



**GPSA Meeting Minutes**  
**October 23, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

**To join via Zoom:**

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/91407917022?pwd=U1UyMFBxWENreG5ScGFiN3B6Q2YvZz09>

Meeting ID: 914 0791 7022

Passcode: 598325

**GPSA Senate Attendance Form:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/GSqts8TZjT>

**GPSA Senate Absence Request Form:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/YUiuuW1Pq1>

**Issue response form**

<https://forms.office.com/r/XD82BGiV5K>

If you want 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:**

- 05:30 | Call to Order
  - ☞ Approval of Last Meeting` Minutes
    - <https://forms.office.com/r/MMqSQcqmj0>
      - **Hannah Martian:** I motion for the approval of the October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes.
      - **Sarah Gruntmeir:** Second
      - **Do you approve the minutes?**
        - **Yes:** 44
        - **No:** 0
        - **Abstain:** 1
      - **Marwa Aly:** So, we reach you the majority and we have approved the 10/09/2023 meeting minutes.
    - ☞ Approval of the Agenda
      - <https://forms.office.com/r/cbDYx7GV5e>
        - **Hannah Martian:** I motion for the approval of the October 23, 2023 agenda.
        - **Jeremy Boutin:** Second



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- **Do you approve the minutes?**
  - Yes: 48
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 1
- **Marwa Aly:** So, we reach you the majority and we have approved the 10/23/2023 agenda.
- 05:45 | Guest speaker
  - ☞ WESKA. Please share as many questions as possible with our guest speakers using the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/EBg6uqh2Gz>
  - ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** “What motivated WESKA and What is CougarCage?” Dr.Arvin Sahaym (Director of WESKA), his primary job is to promote entrepreneurship for grad students. Students do not have to start a company but they can just build a mind of entrepreneurship. It is a leadership building mentality. The whole vision of WESKA is they share the concepts of non-business days so that they learn about managing research money, building a team. WESKA also invites lawyers who talk about intellectual properties.
  - ☞ **Arpita Sinha:** Any thoughts of having WESKA during Spring as during summer many grad students do not get paid so they usually are not here in Pullman?
  - ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** We can definitely discuss probable dates.
  - ☞ **Marwa Aly:** WESKA is free.
  - ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** We can also make living accommodations and we provide meals.
  - ☞ **Marwa Aly:** Is there any opportunity for consulting? Many of my colleagues from Anthropology want to do consulting.
  - ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** Yes. You will learn that in WESKA.
  - ☞ **Arpita Sinha:** Is there a hybrid option?
  - ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** No online option is available as of now, but that is a thought.
  - ☞ **Stephen Onayemi:** May I suggest the beginning of semester or a hybrid option for WESKA?
  - ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** : I agree beginning of the semester is good idea and maybe we can offer some sessions online. I can go to my Dean with these proposals and get back to you.
  - ☞ **Marwa Aly:** Do we have any resources for funding?
  - ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** Many WSU alumni are very good with giving us funding.
  - ☞ **Marwa Aly:** Do we have any resources for start up



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- ☞ **Tathagata Pal:** If there is an investor is investing into your idea, do they have any share or intellectual rights to your idea?
- ☞ **Arvin Sahaym:** There are different angels that from
- ☞ **Marwa Aly:** We filed our patent before going to the investors.
- 06:15 | New Business
  - ☞ Update from the GPSA Legislative Affairs Committee
  - ☞ **Tathagata Pal:** Updates from legislative works from the last couple of weeks by VPLA Pal:
    - Pal was in DC and had 4 meetings over the week
    - He was accompanied by Jacob Dowd from WSU federal offices
    - They visited the following offices:
      - US Senator Patty Murray
      - US Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
      - US Representative Pramila Jayapal
      - House office on Education & Workforce
    - They discussed the following issues:
      - Federal research funding
      - International students' visa
      - Mental health (supporting the CTA)
      - Childcare issue
    - The offices were really happy and appreciative that GPSA took the efforts to go to DC and are taking these initiatives
    - The committee has began drafting a follow up email with a thank you and overview of what was discussed
    - The GPSA VPLA and President attended the SGC Vancouver meeting
      - This is a meeting across all WSU campus
      - They discussed the Coug day agenda
      - GPSA has 3 topics on the agenda, which were all passed during the meeting
        1. Housing
        2. Parking
        3. Childcare
    - WSU GA in Ellensburg meeting attended by 3 GPSA members (Marwa, Pal and Arpita)
      - GPSA proposed the following:
        1. Housing – Passed



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2. Parking – Failed (This might be due to other campuses in larger cities not having enough parking spaces for students)
  3. Childcare – Already on WSU agenda
  4. Mental health – Already on WSU agenda
  - UW Tacoma had parking on their agenda, and it passed
    - Instead of asking for reserved parking spaces for students, they asked for reduced fees for parking
- **Arpita Sinha:**
  - **Tathagata Pal:**
  - **Arpita Sinha:**
- ☞ GPSA Travel grant: VOTE on the Proposal to adjust reimbursement caps  
<https://forms.office.com/r/DJjzZM2SzV>
- **Attah Austine:** Proposed changing caps for international and domestic travels.
  - Questions:
    - **Di Mu:** My fellow grad students have great concern about lowering of the caps.
    - **Attah Austine:** The decision to decrease the caps is also coming with the decision to remove the subjective grading. Thus, we might have a greater number of applications.
    - **Tathagata Pal:** I was in a meeting with the last Travel grant chair Ahhria, and she showed me the numbers.
    - **Amir Hossein Moadab:** We should prepare for fluctuations instead of averages. Is it a first come first served.
    - **Attah Austine:** We do not have a first come first serve.
  - **Tathagata Pal:** I motion to approve the proposal to adjust reimbursing caps.
  - **Ajay Barman:** Second
  - **Do you approve the proposed plan to adjust reimbursement cap for travel grants:**
    - **Yes:** 30
    - **No:** 10
    - **Abstain:** 8
  - 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of votes needed to pass the motion so the motion was passed.
  - Niyi Ogunkoya: I am against the calculation of the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> definition.
  - **Marwa Aly:** We pass the proposed
- ☞ GPSA Fundraising



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- **Ajay Barman:** what today we are going to talk have like a brief discussion about the GPS fundraising from the summer till until yesterday, our executive board member. We were trying our brainstorming like gathering ideas from our advisor, from our AWS counterpart about organizing something for the GPSA fundraising. So the best thing about fundraising is the amount of money we will be able to collect that will stay with GPSA. Even after the academic year. What happened with the SNA Fee fees when we get the money from a SNA committee after the end of academic year. Any remaining of the money we have to give them back? Oh. do the low enrollment at WSU or GPSA funding is like, keep getting reduced. So, I think this will be a very good time if we can organize something to raise our funds. But the problem with our fundraising is the historical knowledge that how we can organize this that is like completely gone because we don't know when is the last time GPSa will organize something this kind of event. But fortunately we have our advisors. We have our Assistant Vice Chancellor from graduate school, our ASW counterpart. They are helping us to brainstorm or to like, facilitate this kind of event. Also, one thing we learned that we need to come up with a particular calls for the fundraising event. As a GPSA member, we do like many work. But when we are asking from a potential donor. We need to ask for a very specific reason only that way it will be like a successful event. So today, on October 20 third, in front of the Senate. We will discuss, like few of the potential causes that we can choose. and we have to pick only one from them. And it's up to the whole Senate to choose that particular cost for GPSA. So, what will happen moving forward throughout the semester after finalizing the course the best thing to do is dedicate few people to organize this event. We all will be like on board of organizing this thing, but it will be very helpful for us if only few people are completely dedicated towards organizing this that way, we can achieve like the best outcomes. So, the I and all these dates that I'm mentioning as a timeline. These are like, just the preliminary idea. Nothing is like finalized. Yet, just to give you an idea what it might look like. So, by November 20, our Oh, Marlo, can we go back to the previous slide? Yeah. So, by the November 20, our plan is to have, like a special committee which will be dedicated towards this fundraising event, and we will choose one chair for the committee. Now, one thing to understand that it is a lot of work, and it is going to be a voluntary work. So if you are



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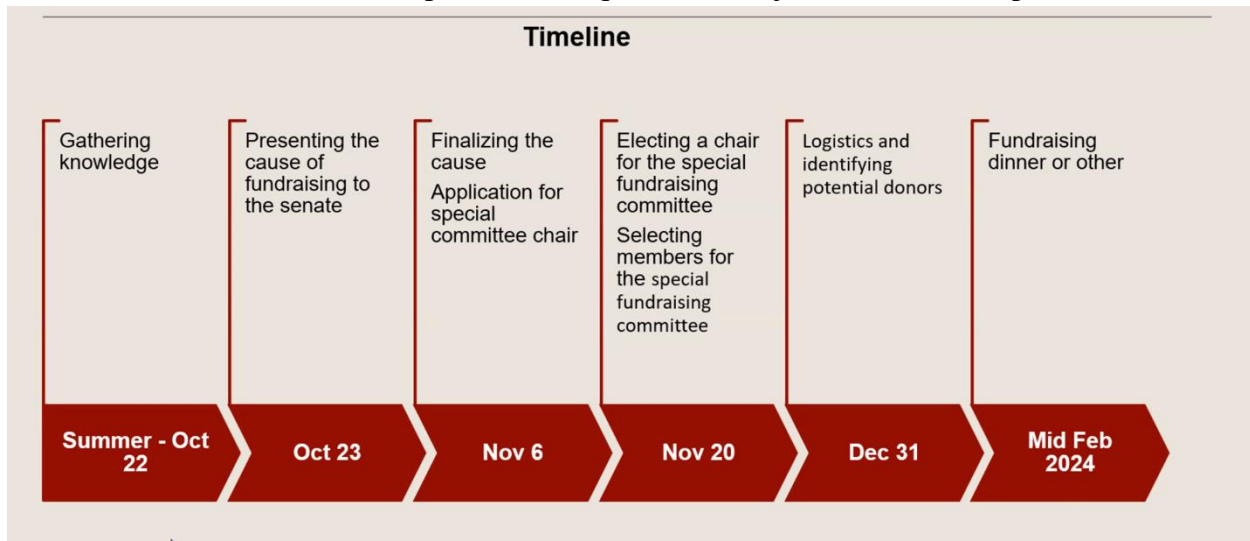
passionate about fundraising, you are welcome. But GPSA soon be able to compensate financially for your work. But if we work but if you are willing you are welcome. So by the end of this year. If we finalize the logistics and whom to reach out as a potential donor. then the idea is next year, during mid-february we will be able to organize this fundraising event right now, the idea is to organize a dinner event, but that is like up for discussion. It's not finalized right now. So here are the 3 potential calls that we can choose as our as our like aim and we have to select only one like these 3 are options, and this is like up for debate up to the Senators and offer voting. As we can say that we can choose one. So first one is our RSO Funding. and I tried to summarize the pros and cons for all these 3 3 causes. But we can talk like the whole day about the pros and cons, and there will be like a number of things that we can talk about. These are only like preliminary idea. And also it's like subjective. I write it down. You might agree or disagree with me. And because there is like no right or wrong answer when we will move for the when we will reach out to the donors. It's up for the donors like which course feels based for them. Marwa, can we go back to the previous slide, please. So yeah, for the ROS Funding, if we choose this one as our like calls. we already have, like well established RSO groups at WSU. And GPSA have, like a dedicated budget towards to support them. But if we raise money for the RSO. Group and use that budget for the RSO. We can use the current RSO budget for our different causes within GPS, and maybe for programming, maybe for community affairs, even, maybe for travel. Grant and RSO. Funding would be a good like a good cause, because usually any student feel like personally connected to one or more artistic group. Also, if we have like more budget for RSO. Funding, maybe in the future people will get motivated to open their new RSO. Which is like not present right now, but also the con is GPSA will not be using the money on their own. So we have to trust the RSO group which are already present to use the proper utilization of the money. So we have to have like a trust base with them. So, moving forward to our next course, childcare, it's a Nobel cost, but also at the same time, even though childcare goes like a significant impact on our graduates on parents. This course will be unable to reach. Like not large number of student, because significant number of students do not have child care responsibility. Moving forward for the travel. Grant GPSA is like a research institute, and as a Ph.D. Student, as a master student, we



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do need to go for like conferences that will help us forward academic success. But on the flip side it cost a lot. If we able to like raise, maybe, like 3,000 with 3,000, we will be only able to provide, like maybe 2 or 3 student with their travel. Grant. on the contrary, for the artists of funding, if we have 3,000, if we donate the money to artists to group. Maybe 100 or 200 student who are in that. Artists subgroup will be benefited and moving forward to our next slide. Yeah. Yeah, so, moving forward to our next slide so please talk with your constituency. Talk with your fellow student, with your Lab mates, with your friends who are graduate students and tell them about this 3 causes and vote before, on or before October thirty-first. That which one you think is the best idea, and we will go based on that.

- Today we discussed a few potential causes
  - RSO funding, childcare, and travel grant
  - The pros and cons of each are in the image below
  - Voting on the 3 causes can be completed here:  
[https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7OIkp6fzFvv058](https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7OIkp6fzFvv058)





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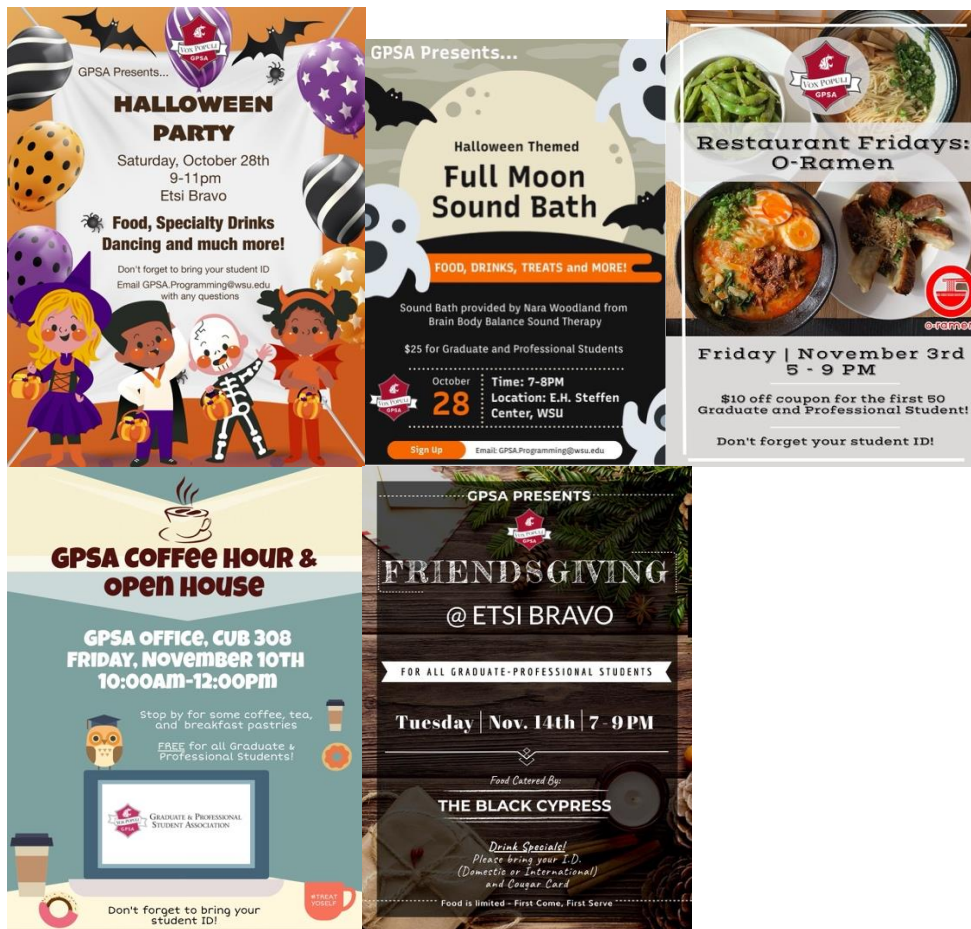
Cause	Pros	Cons
<b>RSO Funding</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Diversity and Inclusivity.</li> <li>Most students feel a personal connection to one or more RSO groups.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GPSA won't be directly using the money.</li> </ol>
<b>Childcare</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noble cause.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to reach out to large number of student population.</li> </ol>
<b>Travel grant</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote academic success.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extremely high expenditure per student.</li> </ol>

- 07:20 | 10-min Open discussion
- **Jeremy Boutin:** Hello, everyone so really quick for the sake of time. Obviously, you know, the programming committee is responsible for all of the fun events for GPSA. So, this upcoming Saturday we have our 2 Halloween related events. The full Moon Sound bath, and our Halloween party at sea. Bravo! Make sure if you want to attend the sound bath. Just give me a quick email. It's listed on the flyer and then for our November events, we have 3 coming up our restaurant Friday, which you all love is going to be at O. Raman on November third. We also have a GPS. A coffee hour and open house so this will be a way to open up our GPSA, office to senators, graduate students, just people who want to learn more about what we do and stop by for coffee and free food and we will also be having our friends giving at Etsy. Bravo! We did it for the first-time last year, and it was a huge success. So, we will be kicking off the tradition again and a huge shout out to the Community Affairs Committee. They are the ones primarily paying for our Halloween party as well as friends giving. So I'd like to give them a huge round of applause and that is all I got. For the sake of time. If you have any questions, feel free to shoot me an email.





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- **Ajay Barman:** Hi, everyone I want to remind everyone that our GPS Executive Board member. Everyone has their dedicated 1 h per week in our GPS office as in as their office over. So if you want to talk about like programming, if you want to talk about a travel, Grant, the chair has 1 h dedicated office over in our GPS office. So please visit our office. We would love to hear from you.
- **Niya Ogunkoya:** My concern is just a recap of our discussion tonight, especially on the motion that came in. And all of those, I want to clearly state that this floor, the flow of the GPSA is not on autopilot, and as such we may not always agree on things. So nobody should take that as an offense. I mean, we are not going to continually run this platform. We're not going to continually run this organization or association on autopilot. People will disagree, and where we are disgruntled that disagreement will be set to down. If we can settle it will lead to rest, to be revisited at other time. I mean that that's just my talk. Thank you.
- 07:30 | Adjournment