

## GPSS President's Winter 2023 Officer Report

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Shinzou wo sasageyo!

Dedicate your hearts!

### OVERVIEW

This officer report is a snapshot summary of Winter 2023 activity submitted to the Senate on Monday, April 3, 2023.

### Senate Recap

The Senate met four times: **1/18**, **2/1**, **2/15**, and **3/1**.

Our Senators of the Month include:

January - **Nathan Mitchell (Anthropology student, ASUW Senator)**

February - **Kaley Wypyszynski (DNP-Family Nurse Practitioner student, Elections Chair, Student Technology Fee (STF) and Universal Access Committee (UAC) GPSS appointee)**

Many **Resolution** ideas have been expressed, yet it was challenging to schedule their first readings in this quarter. Any graduate student may draft a Resolution, but we require a sponsorship from a member of our Senate; many primary authors have been identified with topics ranging from student housing and variable wage rates to health services and UW's responsibility to communities.

We passed the **SAF Request** of \$30,000 and preliminary budget for FY24 in Senate, alongside a non-budgeted expenditure request on behalf of the VP of Internal Affairs for a comedian event for \$10,000. The reason we used the non-budgeted expenditure request was because there are no single line items within our operational budget for such an event. Rather than using our programming budget (which contains discretionary funds unlike SAF funds which use student fees), the amount was approved by our Senate.

**Changes:** The **ASUW Senate** went through several leadership changes. Consequently, GPSS representatives have shifted how they engage ASUW students,

primarily in Resolution co-writing. Although GPSS can be a rate-limiting step due to our meeting schedule, the timing for Joint Resolutions is carefully considered. Our work with the **Faculty Senate** should also be considered, especially since **UW Administration** often gives feedback about implementation and timelines.

**Challenges:** The tempo of the last two Senate meetings have changed how business was conducted. Timing is a huge concern, especially as members of our Senate have expressed that their preparation had been unexpectedly challenged and that meetings were much longer than what was scheduled. **Working Groups** did not meet regularly, despite the Senate meeting times being convenient. The Working Groups are convenient since Senators attend our meetings, but they do not replace the decision-making work of committees.

We did not pass the **Election Guide** in Winter Quarter, although we passed **Bylaws** changes that allow online voting. There is a massive backlog of minor Bylaws changes, and in keeping with UW policy, we ought to consider “gender neutralizing” our governing documents a la the **Faculty Code**. Additionally, the **Graduate School** has adjusted its numbered memos in favor of a policy index. We may consider “patch notes” or “change logs” in addition to new copies of Bylaws as written.

## Executive Committee Recap

We had two Executive sessions this quarter. The first was at the request of Executive Senators to discuss Officer responsibilities. The second was at a meeting following a public discussion of a memo concerning a graduate student outside of GPSS. This discussion carried over into the third Senate meeting. Extensive consultation with advisors and UW offices have addressed the procedural steps required, but a more robust discussion with GPSS Senators ought to be mediated.

In addition to how UW students represent the student governments on campus, we must address how they represent the student governments in other places, including online and in Olympia. The line is clear when students claim to represent a subset of students on campus or use an official designation of one of the student governments when they do not; to external parties, these distinctions cannot be verified in real time and are often misleading. Clarification was requested by many parties this quarter, including GPSS stakeholders and representatives of **UW faculty and administration**, the **Washington Student Association (WSA)**, and **WA legislative offices**.

## Student Boards and Committees

### SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FEE (SAF)

The 18 SAF-funded units met as panels to discuss their trajectories and activities. Voting for FY24 budgets will occur in April and May. GPSS's budget request meeting is set for **Friday, April 14**.

### STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE (STF)

The STF Committee received over 45 applications for requests totaling above \$3M, but only **about half were funded**. It should be noted that there was not a Fall proposal cycle. The discussion of the STF rate will be brought to GPSS on **Wednesday, April 19**.

### U-PASS ADVISORY BOARD

Due to staffing changes, this Advisory Board struggled to meet quorum. However, at the last meeting of the quarter, **Anne Eskridge**, the Director of Transportation Services, shared important summary information for the committee to make recommendations for the FY24 rate.

### TRI-CAMPUS ADVISORY BOARD FOR STUDENTS (TABS)

**Janis Shin, TABS Chair**, has been reappointed for the next year! We are considering restructuring TABS by adopting the meeting schedule of the previous **Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS)** as well as a format that allows Bothell and Tacoma students to meet with their Chancellors. UW's institutional structure and budgetary constraints are a challenge to address within the context of elected student government terms.

### WASHINGTON STUDENT ASSOCIATION (WSA)

Joel Anderson has been working away in Olympia! The session ends on **April 23, 2023**, and UW's institutional outlook is hopeful. Budgets must be reconciled between the House and Senate. We are waiting for final versions of bills to be signed before firming up institutional responses.

### STUDENT ADVOCATES FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION (SAGE)

SAGE continued work on its three white papers on 1) higher education funding, 2) research funding, and 3) international student issues.

GPSS representatives will meet in D.C. from **April 16 to April 18** and include:

**A.J. Balatico** – GPSS President

**Kaus Yadav** – GPSS and SAGE Communications Director

**Janis Shin** – TABS Chair

**Ella Spurlock** – GPSS Executive Senator and Science and Policy Committee Chair

## STUDENT REGENT SELECTION COMMITTEE

The application for Student Regent has been released to all graduate students.

## University Boards and Committees

### BOARD OF REGENTS

The January meeting of the Board of Regents featured presentations related to **Intercollegiate Athletics**, admissions and enrollment, and the budget outlook of units across campus, including profiles of various **UW Medicine** entities.

Our March meeting was hosted at the **Bothell** campus. The main presentation highlighted the community-engaged scholarship of **Melanie Malone, assistant professor of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at UW Bothell**. **Dean Mia Tuan from the College of Education** highlighted the proposal for the **Rainier Valley Early Learning Campus**. Additionally, **President Ana Mari Cauce** had casual conversations with student leaders over lunch about the implications of Chat GPT.

### FACULTY SENATE

**Louisa Mackenzie, associate professor of French**, was elected as Vice Chair to the Faculty Senate for the next Academic Year. **Vice Provost of Academic Personnel Fred Nafhuko** was introduced to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate also discussed the use of **Diversity Statements** in hiring and promotion and tenure.

### FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE

In addition to moderating the content of meetings for the full Faculty Senate, the Senate Executive Committee reviewed the legal implications for **gender neutralizing the Faculty Code** as well as establishing a title of **Professor of Clinical Practice**. There is a desire to host meetings at the UW Bothell and Tacoma campuses.

## SENATE COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETING (SCPB)

In addition to considering **Restructuring, Consolidation, and Elimination Procedures (RCEP)**, we looked at risk profiles, fees, and our relationship and governance between the Seattle, Bothell, and Tacoma campuses. The **Museology** graduate program has been recommended to move from the **Graduate School** to the **Information School** due to academic and resource alignment and faculty consensus. **Dermatology** has been recommended to departmentalize within the **School of Medicine** due to specialization, size, professional certifications, and faculty consensus; implications for clinical revenues have been addressed.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE STAFF (GSES)

These meetings have occurred during the Board of Regents meetings, but I have met with **Dean Joy Williamson-Lott** for check-ins.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL COUNCIL

We moved all the meetings online because the Hans Rosling room was not ideal for hybrid setups. We had program reviews for **Biochemistry, Institute of Public Health Genetics, UW Bothell School of Educational Studies, and Astronomy**. We had an overview of **Continuum College's self-sustaining service model**.

## UNIVERSITY BOOK STORE

The University Book Store is preparing for **graduation season**.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In addition to **UW Impact**, the Alumni Association manages **Huskies@Work**.

## PROVOST SEARCH

The search is going well. – **Ed Taylor** and **Mary Lidstrom**, co-chairs.

## FUTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING – ACCESS AND QUALITY

These working groups will continue to meet in the Spring in order to gather **stakeholder feedback and bottom-up buy-in** from instructors across the UW. Different frameworks and rank-ordering have been used to focus priorities to be adopted by the **incoming provost**.

## TENT CITY 3 ADVISORY

Tent City 3 had a successful move from the **E21 parking lot** to the **University Unitarian Church**. Graduate students are reviewing survey data and programs are assessing their capacity to address TC3 needs.

## GPSS Committees

**This is a brief pulse-check for activity in our GPSS committees. See the Vice President Officer Reports for more details.**

### FINANCE AND BUDGET

They meet on Fridays and approve Special and Departmental Allocations.

### TRAVEL GRANTS

Students are still going to conferences! We have high utilization rates.

### LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

La resistance lives on.

### ARTS COUNCIL

Saving energy for the finale!

### SCIENCE AND POLICY

Soft reset, but committed to help undergraduate research thrive.

### DIVERSITY

Diversity funds distributed! Graduation plans! Murals!

### JUDICIAL AND ELECTIONS

Busy. Check the Senate discussions (I'm not on these committees).

## A.J.'s Reflection

I have a lot to smile about. The list of support from last quarter is still relevant.

I want to shout out advisors, faculty, and leaders including Rene Singleton, Bill Mahoney, Carrie Moore, Lincoln Johnson, Denzil Suite, Gautham Reddy, Cindy Dougherty, Sally Clark, Chris Laws, Louise Little, Trevor Peterson, Kris Lambright, Tyler Lange, Kima Cargill, Joy Williamson-Lott, Sarah Norris Hall, Provost Mark Richards, and President Ana Mari Cauce for a memorable Winter quarter. I would also like to personally thank colleagues, especially Janis Shin, Kaylin Ellioff, Jacob Hansen, Nathan Mitchell, Calen Garrett, Tim Billing, Isabeau Rosen, Jai'Shon Berry, Nancy Canales-Montiel, Elizabeth Lee, Tamara Allard, and Meg Donahue.

## Lagniappe\*

\*(a little extra, I prefer this over “miscellaneous”)

-UW is uniquely positioned to have the greatest impact on our state and region. All its activities are very exciting, and I’m very tempted to stick around for a bit.

-You don’t go to the UW. You are the UW.

-You were the outline of everything you would become.

-The one slide I look forward to the most at any dissertation defense is the non-academic “This was my life and time during grad school” slide. It’s always so real.

-I’ve written my graduation speech. Something about 1989.

### **Still relevant:**

-I’m always flattered whenever I’m asked to be a reference or letter writer.

-If invited, I will also go to any general exam or dissertation defense.

-I’m also happy to say that several of my former students and mentees will be headed to graduate and professional schools soon, including UW!