The Graduate and Professional Student Senate
Regular Meeting of 14 October 2026 at 5:00pm
In-person and remotely via Zoom

The following GPSS members and staff attended the meeting:

Zoe Hall, GPSS President
Zoe Love, GPSS Vice President of External Affairs
Maitri Karia, GPSS Vice President of Administration
Zehra Khan, GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion
Haley Chee, GPSS Vice President of Finance
Khushi Choudhari, GPSS Creative & Communications Director
Laura Gavia, GPSS Senate & Web Director
Rita Yang, GPSS Community Outreach & Events Director
Fatemeh Hosseinzadeh, Executive Senator
Muhummand "AB" Abubabkar, Executive Senator
Christina Coop, SAO Advisor
Alan Galvez, SAO Advisor

1. [ACTION] Call to Order

Zoe Hall called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

2. [ACTION] Approval of the Agenda

Maitri Karia moved to **amend agenda item 8 to include the Judicial Committee and Election Committee nominations**. **Zehra Khan** seconded. Motion passed at 5:11pm.

3. [INFORMATION] Land Acknowledgment

On behalf of GPSS, Zehra Khan **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."

Zehra Khan shared the fact: "The term "[term redacted in meeting]" originated from a combination of historical error and European racial categorization. The label Indian stems from Christopher Columbus's mistaken belief in 1492 that he had reached the East Indies, a misnomer that persisted despite his later realization of the error."

4. [INFORMATION] Announcements & Public Comments

Francisco Dojenia raised a point of order and moved to approve the agenda. **Haley Chee** seconded. Motion passed at 5:14pm.

Introductions of AY2627 GPSS Officers and their roles. Introduction of SAO advisors and their role with GPSS Senators. Introduction of AY2627 Staff members.

Zoe Hall shared a door prize will be given at the beginning of following Senate meetings to a few randomly selected Senators that attend in person on time.
Haley Chee shared that the last Senate meeting will receive catering from Sizzle & Crunch if quorum is reached in a timely manner for preceding Senate meetings.
Angie Sassi shared the ASE Bargaining Survey, tinyurl.com/letsbargain, to help determine the demands of the next contract. Bargaining will be during the Winter Quarter 2027.

5. [INFORMATION] GPSS Senator Onboarding and Q/A

Maitri Karia shared that Senator nominations are still open and then reviewed the Senate Onboarding Course. Provided a walkthrough of how to access Senator resources on the GPSS SharePoint and the GPSS website. Notified Senators that it is required to attend at least three Senate meetings for Fall 2026.

6. [INFORMATION] GPSS Committee Introductions

Zoe Hall introduced the Executive Committee. Committee members execute legislation, receive a stipend, and the committee has five Senator seats open.
Muhummand "AB" Abubabkar, shared a personal, positive experience as Executive Senate and possible motivations for joining the Executive Committee.
Charles Kwanin raised a point of inquiry about the criteria for the two Executive Senators listed on the GPSS website. **Zoe Hall** answered that the two listed Executive Senators were elected the previous academic year and are returning committee members.
Andrew Kramer raised a point of inquiry about the summer availability requirement for Senator members graduating this year. **Zoe Hall** answered that an accommodation will be discussed.
Abdulrahman Taha raised a point of inquiry about eligibility for graduating Senators. **Zoe Hall** confirmed eligibility.
Haley Chee moved to extend Agenda Item 8 to 10 minutes. **Muhummand "AB" Abubabkar** seconded. **Zoe Hall** passed motion at 5:43pm.

Zehra Khan introduced the Judicial Committee. Committee members are not eligible to sit on any other committees, deal with serious matters and grievances within GPSS, review and change bylaws, meet once to twice a week, and the committee has six Senator seats open.

Maitri Kairi introduced the Elections Committee. Committee members run every GPSS election and the committee has four at-large Senator seats open. Shared a proposed timeline to confirm Judicial and Executive Committees by the second Senate meeting, October 21st, and the Elections Committee by November 4th.

Haley Chee introduced the Finance & Budget Committee. Committee members review and approve allocations of GPSS budget, meet bi-weekly on Thursdays, and the committee is open to all Senators by application with five to nine at-large Senator seats open.

Zoe Love introduced the Legislative Advisory Board (LAB). Committee members work on solidifying the legislative agenda, meet on Wednesdays at 1:00pm on Zoom or in the GPSS office, and the committee meetings are open to everyone.

Zehra Khan introduced the DEI Committee. Committee members update the DEI toolkit guide, disburse $7,500 budget across three quarters, deal with all sorts of issues regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion and work closely with UAW 4121. Applications are open on a rolling basis and hope to build a core team.

Haley Chee introduced the Travel Grants Committee. Committee members approve travel grants to attend conferences. Shared information about liaison applications.

7. [INFORMATION] GPSS Executive Committee Information and Nominations

Maitri Kairi shared a Senator's responsibilities and expectations, and logistics for Committee nominations.

Zoe Hall opened floor for Judicial nominations at 5:58pm.
Brian Kim self-nominated. **Sarah Miller** expresses interest in being a Senate member. Senate nominations open until Oct 21st. **Alexandra Lewis** self-nominated. **Darshil Pandya** self-nominated. **Zoe Hall** moved to close nominations.

Zoe Hall opened floor for Elections Committee nominations.
Francisco Dojenia nominated **Emma Modrick**. **Emma Modrick** accepted. **Emma Modrick** nominated **Francisco Dojenia. Francisco Dojenia** accepted. **Dereje Himbago** nominated **Sarah Miller**. **Sarah Miller** declines because they are not a Senator. Zoe Hall moved to close nominations at 6:04pm.

Zoe Hall opened floor for Executive Committee nominations.
William Napolitano self-nominated. **Rukevwe Tejevbo** self-nominated. **Sara Uprit** self-nominated. **Ying Ding** self-nominated. **Madeleine Reinoso** self-nominated. **Andrew Kramer** self-nominated. G**racie Pullman** self-nominated. **Arnav Mazumder** self-nominated. **Parvati Nair** self-nominated.

Ava F. Weller raised a point of inquiry about the deadline to cast nominations. **Zoe Love** clarified nominations are open until Oct. 21st. **Maitri Kairi** moved to decide to proceed with Executive Committee elections today or save it for the next Senate meeting.
Charles Kwanin raised a point of inquiry about allowing nominated candidates to submit their 90-sec pitch in advance for the Senate to review before the next Senate Meeting.
Ava F. Weller self-nominated for Executive Committee Senator.
Zoe Hall moved to close Executive Committee nominations. No objections. Motion passed. **Zoe Hall** used privilege to table the Executive Committee Election for the next Senate meeting.

8. [INFORMATION] Advocate with GPSS – Legislative Agenda Survey and Legislative Advisory Board

Zoe Love shared the Legislative Agenda Survey to figure out the needs of graduate students and help finalize the agenda to be prepared for Huskies on the Hill Advocacy Day and talk to legislators in Olympia. Shared information on how to get involved with LAB.

9. [INFORMATION] GPSS Social and Community Events

Zehra Khan reviewed the logistics and impact of past Fall 2026 GPSS events. Across the five events, a total of $60 was used from the GPSS student budget. Shared upcoming GPSS events such as a South Asian students mixer on October 23rd from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Janta, tabling for Halloween at the HUB on October 29th, Summer Games, Karaoke night, and Fall Quarter UW Wellness focus group for graduate students.

10. [INFORMATION] HUB Safety Resources, Land Acknowledgement Changes, Meeting Hours, Feedback Form, Senator of Month/Year for AY2026-2027

Zehra Khan shared information about the HUB safety resources that are always accessible at the GPSS office and VP of Equity and Inclusion has an open-door policy about possible concerns. Discussed the Land Acknowledgement changes to include the names of tribes that also own the land adjacent to and within of what is UW and an addition of a new fact every Senate meeting. Shared information about the GPSS anonymous feedback form.
Announced and recognized **Sheila Gray** as the Liaison of the month for November. Recognized **Bita Massoudi** as the Liaison of the month. Recognized **Eli Drake** as the Liaison of the month. Recognized **Muhummand "AB" Ababubakr** as Senator of the year. **Muhummand "AB" Ababubakr** accepted the certificate.

11. [INFORMATION] UW Student Code of Conduct Discussion

Zoe Hall introduced the concept of Student Code of Conduct changes and that the Executive Committee will be writing legislation for it.
Francisco Dojenia raised a point of inquiry about when the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee is expecting the changes. **Zoe Hall** answered that the deadline to submit is November 15th.

12. [ACTION] Adjournment

Francisco Dojenia moved to adjourn the meeting. **Andrew Kramer** seconded. **Zoe Hall** declared the meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by **Laura Gavia**, GPSS Senate and Web Director.