



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

I. Call to Order

A. Approve Minutes (2/12/18)

1. Minutes Approved.

II. Guest Speakers

A. [Dr. Jennifer Lebeau](#), Assistant Dean, WSU Graduate School.

1. Graduate school and GPSA surveys: students are urged to take both (possibility to win prizes).
2. [Accreditation](#): WSU is accredited by the northwest commission. The goal is to basically check whether or not the school meets the state and region requirements.
3. University accreditation is different from individual program accreditations.
4. Accreditations give more value to students' degrees.
5. Accreditation is needed for federal or state financial aid, research funds, transfer of credit, etc.
6. WSU is in year 7 of the review process. Students are encouraged to answer questions during the site visit on April 9th.
7. Zoom question: Will the accreditation team visit locations other than Pullman?
 - a) Only in Spokane, specifically for the medical school.
 - b) Students from other campuses are encouraged to join conferences that are held via AMS.
8. (Senator) Will the budget situation issue impact the accreditation process?
 - a) One of the accreditation standards criterion include resources and capacity (which covers budget) . This will definitely be a conversation, and what is being done about it will be taken into consideration. The speaker was not sure at this point how it will affect the accreditation process.
9. For questions or follow up, please email provosts.office@wsu.edu. More information available on accreditation.wsu.edu

III. New Business

A. GPSA Budget Vote

1. Introduction of the GPSA Budgets:
 - a) Vote on which budget to send to S&A: Budget A with the Children's Center Increase (\$15,000) or Budget B without the Children's Center Increase



(1) Motion to prefer budget (A) (with the \$15000 increase passed!

b) Approve the preferred budget

(1) Motion to approved preferred budget passed!

B. Coug Day Review

1. Conversations included support for research funding, tuition, protection for marginalized communities and minorities at risk, DACA (State of Washington is providing support even if the government doesn't).
2. Sit down conversation with lieutenant governor Cyrus Habib, including discussions on mental health and providing better resources for people in higher education.

IV. Important Announcements

A. GPSA and Graduate School Census Survey (Director of University Affairs)

1. "Phase 1" ([GPSA survey](#)) and "Phase 2" (Graduate School survey).
2. Completing the Phase 1 survey is a ticket to win a cool prize (chance to win one of around 10 prizes including Apple watch, Google home, Alexa, Fitbit, Beats Headset, bluetooth speakers and headset)
3. Completing the Phase 2 survey is a ticket to win one of many gift cards.
4. Completing both Phase 1 and Phase 2 increases the chances for the GPSA prizes.
5. Senators need to reach out to constituents and encourage them to take the survey and let them know about the cool prizes.
6. Questions:
 - a) International student survey from last semester: when are the full results going to be available?
 - (1) Preliminary results (already presented in senate last semester) and final results are pretty much the same.
 - (2) Can be found [here](#).
 - b) Is there a structured outcome to the survey?
 - (1) GPSA and the Graduate School are surveying satisfaction of events and services that GPSA and the Graduate school office present, and others that WSU as a whole offers (parking, transportation, health and wellness, etc.)
 - (2) The graduate school survey is more program oriented.

B. [Spring 2018 Travel Grants Are Now Open](#)

1. Travel Period: January 6, 2018 - April 13, 2018
2. January 9, 2018 - April 16, 2018

C. Fall 2018 Affiliate Funding

1. [Semester Review Forms](#) Available
2. [Fall 2018 applications](#) open on March 1



3. Both documents are due March 22nd

D. BCU Coupons

1. 2000 bookmark coupons for poster printing
 - a) 5% discount
 - b) No limitation on the date

E. BCU Free Poster Making Classes

1. See flyer attached to email

F. [Senator of the Year Award](#)

1. Enhance your CV and earn a scholarship
2. Nominate someone or self-nominate

G. Western NAGPS Application (VPLA)

1. In Boulder, CO
2. April 13th to 15th, 2018
3. All expenses paid.
4. Deadline to apply is 2/27 at noon.

H. Women in STEM dinner (VPLA)

1. April 4th, 2018
2. More information during the next senate meeting

I. Advocacy Opportunities

1. Call Congress Day
 - a) Thursday, March 1st
 - b) Call in to Congressional offices to talk about the PROSPER Act.
2. Student stories
 - a) Stories help with higher education legislation.
 - b) Can be anonymous, but the type of degree and field of study are required.
3. More condensed version of the PROSPER Act might be available soon.

V. Open Floor

A. Open Floor Discussion Suggestions:

1. Travel Grants Process
 - a) Debate on the process, because the period of time before someone gets their money back makes the amount taxable.
 - b) Some students cannot afford to pay the fees, and then wait for the reimbursement.
 - (1) This is an issue in many departments.
 - (2) The process will be reviewed, and travel grants committee will look into that.
 - c) Suggestions given by senators:



- (1) Give the students the money ahead of travel and ask for receipts or summary of what they did.
 - (2) Application to be approved prior to travel so the student traveling knows how much he/she will be getting after the travel.
 - (3) Change the forms such that questions are asked on what they are expected to learn and not what they learned at the conference.
 - (4) (Shane) If we pre-approve the money, we will probably end up giving more money to fewer people, and not less money to more people (something to consider).
 - (5) Cap the amount people get for their travels.
2. WSU Spokane, Vancouver reimbursement for childcare. President Schultz will visit the locations to discuss how the reimbursement process is done.

VI. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM