



Associated Students of the University of Washington

Senate Floor Minutes | Senate Session XXXII

27 January 2026

Location: HUB 250

CALL TO ORDER

5:02 pm

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Erick Jacobsen reads the following statement: The ASUW Student Senate acknowledges the Indigenous peoples of this land, and the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations, and the Duwamish peoples, whose land our university currently occupies. It is our role and responsibility as guests to understand how our impact entangles the caretakers.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Kavi Pasupathi moves to approve the agenda

Blair Yeh seconds

Approved by raised hand vote

LEADERSHIP REPORTS | [Erick Jacobsen](#), [Joseph Riggio](#), [Julia Tanner](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Erick Jacobsen: All right, concluding leadership reports, we will move on to announcements and public comment. If there's any announcements or if any member of the public would like to speak at this time, now is your opportunity. We will have four minutes to do this before we go to our forum. Yeah, just come around and line up at the mic if you have any announcements.

Abigail Appleyard: Hi everybody I just wanted to let you know that the Husky Health Student Advisory Board is hiring for next year. So if you want my job and you want to come stand up here, now is a really good time to apply. They opened last this past Monday, so yesterday and they'll be

open for two weeks. And then we'll notify candidates and hopefully it'll all be figured out by spring break and we'll try to catch you before you have any more commitments in your schedule. If you have any questions please ask me and if not you can go to our Instagram which is HHSAB.UW.

Aiden Reeder: Hi everyone, its Aiden your Senate liaison and vice chair for the SAF committee. I do want to emphasize that SAF committee meetings are like open to the public. Right now we're going over our like budget discussions with a lot of the units. We have already gone through like the HUB's, veteran life's and a couple others. But I really do urge all you all to like be present at these because it's where we ask the questions to the units be like, hey, are you funding this? What are you trying to do to like limit your spending and reworking this cause like it gives you a lot of information on what's gonna be happening for you. Yeah, again, SAF meetings are 1:00-3:00 on Fridays at HUB 303 so please attend.

Ashwin Anand: Hey everybody I'm Ashwin I'm the Director of Internal policy for ASUW. I'm here on behalf of the Elections and Administration committee just promoting their event on this Friday, January 30th. Anybody That's interested in running for elections. They have an info forum where you can learn about you know what's the process to apply, how to actually represent yourself within these elections. And if you want to serve in a position and capacity on the Board of Directors within ASUW, highly encourage you attend this info forum. It'll be really. Fun. Also food and snacks are provided and so highly encourage you attend and stay more involved in a broader scale at UW and all the information is on ASUW EAC, on their Instagram or on their website. Excited to see everybody there.

Parker Sullivan: Hi everyone, I'm Parker Sullivan I am the First Nations at UW representative and it is a little bit of a ways out now, but I wanted to mention that the First Nations 55th Annual Spring Powwow is happening April 11th and April 12th and it is one of the largest Powwows in the state. It's completely free and it is open to everyone. Additionally, we are currently looking for people who would like to volunteer during Powwow. We have a volunteer interest form out now which should be this QR code up here so if you're looking to get any volunteer hours or if anyone in your RSO or you know anyone who wants volunteer hours, this is a great opportunity to do that. This form itself is super low stakes, nothing set in stone. It's just sort of to gauge any interest for when we do release our official volunteer form and any additional information can be found on our Instagram, which is @firstnationsuw. Thanks.

Revan De Leon: Hello my name is Revan De Leon I'm one of the representatives for the Latino Student Union and I'm here to urge you guys to join me in going to the SDS demonstration at Red Square after this meeting is over. I think it's really important that we speak out against the constant terrorism of ICE against our community members and I would appreciate anyone joining with me and SDS. Thank you.

Joseph Riggio: I have two announcements I know wild I don't have one announcement. I have two. But on behalf of RCSA I would just want to put this out here that if you are interested in an RCSA director position, the applications are currently open. If you scan that QR code, you can go directly to the. Microsoft form application. These are applied for positions. This includes like Naomi Law's job, Director of Government Affairs, Sustainability, Recognition and Partnerships, etc. So if you want more information about that too, you can also look up RCSA UW and it'll come up. They have a very wonderful website that has all that information, but essentially for the eligibility you need to have lived with HFS for one quarter. This does mean you don't have to currently live with HFS

just so long as you lived there for one quarter, you're fine. Also, you need a minimum of 2.45 minimum GPA and also you need to commit to living on campus during your term if you are selected. So you need to prepare to live on campus for autumn, winter and spring of the year you're doing it. If you have any questions, I'm sure Naomi Law can also probably answer them too but since I also work for HFS, I can also answer things as well. And then finally, my second announcement, Student Health fee, oh my goodness, tell five of your friends who haven't filled out the survey to fill out the survey. I would greatly appreciate it because if everyone were to do that in this room, that's like 500 People. And that's insane to me. So please tell your friends who haven't filled out the survey yet to fill out the Student Health Fee survey. It's important. It's impactful. They have a voice. They need to share it. Thank you.

Husna Chepkemboi: Hi guys my name is Husna and I'm here on behalf of hall council. Me and some senators are making a legislation about increasing light on campus. Some of your RAs will send out some links and put up flyers about a survey on where you want the lighting to increase and where is like way more darker. Please fill that out your opinion matters and we want to know. Thank you.

Kaitlyn O'Connor: Signing in pro on bills and legislation updates from DOLA. SB 5886. Senate Bill 5886 works to amend the current RCW to include forged digital likeness within the current property right framework and to create civil penalties in violation of that to kind of ... Combat AI and some of the issues that we're seeing with AI and property rights. And then Senate Bill 6227 works to properly formalize data collection protocols to better support students with dependents. And then Huskies on the Hill is two weeks from today, so the collaborative planning with the tri-campuses is going very according to plan. We are on schedule and we are so excited to see everyone there. And then I know for the people that are going, I have kind of flooded your email with some reminders, but we have training from 5:00 to 6:00 tomorrow led by ASUW OGR and we will be going over specific bill numbers that we are testifying or that we are supporting and advocating for. So please, please show up and if you are not able to come, we will be sending out slides and recordings after so please try and watch that. And if anyone has any questions, you are more than welcome to shoot me an e-mail.

Ruthu Mavnur: Awesome. Just also regarding Huskies on the Hill, SARVA and NextGen and also OGR have a collab event coming up on February 5th so just five days before Huskies on the Hill and it's going to be a town hall event about SB 5355. So we'll be like discussing the bill. We're going to have a bunch of community resources and partners in the event itself so they'll be tabling such as Solid Ground, which is a domestic violence shelter, Refugee Women's Alliance, REWA, along with multiple other ones. So this is going to be from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in Mary Gates 171. So we hope to see you all RSVP.

FORUMS

Erick Jacobsen: We have Provost Tricia Serio here today. Tricia Serio is the Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs for UW. For working here, she served as the Provost of UMass Amherst and the Dean of Natural Sciences before that at UMass as well. She has worked in higher education for 24 years. Come on up please.

Tricia Serio: How's everyone today? I hope you had a bit of a break and started the winter quarters going well for you. I have just a few remarks to tell you a little bit about what the Provost role is, a little bit about me and then some of the projects that are coming out of my office that are particularly important for student success. And then I'm of course happy to take any questions that you have. But I just want to start by thanking you for making time for me today. I really appreciate it. So the most frequent question I get as Provost is what is the Provost? What does provost do? And in a nutshell, what the provost does is report directly to the president. And then what is in my scope of responsibility is everything related to academics. So that's student admissions, success, advising, financial aid, and then global affairs, everything related to faculty so faculty hiring, promotion and tenure in research and then global affairs as well. And then I also have a job as the university budget officer. So what I try to do is align the budget with the academic mission of the university. So in short, what I'm really trying to do is to make sure that your educational experience is as strong as it can be by advocating for academics in all spaces across the university. So that's kind of what the Provost does. I've been here. This is my third year at UW, and one of the big things that I've learned is that this is an amazing place with really wonderful things happening all across our three campuses and one of the things that I think is really special about this place is that there are low barriers to people pursuing the things that they really care about and to working together to make those happen. And that's I think pretty unique in higher Ed. So a little bit about me. I am first in my family to go to college. My dad actually didn't finish high school and I can tell you that when I was where you were, I had no idea what a Provost was and I had no idea about any of the things that I've done. And that's what I think is really the beauty of college. That you find things that you didn't know existed and you can pursue that. One of the things I think coming from that background that has always been really important to me is the time that people invested in me and the opportunities that that created. And a real interest from my perspective, from a deeply personal place about doing that as well. So I'm a biochemist and it started in my career with helping students in my lab and in my courses and then as I started to get more administrative roles that changed the way that I helped and I think the impact was bigger and as Provost, now that in charge of academics all across the university, I really come to it from that perspective. Some of the other roles I've had, the ones that you mentioned, my first academic role was as a graduate program director and then I was a department chair and then Dean and then Provost. I think the thing that I really enjoy most about this job is that I get to see the full scope of things that are happening. And so every day, even during these challenging times when there's a lot of not great news, there's always something amazing that I hear about every day. And that's something that students are doing or faculty or staff or people working together. And that really gives me hope for the future, even during hard times, because I know. know that that you're going to be the keepers of that future and redefine what it looks like. And I have a lot of faith in you, so it makes my days go a little more smoothly these days. So what's going on in the university, I think you all know President Jones and I think he came earlier in the year, President Jones is in his first year of his presidency, and I think that's been a really wonderful opportunity for us to refocus and energize around perspective about the future. What do we need to do in this moment and in the midst of everything that's happening to really solidify the future of this university and to define it for ourselves. We talk a lot about the pressures that are coming from the outside in terms of state budget and federal issues. But I think what we're not talking enough about is that we have agency in how we respond to that and we get to define what this university looks like together, so. I think that's really important. A couple of things that the president has already, we're in the process of a strategic plan, developing a strategic strategic plan. But one of the things that that the president has done is charge that group with really incorporating three key elements. One is a debt free education for students. Two is really thinking about how we can unleash discovery and community impacts by through collaborations, radical collaborations

through our research mission. And then third is breaking down those barriers to the communities that we serve and really be seamlessly integrated with them in the area of my responsibility, a couple of things that we're working on that are particularly relevant for you is top of my list is increasing access to majors and programs for students at the undergraduate level. We've got to deal with that and it's really a top priority for me, ensuring course materials are accessible to all students. That's a major push this year. We're also in the midst of refreshing our curriculum. I've directed all of the deans to look at all the undergraduate programs and look at things like prerequisites and how easy is it for students to navigate through the degree requirements and really trying to pull away that complexity to make it easier for you to get to your degree more quickly. We're also working on what we call research, resilience and transformation. With all the changes that are coming federally, there's an opportunity for us to think about how we're structured to support research at the university to make sure that we're meeting the needs of today and into the future. We're also working on revising promotion and tenure guidelines for faculty to have a more expansive view of impact. For example, not all schools and colleges recognize community based work and. I think that's a reflection that that work is such a reflection of our values. We want to make sure that that we're counting that for faculty tenure and promotion. And then of course we also have a task force on the future of doctoral education that the grad school is leading. So just to wrap this up before I take your questions, you know it is a challenging time right now. I want to be clear. You don't need me to tell you that. But I also believe in the power of what we do in the singular role that universities play in our society and how. How important that is and I think it's worth protecting and and that means that we may have to think about doing things in different ways, but we have to be focused on the work and the importance of that to define what this university is going to look like long into the future. It's 164 years old, so it's it doesn't look the way it looked when it first started in that this is our time to carry forward this university into the future. I'm incredibly grateful to you for your leadership as members of ASUW. This is absolutely essential for the President and I to have this partnership with you and I really appreciate all the conversations that we have with your leadership in this opportunity to be here today. And last thing I'll say is I have a town hall coming up on the 12th of February. It's at 10:00 AM in Alder Hall and will also be online. So please feel free to join me. I'm going to talk about the importance of universities in ensuring democracy continues. So thank you and I'm happy to take any questions that you have

Erick Jacobsen: Our First question is on generative AI. What are your thoughts on faculty and students using Generative AI, LLMs, and predictive models in UW courses and what policy ideas are being considered to address AI usage?

Tricia Serio: Yeah thank you very much for this question. This is really top of mind for me. You may have seen that I just appointed Noah Smith, who's a faculty member in computer science and engineering, as Vice Provost for AI. This is an incredibly complicated area and one of the first things that charge Noah with doing is setting up a committee to discuss issues of governance and usage of AI across our campus. This technology is changing so quickly and it's so pervasive that this is a little bit of I think going to be a continuous effort, but we need to be transparent with one another in our expectations for one another. I want to be clear that we live in a world in which this exists, and using it ethically and responsibly is something that we all need to work on together. And I think Noah is the right person to lead this work. When I first talked to him about taking on this role, one of the things he said to me was it's really important to not teach people how to use A I, but to actually determine if they should use it. It's a really important perspective to have it, to be able to have that critical eye about whether it's useful. So I don't have any policy recommendations because the committee is being formed, but we're we'll definitely be seeking student input.

Erick Jacobsen: Our next question and please forgive us for our technical difficulties. Our second question is How does the UW plan to address student demand for departmental advisors amid budget cuts and uncertainty? Does the Provost Office have a plan for this issue?

Tricia Serio: Thank you this is also something very top of mind for me. Our budget system in state is challenging and all the schools and colleges are trying to navigate this in place. What I can say is that it's really important for us to prioritize the core of our mission and education is the core. And we want to make sure that you are supported in multiple ways as you navigate through the university. Advising is a key one, but we also are looking at data too and trying to understand how we can provide advice to Deans and department chairs about how to streamline your path forward that all of these things should happen in parallel with one another. So this is something that's definitely on our radar. We're in constant conversation with the Deans about it, and we'll try to find the best path forward to support you and your work.

Joseph Riggio: Just a reminder to all the senators I know the QR code is not up right now. Could we put the QR code link in maybe the teams chat or the agenda? Be sure to submit your questions I'm going to be reading off some of them. Our first question is from a senator. What steps are the administration and regents taking towards protecting the budget of the UW in the face of possible cuts by the state?

Tricia Serio: So I'm sure you all know that we're in the midst of a short session in the legislature. So we have a legislative team, external relations that is in Olympia every day talking to state legislators in the governor's office advocating for the University of Washington. I think you probably already know this but we are the only four year institution in the state that is fully enrolled and we're asking the state to recognize that and to support our students and faculty and staff who are meeting the needs of the state. I also am really grateful. I know that ASUW is there talking with people and giving testimony as well as GPSS and the Faculty Senate. So we're in constant contact about that and we're all aligned and advocating for the university constantly during this short session.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you our next question from a senator is international students currently lack a structured alumni network, which limits access to mentorship and career guidance, particularly for those navigating visa and employment pathways. Are there any ongoing or planned efforts to improve alumni connectivity for international students?

Tricia Serio: Thank you for that question and I'm actually surprised to hear that. I believe that the Alumni Association is encompassing of all alumni anywhere in the world. And in fact, there's actually an annual summit in Asia called Converge that brings together alumni from Asian countries together and there's often students who are about to embark to come to the UW and current students participating in in that event, which I have attended. It's really well attended. So I'd love to hear more about that and I can pass that along to the Alumni Association and the folks who organize Converge. There's a set of alumni associations that are or alumni chapters, I should say in each of those countries that participate in Converge as well. So this might be an issue of trying to connect people more.

Joseph Riggio: Our next question from another senator, you mentioned in your marks curriculum adjustments. They were wondering what your thoughts are on the implementation of a sustainability credit.

Tricia Serio: Yeah, thank you I know that there's some discussion on that. I think a sustainability credit is one option but I think there are others as well to ensure that students have the opportunity to become informed citizens. That's what I'll say or inform members of our community. I think that sustainability credit is one option, but I think there are other paths as well and the things that I'm always trying to balance when we talk about that is the number of requirements a student has to have to earn a degree. I was just talking to two students on campus just the other day who asked me about this, and one of the things I've been thinking about and talking with the deans about is, is there an opportunity for us to use the gen ed requirements to support opportunities for students to have a bit of a deeper dive into a particular area. Sustainability could be one of them. So instead of adding requirements, could we ask the faculty to work together across the different domains of your gen ed requirements and say, OK, this is a set of courses. So if you're interested in sustainability or you could learn about it from different perspectives, there may be opportunity for faculty to work together and align their courses there, but just make that path visible to you as students to think about a way to do that without adding additional requirements that so that's another path that we're talking about and it could be on other topics besides sustainability as well. We could create multiple paths so that students can follow their interests in that way.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you. I'm going to read a question from another senator. Amid funding cuts and the broader devaluing of non STEM majors in higher education more generally, what plans does the UW have to support and improve research opportunities for humanities and social science students?

Tricia Serio: Yeah thank you, I actually met with the chairs of the humanities departments about a week ago and this is something that is deeply important to me as well. I think, you know, I am a scientist as I mentioned before and I think that. The importance of different perspectives could not be, I can't understate that in our world today I think that the humanities teach us how to think critically and make sense of the world that sometimes is not so straightforward. And these are disciplines that I think we need to elevate and expand awareness of their importance. One of the things that I'm and this is something I talked with the Humanities chairs about, I think some of the capacity constraint, what I hear anecdotally from students is that they are spending a lot of time where they could be exploring other majors, trying to make sure that they can get into their major of choice, and that's really limiting their educational experience because they can't access other disciplines. So that's part of the component, I think, about making sure students have access to those disciplines and opportunities there. I've also asked the Humanities chairs to come up with a suite of research areas where they think that the University of Washington can really lead in the humanities and they have some really great ideas. And I think as we think about a capital campaign coming forward, elevating those opportunities to think critically about our world and make sense of it and improve it are things that are really going to resonate with our donors and increase opportunities for students in those disciplines.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you. Another question from a senator. They heard that you mentioned a goal under the new UW President is to help students leave college debt free. They want to ask what current strategies are being used to meet this goal.

Tricia Serio: So this is a new goal for the president. So we're just in our first few months, but we're looking at different ways to try to define that and that will certainly be a top priority for the campaign that will come up in the next few years. We currently are meeting, I think it's about 67, maybe 71% now of students graduate without debt from University of Washington. So relative to

our peers, we're already in a strong position and I think that positions us to get all the way across the line.

Joseph Riggio: And sort of on the same note, this is from a separate senator. But one of the school's goals is to support students in all ways, including financial. Why is the school actively lobbying against House Bill 2098, which removes the tax cap on tech businesses that funds financial aid if our student lobbyists are fighting for it.

Tricia Serio: So this I'm gonna ask you to bring our external relations, the folks who interface with the legislature about this. There's some complexity in that bill that it's not just, it's not clear that that change would lead to a backfill is my understanding. So on you know at a superficial level it looks like it would help, but the language in there that would ensure that it would help is. It's not obvious that it's there. So that's the part we're concerned about. We want to make sure that actually has the benefit that it appears to. So another way to say the protection in there to make sure that that happens.

Joseph Riggio: Another question from a different senator. Is there a plan to increase non art major access to art classes as a way to complete the arts and humanities credit?

Tricia Serio: That's a question I'll have to have a conversation with our Divisional Dean for the arts on, but this is a certainly, I would put this and I have a group that's working on what we call capacity and demand to try to understand what the constraints on access for students to both courses and degree programs and how we can align the resources that we have to relieve those constraints. So that's certainly could be in the next steps.

Joseph Riggio: And this senator asks would the university consider exploring standardized grading practices for math courses to promote consistency and equity across sections?

Tricia Serio: So multi-section courses as someone mentioned before that I was Dean of Natural Sciences and this has been something that has been on my radar for a long time. I think there's always opportunities for us to work together across multi-section courses. We are trying to head a pilot from the Center for Teaching and Learning last summer for instructors in multi-section courses to work together on issues like this and consistency I think is a really important one. So I don't know that standardized grading is the right approach. I think it'll probably take multiple different approaches to ensure that the student experience is independent of the section they're enrolled in, but it's definitely something where we are aware of issues and are working to find path forward.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you. Another senator asks as someone who's responsible for the UW budget, do you have the power or advising role to be able to act on students voicing concerns, about divesting from Israel? And also a follow-up question, what about divestment from, say, fossil fuels?

Tricia Serio: So no so that's finance which is different from budget. So budget is how we allocate resources within the university. Finance is about investment. So that's not within my. I range.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you. I will just send a reminder again, please, if you have questions, submit them. I'm going to read. OK, our next question from a different senator. What actions has the UW taken or intends to take to protect students on campus from Immigration and Customs Enforcement?

Tricia Serio: I want to start out by stating not as provost or anything how deeply disturbed I am by what's happening in our country. It's devastating to watch and my. I mean, I don't. I just don't even know how to express the sadness and concern that I have for what's happening. I'm sure that you, like me, know people in Minnesota and I'm in constant contact with them and it's devastating. So I just want to start there. I think you know what we've really tried to do is a couple of things is to make sure that people are aware of their rights. So campus safety, campus and community safety, if you haven't had them already, I really encourage you to have them come and talk with you. They've put together a set of resources. I've made sure that all the deans and chairs are aware of them. The most important thing to do is, and I should have led with this, please let me step back for a minute and say there are no confirmed reports of ICE activity on our campus or adjacent to it. I know there a lot of social media posts and things, and I want to confirm that, you know, as far as I know, there's been nothing, and I'm in constant contact with Campus and Community Safety. So if that happens, it is incredibly important that people use those resources that are available there and bring help to wherever, whenever the incident is happening, so that people who are knowledgeable about the law can handle this situation and make sure that something that is not allowed is not happening. So that's incredibly important. That's a big thing that I want to say. I also think it's really important for all of us. You, like me, know that there's a lot of anxiety around us for good reason, and it's really important that we don't share rumors that are unsubstantiated because they're causing harm to folks, right? Understandably, it's a very scary time and so please, I ask all of us, including me, to make sure that you're verifying information before you share it so that we're not causing harm to people. The other thing that I'll say is the University of Washington obviously follows the Washington Works Law, so we don't share any information around immigration status unless directed to by court and then obviously FERPA protects student information.

Joseph Riggio: And I will also say too Student Legal Services. So shout out to back in autumn quarter when they have their forum on immigration.

Tricia Serio: I think I used the wrong name for the law. I think the law is keep Washington working. That's all.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you. I'm gonna go to a different question submitted by our senator. There have been protests from UW librarians and SEIU about fair pay. What are your thoughts on this and how do you plan on negotiating with the continuum and libraries bargaining team?

Tricia Serio: So I won't comment on ongoing negotiations but I do know what I can say is that the in general that the university's perspective is is to bargain in good faith and I know that the unions are doing that as well and I'm confident that that will get to an agreement.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you. Another question from a different Senator. Does the Provost's office have a plan for managing financial or legal pressure from the federal administration?

Tricia Serio: Thank you for that question. I would say we have about 20 plans so that you know since really over the past year things changed so quickly that we're in constant scenario planning, I would say, you know, if this happens, what would happen? And so there's a whole suite of things that are in constant change as new directives come and new approaches are taken. But what I would say is that all of that planning is guided by the strong commitment to protecting the core of what the university does. So no matter what the details are, that's really what's going to drive decision making.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you and another question. This year a new \$250 quarterly class fee was added in order for the students to be able to participate in any mechanical engineering club. How is the UW planning on addressing this fee as it can provide a financial burden and prevent engineering students from being able to gain valuable technical experience for their careers?

Tricia Serio: So the implementation of the fee in engineering for the RSOs what were previously RSOs the engineering club was really about a couple things. One was safety, so ensuring that some of the work that the engineering students do is highly technical and potentially dangerous without the appropriate oversight. So we wanted to make sure that that was happening within the course setting. There's also significant costs associated with that. So I know the Department of Mechanical Engineering, for example, has hired a technician to support the work. So that's a cost. And very often the things that the students are building need to be shipped across the country and sometimes internationally for competitions. And so all of those things sort of converged on that. But I know the the leadership in engineering, including the Dean, is very sensitive to making sure that student access is not impacted by this change and financial aid is available to address those course fees, and they're committed to making sure that students have full access to those opportunities.

Joseph Riggio: Again just as a reminder we do still have about 7 minutes left in the forum so if you'd like to submit questions, please, now is the time. I'm running a little bit low, that's why I'm saying. What legal and structural protections are there or will be put in place to protect international students from risks like deportation?

Tricia Serio: I would refer I think to my previous question about, you know, not sharing information unless directed to by a court order, making sure that we are holding any federal agencies, not just around immigration to their responsibilities under the law with any interactions with our campus and our International Students Office and our International Scholars Office is keeping close tabs on the rapid changes that are happening in the immigration space and making sure everyone stays informed and that they're available for any consultation that's needed to navigate these changes.

Joseph Riggio: Thank you. I know President, just to add additional context of the senator's question. I know President Jones, when they came in the autumn quarter, mentioned tackling the issue of capacity constrained majors and competitive majors. And this senator's question is what steps is the provost's office taking to improve student access to competitive majors?

Tricia Serio: As I mentioned we have a working group working on this particular issue. So a couple of things that we're doing. So first we're trying to understand what is driving the capacity constraints. So we're doing a lot of data analysis and trying to understand in different parts of the university, the constraints are different, and so we want to make sure that Deans and department chairs are fully informed about why their majors are capacity constrained and, you know, giving them the tools to try to address that to open it up. That's one. A second thing that we're doing is we're collecting information for the first time about internal applications for capacity constrained majors. That's never been collected at the university level. We did a pilot last year and learned some things and we're expanding that to all capacity constrained majors this year. What we'd really like to do is streamline that process and standardize it so that it's less work for students and more transparent. So that's another thing that we're doing. And a third thing that we're doing is this data analysis that I told you about, you know, looking at student course taking behavior and what majors they ultimately earn a degree in in trying to understand if we can better align requirements where there's some

clustering of overlapping majors so that students have choices right as you're exploring, let's say you're interested in the life sciences. Biochemistry, biology, chemistry, microbiology, neurobiology, you know, are there ways that we can align the curriculum so that you can take this of courses, figure out what you're interested in and then pick what major to try to streamline it a little bit.

Joseph Riggio: I think this is a great final question. Do you have any book recommendations for our senators?

Tricia Serio: I recently read this book. It's called The Rise of Research Universities. So it's a really fascinating history about how research started happening at universities and the importance that it's played. So that's one thing I'll mention. And the last fiction book I read was Tom Lake which I really liked, but it's kind of like an old woman book, so you might not like it, but I liked it a lot. So, those are the two most recent books that I read.

Erick Jacobsen: All right, well, that'll be the end of the Provost Forum, so please give a round of applause.

Tricia Serio: One final thing. So I have office hours on Monday and there's a link on the provost office website says something like connect with the provost or something. So if you ever want to come and chat with me, please drop your name in that link and someone will reach out to you and give you day to come by. Thank you.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Erick Jacobsen: Alrighty thank you all for the questions you submitted. We will move on now to nominations and elections. Our first election for today is the University District Business Improvement Area Liaison. The UDBIA is a joint initiative of the City of Seattle and the University District Partnership that organizes funding for the maintenance and improvement of the U District as directed by our community. As Liaison, you would represent. Students interests in the U District and work with the ASUW President and the Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs reporting to the Vice Speaker. This term would last for two years and although meetings are yet to be determined, I believe that there will be 4 throughout the year. Are there any nominations? No one wants to improve our area? With that the nominations period closes. Would Kathleen and Justin like to come up to the podium?

Kathleen Esnaurrizar: Hello my name is Kathleen I'm a first year engineering student and my prior experience of being a president of a dance for three years taught me the coordination skills through organizing and scheduling different performances and my work in various model and conferences talking communication skills because I had to keep track of progress of different groups that I had to lead. And also these skills will help me support the collaboration of the U district and UW. So hope you vote for me. Thank you

Justin Amaral: Hello everyone, first year business major at the University of Washington, but certainly not my first year handling things like this. I was the president of the National Honor Society, so I have the skills to manage volunteers, handle meetings and schedule events. Additionally, on top of that, I managed boards where I had to mediate discussions between

members and handle event planning. So I hope my resume speaks to you and I hope you all vote for me. Thank you.

Erick Jacobsen: We will now stick with Justin for a 90 second answer to the question would you like me to read it?

Justin Amaral: Yes please repeat the question.

Erick Jacobsen: The question is, what do you see as the primary challenge facing students in the U District and how might they be addressed whenever you're ready.

Justin Amaral: The primary challenge facing students in the U district I think safety. I think safety in the U district is a big thing. I know we all get those UW alerts. So I think that would be a major focus is just to try to make try to get those places safe and make it a safe community and spot for people to hang out and enjoy their time there. No fear.

Erick Jacobsen: Alright Kathleen, would you like me to repeat the question?

Kathleen Esnaurrizar: No its okay thank you.

Erick Jacobsen: Alright whenever you're ready.

Kathleen Esnaurrizar: So I actually asked this question to a few of my friends to kind of know what is the general feel of what is the problems with the U district. And they also said something similar to me where you may not know what's going on in the U district with restaurants and you only go to the few places that you actually know or have talked about. So one of the big things that I like to do is kind of have the UW support more events like the Chowdown and the Boba Fest where you're able to kind of see what other restaurants are there or activities are that you're able to go with your friends and also have a website that's actually everything is centralized or what the restaurants are and everything. Sometimes Google Maps can also not be accurate with the times that restaurants are available or that type of stuff. And overall I'd also just like to have the maintenance to keep up so have a committee that could pick up trash around the Ave as well as U district so that way you can feel more safe when you go.

Erick Jacobsen: Staying with Kathleen you'll have 30 seconds for a closing statement whenever you're ready.

Kathleen Esnaurrizar: Overall, I'd like to support the collaboration of the district and UW by just having more opportunities for students to be able to adventure on the U district and have events that are available there so you know what's available there and you don't just go to the same places that you always go to. That's all for me, I'm Kathleen. Thank you.

Erick Jacobsen: Thank you. Apologies for the difficulties. Moving back to Justin, you have 30 seconds for your conclusion whenever you're ready.

Justin Amaral: All right, you know, I have to be careful with that. Yeah, I'm just gonna concede.

Erick Jacobsen: Can we do that, Joseph? Can a candidate do that? That has never happened before.

Kathleen Esnaurrizar elected University District Business Improvement Area Committee Liaison.

Erick Jacobsen: Moving on, our next committee is the City University Community Advisory Committee. This is also nominations and elections. CUCAC serves as the liaison between community members and the university, keeping stakeholders informed of campus development plans and soliciting community input. The Senate Liaison would provide undergraduate perspective and work with the ASUW President and the Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, reporting to the Vice Speaker. The term would last for two years. The question is how would you help make sure the development of the campus reflects student interests? This is also meetings to be determined, but this one meets 6 times a year. Are there any nominations?

Brennan Sandora nominates himself

Erick Jacobsen: Are there any nominations? I will ask three more times. We will move on to our elections. Husna, Ishaan and Brennan, would you like to come to the front, please? Let's see if I can do the timing right this time. All right, starting with Husna, you will have 30 seconds for an introduction whenever you're ready.

Huna Chepkemboi: Hi my name is Husna, I want to major in informatics. I believe I would be a great candidate for this position because I personally live in West Campus, which is more city like and I've always loved giving back to the community because I volunteer at the hospital almost every Saturday, and it would be really enjoyable to listen to your guys' ideas and how to better our community.

Ishaan Verma: Hi everyone I'm Ishaan I'm a second year. I'm majoring in environmental science and poli sci. I'm your guys' liaison to the Student Sustainability Committee. This is my second year in Senate, and I just think that development is a really niche and subtle part of campus, but it's really important. So yeah.

Brennan Sandora: Hi I'm Brennan I'm also a second year. I'm a comparative history of ideas major, if anyone's ever heard of that, and I have a lot of experience. I've managed political campaign before. I have my fingers in a bunch of different RSOs. I'm an officer for an RSO and most importantly if you don't see me on stage performing, you will see me power walking to class because I'm always late and I'm always walking everywhere, which I feel like gives me a very unique perspective on development in the campus.

Erick Jacobsen: Sticking with Brennan, we will have 90 seconds to answer the question. Would you like me to repeat the question? Question is, how would you help make sure the development of the campus reflects student interests? Whenever you're ready

Brennan Sandora: So I live in Nordheim court which is up by U Village, and I'm just a little mad because I used to walk to the grocery store real easy, right through Blakely Apartments, this wonderful family housing for grad students, right until it was sold off. Everything demolished down to the trees. They ripped out all the trees. Now I wake up every day to this bombed out wasteland on my front doorstep. And I was not even informed beforehand. And I think that's the first thing that we need to change with development here, because the people who are being directly affected by it need to be in dialogue with the systems that are engendering this development. That's not all, because last quarter I'd also walk up to campus to Bagley Hall for class, which is a pretty nice

building, right? The university has decided that they need to build a third \$190 million chemistry building. Let me remind you all that the College of Arts and Sciences deficit that we have all been discussing, as I've been aware of, is \$15 million. We have the money for development somewhere. It exists. We can get it. It's a question of where are we putting it. So I don't view this as an economic judgment as much as a value judgment. It's a value judgment that we get a new chemistry building, and my department is crammed in with fifty others in the worst building ever designed. Shout out to Padelford Hall. That the theater club on campus has performed in a theater that can literally not go dark because we just can't close the windows. Judgment that homeless people in the U District sleep next to undeveloped lots. It's a value judgment that if I want to walk to University Heights, I'm either going up sketchy, unlit, unmarked staircases, or we're seeing gunshots down 45th Ave. That did happen last week and the entire time I might be getting stalked and arrested also on that journey. More on that later.

Erick Jacobsen: No, actually you stay up here for a 30 second conclusion. Oh, I'm so sorry. I'm not very good at this anymore. Ishaan I'm sorry. The reverse order thing's even getting me, y'all. OK, you have 90 seconds.

Ishaan Verma: Yeah, I think this role is like really important for two main reasons. The first one is that UW is kind of like. In their development projects, like on the one hand, we have Haggett Hall and the Suzzallo construction, which is like Haggett Hall looks great, the plans look really cool and obviously no one wants Suzzallo collapsing on them when they're studying. On the other hand though, we have the new Ana Marie Cauce building, which I've heard 50 things about So I think it's pretty clear to say that student opinion is not getting to where it needs to be in terms of development, which is really bad because of the second thing. We as undergrads are affected the most by development, right? We're the only ones who are forced to live on campus one year, no matter who you are and whether that be living in a nice west campus or living in a single or living in Hansee where your roof leaks and you're crammed into a small space with tons of other people. So I think just genuinely the most important thing is establishing this pipeline of communication from us as undergrads because we're so important to the people responsible for this development and making sure that our voices are heard because genuinely, like development has been such a subtle area of UW campus that's been neglected for so long, and it's an area in which UW can definitely serve to hear from us more. So yeah, I hope you vote for me. Thank you so much.

Erick Jacobsen: Right moving on to Husna would you like me to repeat the question? How would you help make sure the development of the campus reflects student interests? You have 90 seconds.

Husna Chepkemboi: I would help make sure that development reaches the places it needs to reach the way it's supposed to reach because every single time I come here, I'm always talking about lighting. Like guys, I'm literally scared of the dark. And going to West Campus, it's dark. At the Ave it's dark. At the IMA, it's dark. I really want there to be more helpful development other than making buildings and employing people. I want them to be things that would actually help people and benefit people. And I want to be that voice. I want to actually listen to you all and not just value, not just take my opinion and the things that I want. I want to take things that everybody wants, including employment, including people who work here, whether it's the teachers, whether it's the students, everyone. I value everyone's opinion. Thank you. I have nothing else to say.

Erick Jacobsen: All right, now you can stay up because now we're doing the conclusions. Yeah, you have 30 seconds whenever you're ready.

Husna Chepkemboi: My conclusion is I really want to work with Kathleen because she's been nominated for the Liaison in the U District. I want to work with her to make sure that we get better food, to make sure that we get better safety in and actually want to collaborate with many liaisons in the Senate to make sure that we have a strong unit where we can support each other's ideas and help each other talk to the people who are on top and make sure we really get what we want.

Ishaan Verma: Yeah so just to sum up no matter who you vote for today I think the main take away is to understand that this area, while often, you know, not something you think about, is something that we can actually have a lot of say in as leadership. So when you cast your vote today make sure you cast your vote for someone who you think will be best to physically change how our campus looks, how it feels, and how it is to experience as a student. So thank you guys so much. Please vote for me.

Brennan Sandora: So as I left off, basically, if anything I said in that resonated with you at all I think that is important to look at the values we are expressing as a community through development. And take a long look at that and figure out a way to change it. And I recognize obviously a liaison to an advisory committee is not going to have the power to push everything to its maximum potential. But I'm willing to go in there 6 out of 6 times a year and raise hell because we need to change the ways that we are treating development here at the university.

Erick Jacobsen: Can we have a round of applause for all of our candidates?

Erick Jacobsen: The election is now closed and while they calculate our winner, we will move on to nominations for the Select Committee or the ASUW Select Committee Chair for the ASUW Restructuring Committee. This committee chair is responsible for attending weekly Senate steering meetings, chairing the select committee meetings during Senate, holding additional meetings under their discretion and their conversations on bills concerning constitutional amendments and share conversations on bills concerning constitutional amendments. The question for this is how would you ensure that productive conversation occurs during committee meetings about constitutional amendments given the complexity of this topic? are there any nominations?

Collin Saywers nominates Radcliffe Cushman

Radcliffe Cushman accepts

Blair Yeh nominate Diana Abebe

Diana Abebe accepts

Shreyan Mitra nominates himself

Erick Jacobsen: Are there any other nominations? I'll ask three more times. The nominations period is closed and we will move on. We will have more nominations next week. So if you were planning on nominating someone like Joseph here, keep that in mind. We will now move on to the Student Regent Selection Committee. The Student Region Selection Committee is tasked with searching for and selecting the next UW Student Regent. As a voting member of the Board of Regents, the Student Regent has sweeping administrative and financial power over UW and it is crucial to select a candidate who is qualified and aligned with ASUW. Our question is what criteria would you take into account when reviewing applications to select the next UW student regent?

Jenna Miller rescinds nomination

Kira McKey rescinds nomination

Jayden Kim nominates himself

Abbigail Appleyard: Are the meetings like just until the end of the school year or how long do you know?

Erick Jacobsen: They should be done by the end of the school year. I think last year it was most of winter quarter. Maybe some of spring, I think so, but not until the complete end of the year, because there's like a deadline for when the candidates need to be submitted to the governor. The selection committee selects the top three people and then the governor picks their favorite.

Joseph Riggio nominates Detlef Gerbing

Detlef Gerbing declines

Erick Jacobsen: Are there any nominations? We will move on to elections. But before we do.

Drumroll ensues

Husna Chepkemboi elected CUCAC liaison

Erick Jacobsen: We will now move on to elections for the UW Student Regent Selection Committee. If Addison and Jayden would like to come to the front, please. And although it does not say it, you also have 90 seconds for this one. We'll start with Addison. You will have 30 seconds once I get the timer open for your introduction whenever you're ready.

Addison Wooster: Hello everyone. My name is Addison Wooster and I'm a member of the GAVEL Committee, a fellow of the Rainier Institute for Foreign Affairs, a member of the UW Circle K Club. I take pride in being an active member of the UW community and I'm very knowledgeable about the functions of our school, which makes me perfect for the position of Student Regent Selection Committee member. Vote for me and thank you.

Jayden Kim: Hello everybody I'm Jayden Y'all have probably seen me up here before, but I'm a signature senator and I'm a first year intending to major in neuroscience or something along those lines. I have been coming to UW essentially my whole life growing up in this region and my experience with UW I feel like will help me select a student regent to qualify for this position.

Erick Jacobsen: You can stay up here. You will have 90 seconds. Would you like me to repeat the question? What criteria would you take into account when reviewing applications to select the next UW student regent? Whenever you're ready.

Jayden Kim: So one of the experiences I've had is personally being on the MedSearch board of executives which is a organization seeking to provide medical like experience towards high schoolers and below and one of my my roles in that was ensuring that interns can connect with mentors who are qualified to for that position and applying this to this. In the Student Region Selection Committee, I would do my best to select a candidate who would prioritize student safety and have

the proper qualifications and experience to manage the vast finance of the the university and additionally be environmentally sustainable.

Addison Wooster: The criteria I would take into account in the reviewing of applications is extracurricular involvement, high academic standards, effective communication, meaningful organization, the willingness to work with a large team, leadership, respect, and commitment to making UW the best place it can be. All of these qualities would make a great student regent who is dedicated to ensuring the voices of students are heard at the highest levels of our institution. Thank you.

Erick Jacobsen: All right, you will have now as 30 seconds for conclusion whenever you're ready.

Addison Wooster: I am an experienced member of ASUW who understands the value of quality leadership. My work in GAVEL has given me many meaningful connections to students, faculty and administrative leadership, and I'm confident in my ability to continue to work with them in a productive manner. Vote for me. And thank you.

Jayden Kim: My experience with UW and selecting connecting students with viable mentors will help me in this role to select the next student regent. I hope you vote for both of us because I feel like Addison would also be a very great. It will also be a very valuable, whatever that is. And yeah, thank you.

Drumroll

Addison Wooster elected Student Regent Selection Committee Liaison

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On Campus Affairs

Resolution revolutions discussion

Off Campus Affairs

[Resolution Revolutions](#)

General Affairs

- Committee Meeting Begins at 6:33pm
- Sarah took attendance for teams, Pierce took in-person attendance
- Pierce asks if anyone has any resolutions they are hoping to see!

- What resolution revolutions is... each committee has the ability to work together/pass around different resolutions
- Question... What legislation falls under general affairs? Stuff that doesn't fit under other committees
- Erick begins Resolution Revolutions for our committee
- Pierce helps assist some of the thinking for what kind of legislation can be thought about
- Idea: Switch from Pepsi to Coca Cola products; in other words, offering a different variety of soft drinks, consumer choice/new brand deals? (Adam)
- Idea: Integrating major advice (Isabelle Green)
- Idea: DRS system upgrade into "the 21st century"-> user friendliness, accommodations to carry over from quarter to quarter; transparency and university consistency (Isabelle Green)
- Idea: Cleanliness in the lounges in the Dorms; has a very severe allergy and makes them nervous (Ava Wahl)
- Follow up, maybe making cleaning material more available (Em Buchannan)
- Pierce asks everyone to vote
- Idea 2 Selected, Integrating Major Advice (carried over from suggestion by same student last week)
- First Whereas Clause; tool to remotly help you prepare for college before stepping on campus (Adam)
- Second Whereas Clause; currently a major component of onboarding process for first-year college students and it does not address needs (Isabelle Green)
- First That Clause; prospective major groups as an option (breakout rooms) so advice can be suggested + for general/undecided just general information (Em, Adam, Isabelle)
- Meeting ends @7:00pm

Academic and Administrative Affairs

Time Start: 6:37 pm

Time End: 6:59 pm

[Resolution Revolution](#) (AAA brainstorming)

OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Adam Ford moves to adjourn

Spencer Grubbs seconds

Approved by raised hand vote

Adjourned 7:02pm

Minutes Prepared by Jothsna Sundar

Clerk for the ASUW Student Senate
