



## SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 24, 2025

In-person

CUB Junior Ballroom

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

05:30 | Meeting called to order by senate chair;

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- **Nazua Idris:** I motion to approve the GPSA Meeting Minutes for 2/3/2025.
- **Rose Maleki:** Second
- Voting Results:
  - Yes: 53
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority, and the motion has passed.

Approval of the 2/24/2025 Senate Meeting Agenda

- **Haden Kingrey:** I move to approve the GPSA Senate for 2/24/2025.
- **Folake Okor:** Second
- Voting Results
  - Yes: 49
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority, and the motion has passed.

New Business | Transport Fee Increase Request | Transit Advisory Group (TAG)

TAG Presentation - Isaac Velazquez, Chantal Torres Santos, Ali Maleki.

Questions & Answers

- **Gabby Rodriguez:** Well, thank you, everyone. First, I'll say my name is Gabby Rodriguez. I'm the transportation demand manager here at transportation services on the Pullman campus here with us today, of course, is Ali, who is your GPSA Vice president of legislative Affairs. He's a representative on the Transit Advisory group. Also, Isaac Velasquez, an all campus senator here which represents ASWSU, our director, Cody Wilson, is on the zoom today. Thanks, Cody, for being here. But most importantly, we wanted to say before we begin is thank you to the GPSA for allowing this time for those of you that have taken the time. I see we're upwards of 60 people in the meeting today. So, it's great to have the participation. GPSA has been a great partner with the transit advisory group advocating on behalf of

students for this for this very important student program. And so, before I click ahead, I want to give special thanks to Ajay, I'm not sure if Ajay. Is on. I can't see everyone in the meeting but Ajay and Marwa. I know Marwa graduated, thanks to PAL, and even though they may not be here, I wanted to at least recognize them for the work that they've done in the time and commitment that they've given to the Transit Advisory group and working closely with transportation services and other student leaders. My last shout out will be to, and I hope I don't butcher the name here. But Mozam Rind, who is on GPSA, and has provided some valuable feedback over the course of last semester that we were able to share directly with Pullman transit. So, thank you to you all, and I'll hand it off to Isaac. Thank you.

- **Isaac Velazquez:** I just want to echo Gabby's words. I want to thank you all for your time. I know you're all very busy people just quick stuff about me. I am an ASWSU all campus Senator. I've also been on tag the Trans advisory group for 2 years now, so I've had a joy working with a bunch of different leaders on that. So just a little bit about tag to start off TAG is a subgroup of the UTPPF. It essentially was made to review current finances and transit operations, and many of the student proposals that we see have been facilitated through this group. And you've seen probably plenty for those who have been here for a while. Flag Lane. The merge route proposal has been facilitated through this group and we can go ahead. And yeah, thanks. It's historically been made up of several student leaders from several organizations, including these listed, there's been ASWSU, GPSA, RHA, currently the access center has also had really important feedback for us over the last couple years. I'm not sure exactly when tags been around, but a little background on the program. One day, 1979, student went up to city council and said, hey, I need to get around town. I need to get around school and apartment land and whatnot. So since then, the student transit program has essentially been an opportunity for students to be more mobile and have access to different Pullman locations, such as downtown WSU, the campus apartment land supermarkets, and more recently, the airport that's been something that's been implemented just this year that you can now take a bus to the airport at certain times. This has just helped student mobility for not only just going through visiting friends, but for work school grocery, shopping. It's really been a crucial part for the student experience at WSU. Just for my personal background. I used transit growing up teenager in coma. It was an important thing, knowing that I didn't have a vehicle here. It was an important thing for me to know that there was a good transit system that worked here in Pullman. And so, this is something. Transit has been something that not only I've been a participant in and been a writer for my whole time here at WSU. But it's something that I am passionate about, and I've researched and worked for quite some time now. Just some background on the funding that's financially supported by the student transit fee S and a fee and transportation services. So, what we're recommending for what is what Tag has come up with for the New year is a 5% increase to student transit fee. This is due to 2 justifications, lowering emission rates which we all know about. We don't like, but that's led to a reduction in the total amount of revenue, the fee allocation that student transit program has received. And then also rising costs for transit services. There's forced Pullman transit to cut routes, even though the fees remained the same for quite some time. It didn't see an increase last year, but remained the same for quite some time, and didn't

exactly meet up to the current matching revenue. We can go ahead. Go next slide. So, the current fee, as of right now, is \$37 and 88 cents. If we're if this was passed to go to 39 cents. Sorry. 37, \$39, and 77 cents. This is pending an approval of the GPSA here today, and then an ASWSU Senate meeting on Wednesday. Then TAG also received an increase in their S&A allocation which we'll see on the next slide. I know, you know, 39, 77. No one wants to pay more fees. We don't love fees, but I think in comparison, when we look at what the costs are for students and the resources that it provides. A community pass currently with Pullman transit is \$300 for a year and for a month. just back home. I just researched this, but for a month back home for a monthly pass it's \$72, and while there's some variables that go into that. I think this has been a great and a great service to students that really doesn't cost too much for them, and \$1.89 cent and \$1.89 cent increase would be super beneficial and be able to maintain services while not having to lose anything. That's a low cost. So, just looking at our financial forecast, I look at fiscal year 2,025. We can go back to this in discussion if we need, but with projections or with the projection given, the 5% increase, that is about a \$53,000 or sorry \$53,000 extra that Pullman transit and the student transit program would be able to utilize to continue service rates. We did receive an increase in our S and an allocation by over 30k. These are all things currently to mitigate the costs with transit, and there's some more variables with that that we can get into discussion. But I believe that is the last slide. And, Ali, I don't know if you have anything to add. Oh, sorry. Yeah, the history. I guess we talked a little bit about the origination of it in 1979. But I do want to include this context, that the first, the last major increase was \$5. In 2017 2018 it was done by a referendum that also allowed a 5% per year increase. One issue with this is that from 2020 sorry 2,01920 20 school year there wasn't an increase until last year. And so, there's a lot of revenue that's been lost in that time, and we can discuss more about that. But just to meet current transit rates. Pullman transit. And the city of Pullman has had to just put in a little bit more investment. And they that's some investment that's not exactly promised. And so just to meet. Just to meet current service levels, this is what this is what this fee increases for. So, I think that opens it up to discussion. Ali. I don't know if you have anything to add to that.

- **Ali Maleki:** I want to add a few words, as you know, as a part of my responsibility as being a VPLA. Is being in tag committee to try to improve the transit of Pullman for students. But right now, I'm talking as a graduate student, and I know how important it is for public transit for us. I know that there are many things that can be improved. There are complaints about the routes, schedules, and many other things, but we must see the positive sides like increasing the services until midnight and having the Flag Lane and having the buses around the town. I know you have priority to improve the public transit, and with increasing the fees we can have the right to ask for our priorities. If the fee doesn't increase, if the fees don't increase with the reduction of the students, as Isaac mentioned, there will be a probable reduction, or losing some services, and recovering from these losses will be will not be as easy. So, I don't want to influence on your vote. But please consider this a statement as me. Isaac and Gabby mentioned.
- **Gabby Rodriguez:** Thank you, Ali, and thank you, Isaac and before we get, I see some hands raised before we get to opening it up for questions again. Thank you.

To these student presenters. You know I'm a staff member here at WSU. I was also a student, and I know how important it is for students to have different services. And so, before we open up this discussion. We have noted separately, it's not on these slides, the top 3 priorities that I've received, or that Tag has received the Transit advisory group from GPSA, and graduate students as a whole has been the potential or possibility to merge routes, and that was kind of a 1a. Then with the 1b, some feedback that we received has also been extending what's called express service or apartment land express until later in the evening, whether that be 7 Pm. Or 8 Pm. So that was kind of a 1b, and then, of course, looking at other services on the weekend just glancing at my notes here. We're kind of the top 3, and so if anyone don't feel rushed today. If you have additional questions, or you want to ask a separate question. I can send out my email, Desmond. And of course, Ali have it And or you can work through Ali to bring this back to transit Advisory group. But we'll go ahead and open it up for questions. From what I can see on my screen. Madison, believe I saw your hand go up, please unmute and feel free to ask away.

- **Madison Hönig:** Do you have any ridership data that you could share with us and discuss? Also, given the increase in the S&A funding, how would that go back to students and benefit riders?
- **Gabby Rodriguez:** I'll tackle the 1st one no, I did not bring Updated ridership numbers, but I can get that to you. Asap it just. I'll just connect with our transit managers. They typically provide that at, you know, at the beginning of the month, but nonetheless we can get you at least through January 31st in the next couple of days. And then question 2 just to be clear. So, the S. And a request went in. In January. Tag presented that they requested 593,000, and the allocation is going to come in at about \$579,015. It's yet to be approved in all my time here at WSU. I haven't seen the out. You know I haven't seen whatever the S. And a committee request is usually approved by the Chancellor and the Board of Regents, so it's already been reviewed by the Chancellor, gotten their stamp. And now it's just pending the Board of Regents approval at their April meeting, so hopeful as far as offsetting it's hard, really to offset, because that's 1 piece of the pie. The student transit fee is the primary source of funding. so that \$75 and 76 cents. That student pays each year. That's the primary bulk of that funding. And then S and A. The S. And a request is used to offset that transportation services also throws in \$100,000 per year, just to ensure that any faculty or staff are eligible to ride as well. But as far as offsetting. Not really. It's 1 piece of the pie.
- **Zahra Khodverdi:** What are some of the services that students might lose if we do not agree to increase the fees? What would stay the same? Also, what might we gain specifically?
- **Gabby Rodriguez:** So, there's no promise that can be made. So, the entire allocation student transit fee transit fund, the transportation services contribution, and the S&A allocation is used to negotiate the contract with city of Pullman. So, city of Pullman tells us. This is, you know, this is what they can offer, and we give them those dollars. And what that means is your voice is valuable. All students voice, because you're paying into these fees so. But there's no promise that can be made as far as what services and I'll have. You know I'll let our director chime

in, if necessary, if I miss anything here. But, for example, to run one of the buses that's out on routes now for 12 HA Day is approximately \$500,000, just for one bus. And so, it's important that students provide feedback for, like I mentioned the merge route that students seemingly want back, you know, previous to this year there was different. You know. Students wanted a weekend service before we had weekend service. Students wanted airport service before we had airport service, and so Pullman transit does their best to try to prioritize and see what fits the need of the overall community. Now, I will say that the student community is a big bulk of our entire community here in Pullman. And so that's why this voice is valuable, and because of the 1 million plus dollars that is generated to be provided towards that, or be, you know. Submitted towards that contract. But there are no promises that we can make, especially today. Of this would be taken away. I will say that as Isaac mentioned year over year, it's better that we do these or you students, not we. But you students agree or commit to these smaller increases so that we don't have to do a \$5, increase a \$10, increase because these little dollar \$61, \$78 80 and dollar 89 this year, you know, can add up to approximately \$300,000 that wasn't generated, especially with the declining student enrollment, and so we can't say, oh, they're going to take something away, but it's a good. It's a good bet, probably, that they'll be forced to cut services somewhere and so last year there was some supplemental routes or supplemental shuttles like during peak times that were cut and they kind of reallocated those based on the feedback they received from the entire student body entire community of riders, and they made. They went from 1010, 30 Pm. To midnight this year, so they just kind of must weigh. They try to prioritize it as best they can. They do want to see some wish lists as far as feedback, but there's no guarantee. But I will tell you, as I mentioned, that all the service that has happened in the last 10 years, the bulk of it has come from student feedback.

- **Issac Velazquez:** One thing, Gabby, if I'm not mistaken, you correct me if I'm wrong on this. But 2020, through 2022 to 2023 school year. The fee did not pass through, and the next year there was there was a not saying, there's directly correlated with, with, or directly caused by this, but there was a cut to one of the campus routes.
- **Gabby Rodriguez:** There was some modification. It wasn't necessarily a cut, but yeah, they had to try to rework the services. Pullman transit operates. Obviously, the good thing about being of WSU being able to work with the city of Pullman is that they have their own equipment. Right? WSU does not and our students does not need to buy buses and shuttles and hire drivers, and so they do that they house them. They maintain them but they also have drivers with union contracts, and so they need to allocate a certain number of hours and time that is guaranteed. And so, in all of that process. We really try to work, you know, as best we can with the transit managers. And that's where Tag is important, because you students have a voice, and so, being able to get in, get in touch, be engaged. With them and tell them, hey, this is what we want. Now, if they can provide it great. And if they can't, then we need to be creative in working with them, and receptive to you. Know what they can provide for their rising costs. You know, unfortunately, costs for everything have gone up. We've all experienced that, but it's important to realize that if students aren't committing more money and more

dollars to the contract there is. There is a big risk of services being reduced or cut.

- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** Why should it be 5%? What has changed in the transport system that requires? How often do you want increment in transportation? When do you want the increment to start? Do you want it immediately, or you want it in the future, because there is no way you want it immediately.
- **Gabby Rodriguez:** You asked, when would this be implemented if it's approved? So just to highlight again, just as a refresher not to beat a dead horse. Both Senates, the GPSA Senate and the ASWSU Senate need to review this proposal that came from the transit advisory group, so not to be confused with transportation services. Yes, I work for transportation services, but I serve as an advisor to the transit Advisory group. And so, if it be, if it were to be implemented so if it was approved, then it would go to the Chancellor. And of course, he would say he or she would say, Yes, students want this. They'll look. If it were to be approved, it would be in effect, the next school year. So, July 1st the next fiscal year. So, if that were the case, you're currently paying 75, 76, if that was approved. The dollar 89 increase. You'd be paying 79, 54, and then other parts of your question just to not make any confusion, transportation services. This is not transportation services. This is the student transit program is just your student transit fee S&A fees that you students pay into and a contribution from transportation services. And so yes, each year, you students are asked about a whole bunch of programs and about funding those programs and about increases. Trust me, I get it. I understand there may be some fee fatigue. So, as you're thinking about this. Think about how it affects the campus community how it may affect your peers. These are small increases while they are increases, it is a small increase. And then about the percentage. Well, in 2017 18 there was a \$5 increase, and students at that time thought, even though that was necessary, and they voted to approve that student also wanted to have more control about the entire process. And so, they transitioned that to the Transit Advisory Group, working together with both student Senates, GPSA and ASWSU to be able to recommend increases up to 5%. And so, this is what Tag has worked through. This is certainly not me, Gabby Rodriguez, or transportation services telling you. This is what you need to do. This is the transit advisory group with those peers and those stakeholders that you saw earlier. It's that group that reviewed this and thought, Yeah, transit service is important. And let's ask for the Max. Let's ask for the 5% increase which would be a dollar and 89 cents. I hope I tackled most of that. The issue of me not promising anything. Well, we're not we're not the transit managers. Now we work closely with the city of Pullman. We have a great relationship with the city of Pullman and with Pullman transit, but at the end of the day they will need to decide what services stay or go, and how they can accommodate those services based on the funding that they receive and that's the most I can say about that this early we haven't negotiated the contract with them next year. That's part of the next steps is seeing what students are committing to, and then being able to let them know kind of what to expect as far as student funding but if you think of anything else, or I wasn't clear on that knee. We, you know, you can get my email information, feel free to reach out to me. And I'm more than happy to meet and can include whoever else we need to.
- **Matthew Wun:** So, I work in the Veterinary Hospital, and most of us it's just not really

practical for us to take public transport because our hours can be really unpredictable, and sometimes quite often, we'll finish after the last route. And so, most of us are dependent on paying for the parking permit, which I now understand is a different, slightly different departments within transportation services. But transportation services are also asking for a 3% fee increase per year for the parking permits. And now it seems like we're also asking for a 5% increase on the student fees for the bus and my colleagues. We, as I said, we don't use the bus. We must use the parking, and it seems like we're now being sort of slugged. 2 fee increases for a service when we're only really using one service, and our salaries are also not really tied to. We're not getting a 3% or a 5% salary increase per year. So, it seems a little bit like our salaries are not increasing, but the costs associated with going to work are increasing. So, I was just wondering if you could speak to that.

- **Gabby Rodriguez:** I just want to remind everyone that under that transportation services, umbrella. Yes, of course, there is parking and parking permits and what's called our transportation demand management. So, our Tdm programs, which would be Rideshare car share, and then, being the middleman of working with the city of Pullman, since we don't own or house our own transit system. And while that may seem the case that you're being. You know, I think you said double hit or doubled up on the fee. The fees are totally separate, so the student transit program fees are separate from the parking system, and annual permit rate increases. Annual permit rate increases. Go to other programs. Primarily, the parking program. So, maintenance and upkeep of lots providing additional parking spaces when available. You know, unfortunately, at all costs, and I know that you know that. But I think it's worth being said.
- **Cody Wilson:** I think you covered it. It is important to understand that the difference to transportation services and the student transit program. The student, you know, like Gabby just explained, the student transit program is in the student transit fee is solely designed to fund, and the benefits are 100% allocated to Pullman transit. That, then, are used to either maintain or with a larger rate increase would be to add service. The parking permit rate increases. Those are like, Gabby said. Those are so. Those come to transportation services, and those funds are used to prove that parking system on the Pullman campus as Gabby mentioned, either maintenance or addition, or some of that goes into reserves for us to be able to plan for future parking projects, and I don't want to get too deep into that. But just to, I think the important part is to understand that those are 2 completely separate entities.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, before we move on to votes, Gabby, someone asked for the numbers, because I think that is particularly important. That is important for you to have shown. Also, because, you know, this is this is a group of graduate student masters. Ph.D., student, the numbers are important for us. You need to show the numbers, and then we can determine, based on that if we need to increase it, but also to build on Matthew's question, and Matthew, for sure I have. I have Parkin on the list of guest speakers for the subsequent meeting, so hopefully we will hear from them also, but I think it's also important that we don't institutionalize this increase to happen every year, because we don't get that increase every year in terms of our stipend, you know it is fixed for a number of years until things change,

and so on and so forth. So last year I was part of the Senate just like me, and we approved the increase. I would prefer that we don't make this nearly yearly, you know. We shouldn't always want to increase because transport is vital for the students, and we want to keep it accessible. And that will mean that the pricing will have to. There shouldn't be too much of a hassle about that, so we will go ahead and vote together to decide whether to have it or not. But I would prefer that we try if it is probably every 2 or 3 years, then there's an argument for it. If it will be hard if we want to keep it every year. Okay, so do you have the numbers?

- **Gabby Rodriguez:** No, I don't. I don't have current transit numbers. As I mentioned, that's something that we get from Pullman transit. We usually get it once a month. I can certainly investigate last month's and try to get it for you if you give me a few minutes here. But in regard to your comment, and I certainly like, I said. I, Cody and I are simply serving as advisors. This proposal is coming from the Transit Advisory group, and while we did support recommending the 5% increase, I will say this, if students do not choose to continue to increase in small increments. The gap just continues to get bigger as far as the costs that are associated with operating these types of programs. And so, the gap from the 5 years where it wasn't increased at all, like I said was almost \$300,000, and so there's no way to make up that gap or to backfill, unless you know let's say, for example, you chose not to vote in favor of this small increase, and in years every other year you chose not to. It's like, then if there's something that happens where the where the costs are just too much. Then you may need to see a \$25 increase a \$10 increase a \$15 increase or more, because it also depends on what services students are wanting and like, I said, from the feedback we've received. They want more buses on the campus loop, or maybe a merging of routes or more airport service, or later night service, and unfortunately, all that cost. It's not as simple as just reworking routes in in some cases it might be, but in others it's not. But that is great feedback Desmond. I'm going to pause for just a moment. I see some other hands came up. I'll let you facilitate that.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** But once again, Gabby, all your assumption will be viable. If there's a consistent increase every year, you know, if we have institutionalized that and then we jump over, then we will have an issue. That is what I am trying to prevent. Let's not. Let's not institutionalize a required increase annually. Okay, that's my argument and, if, for instance, if you showed us the numbers. Or if you came today, and you've received a couple of questions. If you came today with a new addition to the existing system, and that is coming together with a fee increase. Then that would be fair, all right, but without that we are just increasing. And then we don't really know what we should expect to get better, or a new addition, you know, and that is what I would like to see a difference in. But Niyi, if you could kindly be short, so that we can take the vote and move on to the next item on the agenda, I'll be very grateful.
- **Cody Wilson:** I want to say something, Desmond, quick, as far as institutionalizing these increases. If we don't increase it every year by at least this this small increment. What I can tell you is one service will never increase their costs. Go up every year their drivers make a little bit more every year until we get back to a point where the funding, they have some excess to add service. If we don't do these 5% increases at least every year. If there is a gap, I can almost guarantee



you. Service will not increase it. It cannot increase. When Pullman transit is paying more. They're going to reach a breaking point where they cannot their funding. What they're getting is not enough to service the campus. So that's just one as far as the numbers I think it's important to mention, regardless of how many students are riding a bus. If there's 1 student on a bus, or if the bus is packed full of 50 students, it still costs the exact same to run that bus every year. So, while ridership numbers are important, and we strive to improve those and get more students on the bus that it costs the exact same to run those buses. So, if we don't get increases. And even if ridership is going up therein lies another problem with students not being, there's not enough buses to service the number of students that are on campus. So just something to consider these small increases are designed to keep up with the rising cost for Pullman transit. These are not designed to add any service. These are, look at it as a maintenance. Type. Increase.

- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** Just for clarification. You're thinking of presenting this argument for a vote and I want us to be careful so that we won't. I mean we won't take a decision that we regret afterwards. I mean, if they want us to come up with an idea, they want us to support an idea today. And the idea is coming today. And you want to compel us all to vote on that same idea today, I think whatever is done in Ace is never done. Well, of course they are coming with a proposal. We should also have time to discuss the proposal and see where we stand. If it's a 1% or a 2% or a 3%, or even if in the end we're going to go with the 5%. But I think we should also have the time to discuss on this one. That's my opinion, before we committed to voting, because we wouldn't want to do this every year, I mean, that's just my thoughts. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We do not have any more time, so I'm sorry I'm going to have to catch you there. But yes, Ni, I agree with you. However, you know that the Senate meetings are not every day, every week, so we have very limited time, and they need to progress like he mentioned after us. They need to move on to ASWSU you, and then proceed with or and this is, I believe, this is supposed to apply for the academic year that comes. The beginning of fall, right? So that would mean that we would have to do that, this semester. So, I'm sorry. Ni, I agree with you, we should have probably had some time to discuss, but I bet the discussions are going here, and already I have seen in a chat there's multiple support for the increase already. So, and everyone's vote counts the same. So, I can see more and more support. That already shows that there's a lot more people who understand the system so nearly. I'm sorry, but we would have to move on and decide on that. And, Gabby, I'm sorry we cannot give you any more time today. So, thank you. Thank you all so much for coming. We will need a motion to move ahead with voting and so on. Can someone move a motion?
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** I motion to vote on the increase of transportation fee increase.
- **Nazua Idris:** Second
- **Haden Kingrey:** Yeah, I just wanted to make a point as far as this that I will be supporting this increase in the transportation fee. And I just really want to echo a lot of the stuff that I'm seeing in the comments that isn't directly making it into the direct meeting. But Madison said about improvements such as that Flag Lane and making up for essentially multiple year's worth of lack of available funds to make



up those funds, and at the very end of the day Pullman is a very unique place of how small of an area it is. But we have a lot of access to public transportation and public transit. I want to make sure that that's still available for students. Obviously, prices are getting higher, and sometimes those costs cost more. But I want to make sure that that is still available for students. So, I intend to vote in the affirmative.

- **Destiny Brokaw:** Okay. Hi, yes. I also wanted to back that up and support hopefully, everyone had time within the last week to talk to their constituents, because, while it can be important to voice your opinion in here, we do have to remember that we are representatives of many people and not just ourselves. So just make sure you're keeping in mind that we're representing a group of people and all the graduate and professional students and their needs. So just keep that in mind.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Yeah, going back to kind of echoing what destiny brought up on the 7th of February Desmond sent out a message from Ali, basically at opening and informing us about the proposed transportation fee increases was encouraging us to talk about these types of things. Many of my constituents, in their view, are fine. With it, predominantly due to the recognition that public transportation helps reduce congestion and helps provide alternatives to students who do not have vehicles. At the same time, we are limited on parking areas while we are expanding certain types of parking areas. I believe we're building a parking garage near engineering. I can't remember the exact lot, though, no matter what. When it comes to parking, it does cost a fee, and it does increase over time, whether that is a parking spot tag or hourly parking raise at the same time personal experience. On Friday I got a parking ticket that cost \$50. These types of fees are still below those types of parking tickets, and while we ultimately are concerned with the general constant raising, we also have to take of these types of fees. We also do have to take into consideration that there is a thing about vehicle maintenance as well as well operating and purchasing gas for those vehicles, or and I believe one or a few of them are electric, but those are generally my thoughts.
  - **Correction:** Andrew Sutherland was informed by Cody Wilson that we are not building a parking garage. Andrew was confused by the building of a new engineering building.
- **Vote on the Increase Fee for Transportation:**
  - Yes: 44
  - No: 9
  - Abstain: 8
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority, and the motion has passed.
- **Members of TAG:** Thank you.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, it is very hard for me to say this because there are 2 2 direct ways. Right? Number one is that I'm going to I'm saying it, and then it will appear. I don't want us to approve stuff. But I think that it is important for us to understand that the Senate is this is the decision-making body for the rest of the graduate school students, right graduate and professional students. And so, it is not only we do not only have to approve. Okay. I've been in a Senate for about 3

years, and we have never really denied anything. And that is why I said in the beginning I'm not saying we should deny things, but I agreed with me that we should sometimes have some time to think about it and we should make their decisions, thinking that these things are going to probably take place a year and so on above. Okay, so sometimes my worry is that we just approve of these things, and then it goes straight ahead. Andrew, you have something to add.

- **Andrew Sutherland:** I mean, I am kind of going to push back against that. You are the Vice President and the chair of these Senate meetings. You can set up the agenda and organize how we are going to be ultimately discussing these we could have ultimately you could have ultimately brought up the discussion about tabling the vote for the following meeting. That could have been an option.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Right, that is, that is good to know. However, this request, like I said, was supposed to be done like 2, 3 weeks, and this is not the need. There's not really the need to do. Back and forth. My concern would have been here is that in the next subsequent request that we receive, and I will not be Vice President forever. So, my, I would really like that. We take our time to discuss these things because somebody mentioned that this is also for our constituents, and it is important that we represent them accordingly. All right. Okay. The next item on the agenda will be a report from the President on the new President search. And actually, the new President that we finally chose.

### New Business | Report from GPSA President on the WSU presidential search and New President Report + Questions and Answers

- **Ajay Barman:** Hi, everyone. This is an important announcement from our GPS platform that WSU. After long search period, WSU finally choose the 12 precedents for system one and can you please raise your hand if you heard this, or read this news somewhere, like how many of you ever, ever of that that WSU. Choose the new president. You can see lots of hands are raising. WSU did a really good job, and I'm saying through their insider and sending the email to the student and this is my pleasure as a GPSA President, and on the behalf of our entire GPSA. To congratulate to congratulate Dr. Elizabeth. She is chosen as WSU school president, and she will be starting her job from April 2,025. She is the current President of Utah State University, and she will be joining WSU assume on April 1st and she made thank you.
- **Video Played about welcome of the New WSU President Dr. Elizabeth Cantwell**  
<https://youtu.be/4St-R8Jqj0c?si=sYZE6waa49KVdwL3>
- **Ajay Barman:** We are energized by Dr. Campbell's ambitious vision for the future of WSU. She is a passionate advocate for student success and a champion of our Land Grant Mission. In the quotation I was a part of a Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and from our Presidential Search Advisory committee, the chair, Janet Ramos. So, she commented. And I quote Dr. Cantwell's combination of academic research and innovation sector leadership make her uniquely qualified to Guide WSU'S next chapter in the quotation and that was the brief presentation from me to announce that Dr. Campbell will be our next President for System wide WSU. And as a shared governance, GPSA will continue to work with her and advocate

for our students. If you have. If you want to have like more information. Please feel free to visit the Presidential Search Advisory Committee's webpage on WSU and you will find more information there. If you have more question. After that please feel free to email [press.search@wsu.edu](mailto:press.search@wsu.edu) And with that I. This is the end of the presentation. And I'm opening for a question. If you, if you have any.

- **Haden Kingery:** I was concerned about the relative lack of transparency around who the candidates were and what the process was like?
- **Ajay Barman:** The present Board of Regents. They decided to them decided to make the process like totally confidential to have the best leaders or the best candidate nationwide. There were like more than 2 60 eligible candidates who were interested in this position, and if their identity was disclosed. We might not have that big or that great pool of candidates and I know there is one of the Advocacy groups. They're working on changing the State law in the future. If the State changed the law where it will be a matter of public Information and Board of regions will have to disclose it with the, with the public, but that is pending the State law like the State law, must change before we do that but for this search process they adopted the confidential route on the Board of reasons.

### New Business | Updates on GPSA Elections - Internal Affairs Committee Chairperson

- **Nazua Idris:** So, we received 3 applicants for the VPLA. Position and 3 applicants for the President and Vice President position. However, we had to decline the application like we received one President, vice President, one ticket application, and then we received one President application, who ran without a vice President. So, we had to decline that application, because this is the most important criteria for up GPSA President's position that and also for vice President, that you have to run in pair, and also the person who ran alone also didn't have like a prior GPS experience. So that is the only application that we declined other than that rest of the applications were accepted and then we had 8 seats for the college representatives, but we only received a college representative candidate for 4 colleges. So, CAS has one candidate and then Graduate school has 2 candidates, and then Voiland has one candidate and education has 2 candidates. We do not have candidates for CAHNRS, business, communication. We received 70 applications for the center positions. But still we do not have candidates for all the vacancies, as you can see from this chart, I kind of highlighted it. As I was creating the ballots, so all the yellow, highlighted ones we have candidates, but all the pink ones. We do not have any candidate this year, and you can also see, like a couple of purple ones. So, Kinesiology and Ed psych has 2 seats, but we got only one candidate and same for Vet. Med. There are 4 seats for Vet Med (DVM), but we received only 3 applications. So even though we have some applications. But we didn't meet the desired number for all Senator positions. That means that we will have to do another election right after the General election is over, and I have submitted the ballots last week to the balloting platform like the people who are in charge ACRSC And I have also, submitted the Bios and Andrew already uploaded those, but those will be available by the end of this week before the candidate debate, and as you all know that on Monday we are having our candidate debate and the candidate

debate will be live, streamed, and also, like people, can join via Zoom, and all the information will be posted on the website. So, if you can let your constituents know that if they want they can join the candidate debate and listen to the candidates. Think these are updates that I have. If you have any question, I'll be happy to answer.

- **Zahra Khodaverdi:** Do we have this files that we can share about open positions?
- **Nazua Idris:** Sure, and the free position will be also advertised. But yeah, sure, I can send this to you. I can easily drop it here if you want me to, so that people can download it that I don't have to like, bother you with another email.
- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** My department is in the process of electing their representatives, and I was thinking that it also behooves them to send my name to you. I mean, I just want to be. I just want to be cleared because I know that my name is on the ballot for GPSA representatives and stuff like that. So do I still need to do something else different from that, knowing that my name is coming from my department.
- **Nazua Idris:** So GPSA's process is different. I mean, even if your department decides that you will run for the department you still have to apply. If you do not apply, then the position is vacant. I think, like another department, also had similar question, and they asked me the question when there was the application period, and I could kind of guide them that even though they have chosen someone from their department, that's not enough, because GPSA operates like differently like you have to submit the application to run for the position and set up the ballot, so we did not like receive your name or application. Unfortunately, so, what can happen is like when we will have the second election. You can kind of submit the application and run for the position for history.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So, the 1st thing you can do right away is when it comes to elections is ultimately as Senators and representatives communicate amongst your grad students, the people you represent, whether that is through teams or whatever means that you ultimately communicate with people, you can talk to your grad coordinator to ultimately deliver those messages around your department. When it comes to special elections, though I would encourage you all to ultimately communicate that amongst grad students as well, and once we ultimately open up the applications, I'll do what I kind of did with the GPSA election or application for Senator and Representative and provide you all through our teams, chat some materials that you could ultimately use to communicate that stuff. I will also do what I also did with this application process where I'm going to try to send at least one because the limited amount of time we will have for special elections a slate announcement. Now, I'm going to make this point because I think a lot of people neglect this part. But like slate announcements shouldn't be our primary way of communicating. The most effective way to communicate getting people to be involved in GPSA is from you and your experiences. I can't just use social media all the time or submit a slate and announcement which the reason why I'm making the point that it's going to be. Probably one announcement is because it I'm it. I'm asked to do like give grace period to marketing for about a minimum of 10 days business days. So, it's going to be up to you all to ultimately communicate and talk with your

constituents. Also, I'll add this talk about positive experiences.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yeah, I mean, what I was going to suggest was, if we could kind of integrate GPSA into the smaller RSOs that are within departments so that the elections that RSOs would do would have a spot for, say, GPSA representative. However, I am just realizing that the GPSA election also kind of coincides with that election, so it probably wouldn't be possible, But I think building on what you have done as well together with Andrew, I think what we can add next year will be to print specialized posters. Okay, so direct posters for the department or for the colleges indicating the sports that are available for that college or academic units. Right? So, the College of Communication will have a flyer that is different from, say, the College of Arts and sciences and specific academic units, so that the Senators can also pick one that is directly for their department, and probably post it on their notice board to invite people 3rd month.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** So, yeah, thank you, Desmond. So, the 1st thing I want to say is, thank you, Nazua and Andrew and I'm actually happy that we have more candidates for this year's top position. So, the VPLA and the Presidents, it shows that it's I mean, it's good for our democracy so that we get more options and all that which is good. So, the other thing about the low candidates, I think, yeah, we agree that this is a competition. So, if, for instance, I'm running for the Department of Food Science, and I go and tell my colleague that there's an open position that is more like a competition. I'm calling for competition for myself and I think this is, I think this is one of the reasons why sometimes it's difficult for us to go out there to talk to people in our constitution to run for the same position we want to run for right. But the good thing is that we can talk to people in our community. So, I'm a Ghanaian. So, for instance in the Ghanaian community, I know people from different departments. So that would be a good thing for us to communicate with people in our community where they can apply for their own department of faculty, which is very important. And I've also realized that we usually don't get applications for the Senator at large positions, and it's something that every year we must nominate at large positions. So, we have to target those departments. So probably going forward, the next person to lead internal affairs would have to target those departments. Is it that we must communicate with the chair of those departments directly. Is it that we must send flyers to those departments directly and there are certain department that every year. We have candidates there. But those senators at large positions, we should find ways to target those departments. And yeah, so yeah, sorry, I thought, we have multiple positions for the President, but anyway for VPLA, that is also a goal. So, this is just what I wanted to add. Thank you.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** Before with my point, I think what Edmund was trying to say, that there are some positions that it looks like people don't usually apply at large has become a norm for those departments. For example, school of music school of music has probably been like that maybe at least this would be the second time that no one has applied to it. So sometimes it creates that norm that it would be like only a senator at large represents them, and that person never goes there. So, then they don't get to know about it because they are sanitized at large. So, it creates that recurrent situation. Well, my point is that we could advertise our

elections as part of programming events. So, when the programming Committee is organizing their socials we could have. We could be telling people in this social event like not just programming. But PDI, or whatever your committee is, anything you do. You can be telling people about GPSA elections and then letting them know how interesting it is to serve other students and things like that. I'm sure that it would help when we all use our platforms to do that. Yeah, thank you.

- **Andrew Sutherland:** So, the 1st thing I want to bring up is, I think, no matter what you should do, even if you're going to be running against somebody. You should still advocate to getting people to run within GPSA. And Joseph is right, like when it comes to issues of kind of the systematic issues around like senators at large. Like in the case of the school, mute or yeah, the school of music. That's where, like, we need to make sure we're not just getting people we're close, Buddy, Buddy with. But people who are willing to be passionate about being involved at the university level. So really, we should be trying to like, really get that focus on slate announcements. I can't really advertise directly to a college. This is why I need specifics with, or you all work communicating word of mouth Because I don't have that access to like department heads or grad coordinators. Now, if I need to, that's going to putting a lot of extra effort on my myself and my committee. But this is really where you all are going to be coming in. Nazua did put in the list of people somewhere. I can't even find it anymore in the chat. The list of colleges that do still need representatives. I would encourage you all to look through and see if you are representing one of those and ultimately communicate with your grad coordinator to ultimately spread that message around.
- **Arpita Sinha:** Hi, everyone! Good evening. Thank you so much for a great Senate again. I have a 1 thing to bring it up, and this is nothing that we can do now, because this is in the bylaws. But I keep bringing this up again and again, with the hope that this would be considered in the future. I don't know if LAC Committee will consider this, too, as a discussion in the future. I've always considered that the President and the Vice President, running together has always limited people to apply for that position. It has always been. There are many, many logistics that works in this. 3 positions that we are talking. It's a graduate assistantship position. So, when 2 people are like putting are in that combination, it's a little bit of a difficult while you have one year of experience as the baseline to work, and then then there are other people that they don't have, which kind of it kind of restricts them from applying, which I don't think is fair. I know it is historically done based on how American President, vice President is run, but I don't think that is entirely applicable here, because it's a yearly thing we don't work for 4 years. There are many things which are very different, and I'm not suggesting anything can be done now. But I think I've been. We have seen many combinations which has. We have seen the current President and Vice President on many occasions in previous years, in whatever they have continued with that and no like. There hasn't been any nomination to contest that which is not really a which cannot be a great idea, for GPSA. On the other hand, we see the Pla position has many people applying for it. So, this is not something which I know which can be done this year, or whatever, but I do feel that I wanted to say it out loud in the Senate, if everybody or the majority agrees, and LAC considers this change or any thoughts here, if I'm

not going in the right direction, would also be welcome. Thank you.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** I remember you asking this a couple of times. But this really a very difficult dynamic right? And maybe with you and I, and probably all of us on the Senate, may not know the details of why that is or when that was started. But I can see the benefit of that, because these 2 offices work very close to each other and so it is very, very important. And we see this in most offices, right? Most offices that have President, vice President, even at a national level whatsoever. It is always very important to have President and Vice President running together because they work so closely together, and you wouldn't want a situation where you have 2 opposing ideas. In these 2 offices. However, I think it's probably something that we can discuss together as a committee, but of course we would have to go through the right channels and so this would have to be discussed during the Senate Board, and somebody would have to move and write something to be changing their bylaws and so forth and so on. But yeah, I can see the sense in that. The thing that I also wanted to mention is that. are we? Are we too big? Are we taking too many Senators and that is the reason why? Because the GPSA, the whole graduate and professional student, the numbers are probably like. I think, 2,400, you know. Are we taking too many seats? We have like, what's 60 Senators plus the Executive board? So, a total of about 70 members on the Senate. Is that too large? Do we have to limit the number so that it becomes a little bit more competitive? And so, we would have all the spaces covered or maybe I'm just going on a wrong tangent.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So, it's not about competition, about the number of seats. It's about representation. We're currently at 58 Senators, where we used to be a hundred and in that sense the representation or the number of people in representing each college is ultimately represented by the number of students within that department. If we ultimately just completely limited, we might potentially not really get an adequate representation of grad students.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** On the Senate board. Okay. So, for Vet Med (DMV), I think one of the academic units has 4 Senators, just because their numbers are high. The only thing that I did as a Senator, or I know that is the key responsibility of a Senator will be to communicate back to the members of your constituents, and that can be done by one person, not 4. No matter the number of students within that academic unit.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So, the 1st thing I'm going to make a point about is right. Now. We are kind of drifting away from elections and moving into potential conversations around bylaws, and how the organization of GPSA should function as representative body. So, I would motion to table this discussion for future meetings. So, we can ultimately have a better idea of how we want GPSA to represent graduate students.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, I open the floor for anything to be discussed. Also, Bylaw Review would have to be tabled in by somebody, and that would have to come from an idea or a request to change something right? We cannot discuss it before somebody. We cannot discuss it until somebody requests for it. So, I open this floor because I want us to be having these discussions. And then maybe, like, Peter



suggested. This is something she can request during a bylaw review, and then we will discuss to either approve or reject it. Right. But I told me, your hand was up.

- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** I thought I'd put it down, though. My points actually align with those of Andrew. I wanted us to settle this. I mean settle some of the things we have on our table today. But more to that is that I need clarifications on what? On some of the point that ASWSU raised and I is, did she say that? Yeah, college. There are openings in college representation one. And I understand, she said. There are openings in department representation. Did she also mention? Probably I didn't get that right, that we have just one application for President who came in. I mean, that came in with a vice president or something. I think I just need clarification on those areas. If you don't mind.
- **Nazua Idris:** Yes. So, since this is current according to current bylaws. And this is the rule that you must come with like a Vice President needs to come with the President, or a President needs to come with the Vice President. So yes, we have just one pair and then we had, like one single application for the President's position, but we had to decline that.
- **Madison Hönig:** I don't want to change my thing is going to kind of derail the conversation. So, if me, you want to ask another clarification question like, I yield my time to you. If I can go afterwards. I would like to amend Andrew's motion. To, because we can't table the discussion because it's not actually an item I would like to refer this question to the Internal Affairs Committee. I want to propose that they investigate the implications of the pros and cons of having President and Vice President run together and run separately, and then to sorry there's bugs in here to present to the Senate their opinion once they've done thorough research and look through the bylaws. I think we need more nuanced discussion about this, but I think it's it would be more appropriate in the context of a bylaw discussion and perhaps we can direct some of our feedback to them. So, I would like to call the question of making a formal vote to refer this question to the Committee for Invest. Further investigation.
- **Nazua Idris:** Yeah. So, I have a follow up question for medicine, and I think James also has a question. James, I will go to your question after I ask this question. So, medicine like, what kind of research do you mean? Because it's in the bylaws. And every time I talk to people. They're like, Okay, they follow the American government like American, my God, Parliamentary assistant. So that's the answer I got so like, who should I reach out. And who should I talk to?
- **Madison Hönig:** I think the idea is just like looking at potentially like the implications like you, you know, like, Desmond was saying, if we have 2 people. Theoretically they agree, but that also means that that could like reduce representation. Something that could be helpful is kind of looking at other constitutions or bylaws in other similar universities. I think that's always a helpful route.
- **Nazua Idris:** Because where would I get those? Because it's not like everywhere. It's public. And I mean, I will try. But I wasn't like sure like how I should go about it.
- **Madison Hönig:** We could have people like refer their comments to your committee, and then you can kind of compile them and potentially look at like University of Washington, Utah State, Oregon State, like similar universities for how

they approach this. And people can also just like email you with their concerns, because I also recognize that there's like an open forum as the next agenda item. And because this is like a new process, I wanted to allocate adequate time to that. Does that make sense, Nazua like to have people direct their feedback to you? You guys compile it, review it, and then, like, do a presentation with the bylaws of like what your research found.

- **Nazua Idris:** Yes, I mean, that makes sense, but I will investigate it, because, since I cannot promise it, I don't know. Like how many people have made their bylaws available. So, my research will depend entirely on that. Like the availability of the documents.
- **Madison Hönig:** Like in like most universities that should be publicly available, but yeah, I can also help with that. But I think we just need to do this in a more systematic way, like having kind of compile. The feedback would be helpful.
- **Md. Redwan Ahmad Khan:** I will just equal a little bit with Aripita. Because, like so, Nazua mentioned, like, we have multiple applications for the VPLA. But for the VPLA and precedent we have only one pair, so this also can indicate probably the things like people sometimes struggle to get their company, like the running mate to apply for as a pair. So probably this worth of exploring a little bit, and another point of having empty position for the college reps I have even discussed in the is good reporting meeting also, but the thing is, I feel like college reps, a lot of the works the way it has been designed. Like they get a lot of the works on the shoulder, and they don't have the bandwidth to load with like, deal with all of these things, having their great students, and they have to do a lot of their grade life, research, life, and everything. So, after this like weekly 10 h. Probably it's a lot for them. So, a lot of the things we need to think so, why, we're not getting people and like. There are some monetary benefits also, even after having the monetary benefits. People are not thinking to come here. There are some things we need. We might need to think as well as like how we can make it efficient like. So, we have some office assistance, how we can utilize them best as we have, and the students as well. So, these are the something probably need to think that way. We can get more students interested.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** I mean, I was going to point out the college REPs position because you mentioned that probably the pairing is what is limiting application, because you can also look at a college rep position and see they have 4 vacancies. So that means, there's no direct correlation between the parent and the number of people that apply. Anyway, we'll move forward me. I would like to. So, this is the open forum session, and I would like to hear from everyone some senators I've never heard from today. Let me hear from you. I'm interested in hearing from you.

#### New Business | Open Forum - Senator report

- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** Okay, this is again to ask for. I just want to be sure somebody said something and probably I got it wrong. And so, I want her to clarify one. The 1st stage of the election or nomination and stuff like that has gone or is gone with

everyone and now are you saying that folks will? Coming on the second stage? Are senators being large that's 1. And the second is, I mean, knowing that these folks had not applied at anymore, I mean, had not applied initially or had been nominated initially. The second is, when are you posting the nomination the second time?

- **Nazua Idris:** I you missed your 1st question, but I got your second question. So, the 1st election because the voting will be during the 1st week of March, and then I think during the second week of March they will send me the results and I will be presenting those results if everything goes fine this time, not like last time there was like mess. So, I plan to present the results on March 17, and that also includes James, your like answer to your question. So, when I will present the results, we will need 2 3rd majority vote to confirm the results like we got the results does not necessarily mean that everyone got the position. It will be brought to Senate, and then there will be two-thirds majority vote, and the entire result will be run together for voting, and then, after the vote has been done, if we get 2 3rd majority. The results will be finalized. And I was talking to Andrew. So, I will be working on like, because that will require like creating separate applications. So, I will be working on those application and set everything up in the meantime, and if everything goes well on March 17, then we will open the next cycle of application. On March 18.
- **James Asare:** I think this is a follow up to my question in the chat and proposal to all of you just something to reflect about a hybrid. So, since you mentioned about the President and VP position, I was thinking how about just opening it up, so that if people can apply individually. Irrespective of having a partner or not, but then making it transparent enough, so that then, before they are presented to all of us for the vote they can pair up. I think that probably may increase their visibility, and more people to apply for that position. I don't know if what I'm saying makes sense, but bring in something that's a middle ground, because, just like Apita raised this is very different from the US. Parliamentary election, and people don't stay on for 4 years, and things like that. So how about bringing that hybrid form where, if you are interested in the President position. Even if you don't have a VP, you can apply. If you are just interested in the VP you can apply. But then the system is transparent enough that people who have applied for the President. Let's say we have 4 people going for President. They are there. Let's say we have 5 people or 6 people going for VP. They are there, and then they get the chance to seriously network and see who they pair with before they are finally presented to their whole constituents and before they avoid it on, maybe, after their speech and debate, I think that will be a middle ground that will probably be able to cater to increasing more access to people. Because I think, listening to everyone, it looks like the current system we have. There are raising concerns, and since we do not have another directive of what works elsewhere, I was just thinking that a hybrid position coming in between where people get to match themselves up before they are finally presented for the final vote can also work where you don't have to cancel the existing bylaws and what it says. But then you are also bringing an intermediary where people can also express their interest in some of these executive positions. So that's just about it. And the question I asked in the chat was

specifically, what happens if a pair presented do not get the majority, but they are the only ones what happens? I don't know what the bylaws stipulate, but that's what I asked in the chat. I don't know if you have an answer for me

- **Desmond Aboagye:** Do you have an answer to that? I mean, I think, James, James, I think that is an interesting suggestion. I can. Yeah, I can see that the 1st thing that probably that will present will be elongating the process. That would be a long one also, I don't. I don't know if that takes out the problem, because it means that, like you, the example, you gave 4 Presidents, 5 Vice Presidents. So even if they are pairs, there's still going to be one vice president who doesn't have a pair, and then we must let that person go out of it. So, the problem still comes back to the same. However, Nazua, do you have an answer to his last question?
- **Nazua Idris:** So yes, I did post an answer, and Ajay clarified that answer because I wasn't aware of that on top of my head. I couldn't think about that. So according. So, James Question was like, what does the bylaw stipulate when there is one pair for the VP. And President, and they do not get the majority. And then Ajay said that in general election one vote is sufficient to win that position like, if unopposed.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yeah, I would assume that that will be so. It would just be majority, just simple majority, one person vote. And you get that vote. That will be it.
- **Haden Kingrey:** So, if folks want to go back to talking about bylaws after I speak for a second, that's fine. But I really wanted to bring up something that I was involved in as far as a member of the Community Affairs Committee, because Madison is out of town right now I and Destiny Brokaw went to the College Hill Association meeting on February 13. I just wanted to report quickly some of the stuff that we talked about overall. We talked about community safety pros and cons of living in Pullman, how Pullman City Council would be is looking to improve amenities in the city, among them talking about public spaces for people. So, I believe there's a survey on the city of Pullman website. But just quickly. I wanted to talk about something that I might be of some concern for some folks. The mayor was there, so I addressed a question that was concerning for some of most pretty much all of them all the members of the Community Affairs Committee. So, in the chat, I included, and I hope this makes it into the meeting minutes, because I want to make sure it gets out there. It is a city of Pullman post from January 28, 2025, titled city of Pullman affirms community policing practices alongside that I also posted WSU's. It's titled WSU guidance for interacting with immigration enforcement officer's destiny, and I spoke to the mayor and asked the mayor in regards to this how the city of Pullman police would be interacting with immigration enforcement, especially concerning recent executive laws that have been put in place, and executive actions for increased undocumented immigration. Actions on that part. So essentially the answer I got from him because Washington is under law as sanctuary State. I just want to make note to everybody that under Washington law you are not required to give your immigration status unless presented with a warrant or subpoena. I just want to make sure that this is put out there. Not just for the members of GPSA. But for all the members of the WSU community, and essentially, the response I got from the mayor was that Pullman police would not cooperate with Federal immigration enforcement unless they are

deputized. So, the post that was put forward. I'm going to be honest. It's a little political trying to play both sides. But I asked him specifically tried to say, if ice came to town, would they be working with Pullman police? The only way that would happen is if Federal agents deputized Pullman police officers. So that was just the main thing I really want to put out there. This was from a College Hill Association meeting a couple weeks ago, and I think it's something that would be of concern to members of this community. So, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to present this, and I hope this all makes into the meeting minutes. So, this gets around.

- [https://www.pullman-wa.gov/news\\_detail\\_T18\\_R253.php](https://www.pullman-wa.gov/news_detail_T18_R253.php)
- <https://ccr.wsu.edu/faculty-and-staff-interaction-with-immigration-enforcement-officers/>
- **Joseph Akowuah:** I agree with James. I think that I think that having a hybrid format would really go a long way to improve our elections, and the reason is that what people really have challenges with is taking the 1st step, and the 1st step is going to find someone else who is interested in living, teaching and research assistantship to become a full-time GPSA person. That is a lot of work, right? So, if I could come alone and find out that person at GPSA. You also want to. You also want to do this, but you don't know anyone who wants to do it. I'm also interested. Let's pair up. I'm going to be President of vice and vice versa. That is easier for people rather than how do I know who else is interested to go and look for advice for myself? If there's a situation where there's a 5, 4. And there's 1 person who doesn't have a partner. It can be in the loss that by the end of this period, if you don't get someone to pair up with. You must step down. That is fine. That person knows. Okay, I tried. I didn't get someone to pair up with, but they're going to be 4, or they're going to be 8 people who would really appreciate that they didn't have partners. And they found those partners at GPSA. And this is the perfect way to find partners rather than talking to people that are not interested in being GPSA. Present advice. I think it would really go a long way to help make this competitive in the future.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Guys, thank you all so much for your suggestions. I think it has been good, and I am. I am happy that I was able to bring this into our GPSA Senate as a Senate. I was always interested in having an open forum like this. So, this has been very helpful. Thank you, guys, so much. Great suggestions, I think that I will probably reserve one Senate meeting, or probably a large chunk of the time for us to discuss about GPSA itself as Senators. We will all discuss not only about President, Vice President, and other Senator position, but all the other things like somebody mentioned. The committee. Chairs are taking so much on themselves, and probably they are not able to handle everything, and all of that I see that. And I hear you guys, I want you to know that I listen. And I hear you guys, and I am very happy to institutionalize some of these things so that we can really work together to make our association better. So, I know that I can see Nazua and Peter. I can see your hands. But there are 2 updates that I would have to go to before I get back to you.
- **Ali Maleki:** You might see the email from Ajay and Desmond, and thanks to

Andrew again for sending that email. But I wanted just to bring it up in the Senate meeting, because I know it's all important for us. And I heard from one of the Senate, Senators that, they cannot send political issues and political things to the students. So, I want it to be on the minutes when you send it to the students. So, I want. So, we I and my peers worked very hard on this House Bill. It is working connection, childcare program. It is already there. But graduate and professional students are not included in those in this bill. So, this bill potentially include graduate and professional students. And what does this Bill do. It will help, and it says that if there is a family that gets, and their salary is below 60% of the Median of the Washington State. They will get childcare for free. So, it's very important for graduated students and if you want to learn more about it, please scan that QR code. It will direct you to the website. That will explain any everything. So, what should you do? Email to the legislatives? You might see the email. There are 2 representatives that are chair and vice chair of that committee that each bill should be approved. So, email to them send you. So, they. They see me every day. But the important thing is, you can send your personal stories to make them sure that it's important for a graduate student, because I always talk about how important it is for graduate students. But if they can, if they see emails with personal stories from you and your students. They will be more convinced to bring this up to the committee and approve this and please share it if you can share it with other people, for students in your department. And it is very important for us because we worked on this deal, and it is focused on graduate and professional students.

- <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc>
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** After having a serious, a lot of serious discussion. We need some fun type of things. That's what I'm here, ready with some of the entertainment things like. So, we're organizing 2 interesting event in March one is the movie night which is in like it's East Side movie theater in Moscow, and we are showing the Captain America there. But we have some limited seat, only, like 43 options we have, so we'll get a free ticket with the free popcorns, and this flyer has some need some corrections, because, like before finalizing everything, we just made the flyer. So, the final correction is like you will get a free ticket and free popcorns, and you need to. Rsvp, so, please, if you're available the day and please Rsvp. As early as possible. But before doing the Rsvp, you just think, take a minute and think like, if you're available at this moment, because multiple events of the programming committee. We have experienced some of the people Rsvp and reserved a spot. And night before the program they're emailing and sending like they're canceling their Rsvp or something, or they're not sending emailing us back, anyway. So that's why you are reserving a spot from someone else. And you are not showing up like. So that's why you can just confirm your calendar, and then you can and the other event like, which is on March 21, we are doing an ice-skating event in Palouse Ice Rink in Moscow. So, you both. You all are invited to attend the event.
- **Nazua Idris:** So, I just want to remind you, like as mentioned. You all can send me like emails, because I know you all shared like great ideas like, I couldn't like keep track of all of those. So, if I have those written, then it will be very helpful. So, if you



can just send me an email and share your ideas, that would be great and if you were in another university. And if you know someone who can share like, if you have similar organizations and can share their bylaws, that will be helpful. For the research that you have suggested me to do. I will also look at the Internet like, figure out. How many I can collect. But it will be helpful if you can help me, too.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** So next week's meeting is in person in the junior ballroom. This is a nice drinking bottle. That is also heat proof. So that and then we finally got our shirts here. If you remember when you apply, you get to select your size of shirt and all of that. So, these 2 items will be ready for you to pick up next week when you come for the in-person meeting. Remember also that next week is the candidate debate. So, it's not only just a Senate meeting, it's also a vital meeting, because it is part of the process to get the next leaders for GPSA.
- **Destiny Brokaw:** I just wanted to let everyone know that we will also be community affairs is putting together an International Women's Day event for March 21.st So you should start seeing advertisements coming out soon. So just to keep that on your calendar and your radar.

07:40 | Adjournment

**Senate Chair:** Thank you all so much for joining, it was a very good meeting, goodnight. End.

## **GPSA EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS**

*If you need clarification or have any questions, please reach out to the corresponding executive.*

President and Executive Board Chair– Ajay Barman; [presgpsa@wsu.edu](mailto:presgpsa@wsu.edu)

Task Completed:

- Board of Regents meeting report submission
- Organized GPSA Executive Board meeting
- Organized GPSA Executive Team meeting

Meeting attended:

- Virtual SGC steering meeting
- Meeting with Internal Affairs Committee chair
- Meeting with Programming committee chair
- S&A committee meeting
- Meeting with AVCs.
- PDI Executive Board meeting
- UREC advisory board meeting
- GPSA office hour
- Employee award committee meeting
- GIESO meeting
- WSU Athletic Council meeting

Executive Vice President and Budget Chair– Desmond Aboagye; [vpgpsa@wsu.edu](mailto:vpgpsa@wsu.edu)

Task Completed:

- Affiliate Funds reviewed and disbursement



- RSO Sponsorship Application review
- RSO Purchase request training
- Senate Meeting planning and guest speaker management

### Meeting Attended

- President's Fee Committee Meeting.
- Meeting with Associate Vice Chancellors
- Student Governing Council Meeting
- Executive Team meetings
- Executive Board meetings

Chair of Internal Affairs– Nazua Idris; [gpsa.internal@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.internal@wsu.edu)

### Task Completed:

- Processing the General Election Applications
- Hosted the GPSA General Election Info Session and Coffee Hours
- Hosted the GPSA General Election Special Office Hours
- Conducted Orientation Meeting for the New Senators (Chemistry & Neuroscience)

### Meeting attended:

- Bi-weekly Exec Board Meeting
- Attended the Senate Meeting
- IAC General Election Application Review Meeting
- Bi-weekly WSU GSC Meeting

Chair of University Affair- Golrokh (Rose) Maleki; [gpsa.university@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.university@wsu.edu)

### Tasks Completed:

- Introducing our new representatives
- Following up on different committees

### Meeting attended:

- Executive Board meeting
- GPSA University and Student Committee meeting

### University Committee Updates and highlights:

Office of Compliance and Civil rights offers a unique opportunity for students to engage with CCR processes and share their insights on how they can better connect with and serve the student community as it relates to creating inclusive environments free from discrimination and harassment.

The committee will meet four times during the Spring 2025 semester. During these meetings, members will:

- Learn more about CCR's processes and Executive Policy 15.
- Share feedback on how to improve our procedures and operations.
- Provide valuable input on how CCR can better connect with and serve students.

If you are interested in joining them, please contact Taylor Ellsworth, at [taylor.r.ellsworth@wsu.edu](mailto:taylor.r.ellsworth@wsu.edu) by March 1, 2025.

(All WSU campuses are welcome!)





To participate, students can Student Health Insurance Advisory Board: They will meet on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. If you would like to share feedback, have concerns or questions, please reach out to Ninh Khuu ([ninh.khoo@wsu.edu](mailto:ninh.khoo@wsu.edu)) or Rose Maleki ([golrokh.maleki@wsu.edu](mailto:golrokh.maleki@wsu.edu)).

Chair of Community Affairs - Madison Honig; [gpsa.community@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.community@wsu.edu)

Tasks Completed:

- Continued Safety Bag Distribution
- Affordable Cooking Class Event in collaboration with PDI for March 18<sup>th</sup>
- Finalized events for Community Affairs for Spring 2025 semester
- International Women\*s Day Event on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Approved Sponsorship Request for Franklin Elementary

Meetings attended:

- GPSA Executive Board Meetings
- Community Affairs Committee Meeting
- Attended College Hill Association Meeting
- Meeting with guest speakers for International Women's Day
- Senator Brokaw and Senator Kingrey attended the College Hill meeting with Mayor Benjamin

Chair of Travel grants- Augustine Attah; [gpsa.grants@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.grants@wsu.edu)

Tasks Completed:

- Talked to WSU Chemistry Graduate students about GPSA travel grants
- Daily correspondence with students, departmental travel coordinators and finance team
- Approval of Spring 1 2025 travel grants
- Renewal of grant lifecycle manager from Foundant

Meetings attended:

- Pullman Police Advisory Committee Meeting
- GPSA travel grant committee Spring meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly office hours

Chair of Awards and Scholarships - Joseph Akowuah; [gpsa.scholarships@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.scholarships@wsu.edu)

Tasks Completed:

- Review of research expo abstracts have been completed and selected candidates notified.
- Hunt for judges have begun
- My team and I are constantly advertising Research Expo and Excellence Awards
- Still reviewing applications for dissertation grants
- Event planning in full swing

Meetings attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly office hours
- Biweekly Awards and Scholarships Committee Meeting
- Biweekly meeting with Academic Showcase

Chair of Professional Development Initiative- Sajjad Uddin Mahmud; [gpsa.pd@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.pd@wsu.edu)

Tasks Completed:



- PDI Spring 2025 Events:
  - 2/11 - Association for Faculty Women Collaboration: Equity-Minded Research
  - 2/12 - Professional headshot photoshoot event at Wenatchee
  - 2/19 - Formatting Your Thesis or Dissertation

Meetings attended:

- GPSA executive board meeting
- GPSA-PDI committee meeting
- GPSA office hour

Chair of Programming- Md. Redwan Ahmad Khan; [gpsa.programming@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.programming@wsu.edu)

Tasks Completed:

- Finalized a restaurant Friday for February with Tokyo Seoul (February 28<sup>th</sup>)
- Finalized an Ice Skating events in Palouse Ice Rink on March 21st
- Planned a Movie nights and Saturday breakfast events
- Planned April events

Meetings attended:

- Bi-Weekly Programming committee meeting
- Met with assigned committee members for events (Supriya, Portia, Moazzam, Hector, Hesam, Zahra)
- GPSA Executive committee meeting

Chair of Communication- Andrew Sutherland; [gpsa.communications@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.communications@wsu.edu)

Tasks Completed:

- GPSA Election Promotional Material
- Promotion of PDI Events
- Promotion of GPSA Programming Events
- Excellence Awards Promotion
- Advertising Research Expo and Excellence Awards
- GPSA Website Edits
- GPSA Meeting Minutes

Meetings attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly office hours
- Communication Team Meeting
- Research Expo and Excellence Award Meeting