

In my second term as GPSS President, I would continue the work of aligning the practices of GPSS with its tri-fold mission of **1) amplifying student voices, 2) building community, and 3) eradicating inequities**. Navigating organizational constraints, such as our budget and delegated powers, with the realities of graduate school, the pandemic, and a looming economic bust, we have the responsibility to attend to each other as the UW's graduate and professional students.

Amplifying Student Voices

The GPSS is made of people, our alumni, colleagues, and future colleagues. We are parents, caregivers, workers, veterans, the (future) professoriate, educators, researchers, community leaders, elected officials, artists, thinkers, visionaries, friends, and humans. I enjoy the shoutouts, the GPSS logos, on the “thank you” slides of our colleagues in their dissertation defenses; I witness the impact of our work when it enables our Senators and community to pay positive contributions forward – the conferences attended, the RSO or departmental gathering, or the invited talks that lead to deeper, longer-term conversations. I also enjoy the challenges and complexities of working through issues that require collaborative, interdisciplinary perspectives, stakeholder engagement, and tradeoffs.

Sharing our stories. What does GPSS do? We should all have our quick pitch ready for that, but we should also be willing to share who we are and interact in different ways. We will continue to have multimodal touchpoints with our communities. The website still needs dedicated work and our hybrid meetings have a few hiccups, but infrastructure for relationship building will be my top priority.

Senator Preparation. The last “S” in GPSS is Senate. However, as an organization, a lot of the work is bogged down in the formality of parliamentary procedure. We need to recognize that our meeting format itself is a barrier to participation, but much of the outside work that needs to be modeled is how Senators interact with their programs.

Building Community

We have a lot of potential, and whether you’re graduating soon or continuing with us next year, I want us to continue our work and honing our practices while having the critical conversations that will help us grow as an organization. We don’t get through our GPSS meetings or UW service work alone. Senators, officers, GPSS staff, advisors, admin, other students, ASUWers, HUBbers, SAF units, academic and student life support services, community partners in Seattle, Washington, D.C. and the rest of the world, are all part of GPSS’s network. We must continue to make efforts to convene outside of Senate meetings.

Building In-Person Office Community. Our office in HUB 314 is a meeting and hangout space, but our presence is organic. We are missing a lot of our Senators in-person, but much of the collaborative teamwork and preparation happens in the company of each other. Have lunch or take the Zoom call from our office!

Eradicating Inequities

Our work helps us change literal laws and UW policies. This comes from our charge as a student government, but as we learn from one another, this work can only get easier. Translating student concerns to Resolutions and capacity-building is a natural outgrowth of other efforts. Through sharing expertise and deliberate collective action, we can make lasting change.

Education

University of Washington Ph.D. Candidate, Learning Sciences and Human Development	2018-present
Louisiana State University M.A.T., Secondary Science Education	2014-2015
Tulane University B.S., Neuroscience and Anthropology	2008-2012

Roles at the University of Washington

Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)	2019-present
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- *President (2022-2023)*
- *Vice President of Finance and Parliamentarian (2021-2022)*
- *GPSS Senator for the College of Education (2019-2021)*

University Committees, Boards, Organizations, and Liaisons

- *Tri-Campus Advisory Board for Students (TABS) (2022-present)*
- *Finance and Budget (F&B), Travel Grants, Diversity, Science and Policy (2019-present)*
- *Executive, LAB/SAGE (2021-present)*
- *University Book Store Graduate Student Trustee (2021-present), Treasurer (2022-present)*
- *UW Alumni Association Board of Trustees (2022-present)*
- *Services and Activities Fee (SAF) Committee (2021-present)*
- *Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee (2019-present)*
- *Provost Search Committee (2023)*
- *Future of Teaching and Learning: Quality and Access Committees (2022-2023)*
- *Student Regent Selection Committee Member (2020, 2023)*
- *Young President's Circle (2022-present)*
- *Youth Protection Advisory Committee (2019)*
- *Associated Students of the College of Education (ASCE) Officer (2019-2021)*
- *Undergraduate Academic Affairs Husky Leadership Initiative Mentor*

Robinson Center for Young Scholars	2018-present
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- **Graduate Research Assistant**
 - (2018-19) Conducted survey research on an NSF grant on public audiences learning about polar science and climate change through a planetarium show; *work in-review*
 - (2018-2021) Conducted qualitative research focused on gifted and STEM educational equity initiatives and funding policies across Washington State; *work in-progress*
- **Saturday Enrichment Instructor (2nd – 8th Grade STEM) (2018-present)**
 - Developed new, hands-on robotics, neuroscience, engineering, programming, and/or Minecraft courses each quarter; most classes reach max capacity of 16
- **Summer Stretch Instructor – Physics of Robotics (7th – 10th Grade) (2018-present)**
 - Developed and taught a high school level algebra-based physics and robotics course with 16 – 26 students; manage 3 high school / undergraduate student TA's

American Red Cross at UW	2021-present
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Student Advisor

- Mentor undergraduate students to host events related to their pre-professional education and develop campus policy alongside Faculty Senate and admin

Husky Robotics

2018-2019

Business and Filming Sub-team Member

- Used previous robotics team mentoring experience to identify new sponsors and to film the [Systems Acceptance Review](#) for the University Rover Challenge

National Academic Organization Elected Office

Brain, Neuroscience, and Education SIG, American Educational Research Association

Graduate Student Member-at-Large

April 2021- April 2022

- Elected to represent 280+ members (~100 graduate students) from over 100 different institutions; initial budget of \$15,000 in membership dues; term began on April 14, 2021
- Major duties include surveying members and developing travel grants process for graduate students to attend the AERA annual conference

Work History

High School Teacher – Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Sciences

2012-2018

- **Department Chair and Science Lead Teacher.** Recipient of classroom grants (~\$1,000) for lab equipment and other materials. Mentor for senior projects for students who would continue to graduate and professional school.

FIRST Robotics Faculty-Sponsor

2013-2018

FIRST Robotics Mentor

2013-present

- **Mentor** of a NASA and DoDSTEM-sponsored Regional Chairman's Award-Winning team with a FIRST-wide record for the most student Dean's List Winners/Finalists. Successfully lobbied the school district to provide coach-pay for robotics faculty-sponsors who typically work 200+ hours per year, including weekends and summer.

Selected College Volunteering and Service Experience

American Red Cross, Southeast Louisiana

2009-2012

- **Community Outreach and Disaster Relief Intern;** traveled to NYC-RC
- **CPR and First Aid Instructor** for New Orleans and North Shore offices

Tulane Undergraduate Student Government /Associated Student Body

2011-2012

- **Student Life Council Chair, Finance Committee Member** for \$1.5M budget

Professional and Technical Skills

Budgeting – demonstrated financial responsibility through strategic investment as an undergraduate student, as a high school teacher, and as a graduate student with budgets ranging from high school science departments, robotics teams, and at R1 universities

Teaching and Mentoring – taught and mentored K-12 students; mentored undergraduate students and supervised high school and undergraduate TA's for youth programs

Secondary Data Reporting – extensive knowledge of NCES large datasets of school district and higher education financial information; extensive use of Office of Education Assessment (OEA), Office of Planning and Budgeting (OPB), and other unit reports at the University of Washington

Qualitative Research – interviews, surveys, thematic analysis

Computer Skills – Tableau, R, Python, SPSS / Stata, Microsoft Office / Google Suite, Dedoose, HTML / CSS / JavaScript, video editing software

OFFICER CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM 2023-2024

This form is to be completed by the candidate and submitted to the Elections Committee (gpsselect@uw.edu), by Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 5:30 PM in order for candidate information to be posted on the GPSS website and by Thursday, April 27, 2023 to be distributed via email to Senators. Senators wishing to nominate themselves from the floor must also provide this information at time of nomination.

1. Full Name: **Albert “A.J.” Brandon Balatico, Jr.**
2. Graduate or professional program of study: **Learning Sciences and Human Development**
3. Are you currently a registered student? **Yes (X)** No ()
4. Do you expect to be a graduate or professional student during the 2023-2024 academic year (Fall, Winter & Spring Quarters)? **Yes (X)** No ()
5. The position you are running for is: **President**
6. Indicate at least three GPSS Senate or committee meetings, including at least one meeting conducted under rules of parliamentary procedure, that you have attended during the 2023-2024 academic year prior to the election meeting.
- See Section 2.1 of the Elections Guide for a list of qualifying committee meetings.

October 5, 2022 Senate Meeting

October 12, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

October 19, 2022 Senate Meeting

7. Do you understand and acknowledge that you should be able to work for GPSS for 19.5 hours per week during the 2023-2024 academic year, including 8 hours per week in the office (4 for President) between the standard business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday? **Yes (X)** No ()
8. If ‘No’ to question 7, please explain:

Affirmative Statements

I, **A.J. Balatico**, do not have any responsibilities (be them academic, employment, or personal) that might prevent me from fulfilling the responsibilities as a GPSS Officer. I affirmatively declare that I meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the GPSS Election Guide.

The requirements as stipulated are:

- I am enrolled as a graduate or professional student at the time of the election or will be enrolled during the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters of 2023-2024.

Yes (X) No ()

- I am not a member of the Elections Committee.

Yes (X) No ()

- I have attended at least 3 GPSS Senate or qualifying committee meetings, including one conducted under rules of parliamentary procedure, prior to the Elections meeting during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Yes (X) No ()

- I will intend to maintain full time student status during the term, if elected and be on campus through the 2023-2024 academic year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Vice President of External Affairs is permitted to take a reduced course load during Winter Quarter.

Yes (X) No ()

- I will be able to work 19.5 hours per week during the 2023-2024 academic year, including 8 hours per week in the office (4 hours per week for the President) between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Yes (X) No ()