

## GPSS President's Fall 2022 Officer Report

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"Come as you are. You belong here. You are enough."

### OVERVIEW

This officer report is a snapshot summary of Fall 2022 activity submitted to the Senate on Monday, January 9, 2023.

### Senate Recap

Before the start of the Fall quarter officers went to over 50 graduate program orientations. The Senate has grown to close to 80 members, close to doubling last year's Fall roster. The GPSS website was developed to track attendance and votes in response to upcoming UW Google Changes. In addition to our GPSS standing committees, the Arts Council and Science and Policy Committees have been revived since 2019.

**October 5** – Resolutions for CIRCLE and LWB non-academic seats pass; proclamation recognizing Dr. Britahny Baskin passes

**October 19** – Passage of Resolution in Support of SEIU 925

**November 2** – Forum with Sally Clark, Craig Wilson, and Don Blakeney

**November 16** – Passage of our Legislative Agenda

**December 7** – Initial approval for Health Ad Hoc Committee

**Changes:** Working groups have returned to foster collaboration distinct from committees. Written public comment has been adopted. Announcements have been moved to the beginning of the meeting.

**Challenges:** We have gained Senators from a wide range of schools but are missing representation from the **School of Dentistry** and the **School of Social Work**. Academic programs that have been historically represented in GPSS leadership such as English and geography have unfilled seats.

All our HUB-based non-academic seats have been filled, including the ASUW, QCenter, and DCenter. However, several non-academic seats remain open.

## Executive Committee Recap

We have rebuilt our Executive Senator membership up to 7.

**Pratima KC** – School of Environmental and Forest Sciences Ph.D.

**Maleen Kidiwela** – Oceanography Ph.D.

**Ella Spurlock** – Chemistry Ph.D.

**Sachin Nayak** – Electrical and Computer Engineering Ph.D.

**Charles Bugre** – Information Science Ph.D.

**Devon Woodley** – Family Nurse Practitioner DNP

**Raj Dewangan** – Real Estate MS

We passed an executive memo detailing our procedures for written public comment for our regular GPSS meetings. Our appointments to committees required some prioritization. The executive committee discussed long-term practices of GPSS, including details about the website, committee appointments, our budget outlook, town hall format, and podcast project.

## Student Boards and Committees

### SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FEE (SAF)

This committee is charged with allocating over \$20M in student fees to 18 units across campus, including GPSS. Other units include the HUB, ASUW, Hall Health, the Counseling Center, and important services such as the Childcare Assistance Program (CAP) and Student Technology Loan Program (STLP). New members of GPSS and ASUW have been appointed and are being oriented to the different SAF policies as well as information about the units.

### STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE (STF)

This committee is undergoing a restructure which will allow it to better support project proposals from units across the Seattle campus. It currently has a \$12M reserve with a goal to spend at least \$4M on new projects this year. New members of GPSS and ASUW have been appointed and have been reviewing Bylaws and policy changes. The Winter Proposal Cycle will have a priority deadline of January 31. GPSS encourages proposals from all graduate and professional programs. In the past, the average approved proposal was around \$40k.

## U-PASS ADVISORY BOARD

This committee has met in the summer to approve the MOU for Youth Fare Legislation, since people 18 years old and under can ride Sound Transit for free. Although the U-PASS program has accumulated a sizeable reserve, potential cost increases related to the Night Ride system around campus, including increasing the number of shuttles and stops, may lead to modest fee increases in the short-term. Future expansions of the Link system into the north and east may lead to more substantial fee increases in the upcoming year. The issue of students who are not physically located in the Seattle area has been raised.

## TRI-CAMPUS ADVISORY BOARD FOR STUDENTS (TABS)

**Janis Shin**, Ph.D. student in Molecular Engineering and Sciences and former GPSS Senate Clerk, has been named chair of TABS. **Kaylin Ellioff**, Ph.D. student in Pharmacology and Travel Grants Committee member, is an at-large graduate student appointed to TABS. There are six meetings scheduled with **President Cauce** and **Provost Richards** to discuss issues and concerns affecting students at all three University of Washington campuses.

## WASHINGTON STUDENT ASSOCIATION (WSA)

In early October, GPSS authored a resolution for Zero Carbon Infrastructure investment for Washington higher education institutions; the resolution was added to the WSA legislative agenda. Additionally, a Students of Color Coalition has formed/ WSA is partly funded through the STAR Program, which allows student organizations to be funded through an opt-in system during student registration.

## STUDENT ADVOCATES FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION (SAGE)

SAGE is organization comprised of the graduate student governments of public R1 universities. **Kaustubh Yadav** (GPSS Senator and Communications and Creative Director, MS Human Centered Design and Engineering) was elected as the Communications Director for SAGE and is co-chairing the White Paper Committee for International Student Issues. **Alix Medler** (MS HCDE) is the chair for the White Paper Committee for Higher Education Funding. There is an additional White Paper Committee for Research Funding.

## University Boards and Committees

### BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents membership has changed: **Bill Ayer**, former Alaska Airlines CEO, retired. Student Regent **Elizabeth Lee**, Faculty Regent **Alexes Harris**, and Regent **Linden Rhoads** were appointed.

The BOR approved plans to divest approximately \$124M from fossil fuels by FY2027. The BOR also reviewed a wide-range of capital projects from the future **Interdisciplinary Engineering Building**, the **Health Sciences Education Building**, and **Founder's Hall**, as well as future HFS projects and the UW Welcome Center.

The November meeting was held at the UW Tacoma campus. One issue shared across all three UW campuses includes access to dining services outside of lunch hours. Additionally, course designations now include in-person synchronous, hybrid, online synchronous, and online asynchronous.

### FACULTY SENATE

The Faculty Senate has reviewed proposals to change the faculty grievance policy. In the future, changes to the undergraduate Diversity general education credit will be voted on – the most likely change being an increase from 3 credit hours to 5 credit hours. This policy has implications for graduate student teaching assistant training. A small change to the Faculty Code allows community engaged teaching and research to be considered for promotion and tenure. Lastly, representation on the Faculty Senate and its committees now includes ASUWB and ASUWT as non-voting members.

### FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee reviews proposals before they go to the full Faculty Senate. In addition to the legislation above, the distinctions between clinical faculty, especially in the School of Medicine, and how these faculty members are represented is being discussed so they can have parity with their research and teaching faculty colleagues.

### SENATE COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETING (SCPB)

The UW operates on an approximately \$9B operational budget. This advisory committee reviews program and unit budget adjustments. The unit adjustments addressed differential compensation by professors' rank.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE STAFF (GSES)

Graduate school priorities in budget and enrollment, as well as mission and vision alignment were the focus in these meetings with **Dean Joy Williamson-Lott**, associate deans, and directors of the Graduate School.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL COUNCIL

We reviewed degree-granting programs including the **School of Pharmacy** and the **Linguistics department**, recommending them for future review in about a decade.

## UNIVERSITY BOOK STORE

The University Book Store is working on a **Welcome Center** project in conjunction with the UW Alumni Association. The project progress was shared with the BOR.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association met on W Day, October 14 to highlight several major UW initiatives, including the development of a **cancer vaccine**, the work of the UW chapter of **Global Brigades**, and the **ASUW Shell House project**.

## PROVOST SEARCH

The Provost is the primary academic and budget administrator at the UW. The search committee composition has been announced, and student listening sessions will occur in the Winter quarter.

## FUTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING – ACCESS AND QUALITY

Two parallel working groups have met to address “access” and “quality” in teaching and learning at the UW. The access group is prioritizing the identification of program barriers such as bottleneck courses and capacity constraints as well as student learning modalities such as online and asynchronous options. The quality group is matching existing frameworks to for (self-)evaluation for teaching and learning. Both groups are making university-wide and local recommendations for changes to UW policies and pathways.

## TENT CITY 3 ADVISORY

Tent City 3 is an organized encampment for community members experiencing homelessness. Tent City 3 will remain on campus for the Winter quarter. Academic engagements with students will be facilitated through **Community Engagement and Leadership Education** (CELE). Logistical services are provided by various facilities and UWPD, as well as healthcare from faculty, staff, and students.

## GPSS Committees

**This is a brief pulse-check for activity in our GPSS committees. See the Vice President Officer Reports for more details.**

### FINANCE AND BUDGET

The committee briefly met for an overview of committee functions.

### TRAVEL GRANTS

Twenty-four students received a travel grant during the Fall quarter.

### LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

Our Legislative Agenda can be summarized as PAWS: Pathways, Affordability, Wellness, and Support. Additional initiatives include support for **Zero Carbon Infrastructure** and **Tuition Waivers for Federally Recognized Tribes**.

### ARTS COUNCIL

A **Craft and Complain** was held for graduate and professional students to gather, make art, eat snacks, and commiserate about graduate school.

### SCIENCE AND POLICY

A future research symposium with workshops for communicating science to public audiences may be planned.

### DIVERSITY

The Diversity Committee reviewed its processes related to funding different campus groups. Members also reflected on future collaborations.

### JUDICIAL AND ELECTIONS

By design, I am not a member of these committees. They have formed with Senate approval but have not formally met this quarter.

## **A.J.'s Reflection**

I have the awesome responsibility of serving as GPSS President. There's so much work to do across this university, and nothing gets completed alone.

I want to shout out advisors, faculty, and administrators, including Rene Singleton, Bill Mahoney, Carrie Moore, Lincoln Johnson, Denzil Suite, Gautham Reddy, Sally Clark, Chris Laws, Kima Cargill, Dean Joy Williamson-Lott, Provost Mark Richards, and President Ana Mari Cauce for a memorable Fall quarter. Chris, Cinnamon, and Sinclair have been amazing tech support.

I would also like to personally thank colleagues, especially Janis Shin, Kaylin Ellioff, Jacob Hansen, Nathan Mitchell, Calen Garrett, Tim Billing, Isabeau Rosen, Jai'Shon Berry, Elizabeth Lee, and Tamara Allard.

## **Lagniappe\***

\*(a little extra, I prefer this over miscellaneous)

-I was the first GPSS President to give a speech at the New Student Convocation in the Hec -Edmundson Pavilion. In previous years, the GPSS President was present as a platform guest, but did not have a speaking role.

-I gave an hour-long presentation to Graduate Program Advisors about supports for graduate students' sense of belonging.

-In October, I met with Deputy Secretary of State, Wendy Sherman, who visited Seattle ahead of the Asian Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) and for a seminar for the Jackson School.

-My predecessor from 1998, Tina Kotek, was elected the governor of Oregon.

-Teaching and mentoring are incredibly important to me. I was previously a high school science teacher and robotics coach in Louisiana before starting my Ph.D. program. I continued my work with the Robinson Center for Young Scholars, the UW's early college and youth enrichment program, as well as the Red Cross Club at UW; when I was in college, I was a Red Cross intern for community outreach, health services, and disaster response. The undergraduate students have such an admirable commitment to service.

-I'm always flattered whenever I'm asked to be a reference or letter writer.

-If invited, I will also go to any general exam or dissertation defense.

-I'm also happy to say that several of my former students and mentees will be headed to graduate and professional schools soon, including UW!