

The Executive Committee of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 25, October 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

Nicholas 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

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

The following persons also attended the meeting:

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

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

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

Francisco Dojenia moved to approve the agenda. **Raj Dewangan** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:30pm

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:30pm

Jack Flesher moved to approve the minutes. **Raj Dewangan** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:30pm

4. [Action] GPSS Liaison Appointments 5:31pm

A.J. Balatico said that he, Pamela, and Nicholas are confirmed as members of the Student Technology Fee committee and that there are no changes to the short list from last week.

Jon Choi said that he and A.J. discussed appointments to the Student Technology Fee committee last week. He said according to GPSS bylaws, the president makes the final decision. He said he advised A.J. on this matter.

A.J. Balatico said the motion was to approve himself, Pamela, and Nicholas as members of the Student Technology Fee committee.

Raj Dewangan moved to approve. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:32pm

5. [Information] ASUW Fall Update 5:32 pm

Francisco Dojenia said ASUW and the Board discussed the Big 10 association of schools since UW will be part of the Big 10 next year. He said ASUW and the Board held discussions about a town hall for ASUW. ASUW passed the Senate Cake resolution. He said there is a task force on the VP and personnel positions for internal restructuring. He said he is creating a task force on ASUW constitutional reform. He said he plans on placing a GPSS representative for that committee.

A.J. Balatico asked if the Senate would be located at Camden Hall for the rest of the quarter.

Francisco Dojenia responded yes.

A.J. Balatico asked in which room of Camden Hall would the Senate be located.

Francisco Dojenia clarified that the Senate will be in room 109.

A.J. Balatico asked if ASUW was holding hybrid meetings.

Francisco Dojenia responded yes.

A.J. Balatico said there is an overflow of interested students for Faculty Senate. He said GPSS should be able to participate in everything from SAF, STF, CSF, and UPASS.

6. [Action] GPSS Staff Hiring Update 5:35pm

Amanda Chin said there was a staff training from 12:30pm to 2:30pm via zoom on October 14 because there was a game that day. She said Coop and Jennifer went over SAO information and procedures on spending money. She said GPSS is officially fully

staffed. She mentioned that Adrian and Jess are on board as Legislative Organizing Director and Equity and Inclusion.

Jack Flesher asked if issues with Workday have been figured out for staff positions.

Amanda Chin said she thinks everything is good. She said Jess has an issue because there is a backup on Workday's end, but that will get resolved. She said everyone else is good.

7. [Action] GPSS Officer Updates 5:36pm

Nicholas Juno said he is working on the Legislative Agenda to give to the Legislative Advisory Board next Wednesday, November 1. He said another draft will be sent to the Executive Committee on November 8. He said he will bring the Legislative Agenda to the Senate meeting on November 15 for final approval. He said the Legislative Interest Survey received over 250 responses. He said there were about 30 more responses after A.J.'s email from last week. He said there is a legislative reception between GPSS and ASUW on Tuesday, December 5 in the evening. He said he, Jon, and Adrian would be meeting with ASUW tomorrow to discuss the legislative reception. He said the Washington Student Association was last weekend for the Fall Summit in Ellensburg at Central Washington University. He said the GPSS proposal to remove the Student Activities Fee cap was defeated in committee. He said it would be better to discuss removing the SAF fee cap internally and coordinating with the legislature rather than WSA. He said most of the other schools at WSA interpreted removing the cap on SAF fees as an increase in tuition fees. He said removing the cap of SAF fees was not an increase in tuition fees. He said removing the cap on SAF fees would increase the fee by 1% representing a \$1 increase. He said that the proposals GPSS supported at WSA were an emphasis on childcare and increasing the pipeline of students from underserved K12 schools to college.

Jack Flesher said the Arts Council met on Tuesday as an informal first meeting. He said there will be a craft and complain event on November 28 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. He said Kana is developing advertising materials for the event. He said the event will be an informal gathering and a space for community making. He said Taylor from Museology is working on a spreadsheet document on free museums, resources, and performances to support arts and humanities work in the city and on campus. He mentioned Mauve said there will be open auditions for a Shakespeare performance. He said only one person from the Committee for Senate Motivation and Retention responded to his When2Meet survey. He said CSMR has not met yet. He said he is continuing to field Senator emails and confirm Senators.

Matthew Moran said he met with the Alumni Association and connected with the Athletics Department. He said the women's basketball game will now take place on November 18 at 1:00pm. He said he has been preparing a new staff member for the diversity and equity position over the last week. He said Jess will be working with Jodie on researching for the next Race and Equity summit. He said there are still spaces

available to meet the White House chief economists on Monday, October 30. He said those interested in meeting the chief economist should let him know by noon tomorrow.

Jon Choi asked for a reminder on the date and time of the meeting with the White House chief economist.

Matthew Moran said the meeting will take place on Monday, October 30 from 12:00pm to 1:20pm and that lunch will take place from 1:30pm to 2:00pm. He said the Judicial Committee met for the first time today. He said 4 of the 6 members attended. He said the chair will be established next week. He said many members expressed wanting to make the Judicial Committee a positive place. He said the Diversity Committee will meet next week. He said he sent the new diversity funds application to Noah. He said the formal agenda and invitation to the Senate will be sent tomorrow. He said the Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee discussion was about university admissions statistics. He mentioned that underrepresented students from the United States only make up only 12% of graduate students at UW. He mentioned that this figure is very low in comparison to the demographics of Washington state and the United States more broadly and needs to be worked on. He said graduate admissions are decentralized, which is a challenge to resolving this disparity.

Jack Fleisher asked if there were acceptance data broken down by program or college.

Matthew Moran said he would have to find the document with that information, which is harder to acquire because the admissions process is decentralized. He said the topic of the next Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee meeting will be on faculty recruiting and hiring.

Amanda Chin mentioned that the bowling night will take place on November 7 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at HUB games. She said the cooking demo will take place from 5:30pm to 6:30pm on November 14, for which there are 10 spots remaining in case anyone is interested in signing up. She mentioned that the women's basketball game is now taking place on November 18. She said she and others will be meeting in HUB 314 at 11:00am before heading to network with the UW Alumni Association and UW Athletics at 12:00pm. She mentioned that the speed friending event will take place on Tuesday, November 21 with snacks and beverages provided. She said she will meet with Rene and Elise on November 1 to discuss some things for Winter and Spring quarters. She said GPSS has started advertising the Cultural Spring Showcase performance at the Diversity Summit. She said a flier with a rolling deadline up until about mid-February. She said the next Science and Policy Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 1 at 5:00pm. She said meetings for the Science and Policy Committee will occur every Tuesday thereafter from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. She said the Science and Policy Committee will work on a science mini-lecture series. She said she is working with Nick on an article submission for the Research Symposium. She said the Science and Policy Committee is working on a career series of 3 workshops for the Winter quarter. She said there will be (indiscernible) campus dogs from last year for an hour on Valentine's Day. She said they are also thinking about planning a brunch at ASUW Shell House.

Jon Choi asked if the Karaoke idea was shelved.

Amanda Chin said no. She said these are just potential ideas for Winter quarter. She encouraged members of the Executive Committee to let her know if they had any ideas for Winter quarter events.

Jack Flesher said ideas for a karaoke night, talent show, or open mic night were discussed in Arts Council.

Amanda Chin said that karaoke night is being considered, but she is not sure where it would be held.

Raj Dewangan asked if those interested needed to RSVP for bowling night on November 7.

Amanda Chin responded no.

Jon Choi said Travel Grants closed submissions on October 13. He said Travel Grants received a total of 39 applications over the summer and during October. He said 15 were not qualified, 12 are pending, 5 have been approved, and that Finance and Budget are planning to approve another 5. He said this approval rate was in line with the 45% approval rate from last year. He said Finance and Budget would be done processing applications by early next week.

Pratima K.C. asked if Travel Grants replies to all the applicants informing them whether their applications were approved or rejected. She said she has heard from friends that they have not received a reply. She said they do not know if or why they were rejected. She suggested that the committee let applicants know if their applications were approved or rejected.

Jon Choi said the committee replies to all approved and rejected applicants. He said the committee does not share the specific reasons for which applications were rejected as a policy. He reiterated that applicants should receive confirmation on whether they were approved or rejected. He said he could discuss with Pratima issues pertaining to applicants who did not receive confirmation privately.

Pratima K.C. clarified that she was referring to applicants from the previous academic year.

Jon Choi said the Finance and Budget Committee met last Friday. He said 7 of the 9 members showed up. He said there is currently 1 departmental allocation request pending and 1 special allocation request that came in today. He mentioned that a lot of student organizations are not registered. For special allocations they need to be registered. He said the Finance and Budget Committee will send out a reminder email to program advisors before the registration deadline on November 3 to check in with student clubs and let them know there is an opportunity for funding if they register through the HUB. He said the committee will also brainstorm additional outreach activities to promote campus-wide funding opportunities. He said that because of the financial transformation

and previously unpaid invoices, the realistic total for the discretionary budget is less than \$70,000. He said he worked with Amanda and determined that expenses from last year total \$11,000. He said that the money at GPSS's disposal is higher than initially expected and that there is a healthy excess for programming budget. He said he submitted a proposal for STF CART Captioning on October 13. He mentioned STF committee members have been confirmed. He said he is working on a draft proposal to request funding from the provost which he is hoping to complete this week.

A.J. Balatico said the Resolution on the Israel-Palestine conflict was received well by university administration. He said all administrators who received the resolution responded positively. He said there was an additional walkout protest concerning the situation in Gaza. He said GPSS will meet with Sally Clark and Denzil Suite on November 1 through the Provost Advisory Committee for Students. He said the focus will be on receiving updates on what has changed from the previous academic year in terms of safety. He said there are elevated concerns about food accessibility on campus and the Counseling Center and Hall Health. He mentioned that the Executive Director for Hall Health will not start until December or January. He said he has been meeting with the Medical Student Association. He said GPSS is using them as a template for how other departments and units can get their own merchandise through the UW bookstore. He said merchandising and University copyrighting is a complicated process. He said the Provost and Dean Joy Williamson-Lott are concentrating on funding for Fellowships and money that travels with students rather than tied to a PI's grant process. He mentioned that this has been a longstanding issue regarding how graduate students are situated with their advisors. He said they are looking at NIH training grants as templates for funding based on offer of admissions. He mentioned this would be an opportunity for students to explore advisors rather than joining with a PI's particular project. He shared and explained the funding split of different schools and colleges at UW from the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting. He said the university is using Adaptive planning tool insights to understand how money moves around the university, what percentage of activity is demonstrated through budgetary allocations, and whether these allocations reflect activities the university should be focusing on. He said units are subject to unit adjustments based on market rates and faculty salary. He mentioned departments are contractually obligated to pay faculty based on merit. He said what is left over is for graduate students. He said tuition varies according to school or college because some units cost more to operate than others. He said the Supreme Court decision on affirmative action prevents UW from making equity adjustments based on race. He said the university can make adjustments based on how the faculty communicates their lived experience. He said the Graduate School Council approved the Chemistry, Oceanography, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures degree programs for 10 years. He said the Surgeon General is coming next Friday. He said UW Federal relations is putting on the event in partnership with MTV. He said the major topic will be Loneliness, Isolation, and Social Connection. He said there will be a public event Friday evening at Alder Auditorium. He reminded the Executive Committee to begin thinking about future GPSS officer leadership.

Jon Choi asked if there is any correlation between a school or college's mixed funding sources and how fund-constrained the school or college is.

A.J. Balatico said the school of Dentistry is the only college running a deficit. He said all the Seattle campus schools have a mixture of research and service. He said there is no correlation. He mentioned that the Evans school costs \$6 million, but that the school of Medicine and the College of Arts and Sciences cost about \$500 million.

Charles Bugre inquired about Sarah's application to the liaison position.

A.J. Balatico confirmed that Sarah accepted a liaison position.

8. [Action] Executive Session 6:09pm

A.J. Balatico announced the beginning of the executive session.

9. [Action] Executive Session Extension 7:10pm

Raj Dewangan moved to extend the executive session by 10 minutes. Maleen Kidiwela seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:10pm

13. [Action] Adjournment 7:25 pm

Charles Bugre moved to adjourn the meeting. **Raj Dewangan** seconded.

Ella Spurlock raised a point of information regarding voting procedures within regular GPSS meetings.

Jack Flesher clarified that votes may occur by consensus, votes may occur using a Microsoft Form as a ballot to have whole recorded vote, or that votes may occur by roll call, meaning that each member of the committee present at the meeting would respond individually to the vote at hand.

A.J. Balatico clarified to ask if there were any objections to the motion to adjourn. No objections were raised.

The meeting of the GPSS Executive Committee adjourned at 7:25pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Clerk.