

# THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 15 February 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 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 5:38pm

**A.J. Balatico** called the meeting to order at 5:38pm.

Attendance vote (via GPSS website) was initiated.

### 2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:38pm

**A.J. Balatico** presented an amended agenda.

**Davon Thomas** motioned to approve the agenda. Amanda Chin seconded. No objections. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Action] Approval of Minutes 5:41pm

**A.J. Balatico** presented the February 1st, 2023 minutes.

**Jack Flesher** motioned to approve the minutes. Charles Bugre seconded. No objections. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:42pm

**Pratima K.C. (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)**, on behalf of the GPSS, gave the land acknowledgement. She included resources for action involving tribal lands and indigenous awareness.

5. [Information] Announcements 5:43pm

**Pratima K.C. (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)**, on behalf of the GPSS, provided condolences for the victims and those affected by the Turkey and Syria earthquakes. She said that GPSS can provide assistance to students from Turkey and Syria.

**A.J. Balatico** said that a candlelight vigil will be held in Red Square on February 15th. He said that the BGSA and LEAP Black History Month series is still ongoing. He also provided information about the LGBTQIA+ mural project at the UW, coordinated by GPSS Diversity and Inclusion Director Matthew Moran. He said that the Student Health Advocacy Resolution Panel (SHARP) is seeking interested students to support and produce draft resolutions. He apprised the Senate about the ongoing efforts within Tent City 3. He announced that the HUB Makers Fair will be held on February 22nd and 23rd. A Free Renter's Rights Workshop will occur on February 23rd from 5-6pm in Savery 156. He added that OSTEM is hosting a movie night on February 24th at 6pm in Ocean Building Room 425. He also said that the Red Cross Club at UW will be hosting a blood drive on February 27th from 12-5pm in HUB 334.

6. [Information] GPSS Budget FY24 Proposal 5:51pm

**Van Mai** presented the GPSS budget request for fiscal year 2024 to the Senate. She said that the budget request would be sent to the Student Activities Fee (SAF) Committee and is critical to funding GPSS activities for the next fiscal year. She said that the total budget is \$647,183. She said that there would be a one (1) dollar increase in staff salaries. She also said that there would be a three (3) percent increase in compensation for officers during the academic year. She added that there would be no increase in compensation for

Executive Senators. She provided a breakdown of the budget sources of income, which included income from the Provost, endowment distributions, the general fund, and the SAF. She asked the Senate to peruse the GPSS budget proposal Excel spreadsheet. She said that the budget request was presented to the Finance and Budget (F&B) Committee and the Executive Committee.

**A.J. Balatico** said that there were additional ways to address staffing needs. He also said that the GPSS website was in need of maintenance. He said that a three (3) percent tuition increase was expected for the next academic year. He also said that there was carryover from previous years included in the final budget figure.

**Raj Dewangan (Runstad Department of Real Estate)** asked what the reasoning was for a proposed travel grant increase.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that the GPSS travel grant program was currently at capacity and an increase would accommodate more applicants.

**Raj Dewangan (Runstad Department of Real Estate)** asked if the proposed \$5,000 travel grant increase could be expanded further.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that the increase was based on observed demand vis-a-vis travel grants. He added that travel grants cannot support academic research.

**Charles Bugre (Information Science)** said that because of the recent impacts of COVID-19, the proposed travel grant increase should be expanded.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that travel grants support student activities and that the \$5,000 increase was commensurate with GPSS needs.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** asked why there was still a 40 percent rejection rate if the proposed travel grant increase was commensurate with demand.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that application quality was relevant in the grant issuing process and, therefore, affected acceptance rates.

**Van Mai** provided clarification into the travel grant application process and decision metrics.

**Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE)** asked what made an application unqualified.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that there was a rubric used for application grading.

**Pratima K.C. (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)** asked if the rubric was on the GPSS website.

**Van Mai** responded that it was on the GPSS website.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** said that increases in compensation for committee chairs and members should be considered in the budget request.

7. [Information] Legislative Check-In 6:31pm

**Joel Anderson** provided a GPSS Legislative Check-In from Olympia. He said that Huskies on the Hill was held last week by GPSS, ASUW, ASUW Tacoma, and ASUW Bothell. He thanked GPSS and ASUW staff for facilitating the event. He said that bills supported by GPSS are clearing policy committees, but seeing resistance in the budget committees. He also said that HB 1399 has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee. He added that the Basic Needs Act cleared the House Policy Committee and there were fiscal concerns involved.

**Kaley Wypyszynski (School of Nursing)** said that half of the graduate nursing tracks are fee-based and asked if they would be included in the public service provision.

**Joel Anderson** responded that he was not certain and would revert.

8. [Information] Environmental Stewardship Committee 6:46pm

**A.J. Balatico** introduced the Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) and its proposal to form a joint travel working group to draft proposed options for a possible UW travel policy and surcharge.

9. [Information] Student Regent Selection Committee 6:52pm

**A.J. Balatico** provided information regarding the Student Regent Selection Committee. He said that the committee was charged with selecting the next UW Student Regent. He added that the Student Regent is not paid, but does receive a tuition waiver to support. He apprised the Senate of Student Regent commitments.

10.[Information] Senator of the Month 6:57pm

**Jack Flesher** read a proclamation recognizing Senator Nathan Mitchell as the January GPSS Senator of the Month.

11.[Action] Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws regarding Elections 7:01pm

**Kaley Wypyszynski (School of Nursing)**, in her capacity as GPSS Elections Committee Chair, requested that the Senate motion to suspend the appropriate GPSS bylaws and amend the Elections Guide deadline.

**Jack Flesher** motioned to suspend GPSS bylaws Article 5H(1) and Article 5H(4c) in order for the GPSS Elections Committee to render a complete Elections Guide on March 1st. Amanda Chin seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The motion passed, surpassing the two-thirds majority requirement.

**Tripthi Sinha (School of Law)** apprised the Senate that the GPSS Judicial Committee does not have the required membership to approve any items. She said that four (4) members were required for quorum.

**Kristina Sawyckyj (D-Center)** self-nominated to the GPSS Judicial Committee.

**Hannah Griggs (School of Medicine)** self-nominated to the GPSS Judicial Committee.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

**Nathan Mitchell (ASUW)** motioned to approve the nominations to the GPSS Judicial Committee. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The motion passed with 35 votes in the affirmative, zero (0) abstentions, and zero (0) in the negative.

12.[Information] Officer Updates 7:24pm

**Davon Thomas** provided an update of GPSS events and programming. He said that the February 14th Puppy Love event was a success.

**Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE)** asked about dietary accommodations for the GPSS cooking event.

**Davon Thomas** responded that he will ensure there are vegan options.

**Jack Flesher** said that he was continuing to work on new Senator admissions. He also said that the Arts Council was still seeking input on a new meeting time.

**A.J. Balatico** said that the Tri-Campus Advisory Board met to discuss research goals for the university. He said that the board was also addressing the impacts of current national and global events.

**Pratima K.C. (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)** motioned to extend by 10 minutes. Nathan Mitchell seconded. No objections, the motion was passed.

**Pratima K.C. (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)** asked about the memorandum item discussed by the Executive Committee on February 8th. She expressed her opposition to including a specific student name within the memorandum.

**Tripti Sinha (School of Law)** said that the current dialogue was cryptic to the full Senate and suggested that an agenda item be added for the next Senate meeting.

**Jack Flesher** said that parliamentary powers were not asserted during the Executive Committee to oppose or table the memorandum.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** asked if the memorandum was public or internal.

**A.J. Balatico** said that the memorandum was a part of the public record but would not be widely disseminated.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** asked why the Senate cannot see the memorandum and why the GPSS President cannot discuss it.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that information involving students personally were included in the memorandum.

**Pratima K.C. (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences)** asked who knew about the information within the memorandum prior to the February 8th Executive Committee meeting. She also asked how it was decided that a memorandum would be the best course of action. She said that the person named in the memorandum has served GPSS.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that he discussed the possibility of issuing a memorandum with other GPSS Officers and that this was the determined course of action.

**Devon Woodley (School of Nursing)** said that he agreed that GPSS must be very careful about ensuring it is represented by authorized personnel. He added that in his view, some unilateral action was taken in preparing the memorandum in tandem with chosen information for the presentation rendered to the Executive Committee. He also said that his issue with the memorandum was that it could potentially, adversely impact someone's career and expose GPSS to risk. He said that deciding what is confidential or not is concerning. He asked that if UW advisors were shaping conversation, they should identify themselves and make their positions known.

**A.J. Balatico** responded that his determinations on confidentiality were based on what was already publicly available, what was discussed during open meetings, and what was disclosed in private.

**Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law)** motioned to table the ongoing dialogue and proposed an agenda item that would disclose the memorandum to the Senate, inclusive of redacted student information. Charles Bugre seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The motion passed with 22 votes in the affirmative, zero (0) abstentions, and zero (0) in the negative.

### 13.[Information] Working Groups

**A.J. Balatico** expedited the item. The agenda continued.

### 14.[Action] Adjournment 8:12pm

**Nathan Mitchell (ASUW)** motioned to adjourn the meeting. Devon Woodley seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

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

