

GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 20th 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 Camputare~~

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

Davon Thomas (Constituency) moved to approve the agenda. **Andrew Shumway (Constituency)** seconded. No objections.

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

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) moved to approve the minutes. **Rachel Jecker (Medicine)** 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.

Aaron Yared invited senators who were interested in doing the land acknowledgment at the beginning of a meeting to send him an email beforehand so that he could open the floor for them.

5. [Information] Announcements 5:50pm

Aaron Yared explained that the Executive Committee had realized the meetings could get really long. He said that announcements were important and were a way for people to let each other know about the communities around campus. He said that the Executive Committee had decided to start the meeting with announcements.

A.J. Balatico noted that Earth Day week 2022 was ongoing. He referred to the slides which listed ongoing campus events. He said that a certain RSO was calling for art submissions. He said that the deadline to submit was tonight and that the RSO was presenting to the Finance and Budget Committee soon for a charity event called "Pup Support: Grooving for Good." He said that the GPSS officer election date would be set during this meeting. He referred to the slides which listed the recommended people to talk to if one was interested in running.

Aaron Yared said that each position had corresponding people who could give prospective candidates more information about the responsibilities and experience of being in that position.

A.J. Balatico said that today was the last day for people to vote in the ASUW elections. He said that voting closed at 11:45. He said that the board of directors video was also up on the voting website.

A.J. Balatico said that the 20-page joint resolution for a fossil fuel divestment at the university went through its first reading yesterday at ASUW's Senate meeting. He said that the same resolution, which contained context for the institution's responses over the years, would come before the GPSS on May 4.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that Student Technology Fee (STF) proposals were due on May 7. He explained that the STF funded many things like computer labs, charging stations, research equipment, and equipment at the IMA. He said that the STF had considered funding Panopto systems. He encouraged everyone to talk to their program administrators about funding Panopto systems through the STF. He said it was a tangible way

that everyone could support the expansion of lecture capture accessibility.

A.J. Balatico said that the CART captioning for the GPSS and the Zoom webinar proposal was up on the STF website. He asked people to endorse it during the meeting today.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that as a result of the Extraordinary Circumstances Change Fee Resolution, the administration enacted the repayment of the fees. He said that these payments also worked retroactively, so students who demonstrated financial need prior to the event of an “extraordinary circumstance” quarter who had to pay for the fee change would get their money back. He said that the Provost had met with him and his colleagues and had updated the website with contact information for those who had not received their money.

Giordano Conticelli (Art History) invited everyone to a symposium organized by art history graduate students. He said that the symposium was titled “Dismantling the bodies, limitations and possibilities in art making.” He said he would post the registration link in the chat. He said that the organizers also wanted to make the symposium interdisciplinary and were looking for graduate students who wanted to be potential panel chairs. He said he would leave his email in the chat for those who were interested.

6. [Information] Senate Check-in 5:57pm

Aaron Yared said that the purpose of the check-in question was to have people get to know each other. He asked everyone to discuss how they heard about this meeting and why they came.

Gabby Rivera asked everyone to discuss what they had in common with their group members, with an emphasis on obscure details.

Senators were put in breakout rooms or formed groups of three.

7. [Information] GPSS Demographic Survey 6:11pm

Aditya Ramnathkar said he was excited to share that the GPSS's demographic survey was back again this year. He said that the purpose of the survey was to understand the extent to which the GPSS accurately reflected the graduate student population. He said that the survey was open for everyone who was associated with the GPSS: senators, executive senators, liaisons, officers, and staff. He asked everyone at the Senate meeting to scan the QR code on the slides or click on the link provided in the chat and fill out the survey.

Aaron Yared said that the survey was important to the GPSS as it allowed the GPSS to understand who it was serving.

Meshell Sturgis asked people to take the allotted agenda item time to fill out the survey right now. She said that the survey was short and that the GPSS was trying to increase its response

rates from last year. She said that everyone at the meeting should fill out the survey.

Helena McGonagle (Aquatic Fisheries and Sciences) asked if the survey had already been sent out to senators and expressed concern of filling out the survey twice.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) said that it was the same survey and would allow people to respond twice.

Apoorva Patil introduced herself as a student from the mechanical engineering department and asked if she had to fill out the survey.

Aaron Yared said everyone at the meeting should fill it out.

A.J. Balatico said that those who had finished the survey should also look over the GPSS's STF proposal for CART captioning and Zoom and consider endorsing it.

8. [Action] Bylaws and Constitution Amendments 6:18pm

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) explained that last year's Senate body amended the Bylaws and Constitution to remove the Secretary position and implement the Vice President of Equity and Accountability (VPEA) position. He said that the Judicial Committee had since received some feedback that some duties have started falling through the cracks. He said that adding a new officer position called the Vice President of Administration (VPA) had been proposed to pick up some of the Secretary duties that had been falling through the cracks.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) introduced himself as the chair of the Judicial Committee and explained that he sat on the committee with five other senators. He explained that the purpose of his presentation was to share the Judicial Committee's recommendations on the proposed Bylaw amendments. He said that it was the Senate's decision on whether to accept these amendments. He said that the proposed amendments had been sent to the GPSS a week in advance

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said that the main objective of the amendments was to regroup the administrative duties under one VPA so that the duties were not neglected. He said that the Judicial Committee had also proposed changing the name of the officer position "Vice President of Equity and Accountability" to "Vice President of Equity and Inclusion" (VPEI) instead. He said that the primary reason for this change was that the accountability duties had been moved or would be moved to a new officer position. He said that the Judicial Committee had discussed these proposed amendments, worked with the people who submitted the proposals to refine them, and had offered some recommendations, which was in line with the process for amending the Bylaws as outlined in the Bylaws.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) read Article 5 Section G Clause 1 of the Bylaws and said that the Judicial Committee recommended that "authorizing public communication" be replaced with language that more clearly delineated responsibilities between different officers and staff since authorizing communication was a responsibility shared by all officers.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said that the Judicial Committee had not been able to come to a conclusion on whether the VPEA or the VPA should sit on the Judicial Committee. He said that this responsibility had previously resided with the Secretary position. He said that the responsibility was reassigned to the Vice President of Equity and Accountability once the Secretary position had been eliminated.

A.J. Balatico asked if his proposal for adding the STF Committee obligation to his position had been included in the amendments.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said yes.

A.J. Balatico explained that the Bylaws had not explicitly listed that responsibility, but that it had been listed in the Elections Guide for the last five years, and that all of the treasurers before him had sat on the STF Committee. He asked if the Judicial Committee had also considered changing the instances of “Provost Advisory Committee for Students” (PACS) to its current name.

Aaron Yared said that the change would be grammatical because PACS was rebranded as TABS.

A.J. Balatico said that instances of “GO-MAP” needed to be updated to “GSEE.”

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) noted that one of the candidates running for ASUW board expressed support for recreating PACS, and cautioned about making changes to the documents too early.

Aaron Yared said PACS was rebranded to the Tricampus Advisory Board for Students (TABS). He said that the change would be considered grammatical.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked how he could suggest that the VPA sit on the Judicial Committee. He said that he felt that it was the right decision to place the VPA on the Judicial Committee.

Aaron Yared said that the Senate needed to vote on it along with the rest of the amendments. He explained that the Judicial Committee did not make a formal recommendation which meant that the VPA could sit on the Judicial Committee if the Senate decided to place them there. He said that if the Senate agreed to put the VPA on the Judicial Committee and voted in favor of the amendment, it would happen.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked if it required a separate motion

Aaron Yared said it could be included in one large motion.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) raised a point of order and clarified that the Senate was considering the proposed amendments as the main motion. He said that senators could motion to amend the larger motion and propose new language. He said that the Judicial Committee might already have some language drafted up.

A.J. Balatico said the bylaw amendments only required a simple majority whereas the constitutional amendments required a two-thirds majority. He said that the main changes to the Constitution would be under Article 5, where the officer roles were defined. He said that the VPA would be added and that the name of the role “Vice President of Equity & Accountability” would be changed to “Vice President of Equity & Inclusion.”

Aaron Yared clarified that the constitutional amendments needed to be passed first .

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) responded to Davon Thomas (Public Administration) and said that the previous link submitted by the sponsors originally had the VPA on the Judicial Committee. He said that if this were proposed again, the language to implement this change already existed and should not be a barrier to amending the main motion. He said that he was among the members of the Judicial Committee who had objected to the initial language and supported having the VPEA on the Judicial Committee. He explained that the Bylaws stated that the VPA alone would administer and handle representation request applications from new or unrepresented programs. He said that appeals of the VPA’s decision could be read in writing, including email, to the GPSS Judicial Committee and VPEI.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that if the VPA sat on the Judicial Committee and provided administrative support to the Judicial Committee, then the VPA’s decision would be appealed to the VPA. He noted that there were mechanisms for dealing with conflicts of interest in the Bylaws, such as having the person recuse themselves. He said that this meant that the Judicial Committee would have to operate without its supporting officer.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that Meshell Sturgis had been essential to the Judicial Committee’s convening and meetings. He said that he would be very worried about a situation where the Judicial Committee did not have officer support during a meeting. He said that this was his rationale for having the VPEI on the Judicial Committee instead of the VPA. He said that if someone wanted to make the change, the language to make the change existed.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) said that she was the one who initially proposed having the VPA sit on the Judicial Committee. She said that the rationale behind this decision was because she thought that the VPA should do administrative tasks. She said that upon further reflection, she agreed with Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) point.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) said that she appreciated Alexander Novokhodko’s (Mechanical Engineering) perspective, though she thought that the VPA should have a seat on the Judicial Committee. She said that there was much overlap between the duties of the VPA and the Judicial Committee. She said that this overlap surpassed the potential conflict of interest, especially since there were checks and balances that would prevent this conflict. She said that the Judicial Committee could also enlist the help of its advisor if the officer was not available due to a conflict of interest. She agreed that Meshell Sturgis was instrumental to the Judicial Committee meetings. She said that the Vice President of Finance was also very helpful as well as the other officers and Senate members who came. She said that there were many ways for

the Judicial Committee to receive officer support, RSO guidance, and supervision if necessary. She said that this did not outweigh the role of VPA admin and the overlap of their duties with the Judicial Committee's, such as the custody of Senate documents, such as the Bylaws and the Constitution. She said that this was why she believed that the VPA would be more knowledgeable about these documents than any of the other officers which was why she thought that the VPA would be a better fit on the Judicial Committee than the VPEI.

Payton Swinford motioned to extend time by ten minutes. Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) seconded. No objections.

Malikai Bass (Museology) asked if there was a situation in which the VPEA could have a conflict of interest in a judicial ruling.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said that if there were any, the number of them was far fewer than for the VPA.

Aaron Yared said that one way to resolve the issue would be to take the appeal process away from the Judicial Committee in those situations and give it to the Executive Committee instead. He said that if there were other possible conflicts of interests, then this solution might not hold.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said he knew of one case where the VPEI would be conflicted, but that this situation applied to any officer. He said that the Judicial Committee reviewed complaints against officers in certain situations. He said that if there was a complaint against the VPEI, then the VPEI would have a conflict of interest. He asked Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) about any other possible conflicts.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said he had thought the same thing.

Aaron Yared said that officers could abstain or recuse themselves from the issue one came up.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked if the Senate could pass the constitutional amendment first.

Aaron Yared said the passage of the Constitution was somewhat conditional on the Bylaw. He relented and said it was possible.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that the only proposed change in the Constitution was changing "Vice President of Equity & Accountability" to "Vice President of Equity and inclusion," and creating the VPA role.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to adopt the constitutional amendment.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) raised an objection.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) withdrew his motion.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) said that the conversation should first be resolved. She agreed with

Andrew Shumway's (Earth & Space Sciences) and Alexander Novokhodko's (Mechanical Engineering) points about conflict of interest. She said that a possible conflict of interest that could arise was when someone filed a grievance against the VPEI relating to DEI issues and that the VPEI could refer to the Judicial Committee in that case. She said that she did not know if there was a situation where a conflict of interest could arise in that case since that particular newly amended clause had not yet been tried.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked whether the VPEI currently sat on the Judicial Committee as written in the Bylaws.

Aaron Yared said yes.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) raised a point of information and said that he forgot to mention earlier that the number of executive senators would increase from six to seven.

Aaron Yared explained that this measure was so that there were always more executive senators than there were officers so that officers did not bulldoze legislation through in Executive Committee meetings.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked if the order of motions was to first approve the constitutional amendments and then the bylaw amendments.

Aaron Yared said yes.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to adopt the constitutional amendments. **Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** seconded.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if the previous question had been resolved or if there was a motion about it.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS did not resolve it. He explained that Davon Thomas (Public Administration) was making the motion for the constitutional amendment and did not relate to the question.

Senators voted on Poll Everywhere. The motion passed 18: 0 : 1, yea: nay: abstain.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if Aaron Yared could post a visual of what the Senate was voting on.

Aaron Yared said the Senate was voting on the constitutional amendments and said that the amendments could be found in the email. He asked Gabby Rivera to post a link to the constitutional amendments in the chat.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) moved to extend time by ten minutes. **Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration)** seconded.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) objected and asked if the extension could be seven minutes instead.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) accepted the amendment. No objections.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) stated that the purpose of the motion was to approve the constitutional amendments to create the VPA position and change the name of "Vice President of Equity & Accountability" to the "Vice President of Equity & Inclusion."

The screen showed the changes to the Constitution.

The motion passed, 18: 0: 1, yea: nay: abstain.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) raised a point of privilege and asked if Aaron Yared could pull the Bylaws up on the screen. He said he had noticed something that the Senate should fix immediately. He said that since a new officer was added, the Bylaws no longer made sense for the quorum of the Executive Committee as described in Article 6, Section A, Clause 3 (b). He said that the current language mandated that the executive senators hold six of the eleven official seats on the Executive Committee.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) motioned to change the language to "greater than 50%." **Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering)** seconded.

Aaron Yared asked if it was a Bylaw amendment and called for objections.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said yes and suggested adding this proposal to the larger motion of Bylaw amendments.

Aaron Yared amended the motion.
-friendly amendment to the larger package motion

~~said I'm okay with that. Let's do that. Okay. So let's just say the motion to add that to the package of amendments passes. We're going to go with that.~~

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that the potential conflict Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) was referring to earlier was that the VPEI could "receive grievances from graduate and professional students concerning inequities existing along lines of difference, including but not limited to racism, homophobia, bigotry and xenophobia and refer complaints to the Judicial Committee for investigation when applicable under Article 6 Section 5 Clause 2(a)." He concluded that the VPEI could refer grievances to the Judicial Committee. He said that it had not seemed like a severe conflict because it was not a decision by the VPEI being appealed by the Judicial Committee and that the Judicial Committee was not adversarial to the VPEI in this instance.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) said that that was the potential conflict she was referring to. She said that the clause he referred to depended on one's interpretation. She said that since the VPEI position was new, the amendment that had been instituted last year had not been used nor tried yet. She said she agreed with Andrew Shumway's (Earth & Science Spaces) proposal.

She said that having a simple majority might be better than trying to obtain more than half of the Senate's consent.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) motioned to extend time by five minutes. **Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** seconded. No objections.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) explained that the creation of the VPEI role and their inclusion on the Judicial Committee was precisely due to the segment of the bylaws that Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) had referred to. She said that if the GPSS had committed to having diverse and fair representation on the Senate by creating the VPEI role and had proved that the eliminated secretary role was necessary. She said that had GPSS's committed to diversity and making sure that the Senate reflected the diverse group of graduate students that it represented. She said that the VPEI's seat should not be taken off the Committee. She said that having the VPEI on the Judicial Committee did not bar other officers from participating, but created a pipeline relationship which allowed people to send the VPEI their concerns through the Judicial Committee. She said that if there was a circumstance where the current VPEI was involved, they could recuse themselves.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that keeping the link between the VPEI and the Judicial Committee was another way for the GPSS to express its continued transparency and support for diverse representation. She said that the GPSS had committed to these ideals by creating this role and implementing a seat for the role on the Judicial Committee. She said that the GPSS should not supplant the VPEI with the VPA. She said that the Senate could add an additional officer or decide that the officer whose responsibilities were within the purview of the issue choose to participate. She said that the linking of the VPEI and the Judicial Committee had been intentional.

Meshell Sturgis said she had also mentioned the same point as an ex officio member during Judicial Committee meetings. She said that one of the objections was that having two officers on the Judicial Committee would create an imbalance of power within the Judicial Committee. She said that the VPEI should stay on the Judicial Committee but that the committee would also benefit from the VPA's presence as well.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that he had found a mistake in Article 6, Section B, Clause 2(d) which read "Judicial Committee may review representation application decisions made by the Vice President of Internal Affairs." He said that the clause should reference the VPA instead as this change duplicated language found elsewhere in the Bylaws.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to make the change in the proposed amendment to maintain consistency throughout the Bylaws.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) asked if the Senate could make a blanket motion to replace all the old language instead of making individual motions any time the old language appeared.

Aaron Yared said it could be accepted as a friendly amendment.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that this was the only instance where

the language had not been corrected.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) asked Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) to accept the amendment.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) agreed to accept the amendment as friendly. **Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences)** seconded. No objections.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) asked if the VPA could attend Judicial Committee meetings to attend to the overlap in duties without officially sitting on the Judicial Committee.

Aaron Yared said yes.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) said that the VPA could simply attend the meetings if the Judicial Committee's duties overlapped with theirs. She said that there was no clear need to replace the VPEI with the VPA on the Judicial Committee.

Aaron Yared said that the VPEI held an ex officio seat on the Judicial Committee which meant that they did not have voting power. He said that this rendered the conflict of interest point moot.

Gabby Rivera motioned to extend by five minutes. **Davon Thomas (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

Michael Saunders suggested adding an amendment that allowed the VPA to act as a proxy for the VPEI if the VPEI could not attend the Judicial Committee meeting.

Aaron Yared said yes. He said that allowing both officers to be there at different times if necessary was an advantageous option.

Meshell Sturgis said the proposal had already been suggested during Judicial Committee meetings. She said that the Bylaws already stated that the VPEI could have a proxy.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) agreed that such a provision already existed.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) moved to close debate and vote on the amendments as written. He said that those that disagreed should vote against the motion to close debate. Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) seconded.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) raised a point of information and said that Alexander Novokhodko's (Mechanical Engineering) motion did not include any changes to the structure of the Judicial Committee. He said that the VPEI would sit on the Judicial Committee.

No objections.

Senators voted on Poll Everywhere. The motion passed 14: 2: 0, yea: nay: abstain.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if the Senate was voting to pass the entire thing.

Aaron Yared said yes. He said that if she disagreed with parts of the proposed amendments, then she should vote against the measure.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if it was fair and asked if she could object to it.

Aaron Yared said that the motion had already been made.

Payton Swinford raised a point of information and said that if Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) was interested in voting on the proposed amendments separately, she could call for a motion to divide the question.

Aaron Yared said that the time to object to the motion had already passed.

9. [Action] Budget Approval 7:06pm

A.J. Balatico referred to the slides and said that all of the options had been presented to Student Activities Fee (SAF) because the GPSS had not been able to decide which budget option to officially adopt at the March 9 GPSS meeting. He said that regardless of which option was chosen, the SAF request would have been the same. He said that the GPSS only requested an additional \$17,755 and that the GPSS's overall expenditures would vary depending on which option it chose.

A.J. Balatico explained that option A was just the increase in staff wages from \$18/hour to \$23. He said that option B included adding three additional staff members with the staff wage increase. He said that he had factored in an adjustment to officer tuition from \$23,000 to \$25,000 to balance out fluctuations in tuition. He said that option C was to add the VPA and executive senator and to raise the officer tuition to roughly \$24,000 because there would be six officers. He said that the total cost of the tuition waivers would change depending on the officers' programs. He noted that options B and C cost roughly the same. He said that the SAF request could stay at \$17,755 every year until fiscal year '27. He said that the GPSS had reserves and that option B would leave the GPSS with \$60,000. He said that the GPSS would have \$54,000 available at the beginning of fiscal year '27. He said that the GPSS retained 25% of its yearly expenditures due to a certain bylaw.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) asked if option C was the only option since the GPSS had amended the bylaws.

A.J. Balatico said yes.

Aaron Yared said that people were free to vote for other options, even so.

The senators voted through Poll Everywhere. The senators voted for option C. The vote result was 0: 0: 12, option A: option B: option C.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked for a tally on the votes for the passage of the Bylaw amendments. .

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering) recited the results of the vote.

Meshell Sturgis asked if the budget projections included the recently approved staff wage increases.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked if the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion would acquire a staff member, and asked how this fit in with the plan to reorganize the staff roles during the summer.

Gabby Rivera said that since the Bylaw amendments had passed, the officers would reshuffle job descriptions and job titles.

A.J. Balatico said that the GPSS could save money through officer tuition waivers. He said that there might be additional money to create a staff position. He said that the only thing against this idea was that these funds were not guaranteed every year. He noted that different programs had different tuition costs, so more expensive officers could theoretically cancel out any potential savings. He said that he had made an adjustment so that the average spending over a longer time period would be accurate while the savings or overspending could vary from year to year.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to close debate. **Davon Thomas (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

10. [Action] Election Guide Approval 7:11pm

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS had had many issues convening the Elections Committee this year. He said that the GPSS needed to pass the Election Guide today or else the election would have to be postponed on the last GPSS meeting which created a potential for many problems. He said that the officers had discussed the situation and decided that the best way to move forward was to have the three graduating officers operate as the substitute Elections Committee to facilitate the elections for two reasons: 1) officers who were graduating did not have any aspirations to run, so there was no conflict of interest, and 2) officers were paid to do work, so it was appropriate for the Senate to expect them to get things done. He said he would entertain a motion to suspend Bylaw Article 6, Section B Clause 1(a). He explained that this bylaw stated that officers were not allowed to sit on the elections committee.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) moved to suspend Bylaw Article 6, Section B Clause 1(a).

Meshell Sturgis offered an amendment and asked Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) to specify when the suspension was to end, such as “for the election of the 2021-2022 academic year.”

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) accepted the amendment.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if this motion foreclosed the participation of other willing senators.

Aaron Yared said no and that the officers would appreciate the help. He said that this motion was entertained because the Election Guide needed to be passed tonight.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) seconded. No objections.

Aaron Yared referred to the copy of the edited Elections Guide on the screen and said that the highlights denoted the changes in the text. He said though dates had been changed, none of the officer responsibilities had been changed because the officers did not know how the Senate would vote on the Bylaw amendments. He said that the officers had opted to condition the motion to approve the Elections Guide with “with the language that we approved from the bylaw and constitutional amendments.”

Aaron Yared read through the timeline written in the draft of the Elections Guide.

Gabby Rivera said that the independent witnesses of the election would be the Student Activities Officers Rene Singleton and Christina Coop.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that the Bylaws currently stated that "committee members, that is Elections Committee members, shall attend a mandatory orientation meeting with the student's activity office advisor no later than April 1 and are advised if available" which the officers operating the election had not done.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to suspend Article 6 Section D Clause 1(f) for the duration of this election. Davon Thomas (Public Administration) seconded. No objections.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) referred to the beginning of a paragraph of the Election Guide and read “all candidates must attend this meeting.” He asked if this meant the elections meeting and asked if it was an artifact from last year’s Election Guide.

Aaron Yared said it was left over from last year. He clarified that the elections meeting would be a hybrid meeting and that senators would be allowed to attend virtually.

Gabby Rivera said that prospective candidates should consider attending all expected meetings that were respective to the position they were running for. She noted that there were only three weeks until the election which might impose a limitation to some of the candidates. She said she was giving notice to the Senate body in case anyone wanted to change this possible barrier.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked if there was one more Senate meeting after the elections meeting.

Aaron Yared said yes.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to approve the changes to the Election Guide with the additional changes to the Bylaws that were passed. **Pratima KC**

(Environmental & Forest Sciences) seconded.

Payton Swinford offered a friendly amendment and asked if the motion could reference the suspended bylaws so that future Senate bodies would understand why such a motion was passed.

Aaron Yared said that the rationale would be reflected in the minutes.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) called for a division of the assembly and explained that he did not want a vote by unanimous consent.

Gabby Rivera said she would post the finished Election Guide by Friday.

Aaron Yared said that it was the soonest that the officers could get it done.

Senators voted on the passage of the Election Guide. The motion passed 14: 0: 2, yea: nay: abstain.

11. [Information] Resolution in Support of Hazard Pay 7:25pm

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the motivation for this resolution came from his experience as a teaching assistant last quarter. He noted that the resolution referred to the spring quarter.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) read the resolution verbatim.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) asked if Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) had reached out to the union to see if they were doing anything similar. He said that he had previously heard similar plans within the union.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said he had met with the union president Sam Sumpter on Friday. He said that the union had not taken a stance on the resolution but had expressed their support. He said that he planned to bring the resolution to relevant union committees moving forward. He noted that the union's next general membership meeting was later in May, and said that he was on the Return-to-Campus work group. He said that he planned to bring this resolution to the Return-to-Campus work group since they had been working on many related issues. He said he had also reached out to the Student Disability Commission. He expressed hope that he would have many of these conversations before the GPSS voted on the resolution. He asked people to reach out to him if they knew of other people who would have valuable input on this resolution.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) asked if the resolution would apply to all academic student employees.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said it would apply to any student worker working in

person. He said that contracted workers under the union contract had more protections when requesting accommodations than someone who worked in food services. He said that the intent was to extend hazard pay to all workers.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked if Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) knew what the funds references in the document were currently being spent on.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the UW had received its third round of funding from the federal government. He said that a certain percentage of the funds had to be given directly to students and that the funds had been disbursed near the end of fall quarter. He said that the financial aid office had individually reached out to students eligible to receive individual support from that funding pool. He said that the amount not directly given to students was to be used for “institutional purposes.” He said that the \$53 million identified in the resolution was that pool of money which could also be given directly to students, though it was not legally required. He said that the UW had to spend the money from this pool by July 1 and that the first three installments of the funding had come in. He said that there was a website where the UW had to legally report what they had spent the money on. He said that he could put this link in the Discord. He said that UW had spent its money on infrastructure for struggling units across campus that were not directly student funded.

A.J. Balatico asked why \$2 was chosen as the amount of the hazard pay rate. He asked why other options had not been considered.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the \$2 was in line with the city’s recommendation of hazard pay rates for grocery workers during the pandemic. He said that he had also looked at how much this rate would cost the UW on a weekly basis. He said that he estimated that each student worker worked about 20 hours. He said that his intention was not to completely drain the entirety of the third round of institutional funding. He said that having \$250,000 budgeted for this initiative over a 10-week period seemed reasonable. He said that if the Senate felt that the hazard pay rate should be higher, he was open to increasing the amount.

Meshell Sturgis asked if the resolution only applied to the year 2022.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said yes.

Meshell Sturgis asked what the threshold for deciding whether to continue the hazard pay rate once it was in effect. She asked if the resolution could be worded to project the initiative into future years or whether Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) planned to pass new legislation each year.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that there should be hazard pay as long as certain people were disproportionately impacted by COVID. He said that there were fewer options to work remotely. He said that since the funding source reference in the resolution was only available until July 1, it would make the most sense to keep the initiative to the spring quarter unless an alternative funding source was identified. He said he was open to including a clause for next year.

Meshell Sturgis said that the UW would have to designate a metric to determine the extent of COVID on campus. She wondered whether Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) had considered any ways that the university might retaliate, such as reducing student hours, and how he would address or prevent potential retaliation.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) validated Meshell Sturgis' concern and said he was open to adding language regarding retaliation. He said that since the money would not come from a revenue source, he did not think it was necessary for the UW to retaliate but would think about it. He said he might add in language that stated that units needed to keep the number of workers at or above the current levels they were at upon passage. He invited everyone to give him further feedback.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) said that she was concerned that pairing the initiative with a university-designated metric created a financial incentive for the university not to designate extraordinary circumstance quarters which would disadvantage students in a whole host of other ways.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that since COVID was not going away, the UW could do other things to reduce COVID hazards such as installing air purifiers or HVAC improvements. He said that he did not know whether the university was spending its funds on these things, but said that he would want to prioritize things that reduced the hazard of COVID into the future.

12. [Information] Officer and Committee Reports 7:41pm

Aaron Yared said that student regent applications closed yesterday and that he had received six applications. He said he would meet with the selection committee this week and proceed with interviews next week. He said that he would forward the committee's recommendations to the governor by the next Senate meeting.

Aaron Yared said that the Tricampus Advisory Board (TABs) talked to Sally Clark about the ongoing "reimagining campus safety" mission. He said that there was a clear tension between the three campuses and how to make emergency management work across the three campuses. He said this issue had not been reflected on in the past and revealed a deep, inherent flaw in the structure of the university. He said that TABs also discussed separating 911 dispatchers from the UWPD and the possible benefits and setbacks of such a measure. He said that there were some hypothetical benefits but no documented benefits. He said that the setbacks were mainly bureaucratic.

Gabby Rivera said that TABs also discussed the five-year capital planning budget. She said that TABs would appreciate more student input, and highlighted that there was a \$15 million line item for accessibility improvements.

Gabby Rivera said that the Mariners game and Husky Sunrise would happen soon and asked everyone to reference Instagram for updates. She asked everyone for input on what food to serve at the next Senate meeting.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) suggested salmon.

Malikai Bass (Museology) said that anyone who wanted to talk about campus handrails and ramp placement was welcome to email him.

Pratima KC asked for a vegan food option for the elections meeting.

Meshell Sturgis asked everyone to fill out the GPSS demographic survey and thanked those who had already filled it out. She said that she and five other graduate students would present at the “Communicating Diversity” graduate student conference at Texas A&M University on May 7th. She said that people interested in attending could reach out to her via email for the link. She said that the GPSS was working on collaboratively drafting a land acknowledgement for future Senate bodies to use as well as writing a book chapter on other various diversity initiatives across campus. She said that the editors had notified her that that book project had been contracted with Routledge. She thanked the Judicial Committee for all of their work on the amendments.

Payton Swinford said that the GPSS was planning ahead for next year and following up on implementing the newly passed policies. He said that much of the implementation work would be on the new student loan bill and noted that the *Seattle Times* interviewed him about GPSS’s role in the bill’s passage. He reminded everyone that the next LAB meeting was on Tuesday at 2:30.

A.J. Balatico said the SAF had allocated \$15 million total for the 12 units that had reported their budgets. He said that there were six more units that were in line to report. He said that the SAF had a total budget of \$20 million and an extra \$800,000 due to the 4% growth of the SAF fee. He said that the SAF had already gone over its extra money by \$1.2 million which meant that the SAF would have to decide which unit to give less money to. He said that the SAF could use its reserves, but that the reserves were limited.

A.J. Balatico said that the Executive Committee would decide by May 4th what next year’s STF rate would be. He said that the STF had \$10 million in reserve and \$6 million still budgeted for this year. He said that the STF was working with different units to do campus-wide mega projects, such as installing Panopto into every classroom or other interventions to reduce its reserve.

13. [Action] Adjournment 7:49pm

Davon Thomas (Constituency) motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Helena McMonagle (Constituency)** seconded. No objections

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