**The Graduate and Professional Student Senate**

Meeting of 26 February 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 5:34pm

**Richard Schure** called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

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

**Beth Fawcett** moved to approve the agenda. **Noah Hough** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:35pm

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

**Hannah Shipman** motioned to approve the minute. **Edith Dale** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 5:36pm

4. [Information] Announcements & Public Comment 5:36pm

No announcements or public comment.

5. [Information] Officer Update 5:36pm

**Kana Saarni** provided updates on the black graduate student event, and she shared the upcoming Seattle Art Museum trip on March 6. She also shared that the applications are open for the graduate research symposium and cultural showcase; there is also a potential post-symposium event, date and time to be determined.

[Point of Parliamentary Inquiry] **Hannah Shipman** mentioned that there was a typo in the just-approved minutes. **Annika Peterson** amended the minutes.

6. [Information] Graduate School Budget Review 5:41pm

**Joy Williamson-Lott** shared the importance and scope of the budget from the graduate school.

**Helene Obradovich** presented the FY26 graduate school budget presentation. This included core and non-cores activities that receive the graduate school’s funding. She opened the floor to questions from GPSS officers and executive senators.

**GPSS officers and executive senators** raised questions about the current budget and future funding concerns.

7. [Information] Officer Updates 6:03pm

**Edith Dale** shared an update on the black graduate student panel and diversity committee. She also spoke about officer transition documents and upcoming workshops.

**Mykhail Lembke** shared an update on GPSS’s bills of interest and LAB. He also announced that Ryan Wicklund and Annika Peterson are the selected USSA DC trip representatives and that there will be another virtual graduate student lobby day on April 1st. He spoke about UW trying to push out a new health fee; currently, health funding takes about $9 million from SAF funding. The “Health Fee” will be similar to the U-PASS structure: it is a voluntary student fee, charged to students every quarter. There will be a survey going out to gauge thoughts on the new fee; he also said that SAF would not decrease its fee but rather reallocate its current funding levels.

**Noah Hough** shared an update on admin work, senate meetings, and resolutions. She urged GPSS officers and executive senators to send out the weekly newsletters to their departments and provided an update on website work and upcoming resources. She also shared upcoming events for all graduate and professional students.

**Ryan Wicklund** announced that GPSS has received more funding—$58,000—from an unknown provost request and SAF. He shared the resulting considerations with the budget; and they will be presenting the budget to the SAF committee on March 7th.

**Edith Dale** added to her presentation, sharing an update on events associated with her email for supporting undocumented students. She also mentioned updates about potential students to fill her position next year and other upcoming workshop opportunities.

**Richard Schure** talked about important student support groups. He mentioned the most recent survey results—394 responses—and support needs in processing the data and drafting a resolution with its results. He also said that the student regent committee—which he is chairing—is searching for the next student regent. Monthly newsletter, asked for officer’s contributions.

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

**Hannah Shipman** provided an update on her resolution that passed last week and her meeting graduate student leadership committee with her department (aeronautics and astronautics). She also spoke on the elections guide, that was finalized in time for approval at the last senate meeting.

**Pavandeep Josan** talked about the Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) student advisory board meeting; his biggest takeaway was the two VP of Campus and Community Safety candidates. He also shared his recent efforts: working with Ryan on the F&B committee meetings and working with grad students within Jackson School of International Studies. He said he has also been working on resources for international students and introduction for mandatory training for all new international students such as active shooter training.

**Franco Carlos** said he has been preparing for the SAF presentation. He also touched on the active shooter training; he mentioned that he has training in anti-terrorism that could qualify him to administer or provide resources for the training.

**Ella Spurlock** provided an SPC committee update; they are tracking their bills of interest. Decided to help with a stand up for science rally—helping to lead the Seattle rally in Seattle center. Over 100 RSVPs.

**Beth Fawcett** shared that the judicial committee is formed, but there is one more person to train. She said that Noah and she met with Renee to speak on bylaw revision; they will be handling elections and judicial committees in the bylaws overhaul. She also provided updates on sustained dialogue, the climate survey committee, and work on the recent grad student survey.

**Francis Choe** had no important updates.

9. [Information] ASUW Update pm

No ASUW update this week.

10. [Action] Adjournment 7:05pm

**Noah Hough** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Ryan Wicklund** seconded. No objections. Richard Schure declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

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