

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate
Regular Meeting of 28 January 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
Matri Karia, 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
Richard Boyechko, GPSS Senate & Technology Director
Yujin Yang, GPSS Community Outreach & Events Director
Zoe Love, GPSS Policy Director
Ella Spurlock, Executive Senator
Fatemeh Hosseinzadeh, Executive Senator
Gaurav Joshi, Executive Senator
Hallah Kassem, Executive Senator
Muhummand “AB” Abubabkar, Executive Senator
Tricia Jenkins, Executive Senator
Zehra Khan, Executive Senator
Renee Infelise, SAO Advisor

1. [ACTION] Call to Order

Ryan Wicklund called the meeting to order at 5:42pm.

2. [ACTION] Approval of the Agenda

- Ella Spurlock moved to **amend the agenda to table indefinitely the reading of the joint resolution**. Kylie Jones seconded. Motion passed 5:43pm.
- Riley moved to **amend the agenda to add item for UTC discussion**. Pavandeep Josan seconded. Motion passed 5:44pm.
- Riley Talamantes moved to **approve the agenda**. MJ Mencias seconded. No objections. Motion carried 5:44pm.

3. [ACTION] Approval of the Minutes

- Emma Modrick moved to **approve minutes from 2025-12-03**. Gaurav Joshi seconded. Minutes approved 5:46pm.
- Gaurav Joshi moved to **approve minutes from 2026-01-14**. Carmela Romendez seconded. Minutes approved 5:46pm.

4. [INFORMATION] Land Acknowledgment

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.”

5. [INFORMATION] Announcements & Public Comments

- Zehra Khan stressed the need to review the procedures for how to respond when approached by ICE or suspected ICE agent:
 - "Am I free to leave?" and start to back away.
 - If they do not respond, you are free to leave.
 - If they say you can't leave, ask "Am I arrested?"
 - If told you are arrested, say "I plead the right to remain silent and request an immigration attorney."
 - Otherwise, free to leave.
- Eli Drake requested this information in a format that could be disseminated. Zehra will draft and distribute a document.
- Ria (ASUW Elections Committee) shared about ASUW Candidacy Info Forum that will take place on February 6th, 3:00-4:00pm. She also reminded that ASUW is hiring a lot of personnel at \$22/hour, and graduate students are encouraged to apply.
- Juan Mora shared about the GPSS Puppy Love event, which will take place on February 27th 1-3pm in HUB 250.
- Juan Mora shared about an opportunity to participate in videos for "Understanding Civil Rights" video. If interested, connect directly with jcbeck@uw.edu.
- Maitri Karia thanked everyone for voting for her, shared about the updates to the website, and mentioned an opportunity to participate in user research.
- Ryan Wicklund shared about the Virtual Graduate Student Lobby that happened on January 19th. There will be another opportunity to participate on February 3rd.
- Ella Spurlock shared about "From Ph.D. to Policy" event happening on Zoom on February 5th 3-4pm.
- MJ Mencias reminded everyone that Huskies on the Hill event is coming up on February 10th, and everyone is encouraged to join.

6. [INFORMATION] University Transportation Committee (UTC)

Mark Huppert, Interim Director of Transportation Services from the University Transportation Committee, presented about the parking rate changes.

- UW is under a regulatory obligation of reducing single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips from 16.6% in 2024 to 13% by 2025. To do that, parking spaces must be reduced quite drastically
- The annual parking rate increase has been at 3-4% since 2023; in the 2027-29 biennium, the rate will be capped at 2.8%.

7. [INFORMATION] Suspending the Bylaws for Budget Formation

Riley Talamantes explained the issue with the current process of budget formation and proposed suspending Article VIII Sections A and D of the bylaws to resolve those issues. Motion was then made and seconded (MJ Mencias, Ella Marin) to **suspend Sections A and D of Article VIII of the bylaws**. No objections. Motion passed.

8. [INFORMATION] Senators of the Month

Pavandeep Josan read the resolution to recognize the members of the Elections Committee as the Senators of the Month for January 2025:

- Kylie Jones
- Ayush Goyal
- Eli Drake
- AB Tariq
- Andrew Kramer

9. [ACTION] Adjournment

Zehra Khan moved to adjourn the meeting. **MJ Mencias** seconded. **Ryan Wicklund** declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by **Richard Boyechko**, GPSS Senate and Technology Director. The minutes were approved on the senate floor on 11 February 2026.