



To join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/273608591>

I. Call to Order (5:30pm)

- A. Approve Minutes (5:30pm)
 - 1. Minutes approved

II. Guest Speakers (5:30 - 6:00pm)

- A. None

III. Important Announcements (6:00 - 6:15pm)

- A. Openings For [University Committees](#)
 - 1. PSAB application – available in CougSync.
- B. Python Workgroup
 - 1. Loreli Edwards – group meets every Friday (starting this Friday except holiday) from 12 to 1 pm in Spark 233.
 - 2. Twitter [@cougpython](#)
 - 3. Available to everyone, even at the beginner level.
 - 4. Python: interpretive language – can incorporate other languages in it. Very intuitive, unlike other programming languages.
- C. Bowling night recap – it was a success!
- D. Programming Events:
 - 1. Halloween Night at Rico’s Pub
 - a) Tuesday, October 31st, 7 to 9 pm.
- E. GPSA Affiliate Funding for Spring 2018
 - 1. Application is now [live](#)
 - 2. Two things need to be completed:
 - a) [Semester Review Form](#)
 - b) [Affiliate Funding Application](#)
 - 3. Deadlines:
 - a) Semester Review: October 6, 2017 - November 3, 2017
 - b) Application: October 20, 2017 - November 3, 2017
 - 4. Affiliate Funding Refreshers:
 - a) Tuesday, October 24th, 2017, 5:00-6:00pm CUB 406
 - b) Wednesday, October 25th, 2017, 6:00-7:00pm CUB 310
 - c) Thursday, October 26th, 2017, 5:00-6:00pm CUB 406
- F. [Call Congress Day](#)
 - 1. Wednesday, October 25th, 9 am - 1 pm in CUB308
 - 2. Coffee + snacks available!
- G. Coug Day at the Capitol
 - 1. Application will go live in early November (prior to the 13th).
- H. CCE (Center for Civic Engagement) Free Speech Panel



1. Josh is a panelist
 2. Thursday, October 26th, 2-3pm CUB L60
 - I. Trip to Vancouver
 1. November 11th-12th
 2. 4 representatives are going
 - J. International Programs Coming to Senate
 1. Coming 11/6
 2. Invite colleagues who want to raise concerns.
 - K. Mary Jo Gonzales Coming to Senate
 1. Coming 11/27
 - L. PDI Events
 1. **Building a Publishing Pipeline**
 - a) October 27 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 - b) CUB L60 (Butch's Den)
 2. **The Academic Job Application**
 - a) November 2 @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
 - b) CUB L60 (Butch's Den)
 3. **Navigating Health Care for Graduate Students**
 - a) November 6 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 - b) CUB L60 (Butch's Den)
 4. More events at: <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/pdi/events/list/>
- IV. Open Floor (6:15 - 6:45pm)**
- A. If you have colleagues/constituents that have something to say, please invite them to speak during open floor.
 1. Updates from the transit advisory group (all are plans, nothing effective yet)
 - a) Sunday service is in plan – tentatively from 10 am to 5 pm
 - b) Two new buses from Crimson and Gray – 15 seats each
 - c) “Find your way with Crimson and Gray” concept preview – campus ride around new app for bus
- V. Old Business (6:45pm - 7:00pm)**
- A. None



VI. New Business (7:00pm - 7:30pm)

A. Programming Committee Survey For Future Events

1. Difference between field day and grad school Olympics – field day is “elementary school” style, Olympic day more “real sports” oriented.

B. Student Salaries and Budget Update

1. Follow up from meetings with:

a) Dean Rezac

- (1) Details given in slides.

b) President Schulz

- (1) He was shocked that stipend cuts were implemented
- (2) Recommended we give the college time to figure it out and then meet up with them again.
- (3) Was informed that there needs to be better communication about the severity of budget cuts.
- (4) Doubts this will be spread to other departments.

c) VP Mary Jo Gonzales

- (1) Says she heard about stipend cuts only last week
- (2) She is working on better budget communication with VP Phil Weiler.
- (3) Tangential: she wants to do away with grad positions that don't come with benefits, and a good insurance plan for all graduate and professional students.

d) Interim Dean Lisa Gloss

- (1) Details given in slides

2. Main takeaways:

a) Budget:

- (1) It is a real problem, some budgetary issues occurred before Schulz got to WSU
- (2) Terrible record keeping and budget systems are antiquated
- (3) Budget reduction starting this year and moving forward in the next couple of years as well.

b) Communication:

- (1) Administrators are not communicating well with students nor each other
- (2) A website explaining the budget crisis is coming out soon
- (3) Budget crisis is not explained in depth to students (We advised that the WSU administration should have a town hall strictly on budget)



c) Stipends:

- (1) Semester by semester contracts should be pushed for a yearly contract from departments.

3. Questions and discussions

- a) Senators should communicate all the relevant information to their peers in departments
- b) Request to add resources for grad students to know their rights when it comes to their jobs and assistantships.

C. Unionization for Graduate and Professional Students

1. Follow-up

a) Why unionize?

- (1) Bargaining power via national union and legal protection.
- (2) Legislative support is available at WSU
- (3) Tangible benefits: increased wages, lowered out-of-pocket expenses with fee waivers, better healthcare with low premiums, lower childcare expenses, better coverage for dependents and better parental leave policies, protection for minorities including trans and international students.

- b) WA Legislation – grants WSU Graduate employees the same rights to collective bargaining as UW. Bargaining unites includes TAs, Staff assistants, project assistants, veterinary assistants, tutors, readers, graders (...), RAs (unless primarily for dissertation) and anyone with duties similar to above.

- c) Limitations to bargain: termination, academic calendar, number of students admitted, compensation above legislature, tuition and fee amounts (but can bargain for waivers/remissions)

- d) PERC Procedures: steps: petition for a union, PERC processes petition (need for 30% signatures from the affected employees), election if agreement is reached (details in slides).

e) Common Grad Student Unions:

- (1) AFT (American Federation of Teachers)
- (2) United Auto Workers (targeting academic employees under the banner of Uniting Academic Workers)
- (3) Largest union for postdoc researchers.

- f) When discussing unionization, don't use WSU emails.

- g) Labor law is complicated , unions have legal teams to help navigate the process.



- h) Rights: WA state legislatures *intentionally* want WSU students to have the same rights as UW students.
- i) Employers cannot retaliate in any way against employees who support a union or engage in unionization efforts.
- j) Do your research: be informed, organized. Many anti-union efforts claim unionization harms academic freedom and impairs mentor-student relationships (research however showed that there is no effect or slightly positive effect).

D. Motion to move GPSA Legislative Affairs committee to compile an informative report on unionization, due April 2018.

- 1. In favor: 35
- 2. Opposed: 6
- 3. Abstaining: 13
 - a) Motion passes

E. GPSA International Grad-Prof Student Survey (Will be live by the Senate meeting)

- 1. Link to the [survey](#)
- 2. Reach out to peers and give them access
- 3. Survey is fully anonymous

F. TEDX at WSU Pullman

- 1. Contacted the Office of Research
 - a) Questions that they had:
 - (1) What is the theme for the event?
 - (2) What the is the overall benefit for the students that participate?
 - (3) When do we want this to take place?
 - (4) What non-monetary resources do we want the Office of Research to provide?
 - b) Theme should be interdisciplinary to appeal to general audience.
 - c) If anyone has thoughts, reach out and email Tiffany.

G. Executive Office Reports – Details in slides.

- 1. President
- 2. Vice President
- 3. Vice President of Legislative Affairs



Adjournment (7:30pm)

Appendix:

GPSA Executive Board & Director Reports

October 5, 2017 — October 18, 2017

President's Report — Shane R. Reynolds

- 10/5
 - Attended first campus mental health collaborative of the year.
- 10/6
 - Out sick - answered emails from home.
 - Acquired past survey data from SESRC
- 10/9
 - Senate Meeting
 - Collected questions and ideas to follow up on student stipend cuts.
- 10/11
 - Commission on Campus Climate
 - Two attendees, consider the commission closed.
 - Contacted RStudio about getting that software on our Study Center Computers
- 10/12
 - Approved a one-time department reimbursement of a travel grant to a department because it was approved without the application indicating the expenses were from the department and not the student. No other exception will be given.
- 10/16
 - Met with Dean Rezac regarding student stipends
 - < \$100k savings from student cuts
 - Several staff and faculty are not being resigned
 - College must cut over \$3.5M this year.
 - Departments are looking into using scholarship dollars to return those stipends to original levels.
 - Call with Student Government Council
 - Discussed agenda for November meeting in Tri Cities.
 - Going to discuss student leader stipends
 - Finalize President Student Advisory Board plans
 - Upcoming legislative issues (HEA reauthorization)
- 10/17
 - Met with President Schulz
 - Thinks the stipend cuts are a bad idea
 - Looking into legality of Sexual Assault Policy in the Athletics Department
 - Approved our travel budget to Vancouver to expand GPSA
 - Found unfinished Unionization Report and made it available in GPSA office.
 - Report is mostly background on case studies, little else.
- 10/18
 - Worked on budget reconciliations



Vice President's Report — Amir Gilmore

- 10/06
 - Attended Graduate Student Survey Data meeting with the Graduate School
 - We are collaborating to streamline the process and save money
- 10/09
 - Attended and facilitated the Senate Meeting
 - WSU Faculty Senate was in attendance
- 10/11
 - Emailed the Director of the Children's Center regarding the CCAMPIS grant and how that impacts graduate and professional families
 - Attended Research and Arts Committee
- 10/12
 - Attended Exec Board Meeting
- 10/16
 - Attended Elson S Floyd Multicultural Center Advisory Board Meeting
- 10/17
 - Attended meeting with President Schulz
 - (Talking points addressed at Senate Meeting 10/23)
- 10/18
 - Prepared materials for Affiliate Funding Refresher Meetings

VPLA's Report — Josh Munroe

- 10/05
 - Thank-you emails to DC offices
 - Sent out signed Resolution 2017.5 to administration/political offices
- 10/06
 - Attended Women in STEM meeting
 - Attended survey planning meeting with the Grad School
- 10/09
 - Delivered Fall LAD report to senate
- 10/10
 - Collaborative grad-prof outreach call with Spokane (Shannon)
 - Meeting with NAGPS National delegation
- 10/11
 - WSA Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention conference call
- 10/12
 - First Academic Integrity Task Force meeting
- 10/13
 - ASWSU/GPSA leg call/Coug Day & SGC prep
- 10/14
 - Undocuqueer conference
- 10/15
 - NAGPS regional legislative call
 - NAGPS national legislative call
- 10/16
 - Meeting with Dean Rezac on student stipends
 - SGC virtual meeting
- 10/17
 - Meeting with President Schulz



Director of Professional Development Report – Jenn Johnson

- 10/5
 - Started work on new transition documents
 - Sent emails to committee members
- 10/6
 - PDI event: WWS: Dissertation 1
 - University meeting with Women in STEM to plan week of events in April
 - Met with Alex to discuss travel forms and TIDAL events
- 10/8
 - Updated Cougsync event list
 - Updated and confirmed budget
- 10/9
 - Attended GPSA Senate meeting
 - Ordered swag for upcoming events
- 10/10
 - Met with Ta’Boris and Davi to set up exit-survey analysis breakdown and tasks
 - Met emails to committee members
 - Filled out p-card form to order items for upcoming workshop
 - Met with Davi to strategize for upcoming events and finish current tasks
- 10/11
 - Set-up, led, and cleaned-up PDI event – courageous conversations
 - Attended budget meeting with Alex
 - Sent emails to committee members
- 10/12
 - Sent emails and doodle poll to committee members
 - Attended executive board meeting
 - Updated PDI budget
- 10/13
 - PDI event: WWS2 - Writing strategies
 - Received and uploaded photo services images from previous events
- 10/15
 - Sent email to committee members
- 10/16
 - Set-up, led, and cleaned-up PDI event: FLS – budgets
 - Ordered supplies for upcoming events
 - Sent email to committee members
- 10/18
 - Updated PDI budget with current charges

Director of Grants Report – Motahare Athariboroujeny

- No report, see Director.

Director of University Affairs Report – David Silva

- 10/6: Meeting with Jennifer LeBeau about Graduate Census Survey
 - Moving away from the SESRC for our data collection
 - Will add questions to the Graduate School’s survey, which they will promote widely and across all departments
 - We can focus on more pointed data collection: One of which is the International Student Survey
 - Crafting questions to send to Graduate School



- Will meet again end of October
- 10/9: Python Working Group
 - A group similar to the R workgroup that currently meets
 - Lauralea Edwards will be presented in senate during updates looking for new members and spreading awareness
- 10/10-10/17: International Student Survey
 - Committee gathered current peer-reviewed research on international student issues. From national samples, top concerns were harassment and discrimination, however not necessarily on campus but in the community. Also difficult are cultural and language adjustment, positive mentor relationships, and conflict resolution. It seems that some of the concerns voiced by our students are unfortunately, not uncommon. Prior literature also says differentiating between MA, PhD, and professional students should be measured.
 - The committee is now crafting a survey with items measuring discrimination and harassment on campus and in the community, frequency of conflict, mentorships, and whether students feel comfortable bringing issues to department/college/graduate school services.
 - Are we on the agenda to preview the survey in senate?

Director of Strategic Planning & Scholarship – Jing Sun

- 10/9 Met with two of the committee member, went over some parts of GPSA Research Expo planning
 - Edit rubric, grading, judging procedures for GPSA Research Expo Spring 2018
 - Discussed the collaboration plan with WSU Foundation
- 10/18 Met with committee
 - Discussed rubric, grading, judging procedures for GPSA Research Expo Spring 2018
 - Discussed plans for strategic planning
 - Discussed the committee name

Director of Community Affairs – Tiffany Alvarez

- No report, see Director.

Director of Internal Affairs Report – Sanaz Jarolmasjed

- Met with the committee on 10/11
- Went over some parts of the bylaws
- Discussed the approach to review constitution and bylaws
- Discussed possible alterations to improve the quality of streaming senate meetings for off-campus members

Director of Programming Report – Brittany Wood

- 10/5/2017 Committee meeting
 - Organized bowling event
 - Planned Rico's happy hour
 - Discussed wellness week for finals week
 - Brainstormed new events

Director of Communications Report – Candace Chappelle

- 10/5
 - Confirmed camera purchase with Denise Boyd
 - posted media content on Facebook and Twitter
 - generated content to post on Facebook and Twitter
- 10/6
 - Took pictures for PDI Event



- Posted PDI pictures on Facebook
 - posted media content on Facebook and Twitter
 - Worked with Steve Nakata regarding the 10/16 MM
- 10/09
 - Attended GPSa Senate Meeting
 - Sent emails to committee members
 - Worked with Steve Nakata regarding the 10/16 MM
- 10/10
 - Met with Josh Munroe regarding NAGPS Conference
 - posted media content on Facebook and Twitter
 - Worked with Steve Nakata regarding the 10/16 MM
 - generated content to post on Facebook and Twitter
- 10/12
 - posted media content on Facebook and Twitter
 - Worked with Steve Nakata regarding the 10/16 MM
- 10/13
 - Worked with Steve Nakata regarding the 10/16 MM
- 10/16
 - Started work on new transition documents
 - Met with committee members
 - posted media content on Facebook and Twitter
 - Worked with Steve Nakata regarding the 10/16 MM
- 10/17
 - posted media content on Facebook and Twitter
- 10/18
 - posted media content on Facebook and Twitter
 - Posted PDI pictures on Facebook
 - generated content to post on Facebook and Twitter