**The Graduate and Professional Student Senate**

Meeting of 15 January 2025 at 5:30pm

In-person and remotely via Zoom

**The following GPSS members and staff attended the meeting:**

Richard Schure, GPSS President

Kana Saarni, GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs

Mykhail Lembke, GPSS Vice President of External Affairs

Edith Dale, GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion

Noah Hough, GPSS Vice President of Administration

Ryan Wicklund, GPSS Vice President of Finance

Annika Peterson, GPSS Senate Director

Jordynn Hays, University Affairs Director

~~Zoe Stylianides, ASUW Director of Internal Policy~~

Franco Carlos, GPSS Office and Budget Director, Executive Senator

Ella Spurlock, Executive Senator

~~Pavandeep Josan, Executive Senator~~

Francis Choe, Executive Senator

Beth Fawcett, Executive Senator

Hannah Shipman, Executive Senator

Gaurav Joshi, Executive Senator

Bill Mahoney, Associate Dean of Student and Postdoctoral Affairs

Renee Infelise, SAO Advisor

~~Christina Cook, SAO Advisor~~

~~Carrie Moore, SAO Advisor~~

~~Marshall Traverse, SAO Advisor~~

## 1. [Action] Call to Order 5:33pm

**Richard Schure** called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

### 2. [Action] Approval of the Agenda 5:33pm

**Ryan Wicklund** moved to approve the agenda. **Edith Dale** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:34pm

**Mykhail Lembke** requested to move his officer update first, given his commitments in Olympia.

**Hannah Shipman** moved to move Mykhail’s officer update first. **Ryan Wicklund** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:34pm

**Kana Saarni** requested to move her officer update before Mykhail’s due to an upcoming class. 5:35pm

**Ryan Wicklund** moved to move Kana’s officer update first. **Hannah Shipman** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:35pm

3. [Information] Approval of the Minutes 5:35pm

**Mykhail Lembke** motioned to approve the minute. **Noah Hough** seconded. No objections. Motion passed.

4. [Information] Announcements 5:36pm

**Mykhail Lembke** shared the RSVP for Huskies on the Hill, mentioning that it closes in a week. He also said that RSVPs for grad students are at a new high, and he shared resources to access the RSVP form.

5. [Action] Approval of the GPSS Senate Agenda for 21 January 2025 5:36pm

**Noah Hough** presented the agenda, stating the only change is increasing the time allotted for approving the minutes since there are two sets to be approved. She mentioned that there will be three guest speakers and three resolutions, and there will be two senators of the month presented.

**Beth Fawcett** motioned to approve the agenda. **Hannah Shipman** seconded. No objections. Vote taken by Richard Schure. No opposed. No abstention. Motion passed. 5:40pm

6. [Information] Officer Updates

**Kana Saarni** shared upcoming events: Yoga and Puppy Love. The yoga event will be January 23rd at the IMA in studio 316 in collaboration with Edith. There will be free smoothies at the end, and it is beginner friendly. Puppy Love will be on February 14th, and there will be therapy dogs in the office. They are also in the process of planning their cultural festival on March 10-12.

**Gaurav Joshi** asked if the puppy love event is being promoted.

**Kana Saarni** responded that it has not been yet, but it will be.

**Noah Hough** raised a point of information sharing that all upcoming events will be included in the weekly email, which can be forwarded to senator’s departments.

**Mykhail Lembke** shared that this is his second week in Olympia. He shared that there are very strong allies in the House and Higher Education Committee; Osman Salahuddin—representative from the 48th district—will sponsor a handful of GPSS’s bills like the service and activities fee. There is a lot of housing stuff going on this year, and GPSS will be supporting those. Main focuses this year will be advocating for maintaining certain funding and requesting no cuts due to Washington’s $4Billion budget deficit for the next four years. Because of this, GPSS will need to broaden its legislative agenda to align with new priorities.

**Renee Infelise** asked if Mykhail will be going to the higher education committee tomorrow that needs stories.

**Mykhail Lembke** responded that he will be attending, and WSA will be presenting stories

**Edith Dale** shared that the diversity committee has been working on diversity funds. They have had seven applications with scheduled interviews; so far, they have approved two. She is also working on a resolution on sanitary bins and menstrual products in the male bathrooms and plans to bring it to the next senate meeting. She restated the yoga event happening next week with Kana, and she said she is working with Renee to plan a workshop series. There has been thought about a self-defense workshop; she mentioned a possible collaboration between the diversity committee and CSMR. She opened the floor to discuss the December senator of the month.

**Beth Fawcett** suggested recognizing Alec for his work on two resolutions.

**Ryan Wicklund** added that he has been doing good work on the SAF committee.

**Noah Hough** mentioned that this is his second year on elections committee, and he volunteered to do his department’s orientation and has aided in GPSS recruitment work.

**Edith Dale** declared that Alec Solemslie will be the December senator of the month.

**Noah Hough** shared her recent committee work: she served on the Landolt Committee and HUB Board of Representatives. She has been working with senators on resolutions and events, including craft and walk and knitting and crocheting club, led by Hannah and workshop with Derek. She mentioned a new collaboration with the association of info management students on a resume workshop. It will be with Senator Anushka in HUB 214 later this month. She shared that Franco has been working on a parliamentary procedure video, and she has been supporting Beth and Clare on sustained dialogue. She will also plan speed friending again before the next senate meeting; she has also been working with officers to expand resources for senators. She shared that all resources and events will be combined into the weekly emails, and senators can cut and copy sections for all graduate and professional students to send to their departments. She mentioned that she is trying to coordinate guest speakers for more senate meetings. Her recent administrative work has been helping officers and making sure the archive is up to date.

**Ryan Wicklund** shared his recent budgeting work; he said he met one on one with every officer to go through line items. The projection for next year is looking good with a current deficit of only $12,000. The good news is that GPSS has substantial time to close the deficit, but unfortunately this comes from grant funding which will be reduced. However, he mentioned that STF is trying to be liberal with their funding, so GPSS can request they cover promotional materials and then increase that budget with possible sponsorships and apparel sales. He also met with his ASUW finance counterpart about cost saving for GPSS about merging our special appropriations together. He presented various options and opened the floor to discussion. He has also been meeting with his ASUW counterpart to discuss cost saving efforts for GPSS.

**Mykhail Lembke** said that he believes having autonomy under GPSS is more important than having more money, so the option is not a good idea. He asked how often these funds get used up every year.

**Ryan Wicklund** responded that departmental allocations do not get used up every year, but special allocations do.

**Beth Fawcett** said she appreciates collaboration with ASUW, but she does not think working together with that budget is a good idea.

**Hannah Shipman** added that it makes more sense for GPSS to maintain their current operations.

[Action] **Hannah Shipman** motioned to table this discussion until the next executive committee meeting. **Gaurav Joshi** seconded. No objections. Motion passed 6:18pm

**Richard Schure** shared that he would like to send an email to all students; he requested feedback from the committee about the structure for its contents.

**Noah Hough** mentioned that Claudia made an email template

**Richard Schure** continued, sharing his attendance at the Board of Regents meeting. One timely and important topic was providing support to vulnerable students and being prepared to do so with incoming administration. He mentioned that GPSS should think of the best ways they can help these students. He provided a funding update after reaching out to Maria, who would like to come to an upcoming executive meeting to discuss the topic.

7. [Information] Executive Senator Updates 6:31pm

**Gaurav Joshi** provided an update for CSMR committee; they are developing a safety protocol for students. He shared that they are also working on items for disabled students. Surveys showed that people go out early in the morning or late at night, which are the most dangerous times. He has broad ideas but would like input for refinement.

**Beth Fawcett** shared that she has been sitting as a delegate on the campus climate survey committee; the survey is given to everyone on campus every 5 years. This year, they are redesigning it, and she was about to provide input for grad student related issues. She provided on update on sustained dialogue: there was a mini dialogue prior to the last senate meeting discussing the recent bomb cyclone that hit the greater Seattle area. This helped to provide information for Gaurav and Pav for their executive senator focus this year. Her other work recently has been training the judicial committee.

**Hannah Shipman** shared updates on the elections committee. One committee member volunteered as leader; she asked the executive committee members if there was anything pertinent for elections committee this quarter. She also shared more about the crafting series with Noah; upcoming events include walking to the craft store and crafting on January 24th or 27th and the knitting and crocheting workshop in early February. She also shared that she will be presenting a resolution at the next senate meeting for the Washington Yacht Club, petitioning for better communication and consideration of this RSO’s need as one of the oldest continually operating RSOs on campus. She is hopeful to eventually bring this resolution to the faculty senate. She mentioned that she is also working on creating opportunities for Aero & Astro students to meet for a fun and relaxing event and working with another student hoping for faculty to speak to a small group of students

**Ella Spurlock** shared that the science and policy committee did not do much over break, but lately they have been tracking bills to see which may be relevant to the committee. She started building a rudimentary bill tracker and will start following bills between committee meetings to see if they can testify for any. The committee decided on a writing project for the year about the 2024 ballot initiative that passed (2066) and analyzing the dichotomy between that and the initiatives that did not pass. She is hopeful to submit the writing to the Journal of Science Policy and Governance. She also mentioned that she is hoping to host a Friday night get-together before the NSPC symposium starts.

**Franco Carlos** spoke about his focus on preparing a training and informational video on parliamentary procedure. He said he hopes it will be used for years to come for senator onboarding. Most of his other work has been on the Travel Grants and F&B Committees.

8. [Information] ASUW Update 7:04pm

No ASUW update this meeting.

9. [Action] Adjournment 7:04pm

**Ryan Wicklund** motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Edith Dale** seconded. No objections. Richard Schure declared the meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by **Annika Peterson** GPSS Senate Director.