



**GPSA Meeting Minutes**  
**December 04, 2023, | in-person | 5:30 PM**

**To attend in person:**

The CUB, 2nd floor, the junior ballroom.

**To join via Zoom:**

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/91407917022?pwd=U1UyMFBxWENreG5ScGFiN3B6O2YvZz09>

Meeting ID: 914 0791 7022

Passcode: 598325

**GPSA Senate Attendance Form:**

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

**GPSA Senate Absence Request Form:**

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

**Issue response form**

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

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

**Here's the agenda:**

- 05:30 | Call to Order
  - Approval of Last Meeting` Minutes
    - <https://forms.office.com/r/MMqSQcqmj0>
    - Senator: I motion to approve the meeting minutes.
    - Senator: Second
    - Do you approve the minutes 11/13/2023.
      - Yes: 37
      - No: 0
      - Abstain: 1
    - Marwa: We have reached a majority and the motion has passed.
  - Approval of the Agenda
    - <https://forms.office.com/r/cbDYx7GV5e>
    - There are two changes on the meeting agenda.
    - Senator: I motion to approve the meeting minutes for 12/04/2023.



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- Senator: Second
- Approval of agenda
  - Yes: 45
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 0
- Marwa: We have reached a majority.
- 05:35 | New Business
  - Voting on GPSA Fundraising Committee Chair applicant  
<https://forms.office.com/r/KFPbvZJtLu>
    - **Ajay Barman:** My name is Ajay Barman GPSA President, as we discussed in our previous meeting, that GPS will be hosting a fundraising event, because our funds are declining, and it's a great time to reach out to the potential donor and expect like funds from them, so that we can continue our business as usual. So we open up the application and our review committee. So they select one candidate for the position, and I would like to introduce Ashley Wills. She's our fundraising committee chair applicant, Ashley, please and now I'm turning over to Ashley to say a few words.
    - **Ashley Wells:** Hi, everyone. So, I was asked to prepare a short speech, even though I was the one chosen for the position, so I thought I would just take a minute or 2 and just say a few words. So, hi! As many of you know, my name is Ashley Wells. I'm a second year Ph.D.. Student in American studies and culture, and I currently serve as the Internal Affairs chair and the college representative for the College of Veterinary Medicine within GPSA. And just to speak first to my relevant skills and life experiences. I am a nonprofit co-founder, a professional grant writer, and I'm also someone who has planned and executed many events throughout my academic journey, and I do believe that I'm qualified and a suitable candidate to become the GPSA's fundraising chair for the next year. So I am a co-founder, and the Grant writer of a nonprofit organization called the Prosperity Project and to date I've personally procured about \$80,000 through my grant applications and relationship building skills for our organization. Additionally, as the former president of both Columbia University's Graduate Student Council and also the Dartmouth Writer society. I've had a plethora of experiences when it comes to event planning, strategizing, and effectively managing a team. I have planned small-scale socials, large-scale banquets and various online events to that end being the current internal affairs chair and a college rep for the GPSA has given me additional opportunities to interact with and engage with the graduate student community that we will serve through this fundraising event. Additionally, I'm also the current president of the graduate Women of Color Alliance on WSU's campus, and through this position I have gotten even more hands-on experience with the structures and event planning sources available through Washington State University. So, I believe that the initial idea from our



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President of throwing a gala or a banquet would be the perfect fundraising event for this cause. And one reason is that the graduate and professional students do not get many opportunities at WSU to just dress up and attend a classy gathering on our own campus. I believe that events like this will be more likely to get ticket sales from students looking for something different. Additionally, different departments and administrators will also be more likely to attend and enjoy such an event as a gala. I would also want to plan this kind of event because our link with ASWSU, and the fact that they have been throwing a similar event for many years now, and I believe with clear communication and timeliness, that we can secure their assistance and advice early on, and that their support will only help us to have a more successful event. So, to finish off just in terms of planning logistics that I've been thinking about. I would first start out by planning an initial meeting with my committee to set expectations. And we will need to formulate our official timeline event budget and fundraising goal. And then, once those items have been decided upon, we can get into planning the details of the actual event by figuring out the venue food, options, ticket prices, and event itinerary. So, my plan is to have this banquet in late February early March, likely. Friday, February 20, third, Saturday, February 20, fourth, or Friday, March first, and I would also like to push to have this banquet, either in the senior ballroom or in the Elson Floyd Cultural Center, depending on what we decide to do regarding food. So, the most important thing that needs to happen for us to have a successful event is for us to have a fundraising chair with solid communication skills. As this event needs to happen in a very orderly and timely manner the chair of this committee needs to be organized and efficient. And with this in mind, I believe that I have the leadership skills and the drive to become the fundraising chair for GPSA. Thank you.

- **Ajay Barman:** Thank you, Ashley. Thank you, Ashley, and to select Ashley as a chair of the Spatial Fundraising committee. We need to hear a motion, and we need a majority vote.
- **Suhina Deul:** I motion to vote for Ashley Wells to be the fundraising chair applicant.
- **Augustine Attah:** Second.
- **Dylan Oats:** The money we raise for this, does it go to a nonprofit or go to GPSA?
- **Ashley Wells:** All of this money will be going to travel grants for the upcoming year for GPSA.
- **Dylan Oats:** Since this committee has not formed yet, how much money will this committee need?
- **Ashley Wells:** This is completely volunteer so there is no financial benefit.
- **Marwa Aly:** We will be adding \$3000 from the gift account to help fund this



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committee.

- **Do you approve of Ashley Wells to be the GPSA Fundraising committee chair?**

- Yes: 46
- No: 0
- Abstain: 2

- **Marwa:** We have reached a majority, and the motion has passed.

□ RSOs Spring Funds.

- **Marwa:** Next item on our agenda is the RSO applications the GPSA opened for the spring fund. So, we received 21 applications and we had to adjust the fund. We have a lot of factors to consider. That's why not everyone receives their requested fund. So, the total allocated fund for the academic year was 45,000, which is higher than last year, was 2,000. The approved fund to give for annual fund and fall for the full semester was a total of 40, \$34,180, and the money that we needed to like to allocate for these applications between 21 RSO's was \$10,820. Yes, not all the \$34,000 will be spent. GPSA will drive a lot of money from this one. But we can. We don't know. We can't make expectations. We must wait until the last day of the due date to use their fund. After that we know exactly what we have in our hands. So that's why the Budget Committee. I really appreciate the work that they did. They reviewed the roughly, the applications, and the total now to spend is \$45,780, in case all the organization spend their money. That means we have a short of 780. And we blend at this point to users shorter from the gift account if we have to. So, any questions so far?
- **Janis Parks:** Alright. So I'm going to be speaking first, and then I will pass the floor off to Sam, who's also here with me. We both have statements for our own organizations. So, to start out, I am Janice Parks. I am a fourth year Ph.D. Candidate in molecular plant sciences, also known as MPS, and have had the privilege of serving as the MPS GSO President, since 2022, where I have represented our program of nearly 50 students. Due to the nature of being an inter departmental program. Students often struggle to find a sense of home or belonging within WSU. As not all academic departments feel their funds should be invested in MPS students. The MPS GSO. Has served as a way for these students to be able to find a sense of home in belonging at WSU, which is critical to the well-being and retention of these students. This point has also been reiterated by the MPS program director, whose statement I have with me today printed out. Upon receiving our budget for Spring 2024, we were highly distressed to see that we received \$475 less than the requested budget, with little to no explanation. We know that we are not alone in this issue, and that the overall budget for GPSA is down 8.24%. However, this does not excuse the funding of organizations for fall 2023 in spring, 2024 that are not officially active, registered student organizations, as shown by their absence on Presence. This accounted for 36% of the funded organizations which were allocated \$16,250 in funds which were already tight, as you know per GPSA bylaws. Only active registered student organizations are eligible to receive funding from GPSA. Per article 8, Section 3f on line, 3 of GPSA's bylaws.



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Funds may not be used for gifts, prizes, awards, scholarships, or any other purpose that be given to a specifically designated individual. Yet an organization that received \$1,500 annual funds, and is up to receive \$500 in semesterly funds for this spring presented the proposed use of GPSA funds for salaries/wages. This group has \$5,000 in external funds, which is significantly more than many departmental such programs serving graduate student associations, such as organizations often, which often rely heavily on funds from GPSA receive for their programming. Given the shortage of funds for the spring semester. We would like to encourage GPSA to prioritize allocating funds to groups that only applied for semesterly funding, first especially groups that applied for under \$1,000 per fall, as their groups will have received disproportionately fewer funds than other groups. Some groups that requested annual budgets are requesting more spring funds, which would leave these 7 groups receiving 29% of RSO funding out of 35 organizations, the 15 groups that requested annual funds making up to 43% of all the organizations funded by GPSA this year would be receiving 60% of RSO funds. Meanwhile organizations on a semester budget would only be receiving 40% of the available RSO funds for the year. Our organization requested a small amount of money for fall at \$350, and requested \$975 for spring. As we have larger events in the spring, including program shirts, coffee hours and a community outreach event known as Planned Science Day Planned Science Day was so successful last year that we were asked to join the Schweitzer engineering laboratory, also known as SEL. This fall in their outreach event to local elementary schools only receiving \$500 would make it impossible for us to function with full programming this coming semester, which would make it impossible for us to function with full programming this coming semester, which would be at the detriment to our program and the local community. Other organizations, such as the Plant Pathology GSO, which is here with me today, are also feeling the negative impacts of the unfair decisions being made by GPSA in their distribution of funds. We would like to encourage GPSA to ensure it is funding groups that are comprised of majority graduate students as the mission of GPSA is to fund majority graduate students serving organizations. We believe, through these amendments. In other words, the priority prioritization of groups on semesterly budgets. Specifically, those that have requested smaller budgets, historically, organizations with majority graduate students and organizations that are officially active. That GPSA will be fairly distributing funds, and then I'd like to pass it off to Sam.

- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Thank you, Janice, and thank you for the opportunity to talk to the GPS Center today. My name is Samodya Jayasinghe. I am the president of the Plant Pathology Graduate Student Association, and I have a statement prepared that I would like to share with you. That is followed by a specific question that we would like the Budget Committee to answer how their decisions were made in in regards to their funding allocations for the RSO. So, as I said, my name is Samodya Jayasinghe. I'm here today on behalf of the plant pathology, graduate student organization. We have been surprised by the recent decisions regarding registered student organization funding. We understand that total GPSA budget was reduced by around 8%. This year, however, we have looked through RSO Funding that was awarded in fall



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2023, and spring 2024, and we have concerns that we would like to bring to your attention. And before I ask my specific questions, I would like to highlight that we do not harbor any ill intent towards any other organization that received funding. However, we strongly believe that all our resources should be treated equally and hopefully, we can see more transparency in how these decisions were made. The plant pathology, graduate student organization have been serving its student body, the department of plant pathology and corners in numerous and significant ways. To make the graduate student experience at WSU better, therefore, we do not understand the significant funding reduction we have seen. Furthermore, if any of these decisions were made by some oversight, we strongly hope GPSA considers reallocating, funding with equity and prioritizing services to graduate and professional students in accordance with existing guidelines provided by the GPSA Bylaws we hope to receive a full response to our questions that we have prepared from GPSA. So, the first question I have is, so we do have some slides prepared. If you need a clarification related to our questions. The first question is, some organizations have received both annual and spring semester funding, which brings their total funding allocations up to \$2,500, and other organizations have only received as low as \$500 of funding overall. I understand that any organization can apply for funding up to for up to \$2,500 in funding. However, if the available funding amount is low, how does GPSA justify allocating semester funding to organizations who have already received annual funding, while significantly depriving semester funding allocations to other organizations.

- **Marwa Aly:** So, to answer this question, they already use most of their font, and they have plans for the spring, and according to the bylaws they can still apply. We can't say, you have you already received the fund, we can't give you more. We can say that spring applications will be for semester spring only because this is against the bylaws.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Yes, I understand that they cannot apply up to 2,500, but if the amount of funding that is available for an RSO are low, how do you justify giving 2,500 to one organization and 500 to other organization.
- **Marwa Aly:** You didn't to give \$2,500 for an organization. You just said the total will be \$1,300. So, they didn't have the \$2,500.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** So there's \$2,500, yes, \$2,500 overall. There are some organizations that were awarded, yeah. Awarded \$2,000 in in annual funding.
- **Vincent James:** So, I did realize upon viewing your spreadsheet just a moment ago. These numbers are low. So, there are 2 or 3 of these organizations that receive more than \$500 in funding for this spring. And I they've written down as 500 here, but they're 8 and \$900 figures. So this is actually an underestimate.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Yeah, so, if you look at here, this biology graduate student association that received to \$2,000 of annual funding in the fall, but they were also again awarded \$500 in spring, and there are organizations like MPS, who only received \$850 overall for the whole year. So how do we justify this funding allocations? Because one. I don't personally believe one organization has to get more funding than the others, because all RSO. Should be treated equally and if this change is due to some say, some mistake, or



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some lack of quality of the application. Then we understand, however, we want to see evidence of that lack of quality in application that reduce the amount of funding that was allocated.

- **Marwa Aly:** So, if we will exchange the bylaws that all the RSO's should receive equal amount. It means we don't have to look at their lens. We just okay. If we receive 20 applications and we have \$4,000. That means each of them should receive the same. But that's not the case.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** I'm sorry I didn't understand your answer, so I all organizations.
- **Marwa Aly:** You mentioned that, you'll believe is all our soul should receive the same.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** I don't believe all our resource should receive the same. However, if there's only certain amount of funding that is left over for the spring, shouldn't organizations that have not received annual funding get the priority because other organizations were already awarded funding for their whole year because that the I don't see any equity here. That's our main concern. Because how does one organization get \$2,500 and another get \$800?
- **Marwa Aly:** We have other factors. We don't look only if this organization received annual fund or not, we have other factors. Okay, yes. And I did share these factors through my email.
- **Janis Parks:** You didn't explain why I only got \$850 for the whole year. You did not justify that to me. Why are receiving so little money, when there are organizations that are get thousands of dollars in funds? Was my application bad? You did not tell me that.
- **Marwa Aly:** we need to clarify that the you receive the full amount that you request is full.
- **Janis Parks:** Yeah, which was not \$50.
- **Marwa Aly:** You requested \$300, and you found that \$300 right? The issue with a spring. It's not with the full year. It's with a spring, right?
- **Janis Parks:** The issue is with the spring, but if we have organizations that have already received thousands of dollars in funds, then how do you justify that we only get \$850 for the whole entire year when we are paying in as students the same amount as everybody else. Plus, we have almost 50 students in our program.
- **Marwa Aly:** I agree, and I understand that you are frustrated, but I am here to let you know that we need to split between. We, we need to like clarify that. I don't look at, okay, this organization will receive \$800 for the whole year, and this organization will receive \$2,500 for the year. It's not how we can count it and if you would like to be the VP for next year. You want to do it like that. Okay, there are other factors we are now talking about the spring. It's not about the full. You request the \$350 for the fall, and you got funded the \$350, right? So, fall is not our problem. The problem is in spring, and for the spring. I do understand that you received shortage now, but I told you that we are expecting money to be retrieved in January, and you can, and you will get the priority to send a request to the Budget Committee, you know, and they will fund you the rest. But right now, I can't say how much I have. It is not my money, how much GPSA does have. To say, okay, let's give everyone



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whatever they want. You know what I mean. I like to give everyone whatever they requested that Budget committee, they like to give everyone whatever they requested, but when we did that at the First Division cycle we found that we have to pay more than \$22,000, and we don't have that money.

- **Janis Parks:** We're just going to move on with the rest of the question.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Yeah. So, Marwa, you said, so, okay, there are other factors. Okay, we agree there. There are other factors. So, our question is, can we see a matrix that way, it's used by used by the Budget Committee to make this decision or any other documentation that was used in the decision-making process. Because we know, according to the GPSA bylaw, Article 8, section 6, the financial records of GPSA will be open to inspection by GPSA members by request. So, we would like to see a document that you document, or any metrics, or any other documentation that was used to make this funding decision.
- **Marwa Aly:** I am happy to share that.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Yeah, we already asked you for that you provide us those documentations through our emails multiple times.
- **Marwa Aly:** No, you ask it for the list of the funded RSO and I did send the list of the RSO funded in full annual end.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** There were 3 other questions in my initial email that you didn't answer. That's the reason why we are here today because we were we were asking you questions that you were you were skipping those questions, and we decided is the best to actually come here and talk in person because we want to get out questions, answered your questions.
- **Marwa Aly:** You send me the first email with a lot of questions, and I did answer as much as I can, but I didn't skip any skip any question and purpose. If you did send it to me again, I would respond to it and say, Hey, Marwa, you didn't respond to these questions, but I didn't skip in purpose.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Okay, I'll move on to the next question. But we would like to see that matrix, and I would like to request to the Senate that you guys don't want to approve the RSO budget, this semester, this today in this meeting until these issues are resolved. We want to see transparency in this process.
- **Marwa Aly:** We don't have any voting required from Senators today because all the RSO's received less than \$1,000. That means it's a final decision from the RSO. The from the Budget Committee.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Okay, so is the Budget Committee open to changing their decision.
- **Marwa Aly:** They are.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Based on any request that we make after we get all the documentation that we request.
- **Marwa Aly:** Yes, but it's not always the Senators. It's with a budget committee and the advisor for the GPSA.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** okay. So, I would like to move on to their next question. We noticed that some organizations are not comprised of only graduate students have been allocated more funding than organizations whose complete membership is only graduate students. From what I understand, the





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purpose of GPSA. RSO. Funding is to serve the interest of members of GPSA. Therefore, how does GPS justify this decision? Because there are organizations that include a lot of outside members, faculty staff and also community members And these organizations have received way more funding from GPSA than fully graduate student, including organizations that have received very less funding and these organizations only have GPSA and maybe one more funding source as opposed to these out organizations with outsiders that have many other community funding resources. So how does GPSA justify this decision of prioritizing or giving more money to organizations that doesn't have graduate students as their main membership?

- **Marwa Aly:** So, according to the bylaws RSO's should have more than 50% of its members graduates to graduate and the professional students. But it shouldn't have 100.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Yes, we understand that, but is your metrics is there a line that says, okay, you have your metrics, Okay, we give this many points to this organization, if they made this criterion, this criteria, this criteria. Do you quantify the number of graduate students in every organization, and allocate those funding accordingly?
- **Marwa Aly:** There is a there are 2 questions and the application, how total, how many total members you have, and how many graduate students of these total member that you have?
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Yes, and then how much weight is given to this factor?
- **Marwa Aly:** We have an RSO that they received the full amount. They ask it in fall, and for spring they face the shortage exactly as you face and this shortage because they only have 4 graduate students in their organization. So we have this factor counted when we make the decision.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Okay? So we will be able see that when we get your decision documents, then, okay? And then the next question, I have some organizations that have received funding are not available on presence, and therefore they are not officially registered as RSO's at WSU and I double check this factor with the RSO Office and RSO Graduate assistant Alisa. And so, from what? How does GPS justify allocating large sums of funding to the organ, to organizations while depriving funding to groups that follow the official rules and regulations required by GPSA. Because we have numbers if you want to see that many organizations that GPSA funded in the fall and the spring are not on presence.
- **Marwa Aly:** So, it doesn't mean that they are not registered or so if they are not on presence. I did ask my advisor, and he did check these organizations, and he told me they are registered RSO. That's so, Matt is on the he is on joining online today. So, Matt, can you please confirm that?
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** So why does that line on GPSA website? It says it has to be A.
- **Marwa Aly:** It didn't say to be on presence. It said to be registered RSO.
- **Vincent James:** Part of being a registered RSO is having Presence.



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- **Marwa Aly:** I don't know about I yeah, I don't know about this information, but I did ask my advisor to confirm and I was highlighting these organizations read until he said, they are registered or is so.
- **Vincent James:** So yeah, step 6, make it official, complete. The organization registration form on COUG Presence to complete the process. That is, Step 6.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Funding in the fall, and they're still not on presence. Which means that they've been this. There has been us one semester already passed since they've received their funding, but they're not still on presence. Let's forget about the organizations that receive funding for the spring. For example. Okay, they still have time to go there. Do their presence registration? How about the organizations that are still on, not on presence, but receive funding for the fall.
- **Marwa Aly:** I will ask my advisers to answer this question.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Okay, thank you.
- **Marwa Aly:** Matt is here. Matt, can you please answer this question?
- **Matt Shaw:** I believe that Sam is correct, that they do need to be on Presence to be an official RSO. I don't know what review we did. I don't know that I looked on presence. But I'm happy to do a review and presence to see if they're on there. I honestly, I'm not sure what the status is of the of the of the all the organizations that we're on presence are not.
- **Janis Parks:** We did check before we came here today and we searched all the organizations that were funded and we do have the screenshots from our searches that show that these organizations are not on presence.
- **Matt Shaw:** Okay? Well, I can check on presence also and I do have higher access. I can look, I have admin, access. So, I can see what the issue is with those individual organizations. I'm sorry, Marwa, I don't remember what review we did, but I can. I can look on presence and confirm who is, and who is not eligible as a as an RSO as a fully qualified RSO.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Matt, I have a follow up question. So, if these RSO's are not currently on presence. I'm talking about the RSO. Who awarded full funding, if they are not currently available on pre presence? Are they still allowed to use their funding? Are they still allowed to keep their funding because they have not met their requirements?
- **Matt Shaw:** I don't have the bylaws in front of me or memorize, I'd have to look and see what the bylaws say, and then what the specifics are. So, I'm not sure I'm not going to answer that without knowing specifically what the bylaws say. I'm sorry I don't know off the top of my head, to be honest, but I'm happy to do the research and confirm what the bylaws say as far as RSO Qualifications, and what is all required to be eligible, to spend in the semester you're awarded funds. I just don't know off the top of my head.
- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Yeah. So, our concern is that if these organizations, who don't meet guidelines get funding, but the organizations like us, who meet all the criteria don't get our total requested funding. How does GPSA justify that unequal treatment?
- **Marwa Aly:** We will retrieve the money.
- **Ashley Wells:** I'm sorry, Marwa. Just really quickly. I'm the internal affairs chair. I have the bylaws in front of me. There is no stipulation that mentions



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anything about retrieving money from any RSO's if they do not fulfill their requirements. So that is just nothing, not something that is currently in the bylaws. Right now, however, we are doing an official review of the bylaws, and we can add a stipulation for that for the next academic year, but right now there is nothing for that at this moment.

- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Okay, I also just want to clarify we at the beginning of the semester got emails from our so office just office saying that we need to complete our presence profile to be able to qualify, to spend our funding. So that's where our question comes from.
- **Marwa Aly:** So, we are happy to follow up on this issue, and with Matt with a finance team we will see the best we can do because we won't do something that again is again as the buyers.
- **Vincent James:** It appears that in as a question in the chat along with a Sarah Grutmeir.
- **Ninh Khuu:** I'll go after Sam.
- **Vincent James:** We have one more question from Sarah.
- **Sarah Grutmeir:** I feel like a good solution to this might be. I mean, I'm not sure what we can do about the spring funding, but I feel like it might be good idea in the future to switch over to exclusively semester funding. I know that there's a lot of RSO's that apply for annual, and then can't use it, and I feel like after listening to this, it might be a good idea in the future, so that we don't have as much money tied up to switch over to semester because I know that we might get a lot back. So, it might be good to kind of do it more split up.
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you Sara.
- **Sunhina Del:** I think just something for us to also consider later is when I was at the University of Arizona and we also use Presence. The people before the semester even started before something was given, we check that they were on Presence and so many of the members had to also be registered on Presence, and I don't see this taking effect right now, and I don't believe that some of the people that we funded have more than 50% graduate students and I really do think that that's a problem that. You know, like that, they've pointed out and is important. Because, you know, they're a anyone who's going to say that if they don't have to prove it, they're going to say, of course, we fulfill all the requirements. I mean, who would not? You're going to do it for the money, and everyone asks for more in the fall, especially ahead of time, to get the money. And so I think that this is, you know this is something on their behalf that we really should look at, that other universities have already implemented. that we can truly see that more than 50% of the members are graduate students.
- **Marwa Aly:** Any answer question about okay? Sam, can you go with your question.
- **Elliot Marston:** Yeah, we have just to wrap up our comments. I'm going to go over the slides that we prepared for everybody that hasn't met me before. My name is Elliot Marston, and I am an officer in the Plant Pathology, graduate student organization. So really, quickly like Sam, said one of our main issues with. This is, we believe that the current budget and finance committee decisions are unequitable. Part of that is that to be eligible for



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funds, you must be a registered student organization that includes having at least 2 officers complete the officer training as well as being active on presence as we've discussed before. In addition to having a majority of your members which is more than 50% being graduate students. In addition to that, we believe the funding guidelines stipulated in the bylaws are not being followed, including that funding applicants we know, according to all of your minutes, they've applied use for funds in contradiction with GPSA bylaws, which includes using funds for specific individual pay. Last spring somebody applied for annual funding in order to specifically cover wages and salaries. They included that in their application, and it was voted on by the GPSA And approved. In addition to that, we believe that of all of the funds awarded annual, fall, and spring up. Possibly more than 34% of funds have been awarded in air just based on whether or not these individuals or these individual organizations have an RSO. Which is a total of more than \$15,000 that have potentially been misawarded to different RSO's. this is the table that we put together, based on information provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. Any of the organizations highlighted in Orange applied for both annual and semester funding. You can see that multiple of these organizations are not registered on presence. And yet they've been awarded funding multiple times. This is where we're coming to our number of 34% not being active, RSO's the number could possibly be higher when you take into account whether or not more than 50% of their graduate students. More than 50% of their members are graduate students. We didn't have access to that data. So, this is solely based on whether or not All of these organizations have presence pages. And again, there's that \$15,000 of funds. In conclusion, what we're asking for GPSA is to increase transparency around. How these RSO funding decisions are being made, especially in regards to annual versus funding or annual versus semester funding for different organizations, we'd also like to increase oversight specifically of the Finance and Budget Committee in regards to doing due diligence, in verifying whether or not the people who are applying for funds are actually eligible. Clearly, some things are slipping through the gaps. We'd also like to encourage the prioritization of funding for RSO's composed completely of graduate students. Primarily those organizations are going to be within different departments. They may not be receiving external funding sources similar to some of the other RSO's that have applied for funding for you all. We understand again, that GPSA has had a recent budget cut, which is why we're extremely concerned about making these funds go as far as possible for everybody. Thank you.

- **Samodya Jayasinghe:** Thank you. Elliot. So finally, I just want to say. Yeah, I just want to say, we have nothing against organizations that got fund received funding. We have nothing against GPSA. I was a member of GPSA Executive Board myself. I know it's a difficult job, but I want. GPSA say, to investigate this concerns that we have, and maybe reconsider funding allocations for the spring, so it is equal and just for everybody. I have my questions printed for you, Marwa, so hopefully, you can answer those to me in email? Oh, Ninh, you had a question. Sorry?
- **Ninh Khuu:** Oh, thanks, for like sharing all your information. Oh, Hi! I'm Ninh. I'm a grad student out in Crossher, and I want to say, thanks tomorrow,



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for, like all the hard work that she does behind the scenes, it is a lot of work to do. Understand. We're all trying to work through this and I would like to say, Yeah, I also really agreed Sara's suggestion and the second speaker's suggestion. But like to ask, Marwa, do you know how often folks who apply for like the annual fund, how often they don't use it all, or if you have, like, an average idea of like at the end of the academic year how much money is returned to GPSA through affiliate funds.

- **Marwa Aly:** So actually, it's around 30% retrieved to the GPSA. That's why we had a conversation before, even before the spring application, that we don't like the money. Hold it with these RSO's. I'm not talking about specific RSO's, but I mean any RSO. Through the year. Hold it with them, and then at the end they retrieve it again. So this is a concern, even inside GPSA that we don't see the annual application. the annual fund is effective.
- **Ninh Khuu:** Yeah, I think that's agreement that we're reaching, and thank you for keeping track of those numbers. The last thing I'd like to say is Presence really sucks as a website. It is God awful to try to use. I try to like. Tell our RSOs to like you really have to make an account. So, you qualify for the money, but it is a practice in frustration.
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you so much, Ninh.
- **Vincent James:** Here we go, all right. I'm Vincent James. Sorry I never introduced myself. My bad on that to highlight that 30 number. So just quick, math, and this is real rough that equates to about \$7,500 being returned at the end of the year from unused annual funds.
- **Marwa Aly:** I agree.
- **Janis Parks:** I also like to point out that at least our RSO, has historically applied for the semester leave fund and applied it as low as we have, because we have wanted to make sure we don't withhold funds that we're not going to use, and we have always used our funds almost to completion, which Dylan can attest to because he is our treasurer. So okay, so you know, it's really frustrating to me that we have done our best to make sure that things are evenly distributed and you're really getting, you know, for lack of better words screwed here. Okay, so I mean, it would be, really, I'd we'd all really appreciate it if you would reconsider how you're allocating this Spring, especially considering not all these organizations are on presence.
- **Vincent James:** Yeah, it kind of disincentivizes providing accurate budgets. If the only way to get the money that you need is to just throw out a wild number in the spring before that academic year. Really doesn't incentivize good things kind of another super minor issue here. There are definite advantages to applying to annual funding that don't apply to semesterly funding. Yet, Annual funding hurts. GPSA more than anything annual funds require a minimum of a thousand-dollar budget to be proposed. They're essentially guaranteed a thousand dollars especially because they're applying in the fall when there's so much money to go around. There's nothing tight so, they could just get a thousand dollars, and then they could use none of it, and you'd never know until the next academic year.
- **Marwa Aly:** I agree till May 10TH. Yes, I agree. I agree. . So again, thank you so much for all the insight that you did today, and I would like to share that the annual fund is not from. This is my 3rd years with GPSA and yes, it's



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not effective, especially when we have. am I? Okay? III think that I hear myself here. So yes, they hold the money with them with the RSO's, and then at the end of the year, we know that they didn't use their money. It's not because we don't know they didn't use it in full, because in order to use the money, they have to go through the purchase request. But it's because sometimes they have their events in a spring, you know, and I would say that Ninh was one of the budget members that reviewed the applications for fall and annual. So, he knows the questions, the all breaks that we have and we received a lot of applications. We have GPSA funds, 26 RSO's for full and annual. This is a lot of a huge number of RSO's and with spring applications it's a 21 Rs. Source. We didn't expect to receive 21 applications, but it happened and I do confirm that the Budget Committee consider your applications, and we can look again, especially for the register. I didn't know about the rule that they have to be on Presence. That's why, when I didn't find I ask it. But I get the answer that they are registered. That's why I'll had to give the money. But again, GPSA is a registered. I would like to say that GPSA is a registered organization. exactly as your organization and we had to go through presents. Yes, I went through presents, but because I wasn't the first one who applied for this organization. So, I didn't have to prepare the beach there. I what I have to do every year is to update the information. That's my experience with Presence, for as a registered RSO, but again, we will reconsider all the points that you mentioned today. Thank you so much for all this work that you did, and I have to tell that we have a finance team. They are fantastic. I have to say that there is no money spent on wages or salaries. No, the money didn't spend. They didn't spend any money on salaries or wages, because we have the finance team who will come back to us and say, Hey, this is for what? Why? And here is the bylaws. It's not the bylaws for the GPSA, only they not they, are they don't look at the bylaws for GPSA only, but they look for the but at the by-laws, for the financing, for WSU. So, it we have a very, very fantastic finance team, and Matt can confirm with that that there is no penny from GPSA that would be spent incorrectly. Matt, do you agree with this?

- **Matt Shaw:** Yeah, there, there's no way that GPSA funds are paid for wages or sounds. That's just it's impossible. But III don't disagree that. Maybe they requested that. But there's no way that our finance team would pay anyone's salary or wages from the GPS. A budget. It's just not set up that way unless it's Mason, our office assistant in the GPS office. But no, no, RSO's have wages or salaries paid out of their GPS a funding.
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you, Matt. Thank you. So, before we go to the dinner break. and you are invited to the dinner. Okay, I would like to let you know that we all are students. We're all in the same situation. So GPSA is just an organization who is serving graduate students graduate and the professional students. I don't want professional students to say where we are. But GPSA is a just an registered organization and we are here to serve to serve each other. So it's okay to make mistakes. It's okay to like to correct each other. We're all here to help each other. Right? Okay, so this is the time for dinner. Break and let's take 15 min break. Yeah.



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- 06:00 | Dinner break
- Spring Senate Meetings.
  - **Marwa Aly:** I hope everyone enjoys a dinner. No, you didn't. Okay, can we? Back to our business? So, before the dinner break, we should have the Spring Senate meetings. So, I would say that unfortunately, we don't have a final decision right now. But it's about March Fourth and March eighteenth is us to have them both in person, both online or one in person, one online. So, we will update you as soon as we have that decision. But I need to share that the Executive Board are taking your considerations which you shared through the committee meetings under consideration. So they shared all the concerns that everyone shared. Thank you so much for sharing these concerns, because some of them we didn't even know about it. That's why you need to talk. You need to raise your hand. Any question about that. Okay.
  - **Current Proposed Spring Senate Meetings**
    - **1/08 in Person**
    - **2/05 online**
    - **3/04 TBD**
    - **3/18 TBD**
    - **4/1 online**
    - **5/13 in Person**
- 07:20 | Happy wishes
  - Members of GPSA individually spoke and wished everyone their hopes and goals for the next semester.
- 07:30 | Adjournment



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**GPSA Executive Board Reports**

**If you need clarification or have any questions, please get in touch with the corresponding individual.**

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

**Task Completed:**

- Plan and conduct executive board meetings
- Plan and conduct executive team meetings

**Meeting attended:**

- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly Cougar Lobby meeting with ASWSU
- Board of Regents meeting on Nov 17
- Meeting with Vice Chancellor of Students Affairs Dr. Ellen Taylor
- Meeting with S&A Fees committee.
- Bi-weekly SGC steering committee meeting
- Faculty senate meeting
- Weekly PDI committee meeting
- Meeting with Pullman city council member
- SGC meeting online
- Food security committee meeting and Participating in food drive
- GIESO general assembly meeting
- GPSA Fundraising discussion meeting with Kim Holapa
- Meeting with Dr. Ellen Taylor
- Meeting with Indian Students Association (ISA)

**Executive Vice President and Budget Chair– Marwa Aly; [vpgpsa@wsu.edu](mailto:vpgpsa@wsu.edu)**

**Task Completed:**

- Facilitate purchases.
- Prepare Senate agenda.
- Send out decision letters for RSOs' Spring funds.
- Childcare reimbursement for Fall.
- After-school program for Spring with WSU Children Center





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**Meeting Attended**

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting
- SGC meeting.
- Meeting with Vice Chancellor of Students Affairs Dr. Ellen Taylor
- GPSA Fundraising discussion meeting with Kim Holapa
- GPSA Budget meetings
- WSU Budget meetings
- CUB advisory board
- Meeting with Dr. Ellen Taylor
- ACE Internationalization Sub-Committee on Mobility & Partnerships

**Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Chair of Legislative Affairs– Tathagata Pal;**  
[gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu)

**Task Completed:**

- Made all the arrangements for attending the WA Committee Day in Olympia, WA on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>
- Arrangements for the Cougar day are in progress

**Meeting Attended:**

- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly Cougar Lobby meeting with ASWSU
- Weekly SGC Legislative affairs committee meeting
- Bi-weekly SGC steering committee meeting
- Meeting with Living in Campus committee

**Chair of Internal Affairs– Ashley Wells;** [gpsa.internal@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.internal@wsu.edu)

**Tasks Completed:**

- Scheduled part 2 of an Exec. Board meeting to review potential Bylaws Edits
- Continued to provide edits and screen feedback regarding Bylaw Revisions

**Meeting attended:**

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Transportation Advisory Group Meeting
- University Parking and Transportation Taskforce Meeting
- GPSA TAG follow-up meetings



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

**Tasks Completed (in coordination with PDI GA):**

- All the fall events have been completed successfully.
- Planning for the Spring events.

**Meeting attended:**

- Weekly GPSA executive meeting
- Weekly PDI executive meeting

**Chair Programming- Jeremy Boutin;** [gpsa.programming@wsu.edu](mailto:gpsa.programming@wsu.edu)

**Tasks Completed:**

- Complete necessary paperwork after **Restaurant Friday's: O-Ramen** (11/3/23), and **Friendsgiving @ Etsi Bravo** (11/15/23).
  - Collect attendee list/receipts and submit to Student Involvement.
- Prepare for **Restaurant Fridays: Paradise Creek** (12/1/23), and **Wellness Week** (12/4 - 14/8).
  - Create flyers, purchase request forms and promotional materials.
- Coordinate with the Chair of Communications for advertisement of future events.
- Coordinate with the Vice President and GPSA Advisor in monitoring the use of funds designated for graduate and professional student programming purposes, update budget when necessary.
- Contact and meet with committee members to plan Spring events.
- Identify volunteers for December Events.

**Meeting attended:**

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Numerous planning meetings for December and Spring Events with necessary participants.
- Programming Committee Meeting.

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

**Meeting attended:**

- Executive Board Meeting
- University Affairs Meeting



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

**Tasks Completed:**

- Community Food Drive Planning with ASWSU and CSS GSA (November 16-17<sup>th</sup>)
- Community Food Drive with Pullman Parks and Recreation (November 16-17<sup>th</sup>)
- Assisted with GPSA Thanksgiving Event in Collaboration with Programming Committee
- Met with Communications Chair to finalize Food Security Resources webpage on GPSA website
- Working with Food Security Committee to finalize referendum question for Cougar Food Pantry

**Meeting attended:**

- Attended Cougar Food Pantry Advisory Board
- Attended Bi-weekly GPSA Executive Board Meetings
- Met with ASWSU and Crop and Soil Sciences GSA
- Attended College Hill Matters Meeting
- Chaired meeting with Food Security Committee
- Chaired meeting with Community Affairs Committee

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

**Tasks Completed:**

- Met with CAHNRS Senior Associate Dean
- Improved GPSA travel grant webpage
- Removed questions from grant interface
- Completed Fall 2 applications
- Sent out emails to applicants

**Meetings attended:**

- Meeting with CAHNRS Senior Associate Dean
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting



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

**Tasks Completed:**

- Setting up HR meeting with KUGR to start a graduate student focus show.
- In discussion with Cable8 to help them organize a Graduate and Professional Student round table discussion.
- Updated Travel Grant Webpage on the GPSA Website
- Developed a Food Security Resources Webpage on the GPSA Website
- Developing a Mental Health Resources Webpage on the GPSA Website

**Meeting attended:**

- Meeting with KUGR
- Meeting with Community Affairs Director
- Meeting with Chair of Travel Grants
- Weekly GPSA Executive board meeting