

The Executive Committee of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 28 February 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~~

Carrie Moore, HUB Executive Director

Christina Coop, SAO Interim Associate Director

Bill Mahoney, Graduate School Advisor

Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Director

Joe Rogge, GPSS Senator, Finance and Budget Committee

Beth Fawcett, GPSS Senator, Judicial Committee

Trevor Hunt, Associate Director for Finance and Business Operations

The following persons also attended the meeting:

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:31pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:31pm

A.J. Balatico changed the title from “agenda outline” to “agenda setting.”

Jack Flesher asked if there needed to be an item for bylaws amendments.

Matthew Moran recommended adding the bylaws amendments after officer updates.

Jack Flesher moved to approve the agenda as amended. **Matthew Moran** seconded. No objections. 5:32pm

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

Jon Choi moved to approve the minutes. **Maleen Kidiwela** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:33pm

4. [Information] ASUW Winter Updates 5:33pm

A.J. Balatico said ASUW had a Town Hall. He said ASUW President Jacob Felicia sent out an election filing timeline. He said students have until 5:00pm on March 1 to run for ASUW office. He said the ASUW ballot will include an update about ASUW and GPSS working together.

5. [Information] Appointments to UW Committees 5:34pm

A.J. Balatico said the Student Regent Selection Committee, chaired by Puneet Birk, will meet in March and April. He said the GPSS appointee will be Janis Shin, who is also the PACS chair and the former Senate Clerk. He mentioned that Janis Shin is a Molecular Engineering and Sciences PhD student. He announced that Jordan Haze will be appointed to the Faculty Council on Race, Equity, and Justice. He said that Jordan is an undergraduate student and the University Affairs Director of GPSS. He said that Jordan would be great for the role. He said the Faculty Council on Race, Equity, and Justice has passed multiple resolutions related to faculty affairs, faculty mentorship, and race and diversity statements. He mentioned that it is a progressive faculty council.

Amanda Chin moved to approve the appointments. **Maleen Kidiwela** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:37pm

6. [Information] Executive Senator Updates 5:37pm

Ella Spurlock said there were no updates from last week. She said there will be a Science and Policy Committee meeting next week to work on the Research Symposium. She said that President Cauce is confirmed to speak at the symposium.

Raj Dewangan said the Student Activities Fee (SAF) Committee met with Intellectual House, Q Center, and Student Legal Services, all of which had a wide variety of expectations from SAF. He said Student Legal Services is only expecting an increase of \$2,000 to \$3,000 from SAF. He said the Q Center's programming cost has significantly increased from last year. He said many units have started prioritizing giving space to students and are trying to figure out how they could generate revenue. He said the Q Center will start charging consultation fees from other units on campus to mitigate funding deficits. He said SAF will meet more units this Friday.

A.J. Balatico asked if SAF has a formal way of evaluating capital requests.

Raj Dewangan said there were no capital requests as of last week, but that SAF is expecting one from the IMA. He said the SAF Committee has not yet familiarized itself with how to handle capital requests.

A.J. Balatico clarified that capital requests are 1-time payments for objects or spaces.

Clare Koesters said she is waiting to hear back from people on the Dialogue Project.

A.J. Balatico asked about the timeline for Dean Ed Taylor to start Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia surveys.

Clare Koesters said the surveys will probably take place early in the Spring quarter but that she is waiting to hear back from him.

Maleen Kidiwela said he has been working with Elections Committee Chair, Alec Solemslie, to get the Elections Guide out. He said it is ready to send and should be out soon.

Charles Bugre said he has no updates. He said he will have a meeting tomorrow with the Academic Standards Council.

A.J. Balatico said some majors require more credits than others. He said the Academic Standards Council is discussing flexibility, course distributions, and faculty and instructor workload to revamp certain major requirements.

Jack Flesher said Noah Nguyen passed on an update through the Zoom chat. She said the Tri-Campus Faculty was impressed with the work that GPSS is doing. She said the Tri-Campus Faculty is focused on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement and is working on gathering data on faculty salary for the sake of equity.

A.J. Balatico said there is a discrepancy in how faculty salaries are reported. He said faculty salaries are dependent on the field in which they work.

7. [Information] Officer Updates 5:46pm

Matthew Moran said he is continuing to conduct outreach and build an email list of resources for the Diversity Resources Fair. He said he connected with the Associate Vice President of Student Life for more contacts. He said he is also planning the Cultural Showcase and is working on getting an interpreter for the event. He said an ASL interpreter will cost \$1,600 and expressed frustration with the financial barrier to access. He said he is thinking about revisiting a disability resolution. He said the Diversity Committee met today and that there have been no further applications for this quarter. He said the committee decided to leave applications open until the first week of Spring quarter. He said he will turn his attention to writing resolutions and developing the Equity Resources Toolkit. He explained that the Toolkit is something for students to use to address equity issues in their departments. He mentioned that he sent a follow-up email to get the ticket link for the Mariners Night.

Amanda Chin said there is a ticket link for the Cultural Showcase. She said tickets for the Cultural Showcase will cost \$8 for UW students and \$12 for non-students. She said she is finalizing the lineup for the Cultural Showcase and that it should be ready by the

Senate meeting. She said she met with Kana today to go over advertising for the Research Symposium. She said she is also working on the Film Festival and the Drag Show.

Jack Flesher said there was a Sketch Event today with the Arts Council that Amanda led. He said he is looking to move these events outside as the weather warms. He said the Crafts and Drafts event received the green light and thanked Christina and Rene Infelise on getting the alcohol permit approved. He said the Crafts and Drafts event will take place on Friday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the GPSS office and that students will need to show ID at the door. He mentioned that the event is free and will include snacks, crafts, and art supplies. He said the Landolt Committee will meet tomorrow to decide on the applicants it has reviewed. He said he is working with Amanda and Matthew on the Cultural Showcase and the next Drag Event. He said he completed attendance this week and has updated Senators on their attendance requirements via email.

Jon Choi said the Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee heard proposals this week and that deliberations will be wrapped up next week. He said Travel Grants is currently reviewing 42 applications from this month and will release results by tomorrow. He thanked Joe Rogge for being present at the Executive Committee meeting. He said the Finance and Budget Committee did not reach a final decision on the budget but is hoping that it will by next Friday. He said he let the STF Chair know that proposals from Autumn quarter should be made public. He said the SAF Chair reminded GPSS to display the SAF logo somewhere on the GPSS website. He recommended displaying the logo on either the Funding page or the About page.

Nick Juno said representatives in Olympia are on the floor passing bills. He said the Legislative Session ends one week from tomorrow and that legislators will reconcile differences between Senate and House bills. He said budgets are ongoing until next Thursday, the last day of the Legislative Session. He said the \$40 million transfer from the Graduate Student Loan account means that the program would not be able to run for as long as initially anticipated. He said the transfer is indicative of legislator willingness to cut Graduate Student interests. He said there will not be a final budget until next Thursday. He said he is working on making sure that GPSS is included in budget negotiations.

A.J. Balatico asked how much an individual would be able to borrow through the Graduate Student Loan program and how many students \$50 million would impact versus \$90 million.

Nick Juno said the cuts to the program would make it available for 5 years instead of 9 years. He explained that the cuts would not necessarily influence the number of students who can borrow from the program each year. He said he is not sure how much individual students would be able to borrow. He said the program was intended for lower income students from families earning under 100% of the median state income.

A.J. Balatico said the program was originally designed to issue \$10,000 loans at 1% interest.

Nick Juno said the original bill allowed for students to borrow at a 1% interest rate. He explained that there was a study done by state agencies indicating that 1% interest rates would not be sustainable in the long-term. He said the new interest rate would be between 2% and 2.5%.

A.J. Balatico said he met with President Cauce on Monday to discuss the Portage Bay Expansion on campus as an incubation and tech hub for the Seattle area. He said the Student Regent Selection Committee has been proceeding slowly due to difficulties finding times for tri-campus leadership to meet. He said the committee still needs to roll out the application, which should take place at about the same time as the Election Guide is sent out. He mentioned that the committee received a record number of applications last year and that 9 out of the 10 finalists were graduate students. He said SCPB had a long meeting with UW Medicine leadership including CEO of UW Medicine, Tim Dellit. He said the UW School of Medicine's losses were less than expected but still amount to \$10s of millions. He said the FEMA money for UW Medicine is running out. He said this will have no material effect on student activity. He explained that UW Medicine is its own enterprise. He said UW Medicine is looking at how to address difficult to discharge patients which costs the hospitals money. He said graduate and medical education are struggling to get funding from the legislature. He discussed Sally Clarke's proposal at PACS for \$500,000 for a staff of 5 mental health and behavioral health clinicians to address alternative non-police responses to campus incidents. He said PACS is at an impasse on whether to involve equity and inclusion into its definition of good teaching because implementing these into the faculty code will have implications for faculty promotion, evaluation, and tenure. He said STF is considering the incubator as a way of addressing applications that do not fit the normal application cycle. He mentioned that there are alternatives to the incubator. He said STF will not come to GPSS until April. He said the Board of Regents meeting in Bothell will take place sometime in mid-March. He said Jackson School of International Studies staff will meet next Thursday to define what the Graduate School does. He said the ASUW Shell House Committee will meet to discuss future renovations.

8. [Information] Bylaws 6:07pm

Beth Fawcett said the Judicial Committee has been working with the Elections Committee on a bylaws update. She said the Elections Committee has passed a version of bylaws updates. She asked that the Executive Committee pass bylaws updates because the Judicial Committee has been unable to meet quorum.

A.J. Balatico clarified whether the Executive Committee will suggest bylaws changes to the Senate or discuss and finalize the bylaws changes.

Beth Fawcett said the Executive Committee will pass the bylaws before sending them on to the Senate.

Jack Flesher said ultimately the Senate will decide whether the bylaws are accepted.

Beth Fawcett presented the bylaws updates.

A.J. Balatico asked if Beth could read the textual changes.

Beth Fawcett said yes. She proceeded to explain the individual textual changes to the bylaws.

Nick Juno asked if the proposed changes to the bylaws would end people running from the floor.

Beth Fawcett said no. She said candidates may announce their intention to run for election on the day of the election only if a seat does not have a listed candidate.

A.J. Balatico asked if there was a write-in line on the digital ballot.

Beth Fawcett said she believes so.

Christina Coop said there was.

A.J. Balatico asked if weekends counted toward the minimum 72 hours prior to the election that candidates had to submit their materials.

Maleen Kidiwela said yes.

Beth Fawcett amended the bylaws. She said candidates must acknowledge that they have read the elections procedures prior to announcing candidacy.

Maleen Kidiwela clarified that GPSS is switching to having candidates submit forms digitally.

Beth Fawcett said the Elections Guide approval deadline would change from February to March.

A.J. Balatico said March is better than the end of the Winter quarter because it provides flexibility in the case that a meeting needs to occur in the Spring.

Beth Fawcett said it also alleviates stress on the Elections and Judicial Committees. She said the deadline for the Elections Committee Chair to notify candidates of receipt of their materials changed to 3 calendar days.

A.J. Balatico asked if there would be a grace period for not meeting the deadline.

Beth Fawcett said it is the responsibility of the Chair of the Elections Committee to notify each candidate that their materials were received at least 3 days before the Officer elections meeting.

A.J. Balatico said the bylaws changes indicate that there would be an issue if the candidate submitted their candidacy 3 days prior to the election, but the Chair of the Committee responded 2 days prior to the election.

Beth Fawcett said the Elections Committee wanted to have a hard deadline of 3 days for notifications. She said this was something that could be changed.

A.J. Balatico said he did not want candidates to be unsure of whether their materials were received in time.

Beth Fawcett said the 3-day period was meant to be more of a deadline than a guideline. She said the language surrounding absentee voting has been entirely removed since the digital ballot platform makes absentee voting unnecessary.

A.J. Balatico asked what the consequences would be if a candidate did not acknowledge reading through the election procedures.

Beth Fawcett said the Judicial Committee discussed that if a candidate does not acknowledge that they read the election procedures, they would have to do so on the floor.

A.J. Balatico said he wants to prevent needing have reelection if a candidate should have been disqualified.

Jack Flesher said his interpretation of the bylaw is that it would be at the discretion of the Elections Committee to determine whether to confer candidacy if an individual does not meet qualifications. He said the candidate would have to contest any decision through the Judicial Committee. He said the bylaws should not need to account for every possible circumstance.

A.J. Balatico said there were past issues with contesting an election.

Matthew Moran suggested sharing the link for the document so the committee can read and discuss the proposed changes.

Jack Flesher asked if it would be helpful to have a discussion of the changes approved by the Elections Committee before discussing the recommendations of the Judicial Committee.

Beth Fawcett said she cannot currently provide an understanding of what the Judicial Committee thinks at this time. She proceeded to explain changes to the bylaws. She mentioned that there has been a lot of conversation about how to break a tie.

A.J. Balatico said the rest of the recommendations look good.

Jack Flesher thanked Beth and the Elections Committee. He said there must be a tiebreaker in the bylaws in the case that democracy fails as a process. He said he worries about the $\frac{2}{3}$ approval vote of an Elections Committee because of recent issues with the committee meeting quorum.

A.J. Balatico said this could pose problems if the Elections Committee is not able to meet quorum.

Beth Fawcett said the issue is that quorum is not defined. She said the Elections Committee added the language $\frac{2}{3}$ to help define quorum. She said the original language in the bylaws stipulated that quorum was a majority of committee membership and that the Elections Committee specified this to mean $\frac{2}{3}$ of committee membership.

Jack Flesher said that would define 2 different things. He said the quorum of the committee would be 51% of committee membership while a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote would constitute $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of the at least 51% of committee members present at a meeting, which would work against the objective of having more committee members involved. He clarified that this version has been passed by the Elections Committee and that Beth will lead the Executive Committee through the recommendations of the Judicial Committee. He reiterated that the Executive Committee would act as the Judicial Committee since the latter has not been able to reach quorum to approve the changes to the bylaws.

Beth Fawcett said the Judicial Committee would suggest aligning two clauses and determine whether quorum is defined as $\frac{2}{3}$.

Jack Flesher clarified that quorum in the proposed bylaws changes would be 4 out of 6 members of the Elections Committee.

Beth Fawcett confirmed.

Christina Coop asked if anyone reached out to Alec Solemslie to ask if he could attend tonight.

Beth Fawcett said Alec has put a lot of work into changing the bylaws.

Christina Coop asked if anyone asked Alec if he could attend tonight.

Beth Fawcett said he could not.

Jack Flesher clarified that many of the suggestions were based on prior meetings between Beth, Alec, and the Officers.

Beth Fawcett explained the Judicial Committee's recommendations.

A.J. Balatico asked if the announcement of final elections results would occur in an Executive Meeting or via email.

Beth Fawcett said the intention was to announce final elections results asynchronously. She proceeded to explain the Judicial Committee's recommendations.

A.J. Balatico asked if there would be a moment to vote after campaign speeches and deliberations. He asked if the intention was for voting to close during the Officer meeting.

Beth Fawcett said the idea was that Senators might end up receiving emails after the vote closes to vote via email, which is why final elections results will be announced 7 days afterward.

A.J. Balatico said that could be clarified in the Elections Guide.

Jack Flesher clarified that email ballots will happen only if the digital ballot fails.

Beth Fawcett said the idea is for voting to occur through Husky Link. She explained the proposed process for breaking a tie.

Jack Flesher clarified that the proposed order of events would be election, special election, Judicial Committee election, vote of the electees, and then a coin toss.

Beth Fawcett said yes.

A.J. Balatico asked if a special election would require a meeting.

Beth Fawcett said the language is left intentionally vague. She said it would be determined in the Elections Guide rather than the bylaws.

Jack Flesher said the bylaws state that they would occur at the next Senate meeting, but this could be changed to make the bylaws more flexible.

A.J. Balatico said he would prefer having the special election sooner rather than later and that leaving the language vague would leave this open as a possibility.

Maleen Kidiwela asked if this could happen online.

Jack Flesher said that would be possible.

Beth Fawcett proceeded to explain the changes to the bylaws.

Jack Flesher said he is comfortable with the recommendations. He said he is still concerned about the Elections Committee having to confirm everything by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. He said different levels of quorum significantly change the number of votes needed for the Elections Committee to approve a measure.

Maleen Kidiwela said the committee settled on the $\frac{2}{3}$ suggestion.

Beth Fawcett suggested replacing $\frac{2}{3}$ with simple majority.

A.J. Balatico agreed that the $\frac{2}{3}$ requirement would significantly change the number of committee members needed to approve measures.

Jack Flesher recognized the intent but said that functionally it could create problems since committees are struggling to meet quorum.

A.J. Balatico said the Elections Committee will need to communicate the rationale for the changes to the Senate.

Matthew Moran moved to vote on the proposed changes to the Elections bylaws. **Nick Juno** seconded. No objections. Motion passed 6:59pm

Motion passed 9-0-0.

Beth Fawcett asked where she could send the updates.

A.J. Balatico said could send the updates to either Daniel or Jack.

8. [Action] Officer/Executive Budget 7:01pm

Trevor Hunt explained that if GPSS does not pass a balanced budget then it will run out of funds before the next fiscal year. He said GPSS is required to maintain a \$25,000 reserve fund but recommended maintaining a 6-month operating reserve. He explained that GPSS operating expenses have risen while its reserves have decreased. He said GPSS has been in a structural deficit over the past few years. He said if GPSS continues with its current spending patterns, it will run out of funds before the end of next fiscal year.

Joe Rogge said the Finance and Budget Committee discussed reducing the budget to better match what GPSS received from SAF. He said the maximum amount that GPSS can request from SAF is \$523,000, but that GPSS can realistically expect to receive about \$503,000 to \$505,000. He said the Finance and Budget Committee discussed reducing the budget to \$530,000, representing an additional \$80,000 in cuts to create a more sustainable financial situation. He said the Finance and Budget Committee did not agree on a specific budget proposal at its last meeting.

A.J. Balatico asked for specific changes proposed by the Finance and Budget Committee.

Joe Rogge said most cuts would come from personnel. He said the 2 ideas proposed by the Finance and Budget Committee were to either reduce the number of officers or pair down staff. He recognized that reducing the size of the Board would be difficult. He mentioned that the Vice President of Administration was added in 2021 for good reason.

He said the alternative is to cut the number of staff to 3. He said the budget cuts can be negotiated. He said GPSS will have less flexibility to make cuts next year if it does not make the cuts now.

Jon Choi clarified that the further cuts proposed by the Finance and Budget Committee total \$57,000.

Joe Rogge said the Finance and Budget Committee recommended cutting \$57,000 in personnel, but that total cuts were \$80,000.

Jack Flesher thanked Joe for being at the Executive Committee meeting. He reminded the Executive Committee that the Senate can hold Officers accountable for the work they do but cannot hold staff accountable. He said if staff do not do their jobs, the work kicks back to the Officers. He said staff positions are more fluid than Officer positions.

Joe Rogge said the bylaws would need to be changed.

Matthew Moran said it would be a constitutional change as well. He said it is important to continue thinking about whether tasks are completed by Officers, staff, or unpaid Senators. He said it will be important to communicate to Senators how responsibilities will be delegated and shared next year in the event of staff or Officer cuts. He said the Executive Committee should prioritize making easy cuts before continuing to more difficult cuts. He said Officers do not overspend their budgets and that there is almost always a surplus left over. He said the Executive Committee can discuss the allocation of grants as well.

A.J. Balatico asked whether the \$1,350 Executive Officer compensation and Judicial and Elections Chair compensation is working as intended. He said Devon Woodley mentioned the possibility of removing that incentive. He said GPSS could reconsider differential hours for staff. He also brought up whether Special Allocations is fulfilling the mission of GPSS since most organizations being funded are undergraduate RSOs. He said these should be considered before making a recommendation about the budget. He said GPSS has used the non-budgeted expenditure mechanism before. He explained that non-budgeted expenditures are sometimes not reflected in the budget. He said the Executive Committee needs to go through each budget header to determine if they align with the mission of GPSS. He said Provost money could potentially be programming money. He mentioned that the endowment still exists and contains \$100,000 in principal funds plus interest.

Clare Koesters said that she does not think \$400 per quarter is enough of an incentive to make someone run for Executive Senator. She said cutting the incentive would only serve to take money away from Executive Senators for their commitment. She said she does not agree with the argument.

A.J. Balatico asked if the incentives for the Chairs of Judicial and Elections Committees function as intended. He said these reflect GPSS values.

Jack Flesher said last year \$1,350 were set aside to incentivize people to form committees. He said there are still issues with committees meeting quorum. He asked if this money is serving its purpose of incentivizing people to participate. He said the endowment provides GPSS with options and some flexibility for next year's budget.

Matthew Moran suggested maintaining 4 staff positions at 15 hours per week. He said GPSS could ask for funding for a web developer through STF. He said he is worried about reducing hours but would like to preserve as many staff roles as possible.

A.J. Balatico said there are 660 hours per academic year for each staff member, or 220 hours per quarter. He said each staff member represents 660 hours of labor that would need to be redistributed in some way. He said the committee could discuss a furlough for Officer positions in the Summer while homing in on expectations. He said there is a Summer work policy for the Executive Committee that still applies. He said the committee needs to be able to explain why it is changing each of the line items. He said no matter what, GPSS will ask for an additional \$32,500 from SAF over last year's request.

Jon Choi said he agrees with asking for the maximum amount from SAF. He said he calculated the savings of Matthew's proposal.

Matthew Moran clarified that these numbers in the spreadsheet were based on numbers from last week.

Jon Choi confirmed. He explained the breakdown.

Jack Flesher clarified that if the full SAF request was met it would total \$544,000.

Jon Choi said it would total \$516,000.

A.J. Balatico asked what the total increase would be from last year.

Jon Choi said the total increase from last year would be \$38,743.

A.J. Balatico said this aligns with the normal projection that GPSS has been operating under to close the deficit by 2027. He said there must be Summer Officer work time for hiring and orientations. He said Officers could start working after Juneteenth. He said waiting until August 1 for the Officer start date might be a solution for saving money. He mentioned that Summer Officer hours are more expensive than staff work hours. He said he is conscious about keeping staff hours at 19 per week so that staff can support themselves financially.

Maleen Kidiwela asked what the Summer hourly wage for Officers is.

A.J. Balatico said that Officers are paid \$30 per hour over the Summer.

Matthew Moran said the Summer hourly wage for Officers is \$31 per hour for 12 weeks.

A.J. Balatico clarified that Officers are paid \$7,200 over the Summer, which is \$30 per hour at 20 hours per week for 12 weeks.

Jack Flesher clarified that Officers are paid at \$30 per hour at 20 hours per week for 12 weeks.

Matthew Moran said Officer Summer wages cost \$43,000 total. He said the initial proposal from the Officers would cut this expenditure to \$35,000. He said another proposed decrease would bring the cost down to \$27,000. He said cutting Officer hours could be discussed in the bylaws.

Maleen Kidiwela said reducing Summer hours might discourage people from being an Officer.

Matthew Moran said with these decreases Officers might have to take another Summer job. He said this discussion will take place throughout the Spring quarter. He said changes to grants are not reflected. He suggested pairing back Special Allocations and redistributing them to Departmental Allocations and Travel Grants.

Jon Choi explained how much of the Special Allocations, Departmental Allocations, and Travel Grants funding have been spent. He agreed with Matthew's suggestions to decrease Special Allocations. He said Special Allocations could be reduced to \$15,000 and recommended leaving Departmental Allocations as is. He said reducing staff hours to 18 per week would give GPSS a significant enough reserve for subsequent years.

Jack Flesher clarified that the \$555,734 figure represented the total amount GPSS expected to receive from SAF and STF. He asked if there were any other sources of funding contributing to this total figure.

Jon Choi said the total annual budget is \$581,000. He said \$25,000 comes from the programming budget which is discretionary funding from Provost. He said the rest will need to be covered by SAF, STF, and reserves.

Jack Flesher clarified that in the best-case scenario, meaning that the SAF request is met, GPSS will only be \$31,000 over budget. He asked how far over budget GPSS would be in the worst-case scenario in which the SAF request is not met.

Jon Choi said GPSS would be about \$50,000 over budget.

Jack Flesher asked how much money would be in reserves at the beginning of next year.

Jon Choi said the reserves at the beginning of next year will be between \$100,000 and \$120,000.

Jack Flesher clarified that there is about \$100,000 in reserves, and that in the worst-case scenario with GPSS over budget by \$50,000 there would be \$50,000 remaining in the reserves plus the \$25,000 mandated liability reserve.

Jon Choi said yes.

A.J. Balatico asked Trevor if it would be possible to replace individual line-item funds with a larger fund that the Senate could spend by voting on specific measures. He indicated that this would be more flexible than allocating funds for certain expenditures the year prior.

Trevor Hunt clarified that this would entail combining individual line-item funds into one larger fund which the Senate would decide how to spend internally.

A.J. Balatico said yes.

Trevor Hunt said it does not matter if expenditures come from one pot of money but that creating and spending the larger fund must align with GPSS policies.

A.J. Balatico said having the flexibility means GPSS could tailor the amounts of money that it allocates. He said there are bylaws related to moving grant budget items, but that there would be much more flexibility if these budget items were eliminated.

Jack Flesher said the bylaws maintain that there must be a grant budget, though they do not specify further breakdowns. He said if GPSS combines the grant budget into 1 lump sum with recommendations for a certain amount for each, it would have more flexibility to respond to financial needs.

A.J. Balatico said this budget is close to the 2019 budget. He said the projections are based on an ideal year in which all money allocated is spent. He expressed that he is hesitant to make cuts to actual budget items.

Jack Flesher asked if the Finance and Budget Committee would be comfortable with pulling \$50,000 from the reserve fund.

Maleen Kidiwela said there must be a compromise at some level.

Joe Rogge said the Finance and Budget Committee would like for GPSS to retain 3 months of operating costs in its reserve. He explained that 2 ½ months of operating costs would be \$100,000. He indicated that this was significantly less than what the Finance and Budget Committee was hoping to maintain.

Jon Choi asked Daniel how he felt about cutting staff hours.

Daniel Cook explained that his opinions were not necessarily representative of the opinions of other staff members. He said that as a laborer he is hesitant about cutting staff hours and that doing so would make him feel less financially secure.

A.J. Balatico explained that each staff hour costs GPSS \$800 annually.

Jon Choi said that leaving \$50,000 in reserves next fiscal year would be okay. He said GPSS next year will have the option to further scale back operations if needed. He said the plan would not leave next year's GPSS doomed to fail.

A.J. Balatico explained that there was the possibility of spending less depending on the tuition costs of next year's Officers. He said the budget should reflect GPSS values. He said budget items represent an authorization to spend money, but not that the money is necessarily spent. He said that historically, GPSS has underspent to the extent that there were discussions in past years about bringing Gordon Ramsey to UW for cooking seminars.

Jack Flesher said that in the worst-case scenario, GPSS would still maintain \$50,000 in the general reserve and its \$145,000 endowment. He said that because of the endowment, GPSS would retain over 2 ½ months of its annual operating costs if it had to liquidate its reserves. He clarified that he is not advocating that GPSS liquidate its reserves. He explained that the endowment is there even in the worst-case scenario.

A.J. Balatico said there is about \$70,000 in the discretionary fund.

Matthew Moran asked if Jon could review everything that has been discussed before discussing some sort of approval.

Jon Choi reviewed the changes that the Executive Committee discussed.

A.J. Balatico asked how many staff members the proposed budget would leave.

Jon Choi said the proposed budget would leave 6 staff members.

A.J. Balatico said that limiting Officers to working 15 hours per week over the Summer would complicate their ability to add hours into Workday. He said it would be easier to allocate 150 hours to Officers for Summer work and to allow them to input up to 20 hours per week into Workday.

Jon Choi asked if A.J. meant 150 hours per quarter.

A.J. Balatico clarified that he meant 150 total hours for the Summer. He explained that restricting Officers to 15 hours per week would make inputting their hours into Workday impractical.

Jack Flesher clarified that the proposal was to set the total hourly limit for the Summer at 150 hours per Officer rather than 15 hours per week.

A.J. Balatico said this would be better for practical reasons.

Jon Choi updated the proposal.

A.J. Balatico said this would raise the cap on how many hours an Officer could put into Workday.

Matthew Moran said merging the duties of the Community Engagement and Inclusion and Events staff members might be another option.

Jon Choi clarified that this would bring the number down to 5 staff members.

Matthew Moran said yes.

Jon Choi said he would bring this up to the Finance and Budget Committee.

A.J. Balatico asked if the Executive Committee was okay with keeping the titles of staff members. He explained that making the staff titles more generic would give Officers flexibility.

Jon Choi moved to vote on the Executive Committee's budget recommendation.

Matthew Moran seconded. No objections. Motion passed 8:04pm

Budget passed 9-0-0.

9. [Information] Senate Agenda Setting 8:05pm

Matthew Moran volunteered to read the land acknowledgement.

A.J. Balatico asked if 45 minutes would be enough for the Senate to discuss the budget.

Matthew Moran suggested allocating an hour for the Senate to discuss the budget.

A.J. Balatico discussed how Officers might best explain the budget to the Senate.

Jack Flesher asked if 20 minutes is enough to discuss and amend the elections bylaws and if 20 minutes is enough to discuss and approve the Elections Guide.

Maleen Kidiwela said he thinks so.

A.J. Balatico said he thinks so.

Jack Flesher asked who would come to the Senate from UPASS.

A.J. Balatico said Saiya Karamali, who is also a former Senator from the Linguistics department.

Jon Choi asked when he should send out the budget proposal to the Senate.

A.J. Balatico said Jon should send out the budget proposal to the Senate by Monday. He said a summary of changes to the budget would also be helpful.

Matthew Moran recommended Jasper Bang for Senator of the Month for February.

A.J. Balatico recommended Beth Fawcett and members of the Finance and Budget Committee. He said GPSS could have multiple Senators of the Month later.

Jack Flesher said there will be 3 more Senators of the Month.

Jack Flesher moved to approve the agenda. **Matthew Moran** seconded. No Objections. Motion passed. 8:11pm

10. [Action] Adjournment 8:11pm

Maleen Kidiwela moved to adjourn the meeting. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 8:11pm

Meeting minutes prepared by Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Clerk.