

Executive Committee of The Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 27 September 2023 at 5:30pm

In-person and remotely via Zoom

The following GPSS members and staff attended the meeting:

A.J. Balatico, GPSS President

Amanda Chin, GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs

Nick Juno, GPSS Vice President of External Affairs

Matthew Moran, GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion

Jack Flesher, GPSS Vice President of Administration

Jon Choi, 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

Francisco Dojenia, ASUW Director of Internal Policy

Rene Singleton, SAO Advisor

Carrie Moore, HUB Executive Director

Bill Mahoney, Graduate School Advisor

Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Director

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:30pm

A.J. Balatico (GPSS President) called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. [Action] Approval of Agenda 5:30pm

Raj Dewangan (Real Estate) moved to approve the agenda. **Devon Woodley (Nursing)** seconded. No objections, the motion to approve the agenda passed.

3. [Action] Executive Session 5:32 pm

A.J. Balatico announced the beginning of the executive session at 5:32pm.

4. [Action] Executive Session Extension 6:33pm

A.J. Balatico asked for an appropriate amount of time for extension of Executive Session.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) moved to extend the executive session by 30 minutes. **Devon Woodley (Nursing)** seconded. No objections, the motion to extend the executive session passed.

5. [Action] Executive Session Extension 7:06pm

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) moved to extend the executive session by 5 minutes. **Charles Burge (Information Science)** seconded. No objections, the motion to extend the executive session passed.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) motioned to place an employee on probation for one month with a midpoint check-in and final check-in to check on status of deliverables. **Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography)** seconded. No objections, the motion moved to a vote.

The vote passed; 11 in the affirmative, zero (0) in the negative two (2) abstentions.

6. [Information] ASUW Summer Update 7:14pm

Francisco Dojenia (ASUW Director of Internal Policy) said that ASUW completed board and ASUW orientation this week. He said the first ASUW board meeting is Thursday, September 28 at 5:30 pm in HUB 303.

7. [Information] GPSS Staff Hiring Update 7:15pm

Amanda Chin (GPSS VP of Internal Affairs) said that GPSS reviewed collectively 325 redacted applications holistically, fairly, and equally. GPSS hired 7 staff. She said that 2 of the positions, Equity and Inclusion and Legislative Organizing Director, have been re-opened. She said that the positions will close Friday, September 30.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) asked why the equity and inclusion and legislative organizing positions were re-opened.

Matthew Moran (GPSS VP of Equity and Inclusion) responded that GPSS had selected 2 people, but the first applicant never responded to accept, and the second applicant declined.

Nick Juno (GPSS VP of External Affairs) said there were four applicants slated for interviews for Legislative Organizing Director, but 1 did not respond, 2 dropped out before the interview happened, and 1 was not right for the position.

Matthew Moran inquired about the composition of the staff.

Amanda Chin said that lots of women were hired on the staff. She said that GPSS was not considering gender in the hiring process, and that all the identifying information on the applications was redacted.

Jack Flesher (GPSS VP of Administration) mentioned that specific feedback from last year was that there was a lack of representation of women.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) wanted to add to the record, “girl boss.”

Charles Burge (Information Science) asked if the application process took place naturally.

Amanda Chin responded that she sent the hiring information to the D Center, the Q Center, the Women's Center, and the Grad Advisor list to acquire a larger applicant pool. She reiterated that GPSS has a really good staff this year.

8. [Information] GPSS Website and Accounts Update 7:18pm

A.J. Balatico said the GPSS website is as optimized as it can be given its Word Press status. Pantheon is the recommendation of both the back-end web developer and UW IT as a service that will be more sustainable in the long term rather than hiring another back-end employee. He said that the software itself would optimize the site speed and that there will have to be a non-budgeted expenditure related to acquiring Pantheon of \$30 per month for the basic plan. He said that the website will be updated with staff bios, staff office hours, and timings of committees. He mentioned that some committees, like those that don't require Senate input, can start meeting as soon as possible.

Jack Flesher said officers should let Noah Nguyen know when officer and staff office hours will be. He said Noah will input the office hours into an Outlook calendar and update the website. He said officers should send office hour information to gpssom@uw.edu.

A.J. Balatico mentioned that the website updates are independent of GPSS's email system. He said GPSS is getting plenty of comments from orientation including a new Senator who is interested in LAB. He said there have also been requests about travel grants.

Bill Mahoney (Graduate School Advisor) said that orientations for first year master's students is a great place to go for Senate recruitment. He also recommended recruiting third- and fourth-year PhD students. He asked if GPSS has a more targeted outreach to senior PhD students and if GPSS would like to collaborate on targeted outreach.

Jack Flesher said he is happy to collaborate with GPAs. He mentioned that GPSS has not done more targeted recruitment toward senior PhD students because it is difficult to encounter senior PhD students in a collective cohort.

Bill Mahoney suggested collaborating on a targeted email to GPA to help beef up the senate roster. He mentioned that he has heard from graduate students that it is difficult to process all the information they receive.

Ella Spurlock (Chemistry) mentioned she has seen that once students move to PhD candidacy in Chemistry, they tend to get very focused on research and do not have the bandwidth to do extra curriculars. She said that many graduate students do these extra curriculars to beef up their resume or apply for fellowships. She said it is important to

keep in mind that senior PhD students may be a little burnt out, but that it is always good to reach out to a new audience.

Bill Mahoney mentioned he is not trying to replace orientation, but to send out an additional email.

A.J. Balatico said he has experience he would like to share.

9. [Information] GPSS Summer Officer Updates 7:23pm

Nick Juno provided an update on his work over the summer. He said LAB's first meeting to discuss Legislative Interest Survey results will take place on October 4 at 1:00pm in GPSS office. He said there were currently 139 responses and that he is in contact with IT to see if the Legislative Interest Survey can be published on MyUW right next to the tuition statement. He said he is confident that LAB can surpass 200. He said LAB will continue meeting every week to compile the legislative agenda before sending it to the Senate by November 15 for a vote. He said the Washington Student Association (WSA) is in the early stages of establishing a graduate caucus as a collaboration between graduate and professional students across Washington. He mentioned WSA is hosting fall summit on Oct 21 and 22 at Central Washington University and that he will be attending to represent GPSS. He said the Washington Student Achievement Council (WASAC) will continue to work with WSA on childcare funding for higher education students. He said there was some progress on getting a grant, but this did not move forward. He said WASAC is interested in getting their own budget secured through the state legislature so WASAC can aid GPSS in doing some research and planning around childcare for graduate students.

Matthew Moran provided an update on his work over the summer. He said he met with Dean Jodey Sanford of the Evan School for partnership on race and equity summit talks. He mentioned that Dean Jodey Sanford reaffirmed her interest in the partnership. Matthew said he met with the ECC for the second time in August.

Jack Flesher asked what ECC stands for.

Matthew Moran clarified that ECC stands for Ethnic Cultural Center. He discussed partnerships for the year with ECC and that Equity and Diversity is collaborating with ECC on a mural project for the year to bring together students for more collaborative events between different cultural groups on campus. He mentioned there is not much intercultural art or collaborative events on campus. He said Equity and Diversity is also interested in working with ECC on a diversity leadership conference in the winter. He mentioned he will also discuss working with ECC on diversity summit in the Spring. He mentioned that Vice President documents were not organized, so he worked on organizing documents to help establish a set template for the Diversity Committee. He said he has connected with ASUW to collaborate on the Diversity Summit, which will consist of a visual and performing arts component and another component showcasing student research and student resources. He said the Diversity Summit will be held in

Lyceum in the HUB and that the Intellectual House has been booked for tabling. He said that his goal for the year is to make engagement with judicial committee more consistent and routine. He said he expected there to be a lot of interest in creating new bylaws, drafting new constitutional amendments, developing policy for personnel accountability, and gender neutralizing the bylaws. He said he mentioned these ideas explicitly in the orientations he attended. He said he is creating an onboarding document that new members of the Diversity Committee can reference when disseminating funds is discussed. He mentioned he was appointed to the Board of Regents DEI Advisory Committee. He mentioned he served on five different hiring committees for staff positions and will attend six orientations. He mentioned that advisors are available to support students.

Amanda Chin expressed excitement about the 2-part performance at the Diversity Summit. She mentioned that she also noticed the lack of something cohesive in cultural performances on campus. She said GPSS is planning to charge to cover the cost of reserving the space. She said the research symposium is booked for April 4. She mentioned GPSS has had to scale back due to the cost of reserving large spaces, but that A.J. recommended getting more money from the provost to host events. She said the comedy show is on 4/20. She said GPSS collaborated with UW athletics this past weekend. She said she is waiting for confirmation for Dubs to show up to the first Senate meeting from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. She said the theme for the cooking demo with Tracy is TBD, but they are considering making the cooking demo a thematic series of vegan and meat options. She recommended that VP of Internal Affairs should start the staff application process earlier and extend application deadlines to the end of August because GPSS did not get enough quality applications. She mentioned she was on the committee for SAO advisor hiring. She said she went to ASUW meetings over the summer and attended ASUW trainings this month. She mentioned she met with Ella for Science and Policy before the quarter started and reserved a room.

Matthew Moran said GPSS wanted to reconfigure partnership with UW athletics to get graduate students more engaged. He said GPSS will partner with the Alumni Association on December 3 at the women's basketball game. He mentioned that women's basketball games are free for students. He said he will be working on partnerships with athletics on engaging with LGBTQ+ populations and women.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) asked about the possibility of making a central calendar for campus events.

A.J. Balatico responded that a central calendar is on the GPSS website but that it needs to be populated with events.

Devon Woodley (Nursing) asked if people can subscribe to the central calendar.

A.J. Balatico responded that he can check on that. He mentioned the calendar is like what Circle has.

Jon Choi (VP of Finance) asked if the central calendar will be solely for fun events or if GPSS will also populate the calendar with public and committee meetings.

A.J. Balatico responded that there would probably be separate calendars.

Jon Choi provided an update on the travel grants program. He said that Finance already secured A.J., Kailyn, Jon, and Linh Pham as graders. He said he will be reviewing the grading rubric but that changes will not be made. He said the grading rubric will be distributed to the graders on October 2. He said Finance and Budget onboarding materials will be completed by Friday.

A.J. Balatico provided an update on his work over the summer. He mentioned that UW switched from Pac 12 to the Big 10. He emphasized that the switch affects more than just sports. He said that the switch to the Big 10 extends the university's research consortia and mission. He said GPSS has been having discussions with student organizations about GPSS's mission of amplifying student voices, building community, and eradicating educational inequity. He discussed how GPSS is reaching students and making an impact. He said that GPSS cannot fully fund all the travel grants. He said GPSS is examining its long-term legislative priorities, including infrastructure related to climate change. He acknowledged that the university has climate change goals to meet by 2050 and that the total cost of the more optimistic 2035 or sooner target is \$800 million. He mentioned that the university would acquire these funds through a combination of bonds and other sources of revenue while maintaining the core mission of the university. He said potential new leadership changes could include UW Medicine CEO and Dean of School of Medicine. He said the Medical Student Association has reached out to GPSS. He posed the question of how GPSS can best support their medical education and social needs. He said we are working with Circle and that Circle's graduate student welcome mixture is on Friday, October 6.

Jack Fleisher mentioned that Circle's graduate student welcome mixture will take place from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in the Intellectual House.

A.J. Balatico said he spoke with the Speaker of the ASUW Senate to revamp GPSS's and ASUW's joint resolution model. He mentioned bringing in ASUW Bothell, ASUW Tacoma, and the Faculty Senate for a more formal message to administration. He mentioned potentially reaching out to the board of Deans and Chancellors on how to use the lingering resources at GPSS's disposal like the Student Tech Fee, valued at \$9 million, and other sources. He said a lot of these decision points will occur at the November Board of Regents Meeting in Tacoma. He mentioned another key partnership would be with the Alumni Association, which is promoting Huskies at Work, and UW Impact. A.J. said our alumni want to get involved in WASAC to promote graduate student issues.

Jack Fleisher provided an update on his work over the summer. He said the Google transition happened in August and was largely successful. He acknowledged that there are probably some things in individual historic GPSS Net IDs that did not get transferred

because GPSS did not have access to those, and it was not the priority. He said that after cross-referencing with Amanda, the GPSS shared drives were transferred and preserved in OneDrive. He said there is now a working GPSS OneDrive. He said GPSS can make documents available to anyone in the UW community, but that it is not possible to share documents with people outside the UW community. He said this will force people to use UW Net IDs to access GPSS documents. He said people in their own committees can use Google for private work, but recommended people use OneDrive. He shared from the Zoom chat that Renee will be back tomorrow after 10:00 am and that she will still be here after the meeting adjourns. He said that he has been liaising with Disability Services. He said he reached out to his committee appointments, Office of the Ombud, Publications, and Records. He said the whole Senate list has received an email requesting confirmation for returning Senators and that there are 11 confirmed Senators, 3 returning, and 8 new. He said he requested that Senators confirm their interest in returning as a Senator this year prior to the Senate confirmation meeting on October 18. He said he also reached out to organizations and units with non-academic seats for Senators. He said he updated the GPA handbook. He said he created a new roster for this year. He said he has been updating the Senate and Executive email list as people respond expressing their interest in being involved.

10. [Information] Grad Program Orientations 7:50pm

Jack Flesher announced that GPSS had presence at 35 orientations. He gave special thanks to Devon, Ella, and Charles for touching base with their programs to make sure they were included. He said GPSS reached 1200 to 1300 new grad students through orientations, which included publicizing the Legislative Issues Survey, new student convocation, Amanda's athletics event, and the Circle Event.

A.J. Balatico said that GPSS reached about 1/6 of entering graduate students.

Jack Flesher said people are generally more interested in direct services like funding and events versus getting involved in committees. He mentioned that gaining interest from graduate students can be difficult when GPSS presents near the end of orientation. He emphasized that GPSS is here to support all graduate students. He said the last orientation is Astronautics and Aeronautics on Friday, September 29.

11. [Action] Adjournment 7:52pm

Jack Flesher motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Charles Burge (Information Science)** seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

*Meeting minutes prepared by **Daniel Cook**, GPSS Senate Director*