

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Meeting of 10 April 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

Noah Nguyen, 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

Mark Pock, STF Chair

1. [Action] Call to Order 5:34pm

A.J. Balatico called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:34pm

Matthew Moran moved to add the STF rate proposal to the agenda and to amend the agenda. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No Objections. Motion passed. 5:35.

3. [Action] Approval of Minutes 5:35pm

Jack Flesher moved to approve the minutes. **Matthew Moran** seconded. No objections. 5:36pm

4. [Information] STF Rate Recommendations

Mark Pock gave a presentation on the Student Technology Fee (STF) rates for Academic Year (AY) 2024-2025. He said the STF Committee is recommending increasing the STF rate from \$22 to \$27 per quarter for the next AY. He said the prerogative of the STF Committee has been to spend down its large reserve and spend at the rate it takes in money. He said the committee is projecting that the reserve will be around \$3 to \$4 million by the end of this year and that spending the reserve down has therefore been accomplished. He said the goal now is to bring the reserve back up to a healthy amount and to eventually restore the STF to \$38 per quarter. He said there was \$9

million in the reserve at the beginning of the year. He said there have been \$3 million spent in allocations throughout the year. He said most of this spending has occurred through the growth of recurring or block obligations. He said that even though the committee assumed that block obligations would stay at \$1.5 million, but that it has allocated an additional \$700,000 in block obligations, totaling \$2.2 million. He said the total expenditures for STF this year amounted to \$5 million in expenditures, bringing the STF reserve down to \$4 million by the end of the academic year. He explained that the proposed \$5 per quarter rate increase is predicated on the \$700,000 in increased block obligations.

Charles Bugre clarified that STF is proposing to increase the quarterly rate to \$27.

Mark Pock said yes.

A.J. Balatico asked if block obligations were represented on the STF website.

Mark Pock said the website is not current right now. He said information on block obligations from last Spring were available on the website. He gave examples of some block obligations that were funded by STF last Spring.

A.J. Balatico said it would be helpful to have currently approved block obligations available for the Senate meeting.

Charles Bugre asked if block funding for CSED was revoked.

A.J. Balatico said it was reduced.

Mark Pock said it was not really reduced. He said STF decided not to increase its block allocation.

A.J. Balatico asked what mechanisms exist for students to provide input on proposals. He said there used to be endorsements and comments.

Mark Pock said there are upvotes which can be publicized more. He said STF could engage in more publicity by including proposals with comments and testimonials. He said proposals will be submitted on an ad hoc basis with testimonials.

Charles Bugre clarified if this was an information item.

A.J. Balatico confirmed that this was an information item. He said he wanted the STF proposal to increase the quarterly rate to be brought before the Senate.

Nick Juno asked if the Senate must vote on the STF increase.

A.J. Balatico said yes. He said GPSS and ASUW must agree to raise the STF, otherwise the rate will remain frozen at \$22 per quarter. He said there is a mechanism to revise the increase. He said the Board of Regents meeting is on May 9 and the election meeting for GPSS is on May 8, leaving little wiggle room. He said the Executive Committee can send

in the rate approval at the May 1 meeting. He said the Office of Planning and Budgeting needs the projections for cost of attendance before June. He said students get financial aid based on how much it costs to attend UW.

Nick Juno asked if the Senate would vote on the rate increase on May 8.

A.J. Balatico said the Senate will vote on the rate increase on April 17.

Charles Bugre clarified that the pre-COVID STF was \$28 per quarter.

Mark Pock said the pre-COVID STF was \$38 per quarter.

A.J. Balatico said that fee was based on a projection of around 46,000 students, providing roughly \$5 million in revenue. He explained that the \$22 per quarter rate provides \$3 million in annual revenue to the STF.

Mark Pock said there are ways for STF to spend \$3 million through awards allocations, but that the STF committee has never been able to comfortably spend \$5 million.

A.J. Balatico said the \$5 increase would represent \$700,000 in extra revenues for STF. He said breaking down the blocks and the different items that STF funds would be helpful for the Senate.

Charles Bugre said the STF presentation at the Senate meeting should break down how the money is allocated so students can appreciate where the money is going, and which departments benefit from STF.

Mark Pock said the STF Committee will put together a list of allocations from Fall and Winter.

A.J. Balatico said he would like to have a look at the total amount of fees that do not include tuition or operational fees that students pay per quarter.

4. [Information] ASUW Spring Updates 5:36pm

A.J. Balatico said ASUW elections will occur from April 15 to 17 and that registered ASUW voters can vote. He said voter turnout usually consists of GPSS or dedicated graduate student friends with 50 to 100 graduate students participating in the ASUW elections. He said the Spring GA for WSA was Sunday and that ASUW participated. He said Nandana Jaideep was elected the Vice President of Diversity at WSA. He asked Carrie if there would be a Spring concert.

Carrie Moore said yes.

Nick Juno said the concert usually occurs in week 7.

A.J. Balatico said the Use of University Facilities Committee (UUF) met to discuss the ASUW's Black Student Commission and Retro Concert on Red Square. He said the

concert will take place on May 18, which is a Saturday, but that the UUF does not want the event to block off areas of campus.

5. [Action] Appointments to UW Committees 5:52pm

A.J. Balatico thanked Jordan for doing a lot of the work needed to make UW committee appointments. He presented a list of people nominated to various committees. He explained that Executive Committee members would need to make a motion to remove a nominee from the list if they opposed a nomination. He said these students were selected from a pool of roughly 140 people from the call for applications in October. He explained that Maleen filled in over the Winter for a previously appointed individual who could not serve on the Services and Activities Fee (SAF) Committee. He said that everyone else on the list is a new nominee. He said that GPSS is looking for a master's student to fill the Student Regent Selection Committee. He reiterated that Jordan has worked extensively on reviewing resumes.

Jack Flesher mentioned that Oscar Abian, one of the nominees, is a master's student in the department of Urban Planning.

A.J. Balatico said the people on the list have already been semi-confirmed and that it would be necessary to reject them now.

Raj Dewangan moved to approve the list of nominees. **Amanda Chin** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:56pm

6. [Information] Executive Senator Updates 5:56pm

Raj Dewangan said the D Center, Food Pantry, HUB, the Cultural Center, the Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) Kelly, and others either have presented or will be presenting their budgets to the Student Activities Fee (SAF) Committee. He explained that most units have not asked for much in additional funding except IMA and Hall Health, which always have deficits. He said Hall Health wants to match employee compensation with the market. He said the SAF Committee did not give IMA any funding for capital requests last year, but that IMA came up with those requests again to replace or refurbish old and redundant equipment. He explained that if IMA did not receive funding it would have to reduce operation hours. He said the SAF Committee is considering including CIRCLE as a SAF unit. He said the SAF Committee will meet this Friday to decide on CIRCLE's inclusion. He said the next couple of weeks are very important for the SAF Committee because it will be voting on unit funding.

Ella Spurlock asked why university units like IMA and Hall Health need funding from SAF. She asked why the administration does not pay for those units.

Raj Dewangan said Hall Health was not a Student Life division and that IMA has always received funding from SAF. He said A.J. may have more information.

Maleen Kidiwela said these units need SAF funding to maintain their goals and cannot function without it.

A.J. Balatico said IMA and Hall Health are auxiliary units that do not constitute the core of the university's mission of the university, which is the preservation, advancement, and dissemination of knowledge. He said administration funds are distributed to academic units whereas auxiliary units need to be self-sustaining. He explained that the overall footprint of auxiliary units is not as mission critical and are theoretically coverable through student fees. He said SAF only goes up by 4%, representing an additional \$800,000 in revenue each year. He said this limits how units can grow. He asked Raj if Hall Health mentioned anything about their strategies for Summer furloughing. He asked if Hall Health would forgo certain services like gender affirming care.

Raj Dewangan said Hall Health came up with future strategies to reduce the health fee or the wellness fee assuming it received more SAF funding. He explained that SAF does not possess the funds necessary to fully fund Hall Health. He said Hall Health is losing its healthcare workers. He said the Director expressed concern about physicians being able to receive much higher pay in Montlake. He said the SAF Committee will discuss Hall Health's proposal over the next 2 weeks. He said he thinks Hall Health will open its services to non-students as well over the Summer. He said Hall Health services as of now are only open to university students. He said opening services to non-students could be a way to generate revenue. He said no one has the exact answer yet.

A.J. Balatico said collectively Senators have been to the budget proposals. He said there have only been about 10,000 student visitors to Hall Health per year and that the Executive Director has tried to discern why people do not go to Hall Health. He explained that the university is hesitant to conduct student surveys to answer this question since many surveys are in the pipeline. He said there is not a good systematic way to capture the attitudes of all students.

Ella Spurlock asked if someone could briefly explain the funding structure for Hall Health.

A.J. Balatico explained that most Hall Health funding comes from insurance. SAF covers the cost of normal checkups and quarterly visits. He said Hall Health's total budget is about \$13 million.

Charles Bugre asked Raj if Hall Health will get anything it requested from SAF.

Raj Dewangan said Hall Health's budget was \$12.78 million last year and that it will be \$14.36 next year. He said Hall Health requested \$6.2 million last year and received \$6.4 million. He said Hall Health is expecting an increase of \$500,000. He explained that the SAF Committee wants to give the minimum wage increase of 4% to all units. He said the goal of Hall Health is to pay its employees more. He said the SAF Committee reevaluates allocations after giving the minimum wage increase. He said Hall Health has a healthy reserve and that \$500,000 is a significant request for increased funding.

Charles Bugre said students prefer going to practitioners outside of Hall Health. He recommended looking for ways to empower Hall Health to provide services that incentivize students to go there for healthcare. He mentioned that patient attitudes towards healthcare professionals influence the type of healthcare and treatment they receive. He said Hall Health may not ask for large amounts from SAF if it were generating revenue on its own.

A.J. Balatico said the expansions to Telehealth were implemented in response to COVID, but that students do not generally prefer it. He said Hall Health is trying to expand revenue streams but cannot immediately acquire new patients. He said the wait times for appointments are already 2 weeks.

Raj Dewangan said copays have increased from \$35 to about \$75 from last year, yet there is a deficit. He said the first quarterly visit to Hall Health for students is currently subsidized by the SAF. He said Hall Health physician appointments last for 20 to 25 minutes on average, which would not occur anywhere else. He said physicians are spending too much time with patients compared to private hospitals.

A.J. Balatico said he would like to discuss this with the Senate next week. He said this would be an important conversation about accessibility issues. He said students are generally against adding another health fee. He affirmed that GPSS is supportive of Hall Health, but the question is at what cost and how to improve access to these services.

Clare Koesters said students would be spending less than on insurance to go elsewhere if GPSS increases the fee to spend on Hall Health.

A.J. Balatico said PAC 12 and BIG 10 conference schools have health fees. He mentioned that it is difficult to compare these schools' situations with UW's because they are in different states. He said students might be getting insurance coverage through different sources. He mentioned that there are issues with healthcare access for international students.

Charles Bugre said the Faculty Counsel on Academic Standards has been discussing whether it is administration or individual faculty members who need to make decisions about standards for distance and in-person courses. He said there were concerns about how the structure and constraints of distance courses would affect international students. He said there will be another meeting on Friday to continue these discussions. He said there were discussions about minor and major requirements last quarter.

A.J. Balatico said there were updates to the registration process which included ranked registration priorities for students. He said the Graduate School Policy Committee is discussing requirements for a graduate degree at UW.

Noah Nguyen said she is working on the GPSS Book Club. She said no one showed up for the CIRCLE meeting and has sent an email asking about availability. She said there will be a meeting next week to get the Book Club going. She said there will be a Tri Campus Advisory Committee meeting next week.

A.J. Balatico asked on if the committee decided on Ardhra as the representative for ISHIP.

Noah Nguyen said Ardhra had an informational meeting about ISHIP a few weeks ago and that they will meet soon for further discussion.

A.J. Balatico clarified that ISHIP stands for International Student Health Insurance Program. He explained that students need to opt in to summer coverage, but that there is not good messaging to inform students that they need to opt in.

Charles Bugre said the messaging is clear. He said students are covered automatically if they are working for the university.

Clare Koesters explained that Sustained Dialogue is an organization out of DC to get students discussing opposing sides of an issue. She explained that the organization offers training for students across universities. She said she is trying to get this started at UW and that GPSS is one place where Sustained Dialogue could live. She said Sustained Dialogue is meant to be an ongoing forum for students to discuss various issues. She suggested that GPSS could pilot some discussions on Israel and Palestine if Sustained Dialogue does not live at GPSS. She said UW is putting together questionnaires for students with the goal that Jewish and Muslim students can address how they are feeling on campus right now.

A.J. Balatico asked if those surveys will also go to student support units.

Clare Koesters said they are going to everyone since religion is a protected category.

A.J. Balatico asked if the surveys are going to Tri Campus or just Seattle students.

Clare Koesters said she thinks surveys are just going out to Seattle students.

A.J. Balatico said the Board of Regents meetings have indicated that the Israel and Palestine issue has not been as pressing at Bothell and Tacoma. He said the Provost and President cannot compel a unit to take on the Sustained Dialogue. He said the Provost and President recommended that Students First take on Sustained Dialogue.

Malden Kidiwela said Jon Choi resigned from the Finance and Budget Committee. He said the Finance and Budget Committee approved Special Allocations last week.

A.J. Balatico asked if there were updates on the Elections Committee.

Maleen Kidiwela said not now. He said the Elections Committee will get back to work soon.

A.J. Balatico said the only Executive Committee meeting remaining before the Election will be on May 1. He said this will be posted on the website.

Ella Spurlock said the Science and Policy Committee wrapped up the year with a bang on April 4 with its Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Symposium. She said attendance was on the low side but that the event was a success overall. She said students showcased an impressive diversity of work. She said the President and 4 or 5 Regents attended. She said she is looking forward to ramping up the event for next year. She said she will attend the National Science Policy Committee's this weekend where she will present on the work of the Science and Policy Committee, GPSS, and student government's role in policy work.

Noah Nguyen asked if anyone from Bothell and Tacoma came to the Research Symposium.

Amanda Chin said no.

A.J. Balatico said there was a larger pool of people who signed up, but many dropped the week of the symposium. He said Sahra resigned from the Executive Committee. He said the Senate will need to have an election at the next Senate meeting.

7. [Information] Officer Updates 6:33pm

Matthew Moran said the Cultural Showcase was a success. He said Graduate Student Excellence and Equity (GSEE) invited him to come to the prospective graduate student mixer a few weeks ago to represent GPSS. He said he talked to prospective students about getting connected with GPSS. He said he has the link to buy tickets for Mariners Night. He said the Mariners Organization created a flier for the event but has not yet sent it to GPSS. He said there will be significant graduate student representation at the Mariners game on May 10. He said he is connecting with different groups to be part of the Diversity Resource Fair and that Mariko Lockhart will help connect him with organizations to table to event. He said he is trying to recruit a keynote speaker and engage with local elected officials for the event. He said the Diversity Committee is focused on putting together the Equity Toolkit and completing it by the end of the quarter.

Nick Juno said the Legislative session ended on March 8. He said WSA had its Spring Summit at Bellevue College to reflect on its accomplishments over the past session and to think about the 2025 session. He said there will be a Fall summit in October to finalize the 2025 Legislative Agenda. He said there were proposals at the Spring summit for expanding union representation for student workers, reviewing advisory boards of Washington Police Departments, expanding the Washington college grant, bolstering affordable housing for students. He said Nandana Jaideep of ASUW will be WSA's Vice President of Diversity for the coming academic year. He said he will plan for the next Legislative session and continue working with the GPSA student government representative. He said he hopes to get more work done with joint efforts from graduate student governments in Olympia. He said he is now the GPSS representative on the STF and SAF Committees.

Amanda Chin said the Cultural Showcase and the Graduate Research Symposium happened last week. She thanked Jack and the Arts Council, Taylor, Jack, Maeve, Jess, Noah, Rene, Janvi, Taylor, Ella, and Bill for their help with the Research Symposium. She said GPSS should work on incentives for people to present or speak at Research Symposiums. She said the Drag Show will be the last big event of the quarter and will occur on May 17 at 5:30pm at the ECC theater for free with 90 tickets available. She said there will be Banh Mi from Saigon Deli for attendees at the Senate meeting next week and food for the elections meeting.

Jack Flesher said 5 Senators did not meet their attendance requirements for Winter quarter. He said most of them can take their quarter of leave retroactively. He announced that there were 2 new senators from Master of Urban Planning, Oscar Abian and Manu Agni. He said he has not heard from the School of Dentistry or Social Work. He said he helped organize the Cultural Showcase and recommended that it continue in the future. He said the Arts Council met today. He said there will be an alternative knitting and crochet or sketch workshop on Wednesdays. He said Noah is helping lead the Knitting and Crocheting Circle and the Book Club. He said there will be a Craft and Complain event on April 26 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. He said there will be a Craft and Draft event at the end of the quarter on May 23 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. He said the alcohol request has been approved and that GPSS just needs to buy the license. He said he also submitted the University Facilities Use form for the event, but that it was inactivated this time since it was a student only event. He said he will check in with Monica and Rene about the University Facilities Use form. He said the Elections bylaws updates from the March meeting were implemented. He said George Fennel from material sciences approached him about a local Seattle housing resolution.

AJ Balatico said the SAF request last Friday went well and that GPSS requested \$38,000. He said the Finance and Budget Committee had issues meeting quorum and that he will make a second call for participation from the Senate. He said Ardhra dropped from the Finance and Budget Committee due to other obligations. He said the Elections and Judicial Committees need more participating Senators to meet quorum. He said the Senate Committee of Planning and Budgeting for the Faculty Senate recommended tuition rates increase by 3% for all Seattle-based graduate programs. He said the College of Built Environments rates were frozen and that PharmD non-residential tuition decreased by 14.2%. He said Continuum College rates tended to go up around 4%, but that this rate varies as some classes are offered quarterly or annually. He said these increases are commensurate with a 3% merit pay increase for faculty. He said the Board of Regents met at Bothell and asked for an appointment to the DEI Committee. He said the 2 most recent graduate students on the DEI Committee were Vice Presidents of Equity and Inclusion. He explained that the DEI Committee looks at institutional data to make informed decisions about how UW should conduct relationships with the state and other entities. He said the Board of Regents asked him for recommendations. He said the Student Regent Application went out to all 3 campuses and that students had 2 weeks to apply. He said the deadline to apply is Monday at 11:59pm. He said that a clarification for the roles were in a PDF sent to everyone. He said the multifamily tax exemption and whether graduate students qualify came up for discussion at the Faculty Senate. He said GPSS is working with Aaron Hoard from UW External Affairs and Haleen from the

Graduate School to find out how information is given to local folks who deal with housing. He said ASUW passed a resolution in support of the Yacht Club because the dock around the Waterfront activities center is being renovated. He suggested that GPSS balance being supportive of students with the relative importance of other issues on campus. He said over 30 graduation ceremonies have been posted on Seattle campus. He said the required date to schedule final exams to be in the graduation booklet is this Friday. He said the deadline for the initial round of 3-minute thesis is April 16. He said the Shell House invited GPSS to an event on May 4 on Saturday morning. He said the Provost Office asked for GPSS support for election programming in the fall for 2024 presidential elections, which could be a potential revenue source for GPSS. He suggested that new Officers come up with programming for this. He said he will meet with folks from Medex programs, which are Physician's Assistant programs. He explained that Medex students across the US pay Seattle fees without receiving benefits. He mentioned that Tacoma students cannot use Tacoma facilities because they pay for Seattle facilities. He said GPSS has budgeted for 4 people to go to Washington DC in May or June offered by External Affairs and Federal Relations. He said there are many elections coming up. He said there are 5 candidates for the Faculty Senate Secretary position has 5 candidates and 3 candidates for Vice Chair. He said there are 40 candidates for 8 positions in ASUW, 10 of whom are running for President. He said he will meet with the Graduate School tomorrow to discuss what constitutes a graduate degree. He said the Graduate School is asking how long it should take for a doctoral degree to be completed. He said the Graduate Student Registration Waiver is meant to help students who wrote a dissertation but would need to register for the next quarter to defend their dissertation.

Jack Flesher requested a discussion of what constitutes a dissertation with the Graduate School. He said many assume that dissertations are long form written documents. He said the policy differentiates between practice and research doctorates but does not specify what that looks like within those categories.

A.J. Balatico said the only requirement is that a written dissertation must be written in English.

Bill Mahoney said there are more stack certificates occurring. He said 3 certificates can be bundled into a master's degree. He said that in the decentralized model of graduate education, each program sets its own standards. He asked if a dissertation could be a performance. He said the dissertation must be able to be uploaded into a library that can be disseminated and learned from.

Jack Flesher said a documentary film came up as a possible dissertation in his department in the past. He said the problem was that a department approved a documentary film, but the library said they could not accept it. He said the compromise was that the student would need to create a link to documentary where it could be housed.

Bill Mahoney said the program could be the host for the link to the documentary. He said individual programs would need to approve non-written dissertations and that the Graduate School would not stand in the way of that.

Jack Flesher said he heard that students could do whatever they want if their program approved, but that institutional support for housing the dissertation was lacking. He said there would be more flexibility for programs to think more broadly with more institutional support.

Bill Mahoney said graduate faculty in programs can drive that change. He said any dissertation must live in some sort of database.

A.J. Balatico asked if capstones get archived in the same way.

Bill Mahoney said departments are not required to have a repository for capstones. He said hopefully programs are keeping those.

A.J. Balatico mentioned that saying what the Executive Committee is doing is important because much of it is not mentioned in the bylaws. He said having these discussions in public meetings is important.

8. [Information] Options for Vice President of Finance Spring 2024 7:16pm

A.J. Balatico said Jon Choi's resignation was unexpected. He said he received notice on Friday morning through email. He said options for proceeding include holding a Special Election or deciding to not have an election. He explained that the Elections Committee will need to determine the rules of the election if there is a Special Election. He said GPSS can act in the interim, but that the Senate will vote on how to proceed.

Jack Flesher clarified that setting the rules for the Special Election would fall to either the Elections Committee or the Executive Committee. He said Officers are not supposed to be involved at all in a Special Election. He said he did not know if the Elections Committee would have the capacity to determine the rules for a Special Election.

Charles Bugre asked how many staff members report to the Vice President of Finance.

A.J. Balatico said 1 staff member, who works 15 hours per week, reports to the Vice President of Finance.

Charles Bugre suggested increasing the staff member's weekly hours. He said it would take time for a new person to get use to the position and that electing a new Vice President of Finance would not be economically viable.

A.J. Balatico said the only option is to increase the staff member's hours, but that the Senate cannot adjust the position's base rate.

Charles Bugre asked about the other benefits the Officer would have enjoyed. He said the staff member should receive those benefits as well.

A.J. Balatico said that could not happen for job classification reasons.

Charles Bugre suggested moving the staff member to a VP of Finance position without an election.

Matthew Moran said there were some options. He said one would be to call a Special Election later this month. He said he did not prefer an election. He mentioned that not having an Officer moving forward would save \$20,000 or more. He said Officers have discussed taking on the labor. He said another option is to suspend the bylaws so that the Executive Committee could appoint an Officer.

Nick Juno clarified that this could not happen before week 4 or 5 of the quarter.

Matthew Moran said an election would not take place for weeks, but that appointing an Officer could take place next week assuming everything goes well.

Nick Juno clarified that an appointment would need to take place at another Executive meeting.

Matthew Moran said it would default to the Senate.

Nick Juno asked if there was any recourse for someone who assumed the VP of Finance position to be back paid for the tuition.

A.J. Balatico said tuition deadlines can be back dated, but that he did not know the answer.

Bill Mahoney suggested that since the work of VP of Finance is done, whoever is elected VP of Finance for next year take on the role immediately.

A.J. Balatico said that would narrow the candidate pool to current students only rather than those admitted to UW. He said he does not want an Officer position for next year contingent on a candidate accepting the position now.

Bill Mahoney said the work to go through a separate election is not reasonable or worth the time. He recommended picking up the slack and redistributing the money.

A.J. Balatico said he currently has the VP of Finance email. He said Travel Grants will be finished on Friday. He said the programming budget recommendations for the Provost were never started. He said the question was how to divide the labor. He said this could be an opportunity for a graduate student to acquire experience. He said not having the role would save GPSS \$24,000.

Nick Juno said he is already covering STF and SAF. He asked what else functionally is needed for the role that is not already being covered.

A.J. Balatico said the transition and printing out applications which is not mindful work but is time consuming.

Nick Juno clarified that that is clerical work.

Noah Nguyen said she has been doing that work but there are not any records in the Hard Archive.

A.J. Balatico said they will be by the end of the year. He said the SAF request does need to include previous budget projections that were not included.

Nick Juno clarified that GPSS's SAF request will happen in the next 2 weeks.

A.J. Balatico said GPSS's SAF presentation already happened. He said the new SAF request would be a replacement of the prior request regardless of the outcome.

Jack Flesher doubted if GPSS had the capacity to do a Special Election. He suggested forgoing the Special Election and suspending the bylaws. He said offering the Officer benefits to a staff member would necessitate an election. He said it is the Senate's decision. He said GPSS may have to prepare for either contingency.

A.J. Balatico said another person serving as VP of Finance would take SAF responsibilities back from Nick.

Charles Bugre suggested recommending that the Senate increase Lin's weekly hours to 19 and that everyone else volunteers to pick up the slack.

A.J. Balatico said he would like a vote on these recommendations.

Matthew Moran moved to have the official opinion of the Executive Committee that for the remainder of the academic year, the 5 current Officers would take on responsibilities of the VP of Finance and that the Budget Director's weekly hours should increase from 15 to 19. **Charles Bugre** seconded. **Jack Flesher** amended the motion to also suspend the bylaws. No objections. Motion passed 7:36pm

9. [Information] Potential Executive Memos, Bylaws Changes, and Transitions for AY 2024-2025 7:36pm

A.J. Balatico summarized the potential executive memos, bylaws changes, and transitions for Academic Year (AY) 2024-2025. He proposed recommending policies that could go in Executive Memos. He said many policies are part of Executive Memos rather than the bylaws. He said the Memos are standing until revised. He said that "the Fund Fund," non-budgeted expenditures, and appointments for AY 2024-2025 from the current student pool could be completed through Memos. He explained that having a general fund for expenditures rather than allocations like Departmental and Special allocations would offer more flexibility. He said non-budgeted expenditures is a resolution that has been a mechanism that GPSS has used every year since it was created. He said some of the administrative appointments from the UW President's office will be considered GPSS's decision. He explained that there is a legal difference between students being selected to serve on committee by university administration versus student government. He explained that waiting until Fall to fill committee positions prevents new students from being on those committees. He said the first 2 memos will need to be done through

the Finance and Budget Committee. He said updating or redacting old memos is also a possibility.

Matthew Moran said none of the Officers are returning and that it is important to be mindful of that. He expressed the need to have more sophisticated transition documents. He said being attentive and engaged over the next few weeks will be important.

A.J. Balatico said Alex Goldstein will be the only remaining Senator from before COVID next year. He said institutional memories from GPSS must be maintained in some way.

10. [Action] Senate Agenda Setting 7:46pm

A.J. Balatico explained that the Workshop would be a non-binding ideational session about what GPSS does.

Nick Juno asked for clarification on the Workshop.

A.J. Balatico said it would be a whole Senate working group that could include a SWOT analysis. He said group work is effective when the groups are working separately and then come together to identify differences between the groups.

Matthew Moran suggested Derek Crescenti from Dance for Senator of the Month. He said Derek presented at the Research Symposium, serves on Departmental Allocations, and helped get groups together for the Cultural Showcase.

A.J. Balatico said there are options for Senator of the Year and multiple Senators of the month. He said GPSS could do a summary of current Senators of the Month. He said he will have some kind of poll to capture recent events and how GPSS can better support students.

Jack Flesher volunteered to read the land acknowledgement.

Matthew Moran moved to approve the agenda. **Charles Bugre** seconded. No objections
7:52pm

11. [Action] Adjournment 7:52pm

Nick Juno motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Matthew Moran** seconded. No objections
7:52pm

Meeting minutes prepared by Daniel Cook, GPSS Senate Clerk.