

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL  
STUDENT SENATE**

# MARCH REPORT

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**OVERVIEW OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, ENGAGEMENTS**

➤ **GPSS Attends SAGE Day on the Hill:**

During spring break four GPSS representatives will attend SAGE Day on the Hill, a four-day conference dedicated to education and advocacy for policies at the federal level that affect graduate and professional students, alongside student government leadership from other R1 Universities across the country. We will workshop policy-oriented white papers, cast votes for organizational leadership positions and coalition platforms, and attend advocacy training. Lastly, we will meet with legislators in both the House of Representatives and the Senate on Capitol Hill to advocate for policies that benefit graduate and professional students, including student finance, gender equity and sexual harassment, immigration, research funding, and more.

➤ **GPSS Officer Elections Commence**

The GPSS Elections committee passed the elections guide through the Senate body and we have officially started advertising campus-wide for the five Officer positions. Elections will be held May 1<sup>st</sup> after which you will be notified of next years' team!

➤ **Tri-Campus Board Meeting**

All four student Tri-Campus leadership teams met early March to discuss the Tri-Campus relationship we share, have worked on extensively this academic year, and will continue to strengthen as we transition into next years' team. We walked away with long-term and short-term goals, as well as concrete steps for accomplishing them within our respective Boards and positions. Leah, President of ASUWB, and her team were instrumental in the success of this meeting and will have made a lasting

➤ **GPSS Events**

This quarter we put on numerous events including a Harry Potter themed social at the UW Horticulture Center, a self-care event with therapy dogs, massage chairs, and art tables, as well as our regular meet and greet events for GPSS Senators.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

➤ **Student Regent Search and Onboarding**

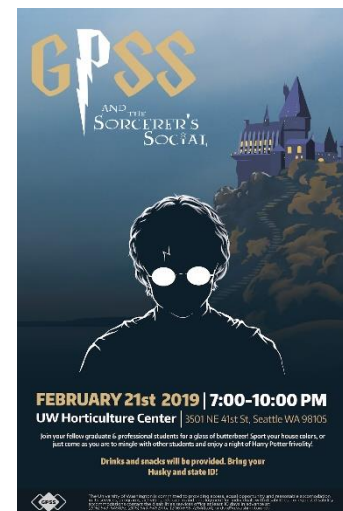
The next Student Regent appointed to this board will have very large shoes to fill as Kaitlyn has been exceptional and raised the standards moving forward. I am particularly excited for the tri-campus relationship she has been instrumental in forging as a professional, neutral, and mediating force between the Student Leaders and Boards.

➤ **Graduate and Professional Academic Conference:**

This event is approaching quickly on April 19<sup>th</sup> in the HUB and will include over thirty presenters and panelists from within the graduate and professional student population.

➤ **GPSS Composition Survey**

Amy Gabriel, GPSS Secretary, as well as the GPSS Diversity Committee designed and implemented a survey to assess representation across the GPSS Senate body, understand more nuanced background information about our Senators, inform Officers about areas of improvement and recruitment moving forward to work toward the most accurate representation of the student population that we are able to attain.





➤ **GPSS 2019-2020 Preparation and Transition**

Continuing with our “Spring Cleaning” theme for this school year, Officers, Staff, and Executive Senators are looking forward to implementing hard-worked changes within our organization, to include transition documents, trainings, Senator recruitment and onboarding, Executive Liaison recruitment and onboarding, campus partnerships, marketing, and other components that will be instrument in our success moving forward.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Tri-Campus Student Leaders**

The growing prominence of UW Tacoma and UW Bothell within the UW family has highlighted a need for connection across related departments and populations, through the facilitation of student leaders. As longest existing student member of GPSS (four years) I can speak to the significance of our communication and collaboration across the three campuses this year. These professional relationships have pushed each Board to reexamine their systems and processes through the scope of UW at large, which has provided guidance and modelling for best practices. Our Executive Board has benefitted from this network and I am proud of the growth visible within the other leadership teams.