



Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#9
February 8, 2021
Via Zoom
5:30 PM

[Zoom](#)

[GPSA Senate Absence Request Form](#)

[GPSA Senate Attendance Spreadsheet](#)

If you would like to add items to the agenda, please email the Executive Vice President by the Wednesday before Senate meetings. Minor edits to this agenda can also be suggested over email.

Pay close attention to the Guest Speaker. You are expected to engage in conversation and ask pertinent questions. Some prior research is encouraged so that questions and comments are well-informed.

Here's the agenda:

- 5:30 | Call to Order
 - Approval of Senate Meeting #8 Minutes
 - ❖ **Approved as written**
 - Approval of Senate Meeting #9 Agenda
 - ❖ **Approved as written**
- 5:35 | Announcements
 - PDI Upcoming Events Update (Anika Vandeen)
 - This semester, you can get the zoom link right after your registration. If you have a question, you can contact PDI at gpsa.pd@wsu.edu
 - The PDI calendar is [here](#)
 - Tax Help for Graduate and Professional Students
 - Feb 9th, 12:00PM - 2:00PM
 - Register [here](#) for the event
 - Writing Workshop Series: Reference Management Software
 - Feb 12th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
 - Register [here](#) for the event
 - Submitting your thesis and dissertation
 - Feb 19th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
 - Register [here](#) for the event:
 - Programming Updates (Rachel Wong)
 - GPSA Virtual Paint Night
 - Feb 12th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - Register [here](#) by Feb 7th:



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- GPSA Virtual Dining #2
 - Feb 27th, 6:00 PM -7:00 PM
 - Register [here](#) by Feb 27th:
- Open University Committees (Anastasia Vishnevskaya)
 - Please inform your departments that there is one vacant position for University Committee (Research and Art Committee- 1 vacant position)
 - Reach out if you are interested: gpsa.university@wsu.edu
 - For more details [here](#)
- Legislative Affairs Updates (James Dalton)
 - Planning to push on childcare benefits for graduate students.
 - Reach out to the legislators if you are a graduate student and have a story to tell regarding struggles with childcare.
- Travel grant (Arian Karimitar)
 - Raised the cap for professional development category from \$250 to \$500.
 - Online courses (such as Coursera) can be funded as well.
 - For more queries, reach out to: gpsa.grants@wsu.edu
 - Ashutosh Kumar: Does travel grant include publication cost?
 - Arian: No. Not at this moment. But an email can be sent to discuss it furthermore.
- IAC – Election Updates
 - Applications are [open here now](#) and they will be open until Feb 15th.
 - You can apply for several positions, you can take your chance and fill out separate application forms, but you cannot serve in several positions.
 - Reach out to department constituents about the available positions (department senators, college representative, executive committee members).
- Graduate Student Concerns
 - Mark Batcheler: Since GPSA meetings are open to all graduate students, we could invite our department constituents to join to maximize participation.
 - Ninh Khuu: Has anything been done about the UREC fees? Will there be any additional refunds? There are 1500-1800 grad students in WSU. Should not the UREC be able to return a portion of the total amount (\$300).



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- Sam Fleischer: The return policy is still the same as the Fall 2020 semester. It will come up at the February and March meetings and there will be a vote on this issue.
- Rachel Wong: UREC board meeting is public. The next meeting is on Feb 19th. Anyone can join and share their concern.
- Reanne Cunningham: This may have already been considered, but I want to pose the suggestion that perhaps rather than refunding \$10 for the REC fee, could that money be funneled to essential student services such as a student food bank?
- Rachel Wong: Reanne! Yes! The UREC is funneling some money towards the Cougs Cancel COVID program! They are also funneling money and staff for the program. So, students do not lose work hours and we are still supporting the university.
- Research Expo (Rabayet Sadnan)
 - There will be a virtual Research Expo this year. The abstract submission is different this year, only one abstract is needed for both the academic showcase and research expo and there will be one question that will ask you if you want to participate in the competition of the GPSA.
 - Upload your abstract [here](#) before Feb 28th
 - Later, you will have to upload a poster or a presentation video (with voice) in another link on the website.
 - You are welcome to volunteer as a judge (for evaluating the abstracts).
 - For more queries, send email: gpsa.scholarships@wsu.edu
- 5:50 | Guest Speaker
 - [Laura Lockard, Director Public Affairs and Global Media Relations](#), WSU Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health | Director Public Affairs, WSU External Affairs and Government Relations.
 - WSU External Affairs and Government Relations (EAGR) focus on the government relations side work of WSU promoting policy, keeping an eye on the state and federal issues.
 - It also works on finding federal funding resources and maintaining corporate relations across the state.
 - Visit this [website](#) for more info
 - WSU Impact, established 10 years ago, recruits folks to be a part of the advocacy for WSU at Olympia regarding concerns about new bills. You can reach out to legislators to express your concerns. If you're into advocacy, definitely reach out: laura.lockard@wsu.edu
 - Visit for more info on [WSU impact](#)



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- Ninh Khuu: My question is about alumni relations. How important are athletics, specifically the football team to WSU's image?
 - Laura: WSU is interested to be a part of the PAC-12 since it is also research and academic focused. It is meaningful on a bunch of level alongside its athletic aspect.
- Reanne Cunningham: How to involve more constituents to be a part of the advocacy? What would be the first place for them to start?
 - Laura: There is a statewide campaign going on about supporting higher educations. Because, during a budget cut (for example, during the 2008 recession), the higher education took the biggest hit. Thus, it is extremely important to showcase the statewide impact of higher educations at WSU to the policy makers via advocacy.
- [Dr. Von P. Walden, Professor in the Laboratory for Atmospheric Research \(LAR\) & Faculty Senate member.](#)
 - The issue to discuss: The proposal that the WSU administration made to the board of regents to divert \$2-3M of funding from unappropriated funds (the profit made by WSU from housing and dining, for example) to the athletic department.
 - Athletics department is spending more money than it is making every year. The athletics department is not paying for itself and has incurred debts of \$8-10M on average per year over the last decade. It has now \$120M debts to the other portions of the university.
 - Now, the administration would like to allocate \$2-3M every year to the athletics department to balance out their debt.
 - The faculty senate opposes (see the letter [here](#)) the proposed diversion of funding with a vote of 48 against 3. The faculty senate suggested to aim for an athletics program that WSU can afford.
 - James Dalton: Who voted negative and why?
 - Von: Faculties from sports medicine/physiology department might be in support of the diversion of funding.
 - Jenn Johnson: Met with the student regent and ASWSU president. If you do want to send along any opinion/comments for me to present, please send me an email presgpsa@wsu.edu.
- 6:15-6:20 Break
- 6:20-6:35 Open Floor
 - Breakout rooms – Discuss ways to recruit graduate candidates for GPSA positions.
 - After discussion, we will take some time to hear responses.



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- Senators were asked if they were interested to participate in the election.
- They can apply and self-nominate themselves for a senator, college representative or executive committee members positions.
- Commitments for serving over two terms is mandatory.
- 6:35 - 7:10 | New Business
 - RSO Spring Awards – Presentations for proposed awards over \$1000
 - Jen Madigan: Biology Graduate Students Association - \$1235.
 - Using for virtual platforms.
 - Supplies for community outreach events.
 - Buy T-shirts with brand new logo to encourage the community.
 - Monthly virtual socials with virtual games.
 - Goody bag for each member.
 - Yonas Gezahegn: Food Engineering - \$1469.50.
 - Making YouTube videos about promises and challenges of food engineering.
 - Professional development seminars.
 - Webinars, panel discussions, invite professors.
 - Heather Ramos: English Graduate Organizations - \$1000.
 - Encourage community building and professional development.
 - Gift baskets for community members.
 - Reanne Cunningham: Clinical Psychology Graduate Students Association - \$1000.
 - Clinical psychology training.
 - Anger management series.
 - Advertising the work of the association.
 - Fundraising campaigns.
 - Philanthropy events.
 - Kory Anderson: Prosser Graduate Students Association - \$1000.
 - Snacks and meals for meeting to encourage participation.
 - Virtual guest speaker honorarium.
 - Arrange online research expo.
 - Gajanan Kothawade: American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers - \$1000.
 - Few seminars (Nobel laureate Joachim Frank as guest).
 - Total 10 events.
 - Gifts and snacks at the events.



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- Printing the posters.
- RSO Spring Awards – Vote
 - ❖ **Approved**
- Scholarship Committee Budget – Vote
 - (Rabayet Sadnan): Proposed redistribution of budget, including two 3rd place prizes, total of \$1800 to move from dissertation grant to the research expo prizes. Because some money is left from the Fall semester.
 - ❖ **Approved**
- Baby Welcome Packages – Vote
 - Redistribution of Childcare Center budget - \$1000
 - If anyone is interested in helping with the baby onesie project, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Wong.
 - Reanne Cunningham: How are the parents going to reach out?
 - Rachel Wong: There will be an announcement on the website.
 - ❖ **Approved**
- 7:10-7:20 | GPSA Testimonials
 - GPSA is celebrating the 50th anniversary and we are asking for senators that currently serve on GPSA or they have served before to share their experience as a video or written testimonial [here](#)
- 7:20 | Adjournment



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GPSA Executive Board Report

GPSA Executive Board Reports January 23rd - February 5th, 2020

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

President – Jenn Johnson

- Tasks Completed
 - GPSA Exec meeting agendas
 - Interview with Daily Evergreen
 - Worked with Faculty Senate on student responses to athletic funding reallocations
 - Worked on organizing events with WSU Administration
 - Reviewed applications for Presidents Employee Excellence Awards (PEEA)
 - Finalized applications for GPSA elections
 - Set up GPSA Senate Teams account
- Meetings Attended
 - GPSA Senate meeting
 - Spring Family Weekend planning committee meeting
 - COVID Town Hall
 - GPSA Executive Board meetings
 - GPSA Executive Office meetings
 - GPSA & Student Involvement meetings
 - Athletics Council meeting
 - Met with ASWSU leaders
 - PEEA nomination committee
 - Housing Working Group meeting to finalize report
 - Faculty Senate meeting
 - Community Affairs Committee meeting
 - Internal Affairs Committee meeting

Vice President – Samantha Edgerton

- Tasks Completed
 - Created agenda for Senate meeting #8
 - Facilitated Senate meeting #8
 - Sent out Senate #8 meeting minutes
 - Created agenda for Senate #9
 - Created RSO training presentation
 - Facilitated Budget Committee meeting



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- Conducted RSO training
- Responded to email inquiries regarding RSO funding
- Reviewed and signed requests for ETRs and POs.
- Meetings Attended
 - GPSA Senate meeting
 - Spring Family Weekend planning committee meeting
 - GPSA Executive Board meetings
 - GPSA Executive Office meetings
 - SHAC meeting
 - Faculty Senate meeting

Vice President of Legislative Affairs – James Dalton

- Tasks Completed
 - Bill of Rights
 - 1 pagers
 - Bill Research
 - Testimony Preparation
- Meetings Attended
 - GPSA Senate
 - COVID Town Hall
 - GPSA Executive Board
 - GPSA Executive Team
 - WSU Legislative Team
 - GPSA Legislative Committee
 - Representative Slatter
 - Senator Nobles
 - Senator Liias
 - Representative Morgan
 - WSA Liaison Team
 - Senator Randall
 - Representative Rule
 - WSA Student Support Team
 - WSA Graduate Student Team
 - College & Workforce Development Committee
 - Education Committee
 - Ways and Means
 - Appropriations
 - State Government & Elections
 - State Government & Tribal Relations



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Chair of Awards and Scholarships – Rabayet Sadnan

- Tasks Completed
 - Opened Research Expo abstract submission portal
 - Online platform for Research Expo event is booked
 - Bought a platform for Research Expo judges
 - Proposal for budget merging
- Meetings Attended
 - GPSA senate meeting
 - GPSA Exec board meeting
 - GPSA A&S committee meeting
 - Meeting with Showcase board

Chair of Communications – Adnan Mohamed

- Tasks Completed
 - 1/25/21 GPSA Monday Minutes
 - 2/8/21 GPSA Monday Minutes
 - Posted on Social Media
 - Created events on the Website
 - Updated Research Expo on the website
 - Assigned GPSA Senate Minutes Notetaking to GPSA Communications Committee
- Meetings Attended
 - 1/28/21 Executive board meeting
 - 1/29/21 Spring 2021 Diverse Scholars

Chair of Community Affairs Vacant

Chair of Internal Affairs Vacant

Chair of Programming – Rachel Wong

- Tasks
 - Worked on paint night logistics (ordering/packing supplies for participants/creating sign-up for collection of supplies)
 - Reached out to UREC to schedule monthly Mindfulness sessions
 - Scheduled programming committee meetings for the semester
- Meetings:
 - 1/25: Meeting with TaMisha
 - 1/25: GPSA Senate Meeting
 - 1/27: Bingo Night Planning Meeting
 - 1/27: Student Media Board
 - 1/28: CUB Advisory Board
 - 1/28: GPSA Exec Board Meeting



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- 1/29: Bingo Night
- 2/1: UREC Board Meeting
- 2/4: GPSA Exec Board Meeting
- 2/5: Restaurant Week Meeting

Chair of Professional Development – Anika VanDeen

- Tasks:
 - Set up agenda for PDI committee meeting
 - Created spreadsheet for committee member sign up as lead for PDI events
 - Lead PDI event Literature Reviews
- Meetings:
 - 1/25 Senate Meeting
 - 1/26 PDI committee meeting
 - 1/27 PDI Exec Meeting
 - 2/3 PDI Exec Meeting
 - 2/4 GPSA Exec Board Meeting

Chair of Travel Grants – Arian Karimitar

- Tasks:
 - Assigned Spring (1) applications
 - Distribute transitions' tasks
 - Raise Professional Development Grant cap to \$500
- Meetings:
 - 1/25 Senate Meeting
 - 1/28 GPSA Exec Board Meeting
 - 2/2 Travel Grant Committee meeting
 - 2/4 GPSA Exec Board Meeting

Chair of University and Student Affairs – Anastasia Vishnevskaya

Any questions, please email Ana at gpsa.university@wsu.edu