



Associated Students of the University of Washington

Senate Steering Minutes | Senate Session XXXII

13 April 2026

HUB 307

4:02 pm

ATTENDANCE

Erick Jacobsen (he/him), Speaker | P

Joseph Riggio (he/him), Vice Speaker | P

Julia Tanner (she/her), Public Relations Officer | P

Blair Yeh (she/her) On-Campus Committee Chair | P

Abigail Appleyard (she/her), Off-Campus Committee Chair | P

Pierce Wallbaum (he/him), General Affairs Committee Chair | P

Dylan Bianchi (he/him), Academic & Administrative Affairs Committee Chair | P

N/A, GPSS Director of University Affairs | E

Nandana Jaideep (she/her), ASUW President | A

Detlef Gerbing (he/him), *Select Committee on ASUW Restructuring Chair* | P

N/A, *Director of Internal Policy* | E

Kate Lawson (she/her), *Director of University Affairs* | P

Jothsna Sundar (she/her), *Senate Clerk* | P

Brendan Chang (he/him), *SAO Advisor* | P

APPROVAL OF THE STEERING AGENDA

Dylan Bianchi moves to approve

Pierce Wallbaum seconds

Approved 4-0-1

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.

SPEAKER'S REPORT

Erick Jacobsen: I've had my first of hopefully four one-on-ones with committee chairs and I'm looking forward to more. I think I've scheduled one other one with Pierce. I'm not sure I scheduled any with Blair or Abigail. We may have talked about it. I may be forgetting. If we didn't talk about it, it's in my calendar. If we didn't, then please talk to me about it. Yeah, I've been advising on a lot of legislation. I think we'll be seeing more coming in, not just before today, but my prediction is definitely two, but probably at least three next week as well. So we're starting to get into that flow, which is why the 7.30 end time is more important than ever. And then, yeah, been pursuing my personal projects and such, not much of note to report there. So we'll move on to the Vice Speaker report.

VICE SPEAKER'S REPORT

Joseph Riggio: Hi everyone so I haven't gotten around to attendance notices. Just so that you all are aware, I'm experiencing personal medical stuff. I will actually be out next steering meeting for I'm going through everyone's fun thing, a colonoscopy. So then that's going to be so fun. Yeah, so I will be out on Monday. I'm going to try and send out attendance before tomorrow. Fortunately, tomorrow is going to be a little bit different. When we get to the agenda, we're having the EAC, GPSS, ASUW Student Senate joint forum. So it's going to look a little bit, a lot different than our prior meetings. So if people are worried about their attendance or whatnot, please send them my way, just preemptively, but they should be seeing those attendances going out tonight. And then also GAVEL just recruited 2 new members. Congratulations, Radcliffe and Ava, for becoming our two new GAVEL members, and they will be starting this week with everything and get them some legislation to track. So I'm excited for that. In terms of other Vice Speaker stuff, I'm trying to work with Lincoln to see if we can get him in May for a forum, just as a kind of a goodbye or a celebration for his retirement. Lincoln Johnson is retiring this year, so we want to try and do something for him because he's done a lot for ASUW and GPSS and Senate in general. So trying to give one last send off from the Senate and also the time for senators just to ask questions about his experience of decades of student government overseeing or advising. And that is all I have.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

Julia Tanner: Ok so two things, one, I'm in the works of planning bonding for this quarter for steering. So be thinking of ideas of what you would want to do for a bonding event. I'll send out the When2Meet this week and then we'll talk about it in discussion hopefully next week unless I'm getting the dates wrong. But anyway, so keep that in mind. And then for the film that we've been trying to film, did I say film? I meant reel. Okay, for the reel that we've been trying to film, it's not going to work for tonight because Blair and Dylan are the two people that we still need clips of and Blair won't be able to make it. So we'll be pushing it back another week. Please be available either next steering or next Senate meeting and stay. I'll keep you guys updated with that as well, and that's all I have. Have a good evening.

ADVISOR'S REPORT

Brendan Chang: Hello everyone, I thought it'd be fun. It's just a fun word to say: Luminosity, which is the quality of emitting or reflecting light. On RuPaul's Drag Race, the theme is, in shady times, let there be light, and so I saw this word about that, so luminosity.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Erick Jacobsen: We will now move on to the approval of the minutes.

Recess 4:08 pm

Reconvened 4:18 pm

Dylan Bianchi moves to approve

Pierce Wallbaum seconds

Approved 6-0-0

APPROVAL OF SENATE FLOOR AGENDA

Erick Jacobsen: We're moving on to the approval of the floor agenda. So like Joseph said, this is a little different. The whole meeting is the forum. We will not experience any business. We do have the adjournment time set for 7:30 and we have carefully budgeted all of this time. We will have one common question for the candidates and one personal

question each. Personal questions, topics have been released to the candidates, but the questions themselves will be only revealed during the forum. Common questions were released to the candidates before. And then we'll have audience questions for Vice President, President, and Director of Internal Policy, since the Director of Internal Policy is the liaison to the Senate and to the GPSS. This is co-hosted with GPSS and the EAC so the leadership reports will be leadership reports and introductions. So we're dealing with all the introductory parts of the forum and as a result, that is under announcements public comment. Everyone will be able to use announcements in public comment as usual and then we'll get into it. That's pretty much it. We go in reverse bylaws order with the exception of the Vice President, who we start out with, so that we can, and the internal policy, which we do in the middle, so that way the ones with the audience questions are like spaced out. These questions were worked on with Senate leadership, EAC and GPSS. So, that's generally the structure. There's 90 seconds to answer each question, except for the audience questions, which is 60 seconds, and all introductions are 30 seconds in reverse ballot order. Any questions on how this will function? You can sit in committees if you want, but we will not be convening committees. We will have pizza, I believe. Brendan, did they get you the pizza? Oh, yay. Okay, so we'll have pizza. So, tell your committee members, say it in the pre-meeting email. And if you are not a candidate and you have access to your teams, to your committees, you should encourage them to look at platforms and prepare questions.

Dylan Bianchi: Should I forgo any premeeting message tomorrow?

Erick Jacobsen: I would say if Bridget can handle that, that'd be nice, but it doesn't have to happen. Okay. And then if you want to contact Bridget about that. Was that what the hand was for? Okay. Cool. Any other questions about how this is going to be run? Okay. You guys, I do recommend you bring audience questions as well. They will be moderated; there will be a fact checker. It will be very similar to other forms in that sense. And yeah, hopefully it goes well and senators get to hear directly from the candidates and figure out which ones they resonate the most with. If there are no questions or comments on the agenda or the forum structure, this will also require a suspension of the rules.

Pierce Wallbaum moves to suspend the rules and approve the floor agenda

Julia Tanner seconds

Approved 3-0-3

Joseph Riggio moves to suspend the rules and add CO-32-04 to the steering agenda as the first item in proposals

Joseph Riggio: A bit of context as to why I'm doing this. We got confirmation from Brendan that, here I'll put it on here as the review edit real quick. I got confirmation from Brendan that we do need committee orders because we do specify that they're proposed to the steering committee or introduced to the steering committee. That's what would be approved by the steering committee. GAVEL has worked on submitting feedback to the strategic planning committee for the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. The reason we're allowed to do this as a committee order is because we're not creating new student opinion. We're using existing opinion and existing things that GAVEL operates in the confines of our work to draft essentially a letter to the UW Strategic Planning Committee, giving them advice based on that. And I wanted steering's input on it, so we decided, I decided to make it a committee order.

Pierce Wallbaum seconds

Approved 3-0-3

PROPOSALS

Erick Jacobsen: The way committee orders work is we are the first and last person to see this. We can edit it as if we're in committee or on the floor, and we are in charge of approving it. This does not go anywhere else, just in steering, as an exercise of steering's powers of self-governance. Um... So. Joseph, if you would like to read the bill out in full, please.

Joseph Riggio reads [CO-32-04 A Committee Order to Submit Feedback for the UW 2026-2030 Strategic Plan](#)

Erick Jacobsen: As aforementioned we can edit this directly and once we approve it, it's approved. I'll also note there's four days left to submit feedback, so you can use this as a guiding document if this is approved, and even if it's not approved and you agree with it, you can use it as a guide. And I highly recommend that you submit feedback to the strategic plan, that you tell your constituents and your friends and your club members to submit to the strategic plan, et cetera. Are there any questions or comments?

Joseph Riggio: Just to provide additional context I want to shout out GAVEL Committee. The language in this bill, every single clause we had a conversation about, not the specific language, but we go back to like version history, we'll see like in brackets, we had different ideas of specific issues we wanted to talk about that represent student opinion or that encompass sort of the overall vibe of what we wanted or the feedback we had to the draft. And then from there, independently, GAVEL members

worked on adding language. I supported adding language after the GAVEL committee meeting with a bunch of members. So this is a collaborative effort of 15 people working on all, taking what their experiences were with working on their legislation and putting it into this bill. And I just made sure that it aligned with certain pillars or language that we would like to see in the draft to make sure that it was substantiated enough for the UW strategic planning committee to act on it. And that was our process for creating this and the sources are all resolutions pretty much that we're basing it off of

Brendan Chang: Just a possible suggestion, I don't know how and where. Just making it clear that this is based off resolutions submitted because it's like implied due to the sources and stuff like that. But maybe like something more explicit could be like, you know, like the student Senate passes resolutions on student opinions. So like this feedback is based off every like these like past resolutions or something like that of student opinion. I'm not exactly sure how or where if that could be like, I think just making that a little bit more specific here somehow, and I don't know how though, if that makes sense. Like, I don't know where that would even fit

Pierce Wallbaum: I was just going to say the whereas clause right above the one that you just typed out kind of says that. I don't know if another whereas clause is really needed, because you can kind of just say, like I mean, it talks about how it's grounded in student opinion from resolutions in the legislation tracker. So it might be a little redundant to have another whereas clause saying that again, but maybe the wording can be a little more explicit in that whereas clause in line 19. Like instead of a new whereas clause. Yeah, because this kind of already says that, but.

Julia Tanner: Well with that, the two whereas clauses about the one you just drafted, those seem a little bit redundant. Like the first one is talking about is GAVEL committee is positioned to provide robust and thorough feedback that represents student opinion, and then the second one is like following up on implementation. So like maybe combining these two with the position to provide through, or like deleting the second whereas clause and adding the one that Erick just said, just so it's explicit. That was so fragmented as thoughts. I guess I'll just make a movement.

Julia Tanner moves to strike whereas clause lines 19-21 and add suggested clause stating "the following recommendations are derived from passed legislation of the Student Senate by the Senate GAVEL Committee to assist in the implementation thereof"

Dylan Bianchi seconds

Approved 5-0-1

Brendan Chang: And yeah I only just for not every part of campus, or not everyone on campus knows exactly who Student Senate is, who you are, what you do, so I had similar myself, like maybe explicitly saying or suggesting that, and some reason why, not to not to say that. Yeah, is all.

Joseph Riggio: I'll reiterate off that point of the target audience is the UW Strategic Planning Committee, so maybe a bit more redundancy is necessary to really drill in certain points, but I will also be accompanying this with an email too that I can explain and I'll have sort of discretion on that. So I can make sure that they absolutely know where this is coming from and that this is just some random email that they're getting.

Erick Jacobsen: Are there any other questions, comments, or motions?

Pierce Wallbaum moves to approve

Dylan Bianchi seconds

Approved 5-0-1

Erick Jacobsen: Moving on to our next piece of legislation. R-32-08 a resolution to urge the University of Washington to expand financial aid, emergency funding, and scholarship access for non-resident and international undergraduate students. This is sponsored by Aarav, who is not here today so, I'll read out the bill on his behalf.

Erick Jacobsen reads [R-32-08 A Resolution Urging the University of Washington to Expand Financial Aid Emergency Funding, and Scholarship Access for Non-Resident and International Undergraduate Students](#)

Erick Jacobsen: So the sponsor's not here today which means he cannot answer any questions that you may have. But that doesn't necessarily mean that we can't discuss the bill or push it through. It is entirely up to you all how you want to proceed. And just keep in mind, if you do have questions, you can ask them. Based on what knowledge I may have or others in the room may have, but we won't have any knowledge on what was going on in the senator's mind or intentions or any of that. That in mind, are there any questions or comments on this bill?

Joseph Riggio: Aspirationally, I'm in strong support of this especially if the UW is going to claim that they want to work towards debt-free education. I don't think that should be limited to just residents of Washington State. I am going to, I wish the sponsor was here because I would caution that definitely in the implementation side of things, we're going to run into a lot of issues of structurally, Washington residents would, because

we're a public institution, you know, there's an argument to be made that funding coming from Washingtonians who are paying taxes and whatnot are trying to, or getting funding from the state. If any of those programs support non-residents or... international students, it's like, well, what about those other countries or those other states supporting the university in some of these programs? I think this is going to be a multi-year effort, but I think it's an effort worth pursuing.

Julia Tanner: With that, because I had the same concern, but the that clauses are really strongly written in my opinion, and I like that they specified that it would be funded through, the emergency fund at least, would be funded through a combination of private endowment and then university discretionary funds. So, it seems like they're thinking about that, but I agree that that would definitely be an argument that would come up, especially because UW is renowned for their financial aid for in-state students. I don't know how, like, well or well received it would be to ask for state money to go to international students. But overall, I, support this.

Pierce Wallbaum: I was just going to say, I also support this bill. Like Joseph said, this, I mean, it already, like the bill mentions, it's been a something that ASUW has been supporting for years, and it's something that most likely will still have to be supported for years after this, but in terms of the quality of the bill, I think it's very well written and there are multiple perspectives that are considered, so I really do support this bill.

Erick Jacobsen: And I encourage if you have any comments or questions, you can leave them as comments in the bill. For one, the first whereas clause, based on my reading, seems to imply that federal financial aid is unavailable to non-resident undergraduate students. I think that's just a bracketing of clauses issue. So I'll leave that comment. And that way, like, when it gets to committee, whichever committee it gets to, can also discuss that as well. Are there any other questions, comments, or motions?

Dylan Bianchi moves to approve into AAA

Pierce Wallbaum seconds

Approved 3-0-3

Erick Jacobsen: Because of the structure of this agenda, it is going into next week's meeting. So the agenda for that has already been preliminarily created. So I'm just adding that in now. Awesome, new business as well. OK, cool. Moving on now to R3209, a resolution to improve knowledge of artificial intelligence environmental concerns. Let me pull it up. This is sponsored by Autumn. Would you like to take it away?

Autumn Yi reads [R-32-09 A Resolution to Improve Knowledge of Artificial Intelligence Environmental Concern](#)

Erick Jacobsen: I will grammatically add Jess into the forwarding clause because she has worked with first-year programs before. Are there any questions or comments for Autumn? Anyone on Teams?

Joseph Riggio: Yeah I support this bill. This should have happened sooner. I think. ASUW needs to have a firm stance on the environmental impact for artificial intelligence. It's not a very widely publicized thing because of the industrialization of AI and a lot of companies trying to, even the university is trying to go, go, go. If you read the UW. 2026-2030 strategic draft, they make it very clear that they want to push artificial intelligence to generative AI, which is something that the committee order addresses. So I think this is great. And no further comment.

Pierce Wallbaum: I also think this is a really great bill and for that reason I move to approve into General Affairs.

Pierce Wallbaum moves to approve into General Affairs

Julia Tanner seconds

Approved 5-0-1

Erick Jacobsen: Moving on to R-32-10 a resolution to set the U-PASS fee at \$81. This is, I've not received much communication from the sponsors. But they do have a presentation. Maybe I'll link it on the agenda and we can open it up.

Erick Jacobsen reads [R-32-10 A Resolution to set the UPASS Fee at \\$81](#)

Erick Jacobsen: So again, we do not have the sponsors here today to answer questions. but I may be able to answer some questions, and that shouldn't necessarily affect how things go. I will note for y'all's consideration, because only like two of us were there, two years ago, the fee was lowered from 86 to 70, and before that, it was lowered from 92 to 86. So it used to be at like 92, and then it was like dropping, and now it's raising again. So it isn't like, this isn't like the all-time high or anything. And the slides again are linked if you want to see how that worked.

Dylan Bianchi: Are they coming in to deliver this presentation to Senate at some point?

Erick Jacobsen: I guess so, yeah. They indicated interest in that, but I was not like made aware that they were interested in that until today. They were initially thinking that it would be tomorrow, but it can't be, so it would probably be. either with the resolution, maybe we include it as an appendix, or next week after the UW PD forum.

Pierce Wallbaum: If there's no bill summary, maybe that should be deleted.

Erick Jacobsen: I'll be adding like a full summary. That's just my reminder to not forget. Will it work? Who's to say?

Julia Tanner: I generally support this because I love U-PASS but also I'm so curious to hear what the ride share was expected to and how much more it was. So, it's just a second comment; it doesn't say on the slides.

Erick Jacobsen: Yeah. If you want to email the UPASS chair, Jayce Blanchard, you can or save it for the floor maybe.

Joseph Riggio: I'll make a note that the section they're referencing is on page two. It's called fee amount. All it is doing is changing \$73, which is the current amount to \$81, I believe. And that's a language change that they're recommending, and I think the clause underneath it, talks about the the amount changing too.

Erick Jacobsen: This is something that I figure I should bring up before I forget. When we talked with OID and document accessibility, we talked about descriptive links. And I realized that our references have never been descriptive links, which is like the link is embedded in the words, which is more screen reader friendly. So if we could do in this case and maybe going forward if possible, just taking the like bit that explains what the link is and then control K-ing that and putting the link in there.

Joseph Riggio: Oh, I didn't realize that was more accessible.

Erick Jacobsen: See the reason I initially was thinking that it'd be better to do it this way was like, if someone's like on mobile, they can like copy paste the link if it's not like working, or copy paste into a browser if their browser is being weird or something like that, but it's less screen reader accessible, So that's a thing we can do. But that's all grammatical, so I don't want to hold us up any further if anyone has any questions, comments, or motions.

Brendan Chang: I'm not able to find anything that specifically says any timeline if that makes sense, like it needs to be approved by a certain thing, a certain date or time. Unless it's in the other MOU reference.

Joseph Riggio: It might be in our bylaws which I have open in front of me. I'll see if there's anything in there, but for the purposes of this bill, I think we're fine.

Erick Jacobsen: Are there any other questions, comments, or motions?

Pierce Wallbaum moves to approve into Off-Campus affairs

Julia Tanner seconds

Approved 5-0-1

Erick Jacobsen: One more. R-32-11 a resolution to expand access to microwaves on campus. This is sponsored by Julia. Would you like to take it away?

Julia Tanner reads [R-32-11 A Resolution to Expand Access to Microwaves on Campus](#)

Erick Jacobsen: Would you like to speak on this?

Julia Tanner: Yeah so a friend of mine approached me complaining about microwaves and student opinion has held like complaints around microwaves in the past, as shown through the R-31-8. And so this is just kind of a follow up on that. I've been in emails with Josh Gana and I've reached out to Daimon and Jim, but they haven't responded. Or sorry, Daimon has, and they're also down to do something on the Sustainability Map. So it's something that HFS is open to, that UW Sustainability is open to. And it, in my head, will kind of bridge the gap between not having enough microwaves to the issues of installing microwaves, just to provide more information for people to actually be able to find more microwaves than the ones in the random other places.

Erick Jacobsen: Yeah, and expanding on the the hub thing and that bill, I believe the main concerns with like the cost of everything were on like cleanliness, like specifically, like there was no one to clean it or anything and they were like very interested in that.

Abigail Appleyard: Hi I was just going to say, I like this idea a lot because I definitely agree that it's very difficult to know where all the microwaves are, but I'm not sure if they are all run by HFS. Like I know at least, because I have a lot of classes in like the Health Science Buildings, but there are like a ton of microwaves. We have so, so many, I'm assuming, for residents who are up like very late at night, but those are accessible to. Most UW students, I think some of the ones in the Health Science or in Pop Health on the upper floors are not, but anything in Magnuson I think is accessible for all students and in the Health Science education building, but I'm not sure that HFS runs those. So I'm wondering like if there's a way to filter by like maybe something about a note about

which microwaves are accessible to which students, because like if you're in certain departments, you might have access to microwaves that you know, other students might not, or if you're only talking about HFS microwaves, you might miss out on, you know, a ton of other microwaves that are available.

Erick Jacobsen: Something for committees. Are there any other questions or comments for Julia? Any questions, comments, or motions?

Dylan Bianchi moves to approve into on-campus affairs

Pierce Wallbaum seconds

Approved 3-0-3

Erick Jacobsen: And with that we're looking at a full committee next week.

DISCUSSION

Erick Jacobsen: We have no discussion items for today. I think I may have intended for a discussion item, but I don't know what it is.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Erick Jacobsen: Are there any announcements, or if any, or would any member of the public like to speak at this time? Drag show Wednesday, 5:30 Lyceum. Anyone doing club events?

Jothsna Sundar: The History Undergrad Journal, The Historical Review is hosting a notebook decorating collaging event on, let me check the date because I totally forgot, but it'll be in Smith on the third floor in the History Commons. If anyone is interested in that. On April 29th. Yeah, just putting it out there

Abigail Appleyard: I'm not here to promote test-fest because I think we have all, most if not all of our appointments filled, but I was going to say don't be afraid to promote quote unquote embarrassing things in public comment because it clearly works to get people engaged. So just some food for thought. If you ever have something that you need to share and you're not sure if you should, share it.

Joseph Riggio: So another thing that I'm involved in because I'm too involved for my own good. Amnesty International, I'll promote their meetings. We meet on Wednesdays

from 6:00 to 8, Thompson Hall, 317. Talk to me if you want, if you're interested. We're focused on human rights advocacy. One of the campaigns we're doing is a Firewall of Freedom, which is actually a resolution we passed not too long ago, which they're working with GAVEL Committee on, which is really cool. Also, I just want to promote that May 14th, so Sarah, who is an Italian-Iranian background, they're promoting an event where it's an event where we're bringing to light a lot of the things that are happening in Iran, not just about the war, but also like political dissent and some of the things that they have seen and experienced. It's also a time where Amnesty International is promoting their own work that they do in human rights organizations. So if you are curious about NGOs or the human rights NGO space and you want to get involved, reach out to me and let me know. I'm their training coordinator so I can help you.

Erick Jacobsen: Any other announcements? The UW Research Undergraduate Research Symposium is on May 15th, I believe, or at least that's when I'm presenting. If you, I don't have a time slot. When I have a time slot, I'll tell you all the know but yeah. If there are no other announcements, I can accept motions

ADJOURNMENT

Dylan Bianchi moves to adjourn

Pierce Wallbaum seconds

Approved 3-2-0

Adjourned 5:16 pm

Minutes Prepared by Jothsna Sundar
Clerk for the ASUW Student Senate
