

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 15 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
Jan Whittington, Professor of Design and Urban Planning

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 5:32pm

Pratima K.C. (School of Environmental and Forest Sciences) moved to approve the agenda. **MyKhail Lembke (Evans School of Public Policy)** seconded. No objections. 5:32pm

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:33pm

Beth Fawcet (Chemistry) moved to approve the minutes. **Nick Juno (VP of External Affairs)** seconded. No objections. 5:33pm

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:34pm

Matthew Moran (Vice President of Equity and Inclusion), on behalf of GPSS, gave the land acknowledgment.

“Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed to making the history that led to this moment. Indigenous people have lived here continuously since time immemorial, and Seattle is now a highly cosmopolitan territory with overlapping sovereignties and fidelities. Acknowledging the land we are on is only the first step. Therefore, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate at the University of Washington in Seattle acknowledges the coast Salish people of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Squamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations and all traditional lands on which we learn and work.”

5. [Information] Announcements 5:35pm

Nick Juno said the Legislative Reception will take place on Thursday, December 7 at 5:00pm. He said the Legislative Reception was an opportunity for students to meet with legislators and where the GPSS and ASUW Legislative Agendas will be officially presented. He said the keynote speaker will be Attorney General Bob Ferguson. He said GPSS is looking for student speakers for the event, specifically student caregivers and parents to share their experience at UW.

Matthew Moran said the Cultural Showcase at the Diversity Summit is asking for submissions. He said the showcase is an opportunity to present culture through visual and performing arts. He said fliers will be posted around campus and to email Amanda with questions. He provided a QR code to the form for submissions. He said the submission deadline is February 15 and performances will be held April 2.

Amanda Chin announced the Women’s Basketball pregame event on November 18 from 11:00am to 12:00pm. She also reminded the Senate that the Speed Friending event will take place on November 21. She encourage Senators to see the GPSS Instagram page for updates.

Jack Flesher announced the Craft and Complain event on November 28 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in the GPSS Office. He said the Arts Council is organizing a weekly knitting and crocheting circle on Fridays at 10:00am in GPSS Office. He said supplies will be provided, but participants are also welcome to bring their own. He said there is a spreadsheet available for Senators to add arts and humanities events to. He mentioned that the Committee for Senator Motivation and Retention (CSMR) has not been formed yet. He said the committee is meant to motivate people to volunteer their time to serve on the Senate. He provided a QR code to a When2Meet Form for those interested in serving on the committee. He also announced that there were upcoming public lectures and provided a link to access them.

A.J. Balatico said STF has \$9 million in reserve. He said graduate students should submit proposals for their units to access these funds. He said the Husky Seed Fund funds smaller projects of up to \$5 thousand and will be open for proposals until February.

Jack Flesher said a UW Food Pantry is accessible to students. He said students can go once per week to Poplar Hall with their Husky Card and grocery bags to get 2-3 days of

food. He mentioned that the Makerspaces on campus were coordinated through Housing and Food Service.

Matthew Moran said GPSS Diversity Resources Link Tree will be accessible and will include a list of different resources on campus like health care and Identity Centers.

(Indiscernible) said she was interested in transportation and shuttle times. She expressed that shuttle times for graduate students are very limited. She asked how she could approach this issue or pitch an idea for improving shuttle times.

Matthew Moran said she could submit her ideas in the document or email him.

A.J. Balatico said the UPASS committee is working on a Night Ride system. He said students pay into the UPASS Committee through a quarterly fee. He said Sally Clarke's Campus and Community Safety Office is another resource for addressing transportation issues.

6. [Information] Alumni Association and UW Impact 5:45pm

Amanda Chin introduced Evan Caman as the presenter for the Alumni Association.

Evan Carman gave a presentation on the different programs that the Alumni Association offers. He said the Alumni Association hosts Huskies at Work twice per year where graduate and undergraduate students sign up to get paired with an alumnus who works in their preferred field. He said students are welcome to sign up for every session. He said the Alumni Association helps students build their communities, identities, and careers space. He said Husky Landing is an online platform available 24/7 that makes it easy for students to find alumni who are interested in supporting current students. He said the Alumni Association will launch a new project in February where alumni will meet with students over lunch. He also mentioned programs for student parents, first generation Huskies, men of color in entrepreneurship, women of color in tech roles, and trans students out of work, which will all take place every Thursday in February. He mentioned that the Alumni Association will host panels in the Winter quarter on UX/UI careers and Health Science careers. He said there will be ice skating and rolling skate nights in the Winter quarter. He mentioned that the Alumni Association selects six students to be homecoming scholars every year and awards them \$4,000. He said applications for homecoming scholars will launch at the beginning of Spring quarter and recipients will be celebrated in the Fall. He said May 13 will mark the beginning of graduation week to celebrate student accomplishments and help students connect with the alumni community. He said the Alumni Association will be present at Red Square with a professional photographer offering free headshots. He encouraged students to acquire more information at uwalum.com.

Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics) asked if Alumni Association programs were geared toward both undergraduate and graduate students.

Evan Caman responded yes.

Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics) asked for the website.

Evan Caman responded that the website was uwalum.com. He said students can search for alumni by degree through Husky Landing.

Geervani Daggupati (Immunology) asked for clarification on how networking for job opportunities in a specific field works.

Evan Caman responded that students decide who they want to meet with based on the industry or company an alumnus works for.

Nick Juno introduced Christian Olsen-Philips of UW Impact

Christian Olsen-Philips said UW Impact is the legislative wing of the Alumni Association and is committed to maximizing civic engagement among students and alumni. He said UW Impact held a Legislative Reception between students, legislators, and alumni. He mentioned that UW Impact offers a webinar with the Center for an Informed Public on AI policy and how legislation will inform the future of AI. He encouraged students to find more information at uwimpact.org. He said UW Impact supports students by rallying alumni to speak to the state legislature on UW issues. He said the UW Impact Legislative Agenda is generated through UW's broader legislative agenda and a survey of alumni before publishing each Fall Agenda. He said access, affordability, and quality of higher education are consistent priorities. He said UW Impact looks at UW's Legislative Agenda to formulate the alumni advocate agenda. He mentioned that UW Impact offers advocacy training and talking points for advocacy. He mentioned the District Dogs program, which consists of individuals who speak out on behalf of students in higher education. He said District Dogs form personal relationships with legislators in their district to convey higher education issues to their legislators.

A.J. Balatico reiterated that about 70% of UW graduates stay in the state of Washington and that state policy will affect UW students' lives. He also reminded the Senate that the Legislative Reception dinner will be on December 7. He mentioned there will be a zoom training hosted by UW Impact.

Christian Olsen-Philips said UW Impact will be shifting its advocacy training. He encouraged Senators to reach out to UW Impact.

A.J. Balatico mentioned that GPSS also advocates in Washington DC in April.

7. [Action] Legislative Agenda Proposal 6:08pm

Nick Juno introduced the Legislative Agenda. He said the legislative session begins at the beginning of January each year. He said his responsibilities include lobbying on behalf of GPSS in Olympia and that his efforts are guided by GPSS's Legislative Agenda. He said the Legislative Agenda is written by the External Affairs team based on results from the Legislative Interest Survey and in consultation with the Legislative Advisory Board. He said the goal tonight is to review the language of the Legislative Agenda. He said the Legislative Agenda is based on DAWGS, which stands for Development, Affordability, Wellness, Growth, and Services. He read the Legislative Agenda to the Senate.

Pratima K.C. (Environment and Forest Science) Asked if GPSS is planning to include parent student support in the Development tab.

Nicholas Juno responded yes. He said GPSS is committed to making sure there are more affordable childcare options on campus and eliminating competition between students and faculty for on-campus childcare.

Pratima K.C. (Environment and Forest Science) asked for clarification on the USHIP.

Nicholas Juno explained UW offered health insurance programs until the Affordable Care Act was passed. He said students can stay on their parents' health care program until they are 26. He said GPSS is committed to getting students access to UW Medicine if they are uninsured or underinsured.

Gillian Whelan (Library and Information Science) asked if food security was included in the Legislative Agenda. She mentioned that students do not qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Benefits Transfer (SNAP EBT) without work study.

Nicholas Juno said yes. He said the Legislative Agenda supports expanding funding for resources on campus. He mentioned that there is no specific item on food security in the Legislative Agenda and that the goal was to keep the language broad. He said the Legislative Advisory Board is looking to expand its work from last year on food insecurity and student homelessness.

Geervani Daggupati (Immunology) asked if there are options for subsidized foods or other measures to relieve food insecurity for students not living close to campus.

Nicholas Juno said EBT is a federally run program and that students must work 20 hours per week and meet income thresholds to qualify.

Clare Koesters (Comparative Religion) asked if the Senate will vote on agenda as a whole or by issue.

Nicholas Juno said the Senate will vote on the agenda as a whole. He said the approved version from tonight will be advanced to a second reading before being voted on for final approval.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of information and said the Senate has until the Wednesday right before the legislative session to have a second reading and pass the agenda. He said now is the time for suggestions to modify the Legislative Agenda.

Nicholas Juno said he will work with Kana on formatting the Legislative Agenda.

Beth Fawcett (Chemistry) said the phrase “hold graduates’ economic prospects hostage” is strong verbiage with no citation. She recommended changing “hostage” to “reduce future economic prospects.”

Nicholas Juno accepted the suggestion. He read the updated phrase.

A.J. Balatico reiterated that GPSS does not know what legislation will come up in the state legislature.

Joe Rogge (Mathematics) suggested getting rid of the word “hold.”

Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration) moved to a second reading. **Pratima K.C. (Environment and Forest Sciences)** seconded. No Objections. Motion passed. 6:28pm

Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration) moved to vote. **Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:29 pm

Resolution passed 40-0-1.

8. [Information] Senator of the Month 6:31pm

Matthew Moran said Senator of the Month celebrates Senator for the work they do. He said there will be a nomination form for future Senators of the Month. He Announced Taylor Schoenfeld as Senator of the month for October and read aloud the Senator of the Month Proclamation.

9. [Action] Resolution to Expedite the University of Washington’s Decarbonization Plan 6:36pm

Alec Solemslie (Environmental and Forest Sciences) and **Hema Velappan (Environment and Forest Sciences)** introduced the resolution.

Alec Solemslie (Environmental and Forest Sciences) provided a first reading of the resolution.

Jan Whittington (Professor of Design and Urban Planning) said she is here to answer questions about what the faculty is doing about this.

A.J. Balatico said he will meet with the resolution authors before December 6 to continue working on rewriting the resolution for concision.

Beth Fawcet (Chemistry) said she was curious to find there is no mention of the United Nations' 2050 goals even though there was mention of Washington State's 2050 goals. She asked why the UN declaration excluded.

Hema Velappan (Environment and Forest Sciences) said she was open to including the UN declaration. She said they focused on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report for this decade.

A.J. Balatico asked if the inclusion of the UN declaration was necessary to understand the rest of the resolution.

Beth Fawcet (Chemistry) said she asked about it because climate change is a global rather than a state issue.

Maeve Riley (Drama) does not believe that the Senate should include the UN declaration in the resolution before voting on it.

Melody Vahadi (Computational Linguistics) asked for clarification on the reasoning for the timeline demands in the resolution. She asked why the resolution demanded that carbon emissions be cut 80% by 2030 specifically.

Jan Whittington (Professor of Design and Urban Planning) responded that she included the 80% by 2030 target in the resolution as a milestone along the way to the 2035 Net 0 carbon emissions goal. She said UW is the second largest polluter among state agencies. She said UW impacts whether the state can meet its state-wide decarbonization targets.

Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics) asked how this resolution compares to faculty version.

Jan Whittington (Professor of Design and Urban Planning) responded that it shares many of the same benchmarks. She said she will add quotes and citations recommended from GPSS into the faculty version.

Hema Velappan (Environment and Forest Sciences) clarified that the resolution will not impact student fees.

A.J. Balatico said there are certain people to whom the resolution should be forwarded.

10. [Action] Executive Senator Elections 6:58pm

Jack Flesher explained the elections process and Executive Senator responsibilities.

Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics) raised a point of information and asked if the elections were for Executive Senators and not committee formation.

Jack Flesher responded that the election was for Executive Senators who represent GPSS at Executive Committee meetings.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of information and said Charles and Raj were present online.

Clare Koesters (Comparative Religion) asked if the Officers were Executive Senators.

A.J. Balatico responded that Officers are not Executive Senators.

Jack Flesher explained the responsibilities of the Officers and Executive Senators.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) said Officers are paid positions and that Executive Senators are compensated differently.

Sahra Ibrahim (College of Education) asked if an Executive Senators can run for Officer positions.

Jack Flesher said yes, but people on the Elections and Judicial Committees cannot. He said anyone serving on the Elections or Judicial Committees who wanted to run for an Officer position would need to resign from the committee.

Franco Carlos (Applied Mathematics) nominated himself to be an Executive Senator.

Clare Koesters (Comparative Religion) nominated herself to be an Executive Senator.

Jack Flesher said those who emailed him can self-nominate as well. He said they can also change their mind if they want to.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) nominated **Hannah Griggs (Medicine)**.

Hannah Griggs (Medicine) declined the nomination.

Sahra Ibrahim (College of Education) nominated herself to be an Executive Senator.

Clare Koesters (Comparative Religion) gave a speech. She said she is interested in running because she is interested in student civic engagement. She explained her credentials as the former Vice President of the League of Women Voters from 2012 to 2014. She mentioned her interest in establishing a committee on student engagement around world issues where students can discuss current events in a controlled and professional environment. She said she is very balanced and passionate about considering all sides of an issue.

Sahra Ibrahim (College of Education) gave a speech. She mentioned that she has experience in student government through ASUW. She mentioned that recognizing the experiences of graduate students of color is important. She explained her credentials by discussing her involvement in the Diversity Committee and experiences with the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion in College of Education. She said she is committed to working on higher education for students of color.

Franco Carlos (Applied Mathematics) gave a speech. He mentioned that he is a department fellow with guaranteed employment upon graduation with Morgan Stanley. He said he would make a strong Executive Senator because he is preoccupied with career progression. He explained his credentials as the President of Algorithmic Training Club, Deputy Finance Officer for Husky Flying Club, Peer review lead for student mathematics journal, and a planner for coding competitions. He also mentioned his experience on the research team designing the sea wall to protect Sipan's highway from typhoons.

Charles Bugre (Information Science) asked what the name of the first speaker was. He asked if the speakers would appear on the ballot in the order that they spoke.

Jack Flesher responded yes.

11. [Action] Election Committee Formation 7:22pm

A.J. Balatico explained that the GPSS bylaws require the Senate to form the Election Committee. He explained that the Election Committee must consist of 4 Senators and 1 Executive Senator. He explained the responsibilities of the Election Committee. He said the Election Guide must be passed in the Winter quarter. He mentioned that Senators on the Elections Committee cannot run for Executive Senator or Officer positions. He said Officer elections must be held by the penultimate meeting of the Spring quarter. He explained that Senators on the Judicial Committee cannot join the Election Committee.

Maleen Kidiwela (Oceanography) nominated himself for the Elections Committee.

Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics) nominated herself for the Elections Committee.

Maeve Riley (Drama) nominated herself for the Elections Committee.

Charles Bugre asked if self-nominations from the last Senate meeting were still up for consideration.

A.J. Balatico said that Senators will need to re-nominate themselves.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked if Elections Committee members are compensated.

A.J. Balatico responded that the entire Election Committee is compensated \$1,350 to be split amongst committee members.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) asked if there can be more than 4 Senators on the Elections Committee.

A.J. Balatico said yes.

Pratima K.C. (Environmental and Forest Sciences) nominated herself for the Elections Committee.

Clare Koesters (Comparative Religion) nominated herself for the Elections Committee.

A.J. Balatico reiterated that there must be 4 regular Senators on the Election Committee.

Melody Vahadi (Computational Linguistics) nominated herself for the Elections Committee.

Alec Solemslie (Environmental and Forest Sciences) nominated himself for the Elections Committee.

Charles Bugre (Information Sciences) moved to approve the nominees. **Matthew Moran seconded.** No objections. Motion passed. 7:30pm

Jack Flesher announced the elections results for Executive Senators. He said the new Executive Senators are **Sahra Ibrahim (College of Education)** and **Clare Koesters (Int Studies)**.

12. [Information] Officer Updates 7:31pm

A.J. Balatico said that Officer updates would be sent to the Senate via email.

13. [Action] Adjournment 7:32pm

Joe Rogge (Applied Mathematics) motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Maeve Riley (Drama)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:32pm

Meeting minutes prepared by Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Clerk.