

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 08 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 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 5:34pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:34pm

Pratima K.C. asked for clarification on the GPSS Election Guide and Bylaws Timeline item.

Charles Bugre motioned to approve the agenda. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Action] Approval of Minutes 5:36pm

Devon Woodley motioned to approve minutes. Ella Spurlock seconded.

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

4. [Information] Announcements 5:37pm

A.J. Balatico said that Huskies on the Hill occurred on February 7th and was a success. He said that pitch night for UW Engage is on February 13, 2023. He also said that the Allen School was hosting a Black History Month seminar series.

5. [Action] Consent Agenda pm

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] ASUW Winter Update 5:39pm

Brent Seto said that the ASUW also participated in Huskies on the Hill on February 7th. He also said that the Senate elected a new Speaker, Sephora-Clotilde Zoro.

A.J. Balatico said that the ASUW Senate entertained the first reading of the Sharps Joint Resolution.

7. [Action] Senator of the Month 5:41pm

Jack Flesher said that there were five (5) responses to the Senator of the Month form. He said that there were three (3) more nominations tendered since the last update.

A.J. Balatico said that nominators on the Executive Committee should author the proclamations recognizing their nominees.

Van Mai asked if any nominee has been nominated by more than one individual.

Jack Flesher responded that so far, all nominations have been distinct.

Devon Woodley motioned to extend time by four (4) minutes. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Devon Woodley asked who was nominated for non-GPSS activities.

Jack Flesher responded that it was GPSS Senator Sarah McKiddy from the School of Nursing.

Pratima K.C. recommended that Senator Nathan Mitchell be recognized as Senator of the Month for the month of January.

Jack Flesher motioned to recognize Senator Nathan Mitchell as the January Senator of the Month. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

8. [Information] Legislative Session Update 5:55pm

Joel Anderson provided a recap of the Huskies on the Hill event. He said that there were some challenges involving transportation to the State Capitol. He added that the lobbying effort was successful overall. He said that GPSS is continuing to support SB 5703, which intends to expand the Washington College Grant.

9. [Action] GPSS Budget 6:01pm

Van Mai presented the GPSS budget request to SAF for fiscal year 2024. She said that she desired GPSS action on the budget request. She directed the Executive Committee to review the budget request document. She provided a breakdown of the proposed budget and associated sources of income, and compared the fiscal year 2024 request with the fiscal year 2023 request.

Devon Woodley asked for clarification on the travel grant allocation.

Van Mai responded that the budget request included a \$5,000 increase for travel grants. She continued to discuss major changes within the proposed budget.

A.J. Balatico said that officer salaries are tier-based and cannot be determined until elections are held. He asked if this was considered during budget proposal creation.

Van Mai responded that there was no significant change to officer salaries.

Devon Woodley asked if a \$5,000 increase for travel grants is adequate with the changing COVID-19 pandemic landscape.

Van Mai responded that travel grant application selection criteria can assist in controlling the travel grant allocation.

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

Jack Flesher motioned to approve two budget options for the Senate. Devon Woodley seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

10. [Information] Executive Senator and Officer Updates 6:35pm

Davon Thomas said that the Puppy Love event will occur on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 in HUB 334.

Jack Flesher said that he has reached out to the School of Dentistry looking for GPSS Senators. He also said that the attendance rate is up so far.

Marty Varela said that four (4) diversity fund grants have been awarded. She added that GPSS Diversity and Inclusion Director Matthew Moran has been working on the GPSS mural project.

Maleen Kidiwela provided an update on the SAF Committee.

Charles Bugre provided an update on the ad hoc committee focussing on Senator compensation.

Pratima K.C. provided an update on the Elections Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee.

A.J. Balatico said that TABS met on February 1st and is still awaiting representation from UW Bothell and UW Tacoma.

11. [Action] GPSS Appointment Referral 6:45pm

A.J. Balatico presented the memorandum concerning GPSS Appointments to UW Committees and Boards. He discussed the January 23rd, 2023 incident in which the

GPSS was represented by an individual not appointed by the GPSS Executive Committee. He defined the proposed GPSS recommendations in response to the incident.

Devon Woodley asked if the aforementioned individual, Matthew Mitnick, was acting in bad faith.

Pratima K.C. provided a background into Matthew Mitnick's experience as an Executive Senator within GPSS. She asked if Matthew Mitnick was properly apprised of his termination from the UW Transportation Committee.

Jack Flesher said that Matthew Mitnick defined his term on the UW Transportation Committee at the October 12th, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. He said that this was on an interim basis and that the term was supposed to expire on November 1st, 2022.

Devon Woodley said that he believed that Matthew Mitnick was acting in good faith. He said that the language regarding academic dishonesty was strong and not observably commensurate with the situation.

Pratima K.C. motioned to extend time by five (5) minutes.

Pratima K.C. said that she agreed with Devon Woodley in that the language was too strong. She expressed her opposition to explicitly naming a student within the memorandum.

Devon Woodley said that the GPSS Executive Committee might need to be more clear in transmitting information to Senators.

Jack Flesher reaffirmed that Matthew Mitnick defined the length of his term at the October 12th, 2022 Executive Committee meeting.

Marty Varela said that the purpose of the memorandum was to prevent individuals from misrepresenting the GPSS on other campus committees.

Ella Spurlock motioned to extend time by five (5) minutes. Devon Woodley seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Jack Flesher apprised the Executive Committee that the absence of a GPSS University Affairs Director has delayed information transmission to other committees.

Devon Woodley said that he opposed the memorandum as currently written. He proposed an amendment to strike the “dishonesty” paragraph of the memorandum.

Marty Varela said that the paragraph sets the basis for the memorandum.

Pratima K.C. seconded the motion made by Devon Woodley. The motion moved to a vote.

The motion did not pass. Three (3) votes for, five (5) against, two (2) abstentions.

Devon Woodley motioned to extend time by ten (10) minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

The Executive Committee made suggestions, edits, and additions to the memorandum.

Marty Varela motioned to approve the amended memorandum. Maleen Kidiwela seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The motion passed. Six (6) votes for, zero (0) against, five (5) abstentions.

12. [Action] GPSS Elections Guide and Bylaws Timeline

Pratima K.C. provided an update on the proposed GPSS Elections Guide changes. She asked the Executive Committee to refer to the proposed changes document.

Jack Flesher provided the timeline and suspension requirements as prescribed by the GPSS bylaws.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the proposals as a recommendation to the Senate. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

13. [Action] Senate Agenda Setting 7:44pm

A.J. Balatico said the ASUW Black Student Commission proposed a joint resolution to create a University mental health day. He said that the proposed Senate meeting agenda was similar to the February 1st Senate meeting agenda.

Devon Woodley asked if 25 minutes was necessary for the Working Groups item.

Jack Flesher responded that many Senators have requested for more Working Group time.

Davon Thomas requested that the Working Groups item be reduced to 15 minutes.

Pratima K.C. asked if the Appointment Referral memorandum would be added to the agenda.

A.J. Balatico responded that it would be included in the Officer Updates item.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the agenda. Charles Bugre seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

14. [Information] Good of the Order 8:05pm

No Good of the Order items were presented.

15. [Action] Adjournment 8:05pm

Charles Bugre motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ella Spurlock seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

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