

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 25 January 2023 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
Ella Spurlock, Executive Senator
~~Sachin Nayak, Executive Senator~~
Charles Bugre, Executive Senator
Raj Shekhar Dewangan, Executive Senator
Devon Woodley, 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:

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:33pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:33pm

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the agenda. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Action] Approval of Minutes 5:35pm

Marty Varela motioned to approve minutes. Jack Flesher seconded.

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

4. [Information] Announcements 5:36pm

A.J. Balatico said that a tentative agreement was made between UW Administration and UW librarians. He also said Huskies on the Hill training will occur in the first week of February.

5. [Action] Consent Agenda 5:38pm

A.J. Balatico discussed the consent agenda item. He announced upcoming GPSS appointments to university committees.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the appointments. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion was passed.

Jack Flesher motioned to table item six (6) to be presented after item seven (7).

6. [Information] Legislative Session Update 5:39pm

Joel Anderson provided a legislative session update from Olympia. He said that there is continued progress on a handful of GPSS legislative priorities. These issues are also supported by the Washington Student Association (WSA). He discussed the GPSS Bill Tracker and HB 1399, a bill to provide a tuition waiver for Native American undergraduate students. He also discussed the desired expansion of the Washington College Grant. He then briefed the Basic Needs Act, which would pursue hunger-free Washington college campuses.

7. [Information] ASUW Winter Update 5:53pm

Brent Seto said that the ASUW Board passed a measure bringing the University of Washington into a major climate initiative. He also said that the ASUW Senate Speaker resigned and that elections for that position are being planned.

A.J. Balatico asked how the Senate Speaker resignation would affect GPSS-ASUW joint resolutions.

Brent Seto responded that he did not imagine the election taking too long, and therefore, delaying any joint resolution timelines.

8. [Information] GPSS Budget 5:55pm

Van Mai presented the GPSS budget request for fiscal year 2024. She provided a breakdown of the total annual budget, and compared the FY23 SAF-approved expenditures and FY24 proposal.

A.J. Balatico asked how the 4% increase in staff salaries was calculated and what inflation metrics were used.

Van Mai responded that GPSS would need to conduct an internal review of potential salary increases.

Pratima K.C. asked if a staff hiring would occur this year.

A.J. Balatico responded that discussions amongst GPSS officers were ongoing regarding office needs and possible staff hirings. He said that the University Affairs Director position was vacant. He asked Van Mai when a SAF proposal must be submitted by.

Van Mai responded that the proposal suspense date was February 27th, 2023.

9. [Action] Executive Session 6:10pm

The Executive Committee entered a Closed Session to discuss issues of personnel and Officer roles and responsibilities. Per Executive Committee directives, no record was kept. See Clause 3c of GPSS Bylaws.

10. [Information] Executive Senator and Officer Updates 6:52pm

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) provided an update on the Science & Policy Committee. She said that there were four main clusters being pursued within the committee. She said that committee meetings were on Tuesdays from 4pm-5pm. She said that some committee members were working on community outreach, while others were focussing on policy.

Charles Bugre requested guidance from the Executive Committee on designing the Ad Hoc Committee on Senator Compensation's charge.

Davon Thomas motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion was passed.

Jack Flesher provided insight into the challenges involved with the GPSS Vice President of Administration position.

Pratima K.C. provided an update on the Finance & Budget Committee. She also briefed the GPSS Elections Committee bylaws.

Jack Flesher motioned to extend time by five (5) minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion was passed.

A.J. Balatico provided an update on the Tri-Campus Advisory Board (TABS). He said that TABS will be meeting to discuss college tuition, wages on campus, and union issues. He also announced new UW administrators. He said that the UW Provost was going well.

11. [Information] Senate Agenda Setting 7:16pm

Jack Flesher said that Executive Senators will not be eligible for the Senator of the Month item since they serve in a paid position. He also said that nominations should pertain to an individual's work within GPSS and not necessarily within their academic work.

Davon Thomas requested that five (5) minutes be added to the Working Groups item.

Pratima K.C. asked if the Judicial Committee members were updated on the GPSS website.

A.J. Balatico responded that a section showcasing committee members could be added to the website, separate from the Senate login.

Joel Anderson asked that a Legislation Check-in item be added to the agenda.

Davon Thomas asked that the Good of the Order item be replaced with an Officer Updates item.

Pratima K.C. volunteered to give the land acknowledgement. She motioned to approve the agenda. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

12. [Information] Good of the Order 7:29pm

No Good of the Order items were presented.

13.[Action] Adjournment 7:30pm

Marty Varela motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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

