

GPSS Senate Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 18th 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 Computaro

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:38pm

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

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:38pm

A.J. Balatico moved to amend the agenda to strike item 7, "Land acknowledgment work."

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) seconded. No objections.

Payton Swinford moved to approve the agenda. **Jack Fleisher (Music)** seconded.

A.J. Balatico objected and asked if Rachel Jecker (Medicine) wanted to keep item 8 on the agenda.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) said yes. They said they preferred to present after the election.

A.J. Balatico withdrew his objection

No objections.

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:40pm

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

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:41pm

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 5:41pm

Aaron Yared referred to the slide and read off the list. He said that the art history symposium had happened today and would resume tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. He said that the Pup Support: Grooving for Good event would be held tomorrow, May 19th, from 3 to 7 p.m. in the HUB. He said that "Interpreting Intersectionality" would be hosted both in person in HUB 307 and virtually on Friday, May 20th, from 2 to 3 p.m. by the Q Center. He said that the Undergraduate Research Symposium would take place on Friday, May 20th. He said that registration was encouraged but not required. He said that the HUB blood drive would be held on May 23rd and that ASUW and GPSS inaugurations would be held on Thursday, June 2nd in HUB 250 at 6:30p.m. He explained that this event was to inaugurate the incoming class of student government members, including the people who would be elected today and said that people had to RSVP by Thursday, May 26. He asked everyone to come support the elected members.

Rene Singleton said that she was excited that a former GPSS senator was continuing their political career after getting their start within the GPSS.

6. [Information] GPSS Elections 5:45pm

Gabby Rivera said that eligible voters would be able to vote on Husky Link. She asked the eligible voters to use their electronic devices to log into Husky Link and check if they could.

Aaron Yared announced that people were free to grab food whenever they wanted to.

Gabby Rivera asked if anyone was having difficulties with Husky Link.

Aaron Yared said that people could message him in the chat if they had issues.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that the GPSS had discussed how the Bylaws required the use of paper ballots when voting in person.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) motioned to suspend the language at the bottom of in Article 5, section 5, clause 4 (l) that referred to the use of paper ballots.

Aaron Yared asked Rene Singleton to confirm whether the GPSS would be able to get around the bylaw that required paper ballots for voting due to the governor's allowance of exceptions to the OPMA.

Rene Singleton said yes.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) withdrew his motion.

Gabby Rivera said that senators should email her if they had issues with the voting process. She said that the GPSS would be taking nominations from the floor for every single position. She said that for people to be eligible to run from the floor, they must have attended at least three GPSS meetings throughout this past academic year. She said that for each position, there was a requirement of attending a particular meeting respective to that position as well. For example, those who were running for president had to have attended at least one Executive Committee meeting.

Gabby Rivera said that for those who were running from the floor, she would ask them which meetings they had attended and that she would take some time to confirm their attendance. She said that all the information had been provided in the elections guide. She reminded everyone that there was a strong recommendation for all candidates to have the ability to work twenty hours per week over the summer. She said that they would be compensated for their time.

Gabby Rivera said time extensions would go to a vote every time. She asked people to be thoughtful about the ten minutes allotted for each position's Q&A. She said that campaign speeches would be muted after three minutes. She said that candidates would only have thirty seconds to respond to questions during Q&A and would be muted if they went over time.

Aaron Yared asked if anyone wanted to nominate from the floor.

Gabby Rivera said that all positions would be accepting nominations from the floor.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) asked if statements from candidates who ran from the floor would be given live. She asked how their resume would be shared.

Aaron Yared explained that that was the downside of running from the floor. He said that candidates who ran from the floor only had their campaign speech and the ten-minute Q&A to go off of.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) asked if she could run for the Vice President of Inclusion and Equity position if she had been working with diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI).

Aaron Yared said that if Andrea Paz (Social Work) could provide the dates that she was present at the diversity committee meetings, once Gabby Rivera confirmed the dates, she could be put in the running.

Gabby Rivera asked if Meshell Sturgis was on the call.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) said that Meshell Sturgis was out of the country. She said that she wanted to confirm that there was no conflict of interest of having worked on the diversity committee and running from the floor.

Gabby Rivera said that Andrea Paz (Social Work) was eligible to run if she had attended the meeting and that it sounded like she had.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) nominated herself as a candidate for the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion position.

A.J. Balatico said that Andrea Paz (Social Work) had attended the meetings.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that she could confirm that Andrea Paz (Social Work) had attended multiple diversity committee sessions.

Aaron Yared announced that Andrea Paz (Social Work) was in the running. He asked if anyone else wanted to nominate from the floor.

No one else nominated from the floor.

Aaron Yared announced that there was one candidate for the position of president and invited A.J. Balatico to the front.

A.J. Balatico gave his speech. (Note: all speeches have been edited for clarity.)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the presence of this Graduate and Professional Student Senate community to witness the election of its future officers. GPSS is an organization composed of student leaders. You all belong here at the University of Washington. You chose to continue your education here and the UW agreed. For GPSS, I want to recognize the choice of our senators, liaisons, staff, candidates and officers who chose to be present at this moment. On top of all of their other responsibilities, the officers have duties to uphold so that GPSS as an organization can fulfill its mission, but there are so many ways that that can manifest. Foremost, the officers are public servants. I reflect back to my undergraduate institution, Tulane University, in post Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and that's where I think I

discovered myself in the college experience, where I discovered who I am. The Latin motto of Tulane is non sibi, sed suis, not for one's self but for one's own. I became a high school science teacher after that, and in that role I knew that I would be the only caring adult for some of my students. Likewise, I think our GPSS officers fill a similar need when we're the one student outside of their department that a student can talk to about a wickedly complex problem on this campus. The Latin motto of the University of Washington is Luxe sit. It is not the biblical command "let there be light," but rather it is a statement of fact that there is light, and even in the darkness I find comfort in that phrasing, that there is light.

My nephew Benedict Alexander Balatico was born two months and two days ago. The first gift I gave to him was a choice, Bulbasaur, Charmander or Squirtle. At the time I was still discerning whether I should run for president. I considered, "Should I continue on as finance, moving back to Louisiana, saying no to GPSS, saving some sanity and finishing that dissertation?" I had lots of long conversations with colleagues, but I felt that ultimately everybody pointed to the presidency. It wasn't a vote from them. It was a choice from me, and I decided that I will gladly step into the role as president, if you elect me.

I think a common metaphorical image of GPSS is that we've been on a boat that's spontaneously catches on fire from time to time with stuff falling through the cracks, but through the immense efforts of people who really, really care about this organization, we are still afloat and somehow able to get other people to jump on board.

Your choices today will empower the new officers on how to steer this ship, and it might sound like some recent Marvel movie, and I had a whole thing. GPSS isn't the ship. It's the people. Please ask us hard questions about our policies and what to think.

Aaron Yared explained that he would move into Q&A and said that he had made a Poll Everywhere. He asked people to submit their questions via Poll Everywhere and upvote or downvote questions based on their relevance. He asked the timer to start. He explained that he would read the submitted questions and A.J. Balatico would provide an answer.

How will you work to break silos between undergraduate and graduate students in your new role?

A.J. Balatico said that he had been doing so by attending ASUW Senate meetings and events. He said that he had also encouraged undergraduates to apply to the Finance & Budget Committee even if they were undergraduates because in order for them to become graduate students, they needed to have a great undergraduate experience.

How do we create accountability for STF and SAF liaisons so that they do not discriminate or abuse their positions, which allocate huge sums of cash?

A.J. Balatico said the question was important because the SAF and STF allocated millions of student dollars. He said that to have accountability, the GPSS needed to instate report-backs and discussion within the GPSS Executive Committee, especially when there were multiple

stakeholders in the room.

What do you believe is the most challenging matter that GPSS faces?

A.J. Balatico said tempo was challenging because the GPSS had a lot to cover. He said that the GPSS was aware of the issues on campus, but only held fifteen Senate meetings per year. He said that much of the time within the meetings were dedicated to certain kinds of business. He said that getting the GPSS committees back to full power and doing working groups or engaging the community and town halls to gauge student opinion would be one way for the GPSS to improve.

What will your top priority be as GPSS president?

A.J. Balatico said that one of his goals was unity between the GPSS, ASUW, the Faculty Senate, alumni association, and the administration. He said that it would take a large effort to address the recovery due to COVID and giving students a normal college experience. He said that the external team needed more support as they could help reduce the cost of attendance and allow more people to attend.

How will you build community within the new officer group so that you can work effectively together?

A.J. Balatico said that unity could be forged by being present for each other. He said that due to COVID, being in the office had previously been an issue, but expressed hope that it would normalize. He said that having more regular meetings and check-ins aligned with his experience as a teacher to do one-on-ones with other officers. He said that he could also train the new Vice President of Finance.

What are you most excited about as you step into the role of president?

A.J. Balatico said he was most excited about how his experiences had placed him in a position of trust. He said that next year would be his fifth year at the University of Washington, and that all the different roles he took had pointed him to this position.

Which Pokémon did Benedict choose?

A.J. Balatico said Benedict had not chosen a Pokémon yet because he did not yet know how to crawl. He said that his family had theorized that Benedict would choose Charmander due to its orange color as it contrasted with Bulbasaur's and Squirtles blue colors. He said that Charmander was also in the middle of the Pokédex, so it would be easier for Benedict to go straight instead of curved.

How does your experience as VP of Finance influence your goals for the GPSS?

A.J. Balatico said that funding could be both a huge asset and a barrier. He said that some of the issues that the GPSS had encountered in the diversity meetings was that it could not easily fund a book club. He said that there were ways that the GPSS could, but that they were tricky. He said that the GPSS did not only deal with regulations, but also state laws. He said that the GPSS received all the funding that it had asked for. He said that the GPSS received \$30,000 from STF and we got \$17,000 from SAF, and was good for ten years.

What changes will you make to improve the current GPSS as a whole?

A.J. Balatico said that telling people outside of the GPSS what the GPSS did was an important step. He said that he did not want to go to reddit because reddit was scary sometimes. He said that if the GPSS had something content-worthy, then it might help. He said that having regular communication with the student body, especially during orientation, and getting people to talk to the GPSS would help.

Why do you think so many senator seats are unfilled and how will you increase participation?

A.J. Balatico said that once COVID hit, the GPSS membership fell from 130 senators in the 2019-2020 academic year down to fifty. He said that this was because schools had different priorities and that the GPSS needed to synchronize the actual procedures to become a senator. He said that many of the senators had come to the GPSS in the spring quarter and that recruiting senators earlier would be a top priority for the Vice President of Administration.

How do we revitalize the Judicial and Elections Committees?

A.J. Balatico said that the GPSS needed to recruit more senators. He said that the GPSS was already at capacity in terms of proportion since most of the senators served on committees. He said that since the GPSS Senate was so small, it had to ask the same senators to serve on multiple committees. He said that if the GPSS recruited more people, the responsibilities would be more distributed and more people would be excited to participate in Judicial and Elections Committee activities.

How will you help the GPSS return to pre-COVID strength, specifically in regard to quorum and attendance?

A.J. Balatico said the GPSS would have to host events and make people want to belong to the GPSS so that they would not be able to say no when asked to spend two hours on a Wednesday meeting, even if food was not provided. He noted that the food budget would be different next year unless the GPSS asked Provost Richard for more money.

The Q&A period ended.

Aaron Yared announced that the election would move on to the next position, Vice President of

Internal Affairs (VPIIn). He said that Davon Thomas was the only candidate for this position.

Davon Thomas gave his speech.

Hello, everyone. My name is Davon Thomas, and I'm a first year senator from the Evans School, and I'm running to be your next internal vice president. I'm from Sacramento, California. I attended UC Santa Cruz where I served as the vice president of external affairs and president of my student body. In those roles, I was able to acquire state aid for Black, indigenous people of color programs. That's how I visited Santa Cruz, so it felt full circle to advocate for funding for that program two and a half years later because I love student government. Even throughout the year I was able, through my advocacy work on my campus, to get our first queer and trans counselor and first Black mental health specialist as well. I was able to reinstate sexual assault exams. Something happened in a popular bar and the woman had to drive over an hour to get the care she needed. We were like, 'Wow, that's really stupid. Why are you driving that far to get the care you need?' We were able to get those exams reinstated. Also note, our board of supervisors, all five of them, were men, but I'll pivot to something else.

Also after that, I was able to keep my advocacy going as a student fellow in Sacramento. I was able to staff a Senate education committee. I love education policy. If you talk to me about it, I will talk your ear off. Beware.

This last year, I was able to get appointed by the governor Jay Inslee to the Washington Student Achievement Council as the graduate representative. Shout out to the external team. Awesome work to do that for graduate students.

I was appointed by the City of Seattle to the Parks and Recreation Commission. I am the only person under 30 on the Parks and Recreation Commission. I'm not saying thirty is old. I'm just saying I'm a student and we use parks and rec in this city and there was no representation.

I was able to work on the alternate emergency service resolutions this past year. Don't want to get into what happened in fall quarter, but there will be better crisis response for folks in the U District. I was also able to work on a lot of things this year. Wow, I'm going to keep going.

The personnel policy with the current VPIIn. That was more of an Executive Committee issue. It was approved last week. The GPSS Year-in-review survey, and only twelve of you filled it out, so go fill it out. I know a lot of you are here. Go fill out the survey. Just saying.

In my last 30 seconds, I want to highlight things I want to do next year, which are campus safety, health and wellness, accountability, programming and personnel support. If you go in the Q&A and say, 'Davon, finish your platforms for next year,' that's a great area so I can tell you what I'm going to do next year, and that is time. Thank you.

The Senate moved into Q&A for the VPIIn position.

What is your top priority as VPIIn?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that programming would help recruit people to the GPSS so that there were no more unfilled Senate positions. He said that a large part of the

GPSS's issue was visibility and that programming was part of that. He said that newsletters, programming, interacting with students, and rigorous outreach efforts during the summer and fall would be his priorities.

You have extensive experience. Which do you think illustrates the potential you bring to the role the most?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that when he served as the vice president of external affairs for his university, he had to plan three statewide conferences for over 200 to 300 students across the UC system and that this was the most important experience that highlighted his potential. He said that he had planned a student lobbying conferences to teach people how to lobby, and a student organizing conference and diversity conference to make sure that marginalized students had a space for themselves. He said that he planned those conferences during his junior year and had roughly 200 to 300 attendees per conference.

How will you contribute to community-building amongst officers?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said he would host weekly check-ins with officers and have a group chat. He said that having the officers check in weekly was a big priority for him. He said that COVID was not an excuse for officers to not form a community.

You will liaise with the UW Counseling Center. How will you work with them to promote student priorities given their limited staff and funding?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said he learned to work with statewide partners during his time as an undergraduate. He said that issues were statewide issues and statewide funding issues. He said that working with the external affairs office to find ways to get funding from the University of Washington and working within the aggressive local tax system here would be his method.

What challenges do you expect to face in this role? How have you prepared for them?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that he expected to encounter self doubt. He said that he could put in a lot of work into programming and publicity and people could still not show up. He said that it was a good idea to reflect upon why people did not show up, but also not take it personally and keep moving forward. He said that if no one showed up to an event one had planned, one could get depressed and say, 'Damn, why am I doing this?' He said that one had to reassess and be able to utilize the senators, officers, and the events director, a staff member, to do the work.

How will you ensure that students from the Evans School do not dominate discussion in the Senate?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that there were currently only two Evans School

senators. He said that a big thing to consider was making sure all voices were heard in the Senate. He said that teaching people how to introduce resolutions would also help.

Should we pass the climate change joint resolution? How will you represent our position against advertising of fossil fuel company positions to the UW Career Center?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said he was conflicted. He noted that Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) had brought up in the previous meeting that climate change was real and that the GPSS should be advocating for it, but that if the funding that the GPSS was advocating to be stopped was cutting off jobs for students on this campus, the GPSS would have to take a very nuanced approach to that. He said that he did not have the answer and that he would not vote for something that would cut funding for students on the campus.

What are the ingredients for a good party?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said that graduate students were all twenty-one and older and that the first ingredient was adult beverages. He said that parties were about interacting with people, bringing them into the venue, and having a good time. He suggested putting Britney Spears on the playlist and said that he was a strong proponent of music. He summarized by saying party beverages, having a good personality and just having a good time.

Can you elaborate on the programs that you will plan for the upcoming year?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said he wanted to bring President Cauce to the GPSS. He said that she was able to work with the ASUW and do quarterly meetups so that 200 graduate students could talk to President Cauce. He said that the aquarium downtown hosted a Halloween event in the fall and that he wanted to partner with them. He said that he also wanted to host a faculty speaker series on campus and smaller events. He said that he also wanted to do an event with senators and staff that was not training.

Are there any other goals or objectives you would like to say more about now that you did not get to address in your speech?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said one of his priorities was working on health and wellness, which involved increasing access to healthcare funding for graduate students. He said that he took a prevention pill, and got his prescription for free. He said that last week, he paid \$150 for the prescription. He said that though people wanted to prevent HIV breakouts, they had to pay \$100 for it. He said that he wanted to ensure that students had decent and adequate health care access on this campus.

What is your plan if we have to go fully remote again due to some change in pandemic conditions?

Davon Thomas (Public Administration) said he wanted to reflect on the events that the GPSS

hosted this year. He said that the GPSS was able to do hybrid and verbal events and transition this past year. He said that he would work with the events director next year and see what was possible. He said that he did not yet have an answer and did not want to do virtual events next year, but would adapt to it easily next year as the GPSS had been doing them for the past year and a half

The Q&A period ended.

Aaron Yared announced that the election would move on to the next position, Vice President of External Affairs (VPEX). He said that Joel Anderson was the only candidate for this position.

Joel Anderson gave his speech.

Good evening, everyone. My name is Joel Anderson. I am a first year master of public administration candidate running to be your next VPEX. I'm running because the lived experiences of professional and graduate students are critical to informing and advancing progressive higher education legislation. Together I believe next year we have an opportunity to mobilize, empower and collaborate with our constituents in pursuit of a more supportive and equitable future, not only for us here at UW, but also for students across Washington State.

While serving as policy director this year for GPSS, I've worked to nearly triple the number of responses to our annual legislative issue survey, prepare one-pagers for advocacy, as well as other policy briefs during the legislative session, and help our external affairs team facilitate successful events, like the legislative reception, Huskies on the Hill, and regularly scheduled Legislative Advisory Board (LAB) meetings.

Outside of UW I have spent four years advocating for anti-poverty and anti-hunger policies, three election cycles volunteering and working for federal, state and local campaigns, all Democratic candidates. I have spent two years researching legislative issues, such as refugee resettlement, tribal food sovereignty, and social safety net programs. Through these experiences, I have expanded my capacity to analyze relevant legislation, organize grassroots advocacy efforts, and develop frameworks that will foster inclusive sustainable political dialogue. I also feel fortunate to have cultivated a number of relationships with elected officials through this experience, particularly state legislators, and hope to leverage these partnerships next year.

To pursue my vision for external affairs work with the GPSS, I hope to promote a foundational approach that focuses initially on recruiting and retaining more members of LAB, improving the reach of our legislative issues survey, and collaborating with LAB to create a set of long term guiding principles prior to the formation of our annual policy agenda. These activities are meant to help students from a wider variety of professional and graduate programs, join LAB, provide more feedback, and inform our efforts to accurately reflect the needs of our constituents. On top of this, I hope to create more time for drafting our policy agenda during the fall quarter and establish baseline values that will help us foster more consistency and institutional memory within GPSS.

By increasing student engagement, I will also be working to recruit students for meetings, events and other advocacy opportunities throughout the year and the

legislative session. I plan to work with our policy and organizing directors on the external affairs team to host regular workshops for students to improve skills like storytelling, reviewing legislative progress made in 2022, and learn more about how to analyze state legislation. I also hope to extend our work to federal and local legislative efforts.

With that being said, I would like to say I intend to advocate fervently for graduate and professional students and will incorporate new and innovative strategies throughout the year. I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy and look forward to your questions.

The Senate moved into Q&A for the VPEX position.

How will you revitalize our federal lobbying efforts?

Joel Anderson said that the first step was engaging and communicating more proactively with Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE), the GPSS's federal lobbying partner. He said that he could attend some of SAGE's monthly meetings, learn more about their current leadership, and find ways to partner with them. He said that the first step was being public and attending their events to find better ways to collaborate on lobbying throughout the year.

How do you plan to balance the need for “working within” the current political system with the overarching sentiments among many graduate students that it is a fundamentally flawed system?

Joel Anderson said that given his experience working on political campaigns and researching policy, he had realized that networking and cultivating relationships within politics was one of the best ways to get things done, particularly when the infrastructure in place does not allow things to move forward. He said that proactively engaging more graduate and professional students, helping them learn the ins and outs of the state legislative system, as well as federal and local political dynamics could help the GPSS work through the divisiveness.

How will you address financial inequities within the UW in your new role?

Joel Anderson said he wanted to continue building on the efforts that were passed this year during the legislative session, particularly establishing a state-based student loan program, and expanding the use of Washington college grants. He said that both of these pieces of legislation had room to continue building upon, such as further expanding grants, increasing the amount of loans that students can take out, and addressing tangential, yet relevant, issues to the graduate and student professional experience such as housing and transportation access.

How will you integrate student concerns about campus accessibility (stairs, ramps, elevators, etc.) into your work?

Joel Anderson said that accessibility issues were particularly important to him. He said that the external team had received responses on the legislative issues survey this year regarding

physical accessibility. He said that these issues unfortunately did not take hold during the legislative session. He noted that there were a few pieces of legislation introduced to increase capital funding at universities. He said that one bill in particular would allow the university to create a pathway to mobilize emergency funding to fix physical infrastructure needs. He said that he wanted to make accessibility a priority in legislative conversations next year and commit to elevating the topic.

How do you plan to work towards accessibility and inclusion for grad students as VP External?

Joel Anderson said that he planned to cultivate relationships with more students from the start. He said that it was easy to ask students for their stories in a way that was tokenizing and not continue building relationships with them, both before and after inviting them to help advocate and lobby with the GPSS. He said he wanted to engage students at the beginning of the year and empower them in a way that they feel comfortable in sharing their stories and continuing the relationships beyond the session.

What is your plan for working with other graduate students in the state for lobbying?

Joel Anderson said that the VPEx worked a lot with other graduate student lobbyists through the Washington Student Association, as well as with undergraduate student lobbyists. He said that he wanted to engage more heavily in that work as policy director this year. He said that he often saw much of the conversations, but was not directly part of them. He said that mobilizing student lobbyists and working on efforts like social media campaigns, phone banking, text banking, and other forms of outreach to both voters and students would be helpful.

What is your stance on civil disobedience as a political action?

Joel Anderson said that he did not want to take actions that put people in physical danger. He said that the GPSS had an obligation to protest policies that contradicted basic human rights such as rights to health care, rights to education, and rights to housing. He said that he would not endorse any specific proposal or action.

How can we include more senators in the legislative agenda process?

Joel Anderson said that from his observation, the legislative agenda drafting process felt incredibly rushed. He said that he wanted to start planning for the legislative agenda earlier, possibly during the summer. He said that once his policy director came on board, he would do more proactive outreach to senators such as asking them to come to LAB meetings, asking for their feedback, and engaging with them earlier with respect to the legislative issues survey to incorporate more of their ideas into the agenda.

What can GPSS do about the overturning of Roe v. Wade and the Buffalo shooting?

Joel Anderson said that Washington State had legislative principles in place to protect the right to abortion and reproductive health care. He said that it would be important to check in with legislators about the status of those protections and how they stand up with federal precedent as America moved forward with the Roe v. Wade decision.

Joel Anderson asked if he could have 30 seconds to answer the second half of the question.

Aaron Yared said no unless someone asked another question about it.

Joel Anderson said that in regard to the Buffalo shooting, continuing to cultivate relationships with students of various lived experiences and identities would be important.

How can your work help the GPSS become a pillar of support for graduate students across Washington State?

Joel Anderson said that the GPSS had the opportunity to set a precedent for how other graduate and professional student bodies across the state could lobby. He said that some of the questions he had mentioned about building institutional memory and consistency across future VPEs and SAF would help the GPSS publicize its ideas to the table at larger events, like the Washington Students Association and other state partners.

Can you answer the second half of that question? (referring to “What can GPSS do about the overturning of Roe v. Wade and the Buffalo shooting?”)

Joel Anderson said that the Buffalo shooting was an awful act of racist terrorism. He said that he wanted to engage with other officers, particularly the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion to make sure that the GPSS had additional lived experiences in its conversations, both within LAB and larger legislative advocacy settings. He said that there were a number of issues that he felt were not well represented due to low attendance, and that he wanted to improve attendance.

How do you see your relationship with ASUW next year given the GPSS’s tumultuous history working together externally?

Joel Anderson said that he wanted to communicate proactively with the ASUW. He said that he wanted to possibly set a team charter with their office of government relations to define how the ASUW and the GPSS communicated with each other and what each could expect in terms of efficient dialogue and parameters for event planning. He said that it was important for him while planning things like Huskies on the Hill and the legislative reception that both entities had honest expectations of one another and move forward with those expectations throughout the year.

What is your stance on civil disobedience as a political action? (part 2)

Joel Anderson said he was trying to remember what he said in part one. He said that prior to seeing the plans for a protest or act of civil disobedience, he did not want to give broad support for any action. He said that he wanted to empower students as much as possible, so he would never shut the door on any proposal. He said that he wanted to grapple with the ideas and have an open mind.

Will you advocate state legislators to dismantle the police system?

Joel Anderson said he had been concerned this year to see rollbacks of police accountability measures and “police reform” measures in the state legislature. He said that the GPSS had made efforts this year to create a crisis response team to respond to things like mental health related calls. He said that he was very supportive of creating alternatives to police responses for situations. He said that he was not an expert on that topic but would always support exploring police alternatives.

The Q&A period ended.

Aaron Yared announced that the election would move on to the next position, Vice President of Finance & Budget (VPF). He said that the two candidates were Katherine Forneret and Van Mai.

Katherine Forneret gave her speech.

Hi, my name is Katherine Forneret or Kat. I'm sorry I could not be there in person. I had an incident with one of my cats. He's okay, but thanks for letting me do it virtually.

I am currently an MBA student in my first year at the Foster School of Business. And it was another MBA student who actually brought GPSS to my attention. I had not heard of it before, but it sounded like a good way to get involved. I really like getting involved in school, and since it's my first year I wanted to get more involved, so I came to some of the meetings and I heard about the upcoming elections.

I reached out to the current VPF, A.J. Balatico, and with all the background information he gave me about the role, I got really excited because I think it will be a great opportunity to get more involved in school and get other graduate students more involved.

I really just mostly want to talk about how it can be difficult to have someone new come in. You know, none of you have probably seen me before, talked to me before, so I know it's kind of strange to have me running for a position. But, I would be excited to work closely with the newly elected president, as well as the previous VPF so that I have all of the tools that I need to be successful.

Something that I feel really strongly about in terms of what I know of GPSS so far is spreading awareness about it. As someone who did not know that it was a thing, I think there's a lot of people who do not know. I asked my MBA cohort and no one knew. No one knew about the GPSS. No one in my course knew, so I just think it's really important to spread awareness because as officers, any of us, the important thing is getting more people involved. With awareness comes more people, more ideas, and with

more ideas there's more benefits that we can have for the school, potentially.

So I'm just really excited to continue working alongside A.J., if he becomes the president. Regarding the GPSS website, I was seeing how we have been working towards getting developers over the summer so that we could create our own website, and I think that would really help spread that awareness, so I'm excited to continue taking that on. I will also hopefully give people an opportunity to find ways to interact with GPSS, even if they are not part of the Senate or an officer.

Three minutes is not a lot of time to talk about all the changes that someone wants to make or what projects should be prioritized. I just wanted to introduce myself, explain why I was drawn to the Senate, and that I do plan on taking the position seriously if I were to get it, even though I am new.

I do not want anyone to think that I am coming in with plans to make a lot of changes. What I really want to do is connect with the senators one on one and listen and learn from them, and then work for what they want.

Van Mai gave her speech.

Hi, everyone. My name is Van. I am a current first year MBA student and I am running for the VPF. I am originally from Vietnam, and pursued my bachelors degree in Japan and started my professional career in Singapore after that.

As an international student, I understand the challenges international students and people from minority groups face when they transition into a new environment. I believe that one of the things that separates marginalized students from everyone else is opportunity for participation and representation. I want to pursue a role at GPSS to represent not only 13,000 graduate students on the Seattle campus, but also more than 3,000 international graduate students, and help create an equitable and inclusive community across all of the GPSS.

More specifically, there are three areas I want to focus on. The first area is that I want to be the voice of international students and help increase support for international student, both financially and not financially. For example, I want to work with the university to create more affordable loan packages for students which are only available for domestic students. My second focus is to increase the utilization of different GPSS funding, such as the diversity funds, travel grants and special allocations. I want to be an ally for students and help them attain the required resources which enrich their experience on campus. Third, I want to work together with the new officers to help make communication a higher priority and raise awareness among all graduate students.

My strengths are empathy about the concerns of international students and internal drive to contribute more to the UW community. I want to listen, understand, and deliver, so please vote for me. I am new to the community.

The Senate moved into Q&A for the VPF position.

Aaron Yared explained that since there were two candidates, the candidates would switch off on answering first.

How would you manage the time between the GPSS and your academics?

Katherine Forneret said she did not have any concerns about her academics. She said that she did not have responsibilities like kids and that she had a lot of time on her hands. She described herself as a workaholic for things she was passionate about. She said that she was excited for the challenge and that getting more involved would help with her academics.

Van Mai said that one of the biggest reasons why she wanted to run for this role was to enrich her student experience. She said that she did not hold any leadership roles at the Foster School and wanted to devote her free time to working for GPSS. She said that she had a background in management and tended to work and travel up to 14 hours a day.

You liaise to SAF which is struggling under growing healthcare costs (Hall Health). How will you address this challenge?

Van Mai said that the counselors at Hall Health were given a raise because of the need for mental health counseling services for students. She apologized for her limited knowledge and said that she wanted to work more with the SAF to understand more about Hall Health's demands and help them. She said that graduate students needed health benefits.

Katherine Forneret said that she felt strongly about this topic. She said that she had a history working in healthcare, and that the rising healthcare costs, especially with COVID, were important to her. She said that she would take time to understand where students felt the impact the most. She said that she did not have much background, but that she wanted to do outreach and see how people were feeling, what they were looking for, and how she could better help them with funding.

Do you have any plans as the VP of Finance for the GPSS reserve funds?

Katherine Forneret said she did not because she did not want to make campaign promises or action items when she was so new to the GPSS. She said that she was interested in connecting with the previous VPF and getting opinions from senators to understand what the majority of people were looking for. She said that she would take the question to other graduate students.

Van Mai said that she understood the GPSS to currently have a decent amount of money for its activities. She said that the GPSS had the option to carry forward the surplus to the next year or put it into the endowment fund. She said that there was ongoing discussion about that, and that she wanted to work with the university to find the best way to utilize the reserve fund, figure out which activities were important for the students, and help them with the money that they pay to the university.

How will you ensure accountability for the summer web developer? ASUW has had problems with this in the past

Van Mai said that she thought about the issue. She noted that the GPSS planned to pay them an hourly rate without being able to check how many hours they were actually working. She suggested that the GPSS pay them in a lump sum like in consulting and have benchmarks for some of the projects. She said that ASUW had taken this route to estimate the fair payment of their developers.

Katherine Forneret said her response was similar. She suggested setting up the system to either pay them hourly or by deliverables while keeping a close eye on their work. She said that the GPSS would not micromanage these developers, but know when and what they should complete to make sure the deliverables were met on time.

STF had a heated exchange between a committee member and a student who was an active duty serviceman this year. How will you handle concerns about discrimination in how STF/SAF allocates funds?

Katherine Forneret said that the most important thing regarding concerns around discrimination was to talk to people who felt that they were being discriminated against, or even those outside of the group to gather opinions. She said that there were many members of the military in her MBA cohort and that it would be good to get their opinions. She said that she was not in the military and might not know what people were going through. She said that talking to many people to get the right information and making sure that everyone was in a safe space would be her method.

Van Mai said that she would draw a lot from STF activities as the VPF. She said that she would communicate with both parties if she had the chance and liaise to solve the issue and understand both perspectives. She said that she would try to create resolutions so that groups could work well together.

Graduate programs are all very diverse. Some have high populations of first-generation, international, LGBTQIA+ students or students who are parents. How will you ensure that you meet the needs of each program without sacrificing any one student group's needs?

Van Mai said that this was a great question because one person raised the concern about overpopulation of Evans School senators in the Senate. She said that the GPSS could think about organizing activities between different schools. She noted that one of her priorities was to raise awareness about the GPSS. For example, all schools could be engaged and informed about the GPSS's activities through communications such as weekly email.

Katherine Forneret said that the GPSS could not meet everyone's needs all the time, but that the GPSS could ensure that everyone felt that the GPSS acted equitably. She said that she would work with the VPEI to make sure that the GPSS covered all the programs and that diversity was a subject for each program throughout the year. She said that not every event would be for everyone.

How will you advocate for GPSS resources, STF, and SAF to be used to address the barriers that disabled students face?

Katherine Forneret said that it would involve her learning more and going through training with the previous VPF to understand the different resources and funding. She said that ultimately, she would have to hear from students themselves to ask what they needed. She said that the GPSS had a website that allowed people to put forth proposals that the GPSS could fund. She said that having more things like that would help the GPSS know what people needed.

Van Mai said that she wanted to be a good listener and that she understood the differences in needs between different groups and organizations. She said that as an ally, she often worked with the SAF and STF and understood their constraints. For example, when a student makes a proposal, she could advise them on how to write the proposal in a certain way to convince the SAF and STF to fund them.

As VP of Finance, you lead the stewardship of money collected from all students. How will you protect collective resources from those who prioritize personal agendas?

Van Mai said that in order to make sure the money will be allocated and used in an appropriate way the GPSS could display its expenditure status on its new website so that students could know where the money was and have a voice in how the money was used.

Katherine Forneret said that she agreed that the website would help people visually see what people wanted the most. She said that her experience working in customer service helped her feel comfortable understanding people. She said that when talking to someone, she could pick up on where someone might be heading mentally in terms of trying to get something funded.

The Q&A period ended.

Aaron Yared announced that the election would move on to the next position, VPEI. He said that the three candidates were Michael Saunders, Marty Varela, and Andrea Paz.

Michael Saunders gave his speech.

Hi, everyone. My name is Michael Saunders. I am running to be the next VPEI. I am currently the ASUW Director of Campus Partnerships and work with many different entities on campus that deal with undergraduates, graduate students, and people in the community.

I am from Atlanta. I moved here from the South, and came from a very low-income family. I used to be homeless, and look at me now, in a bust out from Men's Warehouse! We love to see it.

Seeing how some of the things have unfolded throughout the year when working in the ASUW and with the GPSS, my goal for joining the GPSS is to give guidance and build a foundation to ensure that the GPSS functions as a very equitable and accessible entity. There have been a lot of issues when it comes to connecting directly with

students, holding engagement and making sure that the GPSS abides by certain Bylaws or follows the proper procedures in a quick way. GPSS is a stressful space to be in and it is not fun. I want to wake it up. So yes, I'm a banjee girl, but stick with me.

I also want to get more involved with the programming and make sure that everybody's outreach is actually connecting with the people that y'all want to see and speak with. I know that a lot of the growth that y'all want to interact with and talk with are in the community. We are here. We just don't have a lot of access to higher education, and so it is very difficult for us to get into these spaces and pay for this because I know \$50,000 is expensive, and I ain't got that type of money.

I think that it's important that we find ways for the GPSS to build those connections with everybody out there, and that's something that I've been doing this entire year. I will let you all ask any questions you have in the question section, but thanks for having me. Love seeing all your faces. I hope I'm not too banjee for y'all, but you know, vote for me. Thank you.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) gave her speech.

Senators and guests, it's really a privilege for me to come to you today to talk to you about why it is that I feel compelled to run for this officer role. But, I have to start by letting you know that this is my fourth year of association with GPSS, and frankly, the single most important reason that brought me to this body was the diversity committee. Long ago, when I first attended the diversity committee, the most exciting and biggest event that they planned was an annual celebration of diversity. They had dollars available to fund other events. They had support available. They had a space convened if individuals and/or programs wanted to access it, and frequently there was no one there.

And I wondered to myself why an organization representing such a diverse population had so little of that diversity present on its diversity committee. And I asked that question and I asked that question and I asked that question until I encountered some energy and enthusiasm in one of our past presidents to say maybe we can look at this differently.

And that energy and enthusiasm passed on to another officer who was responsible for the Diversity Committee, and that individual listened to many, many conversations that myself and others had about what the goal of GPSS was as a body. How is it that we say that we represent all students when you can look at the representation of officers and the people that show up at meetings and see that there's some constituencies that are not present. And that, to be honest, is bothersome to me, because I personally don't want to feel like I'm representing a group and I have no capacity to connect with that group to find out what's important to them.

So there's a lot of stuff on the slide, and you can read that, but the most important thing for me is the element of the role that actually got left off of the name, and that is accountability. I think that the real purpose of this position, amongst the GPSS officers, is to hold up a mirror, not so that we can magnify and amplify issues, but so that we can identify them.

And that identification is the first step to us being able to do something about it. I

think it would be really fantastic for GPSS to have a diversity committee meeting every week where we allow people to bring issues that are important to them from all constituencies, that we don't just focus on those minority groups that many of us are looking at, but that we look at some that are on the fringe. Perhaps not recognized by everyone, that we look at our community and we say: Who are you and what's important to you?

I would like the Diversity Committee to reflect the ability for us to be trusted advocates on behalf of the entire Senate, and I would be so honored if you permitted me to be that representative who coalesced that effort and got our committee to do that.

Gabby Rivera called time.

Andrew Paz (Social Work) gave her speech.

Hi, my name is Andrea. My pronouns are she/her, elle, which is Spanish, but if you don't want to use it because you don't speak Spanish, that's fine, and you can use she/her. I am a masters student in the School of Social Work. It's my third year, which means I should be graduating right now, but I love graduate school so much I delayed graduation. There's been kind of a few bumps in the road lately, and it does seem kind of weird, like 'Why, if you're experiencing certain issues, like delaying graduation, why do you want to get even more involved?'

One, because it's a great use of my time, and two, because I worry about what we can do to actually be more inclusive, be more diverse, and also be equitable in terms of resources and conversations.

I want to appreciate Marty Varela for reminding me that I have seen so much great work, and honestly I just also wanted to keep working with the diversity and equity and inclusion committee just because every time I sat in on different meetings, I had the idea that things can always be better. That's not to say, 'Oh, things are not good right now,' it's that it could be better for everyone. We can talk about people that maybe we don't talk about. I go to the School of Social Work, and we never talk about class privilege or poverty, which is ridiculous, because many of the clients of social workers are affected by these issues. How do you talk about classism, or ableism? There are so many people who are working on a lot of good resolutions that also feel it. As someone with ADHD, it's like when do we talk about those things?

I'm very grateful that I was allowed to run from the floor. This is kind of like how I did it when I ran to be a senator at like the Student Advisory Council in the School of Social Work.

Aaron Yared called time.

The Senate moved into Q&A for the VPEI position.

The position is new and half of a previous officer's position. What are your plans for creating a sustainable infrastructure for the next five years of people who will work in this role?

Michael Saunders said he liked topics on sustainability and infrastructure. He invited people to ask anybody at the ASUW who he berated to update the Bylaws and personnel policies. He said that he planned on working with all the other vice presidents to look into the Bylaws and personnel policies to outline what the GPSS senators want to see out of the VPEI and ensure that the GPSS set up accountable action items that each VP needed to fulfill so that the diversity equity committee could also look into those items.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that the purpose of the role was accountability. She said that the most important thing was that accountability be within the GPSS, within the university. She said that the GPSS should take accountability from the broader world and have it color the GPSS's actions. She said that the GPSS should make sure that their perspectives are heard and take action based on what they have identified as priorities in the area of accountability and inclusion and equity.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) said that she did not know herself and that recording these things in a journal to log her actions would help the next person in the position. She said that his would help make the effort more sustainable or build on existing efforts.

What will your top actionable objective be as the VPEI next year?

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that objectives should start over the summer to the extent that she could pull people who had participated in the diversity committee up to this point as well as other interested parties within the GPSS and outside of GPSS. She said that they would identify what they thought diversity meant for the GPSS and what they thought that the GPSS should be doing as advocates of diversity. She said that if she started now, the GPSS would have a plan in place to act on immediately when the GPSS convened in the fall.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) said that her objective for next year was to think of more concrete ways to dole out resources, increase inclusion and diversity, bring up the issues of ableism and classism, and discuss how they all interacted.

Michael Saunders said he had two points. His first point was to make sure that the GPSS had accessible resources and updates to its website because it was very important. His second point was to culminate relationships with different internal and external UW and Seattle-based communities, especially with the UW's other campuses. He said that there were many graduate students in other campuses that needed a lot of support but did not receive as much as Seattle students.

Your job may be to hold the GPSS accountable. How will you hold yourself accountable?

Andrea Paz (Social Work) said that the concept of radical transparency was about making the government to be transparent and said that she wanted to feel as transparent and available to

anyone in the student body as much as possible.

Michael Saunders said that his plan was to meet with everyone individually, launch an anonymous reporting tool, and have consistent check-ins with all senators to ensure that he knew what he did wrong and what he could do to fix the situation. He said that he might see something and try to hold himself accountable, but that accountability was determined by the person that he caused harm to. He said that accountability would be influential in what he decided to do and fix his mistakes so that others did not make the same mistake moving forward. He said that the GPSS could also host classes about it.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that she agreed with Michael Saunders and that the only thing she would try to modify was getting feedback from people based on reporting that she would do on a regular basis to the diversity committee and the larger GPSS so that there was transparency. She said that those pieces of information could be used to direct her actions, whether it was to applaud successes or to help during opportunities and struggles, as possibilities for better in the future.

Many actions addressing disabilities focus on physical access. How will you include those experiencing disabilities from things such as depression, anxiety, ADHD, dyslexia, etc.?

Michael Saunders said he did not get access to Disability Resources for Students (DRS) or any disability resources because he could not get documentation due to financial constraints. He said that the GPSS could create surveys and reach out to people experiencing those issues without making their case public. He said that revealing one's mental illnesses changed the way people interacted with others

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that this was the biggest power that the VPEI role had. She said that the VPEI role could ask the question and allow themselves to be ambassadors for the needs of the GPSS by letting populations that may not be identifiable visually to contact the GPSS know when they were experiencing challenges so that members of the GPSS could advocate for it in their role as officers, as senators, as students and as people on this campus.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) said that she had depression, anxiety and ADHD, and that dealing with them was like a job. She said that her ability to be open about mental illnesses might make it better or more relatable. She noted that having an experience did not mean she could speak for everyone.

You “receive grievances from graduate and professional students concerning inequities” and refer them to the Judicial Committee when appropriate. Do you have any past experience addressing or investigating such grievances?

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that she had both

professionally and academically. She said that the most important thing was being open and being willing to accept responsibility when responsibility lies with them. She said that people had to be able to accept that no one was perfect but that everyone was striving to be better. She said that sometimes actions would have consequences and that everyone needed to be corrective when those consequences occur. She said that she viewed the Judicial Committee as partners in that effort.

Andrea Paz (Social Work) said she hadn't had much of that experience formally, but that she viewed herself as someone who was able to be objective and work with others on sensitive matters and have accountability. She said that she recently did a DEI training where people were still racist. She asked that if DEI training did not accomplish anything, what were people doing to hold people accountable.

Michael Saunders said that he had much experience dealing with grievances and trying to figure out how to mitigate those problems. He said that he dealt with them inside of the workplace, with faculty, and on a school level. He said that it would be very important that the GPSS and the Judicial Committee figure out how to deal with those issues and make sure that the GPSS works to make sure that faculty are held accountable. He said that it was difficult to hold faculty accountable at this university.

The Q&A period ended.

Aaron Yared announced that the election would move on to the next position, Vice President of Administration (VPA). He said that the two candidates were Matthew Mitnick and Jack Flesher.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) gave his speech.

Imagine that it's finals week. You're trying to take your exams and you're told that your floor could give out at any moment, that one of the bedrooms you are leasing is legally too small to be considered a unit, and that the city is considering your unit to be hazardously unsafe. That was the reality that my roommate and I experienced last quarter, and we had to fight our corporate landlord because we were displaced, and that was the third time in nine months that same scenario happened. That demonstrated to me the power of student advocacy, because by working with tenants unions and other students we were able to resolve our situation, and that's why I'm running for vice president of administration, because we have the opportunity here to be an advocate for the Senate, and that's really what I see as being essential to this role.

Writing resolutions is really hard and complex. All these "that" clauses, "whereas" clauses, makes no sense, and I want to use this role to guide folks to do power mapping of administrators. If a student comes to our space with an issue we can connect them to the appropriate senator to go where they need to in this university. I see this role as being kind of a connecting hub, and open communication. It's what I've been all about this year, for better or worse, as I'm sure you all are aware.

I came in here guns blazing. I had no orientation because with the Evans School, senators were appointed late. I was like let's do this legislation, let's go to this

administrator, let's ask for this, because students were coming to me in my program asking for things to be addressed, and I felt like, you know, we need to do that.

As VPA, I want to have those regular orientations so folks know here are the proper channels. You can't ask for something on the agenda one day before the meeting. It has to be seven days. It has to go through the Executive Committee, so working through those avenues.

Just to talk about this year's advocacy, I went through a very difficult situation in the fall where a member of my cohort took their own life, and that informed the work for alternative emergency services being there that night, seeing the response. We've made progress. We're negotiating \$1.2 million from the mayor's office as we speak, and bringing that to this campus community is going to be essential.

I also served on SAF, and I'm sure you've heard rumblings of what went on there. There were times where there were threats for the child care assistance program to be cut. There were times where Ethnic Cultural Center Leadership Development Program could have been cut, and students came to me, and I saw it as my role there to advocate, to ensure that those critical services are not cut.

As VPA, I want to make sure to not only do the administrative roles of the space, but also ensure that everyone has the path towards advocacy and to create the change. That's why you all are here right now, right? To create change, and I want to do that with you. Thank you.

Jack Flesher (Music) gave his speech.

My name is Jack Flesher. I use he/they pronouns. First I wanted to say thank you, everyone, for coming out to hear our platforms and give us your time. We really appreciate it.

I'd like to start with just a little bit about me. I am a fourth year PhD in ethnomusicology for those who don't know me. I am a trained ethnographer and documentarian. I have completed grad certificates in ethics and public critical race scholarship here at UW and been the lead instructor for undergraduates with about 350 for fourteen quarters, so I'm really used to archival work and organizing lots of people, and emails.

As far as my other qualifications go, I've been an archival assistant for three quarters. I was the president of the UW ethnomusicology association for three years, and I've been an active member of GPSS and the Diversity Committee for two and a half years. I was also involved in student government at McGill University before my time here, two years as a union rep and delegate council member and one year on executive committee.

So a little bit about what I'd like to do next year if I am elected: to me the VPA was first and foremost about communication, infrastructure and community building. I think for everyone to do their job well as a team and as an organization with as many moving parts as we have, it's really necessary that there's a centralized person making sure that communications in, out, and through GPSS are just really clear and effective and accessible, as well as accessible records and materials. So I would like to work towards a more systematic and accessible way of keeping records for GPSS and making

sure that everyone has access to those.

Similarly, as a lot of other candidates have expressed tonight, one of the main roles of the VPA is recruitment and onboarding new senators and getting Senate enrollment. I think that should probably be one of if not the top priority for this role next year, to work with the graduate program advisors association, to find new Senate representation. There have been a lot of changes in COVID and because of going back and forth between hybrid and our numbers are down. Even if representation is somewhat more equal because of that, anyway, I think that updating and utilizing the GPA handbook that past officers have created and continuing to consider the nonacademic seats for underrepresented groups would be part of trying to get them here and involved.

Finally, I think it's really important, as Matthew Mitnick also pointed out, to host regular sessions for people to feel like this space can be inviting and inclusive and accessible. A lot of people might want to get involved and feel really put off by parliamentary procedure or how to write a resolution. I think it's really important to host regular workshops as past officers have done, to make sure that people know how to participate in the GPSS, feel welcome to participate in this space, and feel that they can seek support and help if they need it. Thank you, and I would appreciate your vote.

The Senate moved into Q&A for the VPA position.

Do you have experience working with stakeholders like Dr. Ana Mari Cauce and what did you accomplish in these experiences?

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said he was currently working with her office on the alternative emergency services proposal, along with Sally Clarke on another number of regional issues. He said that his team was about to secure four parcels of land for their community land trust project and would create the first rent-to-own model for students in the country. He said that he had worked with city council offices and local leaders.

Jack Flesher (Music) said that he did not have experience with Dr. Cauce specifically. He said that he had experience working with stakeholders for student issues in his own department. He said that his department had had a lot of issues regarding racism and oppressive pedagogical practices with no accountability for faculty. He said that he had led his department specifically in that charge and worked hard with his school and the dean of arts and sciences to resolved the issue and have mediation.

How will you balance the need for the Senate parliamentarian to be neutral with your passion for important issues?

Jack Flesher (Music) said that the entire point of parliamentary procedure, even though it often felt like a barrier, was for fair and equitable participation. He said that the number one way to do that was to educate people about how parliamentary procedure works so that he was not always in the position of jumping in and stopping people. He said that if everyone knew how the

system worked, more people could participate in their own way and hold each other accountable.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that his team had to govern all the ad hoc committee meetings under parliamentary procedure. He said that it was important to establish expectations upfront. He said that there were unwritten rules for holding oneself accountable to the entire year. He said that he had chaired a number of city committee hearings and public hearings, so he was used to having to be neutral in the parliamentary role.

How will you focus your energy and effort into fulfilling the role of VP Admin?

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said it was important to have clear administrative responsibilities that he would articulate what he was in charge of and what he would do at the beginning of the year. He said that this was why he thought that officer report backs were necessary and that senators could disagree with him on his role's responsibilities. He said that he was open to working collaboratively to make it happen. He said that the senators should have a space for advocacy and brand the GPSS as a place where the general student could go to if they had an issue.

Jack Flesher (Music) said that his focus would be split two ways. He said that the first energy focus would be working over the summer to get things ready for the beginning of the year and start the year by getting more people to understand what the GPSS is, what it did, how it worked, and how to get involved. He said that the GPSS needed people to make things happen so that it lessened the individual load. He said that the second focus would be on hosting regular workshops on how parliamentary procedure worked or how to write a resolution or other issues.

In your role as a senator, how have you been accountable to your constituents in your respective schools?

Jack Flesher (Music) said that he was held accountable by listening to his students' issues in the department. He said that when his students approached him with grievances, he went to the diversity committee and shared their experiences on significant racism within their department. He said that he asked for direction and resources and found people who directed him to those resources. He said that the School of Music still had lead in its water. He said that he kept asking when this would be fixed at every university event he attended.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that he could say that he had been held accountable every single time someone in his program had approached him with an issue that he had addressed within the Senate. He said that this was the reason for his large legislation output and that it was important to him to address issues when students came to the GPSS with them. He said that student parents had approached him last week in the SAF because their funding would be cut. He said that forty-six students would not have baby formula and that he advocated for them within the SAF on that issue. He said that as a teaching assistant (TA),

fellow TAs came to him and expressed a desire for hazard pay and a workers' stimulus package due to their feeling of unsafety.

How do you believe you can rebrand the GPSS?

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that it was very important that students know about the work that the GPSS did. He said that the GPSS could be transparent on social media with GPSS affairs and how students could come to make their voice heard. He said that he valued public comment because it gave students an opportunity to come and address their issues. He said that he had consistently encouraged students to directly address committees with their issues without the use of a middleman.

Jack Flesher (Music) said that he thought about branding not in "how do we sell GPSS to other people," but "how do we make people want to get involved in GPSS, how do we make people want to stay involved?" He said that this would include, as A.J. Balatico mentioned, expanding the GPSS's social media presence, even just by sharing a funny meme about the Senate to get people to think "Maybe this is a place I want to be in. It's not just boring procedures."

How do you plan on maintaining order when people are continuing to talk over time or parliamentary procedure order is more significantly disrupted?

Jack Flesher (Music) said that there were a few ways to handle that. He said that depending on how heated the situation was, it was possible to call for a temporary recess and give people some time to collect their thoughts to deescalate the situation as needed. He said that if the situation was not as severe as that, then the Senate would need to take a literal pause to recollect. He said that there were ways to use the chat function in a hybrid or physical space to ensure that people had cards with parliamentary procedure so that people could use parliamentary procedure and not disregard the rules.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that when he had to chair the police commission in Madison, Wisconsin where he lived a few years ago, this was a major issue. He said that when folks were at time, he would tell them that they were at time and asked them to wrap up. He said that people should not be cut off mid-comment, but allowed to finish their comments. He said if somebody became an issue, on Zoom he muted them. He said that if the disruptor was in person, it was important to know when to call a recess before an event was about to transpire. He said that having that knowledge and the feel for the public meeting was important.

How will you ensure equity in appointing student liaisons to university committees?

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said that it first started with ensuring that the existing protected Senate seats were filled and that the GPSS should perform outreach to fill the seats. He said that liaisonship applications should require a diversity statement, even if the position was uncontested or about to be appointed. He said that having liaisons articulate that to the

appointing body or asking within the application was important. He said that if someone was not able to explain how they would contribute to a more equitable space, the GPSS could hold the appointment.

Jack Flesher (Music) said that the GPSS could continue to think about how it could use its nonacademic seats to represent underrepresented groups and marginalized communities. He said that the VPEI could also liaise with the VPA role. He said that the diversity committee was a great place to discuss whether things were being represented fairly, what results were coming out of the composition survey, and what issues were coming up within the diversity committee that the GPSS could use to focus on.

How do you focus on achievable goals and showing students results?

Jack Flesher (Music) said that the goals should be defined by the GPSS collectively, both within the Senate and the Executive Committee, especially in the role of VPA. He asked what things that the GPSS needed that students could see. He said that he would focus on these needs and be transparent in those processes. He said that the GPSS would make the records accessible to people in a timely and effective manner and allow them to request things that might not be there.

Matthew Mitnick (Public Administration) said every goal was possible unless somebody told you no. He said that the Provost had initially told him no in regard to the change fee. He said that he entered into a series of negotiations and had the provost eventually agree to waive it for students in financial need. He said that that was a prime example of how anything could happen if students advocated and fought. He said that students also needed to think about what was realistic. He said that if the GPSS did power mapping and looked at what resolutions entailed, students could work on that together.

The Q&A period ended.

Aaron Yared asked all the candidates to leave the room for ten minutes. He said that the candidates on Zoom would be placed into a breakout room and would be brought back to the meeting when the Senate was ready. He said that everyone else in the meeting would freely discuss their impressions of the candidates. He said that the officers would not endorse anyone and would only answer objective questions about the positions.

Katherine Forneret did not join the breakout room.

Ashlee Abrantes asked if it would be possible for Aaron Yared to send her to a room without her accepting and/or kicking her out of the Zoom meeting and emailing her.

Aaron Yared said he had just tried that. He said he put her in the waiting room instead.

Aaron Yared announced that the Senate would enter deliberations and go position by position.

Ashlee Abrantes raised a point of information and asked if this part was recorded.

Giuliana Conti advised the Senate to record it.

Aaron Yared said that it would be recorded.

Aaron Yared opened the floor for people to discuss the presidential candidate.

There were no comments.

Aaron Yared opened the floor for people to discuss the candidate for the VPIn position.

Julie Emory said that she could not ask anything because there was only one candidate.

Aaron Yared said that her concern was fair. He said that this period was not just about asking questions, but was also to endorse candidates as well.

Aaron Yared opened the floor for people to discuss the candidate for the VPEX position.

There were no comments.

Aaron Yared opened the floor for people to discuss the candidate for the VPF position.

Giuliana Conti introduced herself as a graduate student from the School of Music and former GPSS president. She said that Van Mai might have been the only candidate that had mentioned international students, which had been a heavily underrepresented community within the Graduate School and the GPSS. She asked the Senate to consider this fact as international students did not receive much representation.

Julie Emory introduced herself as a graduate student of the Information School and the GPSS liaison to the Student Board of Publications and *The Daily*. She seconded Giuliana Conti's point and explained that her program, Masters of Science and Information Management, was primarily composed of international students who had difficulty accessing federal aid. She said that Van Mai's priority of international students distinguished her.

Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography) asked what specific committees the VPF worked with.

Aaron Yared said that the VPF mainly sat on the SAF, the STF, and chaired the GPSS Finance & Budget Committee. He said that the VPF could also sit on other committees. For example, A.J. Balatico acted as the GPSS President's trustee on the University Bookstore's board of trustees.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if the reason that an officer who was already sitting on

multiple committees was Aaron Yared's proxy was because not enough people were volunteering to be liaisons.

Aaron Yared said that the bookstore's committee was strictly an officer committee. He said that the GPSS had a seat on it and that at the time, the GPSS had not had its liaison system up and running. He added that the committee also required high commitment, and felt only right to give it to somebody who was actually going to get paid for being there. He said that this was why he had chosen A.J. Balatico to be his proxy. He said that in other situations, the GPSS used its liaison system where students interested in being liaisons submitted a form of their interests to the GPSS Director of University Affairs who assigned them to committees based on fit.

Aaron Yared opened the floor for people to discuss the candidate for the VPEI position.

Giuliana Conti said that this was her seventh year participating in the GPSS. She said that within the candidates, she saw newcomers and returning people. She said that having experienced transitioning from her officer position as president during COVID to Aaron Yared and being privy to a lot of the challenges that the GPSS had faced, she felt that candidates who had been involved with the GPSS prior to the pandemic would be an incredible asset to the organization to help it come back to what it once was because they had seen what it was.

Giuliana Conti advocated for Marty Varela in particular citing Marty Varela's traits of being phenomenal and consistent. She said that the same applied to Jack Flesher who had been a part of the GPSS for two and a half years. She said that the experience would be invaluable to the GPSS.

Madison spoke on behalf of Michael Saunders and said that he had literally saved her life when she was physically in danger as an indigenous woman advocating on campus. She said that Michael Saunders had also shown much care for and fiercely represented every single community. She said that while Giuliana Conti had made a wonderful point, newcomers could provide fresh eyes. She said that Michael Saunders could help foster better relationships with ASUW and create an equitable balance between both bodies. She praised his honesty, bluntness, and advocacy. She said that Michael Saunders would fiercely fight for every single person who required his aid and do everything he could to make sure that nobody went through the hardships that he faced. She said that Michael Saunders was a phenomenal listener and that his work ethic and ability to balance school, work, life was outstanding.

Giuliana Conti raised a point of information and asked which candidates were from the Evans School.

Gabby Rivera said that for the VPEI position, Michael Saunders was the candidate from the Evans School.

Aaron Yared said that Michael Saunders was a current senior entering a masters program.

Julie Emory asked if Michael Saunders had made any further progress working with PSU to create student protective services. He said that this work would be integral to what his role would entail if the GPSS continued with Matthew Mitnick's work, which she suspected Michael Saunders would advocate for.

Aaron Yared said that there had not been since the last report that Michael Saunders had given to the Senate or what he had said in his campaign speech.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) motioned to extend time by five minutes.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) objected and asked to extend the time by ten minutes.

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

Gabby Rivera seconded.

No objections.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) asked if the Senate had to vote on extending time.

Aaron Yared said no and said that votes to extend time only applied during the Q&A parts.

Giuliana Conti agreed that fresh was great. He noted that during the two-year pandemic, the functional Senate had a drop rate of seventy-five senators per year. He said that having people that have experience within the GPSS working with individuals who held the positions formerly to separate and build the jobs together for the next people was an important consideration. He said that the elected officers had no one to help them and that they would probably have to work fully in person next year.

Toby (member of the public) said that Michael Saunders would provide both a fresh perspective and a deep institutional knowledge of the school and community. He said that Michael's transition from an undergraduate to a graduate student was unique and was very different from what most members of the GPSS and graduate school were like. He said that Michael Saunders was deeply involved in different communities, whether it came to campus partnerships in his work with the UWPD or his work within accountability. He said that Michael Saunders had also saved his life, and would advocate for anyone. He said that he had never seen someone get the administration's attention or response, and said that Michael Saunders would be a great asset to connect the ASUW and the GPSS with communities, especially BIPOC and disabled communities.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) said that experience mattered within the VPEI role and that as a senior, Michael Saunders had another year or more to be involved within the GPSS. She said

that Marty Varela had a lot of useful experience.

Madison (member of the public) wrote in the chat that Michael Saunders had years of experience in work and advocacy.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) said that she was not advocating to anyone, but that she had worked with Marty Varela and found her inspiring. She said that she was an executive senator because during her time on the Election Committee last year, working with Marty Varela had been great. She said that Marty Varela brought a lot to the diversity committee and made people feel included.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) raised a point of information and asked if executive senators were allowed to speak in favor of or against candidates.

Aaron Yared said No.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) said that they could not advocate but could speak.

Aaron Yared said that executive senators could speak but they could not endorse or speak in favor of a particular candidate.

Gabby Rivera said that executive senators could not say anything that could be construed as endorsing a candidate.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) asked if she violated the rule.

Aaron Yared said yes. He gave Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) an official warning.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) said that for this particular position, all of the candidates had experience. They said that it was just a question of what experience the GPSS thought that made them most qualified, whether it was experience in graduate school, advocacy outside of the GPSS, or as an undergraduate student serving on committees. They encouraged everyone to consider what experience each candidate would bring to the position, where that experience might be lacking in the other officer positions, and the strength that an individual candidate might bring in that sense.

Giuliana Conti said that she had initiated the split of the secretary role into two different positions. She said that Marty Varela had been a part of that process the whole time. She said that this year's growing pains had been difficult for that job, especially without a secretary. She said that someone who knew what the purpose of this position was before it was created would set it for whomever would come into it next. She said that the current growing pains of the job was its most challenging part.

Aaron Yared opened the floor for people to discuss the candidate for the VPA position.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that Jack Flesher (Music) helped a lot on the **resolution renewing the call for [indiscernible] accessibility on [indiscernible]**. He said that Jack Flesher (Music) had made many comments to ensure that all communities were included in that resolution and had provided helpful feedback despite not being the initial drafter of the resolution. He said that based on that experience working with Jack Flesher (Music), he wholeheartedly endorsed Jack Flesher (Music) for this position.

Julie Emory said that as a journalist who had been covering the UW for the past year, she had noticed that Matthew Mitnick had consistently done work in the community and actively engaged with President Cauce, Sally Clarke, and municipal leadership. She said that she did not see any community activism within Jack Flesher's campaign. She asked what Jack Flesher had done outside of his PhD program. She said that Matthew Mitnick's work seemed very intentional and productive for one year.

Giuliana Conti explained that Jack Flesher was in the ethnomusicology program which was connected to education. She said that his program required him to work with Indigenous musical groups and repatriate traditional music back into children's lives. She said that Jack Flesher had done an immense amount of work within musical communities to actively repatriate historical and historically stolen music from communities back into those communities. She said that though Jack Flesher had not explicitly mentioned it tonight, he had done an incredible amount of work in underrepresented communities.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) pointed out that the person in this position would need to be in charge of many administrative things, which could become neglected, such as maintaining order and parliamentary procedure. She said that it required a high level of administrative duties and that people should keep that in mind when voting.

Mario Falit-Baiamonte said that he had worked with Matthew Mitnick for over a year and said that Matthew Mitnick was an incredible advocate for students, families, and everyone. He said that Matthew Mitnick worked harder than everyone else. He said that Matthew Mitnick knew the rules and procedures and would be amazing in the position. He asked everyone to vote for Matthew Mitnick.

Aaron Yared directed senators to vote through Husky Link.

Gabby Rivera said that she was putting the link to Husky Link in the Zoom chat. She said that candidate information was posted on the website for the candidates who had turned in their material by the deadline. She said that she would upload Jack Flesher's materials because he had turned them in but had not turned them in prior to the website posting deadline. She said that all candidate information was also hyperlinked on the ballot itself. She said that once she added Jack Flesher's materials, she would send the ballot link through Zoom and Discord. She

said that senators who were not able to vote were ineligible to vote.

Aaron Yared gave a final call asking all eligible senators to vote.

Aaron Yared announced that the Elections Committee would leave the room to determine the election results.

7. [Information] GPSS Demographic Survey 8:22pm

Aditya Ramnathkar introduced himself as the current GPSS Director of University Affairs and a graduate student at the Master of Science and Information Management at the Information School. He said that data could help the GPSS make critical decisions for the future which was the aim of the 2021-2022 GPSS Composition Survey. He said that the purpose of the GPSS composition survey was to understand the representatives within the Senate and whether they accurately represented the population within the University of Washington. He said that this idea was initiated by Meshell Sturgis three years ago, and that this was the third year that the GPSS was hosting its composition survey.

Aditya Ramnathkar thanked everyone for participating in the survey. He said that he had collected forty-one responses from the Senate with the majority of the participants being senators and the least being liaisons and committee members. He recommended that the GPSS make time during Senate meetings to have senators fill out the survey and devise strategies to engage more officers and staff and make sure that liaisons were able to respond .

Aditya Ramnathkar referred to the slides and said that nearly 50% of the GPSS representatives were PhD students and that 1.5% were professional students. He said that there was approximately equal representation from 1-year and 2-year masters students. He said that the GPSS should think about why its representation was heavily dominated by PhD students, not masters or professional students.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that many fields of study were represented but that there was little representation from some programs and that efforts must be taken next year to increase the Senate representation. He said that the most common age bracket was 23-27 and that there were not many older people. He recommended that GPSS social events be tailored and segmented based on the age group to ensure that the older members feel valued within the GPSS.

Aditya Ramnathkar referred to the slides showing the GPSS's distribution of race and ethnicity. He said that this year's majority was the same as last year's. He referred to the slide showing the GPSS's distribution of religion. He noted that this year's Senate was mostly agnostic which differed from last year's. He also noted that the survey question on religion had the highest "prefer not to respond" rate among all the survey questions this year.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that 25% of GPSS affiliates were first generation students and 56% were first generation graduate students. He recommended that the GPSS create policies catered to those students and make sure that their transitions into programs were more efficient

and smooth in the future.

Aditya Ramnathkar referred to a graph of results for disability and LGBTQIA+ representation within the GPSS. He said that 25% of the members identified themselves as disabled and. He said that the GPSS had followed up with a question about whether the disability was registered with the DRS office and said that the GPSS was happy to learn that most of the survey respondents did.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that international students were underrepresented in the GPSS. He noted that many of the candidates mentioned that there was little awareness about the GPSS amongst the international student community. He said that most of the international students preferred working on campus to meet their daily living and living expenses in Seattle. He said that the GPSS should increase the international student representation and ensure many employment opportunities and resources were made aware to international students.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that Senate meetings were the most preferred way for survey respondents to engage with the Senate, followed by GPSS events and the Discord channel. He said that direct communications with staff and office members had increased from last year. He said that 65% of survey respondents spend around 0-5 hours a week on GPSS and that about 20% of the survey respondents did not serve on any GPSS committees. He said that the upcoming officers should work to make sure that all senators were affiliated with at least one GPSS committee.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that 8% of survey respondents identified as a caregiver. He said that this was the first time this question had been asked in this survey and that next year, the GPSS could do a comparative analysis on it.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that some of the senators were concerned about how the GPSS practiced committee recruitment and gave guidance for communication, purpose, and support during senators' tenures in those committees. He said another major theme found across all the responses was the conduct of GPSS meetings and making sure that the agenda was moved according to the timeline. He said that a consistent theme throughout this evening and within the survey was increasing awareness of the GPSS throughout the university. He said that someone had suggested an annual GPSS performance review based on some performance indicators to ensure that the GPSS was consistently meeting its goals and objectives and continuing to raise the bar each year.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that he, A.J. Balatico, and Meshell Sturgis had discussed mandating this GPSS composition survey for new liaisons and senators next year right as they were appointed. He said that the GPSS could also identify graduate programs that did not currently have Senate representatives and tailor its endorsement to those graduate programs to make them understand how important it was for the GPSS to have their representation. He noted that the Information School, for example, did not have a formal process for electing a senator. He said that he personally thought that the low participation from liaisons this year was a lack of opportunities for them to interact with the GPSS officers and staff, as well as different committee members. He said that the GPSS could work on supporting liaisons during their tenure throughout their entire academic year.

Julie Emory said that she was in a masters program with five people and was now doing one with 200 people. She asked how the GPSS could address fair representation if each program could only appoint two senators regardless of its size.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that he had raised this with the Information School's administration. He said that the administration had had a recent campaign with elections and had mentioned that they would be moving to make elected senators representative of programs, not the student body. He concluded that programs must take steps to define the criteria which the applicants would be judged and then appointed to GPSS. He said that having two senators from each program was a good idea because the GPSS needed representation from all graduate programs across campus.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) asked how the survey response rate this year compared to last year's and the year before.

Aditya Ramnathkar said that he was not sure about the year before but that last year there had been sixty respondents, and this year there were forty-one.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said that she was happy to hear all the recommendations for moving forward, especially with increasing turnout. She said that it was good to use data to analyze differences within the Senate, the student body, and the Senate leadership. She said that the GPSS needed more survey respondents to avoid outing people. She suggested incentivizing people to fill out the survey by doing a gift card giveaway.

Jack Flesher (Music) said that the Bylaws had provisions for creating new senator positions in big programs. He said larger programs were further subdivided into specialized cohorts who had their own senators to increase representation for larger programs. He said that this could be done for recruitment.

Aaron Yared said that the law school had four or five senators: two for the JDs, one for the PhDs, one for MJs, and one for LLMs.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) raised a point of information and asked if that was what typically happened for masters students in the same program, or whether the split was based on the school.

Aaron Yared said that the law school was different because students from each degree had a very different experience. He said that Britahny Baskin's (Neuroscience) general sentiment stood true for every school and that a masters student's experiences and needs would be different from a professional student's, which meant that different advocacy avenues were necessary.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said that programs like psychology had a masters track and a PhD track. She wondered if there were two senators from psychology or whether there were two senators from the PhD division and two from the masters.

Aaron Yared said that each school initially had two senators and then more were added as needed.

~~8. [Information] Land Acknowledgement Work :pm~~

9. [Information] Medical Student Association / School of Medicine Request 8:40pm

Karissa Yamaguchi introduced herself as a first year medical student and one of Rachel Jecker's (Medicine) classmates. She said that medical students were concerned with a program called "Triple I," which was the UW School of Medicine's (SOM) requirement for first year medical students to conduct research for the university. She said that first year medical students were highly qualified in performing research and that many of the students had already worked full time as researchers, published in peer reviewed journals, and had even obtained advanced degrees. She said that despite these qualifications, students were not compensated for their work, and were instead required to pay roughly \$6,000 in tuition to fulfill a graduation requirement, even if the requirement was fulfilled outside of the UW. She said that the students' research mentors did not receive funding directly from the UWSOM, so the medical students wondered why there was an associated tuition cost for \$6,000 to participate in this "summer research program," why the tuition cost was so high, and why there were no strategies to make Triple I affordable for all students.

Karissa Yamaguchi said that while deciding to come to the UWSOM, 95% of the students in her class did not know that the required summer research program would require additional tuition. She said that other peer institutions had ways for students doing research for credit to have their tuition factored into existing quarters or reimbursed and given grant stipends to conduct research. She said that the students had brought up their concerns to their administrators. She said that the students' main concern was that this additional cost would negatively impact underrepresented students most and that the concern was raised to the administrators in February.

Karissa Yamaguchi said that the administrators told students that the decision for the cost and graduation requirements were made through an equity lens. She said that the administrators justified the requirement by saying that research was necessary for students to be competitive in residency and that to reduce the financial burden to participate in the program, the UWSOM required students to register for six credits to qualify for financial aid during the summer quarter.

Karissa Yamaguchi pointed out that registering for six credits during the summer incurred an additional \$6,000 in tuition costs for each student. She said that her cohort felt that that was an absurd amount of money given the lack of value of the program. She said that the Triple I program was just like volunteering in a lab for the summer, except that it was worse because students had to pay tuition to participate.

Karissa Yamaguchi said that it seemed that tuition was used for providing travel stipends to students relocating to different sites and hosting a small poster session. She said that the

students did not feel that \$6,000 was required to participate in that level of programming. She pointed out that over half of her class had not used the SOM's resources to find their mentors for the summer research program and that \$6,000 was the same amount that was required to maintain a cost of living in Seattle for the summer. She said that the administrators were giving students little support and that the cost was disproportionately burdening students of color.

Karissa Yamaguchi said that her friend Erika had a great opportunity to do research abroad and that she had everything set up but was surprised by the additional \$6000 cost of the summer research program. She said that she could not financially justify taking out more loans and was not given any opportunities to support her work through grants from the SOM because none existed.

Karissa Yamaguchi said the medical students had held two town hall meetings, the second of which was a few weeks ago. She said that the administrators told the students a different story about why students had to pay \$6,000 for the summer quarter and had said that students should think of the money as contributing to a full year's worth of tuition. She pointed out that over the previous two years during the COVID-19 pandemic, students were able to opt out of the summer research program and that those who did opt out were not required to pay tuition. She said that it was questionable that the administrators were giving mixed information and that when the issue was initially brought up, most of the administrators and faculty who worked specifically for the program could not give students answers on where the money was going.

Karissa Yamaguchi said that ultimately, the students wanted to know where the money was going and why students had to pay. She said that students felt that there was not very much value associated with the program. She said that she was happy to take questions or hear about other students' similar experiences. She said that one of her friends in another graduate program had a similar issue of being required to pay tuition and participate in an external internship over the summer.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) introduced herself as a student in the neuroscience PhD program. She said that because she was part of a program and not a department, the students' principal investigators (PI) did not receive funding from the program. She said that she was expected to do research and pay \$5,000 out of pocket for tuition. She said that the rest of her tuition was covered either by her PI, training grants that she had earned, and that none of it was covered by her program. She said that she ended up paying out-of-state tuition between all of those funding sources, and that she had to pay tuition to do her research job and that she had to pay tuition to teach a class that she had designed. She said that undergraduate students also needed to pay tuition to receive credit for working in a lab. She clarified that medical students were not in a unique position where they had to pay to do research because even PhD programs had to pay to do their research which was their entire purpose of being in school.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said that she also took issue with the lack of transparency, specifically that people did not know that they have to pay the tuition on the research before they chose to come to UW. She said that students in her program were pushing for such language to be put into the offer letters so that such things were explicit at the first point of contact and listed the exact amount of money people needed so that they could make informed decisions on which school to attend. She said that students in her program were also

addressing the issue during recruitment so that potential students were aware. She said that asking for transparency was an easy ask. She said that she wished she could help Karissa Yamaguchi, but that she was also paying money to do her job and would love to know if Karissa Yamaguchi found a way.

Karissa Yamaguchi said that students in her school had also had a similar discussion, and that the administrators had since changed the website since the issue had been brought up. She said that students had felt baited into working for the university. She clarified that there were other options outside of doing research within the Triple I program, such as doing a community health project over the summer. She said that the medical students had been focusing on the research option because it felt the most wrong. She said that she was surprised to learn that Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) had to pay tuition and said that the MD-PhDs in her school did not.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) said that the amount paid might be program-specific and that her situation might be influenced by the fact that she was in a program and not a department. She clarified that she received a stipend. She said that she essentially had to pay her stipend back for tuition.

Rachel Jecker (Medicine) emphasized that part of the frustration regarding this issue was that the requirement had been waived the last two years with the logic being that the COVID pandemic had created circumstances where learning in person was not safe for students. They said that the UWSOM continued to have COVID exposures. They said that they had received an email today that she had been exposed to COVID from someone in class. They said that administrators were not able to explain to students how the current COVID-19 caseload was different and less dangerous to justify charging students and not waiving the program. They said that several students were told during interviews with the school that the program would be waived for them.

Karissa Yamaguchi said that students in her cohort had run a survey to see if students were still experiencing financial stress and difficulty because of COVID, and 25% of people in our cohort said yes. She said that the survey was a response to asking administrators whether they could make the Triple I requirement optional for their cohort as they did for the past two years and said that the administrators had said that they could not since the UW was no longer in a COVID crisis. She said that the survey revealed that some people's partners had lost their jobs and had to take out from their whole savings to pay for housing expenses due to loss of employment. She noted that food and gas expenditures had increased. She said that it was sad because other schools' websites advertised COVID relief funds for their students. She said that her cohort had asked the administrators for COVID relief funds multiple times, even before bringing up this issue and said that the UWSOM had failed to do even that. She said that the School of Dentistry and the School of Pharmacy offered COVID relief funds.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS should follow up on the issue and try to help the medical students as best as it could. He said that he was meeting with President Cauce next week and said that he would bring up the issue with her to get some answers. He also pointed out Britahny Baskin's (Neuroscience) comment that COVID was not over because people were over it. He said that it was a real issue that was exacerbating other issues and that the university was

not taking this into account.

The Election Committee came back from counting the votes.

Aaron Yared announced the results of the election: for president, A.J. Balatico; for VPIn, Davon Thomas; for VPEx, Joel Anderson; for VPF, Van Mai; for VPEI, Marty Varela; and for VPA, Jack Flesher.

Aaron Yared congratulated the election winners and thanked all the candidates for showing that they cared about the GPSS. He said that from the moment he heard everyone speak and from seeing their materials, it did not matter who would win because the GPSS would be in good hands regardless. He said that he was grateful and happy for all the participation.

Mario Falit-Baiamonte said he had a couple of questions for the Elections Committee. He asked the Elections Committee chair, Gabby Rivera, to state why a candidate was allowed to file after the deadline last Monday. He asked her to state which Executive Committee meetings that Jack Flesher (Music) had attended and how Jack Flesher (Music) had complied with section 4.1 of the GPSS Election Guide. He said that he hoped to have the questions answered tonight.

Aaron Yared clarified that anyone was allowed to run for a GPSS officer position all the way up until the point that the election was started. He noted that Andrea Paz (Social Work) had nominated herself on the floor. He said that Jack Flesher (Music) had notified the Elections Committee ahead of time yesterday. He said that regarding Mario Falit-Baiamonte's second question about attending an executive meeting, the Elections Committee was allowed to make exceptions if it saw fit. He said that the entire Elections Committee deliberated on it and found that there was enough reason to make an exception because Jack Flesher (Music) had been a member of the GPSS for two and a half years. He said that Jack Flesher (Music) had been to executive meetings in the past and had shown his dedication and knowledge about GPSS workings, which was part of the reason why candidates were required to show up to those committee meetings. He said that it was a way to make sure that people were not running just to earn a free tuition waiver. He said that Jack Flesher (Music) had proved to the Elections Committee that he passed both tests, which was why the Elections Committee had decided to make that exception. He said that he did not know section 4.1 off the top of his head.

Gabby Rivera said that section 4.1 stated that the GPSS election was covered by the GPSS Bylaws.

Aaron Yared said that that part was also true but that the Elections Committee was allowed to make exceptions where they see fit. He said that the Elections Committee had made a unanimous decision to allow him to run.

Mario Falit-Baiamonte said that the Election Committee, according to the Bylaws, was supposed to be neutral, and that the Election Committee did not seem neutral on this issue or discussion. He said that he was curious how to contest the results of the election and what that process would look like moving forward.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS had an appeals process and that Mario Falit-Baiamonte could

appeal within the next week. He said that the Judicial Committee or the Elections Committee would look over it and decide whether or not to take further action. He said that his explanation was based on the appeal that Jack Flesher (Music) had made and was not biased by the Election Committee's feelings for Jack Flesher (Music) or its feelings for anyone else. He reiterated that the decision was made based on the facts that were presented to the Elections Committee members and that the members had made a decision accordingly.

Rene Singleton said that the committee had explained the entire appeals process at the last two Senate meetings. She said that if people did not attend those Senate meetings or were not senators themselves, they should write their appeals down and submit them to the Elections Committee through writing within the week. She said that the GPSS had not had a chance to celebrate the victories of the winners yet.

Julie Emory said that she was doing a write up for *The Daily* on the elections and wanted to make a brief announcement to the winners. She asked the winners of the election to email her a professional photo by tomorrow. She wrote her email on the whiteboard and gave her email to Aaron Yared.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) asked Aaron Yared to clarify whether those who wanted to appeal the election should send their appeals via email or what the exact process was.

Aaron Yared said that those wanting to appeal the election could send an email to Gabby Rivera via email at gpssvpin@uw.edu.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked how the Elections Committee could check if people nominated from the floor met the criteria in the Elections Guide that Mario Falit-Baiamonte had referenced.

Aaron Yared said that candidates could either supply the dates that they had attended or that the Elections Committee could check the minutes from those meetings. He said that in Andrea Paz's (Social Work) case, several committee members that were present had vouched for her attendance at those meetings. He said that generally, if someone asked to run after filing time without filling out the application, they had to provide specific dates so that the Elections Committee could confirm it using one of the methods mentioned.

10. [Action] GPSS/ASUW Joint Resolution on Fossil Fuel Free University Second Reading 9:11pm

A.J. Balatico said that this joint resolution would be presented to the ASUW on the 24th and the ASUW board on the 26th. He said that the version passed in the GPSS today would be the version that would have to pass in the ASUW without revisions. He encouraged people to make amendments today to avoid a longer reconciliation process in the future.

Jacob Anderson said that two changes had been made: one of them was based on a comment from the senator who said the content warning was not helpful so the content warning had been removed and the forwarding clause had been slightly expanded to accommodate for the

deletion.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that he had contacted Jacob Anderson earlier asking what portion of the renewable energy market was controlled by companies that also had a stake in fossil fuels. He said that since he did not receive a reply, he had done some research of his own. He said that he had posted a table from the 2019 renewable energy United States report prepared by a market research firm available at the UW libraries. He said that of the 11 leading U.S. renewable energy producers, seven of them also had stakes in fossil fuels, predominantly natural gas. He said that he was concerned about the two "that" clauses pertaining to career centers, because he felt that by cutting off the ability of career centers to advertise jobs associated with the fossil fuel industry, the UW would also be cutting off the ability of career centers to advertise jobs associated with seven out of the eleven top producers of clean energy, at least based on this report.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) moved to strike the last "that" clauses that mentioned career centers. **Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences)** seconded. No objections.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked if Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) had sent Jacob Anderson a statement

Jacob Anderson said that he had been in contact with Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) who had expressed his concerns that removing donations from the fossil fuel industry would result in also removing climate change research. He said that the sponsors of the resolution disagreed with the statement and said that this idea was parallel to the idea of the tobacco industry funding lung cancer research. He said that due to this conflict of interest, the resolution sponsors would maintain their opinion. He said that it was important to keep this wording that if climate science research needed to be done, it should not be funded by the fossil fuel industry.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) asked if Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) had told Jacob Anderson more information on how that exactly worked. She said that her understanding of Andrew Shumway's (Earth & Space Sciences) initial explanation was that the funding of climate change research was not similar to the tobacco industry funding lung research because fossil fuel companies were not directly funding the research. She said that the fossil fuel companies gave gifts to UW and that the UW ended up allocating the money to the research in a less direct way that did not hold any of the people that were doing the research accountable to the companies that were donating.

Peter Fink said that the resolution sponsors had thought about whether it was possible that a lot of the funding would be put into a larger pool and that this larger pool would be distributed to people for various purposes. He said that there were a couple different mechanisms and that the consolidated endowment fund was one clear example where the resolution made a clear distinction between individuals. He said that if the former CEO of ExxonMobil chose to make a donation to the University of Washington, the resolution's clauses wouldn't affect that donation because the point was not to punish individuals for being related to the fossil fuel industry. He said that the point was to prevent the fossil fuel industry from having an influence on research.

Peter Fink added that the main source of the consolidated endowment fund was one major source of funding, and that the resolution's sponsors were focused on the grants and gifts directly made through the office of sponsored programs and through the UW advancement made for the purposes of specific projects. He said that for the broader funding, the resolution sponsors still believed that it is a general conflict of interest for the university to be accepting any money from the fossil fuel industry. He clarified that the resolution defined a "fossil fuel company" as a company whose primary source of profit or business operations was in fossil fuels. He said that a company whose primary source of profit was construction and received 30% of their profits in natural gas was not the main target in this specific. He said that the resolution was written very broadly and that there would be specific cases where discretion would need to be taken.

Peter Fink said that the main focus on this resolution was not only the conflict of interest for the fossil fuel industry to influence the university at large, but also for the university to eliminate their dependency on the fossil fuel industry, whether it be in the form of infrastructure or financial support.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) moved to extend time by five minutes. **Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience)** seconded.

Aaron Yared said that the Senate either needed to make more edits to the resolution or needed to vote.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) moved to table the motion given the absence of many senators. **Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences)** seconded.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of order and said that if the resolution did not pass in the GPSS tonight, then the ASUW would run out of time before the next GPSS meeting which meant that the resolution could not be passed as a joint resolution.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) raised a point of information and asked if that meant that the ASUW would pass it individually or whether the ASUW would wait until next quarter to pass it.

Aaron Yared said either option could happen. He said that there were legitimate concerns and legitimate arguments. He said that the purpose of the GPSS was to advocate for graduate students. He asked the Senate what that meant to them. He said that both sides were trying to advocate for graduate students: graduate students could not exist if there was no earth, but it would be hard to be a graduate student without funding.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) said that he was concerned about the optics of tabling the resolution because the resolution discussed divestment which he believed that the GPSS held a general consensus on. He said that the act of the GPSS tabling the resolution could be used as a justification to say, "GPSS doesn't want to divest so we're not going to do divestment." He said that he was against tabling this for that reason.

Peter Fink commented in the chat that the Board of Regents would vote on the new divestment

at the next Board of Regents meeting.

Aaron Yared said that the issues that graduate students were taking up did not relate to the resolution's University of Washington Investment Management Company (UWINCO) aspect. He suggested that the GPSS edit the resolution to only include that part, but said that ASUW would probably not accept the resolution in that form.

Janis Shin (Molecular Engineering & Sciences) countered Alexander Novokhodko's (Mechanical Engineering) point and said that the groups of students who might be most affected were not in this room. She noted the absence of Andrew Shumway (Earth & Space Sciences) and said that even if her program received fossil fuel money, his department and constituents got more of it. She asked how she could vote on something that affected other people.

Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography) raised a point of information and explained that he was associated with the Earth & Space Sciences department, with a specific focus in oil and gas exploration. He said that the GPSS needed more time to discuss the resolution and that the end of the election might not be the best time to discuss it.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that she understood Andrew Shumway's (Earth & Space Sciences) concern and also understood, from Peter Fink's clarification, that the resolution was targeting a specific group of funders and that the dollars involved were very small. She said that the resolution was a statement that the GPSS would make which would give it the ability to take a larger stand later. She said that the GPSS could move to do something that the GPSS could generally stand behind with the knowledge that there may need to be more specific legislation in the future as the resolution would not hurt anyone yet.

Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) said that if money that came from fossil fuel companies were put into a general pool, it would be hard to show that money was being funneled for specific research. She said that the GPSS could not control that right now, but that it could control the particular assertion that it was making so that it could make additional steps in the future. She said that she was uncomfortable with the GPSS tabling the resolution because it would prevent the regents from considering the resolution in time for the resolution to impact the next academic year. She said that the GPSS ultimately wanted action that would have a result. She said that the GPSS could always take additional actions for additional results, but that the desire to scrutinize the resolution should not stop it from moving forward.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) moved to extend time by two minutes. **Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association)** seconded. No objections.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) seconded the point that the people most affected by the resolution were not currently in the room. She noted that it was four hours after the beginning of the meeting and that there was a reasonable expectation that they would not be present. She said that to her understanding, biomedical research was funded much differently from climate science. She said that biomedical research funding was provided by direct connections which could influence the research. She said that she received her funding from the United States

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and that she was against many of the things that the VA did. She said that the source of her funding did not impact her research and that her research was oftentimes counteractive to the VA. She said that she understood the concern of funding sources influencing research. She said that she also understood the perspective that the funding sources mattered. She said that she would not object to the resolution being voted on today and said that she wanted to clarify that graduate students that would be negatively affected by this resolution would probably not be impacted by the funding source.

Aaron Yared noted that the GPSS was running out of time again. He said that a resolution was not a law, but rather a communication to the administration of the GPSS's stance. He said that it could initially be wide, sweeping, and a little overzealous, and that nuance could be added later based on the interests and the actual situation. He said that if people were comfortable with the general spirit of what this resolution stood for, the GPSS could pass it now and senators who represented the schools that would be negatively affected could add nuance to the language and negotiations happened. He said that currently the only thing the Board of Regents was going to decide was whether or not UWINCO should stop investing in fossil fuels. He said that the GPSS could agree that that was a bad thing.

Malikai Bass (Museology) moved to vote on the resolution. Marty Varela (Residential Community Student Association) seconded. No objections.

Senators voted on Poll Everywhere. The vote passed 10:1:2, yea: nay: abstain.

11. [Information] Attendance Resolution First Reading 9:34pm

Malikai Bass (Museology) asked Aaron Yared to read the "that" clauses of the resolution.

Aaron Yared said that the GPSS had discussed how UW was not very accessible and said that this was covered in the "whereas" clauses. He read the "that" clauses.

Saiya Karamali (Linguistics) asked if Malikai Bass (Museology) knew what attendance policies currently existed. He said that he had been pointed towards the policies on teaching and had been vaguely told about whether attendance policies were allowed. He asked if Malikai Bass (Museology) knew exactly what was currently allowed and not allowed in regard to attendance policies?

Malikai Bass (Museology) said that UW allowed attendance policies if the instructor could show that it impacted learning outcomes, which suggested that there were no restrictions in place.

Aaron Yared said that for many graduate schools, it was about accreditation. He said that the excuse varied from school to school.

Saiya Karamali (Linguistics) asked how the GPSS would know that instructors would not get around a ban on attendance policies by having assignments as a proxy for attendance or other

similar methods.

Malikai Bass (Museology) said that Saiya Karamali (Linguistics) brought up a good point and said that he was not sure how the UW could enforce it. He said that asking for it was an important first step.

Aaron Yared added that the first step was making it so that the UW was not actively endorsing it. He said that the UW was currently actively endorsing attendance policies. He said that if the GPSS could get rid of this endorsement, then it could focus on the bad actors and use an appeal system. He said that if a student failed a class because there was a faux assignment which was a proxy for attendance, the student would be able to appeal to their dean or the higher administration. He said that there would be some kind of responsibility system in place at that point. He said that currently, it was a free for all for professors, and the students were the victims.

Saiya Karamali (Linguistics) asked if the resolution could say something about not using a proxy for attendance.

Malikai Bass (Museology) said it would be easy to add.

Alexander Novokhodko (Mechanical Engineering) asked about accreditation. He said that ABET accreditation was very important for many engineering programs. He asked if there was any reason to believe that accreditation would be threatened by removing attendance requirements.

Aaron Yared gave a personal example and said that the law school required students to show up to 80% of their classes to receive credit. He said that since most professors did not take attendance, if it was not tracked, then students were fine and the attendance policy became a moot point. He said that there were some professors that did track attendance and as a result, those classes became risky because students could fail the class even if they aced the tests because they did not show up to class. He said that that was just one example of a school that blamed it on accreditation but that accreditation was not the real culprit for the attendance policies. He said that he had brought this up to President Cauce before, and that she had responded with "we need to maintain accreditation, so we have to follow these rules," and said that in practice, it was not an actual issue, but that the response was always the same.

Britahny Baskin (Neuroscience) expressed hope that the resolution would help with having alternative assignments in place of attendance. She said that people with disabilities could do the alternative assignments as a way to make up attendance. She said that it would get around the fact that if there were alternative assignments outside of class to make up for attendance, then assignments outside of class could make up for activities done during class.

Malikai Bass (Museology) said that alternative assignments was an approved DRS accommodation, and said that he assumed that it would work with accreditation. He said that he could not get a straight answer.

Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences) said that there was research that showed

that interactive assignments done after class could be used as a way to count for attendance. She said that the assignments were available after the class throughout the whole week and would not be considered as a problem.

Aaron Yared said that he took a negotiation class in a previous quarter and said that though there was an attendance requirement, there was also a journal for the weekly readings. He said that even if a student did not score well on the attendance grade, in theory, a student could show that they did all the reading and the work with proof from their journal and prove that they participated even though they did not come to class that day.

12. [Information] Officer and Committee Reports 9:45pm

Aaron Yared used his chair privilege to table the item.

13. [Action] Adjournment 9:45pm

Jack Flesher (Music) motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Pratima KC (Environmental & Forest Sciences)** seconded. No objections

Meeting minutes prepared by **Janis Shin**, GPSS Senate Clerk (2021-2022).

Meeting minutes reviewed by **Clement "CJ" Bermudes**, GPSS Senate Director (2022-2023).