

GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 4th 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 5:36pm

Aaron Yared called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:36pm

Matthew Mitnick (Constituency) moved to approve the agenda. **Michelle Noyes (Genome Sciences)** seconded. No objections.

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:38pm

Michelle Noyes (Genome Sciences) moved to approve the agenda. **Davon Thomas (Public Administration)** seconded. No objections.

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:38pm

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] Announcements 5:40pm

Gabby Rivera said this Friday was the GPSS Mariners game. She said that the GPSS had sold 100 tickets and that tomorrow was the last day to buy tickets. She said that there were about 20 tickets left on sale. She said that the bars that she had listed on the slides were expecting the GPSS to show up and pregame. She said that she had organized it in a way that students would be walking towards the Light Rail station. She said that the current owners of College Pub Inn had been GPSS senators and that GPSS was how the husband and wife duo had met.

Gabby Rivera said that next, the GPSS would host an event in Sylvan Grove, the location of the four columns. She said that the GPSS would have a barbecue and provide alcohol as well as music. She said that the QR code for registration was so that she could gauge the number of people coming. She asked senators to publicize the event. She said that the GPSS would be handing out masks and that she had ordered a large amount of hand sanitizer as well.

Giordano Conticelli (Art History) announced that the art history graduate students were hosting their first symposium. He said that the symposium would be very interdisciplinary because members of the symposium would discuss how disability was faced by scholars or artists and art historians. He referred to the link posted in the slides and asked everyone to join him. He thanked the GPSS for helping fund parts of the symposium.

A.J. Balatico said that the F&B had decided to support the Pup Support: Grooving for Good event which would be held on May 19 from 3 to 7:00 at the HUB Lyceum. He said that cute stickers of a little dog would be distributed to attendees. He said that the event would feature mental health panels and art exhibits to view.

A.J. Balatico said there would be a popup blood drive held at the Foster School on May 16 and 17. He said that the blood drive would take walk-ins. He said that there would be another popup blood drive at UW Tower on the 2nd and 3rd.

Jacob Hansen said that the UW Red Cross was hosting a blood drive on Monday May 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m in the HUB in South Ballroom. He said that people interested in donating would have to sign up either online at redcrossblood.org or through phone and use the code "universityofWA." He said that the code was only for UW students and faculty.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) asked if gay men were allowed to donate blood.

Jacob Hansen said that the Red Cross was bound by rules set by the FDA and CDC. He said that the Red Cross was fighting to change these stipulations.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said per the Red Cross site, men who have sex with men must engage in three months abstinence prior to donating blood.

A.J. Balatico said the undergraduate research symposium would be held in Mary Gates Hall on May 20th, and graduate students should help support this event. He said that the research symposium would feature seven-minute lightning talks.

A.J. Balatico referred to the slide and said that it was a list of people that potential candidates could contact to learn more about the GPSS officer positions. He said that the GPSS had decided to hold executive senator elections on June 1 and said that there could be anywhere between two and five openings, depending on the results of the election. He said that the last day to introduce a new resolution would be election day.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that regarding the hazard pay legislation, he and his team were still working on finding a funding source for the program. He said that the previously identified funding source was running low and that he had received confirmation on that from the Office of Planning and Budgeting (OPB). He said that it might be better to use the funding for other uses since the funding was not enough to cover the hazard pay plan. He said that he was currently negotiating with the OPB and said that indirect cost recovery was the most feasible route for that. He said that since some units had self-generated revenue, the money for hazard pay would have to come out of their reserves. He said that his team was working to present a revised piece of legislation at the next meeting and said that his team was planning two working group sessions so interested people could also help work on it.

6. [Information] Senate Check-In 5:51pm

Aaron Yared said that the Senate check-in question would be "What are the issues that are plaguing your school right now?"

Aaron Yared placed people into breakout rooms.

Aaron Yared called everyone back and asked people to share their thoughts.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) said that her program was facing challenges with its administration. She said that medical students did research offsite but were required to pay tuition to the University of Washington. She said that she was doing research with a surgeon in Spokane over the summer, but was required to pay tuition to UW. She said that the administration was not able to explain to students why the tuition had been waived the past two years but would not be waived this year. She said that the students were holding town halls but that nothing was coming out of it. She said that the administration just talked around the issue and did not answer questions. She said that she was planning to talk to the GPSS about this issue and see if people had any suggestions on how to best support the medical students who were paying

tuition and not benefitting from it.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said that her breakout group discussed toxic advisors and how to deal with working with a toxic advisor. She said that her breakout group also discussed the lack of transparency regarding program finances.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said that even though the Neuroscience department had a student committee, the students still ran into transparency issues. She said that the students in her department were trying to increase the language in their contracts with regard to being able to see which advisors have taken which trainings. She said that the requirement for TAing was also not clear and that students needed to know in advance what they were signing on to.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) said that the issue at the School of Law was the constant increases in student tuition. She said that over the past two years that she had been a senator, the administration always shared plans with the student leaders to improve something about the law school and fund it through tuition raises. She said that the students always asked if there was any other way to cover costs without students always bearing it and that the answer was usually no. She said that this year, the law students had decided to go to the Board of Regents to voice their student concerns. She asked Aaron Yared to put in a good word for the law students and welcomed any suggestions on how to deal with this issue. She said that the Board of Regents' response time via email was about two weeks, which was slow.

Aaron Yared asked if the law students had been added to the agenda for Board of Regents meeting.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) said that the law students were told to voice their issue during the public comments period. She said that the students had been asking for more than a month to be added onto the agenda. She said that the students planned to come with collective input that had been gathered through a survey.

Giordano Conticelli (Art History) asked when the lockers at the IMA would reopen. He said that students were still paying for the IMA fee.

A.J. Balatico said that the construction on the gender neutral locker rooms was at a standstill. He said that students paid the IMA fee because it was a bond. He said that students were not paying for the actual construction, but were rather paying for the financing of it. He said that students could theoretically not pay the IMA fee and pay higher rates later on, or pay a higher rate now and eliminate the bond fee.

Aaron Yared asked if anyone had ideas on how to tackle the issues that had been brought forth.

No one said anything.

Aaron Yared said that if the problems were difficult and super interesting. He said that if anyone had any ideas on how to solve them, then they should help each other out through Discord or reach out to the officers to facilitate.

7. [Information] GPSS Reflection Survey 6:12pm

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) had recently sent out a link to another survey last Thursday. He said that the difference between this survey and the one that the Senate had completed two weeks ago was that this survey addressed how people were engaging within GPSS while the other one inquired about who was part of the GPSS. He said that this survey was born from the fact that GPSS held hybrid meetings. He said that prior to the pandemic, people would check in before or after a meeting and discuss how the GPSS could improve. He said that the survey would not take longer than five minutes. He said that so far, one piece of feedback he had received through the survey was to have the GPSS meet weekly and thereby have shorter meetings. He said that had also received the comment that people would benefit from a resolution and parliamentary procedure training.

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that he had come with a student government background, so he had experience writing resolutions. He said that the GPSS could not expect everyone to come in with the same work experience and that it should give senators the tools to advocate. He said that some of the questions were “how long are the meetings?” “Are you aware of the officers’ roles and responsibilities?” “Do you flag GPSS as advocating for students?” “How do you feel about the virtual/hybrid/in-person settings for the GPSS?”

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that the survey would expand upon the GPSS’s Senate check-in question. He asked the senators to give respectful, constructive, and honest feedback. He said that the survey would be placed either on the next Senate meeting agenda or the one following, so that senators had a month to fill it out.

8. [Information] Joint Resolution in Support of a Fossil Fuel Free University 6:16pm

Jacob Anderson read the “that” clauses of the resolution.

Jacob Anderson said that his team’s campaign for fossil fuel divestment promoted five demands: 1) divestment of UW’s \$124 million consolidated endowment fund from fossil fuels companies; 2) refusal of gifts or grants from the fossil fuel industry to the UW, as it could influence the UW’s research; 3) cessation of fossil fuel infrastructure investments and new construction; 4) decarbonization of the campus, by decarbonizing the campus power plant and decarbonizing purchases and operations made by the university; 5) cessation of promotional advertising with the fossil fuel industry, including career fairs hosted with fossil fuel companies. He said that there had been articles written about his team’s demands.

Jacob Anderson said that there had been several instances of hundred thousand or million dollar donations to the university from BP, Exxon, or the Charles Cook Foundation, which were all fossil fuel industries. He said that these gifts were to help fund research on how to develop oil well technologies or other technologies specifically pertaining to the direct extraction of fossil

fuels from the ground.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he had worked with Brett and Peter, members of Jacob Anderson's team. He said that he, Brett, and Peter had been advocating around BlackRock investments in terms of the endowment. He said that in a meeting with one of the portfolio managers he learned that much of the funding in the endowment was in the form of long short hedge funds. He wondered if there was a way that the team could work that strategy into the resolution. He said that there might be a loophole to block.

Jacob Anderson said he did not know much about investments and asked Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) to follow up with him or Peter.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the portfolio manager had acknowledged that there were ethical issues, but that the investments led to better research for the university and for the students.

A.J. Balatico said that recommendations for any amendments to this resolution would have to be in before the 17th. He said that the ASUW planned to hold their second and final reading of this resolution before the 17th. He noted that the 10th was the President Cauce forum. He said that because joint resolutions between the ASUW and the GPSS had to be the same, any amendments to resolution would have to agree on both copies. He said that he team would not be able to make the copies agree until the 18th. He said that the plan was to pass the resolution at the ASUW Board of Directors meeting on the 19th so that the resolution could be presented at the June Board of Regents meeting. He said that this meant all amendments would have to be made by the 9th.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) noted that the top read "references to institutional racism." He asked if this was a typo or a remnant of the template.

Jacob Anderson said that it was a content warning from a template and explained that some of the whereas clauses mentioned institutional racism.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said that his department, which was historically the geology department, received much of its funding from both private individuals and companies that were related to the fossil fuel industry. He said that though he had very strong personal views on this topic, he would be remiss if he did not point out that much of this funding and donations were used by graduate students in his department to further climate change research which helped make the world better and decarbonize. He said that he had an issue with a blanket ban on all future monetary contributions from the fossil fuel industry. He asked if it could be reworded to allow funding for decarbonizing and studying the climate and the effects of fossil fuel extraction and combustion. He asked if the "that" clause referred to the university as a whole or to all the departments within the UW?

Jacob Anderson said that prior to hearing Andrew Shumway's (Earth & Space Sciences) point, the intent was to include every department and school. He said that he would bring up Andrew Shumway's (Earth & Space Sciences) point to his team and work to amend the language.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) asked if amendments could be made outside of the meetings.

Aaron Yared said yes. He said that the GPSS and ASUW joint resolutions needed to match by the second reading. He said that the amendments did not have to be made right at this moment and said that the purpose of the first reading was to get people's feedback and give clarification.

Gabby Rivera motioned to extend time by five minutes. Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) seconded.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that Andrew Shumway's (Earth & Space Sciences) point came up in his conversation with investors today. He said that many of the funds were invested in absolute returns so that the money would not fluctuate with the market. He said that he had been thinking of a way to find alternative investments that were still within the same division of the portfolio so that the money stayed steady and the returns remained the same.

Jacob Anderson clarified that Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) was referring to the investment demand and Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) had been referring to gifts to the university.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) noted that *The Daily* was an independent newspaper. He asked if there were any First Amendment issues with the GPSS telling *The Daily* that it could not run certain ads. He said that telling departments that they could not list job postings from companies was a big step. He asked about the exact scope of the idea. He noted that due to consolidation, many fossil fuel companies held patents for green energy technologies. He asked if this resolution would target job postings related to fossil fuels or whether the entire company would be banned.

Jacob Anderson said that there was already ASUW and RCW legislation that limited promotional advertising from the alcohol industry and the adult entertainment industry. He said that this context was contained in the whereas clauses. He said that alcohol advertisements had been banned out of consideration for human public health. He said that the same logic would apply to fossil fuels.

Jacob Anderson said that that demand was researched the least. He said that the first and second demand regarding money and donations were given the most attention. He said that his team would follow up with later demands further into their campaign. He said that his team had not considered the specific points that Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) had raised. He said that it would be beneficial to include an amendment that deals with those points and asked Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) to get in contact with him.

Helena McMonagle (Aquatic & Fishery Sciences) seconded the concern that this resolution might unintentionally make it harder for students to hear about jobs within green energy sectors. She said that she wanted to learn more about the implications of that.

9. [Information] Election Format 6:35pm

Aaron Yared said that the election would be held on May 18th. He said that some people had already submitted their resumé and campaign statements online and that these would be visible on the 10th. He said that each candidate would have three minutes to deliver their campaign speech. He said that each candidate would be allowed to show one PowerPoint slide while giving their speech. He said that the candidates could give their speeches either in person or virtually. He said that the election would proceed through each position in order, from the president, to the Vice President of Internal Affairs, etc. He said that once everyone in a position had given their speech, a ten-minute Q&A period would begin. He said that the questions would be asked anonymously and that the officers might also allow for pre-filed questions. He said that the officers were still working on the details.

Aaron Yared said that having two people run for each of the six positions could result in a very long meeting. He said that the GPSS would provide food and also have many items for senators to talk about while the votes were counted.

Gabby Rivera said that during the Q&A period, the responses would be limited to 45 seconds or a minute. She said that if there were no questions, then the Senate would just wait for ten minutes. She said that candidates' PowerPoint slides were due at 2:30pm on May 18th. She said that she would not make exceptions. She said she was taking suggestions for food. She recommended that people who attended the meeting online eat or make dinner during the meeting because it would be long.

Gabby Rivera said that voting would happen through Husky Link which required people to log in with their UW NetIDs. She said that only eligible senators could vote and that senators were eligible if they had attended at least half of the Senate meetings per quarter. She said people were welcome to reach out to her with any questions. She said that those who wanted to vote but would not be able to attend the meeting could submit an absentee vote on the day of the election. She asked people to let her know if this was the case so that she could grant them access. She said that the link to vote would close immediately after the last Q&A session was done and would tabulate votes on its own. She said that proxies were not able to vote in this meeting, but could count for attendance as a senator. She said that senators not in good standing could still talk during the discussions.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) asked if senators that were elected in the middle of a quarter would be negatively impacted by the attendance rules.

Aaron Yared said it would not. He said that the attendance was enforced in the quarter after a senator was elected.

Gabby Rivera said that senators who were in that situation could email her so that she did not discount them.

10. [Information] STF Update 6:42pm

A.J. Balatico said that the STF Committee voted two Mondays ago to reduce the base rate of

the Student Technology Fee (STF) from \$38 per quarter in the academic year down to \$22 per quarter, and then suspend the rate next year. He said that the STF would be 0 for the next fiscal year, starting this summer. He said that the rationale for this policy was due to the STF Committee's \$15 million in reserve. He said that though the Committee had allocated a lot of funding last year, due to supply chain issues and COVID-related things, over half of the allocated amounts were not spent. He said that four departments decided not to implement their proposals due to the time frame and gave back the money.

A.J. Balatico said that the Committee had tried to fund as many proposals as last year, but said that the Committee received less proposals than anticipated. He said that \$2 million in block funding remained, which meant that \$2 million would be spent without the need for applications. He said that this implied that the STF would have to triple its expenditures, which was possible through cooperation with different departments across campus. For example, the STF was planning to fund large, campus-wide projects, such as installing Panopto in every classroom, or installing air conditioning in older buildings. He said that the STF would need more institutional backing for these larger projects. He said that the average ask for each project was \$40,000. He said that even if the STF had received many proposals, it would take a lot to spend its reserve. He said that the STF could not stipulate anything past this next year, so if the STF did not spend enough, the STF would be kept at \$0 until the STF needed to reimplement the fee.

A.J. Balatico said that the proposal would be brought to the Board of Regents on May 12th. He said that the final document would be drafted by the STF Chair tomorrow for the ASUW Board per their request. He said that the GPSS Executive Committee agreed to the idea but did not mind how the final document was written.

Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) said this was a great idea and commended A.J. Balatico and the STF Committee for making a financially responsible decision. He said that if the Committee did not need to collect money from students, it should not.

Gabby Rivera said that the context for STF's decision was not explained to the ASUW as eloquently as A.J. Balatico does. She said that members of the ASUW were slightly confused but that she felt they would vote the same way once they figured it out.

A.J. Balatico said that Breanna Murrin had submitted an STF proposal for CART captioning for \$7,723. He said that the proposal was now live. He said that there was also a proposal, 2022-32, to hire two GPSS website developers over the summer. He said that the GPSS had also created carve outs for consultations from the professional who developed the ASUW Senate website, as well as some miscellaneous fees related to the domain name. He said that people could suggest website domain names by messaging him.

A.J. Balatico asked people to endorse the proposals by logging in through their net ID. He said that the GPSS planned to present the proposals on May 9th. He said that the GPSS hoped to have the web developer proposal approved as a special project so that the GPSS could start hiring as soon as possible. He said that once the job description was written, it would be posted on Handshake. He said that the job would take place in the summer and pay \$30 an hour for a 12 week duration. He said that the GPSS needed to discuss whether the current GPSS officers would hire the developers or whether it would be the next group. He said that the GPSS needed

to make sure it could secure the money first.

Malikai Bass asked people to endorse an accessibility proposal for adjustable height tables in the UW libraries.

Aaron Yared thanked Breanna Murrin for her quick turnaround time for writing the STF proposals.

11. [Information] Community Land Trust 6:50pm

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he was working on creating a community land trust with a group of students. He said that his team was looking for graduate student board members. He said that the plan was to use transit housing to innovate affordability and that his team was currently in the process of filing for 501 3C status.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his team had identified a few issues in and around campus related to housing. He said that his studies' focuses were public finance and housing. He noted the lack of affordable housing in the vicinity. He said that his team envisioned using the vacant parcels of land that Sound Transit and the UW both owned and transforming them into just affordable housing with a rent-to-own model so residents could build equity through a student-led community land trust.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that there were many parcels of land next to the new Roosevelt and U-District stations that sat vacant. He said that a few were owned by corporate developers who were waiting to produce a luxury project. He said that his team felt that it was difficult to find affordable housing near the transit hubs. He said that people who chose to live near transit paid more in rent which created more barriers to other modes of transportation such as cars. He said that his team was ultimately trying to take the parcels of land near the Light Rail stations and produce affordable housing near them.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) referred to the slides and said that the average rent per month was high in Roosevelt and U District. He said that the Housing and Urban Development Office stated that tenants should not be paying more than 30% of their incomes in rent. He said that some people paid nearly 70% of their income in rent which was unacceptable and noted that this figure did not account for people who did not have any income.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his team was trying to produce 100% affordable units and prioritize low-income students for 50% of the units. He said that his team had entered into conversations with a few developers and were specifically working with BIPOC builders. He said that his team had identified a firm that had finished many projects in the Central District. He said that there was no profit involved in this plan.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) noted that this would be the first community land trust dedicated to students in the U.S. He said that his team wanted to provide options for students near these transit hubs, not just at UW, but also students at Seattle U, North Seattle Community College, central and south, because these schools could be easily accessed through the Light Rail.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the UW had not produced affordable housing at the rate that it should have. He said that a nonprofit would own the land. He said that students would lease the land but own the unit and have a share in the unit so that it maintained affordability over time. He said that residents would purchase a share in their individual units, and lease the land. He said that this essentially equated to a down payment. He said that those without income would have their down payment subsidized by a trust. He said that the down payment was calculated by using a model similar to the one used in the housing authority's voucher program.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he and a few other people in the nonprofit had experience with the housing authority. He said that his team aimed to provide a price where a student's lease would not exceed 10% of their income and would pay nothing if they did not have an income. He said that this would create home ownership and permanent affordability. He said that students who leased the land but had to leave could get something back when they left because they had built equity in the unit. He said that students would have to agree that they would not sell below the market value or above the market value so that the unit maintained its affordability. He said that this model was called a limited equity cooperative. He noted that there was no landlord in this arrangement. He said that he personally had had significant issues with his corporate landlord during his time living in the city. He said that the residents would collectively advocate for one another and elect a tenant board to manage the operations of the building.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) referred to the slides and showed a map of the parcels of land that they had identified in Roosevelt. He said that Sound Transit was looking to get rid of their excess parcels of land. He said that due to a legal loophole, bidders for the land who promised to produce 80% or more affordable units would be given the land for free. He said that Representative Frank Chopp had partnered with the team in the effort and that the team would soon enter negotiations over the parcels. He said that ideally, the team would have full control over the land in a month.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that one of the parcels was currently a tiny house village and that once their lease ended, the people living there would be able to live in the units that he and his team would produce. He said that the goal was to produce 600 units that were a mix of student housing and permanent supportive housing. He explained that supportive housing was housing with wraparound services, so people who were from a shelter setting with families or fleeing domestic violence could receive appropriate services that would help them transition into housing. He said he used to work on financing projects like this for the L.A. mayor's office. He said that his team wanted to fold the supportive housing into the project because there were currently few options for permanent supportive housing in Northeast Seattle.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his team planned to use cross-laminated timber and have sustainable components in all of the building materials they used. He said that the project that he worked on in L.A. used shipping containers to build modular houses in six weeks. He said that his team wanted a quick construction period so that people could be served immediately.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his team would talk to the university about turning the golf range into housing. He said that the campus master plan had indicated that the UW did not have a long-term use for the golf range and planned to transition it into an office building. He said that his team had started conversations with the UW. He said that the golf range was built on an old landfill, and said that his team had brought on a structural engineering student whose focus was landfills.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the land would be given to them for free by Sound Transit and that 70% of the construction would be funded from the low-income housing tax credit. He said that the rest of the cost would be funded by a financing package. He said that the zoning was perfect and that his team could produce a tall tower. He said that he could share the slides with anyone interested. He asked people who were interested to reach out to him. He reiterated that his team was looking for board members.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) asked if board members had to be students.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said no, but that his team was specifically looking for graduate students.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) asked if Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) had presented the plan elsewhere on campus. She said that she was very interested and thought it would be a great project for a UW student.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his team had primarily focused its presentation outreach to the general city. He said that this presentation was one of the first times that the idea had been presented to UW students. He asked everyone to publicize the idea.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that it seemed like an amazing project. He asked about the tiny house village and reiterated how Sound Transit would lose their lease on that land followed by six weeks of construction. He asked what would happen to the people during the construction period.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that the Roosevelt parcels were not a tiny house village. He said that his team was the only bidder for that U District one while the Roosevelt parcel had a corporate landlord who was interested in the land as well. He said that assuming his team won the bid, his team would build a tiny house village on the Roosevelt parcels where people could live. He said that once the project was constructed at the U District site, the residents would have first right to whichever units they would want there. He said that if the residents wanted to stay at the tiny house village that they constructed at Roosevelt, the team might consider making it a permanent tiny house village, depending on what the engineers advised. He guaranteed that his team would provide options for people to live in, no matter what happened.

12. [Information] Officer & Committee Reports 7:05pm

Aaron Yared said that he had selected four finalists for the student regent position and had

forwarded the applications on to the governor in time. He said that the governor would decide in a week. He said that the Tricampus Advisory Board for Students (TABS) had discussed how much the UW was doing to accommodate and provide resources for students with disabilities. He said that the current situation was bleak and that there were many problems. He said that the Student Disability Commission had a list of demands which he hoped President Cauce would be receptive to and follow through on them.

Gabby Rivera said the Student Disability Commission's demands were specifically in regard to building a more well staffed Disability Resources for Students to meet the necessary accommodations for students to be successful on our campus. She said that the disabled community at UW had relentlessly advocated for the accommodations and said that their efforts were admirable.

Malikai Bass (Museology) said he last heard that the administration had agreed to meet all the students' demands.

Aaron Yared said that words and actions were two different things.

Gabby Rivera said that the subject of the next TABS meeting would be budget requests from departments on campus. She asked everyone to text ten people to attend the Husky Sunset event next Friday. She said that election applications were due on Monday and that candidate information would be posted to the website on Tuesday. She said that senators who were not sure whether they were eligible to vote due to their start date within GPSS should email her.

Aaron Yared said that Gabby Rivera and Katherine Zhao had put in a lot of effort into the Husky Sunset event. He said that having people attend would mean a lot to them as well as to the GPSS leadership.

Gabby Rivera asked for song requests for Husky Sunset. She said that she and Davon Thomas (Public Administration) were working on a personnel policy for the GPSS Executive Committee. She said that ASUW was having personnel issues and that the other committees she sat on were just trying to get by.

A.J. Balatico asked if Gabby Rivera would present the Senator of the Month.

Aaron Yared announced that Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) was the Senator of the Month. He read the "A Proclamation celebrating the work of Chianaraekpere Ike as Senator of the Month" verbatim. He congratulated Chianaraekpere Ike (Law).

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) said she was at a loss of words and thanked everyone. She said she felt very honored.

Aaron Yared said she was well-deserving.

Payton Swinford said the external team had been invited to an event where the governor and state higher education leaders would celebrate and talk about last session's legislative successes and expanding access to hiring education opportunities. He said that Joel Anderson

would represent the GPSS. He said that the Washington Student Association general assembly would be held at the end of the month. He said that this assembly would provide a great opportunity to collaborate with other student leaders, debrief on the last session, and discuss how to build off of that work.

Aaron Yared asked Meshell Sturgis if she had any updates.

There was no response.

A.J. Balatico said that the SAF Committee was deciding how to allocate \$20 million collected through the Services and Activities Fee (SAF). He referred to the slides and said that the total cost for all of things listed on the left was \$78.8 thousand. He said that all of the decisions would be made over two meetings and that the SAF would talk about all the individual items within the asks. He notes that the Intellectual House was asking for zero change from last year, and that the SAF Committee was decreasing its requests because it was making revisions to its Strive fund. He said that all of the things on the left side were going to be bundled together because they were easy to fund as they only comprised 10% of the SAF's total budget. He said that the SAF had about \$800,000 to allocate in increases. He said that the increase that units were collectively asking for was \$3.2 million, which meant that 90% of the SAF's usable allocations had to be split up amongst the units for many reasons. For example, in order for Student Publications to pay contributing writers close to minimum wage, they would have to ask for \$127,000. He said that the ASUW was restructuring. The Childcare Assistance Program (CAP) was asking for \$200,000 to accommodate for differences in allowing parents to have choice on where their kids go to school. He said that the HUB was asking for staff wage increases and a security officer. He said that the Counseling Center was asking for psychiatry services and that Hall Health was asking for gender-affirming care and a dietician. He said that UW Recreation was asking for about \$700,000 for lost revenues due to COVID. He said that all of these reasons and requests had merit and that all the units contributed to the student experience in different ways. He said that the SAF had a reserve of about \$1.7 million, but that the reserve would not replenish itself and said that using the reserve would cut into next year's allocations. He said it would be a tough decision and that different student opinions needed to be respected. He expressed hope that the GPSS and ASUW appointees could reach an agreement prior to the Board of Regents meeting.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that he had recently read the ways in which emergency funds allocated to the UW by the federal government were spent. He said that he had also heard many similar things. For example, mental health services and lost revenue due to the pandemic appeared prominently as something that the funds were spent to cover. He wondered if some of this shortfall in SAF could be covered through the shortfall emergency funds that the GPSS had previously discussed as being potentially spent on hazard pay.

A.J. Balatico said that some units' revenue sources were different. He said that some SAF-supported services could generate revenue, such as Hall Health. He said that the 50% of the funds that Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) was referring to had to go directly to student aid, leaving \$20 million for other purposes spread across the entire university. He said that the SAF units were not academic so they did not receive tuition dollars in the same way, and said that there were restrictions on how the funding could be used. He said that there

were specific percentages earmarked towards different causes which meant that none of the money could be directly given to some of the units.

A.J. Balatico said that the SAF also had \$300,000 left in its COVID mitigation fund, but that the money was put back into the reserve and that this money was accounted for in that \$1.7 million usable reserve. He clarified that every unit was paid for this year and that the SAF was working on next year's budgets. He said that some unit directors were projecting being in the red until FY26. He said that some of the potential ways of solving this issue would be to hire professional staff at 0.7 FTE which meant having staff members work 28 hours instead of 40 hours a week. He said that professional staff could also be furloughed in order to preserve student jobs on campus.

13. [Action] Adjournment 7:24pm

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Payton Swinford** seconded.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) objected and raised a point of information. He asked if Meshell Sturgis had any announcements.

Meshell Sturgis said that the diversity committee would present at the Texas A&M Communicating Diversity graduate student academic conference. She said that the diversity committee would share its process and kind of outcomes of its research as well as the results from the demographic survey at the next Senate meeting.

No objections.

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