

THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

Meeting of 05 April 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 5:34pm

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

Attendance vote (via GPSS website) was initiated.

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

A.J. Balatico presented the agenda.

Jack Flesher discussed specific agenda items and the expected meeting duration.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) motioned to amend the time of agenda item 12 from 30 minutes to five (5) minutes. Raj Dewangan seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography) motioned to approve the agenda. Van Mai seconded. No objections. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

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

A.J. Balatico presented the March 1st, 2023 minutes.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the minutes. Jon Choi seconded. No objections. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:41pm

Jack Flesher, on behalf of the GPSS, gave the land acknowledgement. He included resources for action involving tribal lands and indigenous awareness.

5. [Information] Announcements 5:43pm

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) said that ISHPC meets every week on Mondays. She asked international students to reach out with any questions regarding mental health access.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) said that the STF advisory board will be opening student staff positions. She said that those interested should monitor Handshake.

A.J. Balatico said that there was a Dennis Lang Award in Disability Studies scholarship open to applications. He also said that the 2023 Three-Minute Thesis Competition occurred last Wednesday. He added that the SEA MAR Scholarships are open for applications until April 30, 2023. He announced that the STF Proposal Deadline for the Winter cycle is April 7, 2023. He said that the ASUW Elections will occur from April 17 at 12:01am until April 19, 2023 at 11:45pm. He also said that Student Regent applications will be accepted until April 14, 2023 by midnight. He apprised the Senate that those interested can contact the current student regent at studreg@uw.edu. He informed the Senate that Husky Giving Day is April 6, 2023.

6. [Action] Elections Guide Proposal 5:52pm

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) presented the proposed 2022-2023 GPSS Elections Guide. She apprised the Senate that the proposed GPSS Election Day was May 17, 2023. She elaborated on proposed Elections Guide changes proffered by Senators. She said that the GPSS Elections Committee discussed with GPSS faculty advisors and decided that an absentee ballot will be available for one (1) hour. She also said campaign functions may begin on April 18, 2023. She added that running from the floor is permissible and that the names of candidates running from the floor will be presented at the election meeting and available for votes.

Jon Choi (Business) asked about the voter registration process with the GPSS Vice President of Administration.

Davon Thomas recommended that the ASUW meeting requirement for GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs be removed.

A.J. Balatico recommended that the affirmation statement regarding graduate and professional enrollment be amended to be inclusive of potential candidates who are currently undergraduate students or not currently enrolled.

Jack Flesher motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. Kaley Wypyzynski seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Kaustubh Yadav (Human Centered Design & Engineering) asked how removing resumes improved equity.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) responded that there have been studies regarding hiring/resume bias. She said that some students may receive resume services or substantive assistance while creating their resume.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) said that some students may be disadvantaged from receiving resume assistance and recommended that the resume requirement for Officer elections be removed altogether.

Evans Kaame (Public Policy) said that graduate and professional students should have submitted a resume previously for other functions.

Jon Choi (Business) added that resumes provide an illustration of an individual's learned experience.

Rene Singleton said that historically, GPSS Officers have come from several different academic programs, and that the resume is only one component of an individual's candidacy.

A vote on whether a resume requirement should be included, in all respects, within the GPSS Elections Guide was initiated.

The vote passed, with 22 votes in the affirmative, 7 abstentions, 13 in the negative.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) said that resumes will be optional in the Elections Guide.

Jack Flesher motioned to extend time by 15 minutes. Kaley Wypyzynski seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) elaborated on the current attendance requirement for candidates. She recommended that the requirement be reduced to one (1) meeting.

Jack Flesher said that removing the attendance requirement may not yield the best GPSS Officers.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) said that a statement could be added to the Elections Guide, allowing for potential candidates to contact the GPSS Elections Committee if they are unable to attend three (3) GPSS meetings.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) motioned to conduct a strawpoll to determine the Senate's position on requiring three (3) GPSS meetings to be attended or (1) one. Pratima K.C. seconded. No objections, a strawpoll was conducted.

The results of the strawpoll were 31 in the affirmative, three (3) abstentions, and (4) in the negative.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) asked the Senate if they would rather have the GPSS Election be held on May 3, 2023 or May 17, 2023.

A.J. Balatico said that current and future GPSS business should be considered when determining the GPSS Election Day.

Van Mai said that she preferred that the exception statement, vis-a-vis meeting requirements, not be included in the Elections Guide.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if there were enough GPSS meetings for a candidate to attend prior to the GPSS Election Day.

Grace Crowley (Learning Sciences and Human Development) motioned to vote on whether the GPSS Elections should be held on May 3, 2023 or May 17, 2023. Jon Choi seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

For the purposes of this vote, those voting in the affirmative are in favor of designating May 3, 2023 as the GPSS Election Day. The vote passed, with 30 votes in the affirmative, six (6) abstentions, and two (2) in the negative.

Jack Flesher motioned to approve the 2022-2023 GPSS Elections Guide. Fariha Khalil seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) asked if running from the floor on the day of the Election was still an option.

Kaley Wypyzynski (Nursing) responded in the affirmative.

The vote passed with 29 votes in the affirmative, zero (0) abstentions, and zero (0) in the negative.

7. [Information] Legislative Check-In 7:06pm

Joel Anderson provided a legislative update from Olympia. He said that a few GPSS-supported bills have passed both chambers of the state legislature. He said that the bill creating the Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Pilot Program passed the House. He also said that a bill passed the Senate closing a loophole for reporting sexual harassment and assault allegations against faculty, allowing universities to be aware of such findings when hiring. He said a budget proviso was passed providing the University of Washington \$225,000 in the upcoming academic year, and the next academic year, for grants aimed at graduate students in higher cost public service programs. He said that the Basic Needs Act was amended to remove full-time benefits navigators and every other year reporting on basic needs security. He also said that he was planning a legislative review/wrap-up. He asked that Senators review the external affairs quarterly officer update.

8. [Action] SHARP Committee Sharps Disposal Resolution (Second Reading)
7:11pm

Nathan Mitchell (ASUW) presented a second reading of the Sharps Disposal Joint Resolution. He read out additions made by GPSS Senators.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) motioned to approve the resolution. Kaustubh Yadav seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The vote passed with 29 votes in the affirmative, zero (0) abstentions, and zero (0) in the negative.

9. [Information] Wellness Day Resolution (First Reading) 7:18pm

Aliyah Cleveland (ASUW), an ASUW Senator, presented a first reading of the Wellness Day resolution.

A.J. Balatico said that a similar resolution has passed ASUW and that a similar resolution was presented to the UW Faculty Senate.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) provided a friendly amendment, requiring Health Science programs to acknowledge that they are not implementing a wellness day.

Jack Flesher asked if other days were looked at for a designated wellness day.

Aliyah Cleveland (ASUW) responded that this matter could be discussed.

10. [Information] Senator of the Month for March 2023 7:37pm

Jack Flesher motioned to table the item until a later date. Kaustubh Yadav seconded. No objections, the motion passed.

11. [Action] Discussion Regarding Recognition for Elections and Judicial Committees 7:39pm

Charles Bugre (Information Science) discussed the proposed stipend for Elections and Judicial Committee Chairs.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) provided a presentation on a proposed stipend for Elections and Judicial Committee Chairs. She said that executive plan, vis-a-vis payment to committee chairs, poses equity issues. She proposed a plan that requires GPSS to encourage more people for committee work.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) asked when this would be implemented.

A.J. Balatico responded that this would apply to next year's GPSS budget.

Jack Flesher elaborated on GPSS capacity, program representation, and possible fund distribution amongst all committee members.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) motioned to prevent the Executive from paying only chairs of Election and Judicial Committees, and to refer the matter to the Recognition and Recruitment Committee. Charles Bugre seconded. Davon Thomas objected. The motion moved to a debate.

Davon Thomas objected to the motion, stating that the line item for recognition and recruitment was already in the budget request.

A.J. Balatico clarified that the line item was vague and did not specify who would receive recognition.

Evans Kaame (Public Policy) asked if the funds appropriated for the aforementioned line item was reasonable.

A.J. Balatico responded that the exact amount of \$450 was amendable.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) added that the appropriation amount was commensurate with the Executive Senator appropriation.

Fariha Khalil (CIRCLE) asked if recognition was only for the Elections and Judicial Committees, or if all GPSS Committees were being considered.

A.J. Balatico responded that this issue was up for discussion.

Devon Woodley said that he would like to see Executive Senator funding delegated to certain committees on a per quarter basis.

Davon Thomas offered a friendly amendment, striking the first clause of the motion.

Chianaraekpere Ike (Law) accepted the friendly amendment. She amended the motion to refer the matter to the GPSS Motivation and Recognition Committee.

The objection was rescinded. No further objections, the motion passed by consensus.

12.[Action] Discussion Regarding the GPSS Executive Memo 8:17pm

Jack Flesher presented the Memorandum Concerning GPSS Appointments to UW Committees and Boards.

A.J. Balatico apprised the Senate that all GPSS emails can be subject to public records requests. He said that the original memorandum involving the named student is still requestable, however their name has been redacted.

13.[Information] Working Groups

Item was expedited by adjournment.

14.[Action] Adjournment 8:33pm

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

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