

The Executive Committee of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 29 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

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 5:31pm

Charles Bugre moved to approve the agenda. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections.
Motion passed. 5:31pm

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

Jack Flesher moved to approve the minutes. **Pratima K.C.** seconded. No objections.
Motion passed. 5:31pm

4. [Information] ASUW Shell House – Nicole Klein 5:3pm

Nicole Klein gave a presentation on the ASUW Shell House. She said ASUW Shell House is within \$250,000 of reaching its \$18 million complete funding goal. She encouraged the Executive Committee to discuss all the ways this project can impact students, faculty, and community. She explained that ASUW Shell House creates a place where communities come together. She mentioned The Boys in the Boat movie release on December 25. She gave a historical overview of the history of Shell House as an

archaeological site, WWI Navy hangar, home for Olympic champions to train, Pocock Racing Shells, and sailing and canoe rental store. She mentioned that it is now a destination for tourism. She said the Boys in the Boat book sold 3 million copies and has been translated into 19 languages. She emphasized that Shell House needs GPSS's help to make sure that the facility is not used strictly for fundraising and remains a community-based institution. She said strong partnerships and student voices outside of the native community will be essential for the durability of Shell House. She mentioned that Shell House can set a precedent for using Indigenous place names. She said she did a Leadership Tomorrow study two years ago to figure out how to ensure that the building becomes a place of community and that respondents emphasized allowing the community to speak for itself. She reiterated that having students and faculty involved is imperative. She recounted the stories of the co-chairs of the Shell House project and explained that The Boys in the Boat movie does not elaborate on significant elements from the book. She said Shell House has the power to inform how people think about connections between the past and present. She explained the various projected goals and impacts of ASUW Shell House. She said there were over 800 donors who have contributed to the project since 2018. She mentioned that UW rowing needs a \$30 million endowment to be self-sustaining. She mentioned that the bookstore has been a partner in selling rowing merchandise. She mentioned that the University of Washington Alumni Association will match student and faculty donations up to \$500.

A.J. Balatico asked how landscaping around the Shell House will increase accessibility.

Nicole Klein said that student resources on campus can help make the space accessible. She said ASUW Shell House is too far from campus to make it a classroom site. She said installed ramps and a lift will help make the building accessible. She also mentioned installing pathways and signage.

A.J. Balatico asked Nicole to describe events held at the Shell House.

Nicole Klein said ASUW Shell House has hosted the Oceanography graduation, ROTC graduation, a performance interdisciplinary art exhibit, and final review sessions for 2 architecture classes. She said the hardest part about the business plan for ASUW Shell House is staying true to the core priorities and mission that its use among students, faculty, and non-profits come first. She mentioned that the project received a Building for Equity grant with the stipulation that Shell House be accessible to non-profits that cannot afford another venue. She said Shell House will use corporate revenue to supplement community use.

5. [Information] ASUW Fall Update 6:07pm

Francisco Dojenia said Constitutional Reform, VP, transition, and South Asian Student Commission task forces have been formed. He said ASUW passed the Student Technology Fee budget. He said the ASUW Senate passed its Legislative Agenda.

A.J. Balatico asked how many more ASUW Senate and Board meetings there will be this quarter.

Francisco Dojenia said there will be 1 more Senate Meeting and 1 more Board Meeting.

A.J. Balatico asked if either of these meetings would occur at the same time as the Legislative Reception.

Francisco Dojenia said ASUW will discuss the meeting times tomorrow.

6. [Information] New Executive Senator Priorities 6:08pm

A.J. Balatico welcomed Sahra Ibrahim and Clare Koesters to the Executive Committee.

Sahra Ibrahim explained that she highly values her work on the Diversity Committee. She said there are currently no proposed resolutions.

Clare Koesters explained her interest in pursuing a project to create a space for student dialogue about the Israel/Palestine conflict in a controlled environment. She expressed interest in creating meeting times for students to meet in small groups and talk about the issue. She recommended inviting GPSS Senators to the first meeting and preempted it with a survey to gauge student interest and perspectives on the issue. She said she hopes to get sessions started in the Winter quarter. She explained that the goal is to get students comfortable with sharing opinions and learning from each other and to foster dialogue.

Pratima K.C. raised a point of information and asked if there was an onboarding document for Executive Senators.

A.J. Balatico said no. He said he could resend the onboarding document but would have to remake it. He mentioned that this may be the last Executive Committee meeting with Pratima. He also mentioned that this is the last Executive Meeting for Rene.

Pratima K.C. asked if she could contribute to the onboarding.

A.J. Balatico said yes.

Jack Flesher mentioned that the UW Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity and Ralina Joseph have hosted “radical listening” sessions before. He said these could be a good place for ideas and collaboration on fostering dialogue on Israel/Palestine.

Bill Mahoney mentioned that Ralina Joseph is the Associate Dean of Diversity, Justice, and Inclusion.

A.J. Balatico said Clare mentioned a program called Sustained Dialogue. He said Jay Cunningham had a chapter of Sustained Dialogue before the COVID-19 pandemic and suggested reaching out to him.

Ella Spurlock recommended that the sessions have a diplomacy focus. She said diplomacy might be a good term to use to attract students interested in the topic. She asked if Clare was still interested in hosting discussions beyond conflict in the Middle East.

Clare Koesters said she is interested in eventually branching out but would like to focus on Israel/Palestine for the time being.

Ella Spurlock gave an update on the Science and Policy Committee. She invited Senators to let her know if they have ideas about science outreach to senior centers in Seattle about locally relevant issues. She said that Science and Policy decided to get more involved in policy by writing resolutions after meeting with Nick. She said Science and Policy settled on two resolutions that, if passed, will be forwarded to the state legislature in Olympia. She said both resolutions were related to climate change. She explained that one resolution pertained to climate justice for underserved communities and the other pertained to bolstering the climate resiliency workforce in Washington. She invited Senators to participate in researching for these resolutions.

A.J. Balatico asked when the first draft of the resolution could be sent to the Senate.

Ella Spurlock said Science and Policy set a soft deadline of January 10. She said committee members are planning on working asynchronously on the resolution.

Nick Juno said it would be beneficial if the Senate could pass the resolution on January 17 in time to send it to Olympia.

Pratima K.C. said that some meeting minutes from last year were not up to date.

Jack Flesher said he and Rene are trying to figure out if they can get back-end access to a Google Drive for files that did not transition over the summer. He said if they cannot get access, then GPSS will have to recreate less detailed minutes. He said the recordings for the Executive Committee Summer meetings are available.

A.J. Balatico said if the meeting recordings from last year are not accessible, the public record for those meetings will only consist of the actions taken.

Pratima K.C. said she abstained to pass the minutes and noticed they were not posted. She asked why there is no Zoom link for Senate meetings posted to the GPSS website.

A.J. Balatico said he wants GPSS focused on attending meetings in person. He said Senators can request the Zoom link from Jack via email.

Pratima K.C. asked how students who are not familiar with GPSS would know how to reach out via for the Zoom link.

Jack Flesher said the recommendations GPSS was given were to provide Zoom on an as-needed basis. He said Zoom is a great option for people who need flexibility. He said the Zoom link is sent out with meeting agendas before each meeting. He said members of the general public can use the contact form on the website to request the Zoom link.

Pratima K.C. asked if the Senate or Executive Committee voted on not using Zoom anymore.

Jack Flesher said GPSS still uses Zoom.

Pratima K.C. asked why the Zoom link is not posted to the GPSS website.

Jack Flesher explained that the guidance GPSS received on incentivizing higher meeting attendance was to stop pushing Zoom out as much as possible and make it an accommodation that members of the public can request.

Pratima K.C. asked if the Senate or Executive Committee voted on that measure. She asked why it was not discussed.

A.J. Balatico said no, it was not voted on.

Charles Bugre recommended adding a statement on the website saying that people can request a Zoom link as an accommodation.

Jack Flesher accepted the recommendation.

Pratima K.C. said the forms have multiple requirements and people might lose interest in filling them out.

7. [Information] GPSS Officer Updates 6:27pm

Nick Juno said the Legislative Agenda passed at the last Senate meeting. He said he is working with Kana to make it presentable for the Legislative Reception. He said speakers for the Legislative Reception on Thursday, December 7 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm are nearly finalized. He said there will be catering, speakers, legislators, and staff at the event. He mentioned that students will be able to interact with state legislators. He encouraged Senators to promote the Legislative Reception within their own programs.

A.J. Balatico asked if there was a seating limit. He mentioned that he is hesitant to send an all-campus email inviting everyone to the Legislative Reception.

Nick Juno recommended against sending an all-campus email. He said there is enough seating for about 112 to 120 people, which is consistent with attendance at Legislative Receptions in recent years.

A.J. Balatico asked if there was a way for people interested in attending the Legislative Reception to register for the event.

Nick Juno said yes, there is a registration form through Microsoft forms. He said there will be a separate RSVP form for non-students.

Matthew Moran said the Senator of the Month application is live on the website. He mentioned that phase 2 for the Diversity Funds application will involve outreach. He said Diversity Funds has received applications very slowly and will be more deliberate in reaching out to prior applicants and creating fliers. He said Diversity Link Tree is now on the GPSS website under News Tab under Resources. He encouraged Senators to share the link. He said he and Jess will set up the Equity Toolkit and create a list for tabling for different organizations at the Diversity Summit in April. He mentioned that fliers are out for the Culture Showcase and are located on the shared drive but need to be converted into a PDF for accessibility. He encouraged Senators to refer students to the link to sign up for the Culture Showcase.

Jon Choi said the Finance and Budget Committee has had two special allocations funded for a total of \$1,250. He said three more organizations will be requesting money this

Friday. He mentioned that Travel Grants gave out awards to 17 students this year totaling over \$6,000 and that the application portal will be open again this Friday. He said the Student Activities Fee (SAF) budget request packet came out on Monday. He said there will be a unit orientation this Friday to give an overview of GPSS. He said Student Technology Fee (STF) has been reviewing 18 proposals and held 6 proposal hearings on Monday. He said STF will be voting on the proposals next week. He said he and Nick have been working on getting funding for the Legislative Reception and locked down catering. He said GPSS will provide about \$1,000 in funding for the Legislative Reception.

Amanda Chin asked if any progress has been made on the Provost request.

Jon Choi said he shared a draft of the request with Officers but has not heard anything back.

Amanda Chin said the funding is needed soon otherwise events will come to a halt.

Jack Flesher said 18 people participated in the Craft and Complain event yesterday. He said the Committee for Senator Motivation and Retention (CSMR) has not been able to meet and needs to readjust its meeting times. He said he hopes to get more people to join CSMR at the next Senate meeting. He mentioned there are 2 MSIM Senators and 1 MLIS Senator. He said he reached out to English department but has not heard back yet. He said he has the Elections Committee startup email ready to send out to committee members.

Charles Bugre thanked Jack for the update on MSIM and MLIS. He asked if Jack could mention to the new Election Committee the proposals that were made to streamline elections policies. He asked if there were Senators from the Pharmacology Department.

A.J. Balatico said there are currently no Senators from Pharmacology.

Charles Bugre asked if there were any Senators from Biochemistry.

Jack Flesher said there is 1 Senator from Pharmaceutics and 1 Pharm D student. He said there were 2 Senators from Biochemistry.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of information and mentioned that Pharmacology is part of the School of Medicine.

Charles Bugre asked if the School of Medicine represents Pharmacology.

A.J. Balatico said it depends on the program. He said Pharmacology has had plenty of Senators up until last year.

Charles Bugre asked if Jack checks in with program advisors for Senator recruitment.

Jack Flesher said he sends out emails quarterly with general information as well as targeted emails to departments without Senators. He mentioned that he sometimes receives hostile responses from Graduate Program Advisors (GPAs).

Charles Bugre suggested thinking about another avenue for reaching out to graduate students other than GPAs.

A.J. Balatico raised a point of information and said there was an instance when the Dean of a school and the student government of the school appointed different people to the Senate. He said GPSS had to figure out who was the real Senator. He said there have also been instances of PhD students being actively dissuaded from service work.

Bill Mahoney said this will be a common conflict with faculty. He said he promotes graduate involvement in GPSS. He said reminders for appointing Senators could go out in a newsletter in early January. He said it may be difficult to recruit through student organizations because of student turnover. He apologized for hostility from GPAs. He explained that GPAs may be under stress because they dealt with the financial transformation and a new admissions platform last summer.

Jack Flesher explained his strategy for recruitment.

Amanda Chin asked if it would be pertinent to send Research Symposium information to Bill.

Bill Mahoney said yes.

Amanda Chin said the Speed Friending event went well. She said charades and trivia would be better activities for these types of events than Bingo. She said there will be a January career workshop with karaoke on cover letters and book binding. She said there will be a brunch on February 3 at the Intellectual House. She said there will also be a Puppy Love and bowling events in Winter. She said GPSS is still working on the Research Symposium, Comedy Show, and Cultural Showcase.

A.J. Balatico explained that the Board of Regents was discussing changing its naming policy for buildings without regard to philanthropic giving. He said the naming process

will prioritize the names of UW community members rather than just donors. He said the naming of interior spaces is under the purview of the President. He said the university is contextualizing the George Washington statue and Alaska-Yukon expedition with plaques. He said the Graduate Policy Committee is meeting tomorrow. He said there were 2 different groups for quality and accessibility of curricula and programming of undergraduate and graduate instruction on campus last year. He said the Student Activities Fee (SAF) unit overview will occur this Friday. He mentioned that 18 units on campus are affected by SAF. He mentioned that SAF costs \$160 per quarter per student to fund amounting to about \$22 million. He said the SAF fee can only increase by up to 4%. He said SAF only funds 20% of funding proposals by units on campus. He mentioned that GPSS relies for its funding on SAF, annual carry over, and provost money among other sources of funding. He said funding could be part of the legislative push as a way of providing services to students. He mentioned that many items that the university has asked for in the past have gone unfunded due to lack of funds. He explained that allowing for an 8% increase in the SAF fee would allow the university to improve benefits from SAF funding while raising fees by a couple of dollars. He gave a brief presentation on the different units funded directly by SAF. He mentioned that the Surgeon General and Department of Health and Human Services followed up with GPSS on UW-specific health concerns after the Surgeon General's visit. He said he is working with Sarah Castro later to discuss the federal agenda. He indicated that GPSS has not yet reached out to the National Graduate and Professional Student Program (NAGPS), which is the replacement for SAGE. He said that because GPSS has not heard anything from NAGPS, GPSS may represent its interests to the federal government on its own. He said GPSS is interested in going to different federal agencies rather than just Congress. He said the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB) with Faculty Senate looked at UW Medicine's budget, which is doing much better than projected. He said UW Medicine projects losing \$13 million rather than \$90 million.

Charles Bugre asked for clarification on Faculty Senate information.

Bill Mahoney explained that people who receive uncompensated care for medical treatment go to Harbor View, which falls under the umbrella of UW Medicine. He said the deficit accumulated from providing uncompensated care goes on to UW Medicine and the School of Medicine departments absorb those costs. He said the individual departments contribute to UW Medicine's deficit when the annual budget is not balanced. He explained that Harbor View is UW Medicine's service to the community and something that UW Medicine, as a major medical center, should not shy away from.

A.J. Balatico explained that \$700 million in uncompensated care, \$2.2 billion in deferred maintenance, and \$800 million for retrofitting the power plant retrofitting constitute

expenditures that UW has currently not budgeted for. He said UW Medicine will continue providing uncompensated care. He explained that the university cannot simply unplug the power plant. He said Faculty Senate members have expressed concern about what would happen to backup generators in hospitals if the power plant were unplugged. He said the administration is focused on resolving these larger budgetary issues. He said the Faculty Senate could not meet this Monday due to a reporting error to the Public Records Office. He said the issues that have come up in the Faculty Senate were related to the period during which an incomplete grade can be assigned. He said that right now, students will have 1 quarter to request an incomplete grade.

8. [Information] PACS/TABS Priorities 7:02pm

A.J. Balatico said the priorities of the Provost Advisory Committee for Students and the Tri-Campus Advisory Board for Students (TABS) priorities have been related to accessibility and safety on campus. He asked the Executive Committee if there are other issues facing students that GPSS should address in the PACS and TABS agendas.

Clare Koesters said UW is lacking healthy food options on campus.

A.J. Balatico said that is the first topic on the TABS meeting agenda. He said this was an issue common to UW Seattle, Bothel, and Tacoma.

Nick Juno asked if these are issues related to university or legal policy.

A.J. Balatico said yes, but PACS and TABS are primarily budgetary too. He said attaining funds to support university policies without increasing tuition or fees remains an issue. He asked if graduate students would be okay with the university adding a fee for healthy food on campus, or if this would already be covered under SAF.

Rene Singleton asked if union activities for graduate student pay have been included. She asked if Executive Senators have thought about what issues PACS and TABS should focus on ahead of time.

A.J. Balatico said the Executive Committee discussed how to incorporate these concerns into an attendance question for the Senate. He expressed that the Committee does want to consult students.

Clare Koesters said she would be willing to pay a \$30 fee to increase healthy food options on campus. She clarified that she does not speak for everyone on campus in expressing her willingness to pay a \$30 fee. She said food is currently too expensive on campus and asked if there was a university policy about food prices on campus.

A.J. Balatico said HFS has closed all the cafes because they were not making money. He said re-establishing the Faculty Club is a priority because it is a recruitment vehicle. He mentioned that students currently pay a \$30 fee that funds the IMA bond, which was a decision reached by ASUW and GPSS in 2000.

Pratima K.C. said there are no good vegan or vegetarian options on campus.

A.J. Balatico also mentioned the issue of culturally relevant food options.

Rene Singleton said the Executive Director of food services should come and share how food options and pricing on campus works with the Executive Committee. She said the ridiculous prices may have to do with inflation. She recommended that the Committee learn how these things are funded.

Bill Mahoney said it would be a good idea to collaborate with ASUW on attaining affordable and healthy food options on campus because undergraduate students constitute a larger voting bloc.

A.J. Balatico said the issue of affordable and healthy food on campus is also a safety issue. He mentioned that graduate students are forced to go elsewhere for food when HUB closes. He reiterated that the university is focused on resolving billion-dollar items. He mentioned that the Faculty Club has not been re-established because it was not self-sustaining.

Bill Mahoney said the Faculty Club was not re-established because when campus shutdown, no one purchased memberships at the Faculty Club. He mentioned that the Provost has expressed interest in re-envisioning and re-establishing the Faculty Club.

A.J. Balatico said faculty to staff ratios have come up as concerns among students as well. He asked if students would be better served by hiring student support staff to navigate programs rather than faculty members. He asked if GPSS staff should send a survey before the Senate meeting gauging student concerns or develop an attendance question that could be used to gauge student concerns at the beginning of the Senate meeting.

Pratima K.C. recommended writing a survey allowing students to rank issues with a space to write in issues as well.

A.J. Balatico asked if this should be done at the Senate meeting or in advance.

Pratima K.C. said both.

Bill Mahoney said Senators need to be prepared ahead of time.

A.J. Balatico said GPSS has established some of its priorities.

9. [Action] 12/6 Senate Agenda Setting 7:14pm

A.J. Balatico reviewed the Senate Meeting agenda. He asked who would do the land acknowledgement.

Jack Flesher asked about Senator of the Month.

Matthew Moran said there were several people who could be Senator of the Month.

Pratima K.C. asked about Senators of the Month from April and May whose names were not recognized on the GPSS website.

Jack Flesher said he could post those.

Ella Spurlock said she would like to have a moment during the Senate meeting to mention the activities of the Science and Policy Committee.

A.J. Balatico recommended doing a committee roundup at the meeting after the Executive Senator election.

Ella Spurlock recommended allowing 10 minutes for the roundup.

Pratima K.C. said CSMR could be announced during the roundup.

Matthew Moran said the nomination for Senator of the Month was Alec Solemslie.

A.J. Balatico said Alec is in his second year on SAF and GPSS, has WASU experience, and has served on the Graduate School Council.

Pratima K.C. said Alec is also on the Elections Committee this year.

Matthew Moran invited the Executive Committee to share any other information about Alec that would be pertinent to the Senator of the Month announcement.

Jack Flesher volunteered to read the land acknowledgement.

Clare Koesters asked if she could talk about her project about Israel and Palestine at the next Senate meeting.

A.J. Balatico said Clare could talk about her project during the announcements. He said people would need to know her contact information and dates for the Jackson School events.

Charles Bugre moved to pass the agenda. **Matthew Moran** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:20pm

10. Adjournment 7:20pm

Charles Bugre motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Pratima K.C.** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:20pm

Meeting minutes prepared by Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Clerk.