If you would like to add items to the agenda, please email the Executive Vice President by the Wednesday before Senate meetings. Minor edits to this agenda can also be suggested over email. Pay close attention to the Guest Speaker. You are expected to engage in conversation and ask pertinent questions. Some prior research is encouraged so that questions and comments are well-informed.

Here’s the agenda:

- **5:30 | Call to Order**
  - Approval of Senate Meeting #7 Minutes
    - **Approved as written**
  - Approval of Senate Meeting #8 Agenda
    - **Approved as written**

- **5:31 | Old Business**
  - Exception to By-Laws Vote
    - General election dates depend on the spring break, but there is no spring break in 2021.
    - The proposed exception is to keep the General Election as if there were a spring break for the 2021-2022 General Election.
    - The Bylaws refer to Spring Break is around March 15th, 2021.
    - **By-Laws for the General Election date of 2021 was approved.**

- **5:35 | Announcements**
  - Appointment vote for Senator at-large representing the College of Communication
    - **Jo Ann Arinder nomination was approved as the Senator at-large representing the college of communication.**
  - PDI Updates
    - This semester, you can get the zoom link right after your registration. If you have a question, you can contact PDI at gpsa.pd@wsu.edu
    - Whole PDI calendar: [https://gradschool.wsu.edu/pdi/2020-2021-pdi-event-calendar/](https://gradschool.wsu.edu/pdi/2020-2021-pdi-event-calendar/)
      - 1/28/2021, 1-3 pm: Writing Workshop Series: Literature Reviews
      - 2/2/2021, 12-2: pm: Industry Resumes & LinkedIn Presence
      - 2/4/2021, 12-1 pm: Working Effectively in Teams on
2/9/2021, 12-2 pm: Tax Help for Graduate and Professional Students

- Programming Upcoming Events
  - Bingo Night, Register by January 28 at [https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0qzh4xli5CUkIkd](https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0qzh4xli5CUkIkd)
  - Virtual Paining: Register by February 7, 2021 at [https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOAfLJ4DvFNcO5U](https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOAfLJ4DvFNcO5U)
    - Canvas and paint will be provided by GPSA.
  - Virtual Dining: Register by February 21, 2021 at [https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nQgl3WjXOaOqmW](https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nQgl3WjXOaOqmW)
    - The virtual dining chose for Saturday as it is complete meal and it need preparation.

- Open Committees
  - Please inform your departments that there is one vacant position for University Committee (Research and Art Committee- 1 vacant position)
  - If you are interested, email gpsa.university@wsu.edu

- Coug Day/February 1
  - We need 10 graduate students to participate.
  - Coug day is the day that students have been taken to the Olympia to talk to the legislative directly about student’s issues during their higher education.
    - This year, the Coug Day meeting is virtual, 15 minutes meeting and we meet 4 or 5 people. Feel free to contact gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu if you have any questions.

- Graduate Student Concerns:
  - Based on the provided link from the Faculty Senate Opposed Division of University Funds for WSU Athletics: [https://facsen.wsu.edu/documents/2021/01/ad-hoc-athletics-committee-response.pdf/](https://facsen.wsu.edu/documents/2021/01/ad-hoc-athletics-committee-response.pdf/), it is important that students and faculties from different department share their opinions about this topic and how it will affect their situations.
    - [https://facsen.wsu.edu/2021/01/19/ad-hoc-committee-response-to-athletic-funding/](https://facsen.wsu.edu/2021/01/19/ad-hoc-committee-response-to-athletic-funding/)
  - Related to the new UK-COVID variant in Washington, if different departments are planning to provide double masking for the students and staff or if WSU has any plan for this condition.
• There is no decision on the university level. GPSA has requested to purchase masks for the students but it is not approved.

• IAC: General Election information
  • Applications for the GPSA of 2021-2022 will be open on February 1st, 2021, at 12:01 AM and it will be closed on February 15th, 2021 at 11.59 PM.
  • If you are interested, fill the application during this period.
  • You can apply for several positions, you can take your chance and fill out separate application forms, but you cannot serve in several positions.
  • Link: https://gpsa.wsu.edu/general-elections-2021/

• IAC: Academic Unit Contact Information request
  o Each Senator should fill this form to help the GPSA to have the long-term contact information of each academic unit (for example Academic Coordinator of your department) in case there is a vacant senator position.
  • Link: https://wsu.presence.io/form/academic-unit-contact-information

• IAC: GPSA Testimonials
  • GPSA is celebrating the 50th anniversary celebration year, we are asking for senators that currently serve on GPSA or they have served before, share their experience as a video or written testimonial to share your experience
  • Link: https://wsu.presence.io/form/2021-gpsa-testimonial-submission

• Research Expo
  • There will be a virtual Research Expo this year. The abstract submission is different this year, only one abstract is needed for both the academic showcase and research expo and there will be one question that will ask you if you want to participate in the competition of the GPSA or not.
  • February 1, 2021 the link will be provided.

• 6:00 | Guest Speaker – Dr. Lisa Gloss, Dean, Graduate School, WSU
• 6:00-6:15 | Dialogue with Dean Gloss- Q & A Pre-submitted questions
  • Q1. What is the likelihood of vaccinations for faculty, staff, and students? Return to in-person learning in the Fall? Is the university working towards getting faculty, staff, and graduate students COVID vaccination this semester?
    o I hope I know the answer to these questions, but the email that was shared from the Graduate School on Monday 1/25/2021 is the university update.
    o Vaccination of the faculty and students is a topic related to the state and the governor. There is a link for vaccine phase finder and vaccine
location that will help students to get informed: 
https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/vaccine Or 
https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/VaccineInformation/

- It is a phase finder tool from the state Department of Health. You can also put in contact information optionally to get a message when you may be eligible for a vaccine.

- Q2. Do graduate students qualify as “University educators” in WA’s later list of important workers?
  - There is an argument about adding the graduate students on the teaching assistantship to this category as well. There is some talk about it with the governor at the university level, and it might not happen until late in the spring semester.

- Q3. Can or will the grad school mandate COVID-19 testing multiple times per semester?
  - I cannot mandate it, but I would encourage students to get the test on a periodic basis until the free testing is available on the campus. It is recently mandated for the new arrival graduate students.
  - To get information about vaccination and CougarHealth info about dependence living with graduate students, please check this link: 
https://cougarhealth.wsu.edu/medical-clinic/services/covid-testing/

- Q4. Can you please provide an update on the efforts that we discussed last semester on improving mentorship training for professors who mentor grad students?
  - A couple of readings from the University of Michigan and the University of Cornell have been done to see how the training is for them. Also, some people have identified with some taskforce related to this issue. The Graduate school will contact the associate dean of each college and will be provided with the training documents to share with the faculties.

- Q5. Despite recommendations about lightening coursework or adjusting milestone deadlines, many professors continue to maintain high expectations during what is an especially draining time. What advice do you have for graduate students who are overwhelmed and have been unsuccessful in communicating this with their mentors or professors?
  - Try to have a zoom meeting with your advisor one more time related to this issue. If this is not helpful, there are some resources for the students. Find a neutral party like Ombudsman if your department has
one of them and please let your department chair know about this issue.

- Check the link below for more contact Ombudsman: [https://ombudsman.wsu.edu/](https://ombudsman.wsu.edu/) or contact the graduate dean of your college [https://provost.wsu.edu/administration/associate-deans/](https://provost.wsu.edu/administration/associate-deans/)

### Q6. From your perspective, what are the most important graduate students’ concerns the administration should be working on, and what initiatives are underway in these areas?

- The topics that the GPSA working groups are currently working on are the top priority such as stipend levels. I have reviewed all the stipend levels in different programs that are about a hundred thousand lines of the data in the excel that I am piling up in the 5000 lines of data. A report about this stipend level is being prepared for the Provost. We know that the stipend is low, but we need to figure out how low it is. This report will be shared with the GPSA executive board as an aggregated data not raw. The reason for sharing aggregated information is to be fair to the department that has few graduate students and sharing information can be counted as personal data.

- The second important topic is taking care of students’ health concerns. Last year one graduate assistantship was specified to work in the health promotions area. She put together a survey and analyzed the data of what are the concerns and problems and mental health for the students. This information has shared with the president and provost.

- The other problem is that the healthcare insurances are not covering as much as they were doing in the past and the costs are high as most of the Lab blood testing that is done by the third party.

- Another related issue is negotiating the health insurance that GPS is working on it as well. We need to be sure that there is no more erosion on the insurance coverage.

### Q7. What will be the format for classes for summer/fall 2021? Along the same lines, what does a potential transition back to in-person in the fall look like?

- Summer is planned but it is related to the COVID. Summer will be hybrid of virtual and in-person classes. For fall it is planned for robust in-person classes. It will be related to the vaccination and the COVID.

### Q8. Is there any chance of an in-person graduation ceremony this spring? If so, what would be the necessary conditions for this event to occur?
The chance of having an in-person graduation ceremony is zero. They are trying something new that is a virtual online system-wide graduation ceremony for all of the campuses at the same time instead of having separate ceremonies.

We will try something to recognize our graduate students separately.

You can also delay your walk-in graduation ceremony for later, but you should contact the graduate school and don’t delay the walk-in graduation too much.

- 6:15-6:20 Break
- 6:20-6:45 Open Floor

Upcoming Elections – Chairs will speak about their jobs!

- You can see the GPSA committee chair's work here: [https://www.gpsa.wsu.edu/resources/what-we-are-working-on/](https://www.gpsa.wsu.edu/resources/what-we-are-working-on/)
- **Jennifer Johnson** (President and Executive Board Chair): Attending a lot of meetings such as university meetings and communicate with the president of WSU, provost, dean of the graduate school, and quick check-in and answer. President needs to be able to answer the positives and negative emails and try to help solve the problem of the students.
- **Samantha Edgerton** (Executive Vice President and Budget Chair): Facilitate senate meetings, gathering information for the agenda, editing senate meeting minutes, and send it out. Most of the vice-president's duty is around the budget and contact the budget committee and deal with the costs and budget cuts.
- **James Dalton** (VP of Legislative Affairs and Legislative Affairs Chair): Attend a lot of meetings and focus on the advocacy of the GPSA. During the spring semester, it is heavy on the legislative session. Mostly heavy work on a topic related to the Federal government and legislative-based topics.
- **Anika VanDeen** (PDI Chair and College Representative representing Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture): Working with executive PDI committees. Set up the PDI events in the early semester and this semester was setting up zoom links. An in-person meeting was like providing food and set up a room.
- **Rachel Wong** (Programming Chair and College representing Representative College of Education): Organizing social events with students. Purchasing supplies and gift cards for the events. This year it was virtual.
o **Mikala Meize** (Internal Affairs Chair and College Representative representing College of Communication): Monitoring and maintaining the By Laws and constitutions. They update every year and if it is not working, it will be changed next year. The general election is under the control of internal affairs and gathers the data and votes.

o **Adnan Mohamed** (Communication Chair and College Representative At-Large representing CAHNRS): As a College Representative, duties include meeting CAHNRS dean and CAHNRS senators to answer students’ questions, address their concerns (i.e., stipend, health care, housing, transportation), and provide resources to help students. As a Communication Chair, duties include attending GPSA Executive Board meetings and GPSA Senate Meetings, taking GPSA Senate Meeting notes and Executive Board Meeting notes, updating the website, creating pages for resources and events on the website, sharing resources on GPSA Social Media, promoting events and resources on GPSA Social Media, working with WSU marketing and communication team to publish the bi-weekly Monday Minutes Newsletter, working with the GPSA communication committee, managing GPSA emails, and managing GPSA communication budget.

o **Rabayet Sadnan** (Awards & Scholarship Chair and College Representative representing College of Business): Arrange three events like dissertation grants, Research Expo, and then the Excellence Award. These events’ applications need to be evaluated and get analyzed.

o **Anastasia Vishnevskaya** (University and Student Affairs Chair and College Representative At-Large representing the Graduate School): Monitoring the issues related to the graduate and professional students on campus and tries to resolve the issue. Working groups like the three working groups that we had this year like housing, healthcare, and the stipend.

o **Arian Karimitar** (Grants Chair and College Representative representing College of Arts and Sciences): Travel grants and reviewing the applications and process them. This year it was very different. This committee is active during the summer as well since there is funding available. Pre-evaluation, post evaluation, and preparing reports for the applications each month and preparing reports for the fiscal communications. There are some meetings with the advisor.
• Breakout rooms – Discuss ways to recruit graduate candidates for GPSA positions.

• After discussion, we will take some time to hear responses.
  o Make the social media posts with more details.
  o Provide zoom meeting to discuss the opinions
  o Use Discord for sharing opinions
  o About new students that do not know about the GPSA
  o Talk to your advisor about the importance of your position to inform the professors.
  o When you talk to the previous senators, you can get more informed about the importance of the GPSA senator position.

• 6:45 - 7:10 | New Business
  • VP Corner – RSO Spring Awards – Vote
    In the next Senate meeting, we will vote on the RSO Funding Awards- Spring 2021 $1000+ Awards that include:
    - Clinical Psychology Graduate Student Organization- $1000
    - Biology Graduate Student Association- $1235
    - Prosser Graduate Student Association-$1000
    - English Graduate Organization- $1000
    - Food Engineering Club- $1469
    - American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering- $1000
  • Award and Scholarship Budget – Vote
    o This year, due to COVID, GPSA got the lower number of applications for the dissertation grants.
    o We have some money from the dissertation grants that can be used for the Research Expo and that is what we need to vote for it on the next meeting.
  • Legislative Affairs Update – Contact gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu
  • IAC: Apportionment Report
    Every year, before the general election, the internal affairs identify how many senators each academic unit receives. To have senator for your unit, you need to have at least 10 graduate students enrolled in the fall semester.
  • Baby Welcome Packages – Vote
    - Since there is no program in the WSU for the new parent graduate students to
      o Congratulate the graduate new moms.
      o Provide some information and update moms about their responsibilities.
Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#8
January 25, 2021
Via Zoom
5:30 PM

- We will make a sign-up link that parent can register and inform GPSA if they are planning to have baby. The actual budget is changed, and we will be voting on this topic on the next meeting.
  - Redistribution of Childcare Center budget - $1000
    The plan is for the baby welcome package to benefit both graduate student mothers and fathers (regardless of whether their spouse is a grad student)
  - Motion to extend the meeting for 10 minutes passed.

- 7:10-7:20 | Working Groups Update – Jenn Johnson
  - There are three working groups this year:
    - Healthcare: Push to reduce the cost of healthcare for the students and independence. Resources for healthcare are limited and we don’t know about the R&E student's health insurance and their resources. Dental is expensive.
    - Stipend: In the middle of the process since there is limited information about the stipend available to students
    - Housing: We have collected from Pullman and R&E centers and the information will be shared on the website. What is clear is that the housing costs are not comparable with the stipend level. The average housing has increased in the last 10 years, but the stipend has not changed.
  - The report has been sent to the legislative as well.

- 7:20 | Adjournment
Proposed Exception to the Bylaws

I. Current Bylaws:
   a. Article VII: Elections
      i. Specifically addressing the timeline of the General Election
      ii. Dates of the General Election are determined based on the dates of Spring Break.
         1. Executive Board Candidate Debate: occurs the Monday preceding Spring Break.
         2. General Election Ballot: available immediately following the Executive Board Candidate Debate until the Friday preceding Spring Break.
         3. Preliminary Results: posted to the GPSA website the first Monday following Spring Break.
         4. Confirmation Vote: first Senate following Spring Break.

II. Proposed Exception:
   a. Article VII: Elections
      i. For the General Election taking place in the 2021 Spring Semester, all aspects of the General Election will proceed as if the week of March 15th were still Spring Break.
      ii. This specifically affects the Executive Board Candidate Debate, the General Election Ballot availability, the posting of the Preliminary Results, and the Confirmation Vote from the Senate.
         1. Executive Board Candidate Debate: occurs the Monday preceding the week of March 15th.
         2. General Election Ballot: available immediately following the Executive Board Candidate Debate until the Friday preceding the week of March 15th.
         3. Preliminary Results: posted to the GPSA website the first Monday following the week of March 15th.
         4. Confirmation Vote: first Senate following the week of March 15th.
## Apportionment GPSA General Elections 2021

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The lists below are not meant to be comprehensive. If you need clarification or have any questions, please contact the corresponding individual.

**President’s Report – Jenn Johnson**

- **Tasks Completed**
  - Final budget forms for semester
  - Completed agendas for meetings with Admin
  - Finalized scholarships
  - Completed community resource guide
  - Planned for 50th anniversary events.
  - Updated resources on GSPSA website
  - Finalized Housing Working Group report
- **Meetings Attended**
  - Community Affairs Committee meeting
  - GPSA Senate
  - GPSA Exec Team meetings
  - Meeting with Graduate School to discuss census surve
  - Palouse Active Transportation planning meeting
  - GPSA Exec Board meetings
  - Meeting with WSU Children’s Center
  - SGC meetings to discuss legislative agenda
  - Faculty Senate
  - Met with VP Mary Jo to discuss GPSA concerns
  - Met with Dean Gloss to discuss GPSA concerns
  - Met with AVPS to discuss GPSA concerns
  - Met with Housing Working Group to go through data and finalize report
  - Met with Student Involvement to finalize budget issues
  - Attended WSA Board of Directors meeting
  - Met with President’s Office to discuss CAP trail and student support

**Vice President’s Report – Samantha Edgerton**

- **Tasks Completed**
  - Finalized Spring RSO decisions along with Budget Committee
  - Sent out RSO Spring funding decision letters
  - Created agenda for Senate meeting #7
  - Facilitated Senate meeting #7
  - Sent out Senate #7 meeting minutes
Facilitated RSO funding application reviews with Budget Committee
Helped finalize scholarships
Planned for Spring 2021 Senate guest invites.

Meetings Attended
- GPSA Senate
- GPSA Exec Team meetings
- Budget Committee meetings
- GPSA Exec Board meetings
- Meeting with WSU Children’s Center
- Faculty Senate
- GPSA meeting with VP Mary Jo
- GPSA meeting with Dean Gloss
- GPSA meeting with AVPs
- Met with Office of International Affairs

Vice President of Legislative Affairs Report – James Dalton

Tasks Completed
- Worked on written testimony for House and Senate Higher Ed Committee
- Arranged testimony for multiple students
- Registered with Public Disclosure Commission
- Worked on Bill of Rights drafts
- Worked on Legislative Strategic Plan and Bill Tracker
- Legislative Affairs Committee Review
- Scheduled meetings for Coug Day
- Created Legislative One Pagers for legislative Agenda items
- Scheduled legislator meetings

Meetings Attended
- Legislative Affairs Committee
- GPSA Senate
- GPSA Exec Team
- GPSA Exec Board
- Student Government Council
- SGC Legislative Committee
- VP Mary Jo
- Dean Gloss
- Student Affairs AVPs
- President Shulz and Provost Chilton
- International Student Programs
- Attended multiple meetings of WA House and Senate Committees on:
  - College and Workforce Development
Graduate and Professional
Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#8
January 25, 2021
Via Zoom
5:30 PM

- Health Care and Wellness/Long Term Care
- State Government & Tribal Relations
- Early learning and K-12
- Ways and Means

- Multiple Meetings with
  - Senator Randall (Chair of Senate College and Workforce Development)
  - Representative Slatter (Chair of House College and Workforce Dev.)
  - Senator Nobles (Vice Chair of Senate Higher Ed & Workforce Development)
  - Chris Mulick (WSU Director of State Relations)

- WSA
  - WSA legislative Laison Planning meetings
  - WSA Legislative Laison Training
  - WSA Student Supports Group
  - WSA Graduate Students Issues Group
  - WSA Executive Director
  - WSA Board of Directors

- Friends of the Future Coalition
- Representative Pollet
- WSU Student Veterans Task Force
- Student Veterans TF Subcommitteee on Program Development, Training and Outreach
- Student Veterans TF Subcommittee on Strategic Plan and Operating Budget
- WSU Working Group on UNIV Courses

Chair of Awards and Scholarships – Rabayet Sadnan
  - Tasks Completed
    - Disburse Dissertation Grant for Fall 2020 semester
    - Strategic plan for Research Expo
  - Meetings Attended
    - 11/30: Senate meeting
    - 12/1: Executive board meeting
    - 12/8: Executive board meeting
    - 1/15: Showcase/Research Expo meeting
    - 1/20: Fees Committee meeting
    - 1/21: Executive board meeting

Chair of Communications Report – Adnan Mohamed
  - Tasks Completed
    - 1/5/21 GPSA Monday Minutes
1/5/21 GPSA Monday Minutes
Posted on Social Media
Created events on the Website
Updated University, scholarship, grants pages on the website
Assigned GPSA Senate Minutes Notetaking to GPSA Communications Committee

Meetings Attended
- 1/21/21 Executive board meeting
- 1/22/21 University Marketing and Communications Website Admin and Coordinator, GPSA Scholarship Chair

Chair of Community Affairs – VACANT

Chair of Internal Affairs Report – Mikala Meize

Tasks Completed
- Created General Election Filing Forms in Presence
- Created contact information request in Presence
- Updated General Election website
- Created General Election advertisement materials
- Calculated Senator Apportionment for 2021-2022
- Completed Healthcare working group report
- Moved Open Application/Regular Nomination forms to Presence

Meetings Attended
- 11/30: Senate
- 12/1: Graduate survey meeting
- 12/1: Executive board meeting
- 12/8: Executive board meeting
- 12/11: WSU PD Advisory Board meeting
- 12/15: Healthcare working group meeting
- 1/8: WSU PD advisory board meeting
- 1/21: Executive board meeting

Chair of Programming Report – Rachel Wong

Meetings:
- Put together prizes for event winners
- Planned for spring 2021 events
- Advertised Welcome Back Bingo
- Put together registration forms for U-Fit 4.0 & Welcome Bingo
- Planned 50th anniversary events
• Scheduled programming committee meeting
• Scheduled meetings for upcoming events with respective individuals in charge
  o Tasks:
    • 11/30: GPSA Senate
    • 12/1: Exec board meeting
    • 12/3: Meeting with Dean Trevisan
    • 12/3: Meeting about gift card policy
    • 12/3: CUB advisory board meeting
    • 12/8: Exec board meeting
    • 12/4: Christmas Bingo
    • 12/11: Virtual paint night planning meeting
    • 12/11: Meeting with new prog comm member – Brittany (woohoo)
    • 12/15: Healthcare working group meeting
    • 12/18: GPSA 50th Anniversary planning meeting
    • 1/7: Meeting with WSU Dining Services
    • 1/12: GPSA Sponsorship meeting with Jose
    • 1/21: Exec board meeting

Chair of Professional Development Report – Anika VanDeen
  o Tasks:
    • created zoom links for the new events
    • created poll for finding a meeting time with PDI committee
    • Sent out meeting invite
    • Updated slide for slides for event powerpoint slides
    • Creating IRI for the request for expenditures this semester
  o Meetings:
    • PDI executive meetings
    • 11/30 GPSA Senate
    • 12/1 Exec board meeting
    • 12/8 Exec board meeting
    • 1/21 Exec board meeting

Chair of Travel Grants Report – Arian Karimitar
  o Tasks:
    • Working on Zoomgrants renewal contract
    • Search for a new platform
    • Plan the revisions of Travel Grant criteria, guides, website, and documents with committee members
  o Meetings:
    • 11/30 GPSA Senate
Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#8
January 25, 2021
Via Zoom
5:30 PM

- 12/1 Exec board meeting
- 12/8 Exec board meeting
- 12/9 Travel Grant Committee Meeting
- 12/9 Meeting with Chloe Campbell and TaMisha Great House
- 12/11 Meeting with Jenn Johnson, TaMisha Great House, and Sam Edgerton
- 12/11 Meeting with a Travel Grant Applicant
- 12/17 Pullman Strategic Plan Committee Meeting
- 1/21 Exec board meeting

Chair of University and Student Affairs Report – Anastasia Vishnevskaya

- Tasks:
  - Edited Strategic Plan
  - Worked on stipends working group report.
  - Updated university committees’ information

- Meetings:
  - 11/30: Senate
  - 12/1; 12/8; 1/21 Executive board meeting
  - 12/2: RAC Meeting
  - 12/9: University Affairs Meeting