

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate Regular Meeting of 8 April 2026 at 5:30pm

The meeting was held in person in HUB 332 and online on Zoom.

Attendance

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
Maitri 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 5:45pm.

2. [ACTION] Approval of the Agenda

- Pavandeep Josan moved to **amend the agenda to table the discussion of the two joint resolutions (agenda items #7 and #8)**. Zehra Khan seconded. Motion carried.
- Francisco Roy Dojenia moved to **approve the agenda**. Gaurav Joshi seconded. No objections. Motion carried.

3. [ACTION] Approval of the Minutes

Gaurav Joshi moved to **approve the minutes from 4 March 2026 senate meeting**. Naomi Law seconded. No objections. Motion carried.

4. [INFORMATION] UWAA Ana Mari Cauce Welcome Center Q&A

Paul Rucker, Vice President for Alumni and Stakeholder Engagement, **provided information about the Welcome Center to be built near the Burke Museum**. The building is planned to open in spring of 2028. More information can be found at [the Welcome Center website](#).

- Maitri Karia moved to extend the time by 3 minutes. Pavandeep Josan seconded. No objections. Motion passed.

5. [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.”

6. [INFORMATION] Announcements & Public Comments

- Jayce Blanchard, the Chair of the U-PASS Advisory Board, presented the proposed increase of the U-PASS student fee from \$73 per quarter to \$81 per quarter. Other members of the U-Pass Advisory Board (Héctor Emanuel Delgado Diaz, Zoe Love, and Alexandros Peltekis) then answered questions on the floor.
- Kylie Jones, the Chair of the GPSS Elections Committee, gave an overview of the upcoming GPSS officer elections for 2026–2027 academic year.
- Maitri Karia reminded everyone about the GPSS senator onboarding process.
- Maitri Karia shared about the recent move of GPSS digital files from OneDrive to SharePoint.
- Maitri Karia further shared about the new GPSS resolution template and new procedure for submitting new resolutions.
- Juan Mora shared about the deadline extension for the Graduate Research Symposium that will take place on May 13th 12:00–5:00pm in HUB South Ballroom 211B.
- Hector Emanuel Delgado Diaz shared about a program he co-founded, Raising eSTEAM, to teach and mentor incarcerated youth. He invited everyone to volunteer as tutors. The next information session will take place on 4/10 at 12:00pm.
- Hector Emanuel Delgado Diaz also shared about The Cosmic Tap Room event happening on April 23rd.
- Hallah Kassem shared about the next meeting of the Off-Topic Scholars Society that will take place on Friday, April 24th at 5:00pm in the GPSS Office. OTSS will have bi-weekly social hours as well as monthly seminars.
- Ryan Wicklund shared about the library issues and student issues surveys.
- Pavandeep Josan shared about the ASUW and GPSS joint forum on Tuesday, April 14th.

7. ~~[ACTION]~~ Joint Resolution to Ensure Student Safety on Campus

8. ~~[ACTION]~~ Joint Resolution to Reduce the Impact of Federal Immigration Enforcement on Student Life

9. [INFORMATION] Student Health Fee Resolution

Ryan Wicklund performed the first reading of the Student Health Fee Resolution.

10. [INFORMATION] A Resolution to Withdraw from USSA

Ryan Wicklund performed the first reading of the Resolution to Withdraw from USSA.

11. [INFORMATION] A Resolution in Support of Native American Tuition Waivers

Ryan Wicklund performed the first reading of the Resolution in Support of Native American Tuition Waivers that he co-wrote with Henry Hess.

12. [INFORMATION] Liaison of the Month

Ryan Wicklund recognized Bitia Massoudi as the Liaison of the Month for February 2026.

13. [INFORMATION] Senator of the Month

- Pavandeep Josan recognized Carmelita Romendez as the Senator of the Month for February 2026.
- Pavandeep Josan further recognized Hector Emanuel Delgado Diaz as the Senator of the Month for March 2026.

14. [ACTION] Adjournment

Pavandeep Josan moved to adjourn the meeting. **Tarik Brown** seconded. **Ryan Wicklund** declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

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

The minutes were approved during the GPSS Senate Meeting of April 29th, 2026.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE
University of Washington

RESOLUTION NO. R-2526-05

A Resolution to Withdraw from USSA

A Resolution to Appropriately Refocus GPSS Time and Attention

2526 Session · 2025–2026 Academic Year

RESOLUTION METADATA

Sponsored by	Annika Peterson, Vice President of External Affairs, Ryan Wicklund, President
Written by	Ryan Wicklund
Committee	NA
Session	Winter 2026 — 2526 Session
Date Introduced	April 8 th , 2026
Date of Hearing	NA
Date of Vote	[Month Day, Year]
Vote	YEAS ___ NAYS ___ ABSTENTIONS ___

SUMMARY

The United States Student Association (USSA), since its relaunch in 2025, has developed in a less than advantageous direction for the purposes of GPSS. Hence, we should withdraw from having formal involvement so as to maintain our attention on better causes.

RECITALS

Each WHEREAS clause provides factual background, context, or justification. End all but the last with "; and". The final clause ends with a semicolon only.

WHEREAS the GPSS joined the United States Student Association (USSA) in AY25; and

WHEREAS the GPSS sent multiple representatives to the USSA’s Legcon event in order officially ratify the organization’s charter in AY25; and

WHEREAS the GPSS had extensive involvement in the structuring of USSA’s revival through its Interim Governance Committee, including the creation of USSA’s leadership structure and Vice President positions; and

WHEREAS the GPSS Vice President of External Affairs served as the Vice President of External Affairs for the USSA during summer; and

WHEREAS the GPSS had joined and participated in the USSA with the hopes of using it as an effective federal lobbying arm; and

WHEREAS the USSA has instead developed more towards an advocacy organization; and

WHEREAS the GPSS Vice President of External Affairs resigned from their position with the USSA citing issues with internal democratic organization; and

WHEREAS on March 9th, 2026, the other Vice Presidents of USSA collectively resigned citing the same issues as the GPSS Vice President of External Affairs; and

WHEREAS it is understood at this time that USSA has developed in a way not to the express interests of GPSS; and

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

Each THAT clause states a specific action, directive, or position. End all but the last with "; and". The final clause ends with a period.

THAT the GPSS formally withdraw from USSA upon the passing of this resolution; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the President and Executive Director of the USSA.

CERTIFICATION

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate of the University of Washington does hereby certify that the attached is GPSS RESOLUTION NO. R-XX-XX as passed by the Senate on the date set forth above.

Ryan Wicklund

President, GPSS

Maitri Karia

Vice President of Administration, GPSS

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE
University of Washington

RESOLUTION NO. R-2526-06

A Resolution to Support American Indian and Alaska Native Tuition Waivers

A Resolution to Address Historical Injustices and Inequities in Higher Education Demographics

2526 Session · 2025–2026 Academic Year

RESOLUTION METADATA	
Sponsored by	Ryan Wicklund, President, Pavandeep Josan, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, Annika Peterson, Vice President of External Affairs
Written by	Ryan Wicklund, Henry Hess
Committee	NA
Session	Winter 2026 — 2526 Session
Date Introduced	April 8 th , 2026
Date of Hearing	NA
Date of Vote	[Month Day, Year]
Vote	YEAS ___ NAYS ___ ABSTENTIONS ___

SUMMARY As American Indians and Alaska Natives are a significantly underrepresented demographic in higher education and at the University of Washington, this

RECITALS

Each WHEREAS clause provides factual background, context, or justification. End all but the last with "; and". The final clause ends with a semicolon only.

WHEREAS American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students are a significantly underrepresented demographic both at UW and universities across the USA; and

WHEREAS the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs has identified tuition and other barriers associated with attending the University of Washington as contributing factors to reduced AI/AN student retention and attendance; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature has funded a program at Washington State University that provides last dollar, full tuition support for students who are citizens of Federally Recognized Tribes, providing a demonstrated model for implementation across Washington State; and

WHEREAS similar programs across the country have been associated with higher numbers of AI/AN and Indigenous students, specifically at the University of Hawaii, Mānoa and Fort Lewis College, Durango; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature has funded a program to grant tuition waivers to elders from federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government and the State of Washington have trust and treaty obligations to the Native Tribes, Nations, and peoples that reside in Washington to provide for and facilitate access to education; and

WHEREAS the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, an organization representing 60 tribes in Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington has passed a resolution near unanimously in support of such a program; and

WHEREAS the ASUW Senate and Faculty Senate have passed their own resolutions in support of this initiative; and

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

Each THAT clause states a specific action, directive, or position. End all but the last with "; and". The final clause ends with a period.

THAT the GPSS requests that the University of Washington and the Washington State legislature establish and fund a program to provide full tuition to AI/AN students that are citizens and descendants of Federally Recognized tribes; and

THAT the GPSS encourages the University of Washington to examine its policies and practices that contribute to lower AI/AN student retention and acceptance like tuition costs, meals, accessibility to housing, and associated fees (i.e., transportation, healthcare, books and course materials, technology/internet, etcetera) to attend in order to fulfill the obligations of trust and treaty responsibilities; and

THAT the GPSS shall work with the American Indian Student Commission, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and other relevant organizations to advance tuition waivers for Native American students as a state legislative priority; and

THAT a copy of this legislation be forwarded to the following parties or organizations:

Confirmed UW recipients — always include:

Robert J. Jones - President, University of Washington - president@uw.edu

Tricia R. Serio - Provost & EVP for Academic Affairs, University of Washington - tserio@uw.edu

Aarti Baht - Chair, University of Washington Faculty Senate - aarti.bhat@seattlechildrens.org

Rickey Hall - Vice President for Minority Affairs & Diversity, University of Washington - vpomad@uw.edu

Sherri Berdine - Director of Tribal Relations, University of Washingtons - sher04@uw.edu

The Board of Regents

Morgan Hickel - Director, Office of State Relations, University of Washington - mhickel@uw.edu

Lane Ryan - Director of the American Indian Student Commission - asuwaisc@uw.edu

The elected AY27 GPSS Vice President of External Affairs

The AY27 Director of American Indian Student Commission

The Legislative Advisory Board of the GPSS

Ryan Wicklund - President, GPSS - gpsspres@uw.edu

Maitri Karia - Vice President of Administration, GPSS - gpssvpadmin@uw.edu

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Ryan Wicklund

President, GPSS

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