

THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 01 March 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 5:45pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

Attendance vote (via GPSS website) was initiated.

2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:45pm

A.J. Balatico presented the agenda.

Davon Thomas motioned to approve the agenda. Kaley Wypyzinski seconded. No objections. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Action] Approval of Minutes 5:46pm

A.J. Balatico presented the February 15th, 2023 minutes.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the minutes. Fariha Khalil seconded. No objections. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:47pm

Marty Varela, on behalf of the GPSS, gave the land acknowledgement. She included resources for action involving tribal lands and indigenous awareness.

5. [Information] Announcements 5:48pm

Peter Correa (Mechanical Engineering), announced the Husky Packet Guide issued by Denzil Suite, which contains a survey regarding the UW Waterfront and shellhouse renovations.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) said that the ad hoc committee on GPSS Senator recognition was duly constituted in the previous Executive Committee meeting. He also said that the committee has had its first meeting and that subsequent meetings will be on Fridays from 2pm-3pm. He said that interested Senators may join.

Kaley Wypyzinski (Nursing) said that the STF Committee has opened up the proposals window. Additional information can be found on the UW STF website.

Matthew Moran presented information on the LGBTQIA+ mural project. He said that those interested, or who have any questions, should send him an email at gpssdiversity@uw.edu.

Davon Thomas said that GPSS will be hosting a cooking demo with Trace MacRae, UW HFS Campus Executive Chef. The event will be held on March 9th.

A.J. Balatico said that the Student Health Advocacy Resolution Panel (SHARP) has several resolution drafts that will be entertained next quarter. He also said that UW Tent City 3 will be moving in late March. He added that the UW School of Drama is currently presenting the Oresteia in the playhouse, ending March 5th. The SEA MAR scholarships are currently open at seamar.org.

6. [Information] Legislative Check-In 5:56pm

Joel Anderson presented a legislative update from Olympia. He said that a number of proposed bills that GPSS has supported have not cleared the legislative fiscal cut-off. He provided updates into continued proposals supported by GPSS, including the expansion of the Washington College Grant and the Basic Needs bill. He said that more testimony will continue in mid-March.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked why the Native American scholarship proposal did not pass.

Joel Anderson responded that the bill proposal did not receive a hearing, primarily due to fiscal limitations.

7. [Action] FY 24 Budget Request Proposal 6:04pm

Van Mai presented the fiscal year 2024 budget proposal. She provided a breakdown of the budget increases between fiscal years 2023 and 2024. She said that the majority of GPSS funding comes from the Student Activities Fee (SAF).

A.J. Balatico provided context into specific budget line items and the current SAF funding structure. He asked Van Mai how the three (3) percent salary increase was calculated.

Van Mai responded that she used historical salary data from GPSS. She added that tuition-based payment is not impacted.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked for more information into officer salaries being based on program tuition.

A.J. Balatico responded that while officers may conduct the same work, differing program tuition affects salary values.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked what the general fund was being impacted for and if it was specifically for officer salaries.

A.J. Balatico responded that the general fund could be used to fulfill any GPSS budget requirements.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked what would happen if the general fund was depleted.

A.J. Balatico responded that GPSS would have to liquidate the endowment fund and potentially cut GPSS operations.

Rene Singleton said that the chance of the general fund becoming depleted was low.

Jack Flesher added that capital taken from the general fund has been accounted for and forecasted within the budget.

A.J. Balatico said that the staff increases from the passed fiscal year 2023 budget came from the general fund.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) asked if the GPSS recognition allocation for Senators was exclusively for the Committee chairs or if it was for all Committee members.

A.J. Balatico responded that this has yet to be decided.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked if the general fund could also be used for the GPSS Senator recognition allocation.

A.J. Balatico responded that the general fund can probably only support it for one (1) year.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked, historically, what the general fund looked like when it was most depleted.

A.J. Balatico responded that he could not recall an exact amount, but that there was always carry over.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) asked when the Executive Committee would discuss how Senator recognition would be disbursed.

A.J. Balatico responded that the Executive Committee needs to define guidelines for disbursements.

Chianraekpere Ike (School of Law) asked if this issue can be placed on the next Senate meeting agenda.

A.J. Balatico asked if she could send this issue to him in writing via email. He also said that the issue could be entertained as a motion at the present Senate meeting.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) motioned to add a 20-minute agenda item for the April 5th Senate meeting agenda pertaining to Senator recognition disbursement for committee service. Marty Varela seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to approve the GPSS fiscal year 2024 budget request. Amanda Chin seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The motion passed with 35 votes in the affirmative, three (3) abstentions, and zero (0) in the negative.

8. [Action] Non-Budgeted Expenditure Request 6:35pm

Davon Thomas and Amanda Chin presented the non-budgeted expenditure request for a potential GPSS comedy event. He said that GPSS event programming was requesting \$10,000 from the general fund. He said that he has received approval from the GPSS Executive Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee. He added that the purpose of the event was laughter, in line with Article 2A of the GPSS Constitution.

Amanda Chin (Library and Information Science) presented the event's tentative logistics. She said that the event would involve a national comedian that will range from \$12,000-\$20,000. She also said that the event is planned to occur on April 20th, 2023 from 7-10pm.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked how much would be made on ticket sales.

Davon Thomas responded that this would depend on profit disbursement with other parties after the event.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) asked if there was a marketing plan in place to advertise to students.

Davon Thomas responded that a marketing plan was underway.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the non-budget expenditure request as presented. Ella Spurlock seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The motion passed with 30 votes in the affirmative, five (5) abstentions, and zero (0) in the negative.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked if GPSS had an entertainment and programming budget.

A.J. Balatico responded that the GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs does have a programming budget, however this budget request was too large for a line item.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked if this specific expenditure ran on the higher end of programming proposals.

A.J. Balatico responded that the expenditure was in-line with previous GPSS events.

9. [Action] Bylaw Revisions 6:49pm

A.J. Balatico said that in order for the proposed Elections Guide to be passed, the proposed bylaw revisions were required.

Jack Flesher added that in order for the bylaw revisions to be made, certain current bylaws would have to be suspended for this purpose.

Marty Varela said that there was a robust discussion between the GPSS Judicial Committee and the Elections Committee regarding the bylaw revisions.

Hannah Griggs (School of Medicine) said that there was a majority vote approving the bylaw revisions in the GPSS Judicial Committee.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) voiced her reservations about the proposed bylaw revisions, as a Judicial Committee dissenting vote.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) represented the GPSS Elections Committee and presented a document outlining the proposed bylaw revisions. The revisions covered items including, but not limited to, running from the floor, voting modality, back-up voting mechanisms, paper ballots, and run-off elections.

Jack Flesher voiced concern about having both the deadline for candidacy and the deadline to submit materials be 72 hours prior to the election date.

Kaley Wypyszynski (Nursing) responded that the latter deadline could be amended to 48 hours. She provided the Elections Committee's reasons for proposing such bylaw revisions.

A.J. Balatico asked if zoom availability was a part of the Elections Guide.

Kaley Wypyszynski (Nursing) responded in the affirmative.

Jack Flesher asked what mechanism was in place to break ties between two (2) candidates.

Rene Singleton responded that in Washington State elections, a coin flip or drawing straws was standard and in line with state law.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) said that an equity entity, like the D-Center, Q-Center, or the GPSS Vice President of DEI could deliberate on breaking a tie.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) asked who would execute the coin flip.

A.J. Balatico responded that a Student Activities Office (SAO) official would probably break the tie.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) provided a Judicial Committee minority report regarding the bylaw revisions. She said that she was not comfortable with continually suspending the bylaws. She also added that the full Senate has not yet seen the Elections Guide proposal, nor has the full Senate had enough time to review the proposed changes. She also said that she was advocating for caution and careful consideration regarding changes that affect the GPSS bylaws.

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

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) clarified that the GPSS Judicial Committee voted by email to submit the bylaw revisions to the full Senate. She said that she was unsure what the Committee was voting on. She also said that she had specific reservations about removing the option to run from the Senate floor and the usage of HuskyLink.

A.J. Balatico said that concerns could be addressed after the bylaw revisions, as the action is solely to implement the proposed Elections Guide.

Chianaraekpere Ike (School of Law) motioned to extend time by 20 minutes. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) said that the GPSS Elections Committee had a deep discussion and emphasized that nominations from the floor were not being removed, but rather, nominations from the floor could only be done in the event that a position was not being sought.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) said that providing candidate notice to the full Senate allowed for transparency, but that omitting details regarding medical issues could be accepted as a friendly amendment.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) asked that Rene Singleton's comment, regarding bylaw revision effects on the spring quarter, be addressed.

Kaley Wypyszynski (Nursing) responded that the revisions accommodated a stable elections timeline, including a potential special run-off election.

Davon Thomas said that he agreed with the revision allowing for running from the floor for positions with no candidates. He said that he did not understand the logic for accepting ballots for 24 hours. He said that he would agree with limiting voting to the night of.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked if the votes were live.

Kaley Wypyszynski (Nursing) responded that the votes were not live because they were ranked. She added that the votes were made anonymous in counting.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked if a person was running from the floor, were they elected directly.

Jack Flesher responded that a vote would still be held. He also provided clarification into parliamentary procedure and bylaws surrounding potential Elections Guide approval.

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

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) said that the GPSS Elections Committee was open to friendly amendments to the proposed bylaw revisions.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) asked what would happen if this item was tabled until the next Senate meeting.

A.J. Balatico responded that GPSS would have to designate what Elections Guide would be sent out to the student body. He said that the Elections Committee could delineate specific revisions to be passed by the full Senate.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) motioned to table the item until after the 10-minute recess. Fariha Khalil seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked if the full Senate needed to know what the new bylaw revisions were before suspending the bylaws.

Jack Flesher provided clarification into the specific bylaws being suspended for the purpose of voting on this item.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) motioned to suspend Article XII, Section A, Clauses 2-4 of the GPSS bylaws. Alec Solemslie seconded. Devon Woodley objected, stating that he would like the item tabled for a later Senate meeting. The motion moved to a vote regarding potentially voting on suspending the bylaws.

The vote passed with 26 in the affirmative, one (1) abstention, and three (3) in the negative.

The motion to suspend Article XII, Section A, Clauses 2-4 of the GPSS bylaws moved to a vote.

The motion passed with 20 votes in the affirmative, two (2) abstentions, and two (2) in the negative.

Davon Thomas asked if all items after this item could be tabled until the next Senate meeting.

A.J. Balatico responded that a Senator would just have to motion to adjourn. He added that the Senate would have to figure out when those items would be addressed.

Kaley Wypyszinski (Nursing) provided clarification into which bylaws are being proposed. This included bylaws which involved the notification of absence and the implementation of digital voting.

Davon Thomas motioned to approve the proposed bylaw revisions. Fariha Khalil seconded. Chianaraekpere Ike objected, stating that the revisions were not specific as to what time the voting would start. The motion moved to a vote regarding potentially voting on approving the proposed bylaw revisions.

A.J. Balatico responded that these objections could be addressed by the Elections Guide.

Rene Singleton said that objections did not have to be debated prior to a vote.

The vote passed with 18 votes in the affirmative, two (2) abstentions, and one (1) in the negative.

The motion to approve the proposed bylaw revisions moved to a vote.

The motion passed with 16 votes in the affirmative, one (1) abstention, and two (2) in the negative.

10.[Action] Elections Guide Proposal 8:56pm

A.J. Balatico said that March 29th, 2023 will be the deadline for friendly amendments to the Elections Guide.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) motioned to table this item until April 5th, 2023, with a friendly amendments deadline of March 29th, 2023. Charles Bugre seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

11.[Information] Senator of the Month 9:03pm

Jack Flesher read a proclamation recognizing Senator Kaley Wypyszynski from the School of Nursing as the February GPSS Senator of the Month.

12.[Action] Discussion Regarding the GPSS Executive Memo

Item was tabled until April 5th, 2023 Senate Meeting.

13.[Action] Adjournment 9:06pm

Davon Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting. Charles Bugre seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

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

