

SENATE MEETING AGENDA

 Monday, March 17, 2025

| Online

| Zoom

 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

05:30

Call to Order

- **Desmond Aboagye:** I motion to amend the senate agenda to include the Sponsorship Request from the Muslim Student Association.
- **Rose Maleki:** I motion to approve the GPSA Senate Agenda as amended for 3/17/2025.
- **Folake Okor:** Second.
- **Approval of the GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes for 3/3/2025**
 - **Yes: 43**
 - **No: 1**
 - **Abstain: 0**

Desmond Aboagye: We have reached majority, and the motion has passed.

05:35

New Business | Muslim Student Association RSO Sponsorship Request for \$2500

- **Tahsina Yeasmin:** I am the president of the Muslim Student Association, and I am presenting today for idol, fitter bazaar before I go into presenting about the fun part about the money part. I'm going to explain real quick what IDR Fitr is. So Muslim students right now are fasting for Ramadan, which starts from sunrise to sunset, and that lasts for about 30 days. and after the 30 days we celebrate something that is known as Eid, which is one of the major holidays for the Muslim student associations or Muslim students. So, we have this one Eid that comes after Ramadan, and there's another Eid that falls after this Eid. It is one of the most important Eid for us, where all the families we come together. We dress in new clothes; we like share dishes from everywhere. Whoever is from what country. And yeah, the literal translation of this Eid of Fitr is the holiday of feasting, if that makes sense so like food is a great emphasis during this event or during this Eid celebration. And I wanted to emphasize that, because that's what we are trying to achieve from our event. Yeah, all the cultures they come together and people. They bring meals and everyone's traditions are shared during this time. So, what is MSA trying to do for this Eid is Eid Bazaar through the Muslim Student Association? We want to bring this Eid feeling and vibe on campus, not only just for the Muslims, but also for non-Muslims and other people who wants to experience this culture. And our goal is to showcase 10 different cultures in corporate performances and create an opportunity for everyone else to celebrate this with the Muslim community. We are also aware that there's a lot of students who are very far away from their families, and especially international students, who are also a major part of the GPSA, and they tend to come to all these events every year. The mosque hosts stuff for E. They try their best to. But this year the Pullman Islamic center has renovated their mosque, so their budget is running low. So that's why the MSA. Has taken in charge of bringing that to an on campus. So, you don't miss the feeling of not being with your family. The budget for this event is a total of 8,564. These are the details, and I also have more details on the excel sheets in the next one. So, the food is coming with \$6,000 which has been discounted for us. That's a decoration outfits for the performers, badges which I kind of wanted to make it more official for the MSA. Officers. So, I put that in. Not that important. If we get enough funds, sure, I'll try to get that prizes and marketing. These are the breakdown of the budget. If you guys would, it's in the presentation,

and I also submit it through the form. So, I don't know. Whoever has access to those should have those and we can also like open it up if you guys want me to and these are the people that we're asking funds from. So, we asked crimson and gray for \$3,000 for food which has been approved for us. Rha, we're still. Today's the day we find out about RHA, so fingers crossed for Rha, we're covering the rest of the stuff that includes decoration outfits, badges and a couple of the food. And from GPSA we're asking \$2,500 for food and the contribution from MSA. Is for other miscellaneous stuff that I have listed over here.

- **Joseph Akowuah:** Is it possible for us to see the budget and sort of, see? How is our \$2,500 being spent? So, I'm just curious about the number of people you're expecting.
- **Tahsina Yeasmin:** No, no, people are not bringing food when people are not allowed to bring food, because it's in the cub. So, we're getting it catered from Mela. So, we have reached out to 4 different caterers, which, including cub catering, and no one has agreed to do it within \$6,000. Well, our budget was 5,000, but we had to exceed 1,000 more and Mela gave the code for 6,500. But after the discount. They're making it \$6,000. So that's for food. No one is allowed to bring food, because in the cub you need to have a Lita County license. So, they're not a lot. So, it's going to be from Mela, and our attendance is maximum that we're trying to reach is 200. But we are preparing the food for 250 people in case we run short.
- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** Are you going to sell tickets for this? Or it's just all free event and open to everyone.
- **Tahsina Yeasmin:** We don't want that to be a barrier for people from not coming just because I really want to make people aware of this culture and this tradition that we have. But if it comes to the point that we are really running short on the money.
- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** So, this is some questions from Desmond that you mentioned 1,000 right, or can we? 2,500 for this?
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, the 1,000 I mentioned was the requirement for any RSO. To come to the Senate if they are requesting for funds from GPS. So, if your request is under 1,000, the Budget Committee can go ahead and approve it if it is above that. If it is 1,000 or above it must come to the Senate.
- **Niyi' Ogunkoya:** What is your current membership of the organizations and how many people attended the event last year?
- **Tahsina Yeasmin:** so, we have a total of 180 consistent members in our RSO. So that was last semester. Just to give a summary. We had speakers coming in from Seattle, and we had that in CUB junior ballroom, where our limit was 150 people, but about 190 people showed up. So, we have always been exceeding the attendance, and that's why, with the food I kept, like the quantity as 250 people. Just in case we reach that point of exceeding.
- **Sheersa Manna:** Can you clarify the budget allocation for outfits? What specific type of outfits are being considered? And who are they intended for?
- **Tahsina Yeasmin:** So those are for the kids that are performing, and we have about 30 that has confirmed the performance. So, we are giving them outfits for the 30 people that much budget might go lower honestly. But that also depends on RTA, so yeah.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** how many will apply? That is number one. And so, because of that, I am very cautious about the budget allocation. Okay? So as of now, we still have a few others that have applied. And so, I am not sure that we can allocate up to 2,500 for you. I looked at our budget. We still have a few more weeks to get the newest update, but the previous update that we have based on that we can find up to \$1,500 for you and so if we are going to go ahead to approve based on the budget the GPSA has for this semester the approval will be targeted towards \$1,500.
- **Tahsina Yeasmin:** I mean, anything helps for us. We have also been doing fundraising. We had an Islamic awareness week, and we were able to raise about 3 to \$400. So, whatever you guys give, it helps, and we just must figure out the rest.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION



- **Madison Hönig:** Can you just tell us how much money is left in the budget. You can't. You're like, technically, you're not really allowed to tell people that we can only fund this unless it's like a restriction.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Allocations for funding is all restricted and is based on the amount of money available. We still have a few others that are still in review at the Budget Committee and all of that can pass or fail and like I mentioned in the email, the RSO sponsorship is open until the end of March and so I would like us to be mindful of our allocations so we can have room for other.
- **Madison Hönig:** From what I understand, I believe it is first come, first serve.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** Yeah, I think that. I think that best price that we have first come first serve basis. I think that if there's no explicit rule that prevents the budget chair from allocating funds this way, I think the budget chair should be allowed, for example, with travel. Grant. There's a cap for how much you can give a travel, Grant. Yet, Augustine gets to decide how much he gives you, depending on how much he has. Right. So, I applied for travel, Grant. I was supposed to be giving more, depending on the rubric and the rules, but Augustine gave me less, and he said, well, we don't have enough money, so we want to have more people. We should be able to find more people till April, and I accepted it right? So, there's no rule against
- **Ajay Barman:** Everyone for sharing the thoughts. This is the exactly the reason we bring when we must spend like more amount of money, more than \$1,000. We bring it in front of the Senate and let the Senator decide, like what would be the best course of action to do. I agree with Madison that Budget chair will not be affecting the vote by putting their view. But of course, we do want to hear from the budget chair to see how our GPS budget is doing in terms of RSO. I agree there is no restriction on our budget that to limit anyone to come as a 1st come 1st serve basis. But also, we as a Senate, we have the power to decide if that is the best way to do, or should we do something differently? That's why we had this wonderful presentation, and we also asked the question and this is now to ask to decide that, do we want to fund \$2,500 to the RSO. Or do we want to go for any updated amount, because from the presenter, what my understanding is even if it is something lower than 2,500, she would be happy to accept it, because that is like not yes or no for her. She would be happy to accept any amount of money that GPSA can contribute. So, we should contribute to our community events. But we should also be mindful what the other RSOs are planning, and potentially they might be coming to GPSA for sponsorship. So, what I request to every Senator when you are casting your vote, be mindful of what Muslim Student Association is going to do, and what the upcoming RSOs that might potentially come to GPSA for their request. So, when you are casting your vote, be mindful of a holistic scenario and cast your vote
- **Andrew Sutherland:** I motion to vote on the approval of \$2000 RSO
- **Madison Hönig:** Second
- **Ajay Barman:** Yeah, small comment for the discussion. Item we, we have a motion, and we someone seconded it. So, we will vote on it. Just the only point. If we feel that \$2,000 is too much, we, we would like to hear from the Budget committee chair and so that if we feel like it's too much, we can vote no, and we can circle back and place on a different number. But on that matter. I do like to hear from the Budget Committee chair how much GPS can afford.
- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** Well, I'm afraid that some days, very soon you'd not accept some of us to talk on the floor if you want us to be brief, especially when we have issues to speak on. I mean, that's just my truth, that's my mind. And I'm saying that with all respect, that's that is not us, I mean. That's just it. However, the point I was going to make before you made that comment is that you, as the chair we have respect for you, but your opinion cannot override our opinion. So if you have a thought about a matter, leave it to the Congress, or leave it to the Senators or leave it to the committee to decide and I'm saying this based on the point you're making, like you would prefer that X, Y, Z is done. Yes, you have good opinion, you have good thought, but yours cannot override most of us. So, whatever it is that you have put it down, and let us debate it, and I think

that's the best way things should be done when it affects a group or an association, and people like that. And that is, I mean, I'm saying that, so that by no means we generate bad blood amidst ourselves. So put down whatever you think and let us debate it.

- **Joseph Akowuah:** Well, if you think that that is what we can find, I would like to move that we've we provide 1,500 for them so that they are not stressed, and then they get to organize the event.
- **Sheersa Manna:** Yeah, it's Shisha. I mean, I don't have any problem about the allocation or the event. I totally support it. And I understand it's a whole community event. But I think there are still a lot of unanswered questions that needs to be answered. And before we fix on a budget, or before we vote on it, or motion on it. I think the questions which are unanswered in the chat box. They need to be addressed before the holds, and it can decide and take a decision on whether we're going to fund or how much you're going to fund. Of course, we want everybody to have the event and organize things, and everybody feels included. But I think everything needs to be considered before a decision is taken.
- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** So based on my experience in awards and scholarships, and I'm pretty sure Joseph has another the same similar experience. As far as I remember, we have allocated budgets based on 1st in 1st out system. So, if the cap is \$2,000, we are not supposed to wait for the other RSOs to apply and say, Okay, we consider 1,500 in case some other RSO. Might request for some money, and we can allocate them as so right now we have an RSO. That that wants \$2,000, and if we have that budget, we can allocate them.
- We can't wait for other RSOs. This is my suggestion.
- **Approval of \$2000 RSO Sponsorship Request for Muslim student Association**
 - **Yes: 35**
 - **No: 10**
 - **Abstain: 7**

New Business

| Preliminary Election Results Approval

Internal Affairs Committee

- **Nazua Idris:** So, if you have any questions and concerns about the email that you received from me or the results we can either do it now, or wait until a motion is made and seconded. So, I think for the sake of time we can make a motion, get seconded, and then probably open the floor for discussion. See if I can get a motion that would be awesome
- **Joseph Akowuah:** I motion to approve the 2025-2026 Election results
- **Rose Maleki:** Second
- **Niyi' Ogunkoya:** I want to thank the Chair of International Affairs for the great work he's doing. But my fear is that? Well, I tried reading the mail. It's lengthy and I'm afraid I do not want to. I mean, I'm not taking. I'm not taking. I'm not taking brief for anyone, but I'm afraid a couple of folks wouldn't go through that mill because it's too long. Maybe in the future you want to summarize what you want us to know in the mail, so we can quickly go straight to the point and attend to it as soon as possible. The mail you sent was good, but too long. Thank you.
- **Nazua Idris:** I always give a long warning long email warning at the beginning and yeah, I totally agree that shorter emails are fine. But the reason why I always send long emails is like emails are like records. When I say something, and people probably miss something, and when you have something in written, then you can kind of go back as a reference to see what the things I've said. If you have questions and, like everybody, is asking for transparency, that's why I try to always explain what I'm doing, how the decisions have been made, so that you have the record
- **Joseph Akowuah:** I raised this issue of last year and I'll raise it up again. But I think that moving forward I don't know who we well, I know. I know who we work with to organize this election, but I think that in in a democracy election results should come much quicker than

we do. Have it now, right like after elections. If you, if we are waiting till a week or so to get the breakdown, and to get how many votes it will get. I don't think that that is transparent enough. I know you did a very good job, Nazua, but I hope that in future we can vote today and have the results at least the following day. So oh, you know you lost you lost by this number. This was your opponent, your opponent won by this number. I think that is very fair. Last year I really felt very anxious, and I was thinking, well, is this really fair? Because I mean, people need to know as soon as possible. I think that's how democracies work.

- **Nazua Idris:** I would like to address the question. So, 1st of all, I totally understand and I remember you raising this point during the Senate, and also during our retreat. That's why I work during the spring break to make sure that I can get this to everybody as soon as possible, even though, according to the bylaws, I was supposed to send this on March 17, during the 1st Senate meeting after the election is done, but I tried my best to work during spring break, because it doesn't come to me as like a ready result. So, what they do is like they would send me ballot for every single ballot. Like all the people who voted with all the voters, list and stuff like that. What I must do is like I have to work to compile the result. and you know there were points because it was ready by Monday, but I couldn't send it because they missed a few ballots, and I had to go back and forth with them to send me this missing ballot and things like that, so that I can give you the full result. So, I think that if SESCRR can like, if they agree to do, if they agree to do like a complete result ready-made that they will send on Saturday. That can be forwarded to everyone we can like next chair can propose that. But if it's on the chair to compile all the results. I think it's fair to give them time to work on this, because it's a lot of work to be very fair and to be very and previous years that sent the LCHR got, I think, like 2 weeks, because our Senate meeting schedule was different. But this year there was only one week between. The date was close and the 1st Senate meeting. So, I just want to explain. Like, you know, the works that goes behind this process so that you can understand that it's not too
- **Vote on the Approval of the 2025-2026 Election Results:**
 - Yes: 47
 - No: 1
 - Abstain: 10

05:50

New Business | Opening of Elections for vacant positions Internal Affairs Committee

- **Nazua Idris:** However, like the way we will do it. And it happened last year, too. If someone is someone has become Senator for next year during the General election, and they have applied during the open election to become the college rep and becomes the college rep. Then the position will go to the next person who was on the ballot during the General election. So, this happened last year with the PPPA. So, Joseph was the Senator first, and then, when Joseph got the position of the college rep. It went to Anna Ivanova, who was the next person in the, you know. in terms of percentage for during the general election. If there. If the person who will become the college rep was the only person, then we will try to see if we have, like candidates left after sorting out all the seats, so we can reallocate those to those candidates. So, these are some of the rules that we will follow during this election
- **Attah Austine:** I remember that the whole point of this special, you know, like nomination committee was to select, you know, a winner and then bring that winner to the Senate for an approval, or, you know denial. But it sounds to me that you know the Senate is going to be doing all the work. So, what's the point of you know, putting up a nomination committee

and I'm speaking from experience because I was college, and I, you know, was nominated and then this you know, nomination committee. You know, using the whole real break. Selected me as the winner, and that the Senate had to, you know, approve or not. I'm just trying to say that the Senate eventually, you know, approved. But I did not have to like. Come, give us a talk, you know, or like the Senate didn't have to like, you know. Vote for me to be the winner pretty much won out of you know. 5 other nominees. You know what I mean. That was what happened 2 years ago. So, I'm just wondering if you changed something, or and if there's no point for a nomination committee. If the Senate is already going to be the one, you know, pretty much nominating, or, you know, deciding.

- **Nazua Idris:** so that everything is done with like more than one person present, if you don't know like in the previous years the special. This open application, for the senators used to be done during the summer, when, like you do not have access to anybody, only the ICA would decide like who will go where and to make the process more democratic, more transparent. We have kind of thought of like, okay, we will have a committee who will. you know, work on these things and bring people. And if there are issues that needed to be resolved on the committee level, we will do those. But the final decision will be of the Senate, as we have done with all the other nominations you have seen like. Whenever there was a vacancy there were candidates. We brought them to Senate. They talked, and they kind of then, like people kind of voted on this. And I totally agree with you, Augustine, that it puts a lot of work on the Senate, but it also gives them more voice in the recruitment matters, which is what IC has been trying to ensure this year.
- **Ajay Barman:** Yes, Austin Nazua and I spend like way too much time like discussing how we can make the process more democratic and if something is good we can always make it better, and we came up with the solution that it would be more democratic and fair if the Senate decide, and the role of the IC Committee and the Special Nomination Committee would be to decide whether or not the candidate who applied is eligible for the position, and then the Senate will decide who will get the position.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, in that case, if the Special Nomination Committee's job is to decide if the candidate is eligible. Can we just not let the Internal Affairs Committee do that, and then the Senate votes so that we don't have to reassign. You have a committee, right? How many members are on your committee. If we can just let your committee do that.
- **Nazua Idris:** I understand, like merit based. But how are we going to decide the merit? Because, you know, sometimes that's why, like we moved away from the idea of reading the Bios, because when you read a bio, and you see, like someone has so much experience, we often like tend to give things to them. But maybe someone who is very willing and passionate, and they do not have prior experience like, why wouldn't we give the chance to them either. So, I think that becomes a little bit tricky. And one thing is great about GPS. General Election. That merit is not, or like prior experience is not the priority. But what we focus on is like, okay, whether this person will be a full-time student next year, whether this person has a history of violation of certain policies and things like that, rather than like whether this person has, like lots of experience in their lives that they can bring to the TPS Senate, which is great, but I think, like what TPS is trying to do is kind of give everyone a chance. And let the department decide whether they can. You know, like they can.

06:00

New Business

| Executive board reports and updates for the rest of the semester

President

| Ajay Barman

- **Ajay Barman: Report Summary**
 - Completed
 - Nominations for the best senator and college representatives.
 - S&A fee allocations (\$8 approx.) to chartered student organizations.
 - Tasks Ahead
 - Chairing executive team & board meetings
 - Transition of GPSA Leadership
 - Hosting Student Government Council (SGC) meeting at Pullman
 - **Attah Austine:** Yeah, it's not a question I just wanted to echo. You know, Ajay's point, that the whole best senator thing. And best, it's I don't. It's not. I don't know. That's not. We need to find like a better way to do it. You know, I feel like everybody just being here, you know, does an amazing job, and should be recognized, you know, and I don't see why you should select 2 people out of like 50 something, you know, or like one person out of like 8 college reps, you know. So, I just wanted to like Echo that. And hopefully we find all the incoming leaders find a better way to recognize everybody or don't even recognize anybody at all. So, I just wanted to like Echo that. And hopefully we find all the incoming leaders find a better way to recognize everybody or don't even recognize anybody at all.
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Vice President

| Desmond Aboagye

- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, in total, we were looking for 546 to 547,000 in total, as our funding for the next academic year, and the presentation was pretty smooth, I believe, and the Board decided to approve only 520,000 for us. So, it wasn't as much as we requested. We were looking for a 9.4% increase, but we still got a 4% increase. So, which was pretty good coming from the previous academic year. What this means is that the budget request that was submitted the previous semester to Marwa. We are going to have to cut down 5% across board. And so, if your budget increased, please expect that we will not have the same amount for the next year. And so, when you are doing your transition meetings with the next chair, you will discuss how you can adjust your activities accordingly. Then the RSO. Funding for the spring semester once again. This was prepared by Marwa and the Budget Committee had already decided on some of them. For some they were still lacking reports from the previous semester, because when you receive funding from GPSA you must submit a report expense report to show what you use the money for to be able to request for additional funds for the next semester, and so some of the associations did not submit their report to Marwa. I had to follow up and get all those reports and some did not submit their reports. And so, we had to deny their funding request. But these are the areas that in total, these are the areas that were funded. And once again, you can see that the Budget Committee really had to adjust some of the requests. Okay, so school of the environment, for instance, requesting 2,000. But the Budget Committee could only fund \$900 based on the allocated amount. Total amount for that semester. But once again Madison was correct, because all these applications were submitted in, and it was reviewed together, and so the budget was shared at that same time and so this is what I am hoping to adapt for the next semester because I'm going to have to open applications for funding for Fall 2025. And so, we are basically going to use this scheme to guide how we are going to get funding allocated for the next resource in terms of sponsorship. Only 2 students' organizations have received sponsorship funding as of now. The rest are still pending, and once again the last one down. Here is the Muslim Student Association, which we have just approved. \$2,000 for the rest are still pending review. So, CVM. Class of 2026, we're supposed to come present at the Senate. I did not hear from them. I'm hoping that they will get back to me so that they come on the March 31st. If not, we are not able to fund their request because the Senate needs to approve that graduates' women of color. \$500 is at the Budget Committee pending approval, and the Iranian Student Association, like I said,
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they received \$2,000 last semester. The cap is 2,500 for a whole academic year, so they can only receive \$500. And so that request for \$500 is also at the Budget Committee pending review. So, the next few things that still left for me to do as a VP. Together. Budget committee signature includes finalizing some of the speakers that we are still in contact with to come. Present health insurance is scheduled for the March 31st meeting, and some of these reasons are why I prefer that we cut some of the things a little bit shorter, so that we can hear from them. But we have health insurance scheduled for March 31st. We are reaching out to the cab. I think somebody requested that they have some changes that are important to us, and so we should bring them for a discussion. We have parking, housing. It must be very difficult to get them to come present. I am still going to follow up the discussion, and hopefully I can. I can find a date that works for them to come and present, because we also received some comments about the increase in housing fees which we, as the student organization that represent the graduate student. We want to hear some answers for a few other things opening of the affiliate funding like I mentioned adjusting the budgets like I had mentioned, and the PDI, as of next academic year is not going to be in partnership with the graduate school anymore. And so, we have to restructure how the GPSA goes about the PDI, and so. thankfully I will be moving ahead as a president, so this will be a very good opportunity to discuss with whoever becomes an PDI chair how we can maneuver our way around. And who is the activities that are very important to the next very important to the graduate students for the next academic year and once again, like Ajay Mentioned transition documents preparing and moving forward to schedule meetings with Rose, so that we can go over what has been done and what can be done for the next academic year.

Vice President of Legislative Affairs | Ali Maleki

- **Ali Maleki:** We have the virtual lobby day on April first. The deadline for Rsvp. Is extended until Friday. So, if you are available anytime in April 1st, do the Rsvp. We are planning the meetings already we have 2 speakers, and it's a great opportunity for you to talk about the things that is there for you or for the students that you are represented representing and as I mentioned, it's very flexible. Any time of the day that you are available you can join a meeting. Talk about with representatives talk about the issues that you have, or the students have. So please, RFCP, and thank you to thank you to Andrew, who shared the poster on the Instagram. You can find it over there also. Again, thanks to Andrew. We sent our priorities for changing in the public transport to the Pullman transit. We had a meeting with ASWSU on Transit Advisory group so the 1st thing that we mentioned to them is extending the Express service. So, we are discussing to extend it until 9 Pm. We hope that they agree on 9 Pm. Or 8 Pm. Because we mentioned that we have classes apart from the labs that I know you have research labs. But apart from that, we have classes that run until 10 pm, so we are discussing to extend that express service until 9 at least 9 pm or 8 pm. But we are trying to push it as much as we can. Also, we talked about merge route. Unfortunately, ASWSU, you are not in favor of that measure out, but we are trying to push it and make some changes to make them also be in favor of them.
- **Arpita Sinha:** Do we have the agenda of the of the virtual lobby day?
- **Ali Maleki:** No, we are still working on the agenda.

Chair of University Affairs

- **Rose Maleki:** So, about the Student Health Insurance Advisory Board. If you have feedback, please reach out to Nin. Nin has done a great job in representing us on this committee. We need help, because to compare the present one with the past, one or the future. Most of the time we need to reach out to people who use it on regular basis, or have recurring out of pocket expenses, or we can decide on what is better for us. So, if you have any feedback, or you know, someone who may be able to provide feedback for us. Please reach

out to Nin compliance and civil rights. Now we have a representative on this committee, but we don't have any limitations on it. The importance of attending the meetings and being aware of it is that there are some graduate students who may be on the other side of it. So, when we say compliance and civil rights, it's not only the students who may need the support, there may be faculty or staff that use these services. And we want our students to be aware because of cultural differences. We may not be aware of how this office is run, or what it means when people reach out to them. So increasing awareness about compliance and civil rights can be very important if you are interested, please let me know. As I said, we have no limitations on the number of graduate students on this board the Green Fund Board. If you're interested, please let me know. As they shared with me, with the new rules and regulations and administration. They have limitations on providing this fund. But whenever people apply for it, they should be a board to consider it. If this is your expertise or you're interested in it, please let us know we would love to have a representative there and a student Health Advisory Council. If you are using cougar health services and you're interested to improve it and make it better, then it's a good idea to join this committee. We did not have a student representative on it until now. We had you had to reach out to several people to find out the people in charge of it.

Chair of Awards and Scholarships

- **Joseph Akowuah: Summary**
 - Research Expo - March 27 from 9-12 pm.
 - GPSA - Graduate School Night of Excellence on Tuesday, April 16
 - Dissertation Grant closes on April 1
- **Portia Amoa-Danquah:** For those that have been awarded the dissertation grant. When do? When should we expect to receive it?
- **Joseph Akowuah:** So, we we're going to take about 2 weeks of April 1st to go through the last round of applications. And so hopefully, by 1st May, you should receive the money. Hopefully. Mid-April. I'll send the list to student's financial services, and then they should. They should pay you by 1st of May thereabout.
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** I can recall until last year we had a deadline to submit the poster for the printing, so I don't see any deadline for this. Is it liking some day before, if I submit the poster, it will get printed, or something, or is there is a deadline to submit the poster to the printing.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** So, there is no deadline. However, you should have it done by 26, because I'm going to and I'm going to send an email about this. We want all researchers to set up their posters on the 9, the evening of 26, between 3 to 7 pm, so it means that you need your posters printed by 26th March. If you want to participate in events. Yeah. So, there's no deadline. But you need it before 26.

Chair of Community Affairs

- **Madison Hönig:** I wanted to just pitch the 2 events that we have coming up this week. So, I dropped it in the chat. There's a registration link for serving spoons, crafting nutritious meals on a budget that's going to be on March 18th at 3 Pm. In Butch's den there is free food, and you're going to learn how to make the food that we eat. If you would like to attend, make sure that you register and I look forward to seeing you all there and then on Friday we have our International Women's Day Event, where we are going to be watching the Barbie movie and have 2 professors to speak about the themes in the film. and we also will be having materials to make friendship bracelets. And you know I never slack up on food. We have a full popcorn bar, so please come. We're super excited about it, and I would love to see you all there, Desmond, can you switch to the next slide? So, I did want to kind of focus on the remaining events that we have for the year. So, community affairs is kind of interesting because we do a lot of event planning. But we also do a lot of advocacy work. So, for the purposes of this presentation. I did want to just kind of focus on the remaining events that we will be doing this year. So, we are working with ASWSU to do the Pullman downtown day. I'm still waiting for a couple more details on this, but essentially, it's an effort to bring students from campus to downtown. They're going to have a lot of events with the local businesses there and GPSA's component. We're trying to work on doing a short bar talk lecture series to highlight graduate students work. And so more details will be coming out about that. With specific times. We are also collaborating with the College Hill Association and ASWSU to do the pizza for the planet event. So, I hope, and I'm pretty sure there's a lot of people in this meeting who like pizza, if you like pizza. Make sure that you keep your pizza boxes. You will see that if you order pizza from a lot of the businesses in Pullman, they will have this little graphic that I've included on the slide. And what is going to happen is if you collect those pizza boxes and then drop them off on April 20 second, which is Earth Day, from 12 to 4 Pm. Those boxes are going to be burned and then turned into Biochar, and that Biochar is like fertilizer that is going to be used by the Phoenix Conservancy to basically give nutrients to the soils on a lot of the native gardens that they have. So, the Palouse prairie is

one of the most endangered ecosystems, and their job is to actually restore some of those plants, and so all throughout Pullman. They have little kind of micro prairies that they're restoring to protect some of the plants that are endangered, and those pizza boxes are going to help those plants thrive. So that means that I'm going to need you to eat pizza, and I'm going to need you to keep those boxes. And then we are also looking at potentially doing a park cleanup. There are more details to come about that we're also potentially looking at doing a stream cleanup. And that will be in partnership for Earth Day. We're really kind of focusing the last portion of our planning to be towards our sustainability goals.

- **Mason Hoskins:** Will there be a list of items that are going to be used for, like Rec people to like to get those items ahead of time?
- **Madison Hönig:** A digital recipe card with like ingredients on how to prepare it. Let me ask if I if we can provide that ahead of time.
- **Zahra Khodaverdi:** So, this dropping the pizza boxes. This happens only once a year, or we can do it regularly in Pullman.
- **Madison Hönig:** It only happens once a year. Unfortunately. Yeah, because they basically do like a live demonstration and like, burn it all at once. So, but this year we're actually getting like a dumpster, so there might be additional times to drop it off throughout the month. They're still kind of working the details on that. But yeah, it's only kind of for this event. Just because, like the, it's a very small organization, they don't have the resources to like burn pizza boxes all year.

Chair of Travel Grants

- **Attah Austine:** I would like to share what they said. I don't know if I've said this before, but I also see it as a student representative on the Pullman Police Advisory Committee and the Pullman Police Chief has assured me of the Ppd. Support of our student community, and also assured me that there is no. The Ppd. Is not involved, you know, so far in immigration efforts, so no arrest, and all of that, however. You know, given the precarious times that we are in now, I would like to advise that if you must travel, please travel with the necessary documentation, especially if you're international. I know a lot of us have just I 20 s. Now, and our visas are expired, so try not to like just, you know, like travel, you know, if you can, you know, afford it a lot of like. Unfortunately, a lot of the folks, you know, doing the whole arrest don't really cannot distinguish, you know, like the student documents that we have. So, try to be careful. And with the recent, you know potential travel ban list. you know. Again, I don't have to like to reiterate. Try as much as possible to stay safe out there and know that the Pullman police department. Is solidly behind us. Alright, so far TJC. Has received and reviewed about 415 applications. So, the fiscal year for my committee begins July every year. So, my committee has been working since July last year. So, you know, we work every month, right? So, we're probably like one of the few committees that work like 12 months in a year and out of 415. About half of that, you know we're approved and out of our \$75,000 budget for this session we have disbursed about 60,000. So we are, you know, really burning through the money, and I will be approving about 8 applications this week, and that will further decrease our budget. just to save time. If you cannot, you know, reach me, or if I don't respond on time. So please share this link or notify your constituents about this future. So, this would also be my last. You know, tenure in this position, or even like working with GPSA, I'm going to try to graduate. Try is a key word. And so, my future plans include training the next 2 Gc chair. So, the Travel Grants committee involves training. So, we have like this company that trains, you know the chair. But we wouldn't have time for that. So, I want to help, you know the next chair. Get the necessary ball rolling, you know, before they get that training from the company, and the second until then. That is, this month and next month. So, this month of March and April would be the 2 months that I would be reviewing, you know, applications or sorry approving applications. And on. Before the end of my tenure, I would be prioritizing. Registration and conference cost refunds. I've received a lot of questions. If we, the committee would consider refunding membership cost right now where I'm sitting. We are not considering membership cost. And yeah, that's all I have for you, for the Senate.

Chair of Professional Development

- **Ajay Barman: Summary of PDI Events**
 - Completed Events
 - ASCC: Professional Headshots Photoshoot
 - Python Working Group: An Introduction for Graduate Students
 - ICPSR: Navigating the Social Science Data Archive
 - AFW: Equity-Minded Research with Dr. Lisa Guerrero
 - Formatting Your Thesis or Dissertation
 - GradSWE: Mastering Manuscript Writing for STEM Graduate Students

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- Professional headshots Photoshoot @ Wenatchee
- ASCC: Resilience and Resources in the Job Search
- WSU Library: Master Your Research, Citation Management with Zotero
- Upcoming Events
 - GPSA-CAC: Crafting Nutritious Meals on a Budget on March 18 at 3-4 pm.
 - WSU Library: From Research to Writing. The Art of Literature Review on March 26 at 1-3 pm
 - Physics & Astronomy Department: Sustainable Networking with Dr. Christina Willis on April 3 at 1-3 pm
 - WSU Library: Elevate Your Note Taking, Mastering Annotation and Organizations on April 17 at 10 am - 12pm

Chair of programming

- **Redwan Ahmad Khan: Summary**

- Events Organized in Spring 2025
 - Ice Cream Social with Ferdinands
 - Winter Hike at Palouse Divide
 - UFit 4.0 Program with URec
 - Restaurant Friday with Tokyo Seoul
 - Movie Night at Eastside Movie Center
- Upcoming Events
 - Ice Skating Event March 21
 - Restaurant Friday with Porch Light Pizza April 4
 - Art & Wellness Night April 11

Chair of Communications

- **Andrew Sutherland:** I motion to extend the GPSA Meeting until 11:59 pm.
- **Madison Hönig:** Second
- **Andrew Sutherland:** The reason why I'm making this motion now and having this mass amount of time is because when it comes to our GPSA meetings we don't necessarily have to end at exactly 7 30. We can end it early, and we, knowing how this meeting is going to be, we have about 7 min left to be 7, 30, and we have multiple people who still need to speak. I am proposing this motion to extend it. For this extended period of time, we can allow people to engage in conversation, so we do not have a strict limited amount of time for people to ask questions, to engage in conversation or feel like they're being rushed. During this meeting.
- **Vote on the Extension of the GPSA Meeting to 11:59 pm.**
 - Yes: 18
 - No: 13
 - Abstain: 10
- **Andrew Sutherland: Summary of Events that are being promoted**
 - Serving Spoons: Crafting Nutritious Meals on a Budget Tuesday March 18 from 3-4 pm.
 - Ice Skating Friday March 21 from 5:30-7:30 pm
 - International Women's Day Movie Night Friday March 21 from 5:30-7:30 pm
 - From Research to Writing: The Art of Literature Review Wednesday March 26 1-3 pm
 - Graduate Student Lobbying Training April 1, but need to apply by March 18, 2025
 - GPSA Website Update where students can highlight their accomplishments:
<https://www.gpsa.wsu.edu/student-resources/promotions/>

New Business | Guest Presentation - ASE UAW

- **Mason Chad Hoskins:** So, I'm here with McKinley. We are Union stewards, and we are here to provide some information on the UAW 4591 ASC. Union. I'm going to let Mckinley take it over, and then I'll wrap up at the end
- **McKinley Nevins:** So, I'm a steward for the College of Arts and Sciences, which is, you know, an elected position, just as Senators of the executive board, and we just wanted to give a little update on some of the things we currently have going on. So, we could go to the next slide, please. Thank you. So just to make sure we're all kind of operating from the same background information. So, there are approximately 1,800 academic student employees at WSU. So quite a hefty number. And these are really research assistants, teaching assistants and staff assistants. And so, we have at the bottom

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there that, you know, WSU is a 1.3 billion dollars institution. I'm sure you guys are much more familiar with the WSU. Budget than I am. But it's quite a big institution to operate. And fundamentally, a lot of that operation is supported by the work that we do in many ways. But it also means that it's quite a big institution to interface with and to work to better support our interests. And so, I see, you know, the GPSA is one branch that is doing that and working toward that and UAW 4,591, which is our local union, is also working toward that that same end as well. So next slide, please. So very, very briefly. You know, our work is really focused on kind of 3 components. The 1st is collective bargaining, which means that we can meet at the bargaining table with the university, and that allows us to bargain for improved contracts like the one that we won this past January. We also have democratic representation. So, as I mentioned, Mason and I are both like elected stewards that have constituencies, just as you all do, and that allows us to really represent. You know what our ASEs need and what we can provide for them. And then, importantly. You know, we're also built on majority participation. So, we are really powered by having a strong collective of ASEs at WSU that can exert sort of our collective power to the administration. So next slide, thank you. So, I really wanted to very quickly summarize some things that were won in the contract a little over a year ago, right after we went on strike, and some things that we've all been benefiting from for a little over a year. Now, if you're in the bargaining unit. We also have a kind of summary document that maybe Mason can drop in the chat, or it can be shared otherwise that for folks who are more table minded, but big things, big wins that we've been benefiting from the base wage for ASEs was increased by 39%. And I'm in the School of Biological Sciences with Desmond and Destiny and some other folks here, and we, I think, really benefited from that, because we were extremely underpaid, but hopefully, you know, everybody in the unit was able to feel that benefit. Somehow, Healthcare, we negotiated \$0 premiums, and we also negotiated much reduced deductibles both in network and out of network, out of network, went down from \$1,000 to \$300. So, you know, can really make a big difference. Shortly after we got this contract, I almost immediately broke my ankle, so I was really benefiting from the improved healthcare family support. I know GPSA has done a lot of work to share about the family and the childcare support that we have. You know it's almost \$4,000 a year for the 2 semesters, plus another \$1,500 in the summer. So really, really, hopefully, life changing money for families when childcare is so expensive big and important. One is workload protection. So, we are protected from being forced to work more than an average of 20 h per week over the semester and we're guaranteed both paid and unpaid leaves. So, we now have paid vacation time and paid sick leaves, and that's something that we've never benefited from before. And the last point I want to highlight is that we now have protected grievance procedures with guaranteed timelines. So, we're still learning. Sorry if we could just go back for one second. Thank you. We're still learning. You know how the contract is being enforced by the Administration, and we now have procedures to kind of remedy situations where we think the contract is not being enforced correctly, which is an important thing, and to keep it on a timeline. So, as I mentioned, we negotiated these pay increases. We have another raise coming soon, because we negotiated increases to help adjust to inflation. So, in October we'll be getting another little 3% raise. Yeah, which is exciting. And it's for salaried employees and for hourly ASEs. And we're going to fight hard to make sure that continues in the future as well. And then we just wanted to share a couple recent events that we've done and that are coming up, and that I hope you guys will see as valuable, and that you can get your constituents involved in a recent one that we did in collaboration with other groups, was stand up for science, which was a demonstration on March 7.th This was really trying to fight back against the Federal funding cuts that are threatening research all different types of research that we do in higher Ed and we called on the WSU administration to kind of really fight, to protect research. And this was something that I didn't have the numbers for until the other day. But I wanted to share with you all that there are almost 400 graduates as who are either partially or fully funded by Federal grant money. So, you know, these funding cuts are very seriously, you know, potentially going to impact folks livelihoods at WSU. And so, we're definitely keeping an eye on that. And we're going to continue to fight against those and in relation to that from this event we really realized that we needed a space to have more of the conversations about this, not only about the attacks on research, but also on Dei and on international students. It seems like every single day there is something else that's coming out about visas and travel and everything, and it's very scary, and it's very hard to keep up on. But luckily, we have the power of a union with hundreds of thousands of academic student employees that can really try to fight to combat some of these things. So, this event is happening tomorrow. We would really love you all as already leaders at WSU. We know that you're already

working in these areas. We would really love if you could take some time in your evening tomorrow to join this conversation, and you know we can really figure out how to strategize and how to apply different pressure to fight back against these threats that we're currently experiencing. Okay? And then the last thing I wanted to share was some ongoing working groups that we have. And I think there's really a lot of overlap with a lot of the work that you guys are already doing. And so, I just want to highlight that you have, you know, skills and experience and connections that I think would be really helpful to the work that we're doing in these different avenues. So, if you're interested in any of these groups and contributing, you can email that email at the top, or you can contact me or Mason. But just to highlight these quickly. We recently establish an international student working group specifically because we think we need a whole group that is working on the threats to international students and how to best help. So, this is meeting by monthly. Right now, we may make this more frequent if necessary. We're currently working on developing a know your rights training, which I think will be important just in the short term. But we also want to leverage our power more broadly to really push the WSU administration to protect its students and its most vulnerable students. The next group is the Sorry Thanks, the Political Action Working Group, which really overlaps with a lot of the work that GPSA is doing. And you know, we're interfacing with elected officials at all different levels trying to advocate for policy decisions that are prioritizing the well-being of ASEs, which I know is very much what you were already doing. And we appreciate that work. And we think we could work together on that, but also acknowledging that you know we are a union that has over a hundred 1,000 academic workers within it. And so, it gives us kind of a different seat at the table to be able to have some of those conversations, and we think we need to be as creative as possible, and leverage every avenue that we can to have those conversations. And then the last thing I'll highlight, and Nin is very involved with this one as well is the healthcare working group. So, they interface with WSU and Aetna, our insurance provider, to make sure the ASEs are getting the coverage that they're entitled to. Unfortunately, we are running into some kind of snafus with this, and so we also are filing grievances to really fight and protect the ASEs and make sure that they're getting those protections. Please, email, if you're interested in any of those. Okay? And then last slide, please. So, this is sort of my last ask. And I know you all appreciate transparency for where money is going. So, I wanted to note that while everybody who is in the bargaining unit at WSU benefits from what the Union provides. You get to select to be a Union member. And we think that being a dues paying union member is important for a lot of reasons. Just on paper. You can see the financial breakdown on the left there that the dues that we're paying, which are a very small slice of our monthly pay, and you're getting another raise soon. Mostly go towards supporting our local union and supporting the strike fund, where, if we need to, you know. Go on strike and kind of fight the powers that be. Again, then we would be financially supported. We have a small fraction that goes to support the International Union. One of the big things there is that they have great lawyers. And so, we benefit from a lot of great legal advice. And then there's a small fraction that goes to the community action program, which is specifically supporting like local policy advocacy. So, I really encourage everyone to sign up for membership, especially you all that are representing large constituencies that are really, you know, going to be affected by a lot of the threats that we're currently experiencing, having large Union dues. Paying membership is one of the most powerful things that we can have to really meet the university on an equal footing. So please click the link in the chat that Mason just dropped scan for membership. It's fast, it's cheap. It's 1 of the biggest things that we can do

- to support these efforts.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** As you are aware, the United States Government is trying to prosecute a guy called Khalilu Mahmoud for comment for his actions pro-Palestinian actions at Columbia University, and they claim that he's pro Hamas, but they haven't been able to submit evidence tying him to that and all those kinds of things. The United States law allows the Secretary of State to deep to cancel the visa of anyone who is deemed anti-national security, and that is very the interpretation of that law is very vague. So, it means that Marco Rubio can go against anyone that he dislikes to some extent right well, how is the Union going to protect international students who are concerned that their anti-doge efforts would be interpreted as anti-government, and they might risk their face honestly. Even if the Union has lawyers to fight for me, I wouldn't want to go through the stress that Khalil is going through right now, going to court, being in detention and all that kind of thing. How is the Union going to help with that?
- **McKinley Nevins:** Yeah, I mean, that's a good question. I think that's on the minds of a lot of folks. I

will preface this by saying that I study trees. So, I'm not super familiar with poly size stuff. But yeah, I do. I think that this is a moment where we can really lean on community and on networks of support. And what I mean by that is like, not like touchy-feely like, oh, we can support each other, which I think we also can and should. But just the fact that it's easy to go after one individual. It's much harder to go after a bigger group or a collective with a lot of power behind it. And so, I can completely understand how you know, being involved with a union might make it seem like a target is being put on your back. I can confidently tell you that there is no record of international students being, you know, dismissed, or anything like that because of their union involvement. There have been attempts, and then they never went through in the courts. I'll acknowledge that, you know these are sort of unprecedented times, and that everybody should do. You know individually what you need to do to keep yourself safe. But I will say that in situations where a student is being like threatened like this student is at Columbia. I would feel confident that WSU, maybe, to put it bluntly, would not go to bat for any of us, whether we are a domestic student or an international student. I would love if they would prove me wrong, but I don't think that they would. I think that they would just be like our hands are tied. I've seen them say that in all sorts of circumstances, related to all sorts of grievances that we're undergoing related to health care related to harassment, discrimination. They can very easily say that their hands are tied. So, you're right. Lawyers can't necessarily do anything, but I think one of the situations with this student at Columbia was that he was intentionally not allowed to see legal representation for a very long time right during a key window, and that really would have benefited him. And so, I think, you know, I can confidently say that UAW and our lawyers are there to protect students and to go to bat for them. And that's part of why we need really this collective power, so that you're not one student with a target on your back. Your part of this whole group of students who are there in a network. Excuse me in a network that are being supported.

- **Ricardo Rivero:** So, my question was related to what Joseph asked, but with the twist that, for example, I didn't go to the protest last Friday, because I was too afraid of like being targeted. And specifically, I say that because in the last 2 or 3 days there has been from the Secretary of State this statement that they are trying to gather a database of every post in social media that international students make and try to assess them, use some using some kind of AI to determine if it's a threat to the United States, and then instantly revoke the visa. But the other part of it is that they, I think, yesterday or on Saturday, trump enforced an executive order on, like Hispanic students, sorry Hispanic people. Claiming that they were like invading foreigners, or something like that that would expect the process of deporting Hispanic people. So, me as an international Hispanic, I'm in a very I don't know vulnerable situation right now, and I don't have the courage, at least to go in a protest with you. So, what could the Union do to defend people like me? For example.
- **McKinley Nevins:** I can't even imagine the sort of stress that international students are feeling and the sort of daily attacks that are coming out constantly. It seems like, I would say, like, you know, this isn't also intentionally meant to put us in a state of fear that will keep us quiet. As I said before, though every individual person needs to make the decisions that will keep themselves safe. So, I totally understand. If you don't want to come to a protest and be photographed, and all of that, I will say there's still lots of Union folks who can leverage our privilege to try to stand up for students who maybe can't be quite so bold. I think that in part of in part of doing that. We can really push and apply pressure to the university to not back down on any of these things before they are made to and yeah and thank you so much for paying your dues. You like jumped to my point right there, which is that in being able to apply pressure to the university or apply pressure to national state levels. Everything having dues, paying union members that support our work is a nice, quiet way, I would say, to support these efforts and then you don't have to put a put a target on your back. So yeah, do whatever you need to stay safe, and I'll cede the floor.

07:10

New Business | Report from GPSA Student Health Insurance Representative

- **Ninh Khuu:** Great. Yeah. So just a very brief over background. Our current insurance plan is Aetna student health and the network in which you see a provider is called, yet the open choice PPO network and the network in which you see a provider is called, yet the open choice PPO network. So, grad students with assistantships that means like research assistantships, teaching assistantships. We have our premiums covered by our contract and

paid by our department or our advisor, depending on what the specifics are, and if you have dependents, like children or spouses. You pay for that out of pocket. We have our premiums covered by our contract and paid by our department or our advisor, depending on what the specifics are, and if you have dependents, like children or spouses. They pay out of pocket for it, even though it's the same plan and grad Students with assistantships, also get coverage for dental through delta dental. But international students can opt in for that as well and the overall thing is we're going to need to get feedback on what I'm about to present to you by the 24th to the University's leadership and overall. The premium is going to go up the premiums. What the university pays for insurance or what you pay. If you're self-paying, currently, it's \$2,972 a year, and you can see it there. That's an overview. And next year it's going to go up about \$273 or a 9.2% increase. There's no change in like the benefits. It's just the way in which health insurance works in the Us. The cost just keeps going up. But the actual interesting part is, we made a really good choice by switching from united healthcare to Aetna, because this \$3,200 would have been what the price was this past year, with even fewer benefits, and because we switched to Aetna, it capped what the increase would be to 9.2 without this cap that was put in place it would have been a 15% increase and the university also has provided options for improvements that they can make to this plan. So here are potential improvements. These are things that the university asked to get quotes, for. It doesn't mean that they will get them, but having your feedback helps inform this. So, one of them is covering our annual vision exams off campus right now. People off campus only get \$100, and that's with paperwork. An option that was given is we can get the same coverage as on campus as off campus. That means also folks who aren't represented by GPSA. That includes Spokane people, tri-cities, people, Vancouver people. You'd be able to. They would be able to get a vision exam. It's not like any of us have glasses, right? Or contacts. Yeah, people need to get annual exams right now. They must pay out of pocket for the rest of it. And also, there's that that actually cost nothing. All it cost us was to ask the question of Hey, how much would that cost. And the answer is \$0. If you'd like them to provide that, please let me know. The big thing is mental health coverage. So, we asked them to price it out in multiple steps. It's a bit overwhelming. Hence the animations like for this 1st table, we have a \$300 deductible when you pay that every therapy session afterwards assuming your therapy session is a hundred dollars you must pay out of pocket \$40 right now. If it's a next step at which we ask the university to go to be 32. And the final step, which is that it's a hundred percent covered. We must pay only \$25 out of pocket, and that would cost the University \$48 each per person for a total of around \$40,000, and that's where the ones the university has to pay for. I'm on a grant, and my grant pays for that. What is really simple is one option that was quoted. If you go to the next part. There's an option for \$25 flat fee for an in-network therapist, and that would cost \$61 per person per year and I, there's like a little table that's the next one. So, you go to a therapist. It's \$25 Internet. If they're in network, there's no deductible. Any therapist. \$25. That would be the simplest thing, and doesn't require me to say, pay your \$300 deductible, first assuming it's a hundred dollars for the therapist, etc. It's \$25. All that would cost them is \$61 a year per person. Yeah, and the other thing is, they can also add out of network coverage for mental health costs. It is about \$3 24 cents and there's a big asterisk. This means that if well, they cover right now, what I should have clarified is they'll cover out of network. Mental health costs the same as in network at our 80% coverage rate. For example, that 1st table would be that \$40 line that would just cost \$3 24 cents the entire year. And also, another option is another thing separate from mental health is to simplify prescriptions into 2 tiers. They currently have 3 if we reduced it just to 2, which is a \$20 one and a \$40 one. It costs the university \$25, 96 cents per person per year. The other really big thing that is always mentioned every year at these meetings is separating out our international self-paying students. You guys are international students, you guys know, like the healthcare system is terrifying for you guys. And so, your usage rate is just lower. I think international students represent about 24% of our health insurance population at WSU. But you guys only cost about 14%. So, Dr. Kate Hellman has really been advocating to see you guys like take it out of that plan who are self-paying and so there should be some slides, some Everyone is enrolled. Graduate students on assistantships, graduate students who are self-paying 2972 next year with everyone enrolled. It's going to go to 32, 45. The change is a

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\$273 increase. What was costed is options 3 and 4. Where we separate out those populations into 2. The 1st one is just grad assistants that would bump up the cost from 32, 45 to 37, 77 for each person and for international self-paying students, it would lower it down. So, this is one of the options that the university is also looking at, but what it would do it was it would cost the universities \$649,000, because and that is just the cost that the University would have to pay for everyone who's on a ta ship, for example, or a staff research assistantship. Yeah, and also like, I'm your voice for healthcare at the university level like, I don't care if it's good, bad, neutral, like. Whatever you want to say, you can email me directly you can scan that QR. Code. It's all anonymous. I don't. All I care about is getting people care. I don't care if you help me like, if I don't care if you're unhappy with things if you want help. I'm here to help you. I just. People aren't saying things because they feel like no one's going to help them. That's unfortunate, but I'll do what I can, and feedback is needed by the 24, which is next Monday.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, this \$3.77 will be taken out of our grad assistantship.
- **Ninh Khuu:** It's more like your grad assistantship just is more expensive.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So, it will not affect how much we receive us. Our stipend
- **Ninh Khuu:** You just must pay more. Unless you're paying for children, you must pay that increase.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** And when you say renewal, is that going to be annually.
- **Ninh Khuu:** Just for next year. That is the that increasing it
- to \$3.77 gets us nothing different. That is just as is right now. That's how much it would cost to just it's thought of us like your regular car insurance renewal. If you don't change anything, that's how much your rate goes up.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** But it will help our international self-being students by lowering what they pay here down to this and it's still okay. So here they pay themselves, right? They're self-paying students. They pay this themselves. the 2972. So, it will lower that to 1592.
- **Ninh Khuu:** Yeah. That. That's why I do point out. The big thing is you, though we don't pay it. If you are on a ta ship. The university is paying it. So that's why the cost of the university is going to go by \$649,000.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** But I know Dr. Kate Hellman is the director for international student affairs. So, if she's pushing for this, then it means the university can afford that for us.
- **Ninh Khuu:** No, that does not mean that. No, that does not mean that at all. She was not aware of those numbers until we saw it as well. Kate just would like to have you guys like international students herself paying pay less because she sees like folks are not using it. And it does indicate that there is an issue where we need to go, help people figure out how to use the insurance and convince them to get care versus just paying \$1,500 to not use it.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yeah, I mean, that is why, on the background, you and I are still developing that worksheet. I will share that, because even for me. There are a few terms regarding the health insurance that are still very unclear. So, during the next meeting, if we can still get the reps, I think it will be a very good education for most of us, so that we can use the health insurance. I had one more question, but I can't find where the question was. So maybe I'll just write to you via email

07:25

AOB

- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** I had. I had a terrible experience in the library in the past weeks, and I think it's about time. We also see to the running's of the library in a way that we can. I mean for quite a time. Now I get books from the library, and I have made it a point of duty to return all my books at the same time. So lately I got a mail telling me that I was owing the library one book. so, I got there. I told them I'd returned all my books, I mean, but before I went back there to tell them I'd returned all my books. There was a charge on my mail like on my potter that I was owing a hundred bucks because I lost the book. Meanwhile I'd returned a book, so I went back there to tell them that I've returned a book long ago. I say, I returned a book in December, you know. So afterwards, some about 2 hours after I left the library, I got a mail from the library saying that well, you have seen the book and stuff like that. Now this is the point I want to make. If I had not gone back, there to prove that I'd returned the book. I mean, it's not out of place that I'll be charged a hundred bucks and 15 bucks for processing. So, I want us. So, if there is any means, we can work with the library. So, they do not charge graduate student or any other student unnecessarily for an error that they have committed. And I'm bringing this on because I was involved, and I think we hold it to other students
- protect them from such treatment in the future.
- **Mason Hoskins:** Yeah, I just wanted to follow up on a previous question I had, and maybe I missed something, so you can clarify for me. But I wanted to know what your reasoning was behind reducing the amount of information in the agenda. I think you mentioned that earlier for the executive board reports. It seems like that would be reducing transparency for our constituents that we like. Send out the agenda to have them read it, and if that information's not there, then they're not privy to it unless we like. Go through the meeting minutes, which we are supposed to do also. But so, I mean, if we're doing our job, you mean there still be there
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Their reports from the Executive Board. So, we do not have that for this current agenda, because the members are presenting orally at a meeting.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** It was also spring break last week so most of us were not really on campus.

07:30

Adjournment

- **Andrew Sutherland:** I motion to Adjourn the meeting.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** Second.