



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
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 #12 Minutes
    - ❖ **Approved as written**
  - Approval of Senate Meeting #13 Agenda
    - ❖ **Approved as written**
- 5:35 | Announcements
  - PDI Updates (Jenn Johnson, GPSA President)
    - Open applications deadline is Friday 16 by 9 pm
    - Share with your department
      - President App: <https://wsu.presence.io/form/open-application-2021-2022-gpsa-president>
      - VP App: <https://wsu.presence.io/form/open-application-2021-2022-gpsa-vice-president>
      - Senator-at-large App: <https://wsu.presence.io/form/2021-2022-open-application-senator-at-large>
      - College Rep-at-large APP: <https://wsu.presence.io/form/2021-2022-open-application-college-representative-at-large>
  - PDI Updates
  - [Programming Updates](#) (Rachel Wong, Chair of Programming)
    - Yoga and Mindfulness: April 14
    - Paint Night 2: April 23
  - Movie Night: April 13 at 3 pm and 6 pm
  - Children's Center Spring Family Bags
    - April 20th 5:35 PM



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
Via Zoom  
5:30 PM

- Ages 0-12
- Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084CA8AE2CABFD0-spring1>
- Dead and Finals Week Programming at the CUB
  - Wednesday of dead week through Wednesday of finals week
  - Cookies and coffee
  - Hiring a photographer to take pictures of all graduates on CUB balcony
  - COVID protocols in place
- Legislative Affairs Updates
- Graduate Student Concerns
- [Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Science \(IAPHS\)](#)
  - GPSA Senator
    - Sandte Stanley
      - Students from any major can join.
    - Myah Houghten
      - The association was founded in 2015.
      - It has 600 members from different disciplinary backgrounds.
      - The objective of the association is to improve population health and support health scientists in their career development.
      - Health promotion can have positive changes for large groups of people.
      - Mentorship committee after submitting area of research, they match with a mentor.
      - Student committee working with students to advance population and they have activities every month posted on the website.
      - The library on the website has topics about career development, mentoring resources, teaching resources, research funding, and others.
- 5:50-6:10 | Guest Speaker – Chris Boyan, Associate Director of Operations, WSU Transportation Services; Damen “Gabby” Rodriguez, Program Support Supervisor, WSU Transportation Services; and Alex Howell
  - Proposed increase 5% in student transit fee



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
Via Zoom  
5:30 PM

- Semester: \$1.80
- Year: \$3.60
- Keep the level of transit.
- COVID-19 Relief Funding is still up in the air n
- Annual Deficit 241,000-364,000
- The student transit fee will pass if both GPSA and ASWSU approve
- What is the impact in case the proposal does not pass?
  - Reduction in transit services such as certain routes reduced or eliminated.
- Are there any other funding sources to balance or reduce the deficit?
  - Parking Funds
  - S&A Fees
  - Student Transit Fees
  - State and City grants awarded to Pullman Transit.
- What is the cause of the deficit?
  - Lack of revenue from the Parking System
- Where do these funds go?
  - We make a contract with Pullman Transit, and they do transit services for us. We work closely with the Transit Advisory Group about what areas the routes go to. So, the funds go to the City Transit.
- Is the increase temporary?
  - If it increased, it stays the same, and it may increase more.
- Suppose you obtained the S&A fund and Increase from students, and parking funds; what is the situation we are looking at in 2022?
  - We are looking at a deficit.
- What does that mean with the number of buses and the situation we should be going through?
  - We are working with Pullman Transit to see if they can use some of their COVID relief money to keep that from happening not to reduce service.
- If the fee increased, does that confirm that there will not be any impact of the transit service?
  - I wish I can guarantee that we are not going to reduce any service, but our goal is not to reduce the service unless we have to. We are waiting for Pullman Transit that they can fill any gap that we cannot fill. So, I cannot guarantee that, but we are going to work hard to make that not happening.
- Are we going to increase the fee next year?



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
Via Zoom  
5:30 PM

- We meet with the Transit Advisory Group, and we look at the financial status and based on how the financial status is looking, the decision is made whether to bring another increase. We would not increase year by year. We would increase it would a deficit need.
- Vote – Transportation Fee
  - ❖ **Approved**
- 6:10-6:25| Open Floor
  - Breakout rooms – What key issues, concerns, and legislative areas do you want GPSA to focus on next year?
  - Arian Karimitar
    - At the time of voting, we should think about everybody. We should think about students having struggles with their stipend because every year, we have an increase that will affect students.
    - We saw budget cuts. For example, GPSA had a budget cut. So, S&A has money. The problem is that they cannot reallocate it. Their solution is to increase student fees, but S&A can pay more for the transportation.
    - This problem should not be solved by students. S&A can work other ways to allocate money to other groups who are in need and decrease the others.
  - Ninh Khuu
    - We keep increasing fees, but we do not get funds from fees we pay.
    - Students in some departments are paid less.
    - Fees from UREC will not get refunded if it is more than 10\$.
    - I think we should not increase fees if we are not able to negotiate services that we do not even use.
  - Nasir Haghighabardined
    - Everyone struggled financially during the pandemic. It is good to put more pressure on students to compensate for this cost. It turns into a normal thing if there is a financial deficit; the first thing comes to mind is to increase student fees.
    - The logic that it is 2 dollars is not ok. It is not a strong logic because 2 dollars means different to different people.
    - Pushing back might force them to find other efficient ways to cover their deficit.
    - Raising the student fee might not solve that.
  - Rabayet Sadnan



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
Via Zoom  
5:30 PM

- The idea of increasing fees in this COVID situation is a problem.
- The fees are not going to decrease after the pandemic.
- If we increase our fees, there is still a deficit in their funding, so it is not certain. Increasing our fees does not confirm that they will maintain the service on the same level.
- Jenn Johnson
  - I completely understand everything that is going on. I just want to put it there that in my position, I got emails from students all the time. In the pandemic, so many emails from students asking for more bus service. There are more students who rely on this. Not only undergraduate but also graduate. Please get to transportation to get them to increase their services. Think of it as the Cougar community; we are here to help. So, I do see a pro in that. Especially, students with disabilities unable to get to the campus easily. So, buses do help. So, I do get emails from students. We do need more services provided.
- Chris Kang
  - What keeps the City running is literally what moves people around. The people who struggle are the ones who use transit services the most.
- Sandte Stanley
  - It is not about 2 dollars or more. It is a larger issue than just being 2 dollars. It is about the fact that time and time and time again. We asked the university for assistance for graduate students as TAs, GAs, and instructors. They do not come through for us. Here they are asking us for money every time. Every time, their solution is to let us raise fees on students, but we do not get anything in return. This is a fundamental issue. Our fees are not going to solve their entire transportation. It is going to be a portion of it. They are going still to be in trouble.
  - Any increase in fees is completely unacceptable until the university takes the Graduate students seriously and commits to us the same way we commit them.
  - We have to decide whether we allow them to keep taking money from us, but we get nothing in return. Nothing we asked for.
  - I am talking on behalf of my department. People are trying to figure out how to fund themselves in our department.



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
Via Zoom  
5:30 PM

- Graduate students are losing funding. Now, here somebody comes asking us for money. It is not fair or right.
- The university figures out way every time to save the athletic department. They figure out every time to save the things they want to save. The university will figure this out without our money.
- They need to reconfigure the way they see Graduate students and the value we provide to the university. They need to start by asking us for money and giving us what we ask for, and we fundamentally need.
- Partha Sarker
  - If we agree, can we add any condition to that?
  - If COVID is over, the fee must come back to the original one.
- Syeed Ahmed
  - Transportation is an important part of WSU life. We need transportation. I think we should go for funding for them.
  - After discussion, we will take some time to hear responses.
- 6:25-6:30| Break
- 6:30 - 7:00 | New Business
  - Election Update
  - Committee Updates
- VP – Corner
  - Budget Updates – S & A
- 7:00-7:05 | Closing remarks/questions
- 7:10 | Adjournment



# Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
Via Zoom  
5:30 PM

## GPSA Executive Board Reports :

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

### **President's Report – Jenn Johnson**

- Tasks Completed
  - Created Open Election Applications for all vacant positions
  - Senate confirmation emails to elected representatives
  - Posted final results on the website
  - Compiled Chat & Chew questions
  - Created Executive Board agendas
  - Worked with Student Affairs to plan a “NO CLASS” day event for grad/prof students
  - Helped plan Community Leadership Panel event
- Meetings Attended
  - Attended GPSA Senate meeting
  - Attended Pullman 2040 meeting
  - Led S&A deliberations as S&A Committee chair
  - Attended WSA Board meeting
  - Attended meeting with WSU Administration to discuss Grad/Prof Student Bill of Rights
  - Met with VP Mary Jo to discuss grad/prof student issues and concerns
  - Attended Faculty Senate
  - Attended GPSA Community Panel event

### **Vice President's Report – Samantha Edgerton**

- Tasks Completed
  - Created agenda for Senate Meeting #13
  - Sent out Minutes for Senate Meeting #12
  - Facilitated Senate Meeting #12
  - Facilitated Chat & Chew event with VPLA
  - Reviewed and signed affiliate funding requests
  - Responded to email questions regarding affiliate funding
- Meetings Attended
  - Attended WSA Board meeting
  - Attended GPSA Exec Board meetings
  - Attended GPSA Leadership meetings
  - Attended meeting with WSU Administration to discuss Grad/Prof Student Bill of Rights



## Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#13  
April 12  
Via Zoom  
5:30 PM

**Vice President of Legislative Affairs Report – James Dalton**  
Questions for James can be directed to [gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu)

### **Chair of Awards and Scholarships – Rabayet Sadnan**

- Tasks Completed
  - Published results of Research Expo
  - Started processing data of Excellence Awards
  - Dissertation Grants application is closed
  - Responded to questions and concerns of applicants
  - Preparing a report of budget, awardees, and summer plans for Senate
- Meetings Attended
  - Senate meeting
  - Executive Board meeting

### **Chair of Communications Report – Adnan Mohamed**

- Tasks Completed
  - 3/22/21-4/5/21: Submitted GPSA Monday Minutes
  - 3/29/21: Took GPSA Senate minutes
  - 4/1,8/2021: Took Executive Board meeting minutes
  - Posted on Social Media
  - Published programming events on the website
- Meetings Attended
  - 4/1,8/2021: Executive Board meetings

**Chair of Community Affairs – VACANT**

**Chair of Internal Affairs Report – VACANT**

### **Chair of Programming Report – Rachel Wong**

- Tasks:
  - Picked up ring molds from virtual diving event students
  - Prepared ice cream social event stuff
  - Ordered Paint Night supplies
- Meetings:
  - 3/29 Senate meeting
  - 4/1 Exec Board Meeting
  - CUB Advisory Board
  - 4/8 GPSA Exec Board





## Graduate and Professional Student Association

**GPSA Senate Minutes#13**  
**April 12**  
**Via Zoom**  
**5:30 PM**

- 4/9 UREC Board

### **Chair of Professional Development Report – Anika VanDeen**

- **Tasks:**
  - Uploaded pictures from the professional headshot photoshoot to One Drive to be shared
  - Creating survey with committee to poll departments
- **Meetings:**
  - 3/29 Senate Meeting
  - 3/31 PDI Exec Meeting
  - 4/1 Exec Board Meeting
  - 4/6 PDI Committee Meeting
  - 4/7 PDI Exec Meeting
  - 4/8 Exec Board Meeting

### **Chair of Travel Grants Report – Arian Karimitar**

- **Tasks**
  - Update Travel Grants website (earned certificate of WSU accessibility)
  - Assigned Spring 3 applications
  - Working on summer special funding
  - Respond to applicants questions and concerns
  - Prepare report about budget, awardees, and summer plan
- **Meetings:**
  - 3/29 Senate Meeting
  - 4/1 Exec Board Meeting
  - Meeting with the Chair of Communication
  - 4/8 GPSA Exec Board

### **Chair of University and Student Affairs Report – Anastasia Vishnevskaya**

For questions for Ana, please email her at [gspa.university@wsu.edu](mailto:gspa.university@wsu.edu)