

## The Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 6 March 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

### The following persons also attended the meeting:

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:32pm

**A.J. Balatico** called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:32pm

**Jack Flesher** raised a point of information and asked Beth Fawcett if GPSS needed to add an item to approve a new member of the Judicial Committee.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said the individual in question did not confirm.

**Daniel Cook (History)** moved to approve the agenda. **Joe Rogge (Mathematics)** seconded. No objections. 5:34pm

3. [Action] Approval of the Minutes 5:34pm

**Maeve Riley (Drama)** moved to approve the minutes. **Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** seconded. No objections. 5:35pm

4. [Information] Land Acknowledgment 5:35pm

**Matthew Moran**, on behalf of GPSS, gave the land acknowledgment and mentioned the Legislative Advisory Board, the Washington Student Association, wələbʔaltx<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 5:36pm

**Amanda Chin** reminded the Senate about the GPSS Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Symposium. She said President Cause and Bill Mahoney, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, have confirmed that they will attend. She said the symposium will consist of 3-minute lightning talks, questions, and poster board presentations on April 4.

**A.J. Balatico** said to direct questions about the symposium to Amanda.

**Matthew Moran** announced that GPSS funded the 14th annual Nowruz event on March 16. He announced that the Cultural Showcase will take place on April 2 in the Lyceum at 7:00pm and provided a ticket link for the event. He said that almost all funds for the Diversity Committee have been distributed. He explained that Affinity Night at the Bowling Alley for the School of Social Work was the first event that Diversity Funds funded. He said Diversity Fund applications are open until the first week of Spring quarter. He said that the groups which have received funding are included in the agenda sent out each week.

**Nick Juno** said tomorrow is the last day of the Legislative Session. He thanked Mykhail, Adrian, and the Officers for their help. He thanked everyone who participated in the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB) and Huskies on the Hill. He said he will send a Legislative roundup to the Senate. He announced that there is legislation for opioid prevention on campus, increased support for affordable childcare providers, funding for infrastructure and decarbonization, and Bagley Hall. He said the final budget also included the preservation of graduate student loan funds, basic needs on campus, and money for a pilot program for Native American student tuition waivers. He expressed hope to initiate the tuition waiver system across all universities across the state.

**A.J. Balatico** asked if there was a LAB meeting tomorrow.

**Nick Juno** said there is no LAB meeting tomorrow. He said the next meeting will be in Spring quarter.

**A.J. Balatico** said the Washington Student Association will take place in mid-April at Bellevue College. He said there is a room in the library for student parents and caregivers and a space for children in HUB 386F.

**Jack Flesher** said the Arts Council had 3 events, including 2 Craft and Complain events and 1 Sketch Series. He said he is hoping to do these outside as the weather improves. He provided a QR code for When2Meet to get involved in the Arts Council. He reiterated that anyone is welcome.

**Lauren Cortez (French)** said she is a liaison for the Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF). She said CSF grants are open throughout the quarter to all UW Seattle students for student-led projects under \$5,000 to increase equity, resilience, and climate action on campus.

**Jack Flesher** said the UW Emergency Medical Services (EMS) offers training on CPR, AED, and Naloxone. He presented a schedule of upcoming training dates. He presented upcoming UW Public Lectures.

#### 6. [Action] UPASS Rate Setting 5:47pm

**Saiya Karamali (Linguistics)** gave a presentation on UPASS and the UPASS Advisory Board. They said UPASS gives students access to all regional transit agencies. They explained that UPASS fee funds the program for student transportation in Seattle, which is currently \$86 per quarter. They explained that the program is charged for each individual tap. All students who pay the Student Activities Fee (SAF) pay the UPASS fee except for Washington State Tuition Exemption recipients, ASEs, and students under 19 years old. They gave a brief history of UPASS, explaining that UPASS was made universal in 2011. They explained that the UPASS Advisory Board sets the UPASS fee rates for students, oversees program implementation, and reports on the state of the program to ASUW and GPSS. They provided an overview of developments to the UPASS fee since 2018. They said they will bring recommendations for fee increases or decreases to ASUW, GPSS, and the Board of Regents. They announced that the Link Light Rail will move to a flat \$3.00 fare and that fare enforcement on the Light Rail will begin again. They said the Advisory Board is working on improving Night Ride, making stops more accessible and visible, and advertising for students to tap on and tap off.

**Geervani Daggupati (Immunology)** asked if there were any changes being made for the UW shuttle and whether there would be potential shuttle improvements.

**A.J. Balatico** asked if Geervani was referring to shuttles to South Lake Union and Harborview.

**Geervani Daggupati (Immunology)** said yes.

**A.J. Balatico** said UPASS does not cover those shuttles. He said there have been discussions about linking those together.

**Gillian Mullen (MLIS)** said her program has many online students who still must pay the fee and asked if there is a way for them to opt out.

**Saiya Karamali (Linguistics)** said this is a frequent issue. They said the UPASS Advisory Board was told that the system is not able to identify which students study remotely to deactivate their UPASS. They said it is not technologically possible, which is why remote students also pay SAF and STF.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** asked for clarification on how much of the UPASS fee is spent annually.

**Saiya Karamali (Linguistics)** said the goal is to spend the entire UPASS budget except \$1 million in reserves representing 1 month of operating costs.

**A.J. Balatico** said he believes UPASS expenditures are about \$10 million, and reserves are about \$6 million. He said GPSS could request that the UPASS Advisory Board consider projections that lower the fee since \$6 million is a big reserve.

**Saiya Karamali (Linguistics)** said 10% is always spent.

**A.J. Balatico** said the university always pays Transportation Demand Management (TDM). He said the only measure to spend down the reserve would be decreasing the UPASS fee.

**Saiya Karamali (Linguistics)** said the UPASS Advisory Board is considering that.

**A.J. Balatico** said costs will probably go up as the Link expands farther north. He said there is a J-Line which is a \$64 million federal investment. He said these expansions could raise expenditures eventually, but not in the near future. He likened opting out of UPASS to opting out of healthcare and explained that doing so would raise the costs for all other students. He said STF will be presenting at the April 17 meeting as well.

#### 7. [Action] GPSS Bylaws Amendments 6:01pm

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** explained that these were recommendations to the Senate for bylaws updates. She said the Senate will need to vote to accept them. She explained that she discussed these changes with the Judicial Committee and that they were passed by the Executive Committee. She explained that the amendments primarily entailed formatting changes and updating from a paper ballot to a digital ballot. She said these changes will help the Elections Committee function as an effective committee.

**Jack Flesher** suggested reviewing specific changes together as a Senate.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said candidates may announce their intention to run up to 3 calendar days prior to the day of an election to allow the Elections Committee to prepare ballots. She said there will be a write-in option to vote for candidates running from the floor. She said candidates must acknowledge that they have read the election procedures prior to announcing their candidacy. She said the amendments would also move the Elections Guide approval deadline from February to March. She explained that committees are formed in October before undergoing training and onboarding. She said the Elections Committee must then create a long document. She explained that getting this done within such a short time frame is difficult.

**Jack Fleisher** said the Elections Guide bylaw was suspended at the last Senate meeting as well as last year.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said the provisions for absentee ballots have been removed to onboard the new virtual voting system. She said the Elections Committee will notify candidates of receipt of materials 3 calendar days before the Officer election meeting. She said candidates must provide evidence of registration or enrollment in the upcoming Summer or Fall quarter. She said options for write-in votes and nominations from the floor will be provided if there is no candidate listed for the position.

**Jack Fleisher** said people could nominate themselves on the day of the election but only for positions that do not have candidates.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said the reasoning for this provision is that establishing appropriate candidacy is a long process for the Elections Committee. She explained that it would be difficult to determine if a floor candidate is eligible for candidacy. She said notifications will be sent for voting, except for absentee voting given the switch to a digital platform. She said the Election Committee will allow time for accurate counting of the ballots. She said preliminary election results will be announced at the end of the Officer election meeting and that asynchronous election results will be announced 7 days after the Officer election meeting. She said the digital ballot will close at the end of the Officer election meeting and that digital votes cannot be changed after they are cast. She said paper ballots will only be used in the event that asynchronous voting does not work. She said run-off counting will no longer occur with the digital platform. She explained the special run-off election procedure in the case of a tie. She said changes to the ballot must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the election meeting.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** asked about adding an additional clause to allow running from the floor in the case that nobody declares their candidacy. He asked if there should be an additional statement to allow for the contingency of not meeting candidacy requirements.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said nominees from the floor must acknowledge that they read the election procedures. She said the committee discussed that the wording is not entirely clear. She said candidates can verbally acknowledge reading the Elections Guide. She said this additional clause can be included if there is general consent that it should be added now.

**A.J. Balatico** said an Officer position could be a funding package for a new graduate student. He asked how GPSS could address issues if an elected candidate who has been recently admitted to UW has not accepted their offer of admission.

**Daniel Cook (History)** said his program had an April 15 deadline to accept offers of admission and that Officer elections are in May.

**A.J. Balatico** said the College of Education is different.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said there is a document that goes to GPSS demonstrating that the candidate is an enrolled student.

**A.J. Balatico** asked if evidence of acceptance to a graduate program would be sufficient for candidacy.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said the position would be vacant if an elected candidate does not accept going to UW, which would be the worst-case scenario. She asked if it would be acceptable to the Senate to make the candidacy inclusive or to only allow enrolled graduate students to run for Officer positions.

**A.J. Balatico** said there must be proof of enrollment for a student to run for election. He suggested changing evidence of enrollment to evidence of acceptance.

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** said it should not be evidence of acceptance and should be kept as evidence of enrollment or acceptance from incoming students. She said it would not be fair to not allow incoming students to run for an Officer position because it might be a determining factor in whether they attend UW. She said she hopes that getting elected would consolidate a candidate's decision to attend UW. She said allowing incoming students to run for an Officer position would help with inclusivity and recruitment to UW.

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** moved to extend time by 15 minutes.  
**Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. Motion passed.

**A.J. Balatico** said being accepted into a program does not mean that a student is registered for the Fall quarter.

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** said he was a candidate who had been accepted to UW last year. He explained that he ran for election upon being offered admission into the Evans School of Public Policy, which he accepted right away. He said making sure that the opportunity is available to incoming students is important otherwise the process is not very equitable. He said it would be important to have language specifying the process of candidates nominating themselves from the floor. He said it is important to have a candidate's resume in some form by the day of the election to see prior history and experience. He suggested adding language to the bylaws stipulating that candidates must be willing to distribute a resume on the day of elections if they nominate themselves from the floor.

**Joe Rogge (Mathematics)** said it would put GPSS in an awkward position if someone were elected and turned down an offer of admission to UW. He said Officers should be confirmed before the end of the academic year and that winners should commit before the last Senate meeting of the year.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** read a revision that would leave the determination open on a case-by-case basis. She explained that vague language is sometimes important to maintain inclusivity and the Election Committee's ability to make determinations.

**Joe Rogge (Mathematics)** said it looks okay.

**A.J. Balatico** said stipulating that a candidate provides proof of acceptance of an offer of admission would be better and more specific.

**George Fennell (Material Science and Engineering)** asked if there was an ability to switch to ranked choice voting and switch to a runner up in the case that a winner rejected an offer of acceptance to UW.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said that would be difficult because there are deadlines prior to the acceptance deadline surrounding the final announcement of elections.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** said the Senate would receive a candidate's resume after the election if they were nominated from the floor.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** asked whether the change would be better in subsection D or elsewhere.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** suggested making a second point for subsection D.

**Melody Vahadi (Computational Linguistics)** asked how attending 3 GPSS meetings factors in for those who have been admitted to a UW graduate program and are seeking Officer positions prior to matriculating and attending.

**A.J. Balatico** said people can attend GPSS meetings via Zoom. He said this usually applies to undergraduates who know about GPSS.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said anyone can attend a GPSS meeting from any location.

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** said the stipulations about the resume belong under subsection B rather than subsection D.

**Maeve Riley (Drama)** raised a point of information and asked if there were 5 minutes remaining to review and approve the bylaws changes.

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

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** argued that the resume change pertains more to the relevant information in subsection B.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** pointed to the clause that he was referencing and said there should also be a clause in subsection D for the distribution of candidate resumes to GPSS.

**A.J. Balatico** asked how the resume would be distributed to the Senate during the election meeting.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said candidates could email their resumes with the agenda email, project them at the meeting, or read from them.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** agreed.

**A.J. Balatico** asked about the actual voting system.

**Jack Fleisher** recommended against resorting to a runner up in the event that someone dropped from the race. He explained that ranked choice voting makes it possible that the runner up candidate does not represent the will of the Senate. He said it would be better to hold a special election for the position to elect a candidate the Senate feels good about.

**Matthew Moran** moved to a vote. **Emy Chevalier (French Studies)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:42pm

Motion passed 34-0-1.

#### 8. [Action] GPSS Elections Guide Proposal 6:44pm

**Alec Solemslie (Forestry Sciences)** thanked Beth for presenting the bylaws proposals. He explained that the Elections Guide is a new document every year that is updated to reflect the new dates set forth in the bylaws and the digital platform. He said there will be a link for candidates to submit forms rather than sending directly through email which will open on election day. He explained that the Elections Guide is meant to be in accordance with the bylaws.

**Jack Fleisher** asked for clarification on the basic requirements for candidacy.

**Alec Solemslie (Forestry Sciences)** said candidates must be enrolled in or offered admission at UW. He said candidates must also remain full-time students unless they are the Vice President of External Affairs, which allows for a decreased unit load in the Winter quarter due to responsibilities associated with lobbying in Olympia. He said candidates must have attended 3 GPSS Senate or committee meetings prior to announcing candidacy. He said candidates must be able to work the amount of time required to be an Officer. He said Senators on Elections or Judicial Committee cannot run unless they remove themselves from the committee 35 days prior to the election. He said candidates must be in good academic standing.

**A.J. Balatico** said the Elections Guide will be sent out to graduate students and posted on the GPSS website. He said he will inform Academic Advisors about elections so they can refer students they think would be qualified.



**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** recommended a change in section 1.1.

**Alec Solemslie (Forestry Sciences)** said section 1.1 refers to the current Elections Committee.

**A.J. Balatico** recommended adding page numbers. He clarified that Executive Committee meetings would be HUB 238 instead of 303 on April 10 and May 1. He suggested that the list of GPSS meetings be updated if the Arts Council and Science and Policy Committee counted as GPSS meetings that are publicly announced and follow parliamentary procedure.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said there is a Judicial Committee email.

**A.J. Balatico** explained the distinction between parliamentary procedure meetings and other GPSS meetings. He proceeded to offer minor amendments to the Elections Guide.

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** asked if it would be important to note that the Washington Student Association is still a voting member.

**A.J. Balatico** said it is implied. He said GPSS has historically had to fight for voting rights on internal UW issues. He continued offering minor amendments to the Elections Guide.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** asked if there should be phrasing about candidates not talking during sequestration.

**A.J. Balatico** said there should not be extra campaigning occurring during the voting process.

**Alec Solemslie (Forestry Sciences)** asked for a suggestion.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** suggested a statement that candidates should not continue to campaign and will be retrieved after voting is completed.

**A.J. Balatico** said candidates normally go to the GPSS office for sequestration. He said there have been situations of candidates texting Senators during deliberations and leaving the building.

**Christina Coop** suggested adding a statement about campaigning closing at the beginning of the deliberations.

**Maeve Riley (Drama)** agreed but said the language is not necessarily essential to include.

**A.J. Balatico** said it is up to the discretion of the Elections and Judicial Committees to determine if there were election irregularities. He said ASUW has more specific mechanisms.

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** said it is necessary to specify that candidates can no longer campaign after each candidate's Q&A in the Elections Guide.

**A.J. Balatico** said candidates could theoretically appear on screen through Zoom. He said the use of surrogates could also be an issue. He said these cases would be brought to the Elections or Judicial Committees.

**Jack Flesher** moved to extend time by 5 minutes. **Matthew Moran** seconded. No objections. Motion passed.

**Maleen Kidiwela** said these additions would complicate the process. He said it is important to be flexible.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** said historically the Judicial Committee has received many complaints around this specific issue. She said having a guideline would curb these issues.

**Alec Solemslie (Forestry Sciences)** summarized the changes recommended over the course of discussions.

**Maeve Riley (Drama)** raised a point of information and asked if she could motion to move to a vote.

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

**Maeve Riley (Drama)** motioned to move to approve the Elections Guide. **Daniel Cook (History)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:09pm

29-0-0. Elections Guide passed.

9. [Action] GPSS Budget Proposal 7:11pm

**Jon Choi** explained the differences between the Executive Committee and Finance and Budget Committee budget recommendations. He explained the current budget restraints that GPSS is currently facing. He said the Executive Committee budget recommends decreasing Officer Summer wages, decreasing the total number of Officer Summer hours, and reducing the number of staff positions from 9 to 6. He said that the Finance and Budget Committee budget recommends cutting staff positions from 9 to 5. He said the personnel header is the only difference between the 2 budget recommendations.

**Matthew Moran** said headers for various line-items were shifted around. He said Equity and Inclusion increased funding for Diversity funds. He noted that there were recommendations shared between both the Finance and Budget Committee and Executive Committee budgets. He said the Executive Committee wants to have 1 staff member per Officer. He said that cuts to paid positions would redistribute labor to unpaid Senators.

**A.J. Balatico** said the Executive Committee met last Wednesday to discuss the budget and that the Finance and Budget Committee met to do the same last Friday. He said the

main difference between the 2 budget proposals is whether to keep 6 or 5 staff positions. He noted that the proposed decrease in the number of each staff position's weekly hours from 19 to 18 is not materially very big.

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** asked where the Executive and Finance and Budget Committees got 38% and 35% reductions. He asked why the Finance and Budget committee went higher for Summer and staff wages.

**Matthew Moran** said it is easy to make decisions about cutting staff positions since they are not articulated in the bylaws or the constitution. He noted that Officer summer wages are also flexible. He explained that changing Officer positions and wages during the year would be complicated since doing so would require changing the bylaws and the constitution.

**Lauren Cortez (School of Marine and Environmental Affairs)** asked how the reduction in hourly wages was reached. She expressed concern that reducing staff and Officer wages would devalue the positions.

**Jon Choi** said there would be all new Officers for next year who would not have experienced earning \$31 per hour over the Summer.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** asked who the student trainees were and what their responsibilities were.

**Jon Choi** said there are 6 Officers and 9 staff members. He explained that the staff support the Officers and all GPSS activities.

**Matthew Moran** said staff positions can be found on the spreadsheets. He said Officers will decide how to manage the decision to cut staff positions.

**Jon Choi** explained the differences between the Executive Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee financial forecasts to Fiscal Year 2027.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** asked how important it is to have a staff member for each Officer position.

**Matthew Moran** said it is important because of the amount of administrative work that Officers do. He said staff do great and important work and that splitting a staff member among 2 Officers might be difficult. He mentioned that GPSS may request funding for a Web Developer position from a separate funding source.

**Jack Flesher** said the quantity of work will remain the same and that reducing staff positions will increase labor responsibilities for the rest of the staff. He said he worries about the effects it would have on the staff as well.

**A.J. Balatico** said GPSS could ask for a larger SAF request, though SAF will likely say no. He mentioned that GPSS has an endowment as an additional financial buffer.

**Daniel Cook (History)** asked if GPSS is currently on track to spend all of the money it allocated for the year.

**Jon Choi** explained that some items in the budget have been underspent while others have been entirely spent. He estimated that GPSS will spend roughly \$600,000 to \$610,000 this year.

**Mykhail Lembke (Public Administration)** asked if the Senate could amend the budget.

**Jon Choi** said yes, but that the Senate would need to pass each amendment with  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote.

**A.J. Balatico** said the Senate would need to pass each amendment with  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote if the amendment changes budget items by 5% or more.

**Jack Flesher** said if  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote is not achieved, the amendment is automatically tabled.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** asked if the Senate is just discussing the personnel budget or the entire budget?

**Jon Choi** said the Senate is discussing the entire budget.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** asked if Day on the Hill will be part of the budget for next year if SAGE is debunked.

**A.J. Balatico** said Day on the Hill was from the Vice President of Administration's budget and that it was moved to the Vice President of External Affairs' budget. He said there could be a trip to DC next year.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** asked whether this would be arranged by GPSS.

**A.J. Balatico** said yes. He said GPSS went to Washington DC last year in coordination with the Department of External Affairs. He said Diversity Funds do not have to be spent in the same way as Departmental or Special Allocations and that spending for Diversity Funds is more flexible.

**Jack Flesher** said the bylaws allow for mid-year allocations. He said it is possible to move money between budget headers after the budget has been approved.

**A.J. Balatico** said when a line item is not spent it is usually because another item somewhere else in the budget covered it. He said the President's budget, for example, is not usually spent, but it exists for small purchases that Officers may need for the office.

**Jon Choi** recommended moving to consent on all other headers besides personnel.

**Daniel Cook (History)** asked for clarification on increases to External Affairs and Equity and Inclusion headers.

**Jon Choi** said it is from moving line items to where they should have gone.

**A.J. Balatico** said it also was not determined under which Officer header travel funds should be allocated.

**Jon Choi** said there has been a total reduction of \$5,213 across all Officer budgets.

**Matthew Moran** said it aligns with GPSS values and the Equity Blueprint. He said the Diversity Funds have been most successful this year. He said these funds support programming that affects various communities on campus. He said the budget actually represents a net cut.

**Jon Choi** said it actually represents a net cut of \$4,000. He said applications to Diversity Funds and Special Allocations were duplicative. He said the intent is to focus more on diversity related efforts and events while adjusting Special Allocations to historical levels of funding.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** moved to approve all budget headers except for the personnel header. **Maeve Riley (Drama)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:45pm

**Mykhail Lembke** clarified that staff hourly wages are not being reduced.

**Jon Choi** confirmed.

**Mykhail Lembke** voiced support for maintaining 6 staff positions rather than 5 and for reducing staff hours from 19 to 18. He expressed support for the Executive Committee budget.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** asked how many weeks there are during a Summer.

**A.J. Balatico** said Summer begins on Juneteenth and ends on September 11. He said that reducing Summer work to 7 weeks would require a start date in August.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** clarified that there were 14 or 15 Summer work weeks for Officers.

**Joe Rogge (Mathematics)** said the FB Committee would like to have 3 months of operational budget in reserves not including the mandatory \$25,000 in liability. He said the Finance and Budget Committee proposal was based on its motivation to maintain the reserve.

**A.J. Balatico** said there could be 6 staff members who each work 19 hours per week. He said that each staff hour costs about \$800 per year.

**Jon Choi** asked if it would be possible for the Senate to approve 19 hours and for incoming Officers to post the staff job openings at 18 hours advertised.

**Jack Flesher** said the proposed budget allocates a certain amount of money for certain items. He said that money does not have to be spent on the items for which it is allocated, but that money cannot be used for something it is not allocated for unless there is a mid-year allocation. He said incoming Officers could hire staff members at 18 hours per week even if the Senate approves a budget that funds 19 weekly staff hours.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** voiced support for the Executive Committee budget. Said she does not support reducing the number of hours for the staff. She said she would support increasing the number of weekly staff hours from 19 to 20.

**A.J. Balatico** said the Budget Director currently only works 15 hours. He said the Executive Committee budget would keep staff hours uniform.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** said the Senate should increase staff hours, if possible, but that it should not reduce staff hours.

**A.J. Balatico** said 20 hours per week crosses the threshold from part time to full time and that 19 hours per week would be easier for accounting purposes in Workday.

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** said that the reduction in staff hours is unnecessary. She said that the 30% reduction in staff positions is significant and that other areas of the budget offer more possibilities for reductions.

**Jack Flesher** suggested running a quick poll to see which budget to approve before proceeding to amend budget headers.

**A.J. Balatico** reiterated the differences between the two budgets.

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** clarified that the long-term projections assume constant budget decisions and no future cuts.

**A.J. Balatico** said long-term projections are also based on 4% annual increases from SAF.

**Jon Choi** said GPSS is asking for an 8% increase from SAF in next year's budget.

**Amanda Yapp (Real Estate)** raised a point of personal privilege and said she could not hear the discussion online.

**Jack Flesher** recapped what he said about the Executive Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee proposals.

**Jack Flesher** moved to vote on the preferred budget proposal. **Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 7:57pm

18 for the Executive Committee Proposal - 12 for the Finance and Budget Committee Proposal - 3 Abstentions

**Christine Zhao (Computational Linguistics)** moved to amend staff hours to 19 per week and Officer Summer hours from 150 hours to 140 hours.

**Beth Fawcett (Chemistry)** asked to have the numbers on the screen for reference.

**Jon Choi** said Christine's proposal would be a \$3,000 increase to the budget.

**Jack Flesher** clarified Christine's amendments. He proposed holding a single vote for amending the Executive budget to set Summer Officer hours at 140 and to set weekly staff hours at 19 hours.

**Daniel Cook (History)** asked for clarification that a yes vote means setting Officer hours to 140 and setting staff hours to 19.

**Jack Flesher** confirmed that a yes vote would set Officer hours to 140 and set staff hours to 19.

**Mykhail Lembke** seconded the motion. No objections. Motion passed. 8:07pm

**Tobin Wainer (Astronomy)** raised a point of information and asked what a no vote means.

**Jack Flesher** clarified that a no vote on question 1 would keep Officer Summer hours at 150 hours.

26-4 to set Summer Officer hours at 140.

21-10-2 to set Staff hours at 19 per week.

**Daniel Cook (History)** moved to approve the budget. **Joe Rogge (Mathematics)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 8:11pm

26 - 1 - 0

10. [Information] Senator of the Month 8:12pm

**Matthew Moran** announced **Ardhra Sivasankaran (Communication Leadership)** as Senator of the Month.

11. [Action] Adjournment 8:15pm

**Ella Spurlock (Chemistry)** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Mykhail Lembke (Constituency)** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 8:15pm

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