

# The Executive Committee of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 31 January 2024 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  
Clare Koesters, Executive Senator  
Sarah Ibrahim, Executive Senator  
Maleen Kidiwela, Executive Senator  
Noah Nguyen, Executive Senator  
Ella Spurlock, Executive Senator  
Charles Bugre, Executive Senator  
Raj Dewangan, Executive Senator  
Francisco Dojenia, ASUW Director of Internal Policy  
Carrie Moore, HUB Executive Director  
Bill Mahoney, Graduate School Advisor  
Christina Coop, SAO Interim Associate Director  
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. **Jon Choi** seconded. No objections.  
5:31pm

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

**Maleen Kidiwela** moved to approve the minutes. **Matthew Moran** seconded. No objections. 5:32pm

4. [Information] ASUW Winter Updates 5:3pm

**Francisco Dojenia** said ASUW passed new policies and procedures for board elections. He said the ASUW Board passed a resolution to make exam materials free. He said the Constitutional Reform Taskforce is debating on Senate structure. He said there were plans for holding an ASUW town Hall. He said ASUW passed appropriation bills.

**A.J. Balatico** asked when the board election would take place.

**Francisco Dojenia** responded that board elections would take place April 15 to April 17.

**A.J. Balatico** explained that people cannot run for office and a student regent position simultaneously. He said ASUW could entertain an application for student regent if the candidate lost an Officer election, but that this was to be determined by the Election Committee. He said this was an option for ASUW but not GPSS.

**A.J. Balatico** asked for an update on the ASUW resolution related to the Israel/Palestine conflict.

**Francisco Dojenia** said the resolution is currently in committee.

**A.J. Balatico** said university leadership will have a response to the Israel/Palestine conflict at the Faculty meeting about official public opinion on controversial topics.

**Clare Koesters** asked if the meeting was open to the public.

**A.J. Balatico** said yes, it will be a public meeting on February 15.

**Francisco Dojenia** said the ASUW Senate is also looking at legislation to adopt the principles of the Chicago Statement, which entered committee yesterday.

**A.J. Balatico** explained that the Chicago Statement is related to free speech and academic freedom. He said last year's student regent brought up the Chicago Statement in their final report in June. He said the Chicago Statement will be discussed as a university.

5. [Information] Executive Senator Updates 5:36pm

**Clare Koesters** said she is working on establishing a sustained dialogue on campus about Israel/Palestine conflict. She expressed interest in coordinating with Francisco.

**A.J. Balatico** explained that the Student Regent also had sustained dialogue when they were at the University of Alabama. He said the Student Regent started a chapter in Human Center Design Engineering and wants to bring it in to UW as regent project.

**Maleen Kidiwela** said he has been working on the Elections Committee with Alec Solemslie, the new committee Chair. He said the committee almost has all the proposed amendments ready. He said the committee will prepare to format the amendments and send them to the Judicial Committee. He clarified that he is not referring to the Elections Guide, but rather amendments to the GPSS elections bylaws. Should be ready by next week.

**A.J. Balatico** asked if the changes to the bylaws were related to the destroying of ballots in the case of a tie.

**Maleen Kidiwela** said yes.

**A.J. Balatico** asked if the ballot box would remain as an alternative.

**Maleen Kidiwela** said the Elections Committee is thinking about making the voting process fully digital. He said the ballot box was used 2 years ago, but counting the votes took a very long time. He indicated that the elections process should be digital.

**A.J. Balatico** asked for clarity regarding what happens in the case of a tie once a candidate in last place is eliminated in a single-transferable vote procedure.

**Maleen Kidiwela** said the procedure is not to toss a coin.

**A.J. Balatico** explained that in the case of an absolute tie, the tie breaker is a coin toss.

**Ella Spurlock** said the Science and Policy Committee wrapped up its resolutions. She asked if the approved resolutions have been sent out to state lawmakers.

**A.J. Balatico** said not yet, but they have been reformatted. He said he still had questions about the language to use in the correspondence sent to legislatures about resolutions.

**Ella Spurlock** said hopefully people will follow up with them about the next steps on sending the resolutions. She said the Science and Policy Committee is working on the Graduate Research Symposium in April and the SOPA outreach program. She said she

attended Huskies on the Hill and had a good meeting with the legislative staff of a Senator who is on the Capital Budget Committee. She said she received a positive response from the staffer when she brought up the capital budget requests that UW put in for remodeling Bagley Hall and Campus Decarbonization. She said the staffer indicated that the university will almost surely receive \$5 million for Bagley Hall. She said the Senator has a lot of sway on the Capital Gains Committee.

**Nick Juno** said Representative Shavers was the Senator with sway on the Capital Gains Committee.

**Raj Dewangan** said Huskies on the Hill was a great opportunity. He said he met 2 Senators and 1 Representative. He said Representative Shavers and his staff seemed very passionate about the House Education Bill and the Decarbonization Bill and expressed interest in supporting the latter financially if it is in phases. He said Senator Conway and Senator Van De Wege were receptive of bills that GPSS supported, especially those expanding Washington State College Grant and student mental health services while others were not completely assured. He reiterated that Huskies on the Hill was a great opportunity to acquire advocacy experience.

**A.J. Balatico** Said Bagley Hall is in the capital budget of Governor Inslee's plan. He said the university requested \$48.9 million and that \$10 million for Clean Energy Institute was the only non-funded item.

**Raj Dewangan** said GPSS could have more entities added like Circle. He said GPSS has formally accepted Circle and requested its budget proposal with a different timeline. He said the funding for Circle will not come from GPSS's general fund. He said historically any student life entity if inducted usually becomes a Student Activity Fee entity the following year. He said Circle is doing a great job. He said there could be one other SAF unit inducted. He said all round table conferences have concluded. He said he will meet with specific individual entities to discuss their budget proposals.

**Noah Nguyen** said she has been attending Tri Campus Advisory Board Committee meetings and that the next meeting will take place on February 14 at Bothell with ASUW Bothell. She said the committee is reviewing a resolution about the promotion process in the faculty code. She said she has been working on updating the GPSS website and will begin leading the knitting and crocheting circle.

**A.J. Balatico** said the GPSS external affairs link tree has an agenda and bill tracker. He said UW tracks over 600 state bills and relays them to experts on campus. He said the Seattle campus contributes \$22 million to 18 units. He said the SAF chair, Mitchel Klein,

will be at the next Senate meeting to discuss the budget process and the fiscal situations for different units across campus. He reiterated that the SAF fee can only increase by 4%.

**Jon Choi** said the SAF fee currently costs students \$163 per quarter and would only go up by 3.6% next year.

**A.J. Balatico** said SAF has lost money by rounding down to the next dollar. He said student employment raises the cost of operations as the Seattle minimum wage goes up. He said 18 units have requested a combined \$4 million increase in funding in the past but have only received \$800,000, meaning that SAF has only been able to fund 20% of what units request.

**Clare Koesters** asked where to get access to the bill tracker.

**A.J. Balatico** said the bill tracker can be found in the GPSS link tree. He said the Faculty Senate has a different opinion from the Office of Planning and Budgeting. He said the Faculty Senate is more concerned about what happens if certain items of the budget are passed or not passed. He said the Faculty Senate through Professor Jake Vigdor in the Evans School has written up the positions of the faculty. He said the Faculty Senate is in favor of expanding the Washington College Grant but neutral on free community college. He said this is because students who enroll in a community college might not transfer to a 4-year university. He said the Faculty Senate supports everything else that student governments support. He said the Council of Presidents is neutral to student concerns and will not interfere in student affairs because their focus is on getting compensation for faculty.

#### 6. [Information] Officer Updates 5:51pm

**Nick Juno** thanked the 105 students who participated in Huskies on the Hill. He said met with more staff members than Representatives or Senators. He said the Bill Tracker updates weekly and will change drastically because any bill about policy must be passed out of committee by today. He explained that any bill that costs more than \$40,000 will have to go through the Ways and Means Committee in the Senate and the Appropriations Committee in the House by Monday at 5:00pm. He said the goal is to get as many bills through the Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees as possible. He said every bill in a certain chamber must be through the floor by February 13. He said Senate and House members will be on the floor trying to pass as many bills as possible after Monday. He said GPSS positions mostly line up with Faculty Senate positions. He said he meets with Faculty Senate members statewide on a weekly basis to align on strategy and discuss policy. He said Faculty Senates preferred putting funding into the

Washington College Grant rather than the College Promise. He said allocating funding into a more equitable and wide-reaching program is their priority. He said most people want the childcare discussion to happen next year due to costs. He said legislators have expressed little interest in addressing SAF without student support because it is student controlled. He said he is trying to discuss SAF with the Washington Student Association.

**A.J. Balatico** said the Board of Directors for the Washington Student Association indicated that SAF may be a mechanism to compensate for dropping enrollments at other institutions. He said their student populations would be stuck paying extra, which could be alleviated by allowing students to determine the SAF rate.

**Nick Juno** said that student boards that control SAF fees can also decrease funding and that each institution can determine how to provide funding. He said he met with Mitchell Klein who said an 8% SAF increase would probably resolve financial issues at UW. He said legislation that supports sexual assault victims with better resources and facilities on campus is currently in the Appropriations Committee. He said there are also bills for drug education and overdose prevention resources like Narcan, Naloxone, and fentanyl test strips on college campuses. He said legislation on reproductive and gender affirming care access has moved to the House. He said the legislature is looking at rent caps as a measure to create more affordable housing options, but that this legislation is being held up in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. He said there is also legislation for property tax relief for low-income families and expanding college access, but not a lot of legislation for graduate tuition support. He indicated that the capital budget allocates \$5 million for Bagley Hall improvements. He said there are also \$38.9 million from the Climate Commitment Act dedicated to the Energy Renewal Program for campuses to transition away from using fossil fuels.

**A.J. Balatico** said all these issues affect the university. He reminded the Executive Committee that UW is tracking 600 different bills and that those that survive will have an impact.

**Matthew Moran** said he is sending emails out for the Diversity Resources Fair. He welcomed ideas about on- and off-campus resources to host at the fair. On Friday He said the Evans School's Race and Equity Forum in partnership with GPSS is happening from 11:00am to 1:00pm on Friday in HUB 303. He said the event will feature experts on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and have refreshments. He said the Drag Brunch will take place on Saturday from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Intellectual House and reminded the Executive Committee to purchase tickets ahead of time. He said he is still working on the Cultural Showcase and receiving applications. He said the Judicial Committee will work on bylaw changes in February March. He said the Diversity Committee has

received 10 funding applications and provided \$4,000 of funding and is quickly approaching its funding cap for the year. He said the Diversity Committee will put together a master list of events happening throughout the year. He said Diversity Committee approved \$1,500 of funding for the Timeless Taiwan Organization and Persian Circle to host events.

**Christina Coop** said to make sure that John Christensen knows about the funding approvals so they can be drafted.

**Matthew Moran** said he has been adding Rene and Felice in communications on the funding approvals.

**Amanda Chin** said the Drag Brunch will take place on Saturday and costs \$20 for UW affiliates. She said attendees will receive 2 drinks and food. She said the Puppy Love event will take place on Valentine's Day from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. She announced that there will be a movie night with popcorn and snacks on Friday. She said she will be more diligent with advertising for the Graduate Research Symposium and create an FAQ landing page on the GPSS website about the symposium. She said she is working with Jess on the Cultural Showcase. She said the 4/20 event will now be a film festival featuring 4 film makers from the community rather than a comedy show. She said she is collaborating with Circle and the UW Alumni Association on an end-of-the-year celebration. She said she has spoken with the Mariners about acquiring tickets to a game on Friday, May 10.

**Jack Flesher** said there are new Senators from Public Health, Speech and Hearing, and the Law School. He said he is checking in with people who did not meet their attendance requirements from last quarter and reminded them that they may retroactively apply their quarter of leave to Fall quarter. He said only 2 people withdrew from the Senate. He said he has engaged in targeted outreach to Dentistry, Social Work, and Computer Science. He said the Arts Council met this week. He said there will be another free Craft and Complain event next Thursday and another one later in the quarter. He said the last Craft and Complain of the quarter may be a Crafts and Drafts event pending alcohol request. He said he is also working with Amanda on a sketch series where students will get together for an hour to do some sketching. He said the Arts Spreadsheet is being consistently updated with new events. He said he is serving on the Landolt Committee again this year. He said the Committee is reviewing applications for the Graduate Mentors Award.

**Jon Choi** said Special Allocations has so far given out \$8,150 across 12 RSOs. He said there is 1 pending application for \$750. He said there were \$2,000 in Departmental Allocations distributed to 2 departments with 2 more departments interested in receiving funding. He said the \$5,000 fund is close to running out. He said \$2,500 have been funded through Travel Grants for February and that Travel Grant Applications will open again tomorrow. He said he emailed this year's Travel Grant recipients encouraging them to apply for the Graduate Research Symposium. He said STF is getting around to

reviewing proposals for this quarter and that the latest message from the chair is that they have not received enough proposals.

**A.J. Balatico** said SAF chair Mitchel Klein will come to the February Senate meeting to explain funding and expected increases this year. He said UPASS will come in March to discuss the UPASS rates. He expressed uncertainty about what will happen to UPASS rates given transportation expansions. He mentioned that Seattle's raising bus fare would have a demonstrable impact on the UPASS program. He mentioned that it costs significantly more money when people do not tap their Husky ID cards at each terminus after riding the link. He said not tapping off requires UPASS to pay as if a passenger traveled the entire 1-line route. He said there is \$6 million in reserve that could be used to slowly decrease the fund. He indicated that freezing the fund will reduce rebound in future years. He said STF will come to the Senate in April to discuss their current rate of \$22 per quarter including Summer. He mentioned that the STF fee used to be \$38. He said STF only spent \$1 million out of \$3 million during the Autumn quarter. He explained that the STF fund will never go down even if the rate is frozen to \$0. He said the Faculty Senate entertained a version of GPSS's decarbonization resolution and that the only recommendation from the Provost and the President was to open the governance structure to students. He said the decarbonization project will outlive graduate students' time at UW and that the project's implications extend beyond the power plant. He explained that the decarbonization plan will affect travel. He added that athletic travel has changed because of the university's move to the BIG 10. He mentioned that the utilization of university funds for travel constituted part of the university's research profile. He said the Dean and the chair of a department can offer retention bonuses to faculty who consider leaving to another institution and that the Faculty Senate wanted to add transparency to this process. He said the Faculty Senate cannot necessarily address student affairs. He mentioned that the Faculty Council on Student Affairs is packed. He said there will be a wellness day sometime in the Spring and that the Counseling Center is organizing a student-based wellness committee. He said some entities have pushed back on having a wellness day because it would not be financially supported by the university. He explained that a wellness day eliminates 2% of quarterly instructional time which has budgetary impacts on how people allocate their work time. He said the Faculty Senate is considering a resolution on AI use. He said students using AI on assignments have not been expelled but do receive no credit. He said PACS Chair Janis Shin was invited on Friday to accept a \$64 million check on behalf of the university to expand the J-line from university to downtown. He said this project will create canopy structure and tree line from U District to downtown.

**Francisco Dojenja** asked who is working on the wellness day.

**A.J. Balatico** said Aliya Cleveland wrote a joint resolution between ASUW and GPSS. He said student government should do what it said it would do in the resolution. He said BIG 10 institutions have reading days for their exams, which could be another way of implementing a wellness day. He said this might institutionalize a holiday between April, May, and June beyond Juneteenth.



**Noah Nguyen** asked if there was a university policy associated with the use of AI tools.

**A.J. Balatico** said there is no university-wide policy. He said it is up to each professor's discretion and would have to be referred to Student Conduct. He reiterated that there are no universal guidelines on addressing ChatGPT. He reiterated that professors could give 0s to students for using AI tools. He said the use of Grammarly is leading to false AI positives.

[Information] GPSS Composition Survey 6:34pm

**A.J. Balatico** said GPSS usually cannot go over results of the Composition Survey until the election meeting, which is too late. He said GPSS will go over the results in February. He said results thus far show an even split between master's and PhD students in the Senate. He explained various pieces of data from the Composition Survey. He mentioned that providing spaces where Senators can meet was a point of feedback in the survey. He mentioned that it is difficult to schedule moments for Senators to meet in a Senate meeting because of how much work there is to do.

7. [Information] Officer/Executive Budget 6:38pm

**Jon Choi** said Officers must reach consensus on the budget and then bring their recommendations to the Executive Committee. He asked the Executive Senators if they listened to the budget overview from the last Senate meeting.

**Clare Koesters** said no.

**Jon Choi** gave an overview of how the GPSS budget operates from the last Senate meeting.

**Clare Koesters** asked if the Executive Committee would vote on the budget during this meeting.

**A.J. Balatico** said no. He said the Senate will vote on the budget on March 6.

**Matthew Moran** said discussing the budget gives the Executive Committee an idea of where GPSS is heading financially.

**Jon Choi** said the Executive Committee can discuss the budget between now and next quarter but will need to make a recommendation to the Senate. He gave a presentation on the Officer budgets.

**Jack Flesher** asked if GPSS is increasing the promotional materials budget to \$2,000.

**Jon Choi** said yes and explained that the \$400 office supplies would be lumped into promotional materials.

**Jack Flesher** recommended keeping promotional materials at \$1,600.

**A.J. Balatico** said promotional materials would include items like pens and bags, but not necessarily posters.

**Christina Coop** asked for clarification on the copier lease.

**Jack Flesher** said the copier lease is budgeted under the VP of Finance and is budgeted at \$2,128 per year.

**Jon Choi** continued explaining Officer budgets.

**A.J. Balatico** said Day on the Hill used to be funded under Administration. He mentioned that the VP of External Affairs position was created in 2015.

**Jack Flesher** said the Administration budget was much larger in the past because it was the main operational budget. He said it has since been distributed across Officers.

**Ella Spurlock** asked if Grad Day on the Hill was the Huskies on the Hill event or something else.

**Jon Choi** said it referred to Huskies on the Hills.

**Nick Juno** explained that Grad Day on the Hill is the same thing as Huskies on the Hill.

**A.J. Balatico** said WSA has requested to have a separate Grad Day on the Hill event.

**Nick Juno** said that event would be paid for specifically out of WSA's budget and would likely not occur this year given the legislature's timeline.

**Jon Choi** said discretionary funds can be allocated when there is not enough funding in a specific line item. He continued to explain the Officer budgets.

**Ella Spurlock** asked what the insurance covers.

**Carrie Moore** said the insurance probably covers equipment and technology.

**Jon Choi** said he will confirm what the insurance covers. He continued to explain the Officer budgets.

**Jack Flesher** asked if there were a reason why discretionary funding is higher now than before.

**A.J. Balatico** said diversity fund was under the Secretary at the time. He said Diversity Funds were for programming related to GPSS.

**Jack Flesher** asked if it needs to be greater than other Discretionary Funds. He suggested allocating \$100 to Discretionary Funds.

**A.J. Balatico** said the last time the Officer Travel Fund was used was for a return-to-campus retreat when the VP of Equity and Inclusion was added. He said the Officer Travel Fund was not used last year.

**Jon Choi** suggested converting the Officer Travel Fund to Administration's Discretionary Fund for more flexibility.

**A.J. Balatico** said there is no item in the VP of Internal Affairs Budget that covers an expenditure like the comedy show, which cost \$10,000 and required Senate approval.

**Jon Choi** continued to explain Officer salaries.

**Maleen Kidiwela** asked if each column on the spreadsheet represents a quarter.

**Jon Choi** said the columns represent fiscal years. He continued to explain staff costs. He explained that Officers are considering the possibility of consolidating staff to 6 rather than 9 positions.

**Matthew Moran** clarified that the Officers are thinking about cutting 3 staff positions, but that this decision is not final.

**Jack Flesher** said there is more flexibility with staff positions since they are an internal issue. He mentioned that how they are titled and crafted is up to the Officers' discretion.

**Jon Choi** asked if Officers could go through the non-budgeted expenditure process to hire another staff member.

**A.J. Balatico** said yes. He said staff roles are extensions of stated Officer duties in the bylaws. He advocated that Officers directly supervise staff and that having 6 staff and 6 Officers made sense. He mentioned that the University Affairs Director is the original staff role. He said a staff member moved to a different opportunity and that GPSS is currently advertising for the position. He said GPSS does not save much by not filling staff positions.

**Noah Nguyen** asked if Officers are still considering hiring a staff position in charge of the website.

**A.J. Balatico** said that the ideal scenario would be for each staff member to be equipped to do basic maintenance on the website. He said Officers may update staff job descriptions. He said UW IT and the Professional Interlock consultant agreed with getting the Pantheon service to speed up the backend and make the website easier to edit.

**Jon Choi** said SAF is looking to hire Creative Common Services to overhaul the website design, which could be submitted as part of an STF proposal. He said Creative Common Services could overhaul the website's content management system so that it would be easier to use. He said these measures could mitigate the need for hiring a staff member in charge of the website.

**A.J. Balatico** said Ella suggested that Officers split staff positions. He suggested keeping the positions at 19 hours per week so that GPSS can more fully support one student rather than partially support multiple students.

**Jack Flesher** said that since staff members fill in on committees, they often take up extra hours with those extra responsibilities, making it difficult to reduce weekly hours.

**Noah Nguyen** asked if GPSS can ask UW IT to maintain the website.

**A.J. Balatico** said no, but that they will help if the website breaks or if there is a cybersecurity issue.

**Jon Choi** continued explaining benefits in the budget.

**Raj Dewangan** asked if there will be any increase in staff pay.

**Jon Choi** said staff and Officer wages will be kept at the same level.

**A.J. Balatico** said SAF prioritizes minimum increases. He said staff pay was \$18 in 2022, increased to \$23 mid-year, and increased again to \$24 this year. He said each \$1 per hour increase for an employee costs \$660.

**Christina Coop** said that prior to the pandemic GPSS traditionally asked the Graduate School for Discretionary Funds. She indicated that this was something GPSS could consider resuming.

**A.J. Balatico** Said yes, but there should be an Advancement Director at the Graduate School before asking.

**Bill Mahoney** said GPSS can ask even though there is not an Advancement Director, but not to necessarily hope for a positive answer.

**A.J. Balatico** said many graduate student projects that require funding are cause-driven, but the preference for all advance units is to receive money that they decide how to spend. He said most people who donate money to advancement causes usually donate to selective funds like scholarships. He said it is unlikely for GPSS to receive discretionary money from alumni. He said this information will be conveyed to the Senate.

**Jon Choi** continued explaining sources of income.

**A.J. Balatico** said the endowment fund was discovered when old budget codes were identified. He said GPSS needs to decide on whether to allow it to continue growing or to withdraw it.

**Raj Dewangan** asked if GPSS had a plan for the endowment when it was first established and if there are there any restrictions on accessing the money.

**A.J. Balatico** said it was meant to be used for non-budgeted expenses.

**Jon Choi** said 25% of distributions must be used for scholarships or grants while the rest is discretionary. He said the interest accrued during the fiscal year is currently not generating interest. He said GPSS can reinvest that money back into the endowment and generate more money.

**Raj Dewangan** asked if Officers have any suggestions regarding the endowment. He asked what the interest rate is for the endowment.

**Jon Choi** said the proposed budget changes will balance the GPSS budget in 2 years. He said it would be worth having reserves from the endowment and that his personal recommendation is to reinvest the money. He said GPSS can use the discretionary fund to cover general reserve needs.

**Raj Dewangan** asked if there is a penalty to withdrawing from the endowment.

**Jon Choi** said he did not know.

**Raj Dewangan** said he would reinvest as well, but that GPSS is going to exhaust its funds soon. He mentioned that the SAF reserve is not very healthy. He said more units will be funded through SAF and that GPSS is not able to meet required budget funding. He suggested withdrawing \$39,000 and leaving \$100,000 as a safety net.

**Jon Choi** said he will send the document describing how the endowment operates to committee members to discuss at a future meeting.

**Matthew Moran** said the budget looks good. He suggested indicating that the committee has not determined if or which staff positions are getting cut.

**A.J. Balatico** said the budget should include a statement about aligning with the Diversity Blueprint.

**Jon Choi** said he will share the budget with the Finance and Budget Committee and the Officers.

**A.J. Balatico** said the budget will mostly be informational for the Senate. He said the proposals from the Executive Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee need to be reconciled by March. He said the budget will be submitted to SAF the day after the

Senate meeting approving the budget. He said ASUW and GPSS are the only units that cannot generate revenue beyond Bean Basket and ASUW.

8. [Information] Senate Agenda Setting 7:28pm

**A.J. Balatico** Presented the Senate Agenda.

**Amanda Chin** said someone might strike the Officer updates again.

**A.J. Balatico** said the committee could switch the budget and Elections Committee items.

**Jack Flesher** asked if Jon wanted to discuss the budget with the Senate.

**Jon Choi** suggested reducing the budget item to 15 minutes.

**A.J. Balatico** said a summary of changes to the budget would suffice.

**Jack Flesher** asked Maleen if he was planning to discuss the amendments from the Elections Committee at the Senate meeting.

**Maleen Kidiwela** said no.

**Jack Flesher** confirmed that he could reduce the amount of time for discussion Elections Committee updates to 5 minutes.

**A.J. Balatico** said GPSS will have to pass the budget, the Election Guide, and the bylaws amendments at the March meeting.

**Maleen Kidiwela** clarified that bylaws amendments need to be sent to the Judicial Committee before going to the Senate.

**Matthew Moran** said he talked to Beth and linked in Jack and Alec to discuss bylaw amendments.

**A.J. Balatico** said he would prefer to package the amendments, but that they do not have to be released all at once.

**Jack Flesher** asked if 20 minutes was sufficient for Mitchel Klein and if 5 minutes was sufficient for the Composition Survey.

**A.J. Balatico** said yes.

**Matthew Moran** volunteered to read the Land Acknowledgement. He recommended Adhra Sivasankaran for Senator of the Month. He mentioned that Adhra has been an advocate on international issues and is on the Finance and Budget Committee.

**A.J. Balatico** said GPSS could announce multiple Senators of the Month at future meetings.

**Amanda Chin** said there will be tamales at the meeting.

**Matthew Moran** motioned to approve. **Jon Choi** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:33pm

9. [Action] Adjournment 7:34pm

**Matthew Moran** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. 7:34pm

*Meeting minutes prepared by Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Clerk.*