

## The Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 17 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  
Noah Nguyen, Executive Senator  
Sahra Ibrahim, Executive Senator  
Maleen Kidiwela, Executive Senator  
Ella Spurlock, Executive Senator  
Charles Bugre, Executive Senator  
Clare Koesters, Executive Senator  
Raj Dewangan, Executive Senator  
Francisco Dojenia, ASUW Director of Internal Policy  
Rene Singleton, SAO Advisor  
Carrie Moore, HUB Executive Director  
Christina Coop, SAO Interim Associate Director  
Bill Mahoney, Graduate School Advisor  
Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Director

### The following persons also attended the meeting:

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

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

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

**Alec Solemslie (Environmental and Forest Sciences)** moved to amend the agenda to include a section for a brief announcement about the Elections Committee.

**A.J. Balatico** said there is an announcement slide in the announcements and that the Senate could accommodate his announcement about the Elections Committee during that time.

**Alec Solemslie (Environmental and Forest Sciences)** accepted the suggestion as friendly.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:31pm

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** moved to approve the agenda. **Joe Rogge (Applied Mathematics)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:32pm

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:32pm

**Jack Flesher** moved to approve the minutes. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections.  
5:32pm

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:33pm

**Jack Flesher**, on behalf of GPSS, gave the land acknowledgment and mentioned the Legislative Advisory Board, the Washington Student Association, wəłəbʔaltx<sup>w</sup> – Intellectual House, the ASUW American Indian Student Commission, the Native and Strong Lifeline, Stand with Duwamish, and Real Rent Duwamish as additional resources for getting involved.

“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

**Mathew Moran** gave a presentation on Huskies on the Hill. He explained that students will have the opportunity to go to Olympia and lobby state legislators on Monday, January 29. He said transportation food will be provided and that Huskies on the Hill presents a great opportunity for students to get connected with the state legislative process.

**A.J. Balatico** said GPSS is planning the DC trip. He said that a prerequisite for attending the DC trip will be advocacy experience and that Huskies on the Hill could be this experience.

**Matthew Moran** said there will be a round table for international student Senators on Thursday, January 25 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, to talk about issues that impact them and expand international advocacy in GPSS. He introduced an opportunity to attend the Dean’s Forum on Race and Public Policy on Data-Informed Practices and Consumer Protection addressing the racialized nature of debt which will be held on Friday, February 2 from 11:30am to 12:30pm both in-person and over Zoom. He said there is a Professional Women’s Hockey League (PWHL) taking off. He said games are accessible via YouTube. He said a new record was broken with over 13,000 spectators attending a Professional Women’s Hockey game. He said Jess has been working with the Evans School on the Race and Public Policy forum. He said the Cultural Showcase is still open for recommendations and applications with a soft deadline of February 15. He provided a

QR code where Senators can apply to the Cultural Showcase and said that there was still a month left to apply.

**Hannah Shipman (Aero and Astro)** asked if performers at the showcase must be students.

**Matthew Moran** said performers do not have to be students but that the overall intention of the event is to showcase student performances.

**Amanda Chin** said there is an interdisciplinary Graduate Research Symposium for which emails have been sent out. She said the submission deadline is February 15 and the symposium itself is in April. She said Karaoke will take place this Friday at 6:00pm and include 21+ beverages for those with a state-issued I.D. She said that there will be a Drag Brunch on February 3 at Intellectual House. She said prices for the Drag Brunch will increase from \$20 to \$25 during the week of the performance. She mentioned that both performers are drag title holders.

**Franco Raymundo Carlos (Applied Mathematics)** asked if there was a flier for the Graduate Research Symposium.

**Amanda Chin** said yes and that she can send it out.

**Jack Flesher** introduced the UW Public Lecture Series happening on campus. He said only a few people have expressed interest in the Committee for Senator Motivation and Retention (CSMR). He explained that the committee's goal is to motivate Senators to participate in GPSS. He encouraged Senators to fill out a When2Meet if interested in serving on the committee. He also encouraged Senators to join the Arts Council which is currently trying to find a new time to meet this quarter. He said that any Senators from any department can join the Arts Council. He informed the Senate about a spreadsheet with upcoming events and resources. He said the Arts Council is tentatively thinking about meeting on Tuesdays at 5:00pm.

**A.J. Balatico** said the SAF Committee is still looking for GPSS representatives for the Winter quarter. He said representatives on the committee will receive a stipend. He said the committee meets on Fridays from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

**Jack Flesher** reminded Senators to fill out the attendance and that attendance requirements are 2 out of 3 meetings per quarter. He also reminded Senators that they can assign a proxy in their absence.

**A.J. Balatico** said there is a staff opening for University Affairs which hopes to hire around February. He said 360 students applied for staff positions this year.

6. [Information] GPSS Composition Survey 5:47pm

**A.J. Balatico** explained that the GPSS Composition Survey is meant to apprise who makes up the Senate each year. He said there has been a shift from PhD to Master students predominating in the Senate from before to after the pandemic. He stressed the survey's importance. He explained that GPSS can show survey results to the Graduate School or anyone who requests Senate composition data. He said the current number of Senators roughly mirrors the Faculty Senate. He said every school except Dentistry is represented in the Senate and mentioned that the survey can help GPSS to focus its outreach efforts. He said the Provost Advisory Committee for Students focused on Graduate Student Orientation during its last meeting. He indicated that having Senate composition data can help with orientations in the Fall, help steer programming, and help establish legislative priorities. He said the Senate has traditionally received survey results by the elections meeting in May, which is too late, and hopes to get analysis of this survey sooner. He mentioned that the university will be doing the Campus Climate Survey again in the next year. He said that GPSS staff, officers, and their advisors can also fill out the Composition Survey as well. He said the survey will also be sent to appointees and that a different version will be sent to graduate students later.

7. [Action] Resolution to Expedite the University of Washington's Decarbonization Plan (Third Reading) 5:52pm

**A.J. Balatico** asked if there were substantive changes to the language of the resolution.

**Hema Velappan (Environment and Forest Sciences)** said yes.

**A.J. Balatico** asked the resolution authors to review the non-grammatical changes they made.

**Hema Velappan (Environment and Forest Sciences)** explained that Daniel Schwartz attached a letter of support to the resolution. She provided a third reading of the resolution.

**A.J. Balatico** explained that he amended a job title in the resolution. He suggested that the Senate focus its discussion on the changes between the last version and the current version of the resolution.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** commended the authors for taking Senate feedback on prior versions seriously in implementing changes to the resolution.

**A.J. Balatico** asked the authors which student groups they consulted while updating the resolution.

**Hema Velappan (Environment and Forest Sciences)** said they consulted with Institutional Climate Action, the Clean Energy Institute, which reviewed both the resolution and the white paper before giving it a positive appraisal, and Environmental Stewardship Committee Members. She said the Faculty Senate resolution on decarbonization served as the foundation for GPSS's.

**Jan Whittington** commended the authors for implementing revisions that included student interests and language in being united in objectives. She said administration and faculty members might be concerned about the cost of the resolution. She said the priority is being able to provide subsidies and financial support for these projects. She gave an update on the Faculty Senate resolution. She said the Faculty Senate brought legislation to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and heard comments from President Ana Maurie Cauce. She said the Faculty Senate Executive Committee voted to have the Senate proceed with minor edits and to bring the legislation back by the end of January for a second reading. She said the changes they are thinking about making are like the ones made by GPSS. She explained that Faculty Senate legislation does not contain footnotes or references. Said she was shocked by this. She expressed support for the GPSS resolution.

**David Woodson** congratulated the authors of the resolution. He explained that his position was created specifically to lead the effort to decarbonize the power plant. He said there is evidence that the University started that process and that there has been an effort over the last 2 years to address decarbonization. He said the university has been studying this issue for 12 years. He explained that the initial effort to develop an energy strategy has been completed and that last year's goal was to market that strategy to raise awareness of what is possible and what must be done. He explained that he has been tasked to take that energy strategy and turn it into an implementation plan. He explained that the university still needs to determine the costs, orders, and best sources of funding for various projects. He said the university hired a consultant last August to complete that effort by this August. He expressed that the decarbonization project is going to be very difficult and will involve over 5,000 people. He said the university currently needs \$1 billion to complete the decarbonization project, but only has \$15 million. He explained that although the university pays into the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) because of emissions, it can also access and tap into those funds. He explained that legislation in the state of Washington has been extremely helpful. He encourage Senators to engage through Huskies on the Hill. He explained that the downside of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is that it will distribute funds to the university only after the work is complete and that university therefore still needs to acquire the funds in the first place. He said the work must be done by 2030. He explained that the university can only borrow so much money each year, but that cash does not count against the university's debt service capacity, which means that these decarbonization projects do not have to compete for funding against other university projects. He said there is a student energy task force that meets every 2 months and encouraged Senators to get involved. He also encouraged Senators to reach out to him with any questions.

**A.J. Balatico** asked what needs to happen to get the powerplant up to date.

**David Woodson** explained that the powerplant produced energy through combustion. He said the university must replace the powerplant's steam pipes with a lower temperature hot water system. He said the powerplant will need to shift from using natural gas to electricity. He said the powerplant needs sources to heat water. He said the powerplant could use the waste heat from the cooling towers to heat the hot water system. He said the powerplant could also capture heat from sewer pipes to heat campus. He said the lake is a heating source in Winter and cooling source in the Summer. He explained that the switch from natural gas to electricity will create additional demands on electricity. He said it is important to be cognizant about efficient electricity use. He said using the lake for cooling will help mitigate electricity use.

**Jan Whittington** said the program is comprised of a series of projects.

**David Woodson** said the implementation plan will not be done until August. He said UW's process for 2025 capital plan was submitted on Tuesday of this week. He said the university submitted 10 projects that constitute \$290 million of work.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** asked if the Finance Committee included in the resolution would be helpful in executing the long-term execution of the plan.

**David Woodson** said including a Finance Committee would be a little problematic because the university has created a governance structure for the delivery of the project with a finance working team for implementing the plan. He said the engineering consultant that the university hired to help implement the project hired Ernst & Young as a subconsultant who sits on the finance working team which has some of the membership listed in the resolution. He said funding for the project does come from IRA and CCA dollars. He asked about the potential consequences if those dollars do not exist 2-3 years from now. He expressed the desire to make sure that the Finance Committee would be helpful rather than duplicative.

**Matthew Moran** moved to extend time by 5 minutes. **Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:18pm

**Jan Whittington** said the faculty liked the inclusion of a Finance Committee because there is always a possibility to expand membership and make it more robust for other parts of the university within an existing governing structure with administrative personnel. She indicated that there is nothing wrong with what facilities already has, but that adding a Finance Committee makes the process more representative.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** moved to vote on the resolution. **Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:20pm

Resolution passed 42-0.

8. [Action] Resolution Calling for Research Into Alternatives for Toxic Chemicals (First/Second Reading) 6:22pm

**A.J. Balatico** explained that this resolution is timely because it is being presented before Huskies on the Hill.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said there is a short legislative session for Washington this year and that the process for passing bills into laws is much shorter than normal. She said that the resolution may not meet the legislative deadline if the Senate does not pass the resolution at this meeting. She thanked the Science and Policy Committee members for their hard work and contributions. She asked Senators to open the text of the document to provide comments.

**Jack Flesher** explained where Senators can find the resolution.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** provided a first reading of the resolution.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** asked about common uses of Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) in Washington.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** clarified that the resolution does not ask for regulating PFAS, rather that 6PPD-Quinone be regulated similarly to how PFAS are. She explained that PFAS are found in general products people use daily such as cookware, plastics, commercial products, and in firefighting. She expressed that 6PPD-Quinone is environmentally harmful.

**Nick Juno** suggested adding the chairs and vice chairs of various committees in Congress to the recipients on the resolution.

**A.J. Balatico** asked which committees should receive the resolution.

**Nick Juno** said recommended sending the resolution to Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources, Parks, Environment Energy and Technology, Local Government Land Use and Tribal Affairs.

**Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics)** clarified that the resolution is not asking UW to contribute but asking the university to think about ways to contribute.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said yes. She explained that to conduct research in Chemistry there needs to be a faculty member interested in a subject and to apply for grants. She said research in Chemistry is not a trivial matter.

**Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics)** asked if a later resolution would consider the possibility of research and ask UW to take specific research measures. She asked if there would be a plan to follow up with the university.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said there is no current plan for future work on the resolution, but there is always opportunity for work on future resolutions. She said this is a first step toward policy work for the Science and Policy Committee. She said there will be time over the next year to discuss further contributions.

**Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics)** said the resolution is a good first step. She said she wants to make sure there is substance behind the resolution.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said the resolution is meant to start a conversation. She also mentioned that 6PPD-Quinone is used in tires to help preserve shelf life and protect them from UV radiation. She explained that 6PPD-Quinone gets into water ways by dust coming off tires. She said rain washes it into waterways where it has detrimental effects on salmon.

**A.J. Balatico** said this type of resolution could increase funds for research the UW budget. He said restricted funds represent a considerable amount of the legislative budget allocated to the university. He explained that the university receives funding from the legislature because it thinks the UW has expertise in this area for research.

**Tobin Wanier (Astronomy)** moved to extend time by 4 minutes. Hannah Shipman (**Aeronautics and Astronautics**) seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:42pm

**Tobin Wanier (Astronomy)** suggested that there were broad statements in the resolution that could use citations. He said there are resolutions advocating the use of safer chemicals. He suggested defining what the term “safer chemicals” means and ironing out details.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said she has recommendations for inputting those specifications.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said there is training that chemists at UW must go through on managing laboratory chemicals for reducing risk. She said the training could easily be a reference for reducing use of 6PPD-Quinone.

**Hannah Griggs (Medicine)** said the resolution is beautifully written. She asked if it would be possible to add something about UW only purchasing tires that do not contain 6PPD-Quinone.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said most if not all tires use 6PPD-Quinone. She said research into alternative chemicals is not happening quickly because the issues caused by 6DDP-Quinone are specific to the Pacific Northwest region. She said advocacy for more research can be encompassed in a different resolution. She said the current resolution's intent is to spark collaboration with entities outside of the university.

**Maeve Riley (Drama)** moved for a second reading. **Joe Rogge (Mathematics)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed 6:45pm

**Nick Juno** moved to vote. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:46pm

Resolution passed 29-1-0.

9. [Action] Mitigating Effects of Climate Change on Vulnerable Populations 6:47pm

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** gave a first reading of the resolution.

**A.J. Balatico** requested that Nick Juno include the same state legislature recipients as the previous amendment.

**Jack Flesher** thanked Ella and the Science and Policy Committee. He suggested referring to the bill being asked for in the resolution as "the proposed bill."

**Nikoloz Nadirashvili (Art History)** asked about potential follow-up on resolutions. He said there is a chance that the resolution is not even read by state officials. He suggested arranging meetings with state officials to discuss these resolutions. He expressed concern that these resolutions could be ignored and suggested thinking about a way to ensure that GPSS is acquiring feedback from officials.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said there is some interaction between student government and state officials at the annual Legislative Reception. She said more opportunities for these types of interactions would be useful. She said the Science and Policy Committee could set up some kind of Town Hall for policymakers in the area. She said she could work with Nick and the Legislative Advisory Board on for implementing this idea next year.

**Nick Juno** affirmed there is no guarantee that state officials will notice GPSS resolutions but explained that his role is to lobby legislators in Olympia. He explained that he brings these resolutions directly to legislators.

**Alec Solemslie (Environmental and Forest Sciences)** asked how this is different from the recommendations for similar projects put forth in the Climate Commitment Act.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said she is not very familiar with the Climate Commitment Act. She said this resolution aims to recognize the effects of climate change on vulnerable population and climate resilience as key issues, and that not enough is being done. She said there is a possibility that legislators could amend existing legislation. She said that even though passing the resolution may be redundant, it voices GPSS's concerns about the issue and places pressure on state legislators.

**Julia Hobbs (Law)** moved to extend by 5 minutes. **Jack Flesher** seconded. Motion passed. 7:04pm

**Julia Hobbs (Law)** asked if GPSS covers Tacoma campus as well.

**A.J. Balatico** said GPSS technically only covers Seattle campus because of the Student Activities Fee. He said Tacoma would be included if legislation affects the state.

**Julia Hobbs (Law)** suggested including language about Pierce county as a specific area affected by the issues addressed in the resolution. She noted that Tacoma has only 20% of its land area covered by tree canopies. She expressed her desire to see more language covering more people.

**Daniel Cook (History)** moved to second reading. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:07pm.

**Joe Rogge (Mathematics)** moved to vote on the resolution. **Maeve Riley (Drama)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:08pm.

Resolution passed. 34-0-1.

#### 10. [Information] GPSS Budget Overview 7:09pm

**Jon Choi** gave a presentation on the GPSS budget. He explained that GPSS funding comes from the SAF. He said each student is charged \$489 annually to fund SAF, of which GPSS receives a portion. He said GPSS's operating costs for this academic year totaled \$631,000. He explained that costs are associated with officer positions, personnel costs, and funding opportunities for students through travel grants and diversity funds.

**A.J. Balatico** said most of the budget is allocated for personnel.

**Jon Choi** explained the budget drafting process. He said officers review individual budget items to determine what they want to change before passing the budget draft to the Executive Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee which then review the requested budget and make recommendations by the end of Winter quarter. He said the budget is then passed to the Senate in the Spring where the Senate can make amendments

and vote to approve budget headings. He said funding from SAF is about \$500,000 and that GPSS has been running a deficit since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**A.J. Balatico** asked if these numbers account for carryover.

**Jon Choi** said yes. He explained that the deficit primarily stems from personnel costs. He said budgeting for officers is based on an average because funding covers tuition and tuition rates vary by program. He said this process makes predicting funding needs for officers difficult. He said the VP of Administration position was introduced last year and that staff roles have increased as well.

**A.J. Balatico** explained the differences between tuition-based and fee-based programs as well as differences in tuition and growth rates across programs. He said that the varying costs of programs makes officer costs variable since they receive tuition coverage as ASEs. He said staff positions are fixed at \$24 per hour. He explained that a new requirement for GPSS's financial transformation will be alignment to the university's overall mission and directives like the Diversity Blueprint. He said the pillars of the Diversity Blueprint will be amended to GPSS work tags.

**Jon Choi** mentioned that the SAF cannot increase by more than 4% annually, which does not keep up with inflation or wage increases.

**A.J. Balatico** expressed the need for more financial analysis.

**Jon Choi** said the idea is to make sweeping changes with the budget rather than incremental changes for next year to support GPSS's mission.

**A.J. Balatico** said the last few years are not good examples of traditional spending in GPSS because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that SAF distributes funds in a lump sum. He said GPSS requested a \$30,000 increase from last year, but only received a \$22,700 increase. He said there were some savings from personnel last year. He said there is also an endowment set up in 2012 by Adam Sherman. He explained that this endowment is the only interest-bearing account for GPSS and provides \$4,000 per year. He said GPSS is planning to grow that account for passive income.

**Jon Choi** encouraged Senators to contact him with questions or concerns about the budget.

**A.J. Balatico** said GPSS has not fully spent money from grants except for Travel Grants last year. He said funding is based on previous activity and current demand for funds. He said that RSOs are more likely to go to ASUW because it has a larger pool of money.

11. [Information] Elections Committee 7:31pm

**Alec Solemslie (Environmental and Forest Sciences)** said the date for the elections is May 8. He said elections guides will not be done by February. He explained that the Elections Committee needs to get amendments to the Judicial Committee before getting the elections guide out. He said that ideally, the Elections Committee will have finished the amendments and the election guide by the first meeting in March. He said the Elections Committee will be asking to suspend bylaws to get amendments through.

**A.J. Balatico** said Senate meetings were occurring earlier rather than later to avoid Valentine's Day. He said the bylaws stipulate that there be 1 Senate meeting every month and at least 4 Executive Committee meetings every quarter. He said the easiest course of action was to suspend the bylaw requiring the Elections Committee to pass the Election Guide by February. He said there was a high number of requests to meet with officers for elections last year, but it also competed with the Student Regent selection, which are exclusive positions that cannot be held simultaneously. He said May 8 is the third-to-last Senate meeting. He said the Election Committee wanted to codify that anyone accepted into graduate school before the time of the election will be eligible to run for election to an officer position.

**Jack Flesher** thanked the Elections Committee.

**A.J. Balatico** mentioned that the Judicial Committee will also be involved in making changes to the GPSS bylaws.

12. [Information] Senator of the Month 7:36pm

**Matthew Moran** read the proclamation celebrating **Maeve Riley (Drama)** as Senator of the Month.

13. [Information] Football Proclamation 7:40pm

**A.J. Balatico** explained the historical significance of resolutions. He read the proclamation commemorating the 2023 football season. He explained that GPSS will be working with the student governments of the BIG conference after leaving the PAC10.

14. [Information] Officer Updates 7:44pm

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** moved to forgo officer updates.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** raised a point of information and asked where the Senate can access the slide deck.

**Jack Flesher** said the slide deck can be sent out in the Senate recap email.

**Maeve Riley (Drama)** seconded the motion.

**Hannah Shipman (Aeronautics and Astronautics)** clarified that officer updates should be sent out by email.

No objections. Motion passed. No objections. 7:46pm

15. [Action] Adjournment 7:46pm

**Daniel Cook (History)** moved to adjourn. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:46pm

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