

CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION JR-32-1
BOARD BILL 5.05

32nd Session
2025-2026 Academic Year

Passed by the Board [Month
Day], 2025. YEAS XX NAYS XX.

Nandana Jaideep
President, Board of Directors

Passed by the GPSS December
3rd, 2025. YEAS 61 NAYS 0.



Ryan Wicklund
President, GPSS

CERTIFICATE

I, Erick Jacobsen, Speaker of the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE RESOLUTION JR-32-1** as passed by the Senate on the date set forth. Passed by the Senate January 7th, 2026. YEAS 81. NAYS 0.



Erick Jacobsen
Speaker, Student Senate



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION JR-32-1

A Joint Resolution for a Graduate and
Undergraduate Student Regent

Under Consideration - 2025-2026 Academic Year

A.S.U.W.

Fall Quarter 2025

32nd Session

Sponsored by Erick Jacobsen, *Speaker of the ASUW Senate*, and Ryan Wicklund, *President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate*.

Referred to Committee on On-Campus Affairs. Read on the floor
XX/XX/XXXX.

SUMMARY: For 28 years, the UW has had only one student regent, who has been either a graduate or undergraduate student. With such a wildly varying undergraduate and graduate experience, this has been a zero sum competition whereby only one perspective or the other is heard on the Board of Regents - more often than not, a graduate student who has not attended UW for their undergraduate education. Both perspectives are important, and so this bill seeks to establish a separate graduate and undergraduate student regent.

1 **WHEREAS** the Board of Regents of the University of Washington
2 consists of twelve Regents including a student Regent and a
3 faculty Regent [1]; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Student Regent position was introduced in the 1998-
5 1999 school year and, since then, has been filled by one student
6 each year, totaling 28 Student Regents [2]; and

7 **WHEREAS** out of these 28 Regents, 20 (71.4%) were enrolled in
8 graduate or professional programs and 8 (28.6%) were enrolled in
9 undergraduate programs [2]; and

10 **WHEREAS** out of the 20 graduate and professional Student Regents,
11 only 12 (42.8% of all Student Regents) had previously enrolled
12 in the University of Washington as undergraduate students, and 8
13 (28.6% of all Student Regents) had not [2]; and

14 **WHEREAS** in the past ten years, only two of the six graduate and
15 professional Student Regents (20% of all Student Regents over
16 that period) had previously enrolled in the University of

17 Washington as undergraduate students, indicating a decline in
18 that trend [2]; and

19 **WHEREAS** in the past ten years, only four of the ten Student
20 Regents (40% over that period) were undergraduate students [2];
21 and

22 **WHEREAS** 45,097 undergraduate students were enrolled in the
23 University of Washington across its three campuses in the 2024-
24 2025 school year, with 17,666 graduate and professional students
25 [3]; and

26 **WHEREAS** undergraduate students therefore comprise 71.9% of all
27 students at the UW, while only 40% of student regents in the
28 past ten years, and 28.6% of student regents overall have
29 represented this supermajority of the student population; and

30 **WHEREAS** even among the graduate and professional student
31 regents, the declining trend of "Double Dawgs" who earned their
32 Bachelor's Degree from the University of Washington has led to
33 further disconnect from the undergraduate experience at UW, and
34 the shorter length of most graduate and professional programs
35 further exacerbates Student Regents' lack of familiarity with
36 the intricacies of UW as an institution; and

37 **WHEREAS** only two Student Regents (7.1%) have hailed from the
38 Tacoma campus of UW, and only one (3.6%) has hailed from Bothell
39 [2], despite Tacoma comprising 8% of the UW population and
40 Bothell comprising 9.6% [3], representing a more minor but still
41 persistent underrepresentation within the UW Student Regent
42 position; and

43 **WHEREAS** much of the disproportionate representation of graduate
44 and professional students in the Student Regent position can be
45 attributed to the fact that graduate and professional students
46 already have a Bachelor's Degree and therefore are more likely
47 to have more experience in leadership, meaning that
48 undergraduate student applicants are always disadvantaged when
49 applying for the position, since the hiring committee is more
50 likely to be focused on one's raw qualifications for the
51 position than the benefit that could be brought by bringing in a
52 perspective consistent with the vast majority of students; and

53 **WHEREAS** the Student Regent is not charged with representing the
54 student body, but does bring a student perspective to how
55 certain policies and actions may benefit or hinder the mission
56 of the UW and its duty to advance the education and experience
57 of its students, providing a valuable service which cannot be
58 understated; and

59 **WHEREAS** the undergraduate experience is incredibly important to
60 the direction and decisions of the UW, since it represents the
61 vast majority of the UW experience, and reflects on the wide
62 success or failure of certain policies or decisions; and

63 **WHEREAS** the graduate and professional experience is still
64 equally important, as it is a major source of UW's R-1 research
65 institution status and brings millions of dollars of funding
66 into UW as well as national attention and prestige; and

67 **WHEREAS** the difference between the undergraduate and the
68 graduate or professional student experience is a lot starker
69 than the difference between any individual college or program,
70 and is a lot more affected by the current structure of the
71 position than any such factors; and

72 **WHEREAS** an undergraduate Student Regent is unable to bring a
73 full perspective on UW's graduate and professional programs and
74 a graduate or professional Student Regent is historically unable
75 to bring a full perspective on UW's undergraduate programs,
76 leaving all singular student regents at a significant
77 disadvantage in fulfilling the duties of their role; and

78 **WHEREAS** having one Student Regent has led to a zero-sum
79 competition whereby EITHER graduate students OR undergraduate
80 students get their backgrounds represented in the Board of
81 Regents, often at cost to each other, despite the vast
82 importance of both perspectives; and

83 **WHEREAS** the lack of proportionate representation has been
84 identified as a concern of ASUW and GPSS, who collectively
85 represent 53,063 of the 62,763 students in the UW system;

86 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE**
87 **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AND THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL**
88 **STUDENT SENATE:**

89 **THAT** a seat shall be added to the University of Washington Board
90 of Regents which shall only be open to undergraduate students
91 enrolled at any of UW's three campuses; and

92 **THAT** the current seat of the Student Regent shall be restricted
93 to students enrolled in graduate or professional programs at any
94 of UW's three campuses; and

95 **THAT** the existing committee for the selection of the Student
96 Regent be tasked with reviewing and approving candidates for
97 both positions, with the final decision on both seats falling
98 ultimately to the Governor of Washington State; and

99 **THAT** this modification of the Student Regent position be
100 implemented for the 2026-2027 school year if possible, or
101 otherwise as soon as is permitted by the legal and
102 administrative procedures currently required to approve such a
103 decision; and

104 **THAT** this legislation be forwarded by GAVEL to:

Board of Regents | *University of Washington*

Robert Jones | President, *University of Washington*

Joe Dacca | Vice President of External Affairs, *University of Washington*

Aarti Bhat | Chair, *UW Faculty Senate*

References:

[1] **Current Board of Regents** (2025).

<https://www.washington.edu/regents/officers/>

[2] **EAC Elections Records: List of Historical Student Regents** (2025).

[3] **UW Fast Facts** (2025). <https://www.washington.edu/opb/uw-data/fast-facts/fast-facts-html-only/>