



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

GPSS Vice President of External Affairs Quarterly Report Fall 2022 (Written 1/5/2023 by Joel Anderson)

Personnel

- The external affairs team hired two part-time staff to assume the roles of Policy Director (Nick Juno) and Legislative Organizing Director (Geoffrey Odoch) during the fall quarter. Two hiring cycles were conducted to fill the Legislative Organizing Director position by mid-October while the Policy Director position required one hiring cycle.
 - I reviewed all applications received and participated in all interviews for both positions prior to hiring Nick and Geoffrey.
 - Nick has assisted with data analysis, policy research, meeting facilitation, and other tasks as assigned. Specific examples of this work include summarizing the results of our annual legislative issue survey and creating a Washington State Legislature orientation for Legislative Advisory Board (LAB) members.
 - Geoffrey has helped with event facilitation, primarily related to the ASUW-GPSS Legislative Reception. His role will be key to putting out our annual Huskies on the Hill Lobby Day in early February 2023.

Committees

- Executive Committee: I was able to provide committee members with updates on external affairs work (legislative issue survey, development of the legislative agenda, legislative reception, and expectations for the 2023 state legislative session) and offer informed perspectives on upcoming legislative issues.
- Legislative Advisory Board (LAB): I wrote meeting agendas, prepared meeting slides, built a contact list of 100+ interested students, and facilitated LAB meetings throughout the fall quarter. LAB made intentional efforts to involve members in traditional tasks (i.e., reviewing legislative issue survey responses, drafting the legislative agenda, etc.) and incorporate new activities (i.e., overviews of the Washington State Legislature and the policy process) into our meetings. Additionally, LAB has been brought back into compliance with OPMA/PRA requirements and now offers [public access to all meeting materials](#).

Activities and Events

- Legislative Issue Survey: Our survey was launched earlier than previous years (before the quarter started) to improve its response rate. We ultimately received 200+ responses from graduate and professional students in 60+ academic programs during the fall quarter. This feedback was reviewed thoroughly by myself, Nick, and LAB members, and directly incorporated into our legislative agenda.
- 2022-2023 Legislative Agenda: Our legislative agenda was drafted by myself, Nick, and LAB members over the span of multiple weeks and approved unanimously by the Senate in November 2022. In addition to a full agenda, a [summary card](#) (i.e., "one-pager") of our priorities



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was created for the first time to help inform legislators. Our final materials highlighted a number of key priorities, including:

- Providing tuition waivers to students enrolled in federally recognized tribes
 - Supporting students' basic needs, including housing and food security, child care, and transportation access
 - Reinstating opt-out university health insurance plans for domestic students that include vision, hearing, and dental coverage
 - Expanding and making permanent the Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Pilot
 - Enhancing support for disability resources and services
- 2022 ASUW-GPSS Legislative Reception: We hosted our reception on Monday, December 5, 2022, with 100+ legislators, faculty, staff, and students in attendance. I presented an overview of our legislative agenda to attendees along with ASUW Director of Legislative Affairs (DOLA) Alex Davidson, who presented ASUW's legislative agenda. Both of our student governments received positive feedback from audience members and have been able to further promote our policy priorities as a result.
 - Other organizational tasks: We have worked to improve the documentation of external affairs materials via our [Linktree](#) and will be using this resource frequently during the 2023 state legislative session to publicize student engagement opportunities. We are also planning to reactivate our presence on [Twitter](#), where many legislators now discuss their policy priorities.

Summary of Winter 2023 Plans

- The 2023 state legislative session will begin on Monday, January 9, and conclude on Sunday, April 23. I will be working in close proximity with the Washington Student Association (WSA), UW Office of State Relations, and ASUW DOLA Alex Davidson to effectively lobby for issues on GPSS' legislative agenda and support other higher education initiatives throughout the winter quarter.
 - Current efforts include participating in WSA's legislative liaison orientation and identifying bill sponsors for GPSS' legislative priorities.
- Our annual Huskies on the Hill Lobby Day (with ASUW) is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023. More information about this event will be made available in the coming weeks. Students will also be made aware of other advocacy opportunities as they are advertised.