minutes. Payton Swinford seconded. No objections.

Malikai Bass (Museology) raised a point of information and asked if there were other ways in which the GPSS could collaborate with the union. He said that it seemed that the Senate was not hesitating to collaborate with the union but were more wary of the mechanism.

Aaron Yared said not to his knowledge. He said that since the memorandum was written in 2020, the GPSS had relied solely on the non-academic seat process. He said that there was not other mechanism within the GPSS Bylaws or memorandums that allowed the Senate to create a seat other than academic seats which was why the resolution used this mechanism.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) asked how closely the union was involved in the drafting of this legislation. He asked if the resolution was a result of a request from the union back in 2020.

Aaron Yared said Giulianna Conti wrote it during her presidency because she had been heavily involved with the union and felt that there should be union representation within the Senate. He said that she spoke with the union representatives while creating the resolution.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said he agreed with Malikai Bass (Museology) about other avenues to connect GPSS with the union. He agreed that the GPSS and the union needed to strengthen their connection to each other and wondered why the GPSS did not have a liaison position with the union. He asked if this was something that was underutilized in the past or whether there were other options the GPSS could explore besides adding a Senate seat. He said that while looking at the Senate seats that the GPSS had created through this process, and based on that memorandum and the Bylaws, the non-academic seats were made for organizations that served specific underrepresented groups. He said that he did not see the union fitting that same role.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS did have a liaisonship to the union. He said that the union did not have one with the GPSS. He said that each of the organizations that had a GPSS liaison specifically listed a seat for the GPSS or ASUW in their Bylaws.

They are specifically mentioned as groups, right, and there's a little bit more of a mandate on our side since we're student government, right? We're just kind of a different beast compared to something like a union, and so that's why this has been the route because we don't really have we don't have any other way of creating a liaisonship, as it were, to GPSS.

So I hear you, but yeah, that would be my answer to that.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said that the GPSS had open meetings and that anyone interested in graduate student affairs could attend the meetings and voice their opinions. He said that, in his mind, this discussion was more about voting privileges. He said that the union could be connected to the GPSS by showing up to GPSS meetings and participating in discussions. He said that a voting seat was unnecessary for this collaboration.

Aaron Yared said that the intent was to formalize the relationship. He said that there was a conversation around making the seat an ex officio position.

Meshell Sturgis said that just because the GPSS created a seat or just because anybody could come and speak at a Senate meeting did not mean people would actually do so. She said that it was important for the GPSS to consider why these seats were not being filled. She said that the GPSS could not create a role and then think that that was all there was to it. She said that these seats and her position as the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion required a lot of maintenance and connection. She said that the union was known for supporting many underrepresented student group concerns and issues and said that having the union present at the Senate, regardless of whether they had voting powers, would inevitably encourage and welcome other people into the Senate that the GPSS was struggling to reach.

Aaron Yared noted that Jack Flesher (Music) and A.J. Balatico wrote in the chat that the public membership did not have a right to speak at Senate meetings.

A.J. Balatico said that there was a specific RCW that regulated speech at public meetings. He said that the public was invited, but that they were not entitled to be recognized by the chair or added to the agenda, depending on the rules of that meeting. He said that the purpose of creating this seat for the union would be to create a formal seat for the union. He said that though there were multiple members of the union present within the Senate, they could not speak on behalf of the union in that capacity. He said that the union would fill the seat if it existed. He said that if the seat was left unfilled, the seat did not disappear; the GPSS would just have to reclaim it.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) moved to close debate and vote on the resolution. Malikai Bass (Museology) seconded. No objections.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) asked the three people who had trouble with voting to send her their votes via chat because she had been unable to resolve the issue during the meeting.

Senators voted on the resolution via Poll Everywhere. The resolution passed, 13: 4: 5, Yea: Nay: Abstain.

10. [Information] Officer and Committee Reports 7:09pm

Aaron Yared said that he sat on the police chief hiring committee. He said that the committee had only had two meetings and were laying a foundation. He said that it had hosted some sessions last Friday where students could speak to what they were looking for in a police chief and what priorities they had in mind. He said that the overwhelming sentiment in the session that he had attended was that the new police chief had to be somebody who prioritized marginalized and minoritized populations, the most vulnerable populations on our campus. He said that he expressed that the new police chief would also need to be open to alternative types of emergency services in line with the resolution that the GPSS passed last quarter. He expressed hope that the newly hired police chief would be willing to work with organizations like the GPSS, ASUW, and the alternative emergency services project that Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) and Davon Thomas (Public Administration) had organized. He noted Gabby Rivera's point about needing to build rapport with the community.

Aaron Yared said that the other committee that he was a part of was the Committee for Teaching and Learning. He said that the committee was creating a survey of questions on how to improve teaching and learning for both undergraduate and graduate students. He said that he and the ASUW president were the two student representatives on the committee. He said that it had been interesting to see some archaic traditions that the UW had carried through. He said that the idea of a “sage on a stage” referred to lectures without any discussion, application, or practical component in tutelage. He said that the general agreement that the committee concluded on in regards to graduate studies was that there needed to be more flexibility in every department and program and that there was no singular teaching style that worked for every student which meant that the instructors had to accommodate for that.

Aaron Yared announced that the application for the student regent position had officially become live yesterday. He said that the GPSS would post it on its website and make an announcement. He said that he was the current chair of the student regent search committee and encouraged everyone to apply for the student regent position. He said that his committee picked three to five candidates and forwarded these candidates to the governor to select the next student regent. He said that the position came with a tuition waiver, and a seat on the Board of Regents. He said that the student regent brought a student perspective to the table but represented everybody in the State of Washington. He said that the application closed on April 19 and that Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) would send it out with the post meeting email. He encouraged everyone to reach out to him with any questions.

Gabby Rivera said that Aaron Yared sat on the Tricampus Advisory Board (TAB). She said that the TAB would talk with the Office of Planning & Budgeting to discuss tuition rate increases, capital planning, and each department's state budget request. She said that the U-PASS Advisory Board decided right before spring break to not increase the U-PASS fee. She said that this decision was due to the transportation services having an array of drastically different projections based on pre-COVID, post-COVID ridership. She said that the advisory board had felt uncomfortable with the variability among the projections. She said that the advisory board was planning to meet with transit partners this quarter and said to be on the lookout for a solicitation on support for a student fare through King Country Metro. She said that this strategy would lower the U-PASS fee for all students.

Gabby Rivera referred to the slides and said that it listed all the events for this quarter. She said that students could stop by the GPSS office and grab coffee and bagels on Friday. She said that the GPSS was hosting free dinner and in-person trivia night in the HUB in person on Wednesday. She said that the registration link was posted on the GPSS Instagram. She said that the GPSS was partnering with UW libraries to host Hacking Academy on Tuesday the 26th. She said that Hacking Academy had been organized by Core Programs and the UW libraries in the past. She said that the event would highlight ways that UW researchers were innovating or being creative about their approach research. She said that the GPSS panel would be held on Zoom, and that the theme was connection. She asked everyone to invite people who were writing a dissertation or doing research that focused on connection in any way to email her so she could ask them to speak on this panel. She said that the GPSS would host mentor appreciation on May 3, which is Teachers' Appreciation Day. She said that there would be a Mariners game on May 6 and pointed to a link to discounted \$8 tickets. She said that Friday,

May 13th, would be the date of Husky Sunset in Sylvan grove. She said that the GPSS would provide food and hopefully booze as well. She said that she would plan a way to celebrate the senators at the end of the quarter.

Meshell Sturgis said that the GPSS had begun to collect responses for its demographic survey. She said that the GPSS had been running this survey every year for the past few years and asked senators to fill it out. She said that there would be some time set aside at the next Senate meeting to fill it out in order to increase survey participation. She said that senators were able to access the link now and fill it out ahead of time if they wanted to. She said that the survey would provide insight on who was present within the GPSS and which communities were being represented by the current senators, staff, officers, committee members, and liaisons.

A.J. Balatico said that the GPSS had funded 42 students with travel grants this year, which was five times last year's number. He said that if this rate were to continue, the GPSS would run out of money. He said that he, Gabby Rivera, Jacinda (), Brie, and Kaelin composed the travel grants committee. He said that the travel grants committee needed to decide whether to start aggressively rejecting people. He said that the previous acceptance rate for travel grants was 60%. He said that this year, the travel grants committee had not had to say no as they had asked applicants to revise and resubmit their applications.

A.J. Balatico said that the F&B needed more senators because one of its senators was no longer affiliated with the GPSS. He said that the F&B meeting time had changed from 11 to 11:30 and that the F&B did not intend to have any long budget discussion meetings. He said that the F&B entertained about one presentation per week, though some weeks were busier. He said that the F&B had approved funding for the Graduate Students of Color in Astronomy and Physics for an honorary for a speaker. He said that First Nations UW would present on Friday. He said that Pup Support, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, and the College of Education's OSDI were also in queue to present eventually.

A.J. Balatico said that the STF had discussed changing the STF rate. He said that this fee change would need to be approved by both the GPSS and the ASUW. He said that if an approval was not achieved, then the fee would remain at \$38 per quarter. He said that this rate generated \$5 million in revenue per year. He said that the STF applications would open soon and that the GPSS would present two different applications, one for CART captioning, and one for Zoom Webinar. He said that the GPSS was also considering applying for money to hire a web developer. He said that it would cost about \$30 per quarter, though summer quarter would be slightly more expensive than during the academic term.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said he had been working with the administration in his department to see if the building needed upgrades for Panopto systems due to the closure of the Edge program which had provided remote lecture capture for a lot of the department's classes. He said that the department administration said that existing Panopto systems would be sufficient to continue to allow all of the graduate level coursework to remain accessible. He said that the administration was hoping to better use existing systems. He said that the STF was able to fund Panopto systems and recommended that each senator talk to the administration in their departments about possibly applying for Panopto systems for rooms in their buildings. He said he was happy to help. He noted that the STF had a large budget

available for these types of projects, and that the GPSS had had extensive discussions about remote accessibility within the Senate. He said that having more Panopto systems would help increase accessibility with many classes.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) noted that it seemed that the GPSS was running out of money for travel grants. He said that it seemed from the discussions around senator compensation that the GPSS was not currently spending all of its money in part due to pandemic related things, such as uncertainty around whether GPSS members would travel to D.C. for SAGE, or the fact that the GPSS had not been spending money on food for the past two quarters. He asked if the GPSS could move money from other budget line items that were not being spent into the travel grants committee.

A.J. Balatico said he was advocating for the option to have a grants title under the GPSS budget. He said that the GPSS could move money from its special allocations fund, money which was reserved for RSOs. He said that the GPSS would not change the overall amount of \$52,000, but would change the ratio of how the money was allocated. He said that that was probably the easiest way of doing it instead of reducing the travel grant acceptance rate. He anticipated needing around \$3,000 to \$4,000, or even more if many of the travel grant applicants were looking to travel internationally.

A.J. Balatico said that the GPSS had openings for both SAF and STF. He said that these appointments were considered existentially important for the running of the university and had to be approved by the Executive Committee. He said that the Executive Committee planned to approve new appointments at its next meeting and said that the appointment could be competitive. He said that senators could send either him, Aaron Yared, or Aditya Ramnathkar their CV or resume to apply. He said that the Executive Committee had also decided to allow undergraduate students who had been at the university for at least three years to fill the position. He said that though Ted Cohen was no longer a part of GPSS, he would remain as one of the GPSS's appointees on the SAF Committee.

A.J. Balatico said that the SAF would have hard discussions in its coming meetings as it had to allocate \$20 million of student fees. He said that the SAF only had about \$800,000 in extra funding. He explained that the SAF fee increased by 4% each year. He said that since the other money had already been allocated, it was apparent that the increase in funding was not enough for all the units' requested increases. He explained that Hall Health was asking for \$270,000 to offset inflation, as well as \$420,000 to hire a dietician, and a gender-affirming care physician. He said that the SAF could also use its reserves, but that the reserves were not infinite. He said that it would be a permanent change to the budget, and would cost about this much every year.

A.J. Balatico said that the GPSS would have to vote on its budget. He said that the GPSS's SAF presentation went well and that the majority of the questions were about the responsibilities of each officer.

11. [Information] Announcements 7:29pm

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that SAGE, a body that performed federal lobbying on behalf of graduate students and which had representatives from numerous

universities around the country, including UW, was drafting white papers. He said that he was on the committee and was writing a one-pager for international student issues. He said that his committee was looking at issues such as increased fees related to J1 visas and other immigration issues. He said that the committee met on Thursdays at 11 and that the one-pager was due April 16. He said that interested people should contact him via email.

Payton Swinford said that the legislative session update acted as most of his officer report. He said that this quarter, the LAB meeting time would be at 2:30 pm on Tuesdays. He said that in spring quarter, the LAB did not meet every week. He said that he wanted to ensure that the LAB hold its meetings in the time frame between the release of the GPSS election packets and the GPSS officer elections. He said that anyone who was interested in running for his position had many opportunities to meet the required number of LAB meeting attendances. He said that the LAB would work on preparing for the next legislative session this quarter. He said that the next legislative session would be a long session as well as a budget year and said that the LAB would have to prepare for the next year now.

Waleed Khan (Education) said that the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion would be hosting a global education forum. He said that the date was still to be decided, but that it would be held in April.

A.J. Balatico said that the Elections Guide would be finalized by the April 20th meeting. He said that the election would most likely take place on May 18, the penultimate Senate meeting. He said that people interested in running would have to provide at least a one to two page resumé, a one page statement of objectives, and fill out a form.

A.J. Balatico said that there was at least one executive senator seat open. He said that depending on how the GPSS voted on the budget, the GPSS might have an additional opening. He said that the next Senate meeting would feature an executive senator election.

Aaron Yared said that students interested in applying for the student regent position were not allowed to run for either ASUW or GPSS office.

Meshell Sturgis said that the Simpson Center was hosting a student meet and greet. She said that she would be there and said that the provided food would be good. She said that it was a chance to meet other fellow humanities students across departments and said that it would happen on April 12 at 4:30 in the second floor of the communication building.

A.J. Balatico said that the First Nations would hold their spring powwow at the Hec Edmundson Pavilion Husky stadium. He said that it was a continuation of their winter celebration. He said that everyone was invited. He said that the event "F*** Stairs" would be held Friday at the Intellectual House on April 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. He said that Pup Support was hosting Grooving for Good. He said that Pup Support was asking for different submissions for art and performances. He said that Thursday was Husky Giving Day and was specific to the HUB. He asked students to consider giving as appropriate. He said that the ASUW elections would be held online from April 18th to the 20th. He said that the forum took place on Tuesday and that there were two more unofficial forums coming up. He said that *The Daily* candidate forum was on Friday, April 8 in Gowen Hall and that the housing Residential Community Student Association forum was on

April 13. He said that there would be an additional board of directors to lead the forum with official candidate questions. He said that FIUTS would not continue at the UW and would be replaced by an online orientation program. He said that the Dubs and Harry would be at the University Bookstore grad fair in the basement. He said that the grad fair would be held in the bookstore on the Ave from 10 to 5 tomorrow and that students could order academic regalia or get their souvenirs at the bookstore.

12. [Action] Adjournment 7:41pm

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Malikai Bass (Museology) objected.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) withdrew his motion.

Malikai Bass (Museology) said that from April 11-15, the Student Disability Commission was asking all students to participate in the “F*** Stairs” campaign. He noted that he was not the one who named the campaign. He asked everyone to avoid taking the stairs from the 11th to the 15th. He said that using outdoor stairs was usually done subconsciously and that people did not realize how prevalent outdoor stairs were around the university. He said that this year marked the 30th year since ADA became applicable to the University of Washington. He pointed out that the UW was still discussing the issue of outdoor stairs. He hoped that other students would participate in the pledge to not use stairs during this upcoming week and realize how hard it could be to find the ramps and how far the ramps were. He challenged everyone to try to get to the cherry blossoms without taking any stairs.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Payton Swinford** seconded. No objections

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