

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate
Meeting of 22 October 2025 at 5:30pm
In-person and remotely via Zoom

The following GPSS members and staff attended the meeting:

Ryan Wicklund, GPSS President
Annika Peterson, GPSS Vice President of External Affairs
Juan Andres Contreras Mora, GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs
Noah Nguyen Hough, GPSS Vice President of Administration
Pavandeep Josan, GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion
Riley Talamantes, GPSS Vice President of Finance
Anne Rizvi, GPSS Budget & Office Director
Claudia Chan, GPSS Creative & Communications Director
Maitri Karia, GPSS University Affairs Director
Richard Boyechko, GPSS Senate & Technology Director
Yujin Yang, GPSS Community Outreach & Events Director
Zoe Love, GPSS Policy Director
Renee Infelise, SAO Advisor

1. [ACTION] Call to Order 5:34pm [5:20 in recording]

Ryan Wicklund called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

2. [ACTION] Approval of the Agenda 5:35pm

Noah Nguyen Hough moved to approve the agenda. **Alexandros Peltekis** seconded. No objections. Motion carried at 5:36pm.

3. [ACTION] Approval of the Minutes 5:36pm

The Senate considered the meeting minutes from May 21st, 2025 as circulated by Noah Nguyen Hough on October 21st, 2025. **MJ Mencias** moved to approve the minutes. **Alexandros Peltekis** seconded. No objections. Motion carried at 5:37pm.

4. [INFORMATION] Land Acknowledgment 5:37pm

On behalf of GPSS, **Pavandeep Josan** acknowledged our presence on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples:

“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. But acknowledging the land we are on is only the first step. Therefore, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate of the University of Washington in Seattle acknowledges the Coast Salish people of this land, the land that touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations, and all traditional lands on which we live and work.”

Furthermore, **Pavandeep Josan** shared some resources to get further involved in the struggle for indigenous rights.

5. [INFORMATION] Announcements & Public Comments 5:38pm

GPSS Officers and Senators provided announcements to the Senate. There were no public comments.

6. [INFORMATION] University of Washington Alumni Associations (UWAA) 5:57pm

Noah Nguyen Hough introduced **Dr. Giuliana Conti**, the Director of Professional Development at UWAA, who shared her experiences at the GPSS during her graduate education from 2015 to 2024. She then spoke about the opportunities for professionalization offered by the UW Alumni Association, including the Huskies@Work program that “matches UW students and alumni to discuss career journeys and job experiences.” The applications for the program are due on November 2nd. More information about other the UWAA programs will be shared through GPSS channels.

Noah Nguyen Hough called a point of order at 6:15pm about this item on the agenda taking longer than the allocated 10 minutes. **Eddie Ameh** moved to extend the time by five minutes. **Riley Talamantes** seconded. No objections. Motion carried at 6:16pm.

Chris Lockhart moved to close the discussion on this item. **Shelley Pryde** seconded. No objections. Motion carried at 6:17pm.

7. [INFORMATION] Diversity Leadership Conference Updates 6:18pm

Pavandeep Josan gave an update to the Senate about the Diversity Leadership Conference (DLC) run by the Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) and Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity (OMAD).

8. [INFORMATION] Committee Formation 6:26pm

Ryan Wicklund shared about the GPSS committees that need to be filled: Judicial, Elections, and Finance and Budget (F&B) committees. At 6:40pm, **Ryan Wicklund** opened the floor for nominations for the three committees in question. The following Senators self-nominated or were nominated to serve on the committees:

- Judicial Committee
 - Andri Fernanda
 - Ayush Goyal
 - Bhagyashree Wagh
 - Di Galbraith
 - Eli Drake
 - Ellie Dowsland
 - Fatemeh Hosseinzadeh
 - Lupita Gutierrez Ramirez
 - MJ Mencias
 - Nick Klop

- Sabrina Dorisca
- Shelley Pryde
- Shishtaa Pareek
- Zixi Fu
- Elections
 - Andri Fernanda
 - Ayush Goyal
 - Eli Drake
 - Khadija Mohamed
 - AB
- F&B
 - Alexia Lee
 - Chula Chhay
 - Eli Drake
 - Ellie Dowsland
 - Fatemeh Hosseinzadeh
 - Masson Tullis
 - Muhammad Abu Bakar Tariq
 - Nishtha Agarwal
 - Sabrina Dorisca
 - Sarah Miller
 - Shivani Havaladar
 - Zixi Fu

Noah Nguyen Hough raised a point of order to note that the item has gone overtime; she then moved to extend time by five minutes. **Riley Talamantes** seconded. No objections. **Ryan Wicklund** extended the time by five minutes at 6:51pm.

9. [INFORMATION] Executive Senator Positions 6:53pm

Noah Nguyen Hough explained the role of Executive Senators, there being five open positions for those. Nominations were made on the floor.

10. [ACTION] Executive Senator Election 7:02pm

The eleven candidates for the executive senator positions each made a statement to the senate body about their candidacy, after which the senators cast their ranked choice votes via an online form. In consideration for the item going overtime, **Riley Talamantes** moved to table the announcement of the outcome of the voting to a later date. **Somebody** seconded. **Ella Spurlock** amended the motion to specify the timeframe: by Friday, October 24th. No objections. Motion carried at 7:30pm.

11. [INFORMATION] Washington State Student Association (WSA) 7:31pm

Annika Peterson and **Ryan Wicklund** presented to the senate information about the Washington Student Association.

12. [INFORMATION] United States Student Associations (USSA) 7:34pm

Annika Peterson presented to the senate information about the United States Student Associations.

13. [INFORMATION] GPSS Budget Report 7:35pm

Riley Talamantes presented to the senate the current GPSS budget report.

14. [ACTION] Legislative Agenda Draft (First/Second Reading) 7:45pm

Annika Peterson presented for the first reading the draft of the 2025-2026 GPSS legislative agenda. See “Appendix A” for the full text.

15. [INFORMATION] Resolution on Installation of Bidets and Hand Showers in UW Campus Restrooms to Advance of Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (First Reading) 7:51pm

AB Tariq presented for the first reading the draft of the resolution.

Renee Infelise raised a point of order that there should be no comments during the first reading.

16. [INFORMATION] Senator of the Month 7:56pm

Pavandeep Josan read to the senate the proclamation celebrating **AB Tariq** as the Senator of the Month for the month of September 2025.

Renee Infelise raised a point of order to read a proclamation that a gavel and a backup gavel be presented to **Ryan Wicklund** being the elected GPSS President and designated Chair of the Senate Meeting.

17. [INFORMATION] Senate Giveaway 8:01pm

Juan Mora announced the winners of the senate giveaway.

18. [ACTION] Adjournment 8:02pm

Annika Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. **MJ Mencias** seconded. **Ryan Wicklund** declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by **Richard Boyechko**, GPSS Senate and Web Director.

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| <p>The Graduate and Professional Student Senate</p> <p>GPSS represents more than 17,600 graduate and professional students at the University of Washington. Our mission is to amplify our students' voices and experiences, build community, and advocate for the removal of inequities.</p> <p>As graduate and professional students, we face distinctive challenges throughout our academic journeys that demand tailored solutions. These concerns are central to our 2025-2026 Legislative Agenda. We outline key priorities for students to create a fairer and more equitable educational landscape.</p> | <p>D(evelopment)</p> <p>To effectively prepare tomorrow's graduate students, we need to cultivate development opportunities for today's K-12, undergraduate, and graduate students. By establishing equitable pathways for advancement, we can build a more diverse and representative campus. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Securing WEIA funds for use in higher education - Scrapping the cap on the Workforce Education Investment Account - Allocation of funding for research opportunities - Tuition waivers for Native American and Indigenous American students at UW campuses - Increased work and financial aid opportunities that do not exclude undocumented and international students - Protections for international and undocumented students | <p>A(ffordability)</p> <p>Pursuing higher education should be a way for students to secure their financial futures; however, escalating living expenses and the ongoing student loan crisis threaten graduates' economic prospects. To effectively tackle the affordability issues surrounding higher education, we need significant changes to the costs students encounter. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of funding for the Washington State Graduate Student Loan program - Providing grant-based funding to high-demand graduate degrees - Opposing tuition increases at Washington public institutions - Stable housing options and resources for international students during extended university breaks - Expand amount and eligibility of Direct PLUS Loans to include graduate and professional students | <p>W(ellness)</p> <p>Accessible and affordable healthcare are essential for students and has remained a top priority for GPSS. By promoting healthy communities on campus and affordable healthcare, students can better concentrate on their education and positively impact the overall wellbeing of the University of Washington. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HB 1343 and supporting students free speech - Increased funding to expand on-campus healthcare services, including mental health and counseling sessions at no extra cost to students - Funding for students' basic needs, emphasizing accessibility and affordability of healthy food options - Expanding EBT and Medicaid access/eligibility for Graduate and Professional Students | <p>G(rowth)</p> <p>As the University of Washington increases its enrollment and maintains its status as the top educational institution in the state, students need a more advanced and supportive learning environment. Enhancing our campus will help students achieve their goals as they engage in world-class research. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing a Graduate Student Regent to serve on public universities' Board of Regents. - Allowing all student workers on campuses the right to unionize and bargain for better working conditions - Increased flexibility with course offerings to include more hybrid, virtual, and asynchronous learning options - Allocation of funding to provide sharps disposal boxes on campuses | <p>S(ervices)</p> <p>The University of Washington boasts the largest graduate student population in the state. It is essential for graduate students to have access to supportive resources and services that encourages them to focus on their education, making this a key priority as we build our campus community. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanding the Working Connections Childcare program to include low-income graduate students and public universities - Increased support for students with dependents, including supporting early registration for students with dependents - Revising the limit on the services and activities fee from 4% to 6% to better fund units |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing a formal, expanded definition of “first generation student” | | | | |
| <p>Comments here (all are welcome to comment) --></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding issue UW dental school - SB 5110 Providing tuition waivers for tribal elders at Washington’s community and technical colleges. Passed last session. Will look | <p>Protections for students borrowing from private lenders?</p> <p>Statewide social housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modeled after Austria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB5233 and companion bill HB1445 introduced in the 2025 legislative - Address harassment and assault on campuses from advisors toward students - Veterans’ mental health counselor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State run bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Modeled after bank of ND - More volunteering and comsessionmunityengagement opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for students with dependents - More professional networking opportunities |

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| | <p>into other bills coming up this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unemployment eligibility for student employees after graduating | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Underfunded mental health resources on campus- Resources for sexual assault survivors- Protections against AI – specifically allowing civil action against deep fakes, following ASUW (correct bucket?)- 988 on IDs was enacted through SB 5355 (2024). | | |
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Title: Installation of Bidets and Hand Showers in UW Campus Restrooms to Advance Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

Sponsored by: M A Tariq,

Written by: M A Tariq

Resolution Number: 01.2526

1. WHEREAS, the University of Washington (UW) enrolls a total of 62,763 students across its Seattle, Bothell, and Tacoma campuses, including 45,097 undergraduates and 17,666 graduate and professional students [1]; and
2. WHEREAS, approximately 8,470 of these students are international, representing about 13.5% of total enrollment, with 3,987 international graduate students as of Fall 2024 [2][3]; and
3. WHEREAS, communities including Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, South Asian, Middle Eastern, and Buddhist populations practice water-based hygiene as a matter of religious observance, cultural tradition, and personal dignity, and the lack of such facilities in campus restrooms can create barriers to inclusion and comfort for these students, particularly among international and graduate populations [4][5][6][7][8]; and
4. WHEREAS, the UW student body, comprising many diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, requires access to personal hygiene tools such as bidets and hand showers to practice their faith and maintain dignity, yet many UW restrooms currently lack such inclusive facilities [9]; and
5. WHEREAS, Harvard University has initiated programs to install bidet toilets across campus restrooms to enhance hygiene, sustainability, and inclusivity, and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) has recently installed bidets in its Student Centre washrooms, improving accessibility, hygiene, and inclusivity for students from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, providing models for culturally and religiously inclusive restroom facilities [10][11]; and
6. WHEREAS, the University of Washington's Diversity Blueprint and the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity (OMA&D) reaffirm the institution's commitment to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for all members of its community, including international and religiously diverse students, and the University of Washington's Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) affirms its commitment to fostering an equitable and inclusive community, as articulated in its mission to "*amplify the voices and experiences of graduate and professional students at the University of Washington, build community, and advocate for the eradication of inequities*" aligning with the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for all members of its community [12][13];

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE (GPSS) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

1. THAT the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) of the University of Washington directs UW Facilities Services and University Administration to install bidets

and hand showers in restrooms across UW campuses, prioritizing main student areas, libraries, and student centers; and

2. THAT the GPSS submit this resolution to the UW President's Office, the Office of Planning & Budgeting, and the Division of Student Life to implement inclusive restroom initiatives across all UW campuses.

References:

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3. University of Washington International Student Services (ISS). *International Student Statistics (F-1 and J-1 Visa Holders, Fall 2024)*. Retrieved from: <https://iss.washington.edu/about-iss/statistics/>
4. Pew Research Center. (2023). *Religious Practices and Beliefs of Muslims*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/>
5. Narayanan, V. (2020). *Hinduism and Ecology: Cleanliness as Sacred Duty*. Oxford University Press.
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7. UNICEF. (2022). *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Practices in South Asia*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/reports/wash-practices>
8. World Health Organization (WHO). (2022). *Cultural and Religious Considerations in Sanitation Design*. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241514705>
9. Pew Research Center. (2023). *Religion and Public Life: Global Religious Demographics*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/>
10. World Health Organization (WHO). (2022). *Guidelines on Sanitation and Health*. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241514705>
11. University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union. (2025, January 10). *Bidet Installation in UTM Student Centre Washrooms*. Retrieved from LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7368691961542770689/>
12. University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity. *Diversity Blueprint 2022–2026*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washington.edu/diversity/diversity-blueprint/>
13. GPSS. *About GPSS / Mission Statement*. Retrieved from: https://www.gpss.uw.edu/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Presented to GPSS for approval on

Approved on



A Proclamation celebrating the work of Muhammad Abu Bakar Tariq as Senator of the Month

Written by: the GPSS Executive Committee

WHEREAS the Graduate and Professional Student Senate Senator of the Month recognizes the outstanding work of a Senator who contributes to the Senate space, UW Community, and/or greater Seattle area; and

WHEREAS the GPSS Executive Committee selected Muhammad ('AB') as the Senator of the Month for September 2025, as voted on October 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS AB is serving as a GPSS Senator in his second year; and

WHEREAS AB has contributed to the recruitment of the GPSS senate body for 2025-26, voluntarily attending a number of departmental orientations in his free time; and

WHEREAS AB has contributed to the recruitment of the GPSS senate body for 2025-25, voluntarily tabling for GPSS in his free time; and

WHEREAS AB has produced a resolution on the "Installation of Bidets and Hand Showers in UW Campus Restrooms to Advance Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion" to be read at the first senate meeting of the year; and

WHEREAS AB is in the second year of his PhD program, pursuing a PhD in the Construction Management Department at the College of Built Environment; and

WHEREAS AB has also attained a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at the University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila; and

WHEREAS AB has also attained a master's degree in project management with a specialty in construction project management from the University of Manchester; and



WHEREAS AB has worked as a lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering at the International Islamic University Islamabad; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

THAT AB be named GPSS' September 2025 Senator of the Month in appreciation of his exceptional service, dedication, and leadership; and

THAT a copy of this proclamation be maintained in the GPSS records; and

THAT a copy of this proclamation be sent to AB