



GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE

GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs Quarterly Report Winter 2023 (Written 3/29/2023 by Davon Thomas)

Programming

- **Winter Quarter Events:** Over the winter quarter, we were able to have in-person and passive events for graduate students. First, we provided discounted tickets to men's and women's basketball games. This was a result of our continued partnership with UW Athletics. Second, we provided tickets for a limited number of students to attend Dulce Sloan at the Laugh Comedy Club in the U District. Third, we hosted a valentines day event with Campus Dawgs which is a volunteer organization that brings dogs to campus. We had dogs and little goodie bags to give out. This event was to be midterms pick me up for graduate students. We had a turnout of 70+ students which is a large turnout for our graduate students. Finally, we hosted a Cooking Demo with Housing and Food Services Headchef, Tracey MacRae. She provided a learning experience, and a delicious meal, and demonstrated the community you can create with food. We have requested for her to host one more cooking demo during the spring quarter so more Senators can attend. Finally, we got our Comedy Night budget approved by the executive committee, finance & budget, and the Senate. Excited about what's next.
- **Programming Reflection:** It is extremely important to plan and advertise ahead of time. Extremely grateful for GPSS Senators and Directors who passed on our flyers and info to their friends and programs. We had fewer events in winter due to weather and because of some significant spring quarter events that required early planning.

Personnel

- **Hiring:** As the Chief Human Resources Officer of GPSS, I enforce the GPSS Personnel Policy. Per our policy, I am required to facilitate the employee evaluation during the winter quarter. I created a form for staff to evaluate themselves and for officers to evaluate the employees they supervise. The evaluation is non-punitive, but merely a check-in for GPSS leadership to support their staff. The results will be confidential, only to me, but I will write a personnel report to summarize the data for the executive committee. These evaluations will also inform the 1:1s I will have with employees during the spring quarter. The 1:1s will allow me to personally check in with employees about their experiences this past year and it will inform my successor and next year's execs on changes to staffing.
- **Personnel Reflection:** GPSS and my eventual successor will have to figure out if they want to hire staff during August/September or June/July. I was informed that before Covid, GPSS conducted the hiring process earlier in the summer. An employee left at the end of the winter quarter and GPSS execs are discussing the restructuring of the office. As the year progresses, I'll report back.

Committees in



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- **ASUW Board of Directors:** I have the immense privilege of serving on the ASUW Board of Directors, the elected undergraduate student government. As a voting member, I can participate in issues that impact undergraduates and graduates and play an advisory role as a former undergraduate Student Body President.
- **GPSS Science & Policy Committee:** S&P Committee was able to hone in on their “clusters” for the remainder of the year, but there were a few hiccups on the way. I had reached out to some science lobbyists, but only one had responded. I met with her and she will meet with us this quarter. Furthermore, due to extended Senate meetings, our working groups weren’t always able to meet which stifled involvement. We told our committee members that if they couldn’t meet during our committee times, they could meet during Senate working groups. It’s important for senate meetings to keep the number of extensions to absolutely necessary. Nonetheless, Ella and I are still dedicated to finding ways to get folks involved in the spring quarter.
- **GPSS Executive Committee:** As a GPSS officer, I serve on our executive committee which meets on the off weeks of GPSS meetings. We have discussed officer transparency, elections, bylaw changes, budgets, supporting our internal committees, and much more.