



## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

### GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Quarterly Report Fall 2022 (Written 12/6/2022 by Davon Thomas)

#### Programming

- **Fall Quarter Events:** With school being in-person, the IVP office had the opportunity to host events for the graduate student population. First, we hosted a public safety town hall/forum to address a rise in gun violence in the U District where many UW students live. Second, we partnered with UW Athletics to offer discounted tickets to multiple football games throughout the quarter. We'll continue to partner with them in the coming quarters. Third, we hosted GPSS Strike Night. The HUB Bowling Alley was reserved for two hours to allow graduate students an opportunity to grab dinner and destress before finals. We had an attendance of 70+ which is a GREAT turnout for graduate students. Finally, we hosted a Grab N' Go event for finals, providing free lunches and goodie bags to graduate students. We had 80 sandwiches disappear in 30 minutes. WOW!! We plan to make the Grab N' Go a quarterly event.
- **Programming Reflection:** It is extremely important to plan and advertise ahead of time. Extremely grateful for GPSS Senators and Directors who passed on our flyers and info to their friends and programs. Most students mentioned they heard about our programs through their senators and student affairs teams. We'll be spending winter break planning our winter quarter events, so stay tuned.

#### Personnel

- **Hiring:** As the Chief Human Resources Officer of GPSS, I led the hiring/search committees for GPSS Personnel. I advertised to campus partners, scheduled interviews with officers and candidates, reviewed every application, and extended offers to candidates. Hiring was a time-consuming process, but the result was a high-quality group of staff who are helping advance our mission.
- **Onboarding:** I hosted a 2-hour staff orientation to provide our newly hired staff (and officers) an opportunity to ask questions about GPSS, UW, and their roles. SAO Advisors, Coop, and Jennifer gave a breakdown of how to best utilize the resources around campus to execute their roles. Also, I provided all staff with a copy of the personnel policy. Most of our staff were new to UW, so it was also a great orientation for new students.
- **Personnel Reflection:** GPSS and my eventual successor will have to figure out if they want to hire staff during August/September or June/July. I was informed that prior to Covid, GPSS conducted the hiring process earlier in the summer. As the year progresses, I'll report back.

#### Committees in

- **ASUW Board of Directors:** I have the immense privilege of serving on the ASUW Board of Directors, the elected undergraduate student government. As a voting member, I can participate in issues that impact undergraduates and graduates and play an advisory role as a former



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undergraduate Student Body President. Also, approved two GPSS members to serve on ASUW task forces.

- **GPSS Science & Policy Committee:** After a few years of being disbanded, I revived the S&P Committee. Over our few meetings, we have decided to focus on issues such as science policy, outreach, a research symposium, and even a networking/speaker series. We have consistent attendance and also utilize the working group time during GPSS Senate meetings to garner more involvement. Finally, we elected Ella Spurlock, a Chemistry Senator to be our Committee Chair.
- **Grad School Council:** We have met twice this quarter. Our primary goal was to conduct program reviews. Department Chairs/Heads attended the meeting and presented strengths and areas of improvement for their programs. Due to an academic conflict, I will be forfeiting my position on the council for the Winter quarter with the goal of returning to it Spring quarter.
- **GPSS Executive Committee:** As a GPSS officer, I serve on our executive committee which meets on the off weeks of GPSS meetings. We have discussed senator engagement, supporting our internal committees, outreach to students, personnel matters, and much more.
- **Committee Reflection:** "Committees are the lifeblood of our democratic system" - Leslie Knope. Committees do a lot of work and hold considerable sway in crafting university-wide policy. If you want to know what we're working on, let me know.

**As Vice President of Internal Affairs, I supervise the Events Director and Communications & Creative Director. I am eternally grateful for Amanda and Kaustubh who work hard to support me, our office, GPSS, and the greater student body. Bring it on 2023!!**