**The Graduate and Professional Student Senate**

Meeting of 13 November 2024 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

Franco Carlos, GPSS Office and Budget Director

Juan Contreras Mora, GPSS Events Director

Claudia Chan, GPSS Communications Director

Miles Parker, GPSS Policy Director

Vidya Venkappa, GPSS Web Developer

Jordynn Hays, University Affairs Director

Zoe Stylianides, ASUW Director of Internal Policy

Charles Bugre, Executive Senator

Ella Spurlock, Executive Senator

Pavandeep Josan, 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 5:37pm

**Richard Schure** called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

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

**Mykhail Lembke** moved to approve the agenda. **Joe Rogge** seconded. No objections. 5:34pm

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

**Alec Solemslie** moved to approve the minutes. **Marina Zub** seconded. No objections. 5:36pm

# 4. [Information] Land Acknowledgement 5:36pm

**Edith Dale,** on behalf of GPSS, gave the land acknowledgement.

“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.”

She shared resources within UW and the community; these include Legislative Advisory Board, Washington Student Association, UW Intellectual House, ASUW American Indian Student Commission, Native and Strong Lifeline-988, Stand with the Duwamish, and Real Rent Duwamish.

5. [Information] Announcements 5:40pm

**Ryan Wicklund** shared that the Washington Student Association is hiring the VP of Graduate and Professional Student Affairs from January-May2025. This position facilitates advocacy and awareness, monitors legislation, and chair’s WSA’s. Time commitment is about 5 hours per week with a $300 per month stipend.

**Noah Hough** shared that the HUB board of representatives is hiring a graduate student representative. She spoke on speed friending, which will be from 4:00-5:00pm before every senate meeting. She presented the GPSS weekly coffee and chat event, craft and complain, and the arts council get-together to see the ethnomusicology visiting artist concert. She also spoke about the newly hired web developer, Vidya Venkappa, and the GPSS website survey that will guide her developments. Vidya will also host a mandala art workshop on December 2 from 3-5pm in HUB 314; GPSS will provide supplies. Noah presented the UW public lecture series upcoming event and shared that the 2025 awards of excellence have opened applications. Students can submit nominations for numerous awards to recognize professors, TAs, staff members, etc. The Q Center is hosting a graduate student craft night; they will have snacks, art supplies, and low-stress vibes. Her final announcement was sharing the GPSS senator survey; it is anonymous to help guide the rest of this year.

**Kana Saarni** shared upcoming events: UW football game against UCLA is Friday November 15th from 6:00-9:00pm with a pregame in the office from 4:00-6:00pm; tickets are nearly sold out. There will be a winter hot cocoa social on December 4th from 1:00-4:00pm in room 334 right before senate; they will be watching Polar Express. There will be a winter formal on December 7th from 7:00-10:00pm at the Vista Cafe. There will be music, food, drinks, and a photo booth; dress is semi-formal.

**Edith Dale** shared the upcoming DEI workshop for GPSS senators on Wednesday, November 20 from 12:00-1:30PM. There will be icebreakers and activities, a presentation on DEI as a whole, and why DEI is important in GPSS. She said that senators will gain important skills; there will be catering.

6. [Information] Student Technology Fee 5:48pm

**Nick Oh**, Student Technology Fee Director of Operations, shared information about the Student Technology Fee at UW. He noted the distinction between STF and the services and activities fee; but they both collect fees from students. He spoke about how STF fees work and where they come from and shared different student amenities and projects funded by STF. He then provided resources and contact information for any questions or concerns.

7. [Information] Resolution Honoring the Legacy of Governor Daniel J. Evans 5:55pm

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** moved for a 5-minute recess due to technology issues. **Emilio Casteneda** seconded. No objections. 5:59pm

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** moved to extend the recess by another 5 minutes to fix technology issues. Seconded by **Kana Saarni**. No objections. 6:06pm

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** moved to extend the recess by another 5 minutes to fix technology issues. Seconded by **Kana Saarni**. No objections. 6:11pm

**Emilio Casteneda** authored and presented the resolution; he read the resolution in its entirety.

**Mykhail Lembke** shared that since this is a resolution, it still has to follow the approval process; there are no further edits needed for discussion.

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** moved to suspend the rules to move this motion from the first to second reading. **Joe Rogge** seconded. No objections. Richard Schure moved the motion to a vote. Motion passed. It will move to final approval.

**Emilio Casteneda** moved to pass the resolution. (Indiscernible) Seconded. No objections. Richard Schure called the motion to a vote. Motion passed. 6:28pm

8. [Action] Legislative Agenda 6:31pm

**Mykhail Lembke** said that this will be the second reading of the Legislative Agenda; it has gone through significant edits since the last senate meeting. He said they hope to provide the most comprehensive version of the agenda. He laid ground rules for the reading: there is no flexibility to the order of agenda items and the document is open to language changes, and friendly amendments. He read the agenda in its entirety, asking for suggestions after each section.

**Marina Zub** asked what the purpose of the development section is.

**Mykhail Lembke** responded that it fits with the DAWGS acronym, but it contains much more. He provided the example of needing to complete undergrad to get to grad school, and this section includes the Washington State College Grant, which is just for undergraduate students.

**Marina Zub** asked about grant plus loans and unsubsidized loans. She asked if they are only for domestic students.

**Mykhail Lembke** responded that only those who are eligible for federal student loans are eligible for grant plus and unsubsidized loans. The Washington State Loan programs are more inclusive without the guidelines of federal loans. Graduate Program Loan (brand new next year) also does not have those limitations.

**Marina Zub** suggested that there should be some loan opportunities for international students included in the agenda.

**Mykhail Lembke** clarified that the first point included international and undocumented students; tying it back into affordability, the Washington State Graduate Program loan is more accessible for international students. He said he would not accept a friendly amendment, as the previous part of the agenda includes that issue.

**Janet Olaolu** asked on the topic of wellness, she said that transportation is inclusive. Does that include the UPASS?

**Mykhail Lembke** responded that the UPASS is not directly stated because the agenda needs broader ideas. Basic needs can be a broad enough statement that it encompasses things like parking.

**Janet Olaolu** followed up that during summer break, UPASS does not work.

**Mykhail Lembke** said that there is a UPASS Advisory Board; while they can advocate for policy changes, they wouldn’t be the ones to make that change. He does think it’s encompassed in “basic needs.”

(No name stated) ASEs do not have to pay those fees.

**Pavandeep Josan** said he noticed support in increased funding. He asked if they had policy options that increased funding and if they had considered if the university would increase fees.

**Mykhail Lembke** said that is a good point to keep in mind, but he doesn’t think it’s a likely outcome. He asked if he had any response in mind

**Pavandeep Josan** suggested to align increased funding at no extra cost/ charges to students. Would the extra funding be provided by student fees?

**Mykhail Lembke** said that would be separate funding from the state, not coming from student fees. That is typically talking about expanding on the counseling sessions that students get each quarter.

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** motioned to extend the time by 10 minutes. **Pavandeep Josan** seconded. No objections. Motion passed. 6:55pm

**Pavandeep Josan** clarified that he was suggesting adding something to the effect of “at no extra cost to students” at the end of that line item.

**Mykhail Lembke** accepted that as friendly if Miles Parker, GPSS Policy Director, also did so.

**Miles Parker** said he accepted the amendment as friendly.

**Christian Ball** wondered what Mykhail’s gameplan is when asked where he’d like the money to come from.

**Mykhail Lembke** said that his first input is bringing constituent (GPSS) support to Olympia. He also recognizes that working through funding concerns is not his job; his job is only to advocate for the support.

**Marina Zub** questioned about university health insurance; she asked if it is for both domestic and international students.

**Mykhail Lembke** responded that USHIP is just for domestic students.

**Marina Zub** asked if they could clarify that in the agenda.

**Mykhail Lembke** clarified that the Legislature is very knowledgeable about this topic.

**Christian Ball** disagreed with firs bullet in development (increased funding and work opportunities for undocumented and international students). He said that he feels that UW is already competitive to get into, and he thinks advocating for more resources for undocumented makes it more difficult for citizens. He said that it is incentivizing illegal people coming into the country.

**Mykhail Lembke** responded that it says, “do not exclude” and does not think that talking about our most vulnerable populations is stepping over boundaries—it is instead walking with those communities. He acknowledged the concern, but he said he would not accept it as friendly.

[Action] **Marina Zub** motioned to extend the time by 15 more minutes. **Mykhail Lembke** seconded with the intent to give up unused time. **Joe Rogge** objected; he asked if they could make it 5 minutes. 5 minutes accepted. No objections. Motion to extend the time by 5 minutes passed. 7:00pm

**Zawad Chowdhury** asked if the agenda is too specific in capital improvements. He asked if there could be things not campus safety.

**Mykhail Lembke** responded that those items were specifically on the agenda because they were noted in survey, outreach, and student input at LAB. Items are only added because of how many times they've been placed on their radar.

**Beth Fawcett** reminded everyone that they’re speaking on behalf of their department. If they haven’t spoken with someone they’re representing, please refrain from commenting. She suggested senators be mindful of the population they’re representing.

**Marina Zub** asked what they mean by supporting mental health services.

**Mykhail Lembke** said that campus safety includes more than capital improvements, it is often addressing the root causes that can be behavior and mental health crises.

**Marina Zub** asked the reason behind that; she mentioned her comment on the agenda about building a more inclusive environment for mentally diverse people. She does not think the environment is supporting those people, and she said it is an important topic to bring into the agenda.

**Mykhail Lembke** said that this would be inclusive enough for advocacy; he restated that items for advocacy must be repeatedly brought forth by the student body.

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** moved to extend the time by 5 minutes. **Marina Zub** seconded. No objections.

**Mykhail Lembke** expanded on childcare in the agenda and what it advocates for. He elaborated on what this part of the agenda includes.

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** moved to approve the legislative agenda with friendly amendments included. **Alexandros Peltekis** seconded. No objections. **Richard Schure** moved the motion to a vote. **Mykhail Lembke** shared that the agenda has been passed. 7:11pm

9. [Information] Senator of the Month 7:12pm

**Edith Dale** presented the senator of the month recognition. The executive committee makes the recognition; Marina Zub is October senator of the month. Edith Dale read the proclamation celebrating Marina Zub in its entirety.

10. [Action] Election and Judicial Committee Formation 7:15pm

**Beth Fawcett** spoke about the judicial committee; she said that pre-COVID, senators in good standing were required to participate in committees. She said that GPSS would like to increase committee involvement, and she suggested that senators join one they find fun. She spoke about the importance of judicial committee, and she said that delaying its formation is impeding the functioning of GPSS. Judicial helps the elections committee run by addressing grievances; officers are employed by the University of Washington and things related to their job is an HR issue—they deal with senator grievances. Not having access to this means that the executive office does that, which is a poor balance of power. Elections start in February, and it is imperative that GPSS forms the judicial committee today. She requested that all senators focus on their committee involvement.

**Richard Schure** added that he experienced issues with bylaws not being updated properly. They had a turnover of every officer this year, so if bylaws are not up to date, it is difficult to fully operate. They want to share governance work between ASUW and Faculty Senate, and they need this to have GPSS properly represent the student body. He opened the floor to nominations for the judicial committee.

Anara Jeenbekova self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Alexandros Peltekis self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Francis Cho self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Emilio Castenda self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Eric Timm nominated by Francis Cho. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Jimin Jung self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

**Hannah Shipman** asked how many senators are needed for each committee’s formation.

**Richard Schure** responded that they need a minimum of six for judicial and four for elections.

**Charles Bugre** said that he thinks judicial should not be an even number since they vote on issues and there’s no chance of tie.

**Richard Schure** said that number of senators on judicial (6) is in the bylaws.

**Charles Burgre** suggested that that should be updated.

**Beth Fawcett** said that the VP of Equity and Inclusion can break a tie vote.

**Richard Schure** said that it’s like his seat, he does not vote unless to break a tie. He said that next up is elections committee; they need four senators and one executive senator. He opened the floor to elections committee nominations.

Muhammad Abu Bakar Tariq Self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Melody Vahadi self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Alec Solemslie self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Hannah Shipman self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Iona Cich self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

[Point of Information] **Christain Ball** asked how many other committees were open for nominations after the elections committee.

**Richard Schure** responded that Finance and Budgeting remains.

**Edith Dale** added that they will also be taking nominations for executive senators.

# 11. [Information] Committee Updates and Recruitment 7:29pm

**Ryan Wicklund** presented on the importance of the finance and budget committee forming a budget for the next two years. If they don't rearrange things through the committee, they will run out of money in two years. He said there needs to be five senators and up to nine on the committee. He shared that they meet once a month, with an average of 3-4 hours of commitment per month.

[Point of Information] **Alexandra Rameau** asked if there was a projected meeting time.

**Ryan Wicklund** said he plans on setting something up during public meeting time once the committee is mostly formed

G**aurav Joshi** asked if they needed or wanted an executive senator.

[Point of Information] **Noah Hough** said there is not a conflict between executive senators and F&B committees—executive senators can be on the committee.

**Richard Schure** added that senators can be on more than one committee

**Aaron Tim** said that he would like to help with the committee in the future.

[Point of Information] **Beth Fawcett** said that people who have been nominated to judicial cannot serve on F&B or on elections.

[Point of Information] **Noah Hough** said that senators can scan the QR code on the screen to nominate themselves for F&B Committee.

Christian Ball self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Pavandeep Josan self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Kokou Tighankpa self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Henry Mangalapalli self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

**Ryan Wicklund** said that F&B committee can now be formed; moving on to Travel Grants Committee. He shared that Travel Grants Committee assists the VPF in communicating policies and procedures governing travel grants, assists in advertising travel grants, and reviews and recommends an annual Travel Grants budget to the F&B Committee each year. They meet Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom.

**Mykhail Lembke** shared about LAB, and he encouraged people to attend. They are still meeting 3-4 HUB 303 and via zoom on Mondays. Looking to the future, next week is the legislative reception. Out of 177 attendees, 91 are grad students (>50% including legislators). Huskies on the Hill is coming up; it brings grad students to Olympia to speak with legislators.

**Edith Dale** shared diversity committee.

**Ella Spurlock** shared on the science and policy committee. They are dedicated to bringing the view of science into policy in Washington. They are currently working with Mykhail on advocacy and reaching out to legislators; there is an opportunity for writing and helping to host the interdisciplinary graduate student research symposium coming up in the spring. They are a chapter of the National Science Policy Network, whose symposium will be in Seattle in May, and they are working with hosting that.

**Mykhail Lembke** asked if there are leadership opportunities in the science and policy committee.

**Ella Spurlock** responded that they are amid leadership restructuring in the committee. Some people are taking lead on legislative stuff, working more directly with NSPN, and shared opportunities for involvement.

**Noah Hough** shared arts council: book club—there is a GoodReads bookshelf, members can pick one—and knitting and crochet circle. Both meet biweekly on Mondays.

**Beth Fawcett** shared on sustained dialogue, inviting everyone to fill out the topic survey.

**Noah Hough** presented CSMR resources for senators and grad students as a whole. She also said that senators can start their own committee.

[Point of Information] **Charles Bugre** added that CSMR is a great opportunity if there’s something senators expected from GPSS and are not seeing. It’s the reason for stipends in elections and judicial committees.For more background information on the CSMR, see : <https://tinyurl.com/csmr2025>

[Motion] **Charles Bugre** motioned to extend by one minute. (No name stated) seconded. No objections. 7:55pm

# 12. [Action] Executive Senator Positions 7:56pm

**Noah Hough** shared that there are two executive senator positions opening. There are 3-5 executive meetings per quarter. She shared their responsibilities: attend GPSS Senate and Executive meetings and get more involved with GPSS (e.g. chair a GPSS committee).

Mykhail Lembke nominated Ella Spurlock. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Alexandros P self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

Francis Cho self-nominated. No objections. Nomination accepted.

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** motioned to suspend the rules, specifically those that state executive senators cannot serve on judicial committee. Seconded by **Ryan Wicklund**. No objections. Richard Schure moved to a vote; motion passed. 8:08pm

[Action] **Mykhail Lembke** moved to extend the time by 10 minutes. **Alec Solemslie** seconded. No objection. 8:09pm

**Richard Schure** moved to nominee speeches; each nominee provided their motives for wanting to become an executive senator.

**Richard Schure** moved the discussion to a vote. 8:15pm

Elected executive senators are Ella Spurlock and Francis Choe.

# 13. [Action] Adjournment 8:19pm

**Mykhail Lembke** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Melody Vahadi** seconded. No objections.

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