

THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 05 October 2022 at 5:30pm

In-Person and Remotely via Zoom

The following GPSS members and staff attended the meeting:

A.J. Balatico, GPSS President
Davon Thomas, GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs
Joel Anderson, GPSS Vice President of External Affairs
Marty Varela, GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion
Jack Flesher, GPSS Vice President of Administration
Van Mai, GPSS Vice President of Finance
Pratima K.C., Executive Senator
Maleen Kidiwela, Executive Senator
Matthew Mitnick, Executive Senator
Brent Seto, ASUW Director of Internal Policy
Rene Singleton, SAO Advisor
Carrie Moore, HUB Executive Director
Bill Mahoney, Graduate School Advisor
CJ Bermudes, GPSS Senate Director

The following persons also attended the meeting:

Melissa Brown, UW-Transportation Representative
Dr. Brithany Baskin, Executive Senator Emerita

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:41pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:41pm.

2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:42pm

Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography) motioned to approve the agenda. Van Mai seconded. Matthew Mitnick objected.

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) informed the Senate that he believed vacancies on the UW Transportation Committee were to be discussed at this meeting.

A.J. Balatico responded that it was decided at the September 28th GPSS Executive Committee meeting that discussion into those vacancies would be entertained at a later Senate meeting.

No further objections. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:43pm

A.J. Balatico, on behalf of the GPSS, gave the land acknowledgement.

4. [Information] Announcements 5:44pm

A.J. Balatico announced several events and opportunities, including the HUB Excellence in Student Leadership Scholarship, the upcoming Dawg Dash event on October 9th, 2022, and the Husky Leadership Certificate mentoring program.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) informed the Senate about the upcoming lecture by Ann Morning on October 18th, 2022, a part of the UW Graduate School Public Lecture Series.

Matthew Mitnick informed the Senate about the UW-Transportation Committee line-item vote on campus infrastructure on October 24th, 2022. He encouraged Senators and guests to appear at the Committee's public comments period.

5. [Information] Quick Icebreaker 5:49pm

Jack Flesher led the Senate in a quick icebreaker. He asked "if you could have any superpower, what would it be, and why?".

Senate members and guests conversed in small groups.

6. [Information] GPSS Overview 5:57pm

A.J. Balatico introduced himself and presented the GPSS Overview. He informed the Senate of the GPSS mission statement, its staff and organization, and its position within the shared governance structure of the University of Washington. He also informed the Senate about the role and responsibilities of the GPSS Executive Committee. He provided information into his position as GPSS President. He apprised the Senate of the various subordinate committees and boards that create university policy.

Davon Thomas introduced himself and provided information into his position as GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs. He informed the Senate of possible upcoming GPSS programming, which include a town hall, coffee and bagels, hiking, bowling night, and movie night.

A.J. Balatico informed Zoom attendees of migration to the new Zoom meeting.

Joel Anderson introduced himself and provided information into his position as GPSS Vice President of External Affairs. He said that the Organizing Director position has been renamed to Legislative Organizing Director. He informed the Senate about the Legislative Advisory Board and its upcoming lobbying efforts in the Washington state legislature in Spring 2023.

Marty Varela introduced herself and provided information into her position as GPSS Vice President of Equity and Inclusion. She informed the Senate of the background and creation of the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion position.

Jack Flesher introduced himself and provided information into his position as GPSS Vice President of Administration. He introduced the GPSS Office Director and Senate Director.

Van Mai introduced herself and provided information into her position as GPSS Vice President of Finance. She informed the Senate about GPSS departmental allocations and graduate funding. She said that she is managing travel grants with the GPSS Budget Director.

A.J. Balatico provided information surrounding committee and liaison positions. He said that there was a large interest in funding committees. He informed the Senate that the Student Technology Fee (STF) is zero (0) dollars due to a \$15M reserve amount. He said that GPSS was searching for two (2) liaisons for STF. He acknowledged Rene Singleton, Carrie Moore, and Bill Mahoney.

Lauren French (Marine and Environmental Affairs) asked if all liaison positions are paid.

A.J. Balatico responded that only the liaison positions associated with the management of student fees, and highlighted within the presentation, were paid. He said that some positions are once a month or asynchronous depending on application volume. He informed the Senate that GPSS has a current operations budget of \$612,000, primarily allocated to staff.

7. [Information] Parli Pro Overview 6:20pm

Jack Flesher informed the Senate that GPSS abides by Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure. He said that parliamentary procedure cheat sheets are available during meetings to guide Senators. He said that parliamentary procedure ensures the minority is heard and that proceedings are fair and honest. He provided a substantive overview of GPSS parliamentary procedure emphasizing especially the use of points of information, order, and privilege, the right to object, and making motions.

8. [Information] U-PASS Waiver 6:27pm

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate that it was understood within the Executive Committee meeting that the GPSS President would sign the U-PASS Waiver memorandum of understanding. He provided brief insight into U-PASS cost projections and allocations. He said that revenue will be lost if the waiver is passed. He also said that waiver passage will allow savings.

Melissa Brown corroborated A.J. Balatico's U-PASS information. She said that UW Transportation wanted to be in alignment with the region's fee waiver. She said that there are plans to recredit students who paid U-PASS fees in Fall 2022 in the event that the waiver is passed.

9. [Action] Resolution in Support of Adding a Non-Academic Seat for CIRCLE 6:31pm

Jack Flesher informed the Senate about what a Senate resolution is. He said that resolutions are essentially motions that are prepared in advance to a Senate meeting. He apprised the Senate of CIRCLE's Dr. Ziyang Bai's presentation at the September 28th, 2022 GPSS Executive Committee meeting. He read the Resolution in Support of Adding a Non-Academic Seat for CIRCLE to the Senate. He reminded the Senate that GPSS possesses a mechanism that allows the creation of non-academic voting Senate seats, targeting student representative organizations.

Megan Koretz (Architecture) asked about the possibility of holding a concurrent Senate seat.

Jack Flesher responded that Non-Academic Seats and Academic Senate Seats cannot be held concurrently.

Davon Thomas motioned to approve the resolution. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, resolution passed.

10.[Action] Resolution in Support of Adding a Non-Academic Seat for Leadership Without Borders 6:38pm

Jack Flesher apprised the Senate of Leadership Without Border's Miguel Martinez' presentation at the September 28th, 2022 GPSS Executive Committee meeting. He read the Resolution in Support of Adding a Non-Academic Seat for Leadership Without Borders to the Senate.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) said that she was excited to see items nine (9) and 10 of this meeting's agenda. She said that both items show that GPSS is engaging with important student populations.

A.J. Balatico said that the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) still exists. He provided clarification into CIRCLE's purpose. He said that GPSS is reaching out to organizations regarding non-academic voting seats.

Megan Koretz (Architecture) asked where the existing GPSS seats can be found.

A.J. Balatico listed existing GPSS non-academic Senate seats. These seats include Student Veteran Life (SVL), CIRCLE, Graduate Student Equity and Excellence (GSEE), the Black Student Union (BSU), the D and Q Centers, the Residential Community Student Association (RCSA), and UAW 4121. He said that there is a capacity to add more.

Marty Varela motioned to approve the resolution. Matthew Mitnick seconded. No objections, resolution passed.

11.[Action] Support for Classified UW Staff Represented by SEIU 925 6:45pm

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) read the Resolution in Support for Classified UW Staff Represented by SEIU 925. He said that the resolution does not have to be voted on as of this meeting.

A.J. Balatico provided information regarding the resolution reading process. He encouraged Senators to cosponsor the resolution if they supported it deeply.

Davon Thomas asked if Matthew Mitnick could provide his email to the Senate.

Matthew Mitnick (Evans School of Public Policy and Governance) answered in the affirmative.

Marty Varela amplified the importance of work-group recognition and collective action.

12.[Action] Proclamation in Honor of Dr. Britahny Baskin 6:53pm

A.J. Balatico read the Proclamation in Honor of Dr. Britahny Baskin.

Jack Flesher motioned for unanimous consent. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, proclamation passed with unanimous consent.

Britahny Baskin said that the proclamation meant a lot to her. She thanked the GPSS for its proclamation and appreciated the item.

Jack Flesher said that GPSS appreciated her service to the organization.

13.[Information] GPSS Committee Overview 7:02pm

Van Mai provided information surrounding Finance and Budget (F&B). She said that 5-9 senators are needed to self nominate as of this meeting. She provided a breakdown into special and department allocations, along with Internal GPSS expenditures. She provided information into the travel grants process. She said that there was \$25,000 total for the academic year. She said that the acceptance rate for the travel grants was 60-75 percent.

Joel Anderson provided information surrounding the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB). He said that LAB will be meeting every Thursday in HUB 307/314. He said that LAB identifies priorities of graduate and professional students and lobbies the state legislature. He introduced the Graduate Day on the Hill event. He also introduced the Washington Student Association (WSA) Get Out The Vote program. He encouraged the Senate to register to vote.

Jack Flesher provided information surrounding the Arts Council. He said that the committee served as a network for Arts and Humanities students across campus. He said that events and performances can be planned within the council.

Marty Varela provided information surrounding the Empowerment, “Diversity”, and Accountability (EDA) committee. She said that there are no current meetings scheduled. She said that committee members are needed to make EDA decisions.

A.J. Balatico provided information surrounding the Science & Policy committee. He said that the mission of the committee was to seek the truth. He said that the committee provides outreach to K-12 and undergraduate students. He said that the committee was in need of a chair. He also said that there was funding available for committee events and programs. He also provided information surrounding the Judicial committee. He said that the committee reviews challenges to actions that may contradict the GPSS Constitution or Bylaws.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) said that serving on the Judicial committee was enjoyable and acknowledged the challenges presented by the committee's inherent need for ad hoc scheduling practices.

A.J. Balatico provided information surrounding the Elections committee. He said that there were four (4) Executive Senator positions open on the committee. He said that the positions were compensated with a quarterly stipend of \$450. He also provided information surrounding the Executive Committee. He informed the Senate about the power balance between GPSS Officers and Executive Senators serving on the committee. He apprised the Senate that staff member pay increased from \$19/hour to \$23/hour.

14.[Action] GPSS Committee Appointments 7:22pm

A.J. Balatico said that those interested in the Finance and Budget (F&B) committee should contact GPSS. He also said that Judicial committee nominations must be confirmed by a simple majority of the Senate. He added that Elections committee nominations must also be confirmed by a simple majority of the Senate.

15.[Information] Working Groups Overview 7:24pm

A.J. Balatico asked for feedback regarding working group allocations. He provided working group subject matter areas.

Jack Flesher presented a point of information. He asked A.J. Balatico to explain what a working group was.

A.J. Balatico said that the purpose of working groups was to build comradery and to focus on academic and research issues.

16.[Information] Officer & Committee Reports 7:30pm

A.J. Balatico said that the purpose of reports is to address issues not directly covered in prior items.

Davon Thomas informed the Senate about the planning of a town hall surrounding the recent shooting in the U-District.

Meshell Sturgis (Communication) asked if background into the recent U-District shooting can be provided.

A.J. Balatico provided background into the recent U-District shooting. He informed the Senate about coordination efforts with the ASUW and University administration. He said that there will be increased police patrolling by the Seattle Police Department within the U-District for the next two (2) weeks.

Davon Thomas asked for any suggestions regarding the upcoming town hall.

A.J. Balatico said that the town hall will occur sometime between October 17th and November 2nd, 2022 to allow University administration to coordinate.

Jack Fleisher provided information regarding the GPSS confirmed Senate roster and the need to coordinate with himself and departmental liaisons to confirm Senators. He encouraged the recruitment of friends and colleagues to participate in the GPSS.

Joel Anderson provided a quick update on the legislative issues survey. He said that there were over 150 responses to the survey. He informed the Senate that the survey was linked on the MyUW interface. He also mentioned that LAB will be meeting on October 6th, 2022 in the GPSS office.

17.[Information] Good of the Order 7:42pm

A.J. Balatico informed the Senate that the GPSS website has been updated to represent the new and current GPSS structure. He reminded everyone that all Google Suite content must be transitioned to Microsoft Office by Fall 2023. He said that a public comment form is available on the GPSS website for all open meetings.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) asked if the meeting slides will be shared.

A.J. Balatico answered in the affirmative. He said that the slides will be disseminated in PDF format rather than as a Microsoft Powerpoint file.

18.[Action] Adjournment 7:46pm

Davon Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Van Mai seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

*Meeting minutes prepared by **Clement “CJ” Bermudes Jr**, GPSS Senate Director.*

