



Graduate and Professional Student Association

GPSA Senate Minutes#10
February 22, 2021
Via Zoom
5:30 PM

[Zoom](#)

[GPSA Senate Absence Request Form](#)

[GPSA Senate Attendance Spreadsheet](#)

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

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

Here's the agenda:

- 5:30 | Call to Order
 - Approval of Senate Meeting #9 Minutes
 - ❖ **Approved as written**
 - Approval of Senate Meeting #10 Agenda
 - ❖ **Approved as amended for February 22, 2021**
- 5:31 | Old Business
 - [Research Expo](#)-They still need judges to review the abstracts.
 - To become a judge: Contact Rabayet Sadnan, the GPSA Awards & Scholarship Chair at gpsa.scholarships@wsu.edu
- 5:35 | Announcements
 - PDI Upcoming Events
 - The PDI calendar is [here](#)
 - Going Post-ac in a Pandemic: Preparing for the Non-Academic Career
 - Feb 23rd, 2:00PM - 4:00PM
 - Leadership Workshop Series: Understanding the Tides of Transition
 - Feb 26th, 11 AM – 1:00 PM
 - Work and Wellness Discussion Series: Transitions
 - Mar 2nd, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
 - Question:
 - Would one be allowed to access recording?
 - Only those who are registered will get a link to the recording.
 - Programming Updates
 - GPSA Virtual Dining #2
 - Feb 27th, 6:00 PM -7:00 PM



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- Register [here](#) by Feb 27th.
- GPSA YOGA and Mindfulness
 - Sign up [here](#) to participate.
- ASWSU & GPSA Restaurant Week
 - Spring 2021 Restaurant Week:
 - Week1, March 8-12
 - Week 2, Mar 15-19.
 - Support more restaurants.
 - Work in progress to finalize the schedule.
 - Emails will be sent out soon.
 - All students will get 5\$ per meal just for the 50 grad students.
- Open University Committees
- Legislative Affairs Updates
 - Childcare Act is not getting done this year. Plans for next year.
 - Creating a committee within the Washington Student Association for Graduate Students to talk about Graduate students' concerns state-wide: call for participation.
- Graduate Student Concerns
 - Authentication of login in the WSU site: supposed to be brought back every week, but some restrictions from different devices must be done repetitively. However, it is supposed to be sent to the email. Suggested to be sent to the faculty senate and addressed it again.
 - Number of COVID-19 case [reports](#)
 - Update on stipends increase: Final data from, the Dean, Dr. Lisa Gloss, all the numbers are looked at and given to the working group last week.
 - Discussion topic with the executive board. Continued discussion. If there are specific questions related to the department, reach out to GPSA.
 - GPSA Election- GPSA budget comes from Pullman-based S&A. So, only Pullman students can run for a position. This includes Research and Extension Centre.
 - In-person/Virtual Meeting in Fall 2021: To be decided by the next Executive team. This also depends on WA regulations and WSU policy.
 - Recommendations for Hybrid format.
 - I-clicker and tech purchases for different classes (for grad students) that are not usually transferred from course to course.
- 5:50 | Guest Speakers



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- [Joel Schwartzkopf](#), Executive Director, Cougar Health Services
- [Ellen Taylor](#), Associate Vice President, Student Engagement.
- 6:00-6:05| Open dialogue with Joel and Ellen.
 - How will our health insurance change if it includes reproductive care? HB 1009 is likely to pass in the Washington State Legislature. So, will this raise the cost?
 - Add coverage in general increases the premium. The Affordable Care Act compliant insurance plan needs to have reproductive care coverage to a certain extent- oral contraceptive and birth control pills covered. There could be improvements in long-term reproductive care such as IUD etc.
 - Clinical broad-STD, screening, etc.
 - Priority is to provide Gender Affirming care.
 - While understanding that high deductibles health plans are designed to make enrollees more cost-conscious about health care, because they are paying more out of pocket than in traditional health plans, the deductibles for graduate students totals a significant portion of their yearly income. Can you explain why this plan is beneficial versus unionized plans such as those at the University of Oregon?
 - Pros and cons go either way. What grad students need and want is really needed to communicate to the parties concerned.
 - No public university in Washington State can require all students to have health insurance, meaning the universities have a smaller pool to negotiate with the insurance for a better deal.
 - Affordable care standardizes a little by law, but it is not possible to compare across the state.
 - There have been significant expressions of frustration about access to specialty physicians in the Pullman/Moscow area. Is there another way to make the process easier to get referrals to specialists in larger cities such as Spokane?
 - Specialty [Referral](#) (especially problematic in a semi-rural area)
 - Budget records. Which insurance is reimbursing the most? How much grad student insurance is used?
 - Reimbursement from the insurance company which helps the student pay low. No student expense.
 - Looking at the utilization of the student health insurance and where is that falling under the fixed ratio.
 - Are there any programs available to help offset out-of-pocket dental costs?
 - No. Dental coverage in general in America is a problem. Some cleanup and preventative health are included. Not a lot of plans to do that anyway,



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other than increasing the premium. The in-house dentist is not possible. Colleges, affiliated with dental schools, are willing to lose a lot of money to do so. Much less negotiating here. Both dental and vision- speaking of the broader problem.

- While services for mental health, such as Telehealth services, were utilized during the pandemic, we still receive a lot of questions about the need for more mental health services for the graduate student's community. Can you speak to potential future initiatives for mental health services? Will there be an increase in onsite staff?
 - The potential future in mental health services is being looked at and, it does have the highest priority despite the budget cut and hiring freeze. Virtually, all the positions have been filled.
 - Systemwide- leverage the whole WSU system (30,000), larger the number in the pool the 3rd party provider who might provide a tele-mental health service- in extension outpost and grad student various other places. Supplement the services across the whole system including the Pullman students. Hopeful for 2021 Fall- talks about the monetary issues are still on.
 - Student engagement- Hybrid format, depending on the space availability and vaccination of the service provider and the comfort of the students.
- Is there any chance that the cost of dependent insurance will be reduced? Why is this so expensive? Given that it is not something most graduate students need but significant enough for the population with family.
 - We will put it on the agenda.
 - There is a small demand for the cost that could be pushed up. Insurance companies usually charge more to draw from the smaller pool due to the cost-benefit ratio.
 - It is difficult to compare UW's situation due to their affiliation with a medical school.
- Does cougar health have any plan to add a facility to do in house tests like common blood tests (cholesterol tests, blood sugar tests, liver function tests, complete blood count (CBC) chemistry panel, thyroid panel, etc.), x-rays, and other tests?
 - Yes! The contract with the local laboratory. These are common, and they are done every day.



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- What are the chances of giving GSI students insurance (graduate staff intern - are not offered insurance like a GA which is "given" insurance)?
 - That is a decision by the finance.
 - Some students work with covid+ samples and are eligible. Do they go to cough health for the vaccine? Will teaching assistantships be able to receive the vaccine before next semester?
 - [PhaseFinderTool](#)
 - No charges. Depends on the availability.
- Additional Information:
 - Planning for next year's insurance program: waiting for information. Claims and quotes for next year, GPSA discussion to be considered.
 - You could probably enroll in Apple Health, but it would bill your student insurance as primary and then Apple as secondary.
 - WSU Psychology clinic offers free services to students right now and usually only costs \$10 for students. This is different from CHS psychological services. Currently, offering Tele-mental health for anyone in WA state.
- 6:05-6:15 [Kate Hellmann](#), Director of IP-International Student and Scholar Services and [Cody Tornow](#), Lead International Student Advisor.
 - Discussion: **Healthcare and insurance issues for international graduate and professional students**
 - What sort of financial support is available to international students in the event of a healthcare emergency?
 - Think about what you might need.
 - Emergency:
 - United Healthcare Global Emergency Services Fund, Becky Meyer, Patient Services Representative, Billing, and Insurance.
 - International Emergency Fund- 22 international graduate students awarded, five funded with medical bills. Available in May.
 - Here is information on the International Emergency Fund. We are currently fundraising for [this fund and expert](#) to start awarding again in May 2021.
 - Payment plans could also be discussed.
 - Many students come to the U.S for education, but the healthcare system here leaves a lot to be desired. In many cases, healthcare is much cheaper back home. However, not every student is able to return home depending on the relationship between their home country and the U.S government. How are international programs involved in lobbying for better healthcare in general for International students?



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- Gold standard plan- Vision insurance that is an important coverage. Working with GPSA and graduate student council for negotiation of the future plan.
- Many prospective students have asked questions about COVID-19 insurance coverage (testing, quarantine, treatment). Can you speak about the most recent policies on COVID-19 insurance and what an incoming international student needs to know?
 - It is covered. Refer to Becky Meyer about a specific question.
 - I think someone mentioned specifically how testing and treatment are covered, but testing (blood tests, etc.) related to recovery after getting COVID-19 is not covered.
 - Testing and testing-related services UnitedHealthcare will cover medically appropriate COVID-19 testing at no cost share during the national public health emergency period (currently scheduled to end April 20, 2021) when ordered by a physician or appropriately licensed health care professional for purposes of the diagnosis or treatment of an individual member. Scope-of practice requirements vary by state. In some states, a pharmacist or other health care professional, such as a nurse practitioner, may have the appropriate licensure to order a test.
 - State and federal mandates, as well as self-insured customer benefit plan designs, may supersede the information listed below.
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines for a place of service may vary.
 - Cost share will be waived for testing and testing-related services through the national public health emergency period for tests ordered by an appropriate provider and test-related services specific.
- Is there a vaccination priority list for students who need to get vaccinated prior to their fieldwork abroad?
 - [Phase Finder Tool](#)
- What are the suggested protocols that one should follow in terms of preparation?
 - No current plans. Follow the basic protocols of traveling to another country. Depend on the supply of the vaccine. No country so far is mandating the vaccine to return home.
 - Worst Emergency Situation:
 - If you call 509.335.3575 at any hour of the day, connected with a nurse.
 - Cougar Health Services. It's possible to work with the provider to reduce costs or work out payment plans. A key piece is ensuring that you use the insurance card and stay in-network. Cougar Health Services is the right place to start if you need care and they can refer you.



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- Primary Care Provider- refer to the chain of the higher up. Covered by the insurance at a different rate than go directly. Do not start from the higher tier directly. This reduces the cost to a large extent.
- Redefine the education given to the international students to understand how the insurance in the USA works.
- Negotiation with the bill-reach out to the International program to understand better on an individual level.
- Ongoing medical situation- cougar health can suggest.
- 6:20-6:25 Break
- 6:20-6:35 Open Floor
 - Breakout rooms -Will be divided by colleges again. Please discuss what you feel are the most urgent issues facing your departments this semester. Is it better than last semester? Are there areas that you have seen improvement? Are there things that have worsened for grad and professional students? **Breakout room questions will be cancelled until the next Senate meeting on March 8 in the interest of time.**
 - After discussion, we will take some time to hear responses.
- 6:50-6:55 | GPSA Testimonials
 - GPSA is celebrating the 50th anniversary and we are asking for senators that currently serve on GPSA or they have served before to share their experience as a video or written testimonial [here](#)
- 7:20 | Adjournment



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GPSA Executive Board Report

GPSA Executive Board Reports February 6th - February 19th, 2020

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

President – Jenn Johnson

- Tasks Completed
 - Agendas for GPSA Executive Board meetings
 - Agenda for meeting with VP Mary Jo
 - Agenda for Community Affairs Committee meeting
 - Agenda for Internal Affairs Committee meeting
 - Downloaded and compiled all election applications
 - Finalized election details with SESRC
- Meetings Attended
 - Healthcare Working Group meeting with Mary Jo, Joel S, and Ellen Taylor
 - GPSA Senate meeting
 - College Hill Matters committee meeting
 - Met with potential GPSA execs to discuss positions
 - WSA Board of Directors meetings
 - Meeting with Mary Jo to discuss grad/prof student concerns
 - Meeting with GPSA Execs
 - Meeting with WSU SLRA to discuss orientation between international students and WSU Police
 - Chaired S & A Committee meetings
 - Met with Student Regent to discuss Athletics Reallocation vote in March
 - Meeting with Advisor TaMisha to discuss GPSA concerns
 - SGC meeting on athletic funding and WSA membership
 - Meeting with Dining Services to discuss upcoming GPSA Dining events this semester
 - SGC meeting with WSU Administration to discuss ONEWSU
 - Meeting with GPSA VP to discuss budget
 - GPSA Executive Board meetings
 - Attended Faculty Senate meeting as grad/prof representative
 - Led Community Affairs Committee meeting
 - Led Internal Affairs Committee meeting
 - Attended planning meeting for upcoming Diversity Fair event

Vice President's Report – Samantha Edgerton

- Tasks Completed



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- Agenda for Senate meeting #10
- Facilitated Senate meeting #9
- Sent meeting minutes for Senate meeting #9
- Facilitated a second Spring RSO training
- Responded to email inquiries regarding RSO funding
- Reviewed and signed requests for ETRs and POs
- Meetings Attended
 - GPSA Senate meeting
 - Grad Student Healthcare Working Group meeting with Mary Jo, Joel S, and Ellen Taylor
 - Office of International Programs meeting with Kate Hellmann and Cody Tornow and GPSA VPLA
 - WSA Board of Directors meeting
 - GPSA Exec Board meetings
 - GPSA office meetings
 - SLRA and GPSA meeting
 - Meeting with Advisor TaMisha to discuss GPSA concerns
 - SGC meeting on athletic funding and WSA membership
 - Meeting with GPSA President to discuss budget
 - SGC meeting with WSU Administration to discuss ONEWSU
 - Attended planning meeting for upcoming Diversity Fair event

Vice President of Legislative Affairs Report – James Dalton

For questions for James, please email gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu

Chair of Awards and Scholarships – Rabayet Sadnan

For questions for Rabayet, please email gpsa.scholarships@wsu.edu

Chair of Communications Report – Adnan Mohamed

- Tasks Completed
 - 2/8/21 GPSA Monday Minutes
 - Posted on Social Media
 - Created events on the Website
 - Updated Research Expo on the website
 - Updated Washington State University Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Social Justice
- Meetings Attended
 - 2/11/21 Executive board meeting
 - 2/18/21 Executive board meeting

Chair of Programming Report – Rachel Wong

- Tasks Completed
 - 2/6: put together paint night supplies
 - 2/7 & 2/10: facilitated paint night supplies pick up
 - 2/14: Mindfulness session poster



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- Meetings Attended
 - 2/8: Senate Meeting
 - 2/8: Healthcare Working Group Meeting
 - 2/11: Executive Board
 - 2/11: Restaurant Week meeting
 - 2/12: Virtual Paint Night
 - 2/16: GPSA Dining event meeting
 - 2/18: Exec Board
 - 2/19: UREC Board meeting
 - 2/19: Restaurant Week meeting
 - 2/19: Programming Committee meeting

Chair of Professional Development Report – Anika VanDeen

- Tasks Completed
 - Sent IRI request form for all PDI related UCOMM emails
 - Agenda for PDI Committee Meeting
 - Catch up on email from PDI email inbox
- Meetings Attended
 - 2/8: Senate Meeting
 - 2/10: PDI Exec Meeting
 - 2/11: Exec Board Meeting
 - 2/18: Exec Board Meeting

Chair of Travel Grants Report – Arian Karimitar

- Tasks Completed
 - Finish the evaluation of Spring (1) applications
 - Email Spring (1) awardees
 - Update GPSA Grant website
- Meetings Attended
 - 2/8/2021 Senate Meeting
 - 2/18/2021 Executive Board Meeting
 - 2/18/2021 Meeting with an applicant

Chair of University and Student Affairs Report – Anastasia Vishnevskaya

For questions for Ana, please email gpsa.university@wsu.edu

Chair of Community Affairs – **VACANT**

Chair of Internal Affairs Report – **VACANT**