

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 22 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 5:31pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:31pm

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) requested that an action item addressing the memorandum be added after item 12.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) motioned to approve the amended agenda. Charles Bugre seconded. No objections, the motion to approve the agenda passed.

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

Jack Flesher motioned to approve minutes. Ella Spurlock seconded.

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

4. [Action] Appointments 5:37pm

A.J. Balatico presented GPSS nominees, Hema Velappan and Miguel Martinez, for the Student Regent Selection Committee. He also presented the GPSS nominee, Fariha Khalil, for the International Student Health Insurance Plan (ISHIP) Committee.

Davon Thomas motioned to approve the appointments. Charles Bugre seconded. No objections, the motion to approve the agenda passed.

5. [Information] Announcements 5:41pm

A.J. Balatico acknowledged the latest earthquake that struck Türkiye. He also acknowledged the death of Tyre Nichols and the Michigan State University shooting.

6. [Information] ASUW Winter Update 5:44pm

Brent Seto (ASUW) said that the Sharps Joint Resolution has entered a second reading in the ASUW Senate. He also said that ASUW has begun campus-wide outreach for the 2023 ASUW elections.

A.J. Balatico asked if undergraduates were aware that those standing in ASUW elections cannot also apply for the UW Student Regent position.

Brent Seto (ASUW) responded that he would transmit such information to ASUW.

7. [Action] Senator of the Month 5:46pm

A.J. Balatico asked if there were any other Senator of the Month nominations, other than the previously discussed nominee Kaley Wypizinski.

Jack Flesher said that there were no other nominees for GPSS Senator of the Month for February.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) and Van Mai recognized Kaley Wypizinski for her hardwork and dedication to GPSS.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve Kaley Wypizinski as the GPSS Senator of the Month for February. Van Mai seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

8. [Information] Legislative Session Update 5:48pm

Joel Anderson provided a legislative session update from Olympia. He said that the bill proposing the creation of a full-tuition scholarship for federally-recognized Native American students has stalled. He said some legislators have expressed support for existing college grants, rather than creating a new one. He also said that a bill prohibiting the sale of over-the-counter sexual assault testing kits is progressing in the Washington State House. He said that the supporting students experience homelessness pilot bill is progressing in the Senate.

A.J. Balatico asked how often the bill testimony and support tracker Google sheet was updated.

Joel Anderson responded that he tried to update it daily. He also recommended that Senators and students check out the GPSS External Affairs Youtube channel.

9. [Action] GPSS Budget 5:57pm

Van Mai provided a brief on the latest GPSS budget request for fiscal year 2024. It included two (2) increase options: a 5% increase and compensation for two (2) chairs or a 5% increase and compensation for volunteers.

Raj Dewangan (Real Estate) voiced concerns about possibly limiting sizes of committees due to compensation.

Jack Flesher responded with similar concerns, especially with the dynamic between the full Senate and the GPSS Elections Committee.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) expressed the observable workload and effort required while serving on committees.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) said that if GPSS cannot add new line items for committee compensation, then GPSS could possibly implement surge line items that would

compensate Senators when required. He also said that Executive Senator funding could also be allocated.

Rene Singleton and Carrie Moore provided administrative insight into the possibility of compensating GPSS Committee members similar to that of Executive Senators.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) motioned to extend time by 15 minutes. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Marty Varela proposed that a small honorarium of \$150 per quarter be implemented to compensate committee members. She also echoed Pratima K.C.'s statement on committee workload and effort.

Rene Singleton recommended that the term "compensation" not be used for the purposes of this item's discussion.

Jack Flesher proposed that committee member payment should be based on three (3) quarters like Executive Senator compensation.

A.J. Balatico said that the budget proposal must be right before it is submitted to the full Senate.

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

Charles Bugre (Information Science) motioned to approve the GPSS budget proposal and present it to the full Senate. Devon Woodley seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

10.[Action] Non-budgeted Expenditure Request 6:41pm

Davon Thomas presented the comedian budget request. He said that he desired to host a comedian for students and in partnership with the ASUW and SAO. He said that because the event would be a non-budgeted expenditure, it would require Executive Committee approval. He added that the purpose of the event was laughter and in line with Article 2a of the GPSS Constitution. He said that the tentative event date was April 20th, 2023, from 7:30pm to 10:00pm. He also said that Kane 130 was the tentative event space and the admissions fee was \$10.

A.J. Balatico asked how the admissions fee would be collected.

Davon Thomas said it would be via HUB Ticketing.

Jack Flesher asked if Kane Hall was accessible and what the content would be, suggesting the possibility of content warnings as necessary.

Davon Thomas responded that Kane Hall was accessible and that having a sign language interpreter was a possibility. He also said that it would be an adult comedy and that an opening student act would be implemented.

Marty Varela motioned to approve the request and present it to the full Senate. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

11. [Action] Compensation Ad Hoc Committee 6:53pm

Charles Bugre (Information Science) presented the memorandum regarding the Ad Hoc Committee for Senator Motivation and Retention. He recognized the omission of the term “compensation” in relation to the item. He said that the committee was open to all Senators.

A.J. Balatico said that the committee would conclude at the end of the academic year and would result in a resolution.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) motioned to approve the committee charge. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

12. [Information] Executive Senator and Officer Updates 6:58pm

Jack Flesher said that he had not heard back from the School of Dentistry regarding GPSS representation. He also said that he would start communicating with Senators who have not met the attendance requirements.

Davon Thomas said that the cooking demo event will be held in two weeks and that information would be sent out to the Senate. He also said that staff evaluations would occur later in the week.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) said that the Science and Policy Committee would be meeting with the organizers of the undergraduate research symposium to seek guidance on creating a graduate research symposium.

Marty Varela said that there was a mid-year celebration at the Diversity Committee, recognizing individuals and projects.

A.J. Balatico said that the Provost job description would be disseminated nationwide in the coming weeks.

13. [Action] Memo Revisiting 7:06pm

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) said that there were outstanding concerns regarding the memorandum passed at the February 8th Executive Committee meeting. She motioned to enter Executive Session until 7:30pm. Davon Thomas seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

The Executive Committee entered a Closed Session to discuss issues related to internal GPSS personnel as it related to a previous memo. Per Executive Committee directives, no record was kept. See Clause 3c of GPSS Bylaws.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to rescind the memorandum and reissue a general memorandum excluding personal student information. Devon Woodley seconded. Jack Flesher objected as the directives within the original memorandum were already fulfilled.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) said that GPSS could acknowledge that a mistake was made in the original memorandum.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) clarified that the motion was to re-write the original memorandum.

Jack Flesher, on the basis of Pratima K.C. 's clarification, withdrew his objection.

Marty Varela motioned to recess until 8:05pm. Devon Woodley seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

The Executive Committee made amendments to the original memorandum via Google Documents.

Ella Spurlock motioned to table to item until after Good of the Order item. Devon Woodley seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to extend time by 15 minutes. Jack Flesher seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Jack Flesher clarified that the memorandum was already sent and fulfilled by and through designated recipients.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked if the original memorandum can be redacted in the public records.

Rene Singleton responded that a motion can be made to redact the original memorandum.

Raj Dewangan (Real Estate) said that the second memorandum can be used as a defense mechanism to mitigate the original memorandum.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to retract the original memorandum through an electronic mail from the GPSS President. Raj Dewangan seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The vote passed with five (5) in favor, zero (0) against, and two (2) abstentions.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) said that a better system must be implemented to qualify and confirm GPSS appointments to other university committees and organizations.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to extend by five (5) minutes. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Marty Varela provided clarifications into the memorandum amendments.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to issue the amended memorandum to the designated parties. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The vote passed with six (6) in favor, zero (0) against, and one (1) abstention.

14. [Action] GPSS Elections Guide and Bylaws 8:09pm

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) said that the GPSS Elections Committee proposed additional changes to the bylaws pertaining to elections. She said that the voting period would last 24 hours.

Davon Thomas asked why voting would be open for 24 hours.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) responded that this measure would avoid the implementation of absentee ballots.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to present the GPSS Elections Guidelines to the full Senate. Davon Thomas seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

15. [Information] Public Comment Procedures Discussion 8:19pm

Jack Flesher briefed the Executive Committee on public comment procedures in GPSS meetings, originally discussed and implemented in the 2022 Summer quarter. He said that university and public record advisors recommended that oral public comments be omitted from meetings. He also said that a written public comment mechanism was preferred. He added that the memorandum on GPSS Public Commentary Policy was approved in August 2022.

16. [Action] Senate Agenda Setting 8:24pm

A.J. Balatico presented the tentative Senate agenda for March 1st, 2023.

Raj Dewangan (Real Estate) motioned to approve the agenda. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

17. [Information] Good of the Order 8:39pm

A.J. Balatico presented the tentative Senate agenda for March 1st.

18. [Action] Adjournment 9:09pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

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