

The Executive Committee of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 8 November 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
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
Madeline Nicole Valdez, GPSS University Affairs Director
Mark Pock, STF Chair

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

Amanda Chin moved to approve the agenda. **Ella Spurlock** seconded. No objections.
Motion passed. 5:30pm

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:31pm

Nick Juno moved to approve the minutes. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections.
Motion passed. 5:31pm

4. [Action] STF Annual Funding – STF Mark Pock 5:32pm

Mark Pock gave a presentation on the STF annual funding and defined the annual funding plan. He said the STF Committee approves technology related requests. He said the annual funding plan delineates how much STF can allocate. He provided a table with funding data. He said the STF Committee revamped its organizational structure for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. He said the committee underwent professionalization to improve its system for allocations. He said the STF Committee allocated \$4 million in FY 2023, which was far beyond previous annual allocations. He identified growth and expansion in STF. He said the STF Committee is setting out to approve \$4.5 million in allocations for FY 2024. He said allocations for the Fall cycle are new this year. He said the STF administration budget is about the same as it was last year. He said STF is looking to compensate committee members for their work this year. He said the number of people on the staff team was cut down. He said allocations are dispersed in the form of single awards, block awards, administration costs. He said the committee's goal is for allocations to approach \$5-\$6 million per year.

Pratima K.C. asked why there was a decrease in operations costs for FY 2024.

Mark Pock responded the decrease comes from not needing to change technologies. He said operation costs were higher last year because there were a lot of technologies that STF no longer uses. He said STF has switched to a more sustainable model. He said members of the committee are now getting compensated, which is why operation costs have not significantly decreased since FY 2023.

A.J. Balatico asked for clarification on the difference between allocations and expenditures. He asked if STF knew the time to completion for projects with open expenditures. He asked if people are having supply chain issues with receiving what they were awarded by STF.

Mark Pock clarified that the distinction between allocations and expenditures is that allocations represent unspent funds that STF awarded to a project whereas expenditure represent the amount of money a project has been awarded by STF and spent. He said there are prior year expenditures from FY 2023, representing money that projects were awarded in 2023 but still have not spent. He said the estimate of prior year expenditures provided by the STF Committee is a minimal possible estimate. He said that where the money for prior year expenditures comes from is recurring funds in the form of outstanding blocks, which currently represent \$2 million in obligations. He mentioned that outstanding blocks are repeating obligations the STF Committee allocates each year. He said prior expenditures are likely to compound each fiscal year, but that STF is working to establish a plan for managing these expenditures so that they are more sustainable. He said all the prior expenditures, which are from the outstanding blocks, are open for FY 2024

Ella Spurlock asked if there is a time limit for how many years outstanding blocks can continue to receive funding.

Mark Pock responded that STF funding is completely open-ended. He said each award that STF allocates is a distinct agreement and that there is no consistent process or format for each award. He said different awards have different stipulations. He said some outstanding blocks have terminations, but most do not.

Ella Spurlock asked if the STF Committee plans to review outstanding block awards to ensure that repeat expenditures are going towards what they have been allocated for.

Mark Pock responded yes. He said there is a system for annual reporting that every outstanding block must undergo. He said the committee has not had the capacity to examine these reports from both outstanding blocks and single awards in the past years. He said it is STF's priority this year to restabilize its relationship with all its awards and get a much better and more comprehensive reporting system. He said the STF Committee is considering a quarterly reporting system.

Jon Choi moved to approve the annual funding plan for STF. **Charles Bugre** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:43pm

A.J. Balatico said the ASUW Board will review the annual funding plan for STF.

Mark Pock said STF could consider proposals, but not approve them until the annual funding plan for STF was approved. He thanked the Executive Committee for its approval.

Charles Bugre asked if the STF Committee was awaiting the Executive Committee's approval to begin receiving proposals.

Mark Pock said no.

Charles Bugre asked if the portal for proposals has been open.

Mark Pock said the portal is always open.

Charles Bugre asked if STF has made any proposal deadlines.

Mark Pock said that was a complicated question.

A.J. Balatico concurred that it is complicated.

5. [Action] GPSS Liaison Appointments 5:47pm

A.J. Balatico said there were 24 GPSS liaison appointments to various faculty councils. He provided a list of candidates he and Madeline vetted for the Executive Committee. He said if there were anyone the Executive Committee would like to reconsider, to object and they will be removed and reconsidered. He said the faculty councils are figuring out meeting times, which might affect candidate availability.

Pratima K.C. asked how the Executive Committee can access the document.

A.J. Balatico said he did not share the document.

Pratima K.C. asked if the Executive Committee had access to the (indiscernible).

A.J. Balatico clarified that approving the list is not a formal acceptance. He said approving the list would allow Madeline to send an email to the listed candidates saying the Executive Committee is considering their appointment.

Pratima K.C. asked if it were possible to see all the names on the list.

A.J. Balatico said he can go through the list, but he will not read them. He said there were 150 applications. He said all funding committees have been staffed.

Pratima K.C. asked if some committees had 2 liaisons.

A.J. Balatico clarified that the only committee that had 2 liaisons were the HUB Board of Representatives. He said all other committees had 1 liaison.

Pratima K.C. asked if the list included single candidate appointments.

A.J. Balatico responded yes. He said Madeline will collect biography photos from candidates once they accept the appointment offer.

Matthew Moran moved to approve the GPSS Liaison Appointments list. **Pratima K.C.** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:51pm

6. [Information] ASUW Fall Update 5:51pm

Francisco Dojenia said a constitutional reform task force was created. He said GPSS has 1 representative to appoint to the task force. He said the board has made a lot of task forces. He said ASUW is working on voting software for the upcoming election.

Nick Juno asked if ASUW is working on their legislative agenda.

Francisco Dojenia responded yes. He said the Office of Governmental Relations (OGR) would have its last meeting on Friday. He said OGR would send the legislative agenda to the Senate after its meeting.

Madeline Nicole Valdez said there was an adjustment made in the Legislative Steering Committee (LCS). She said OGR voted to extend the approval of the legislative agenda by a week. She said OGR will vote to approve the legislative agenda next Friday. She said the legislative agenda will then move to the Senate.

Nick Juno asked when the Senate meeting to approve ASUW's legislative agenda would take place.

Francisco Dojenia said the agenda should be approved within a few weeks.

Maleen Kidiwela asked which election ASUW is preparing for.

Francisco Dojenia responded that ASUW is preparing for the ASUW Board of Directors election.

A.J. Balatico asked if it was Husky Link, another software, or the website that was causing problems with ASUW elections.

Francisco Dojenia responded it was the software itself. He said there was a problem last year, so they used Husky Link for the election. He said the Elections Administration Committee (EAC) must make new software for facilitating elections.

A.J. Balatico said Catalyst was the old software for facilitating elections, but UW got rid of it. He asked how ASUW is addressing the issue of transferable vote.

Francisco Dojenia responded that the EAC needs to make the software capable of facilitating a transferable vote system.

A.J. Balatico clarified that GPSS uses the same plug-in for the GPSS website. He said the software does not work very well for instant run-off voting or single transferable vote.

7. [Information] Officer Updates 5:54pm

Jack Flesher said there have been more confirmations for GPSS since the last Executive Meeting. He said there are currently 84 confirmed Senators. He said the seat for Q Center has been filled. He said there are new Senators from the School of Law, the Evans

School, and Architecture. He said there was a better balance at the first Senate meeting between those who attended in-person and online. He said the Arts Council has met twice so far. He said Kana made Craft and Complain event posters, which have been sent to Arts Council members and chairs. He said the Arts Council is working on a spreadsheet with events and resources for the arts and humanities. He said he is working on a spreadsheet for resolutions so that Senators can track any resolutions that are in progress or approved. He said the spreadsheet will provide Senators with the information they need to get involved in working on resolutions.

Charle Bugre asked if there were confirmed Senators for MS in Information Management (MSIM) and Master's in Library Sciences (MLIS).

Jack Flesher said Charles and Michelle were representing the Information School. He said there are no confirmed Senators for MSIM yet. He said he cannot find anyone representing MLIS on the spreadsheet. He offered to follow-up separately. He asked if the Association of Information Management Students (AIMS) has approved MSIM yet.

Charle Bugre said he can check in. He asked if there were Senators for the English department.

Jack Flesher responded there is not a Senator for English.

Pratima K.C. asked if there is a plan to update the GPSS website with new Senators.

Jack Flesher said GPSS is waiting to update the website. He said the session needs to be renewed by the people who did website updates for GPSS last year. He said he does not think Chris has renewed the session yet, so GPSS cannot make changes. He said GPSS could put up a separate page with a list of new Senators.

A.J. Balatico clarified that the website could be fixed but will break immediately once it is replaced with Pantheon. He said GPSS will likely replace Discord and Microsoft Teams with Slack for communications.

Pratima K.C. asked if there was a reason to change from Discord.

A.J. Balatico said Discord provides a difficult file format. He said this would complicate a public records request.

Nick Juno said the Legislative Reception date is Thursday, December 7 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the HUB North Ballroom. He said Bob Fergusson is slated to be the keynote

speaker. He said GPSS is looking for student speakers, specifically graduate student parents. He said the Legislative Agenda has been drafted based on the results from the legislative interest survey. He said the Legislative Agenda has adopted the DAWGS structure. He said DAWGS stands for Development, Affordability, Wellness, Growth, and Services. He said Mykail is working on the Legislative Agenda's explicit language. He said he will send the Legislative Agenda to the Executive Committee by tomorrow. He asked for final recommendations and feedback on agenda items by Monday so the final draft can be brought to the Senate during the Senate meeting on Wednesday. He said he is officially registered to be a lobbyist in Olympia. He said he has housing for his position as a lobbyist verbally confirmed. He said there will be a conversation with WSA, himself, and Jake from the Faculty Senate about the future of the Washington college grant tomorrow. He said the Washington College Grant provides full tuition benefits to families making at or below 65% of Median Family Income (MFI) in Washington state. He said that number has been expanded from 50% since 2019. He said legislators have expressed interest in either raising the cap to 70% or fixing the "benefit cliff," which means that if a family currently makes 66% of MFI, they receive nothing from the Washington College Grant. He said Jake will give a briefing on these different policy options tomorrow.

A.J. Balatico mentioned UW Impact is having zoom training tomorrow at 7:00pm.

Rene Singleton asked if everyone knew what UW Impact was.

Nick Juno said UW Impact is the legislative arm of the Alumni Association.

Matthew Moran said the Diversity Committee met last week and today. He said efforts for targeted outreach for committee membership and diversity funds were redoubled. He said the GPSS diversity funds page is completely operational and updated with information on how to apply. He said the Judicial Committee has Beth Fawcett (PhD in Chemistry) as the Committee Chair. He said the Judicial Committee will be working on gender neutralizing the bylaws. He said he is working on marketing for the Diversity Summit. He said the Diversity Committee is about to release the formal call for submissions to collect information from potential applicants and make concerted outreach to organizations that have previously worked with GPSS. He said he is slowly collecting people and organizations to table at the Resource and Research Fair as part of the Diversity Summit. He said he will meet with a staff member from the Ethnic Cultural Center tomorrow at 11:00am to partner with their Workforce Diversity event they have each Winter quarter. He said he would like to nominate Taylor Schoenfeld for Senator of the Month. He said Taylor is on the Arts Council, the Science and Policy Committee, and the Judicial Committee.

Pratima K.C. asked who from a department applies to get diversity funds.

Matthew Moran responded that either a student or department can apply. He said organizations can apply to up to 4 individual pools of diversity funds.

Charles Bugre asked what the funds can be applied and used for.

Matthew Moran said he will update the diversity funds website with more current applications examples. He said most applications are to fund cultural events. He said the Diversity Committee is more explicit about funding restrictions.

Charles Bugre asked if the part of the application requesting that an applicant explain their past record of group participation precluded new organizations from receiving funds.

Matthew Moran responded it does not preclude new applicants from receiving funds. He said the committee is asking for the history of the organization applying. He said the committee would love to find a new organization to fund.

Pratima K.C. asked if applications have been received.

Matthew Moran responded not yet. He said the committee will likely receive more applications by January with outreach.

Amanda Chin said there are 4 spots left to sign up for the cooking demo event. She reminded the Executive Committee that the pregame event for the women's Basketball game on Saturday, November 18 will take place at 11:00am in the GPSS Office. She reminded the Executive Committee that the Speed Friending event will take place in HUB 332. She mentioned that GPSS is considering hosting a career series with 3 workshops during the Winter quarter. She said brunch at ASUW Shell House is not feasible, so it has been changed to a drag brunch on Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 am. She thanked Ella for chairing the Science and Policy Committee meeting. She said there is a tentative priority deadline for the Research Symposium of January 17 and a tentative final deadline of February 15. She said any field or discipline can submit a proposal for the Research Symposium. She said the Diversity Summit cultural performance has a rolling deadline for February 15.

A.J. Balatico said the format for the Research Symposium will be posters. He said GPSS does not have the venue needed for panel discussions.

Charles Bugre asked where the Research Symposium would take place.

Amanda Chin responded that the Research Symposium would take place on the second floor of the HUB in both ballrooms. She said one ballroom will be for presenting posters and the other will be for lecture presentations.

Jon Choi said Travel Grants received 10 applications for November. He said the Finance and Budget Committee reviewed Special Allocations and approved funding for a \$500 Friendsgiving event in HUB games. He said the Earth and Space department asked for a \$1,000 table. He said the SAF Committee was brainstorming questions for unit budget packages. He said the STF Committee talked about technology policy. He said he started a draft of a programming budget request to the Provost. He said he thinks it would be a good opportunity for the Officers and Executive Senators to think about whether GPSS's mission has changed. He said the Travel Grants Committee is issuing awards at a steady pace. He said he can follow-up with Travel Grant recipients about the opportunity to present their research at the Research Symposium. He said Finance and Budget has reached out to Travel Grant recipients on producing some blog posts about their research that can be posted to the GPSS website.

A.J. Balatico said he will attend the Board of Regents meeting tomorrow. He said UW's state legislative agenda is out and linked to GPSS's mission and work with graduate students, including expanding UW's capabilities for rural medicine through the RIDE program for dentistry as well as training and startup priorities for UW Medicine. He said the priorities of Harborview, Behavioral Sciences, and the incubator startup model are aligned with graduate student interests. He said capital improvements are also aligned with graduate student interests, especially the update for Bagley Hall. He said the Magnuson Health Sciences Complex has 7 out of the 10 most decrepit buildings on campus with over \$1 billion in combined deferred maintenance. He said UW will proceed with decarbonization projects. He said there was a Town Hall with UW sustainability recently. He discussed the fiscal and logistical difficulties associated with retrofitting the UW powerplant. He said the current plan is to achieve net zero decarbonization by 2050. He said the Institution on Climate Action (ICA) wants to move the target to 2035. He said Hema, a PhD student on the Student Regents Selection Committee, reached out about resolutions for GPSS to consider in the future. He said the Faculty Senate is talking about adopting changes to UW's grading policy. He said the changes will include changing designation of X versus I as temporary grades and updating the process for professors replacing the grades. He said the Faculty Senate wanted to change language concerning "low scholarship" to be less punitive or carceral. He said this pertains mostly to undergraduate students but will likely have ramifications for graduate students as well.

He said Provost Serio is reviewing the Graduate School next week. He said there are 2 open spots on the Executive Committee. He mentioned Pratima's term ends in December.

Charles Bugre asked if the financial transformation is done.

A.J. Balatico responded no. He said Hypercare is finished but the problems are still there. He said Payroll should be stabilized, but buying things is a challenge. He said Workday is more for paying personnel than buying lab equipment. He said restrictions on grant money are not hardcoded in Workday. He said there were 5,000 outstanding budget codes in the old system. He said there are various lawsuits related to this issue. He mentioned the Psychology department was charged with wrongly using race as a determinant for how to hire a faculty member. He noted that the hired faculty member was qualified and will not be fired. He said the Psychology department is being charged with allowing race an inappropriate weight in the selection process, which violates Washington state law even prior to Supreme Court ruling against affirmative action. He said the consequences will involve no new hiring in the Psychology department for 2 years. He said the reinstatement of hiring after the 2-year period will be subject to review. He said this will affect how the university addresses diversity and recruitment issues. He said the current understanding is that the university cannot make decisions based solely on race. He said applicants can discuss their lived experience in a way that an adversity can be attributed to race.

8. [Action] Senate Agenda Setting 6:31pm

Rene Singleton asked if the Officers planned to discuss the GPSS Legislative Agenda prior to the Alumni Association presentations. She recommended that GPSS introduce guests before they speak.

Nick Juno said although the GPSS Legislative Agenda covers different things, there is significant overlap between the GPSS Legislative Agenda, the UW Impact Agenda, and the University Agenda.

Rene Singleton asked if the speaker would be introduced.

A.J. Balatico said Amanda could introduce Evan and someone else could introduce Chris.

A.J. Balatico introduced and explained the proposed Senate Agenda.

Charles Bugre asked if the other committees have been formed.

A.J. Balatico responded yes, except for the Elections Committee.

Pratima K.C. asked if the Judicial Committee could have more than 4 members.

Matthew Moran responded yes. He said there are 6 members on the Judicial Committee.

Charles Bugre asked if the Committee for Senator Motivation and Retention (CSMR) has been formed. He suggested it should be part of the agenda.

A.J. Balatico said CSMR meets outside of the Senate.

Pratima K.C. asked if CSMR is advertised.

A.J. Balatico said Jack is the supervising Officer and has sent out requests. He discussed how long Officer Updates should take at the Senate meeting. He asked for a volunteer to read the land acknowledgement at the Senate meeting.

Matthew Moran said he can read the land acknowledgement.

A.J. Balatico mentioned that because the Senate meeting is a regular meeting, the Senate can change the agenda prior to approval.

Amanda Chin moved to approve the agenda. Ram Dewangan seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:36pm

9. [Action] Adjournment 6:37pm

Ram Dewangan motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Ella Spurlock** seconded. No objections. 6:37pm

Meeting minutes prepared by Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Clerk.