



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

### SENATE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 31, 2025

Online

Zoom

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

05:30

Call to Order

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- **Nazua Idris:** I motion to approve the senate meeting minutes for 3/17/2025.
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** Second
- **Approval of the Senate for 3/17/2025**
  - Yes: 46
  - No: 0
  - Abstain: 1

Approval of the Agenda

- **Nazua Idris:** I motion to approve the senate meeting agenda for 3/31/2025
- **Folake Okor:** Second
- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** I would like to make sure for this meeting, we will extend the more time for the meeting.
- **Madison Hönig:** I would also like to second that and include to the agenda about the GPSA Resolution to the agenda.
- **Moazzam Rind:** I think 2 and a half hours is enough and if we need to add more time, then we can include it later.
- **Vote to extend the meeting**
  - Yes: 11
  - No: 23
- **Desmond Aboagye:** The motion has failed to pass.
- **Madison Hönig:** I motion to include in the agenda a reading of the resolution.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Second
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So right off the bat, I want to 1st provide some clarity about this resolution. This resolution is ultimately a resolution is generally a support or an organized support on some sort of action or an expression of opinion. For an organization, under Robert's rules of order, a resolution would ultimately need 2 thirds of a vote to ultimately get support. But when it comes to this specific resolution, this resolution is specifically about the current actions that the Federal Government is currently taking, that, in my opinion, and some other members of our GPSA organization, as well as some various graduate students who have reached out to me and our fellow organizations on generally concerning actions that are basically an assault on higher education. So myself and various other Senators and representatives have ultimately put together this resolution that I sent out last week basically encouraging not only the university to take more action, to ultimately defend our institution, uphold our mission as well as uphold the tenets of higher education, but also encouraging them to reach out and work with the State government, and also other higher institutions to ultimately reinforce our mission as a university as well as protecting graduate students across the line

- **Ajay Barman:** I want to support that we should let Andrew present the resolution because I, whether you will be voting yes or no, that is a completely different discussion, and that is for the separate day. But to do that, we need to understand what we are voting for, and a short presentation from Andrew will be really helpful for everyone.
- Motion to include the resolution to the agenda:
  - **Yes: 34**
  - **No: 2**
- The voting is closed and the motion has passed.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** I motion to vote on the approval of the agenda for 3/31/2025 as amended.
- **Nazua Idris:** Second
- **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** I have a question regarding the participation on this approach of voting like when you say yes or no, and people who do not participate any of that does that mean they are on abstain, and still participating?
- **Desmond Aboagye:** That is a very good question, and because we take only yes or no, it will be simple majority. So it will be based on a Yes and no numbers. If we count abstinence, then we would have to strike it out of that. So, following this next votes in this manner we will count abstinence also.
- **Zahra Khodaverdi:** So, since we are on the participation topic, I also wanted to request that, can we not have the participation link prior to the meeting and just share it in the meeting because there are some. I I don't know how that works, but I think if it's it's gonna be shared during the meeting for the people who are at the meeting, and they just check as present that that makes more sense.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So even if you have it before the meeting, you still cannot vote on it until the meeting starts. So attendance is only it has been set up to only go live from 5 30, so you cannot sign in. Before that, however, I would like to commend everyone. We have a very large attendance tonight. And so that is good. I would just ask you guys to participate. Continue participating. Okay? All right. The floor for discussion is closed.
- **Vote on the Approval of the Agenda for 3/31/2025.**
  - Yes: 52
  - No: 2
  - Abstain: 2
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority and the motion has passed.

05:40

New Business | Guest Speakers - Graduate Student Health / Health Insurance  
Becky Meyer - Student Health Insurance Specialist, CHS - ([becky.meyer@wsu.edu](mailto:becky.meyer@wsu.edu))  
Kelly Chavez - WSU's Insurance Broker - Brown & Brown Insurance ([Kelly.Chavez@bbrown.com](mailto:Kelly.Chavez@bbrown.com))  
Alison Gunter - Representative from Aetna Inc. - ([GunterA@aetna.com](mailto:GunterA@aetna.com))

- **Becky Meyers:** My name is Becky Meyer, and I am the student insurance specialist. At cougar health service, and I do all of the insurance enrollment for our graduate and international students and Health science students and my office is located in cougar health services on the Pullman campus. But all campuses have access to me.
- **Kelly Chavez:** Hello, so my name is Kelly Chavez. I work for Brown and brown insurance, and we are the insurance broker who assists WSU in placing the student health plan, and that includes both the medical through Aetna as well as the dental plan through Delta dental.
- **Alison Gunter:** Hi, everyone. My name is Allison Gunter, and I work for Aetna. I work very closely with Becky and Kelly, managing the health plan for Washington State University students. I work to help implement the plan. I work on the marketing each year and basically setting it up and making sure everything is in place for Washington State University students.
- **Kelly Chavez:** Alright. I can start and share, based on some of the feedback we received ahead of the meeting, and some of the questions that have come up so just a quick review of the plans. Aetna handles the medical, which includes medical prescription, drug coverage, and vision, and then Delta dental handles the dental insurance. So those are the 2 different carriers involved in the student health plan. I am not advancing here. One of the questions that had come up was about who's eligible for the plan. So, students, and then, if you are covered on the plan, you can choose to enroll your spouse or domestic partner and dependent children. Up to age 26 dependents are covered at the student's expense. Enrollment and payment done through the Aetna website and starting in the next plan year you will have the option to pay. It is going to be per semester. Unfortunately, Aetna doesn't have an option for monthly payments, so you can pay per semester for dependent coverage. Questions have come up about newborns and how they are covered. So newborns are automatically covered under Mom's insurance. So if Mom is enrolled as a student or a spouse for the 1st 60 days, students do have a choice as to what they do after that can certainly look at different options for coverage. If the student chooses to enroll the baby as a dependent, they have the 1st 60 days of that baby's life to make that decision, and then can go online to enroll them. If the student does opt to add the baby as a covered dependent on their own, then they will be billed prorated premiums. From the baby's date of birth a question has come up of what are some of the low cost or no cost medical services that are covered under the plan. So one of those is preventive care, anything that's preventive that you're having done just because it's that time, or you've hit that age. Things like annual routine, physical routine cancer screenings covered 100%. After you've met your \$300 annual deductible for the year. One of the questions we got is that people were concerned about Teladoc services, and not knowing what the cost was ahead of time there is a schedule for Teladoc pricing, and the pricing listed here are the maximums that would be charged. It could be less than this, but the total build cost is \$56 or less for general medical \$90 or less for a therapy visit. \$215 or less for a 1st visit with a psychiatrist, and then \$100 or less for ongoing visits, and finally \$85 or less for a dermatology. Consult one of the other questions we get is, how do I get information on my coverage? Where do I go to find out about my plan? Am I covered. What are the benefits? So the best place to go is either online or through the Aetna app. That is, [aetnastudenthealth.com](http://aetnastudenthealth.com). There's a drop down where you can select WSU, and then you enter your student Id to log in. So that's where students would go. If they want to enroll dependents. Find a doctor who's covered in network. If they want to know if the coverage is active, you can log in there. They can get id cards that way. Request hard copies of Id cards



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

be mailed to them, and finally find plan, information, so benefit summaries, plan documents. information on claims, what services Aetna's received, what doctor bills have paid. How much your deductible you've met so far, how much of your out-of-pocket you've met so far? All of that information on aetnastudenthealth.com or the Aetna app if people want to download it to their phone and then questions on what's changing. 2025, 26. Renewal hasn't been decided. Yet there are no mandatory changes. There have been several options requested and priced out with the renewal that have been presented to the school. Those requests include vision exams covered 100% off campus lowering the cost of outpatient mental health visits. ID Cards mailed upon request which is already available. Changes to prescription drug costs changes to Teladoc costs which unfortunately cannot be customized. So those are not something that can be changed. And then, looking at what the cost would be if there were 2 separate plans and then I think the last question we got is, why does the cost of insurance go up every year and that really affects everyone across the country, and it has to do with something called medical trend, that the cost of the actual care. When you go to the doctor, go to the hospital does increase year over year, and that medical trend is what is factored into the increased cost of insurance current cost drivers. And this is kind of a market across the market kind of the broader economic environment inflation cost of medical devices and services going up, cost of labor going up, prescription drugs, new and more expensive prescription drugs that are on the market and being used that drive the cost up year over year. Increased use of behavioral health while it is a small portion of the total claims definitely seeing more used universally and then, I think, primarily, the increased volume of large claimants. So really significant claims. We're talking 6 figure claims hitting plans across the country, right? And I know that was a lot of information. But tried to touch on all the questions we had gotten in advance of the meeting.

- **Alison Gunter:** If you would like any more information, you can find it at Aetna website where you can gain new information or add dependents. We also have our customer service representative number on the website.
- **Ricardo Rivero:** What's the difference between graduate and international and for many of us who are both graduate and international, how does it work?
- **Becky Meyer:** Only our graduate students, who are on assistantship are automatically enrolled in the medical insurance through their department and their stipend or their benefit is through their appointment. And so their premium is paid where our direct, just international students who are not on an assistantship are responsible for their own premiums. So that is the difference. If you're on assistantship, your premium is paid. If you are not on an assistantship, and an international student here on an F1 or J1 visa, you would be required to have international student coverage. But you, as a student, would be responsible for that premium. So, going on to the next cost that goes to the students. One of the question was, is, how much the students charge every or the students charge every semester over per semester and summer. And I think that's referring to the Pullman health fee Pullman students are charged a health fee, each semester, and what that is, is eligibility to be seen at Cougar Health Services. That current charge is \$244 per semester. So every fall, every spring, and then for summer that charges \$83. I do believe that there's been a request for that to be increased for the next academic year, but I have not gotten a response on that yet and then the next question was, what visits are included with the CHS charges? And I think what that is being asked is. what do the students not have to pay out of pocket for? And so what that is is, charges billed by Cougar Health Services are paid at 100% by Aetna. Anything that a student is seen for inside of cougar health services that is not billed by Cougar Health Services, such as our lab work and our X-rays. Those are billed by their inside contractors. That bill for those pathologist, regional lab and Pullman Regional Hospital and so the deductible is applicable for those. So you, the students, would be responsible for an out of pocket cost for those items. So it's just the office visits that are covered in full as well

as mental health services that are covered in full by Aetna when seen at Cougar Health Services, and then any procedures that might be done as well and do you own a deductible at cougar health services only if you have charges, charges that are billed by those outside providers which is pulling regional or pathologist regional lab. Your deductible is applicable, then, and so are the coinsurances and then can you use CHS, if you are not located in Pullman. This is a tricky question, because some students who are not located in Pullman are enrolled as a Pullman student. So it has to do with the way that your enrollment is completed through registration. If you are showing as a Pullman student, you would be required to pay that mandatory health fee, and you would be eligible to be seen at cougar health services if you are not considered a Pullman student and not paying that mandatory health fee, you would not be eligible to be seen at cougar health services. And then the last question is, how do I get urgent care after hours, urgent care is another tricky situation. What is considered urgent care? The town of Pullman doesn't have an urgent care facility other than Pullman Regional Hospital. They have a walk-in clinic, and then 8 miles from us. In Moscow they have a walk-in medical clinic as well. Deductible is still applicable. Coinsurance is still applicable with your plan, but you can be seen at either one of those facilities when Cagrel services is not open, otherwise your next option would be the emergency room, but the walk-in clinics would be less expensive. So as far as the your cost out of pocket, your 1st step, if you're in Pullman would be Cougar Health Services. If you are not in Pullman it would be your primary care provider's office. So to go to a doctor's office would be the least expensive out of pocket. Your next option would be a walk-in clinic or an urgent care facility. Your next option would be the emergency room and I think that is oh, oh, no! I got a couple more And then the last question was, how can I find out what I will owe before I get lab work done at Cougar Health Services. My best advice for that is for you to see the provider, so you would visit with the doctor, determine what labs would need to be run, and then, before going to the lab, you would need to come to the billing and insurance office so we could give you an estimate of what those charges would be if you've already gone to the lab and have had the draw done. It's too late. At that point we can't. We can't keep the charges from happening, but if you come see us prior to going to the lab. We can give you an estimate of what those costs are. Again, they're not services charges. So it is just an estimate that we're providing you with and then I think that's it, and I have am happy to answer any other questions you may have.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** Just want to confirm, but Cougar Health services does not have dental care?
- **Becky Meyer:** We do not have dental care services with inside cougar health services. They have to go outside.
- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** What are you all doing to expand with providers who cover Aetna?
- **Alison Gunter:** I would say, it really depends on the type of providers you're searching for what type of specialty but we do have providers all across the nation. you're searching for what type of specialty but we do have providers all across the nation. So not only providers in Washington and in your area in Lumen, but also if you visit East Coast Midwest all across the Us. Facilities and doctors, offices and specialists. That contract with us. So if you are having trouble, I would suggest 1st contacting customer service and let them know if you're not able to find the specific provider you're looking for. That's contracted with us. Second, we could always reach out if you would like to pass that information along to Pullman. Maybe if it's somebody that you know, many students would like to go to. But they're out of our network. Our provider network team could reach out to them. Providers don't always, you know, approach us about contracting, but we could also reach out to them and ask them if they would like to be part of our network. So sharing the information with us, I think, is important, especially if you're seeing that there is a gap where you're not able to find someone who's in-network for you in a specific area





## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

- **Anna Ivanova:** I'd like to know, how often does Aetna update the list of providers on its website because it seems that half of providers that indicated are in network are not in it.
- **Alison Gunter:** Yes, the Provider search engine online is updated, I believe, every 6 days. So it is updated weekly. But we do always suggest to contact the provider before you make your appointment, or when you're making your appointment to make sure that they are still in network, because the contracts they don't follow any specific timeframe. They could be different for any provider. You know. They're they're per year for them so they could. One provider may be in network. But then, the next week, you know, say their contract has expired or terminated or they're in the negotiation process. So I would say, to always reach out to the office when you're making the appointment and ask the question to double check, that they are still in network with us. But to answer your question. It is updated weekly.
- **Zahra Khodaverdi:** Since students need to be enrolled for coverage, how does it apply to the summer?
- **Becky Meyer:** You just need to be on an assistantship, but there is a summer health fee that you would need to pay to use Cougar Health.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Why do we have to pay this health fee?
- **Becky Meyer:** This is a mandatory fee that's set up by the university that provides eligibility for students to be seen at cougar health services. So, even if you're enrolled in credits during the academic year. But it's under 6 credits. You wouldn't have paid the health fee, because it's not mandatory at that point, so you wouldn't be eligible to be seen at Cougar Health Services. It, unfortunately, it's a rule that the University has made, and that we have to follow and it's a support that fee is a support for us to have a clinic here on campus to support our students. We are not a large clinic and we are. We have a limited population of students, and so and most universities charge a health fee to be honest just to support, so that we can. We can provide you with the services right on campus and we do provide the mental health services there on campus as well under that health fee.
- **Ninh Khuu:** Yeah, I think this is trying to clarify a question earlier about urgent care, because I think it's kind of unclear. What urgent care is versus like a rapid care. And I think you did mention specifically in Pullman that Coug Health Services correct doesn't have urgent care. So where would you recommend someone go if they needed something that is at the same level of urgent care.
- **Becky Meyer:** If Cougar Health Services is open, then definitely come to Cougar Health Services, we can provide you with the services that you need Now, if it's an emergency, you need to go to the emergency room still. But if Cougars Health Services is open and it is an urgent issue. We have providers that will be able to see you. We will find a way to see you or get you in with. If it's something that can be seen later that day, we have appointments that we can schedule, it's when we're not open that you're going to want to look for those other options after hours.
- **Kelly Chaves:** And just a quick reminder that Teladoc is available, too, that if it can be done virtually, you know, if it's the middle of the night, and someone needs a prescription. Teladoc might be an option as well. If it's not at the level where you need to go to the emergency room.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Why is Teladoc not covered?
- **Kelly Chavez:** We do cover Teladoc same as an office visit. So it's not covered at a hundred percent, but it is covered as if you were going to the provider's office.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So if I go to Coug Health Service, whatever I will pay will be the same as what I will pay if I use Teladoc?
- **Kelly Chavez:** No, the cost for Teladoc is the same as if you're using an outside provider. So if you were to go to a doctor, not cougar health services. If you were to go to an Aetna doctor you'd pay your \$25 Copay, plus 25% after the deductible. If you use Teladoc services, you're



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

paying the same as if you were to go in person to a doctor's office outside cougar health. The benefit with Teladoc services is that it's immediate access. It's 24 HA day, and the fees that they charge the schedule that I had posted are significantly less than if you were to go to a doctor's office so convenience and cost. But it's not free.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yeah. Thank you, Kelly. I think services like that is at this point in in our development services like that are becoming almost like a a 1st stop for graduate students, especially if it is after hours. And I cannot go to Google health. My 1st thoughts will be Teledoc. So, Alison? I don't know but we would like, if it is possible we would like, for if you have to create a section, I don't know how this is going to be done. But we would like to have Teladoc on the same level as we have with Google health services as students, so that our charge. If it is out, if it's outside working hours and cougar health is closed and a student uses Teladoc. The charge should be approximate. What we will pay if we use cougar health. Is that something that you can help us accomplish?
- **Alison Gunter:** I think that was one of the quote options we received this year, and I believe we went back to our underwriting team underwriting prices, any changes to the plan and we were advised we really couldn't customize how we were paying. You know, the different Teladoc providers. We do have to follow the same schedule. So I'm not sure if 100% coverage no deductible, no Copay would be an option. But it's something we can definitely, you know, take the feedback on and and keep on the table. You know, as we discuss renewals for each year.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yes, thank you so much. I mean we, because you just spoke about how insurance will increase almost every year, basically regardless of what we do so, some of these upgrades will be very helpful to our students to graduate student, because there's a lot of work that we do, and we work a lot of nights, and so sometimes we may not be able to go to the hospital during the day, and Teladoc will be a very nice service if you can have it at the same level as what we will use Cougar Health for.
- **Arpita Sinha:** When does the Summer fees begin?
- **Becky Meyer:** The health fees usually begin on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, while the Spring fees ends on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Arpita Sinha:** I don't really think that is fair since our contract usually ends after that Spring Fees ends.
- **Becky Meyer:** Unfortunately, the university sets our terms and the health fees and so we are not able to change those and it doesn't. Unfortunately, the health fees do not align with the assistantship appointments
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Who should we talk to since this needs to be addressed with the University?
- **Becky Meyers:** To be honest, I don't know but I would be happy to follow up with that and get contacts for you.
- **Jenna Douglas:** I was just wondering if we could get clarification on enrolling dependent dependents onto our plan and what the payment plan is for that.
- **Kelly Chavez:** Yes, excuse me. When you do enroll depends on the plan. Currently you are paying for the premium in full for the year. If you're enrolling them midyear because you have a baby, it would be calculated, prorated from the date of birth through the end of the year, starting in 2025. So, in August of 2025, you'd be paying per semester so you could pay for fall as one chunk, and then spring and summer as one chunk and those are the payment options that are available on the Aetna website. We did ask if monthly installments were possible, and unfortunately, their website is not set up to accept monthly installments. So that's not something they can do today. So your options are currently payment in full. Next year you'll be able to pay per semester.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** The graduate students, our stipend comes in per month, and really it is something that we are working really hard to live on, and so it will be hard for somebody to



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

dedicate half of the month stipend to cover for years. So if you if you could really help us get that. And I, this is this will be very easy for them to do, I believe. So that we can pay that monthly installment when we put on our dependents. That would also be very helpful for us as graduate students and I know you can. You can, if either you or Becky, or if you need us, Ninh will be very happy to help us communicate with who we should communicate so that that changes can be applied

- **Kelly Chavez:** So we have actually been requesting, you know, all year long to get monthly installments. It's currently not a feature their website can support. So it requires some investment on Aetna's part to update the technology to be able to do it. They know that it is a priority, and they're working on it. It just won't be ready in time for the next plan year that starts in August, but we continue to press them to get that functionality up and running.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So we can trust you that at least, if not for the beginning of the next academic year at least, then one that follows up, we should have monthly installments right?
- **Kelly Chavez:** We can try our best?
- **Raihan:** Is our dental coverage available during the summer?
- **Kelly Chavez:** Runs during the spring and summer and ends in August.

06:15

New Business | Candidate Speeches for the Vacant College Representative Positions

College Representative for Carson College of Business | 3 Minutes Presentation Time

Candidate 1 | Mahdiah Mirzaagha  
Department of Marketing and International Business Carson  
College of Business  
Q & A: 3 mins

- **Mahdiah Mirzaagha:** My name is Mahdiah Mizaagha. I'm so excited to share what I'm running for a GPSA college representative today. So, you know, and I hope to serve our college community with the purpose, empathy and experience. You know, and I hope to serve our college community with the purpose, empathy and experience. I'm currently a second year. Phd. Student in marketing here at WSU. I hold both bachelor and master's degree in business administration with a focus on marketing. I have also worked at Instructor MTA for more than 2 years at university, supported by student and faculty members. So during my master's study. I also serve as a informal student advocate, the voice of a student, you know, when they face issues like a professor shortage. The business delays or financial stress or financial problem. I work to connect a student, this student, you know the university loan options, or even reach out to external organization to help them to have, you know, access the resources to know? Resolve the problem experience showing me how important is it? Not only listen to students that, but to about to take action, and, you know, try to find a way to solve the problem. I can say that one of my, you know, biggest accomplishments in my, you know, my past experience is about product is co-funding. The 1st Iranian marketing associations and these kind of associations helped students to organizational academic conferences that gave a student across my country chance to present their research and build the connections. Also, you know, in addition to my academic work, I bring over 14 years of leadership management experience. No. I've served as a management, you know. The last, you know. My position was I serve as a manager at the largest telecom company in the in the in the Middle East where I let the teams work internally and also internationally. This experience, you know really taught me how to listen, how to listen and how to lead and how to advocate other people. Whether students or maybe my teamwork and this is why this is matter to me. You know, that's the time, madame, to me. This is in. Because last year



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

I faced a serious health issue due to Wildfire. This really helps me to open my eye. How many students silently strong evidence or emotional well-beings.

- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** What is your plan to communicate with other graduate students at the College of Business?
- **Mahdieh Mirzaagha:** I really appreciate your sharing your concern, and I'm completely to understand this honestly. The 1st of all, you know the reason why, you know, I didn't apply for the before is about I really I wasn't aware of the application timeline during the General election, so my plan is simple, but so serious. I will not going to wait for a student to come to me. I really wanted to reach out to every student, talk to my classmate, attend the department event connected directly with the student group to truly understand the concept. And you know I want to continue some things I found very valuable to students. The Student Council Survey that was shared before and by the previous college Rep. I think that's effective way to hear from students who might not speak up in the public setting. I think that I keep this tradition going and make regular stay in touch with the students And also, you know, I saw I I wanted to build a strong work relationship with the Dean office, also, you know, being office and key faculty to create really consistent channel between the student and leadership, you know leadership. So I want to be insane energy here, not in terms of holding the title, you know. I'm here to solve problems, support students as I really suffered previously around one year. And I think that I'm invisible in the system, I try to, you know, be the voice of the students who are really suffer from health issues. You know, financial, you know, impacting everything in the you know, in our community.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** What committee are you most interested in and what change are you wanting to implement?
- **Mahdieh Mizaagha:** Okay, you know, as I apply for the university of a PDI and committee affair already, I'm open to contribute whenever I most need it. You know I feel especially drunk. As I told you. I apply in the screen. You can see these 3 options, but I really open, eager, and serve any committee where I can bring value and you know, as someone who I live far from my home and face challenge. I know how important it feels to see and connected. If I join the community, I want to make more, you know, proactive in reaching a student across different departments, especially international under, you know, present to the students who may not feel included in the existing campus culture, and you know I wanted to, you know, build a strong community tie for the inclusive events and the out research and advocate for health housing, safe support for students, you know. Promote the profession development, using real world leadership experience. So that's can I, you know, answer your question.

Candidate 2 | Setareh Alibakhshi  
School of Hospitality Business Management  
Carson College of Business  
Q & A: 3 mins

- **Setareh Alibakhshi:** I'm from college of business. I'm studying hospitality management, and I'm here because I really want to help our students to have a strong representer in our college, because I think that this is what they deserve, and my purpose is rooted in share. The student experience, because we know that it's hard to manage academic expectations while also dealing with financial stress. And this is something that I deeply understand and also as an international student, I navigated cultural barriers and limited access to industry matters. And this is why I care about making graduate life more equitable and connected to the industry and, most importantly, I generally want to give back what I talked about from you. And I see this role as a way to support others and contribute to something meaningful. My experience have equipped me to contribute meaningfully. My experience have equipped me to contribute meaningfully. At University of Tehran, which is the most top ranked university in Iran. I lead the marketing team and transition their outreach strategy from traditional to digital, which taught me to lead plan and deliver under pressure and also I organize conferences, academic events. We sharpen my coordination and communication skills and my experience as a ta. Given me insight into student



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

counsels and taught me to listen to them with empathy. On top of that I work on professional projects like planning for researchers and business plan, development and market research which all gave me practical problem, solving experience that I can bring to the committee. And if appointed, here's how I plan to contribute. First, I want to support the Gpsa efforts for grants, travel, funding, and scholarships and, second, I would like to bring my perspective into growing graduate career and connecting them to the industry. At 1st I'll be responsive representative, and I want to gather feedback from the students and be their voice in the GPSA. And finally, I'm ready to collaborate with you guys and support, support the committee and help to move the GPSA goals forward And finally, if we can work together, I would like to work in the graduate Grant Committee PDI, or a Garden Scholarship, because

- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** So my question is so. I realize that you also participated in general election, but for Senator Position. But since we had, like 2 only vacant positions. You didn't have a chance for that. But my question is, you are interested and motivated for this position. Is there any reason? If it's not personal that you didn't try a college rep for general election, I mean. I'm trying to find out the best motivation of people for college rep, and not just. This position is vacant. And you know this is my question.
- **Setareh Alibakhshi:** Thank you so much for asking. Actually, it's because at 1st I wasn't confident enough, maybe, and I wanted to have experience in GPSA and 1st start with Senate and connect with you guys and get more experience. But after seeing that nobody stand up for my college, I saw that as one of my responsibilities to stand up and be a representative for my committee, and with help of you guys who have more experience, I think I can do great.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** What committee are you most interested in and what change are you wanting to implement?
- **Setareh Alibakhshi:** So more interested in PDI, because what I want to do here is to connect our graduated students in business school to industry, because I think that this is one of the problems that we experience here in college, of business, and most of the students are planning to go to Academia, but I know that there are a considerable amount of people who want to go to industry, and more of the university effort are to connect the undergraduate students and help the undergraduate student to find a career. And I didn't find anything that is specifically for the graduate students. So I think I want to contribute there and try to connect our students and happy events for them if it's possible. And also I want to serve in a board and a scholarship or grant committee, because I want to give more awareness to the students in college of business, especially the 1st year. Students that don't have many ideas.
- **Amir Ali Shahmansouri:** Are there any vacant committees for next year?
- **Nazua Idris:** All the college representatives will be assigned to a chair a committee by GPSA President.

- 
- **Nazua Idris:** I motion to vote on representative for college of business.
  - **Amir Ali Shahmansouri:** Second
  - **Joseph Akowuah:** Yeah, so it was enough time a little follow up for the last present. I forgot the name. Sorry, but I think that as a committee teacher. Your job is not to only raise awareness for students in your committee. Right? Your job is to raise awareness to all graduate students as a college rep. Your job is to raise awareness for your college regarding everything else. But as a committee teacher you are. You're not only working for your college. You are working for all graduate students. So you don't have to favor only people in your college. Yeah, just pointing that out.
  - **Vote for College of Business Representative**
    - **Setareh Alibakhshi:** 35
    - **Mahdieh Mirzaagha:** 21
  - **Desmond Aboagye:** We have finished voting and Setareh Alibakhsji has won the majority
-

---

College Representative for College of Veterinary Medicine

| 3 Minutes Presentation Time

---

Candidate 1

| Shah Alam

Criminal Justice & Criminology College of Arts and Sciences

Q & A: 3 mins

- **Shah Alam:** So my name is Shah Alam. I am a current Senator for the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, and I'm working for the Department for last 3 years as a Senator. Also. I'm working as a member of Legislative Affairs Committee in the GPSA since 2020 second, which is almost 3 years. So that's my little intro. I just want to focus what I did in my years in the GPSA in last 3 years And so, as I said, I, I'm a Senator for 3 years, and working as a member of legislative affairs. So under this committee, we had most work on policy levels, and we work on different issues like graduate housing issues, mostly rent increase every year they have increased the rent. So we work on them. Also, we work on transportation issues right now. Still, Preference Committee as a team working as a team to work on transportation margin roads, specifically campus route and apartment land. The biggest event we had in our years in, Olympia Coug Day. I participated in cook days. We discussed, we discussed a lot of issues like childcare issues that a lot of students have child in GPSA members. So, they have some childcare issues. We voiced for that. We met with representatives and senators in the Olympia. We talked to them, we presented our demand. So this is the things we worked. And it also includes mental health. And then stabilization issues. Amazing senators. I network with the next. What I'll do is I elected is so continuing working on these issues. But it will be more higher level, because Senator is a different position and chair, and the college representative is the different issue, so I will be more in a position to work on that also. My biggest concern will be how to get the Vet. Med. Student in the GPSA as a college representative. We are working as a college representative at large. We want people from that college in the GPSA. That is my one of the mission. Also, I look forward to if I elected work in the university and student affairs.
- **Augustine Attah:** Can you name 3 different programs in VET Med and how do you plan to work with them?
- **Shah Alam:** So honestly. I don't have all the names on top of mind, but I can find it so. It will be easy. It's not a gigantic task. But if I find those names, what I'll do, I'll contact with the current senators at large, or whatever senators from that college and work with them. How they work with the students, also how they can suggest to, you know, have more representation from the bed method. Also, I have a plan to work with the graduate program, coordinator or staff to get the graduate students information. And I will compile them and talk to them in person. I prefer or email or in zoom. That's how I would connect with them.
- **Matthew Wun:** What current issues do you think should be priority when it comes to Vet Med?
- **Shah Alam:** So I don't have firsthand experience of the concern of vet med specifically. But as a graduate student. So we face different issues, which is a common like transportation issues also the parking issues after hours, you know transportation, because in vet Med, I guess they have lab work and which can, you know. Delay after hours they can work like 8, 9, 10. So I think transportation issue will be one concern, because after hours transportation is limited. So we'll work on that because currently, I'm working on that as well. So that's a common issue. Other thing is mental health which I focus on. We have resources on campus, and I will try to connect the resources with the vet Med students so that they can get help in a proper channel.



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Candidate 2

Malachi Chukwu

Cultural Studies and Social Thought College of Education

Q & A: 3 mins

- **Malachi Chukwu:** Hi, everyone my name is Malachi Chuck. I'm a 3rd year. Phd, student in the College of Education. I, currently, I'm a currently Senator with representing the teaching and department of teaching and learning. I'm also I also do work with WSURA, which is a program that supports student intellectual and developmental disabilities here. So, I've been with this the GPSA for the past 2 years, and one part of what I've done is trying to advocate for student and making sure that that all my constituencies are supported. So I am educated. Advocate for student. Sorry could you enlarge? Oh, sorry. so I'm a former. I'm a former President of Nigeria's Student Association here. At Washington State University. As a President I supported my community. We promoted our cultural heritage here at WSU, and currently, I'm also apartment coordinator with WSU housing. So I'm very committed to ensuring equity, accessibility, and student support. So this experience, you know, it also includes an executive decision in decision making and student leadership. I've been also been as a GPSA Senator, I've participated in different advocacy opportunities. With in my committee with out committee. So I've thought we've you know, come promoted assets here. And budget as we're working in budget. So essentially my goal to run for the as the college for the veterinary medicine. I understand the importance of representation. So understand the challenges within the Vet. Med. College, such as the significant laboratory commitment which limits their broader involvement in GPSA. So I recognize this that my candidacy for this position is critical, and I'm so I'm committed to, you know. You know, because I do not have lab commitments. So I'm committed to making sure that I support the student represent the college and part of what my goal will be to try to engage and collaborate with them. So, if elected, I hope to my 1st step, would be to schedule meeting with the Dean, and regularly meet with the Senators represent the college. By doing this I'll actively engage.
- **Augustine Attah:** How do you propose meeting with the Dean and with your Senators?
- **Malachi Chukwu:** I understand the the situation right. The senators or and the student in in general are quite busy, right? And if based on from communication, if we communicate that they were, we're going to meet with the dinner and then, unable to meet. Then, after meeting, I would be, you know, try to communicate with them, and, you know, try to figure out what why, they couldn't make it, and we'll try to figure out what would work best for them. I think that would be a great way to to get them engaged I understand the the situation right. The senators or and the student in in general are quite busy, right? And if based on from communication, if we communicate that they were, we're going to meet with the dinner and then, unable to meet. Then, after meeting, I would be, you know, try to communicate with them, and, you know, try to figure out what why, they couldn't make it, and we'll try to figure out what would work best for them. I think that would be a great way to to get them engaged.
- **Nafise Noroozi:** Why did you apply to be the representative for Vet Med?
- **Malachi Chukwu:** Part of my goal is, I think, the GPSA being a college rep for the for the vet meds will provide me the opportunity to contribute my experience. In within the executive, but also to work with students. in the vet medicine, as I mentioned. Right? They are quite busy, and I don't. I don't have lap commitment, so I can provide my, you know, my time to work with the student within the college. So I think I could can contribute to the college.

Candidate 3

Saheed Adeniyi Ogunkoya

History

College of Arts and Sciences

Q & A: 3 mins

- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** My name is Sahid Adeni Ogunkoyami, 4 year Phd. Student. Phd. Candidates in the department of history. I had my bachelor's degree and my Master's degree in Nigeria, and I'm currently a 40 year. Phd. Student in Us. History with special concentration on us immigration laws, and that I've been working on since I joined this since I joined WSU. I've saved that on GPSA committees a couple of committees, budgets, and a few others. But this

## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

time around I'm seeking your support to let me represent you. So over the years, for instance, I have. I have contributed extensively to my communities, and I got into leadership, big time into student leadership and representation in 2,004. That's quite a time. And I served as student representative in my college. I also served as a financial secretary of History Student Association. I am a graduate representative here, and I have served as member of Senate here for professional student and as a scholar. Back in Nigeria. I served in the Student Union for community projects and a couple of other projects. I've also served as chair of governing board or governing School board, and I've served as a member of a security community here in WSU or here in Pullman. I've worked with the community Pullman police department and a couple of others, and, for instance, I have over the years I've won for myself a couple of scholarships in my department, and a few other support. And so I understand what it means to to be a graduate student. And I know what we are facing, and more to that. But ultimately, why do I want to save you? Why do I want to save you? I want you to support me, or I want you to elect me so I can serve you. What I am interested in is not about what I benefit in the hand rather. What other people, what my colleagues, what friends, what other international students, what other local students, what other graduate student will benefit. And I think I am the best person for this job. If you want to support me to serve you. What do I want to do? There are basically 2 things I want to do. One is to bridge the gap of international students. I understand what students are facing as international student. I understand what graduate students are facing, and I think that if you give me that opportunity I'll represent you where, how our representative to strengthen student.

- **Augustine Attah:** You were one time the Vice President of the Nigerian students and scholars organization, and you quit your position made tenure. I think. Can you speak about why you quit that position may tenure and you know that being. The college rep comes with a lot of responsibilities. And you're going to be getting a lot of aggression from students. How are you going to handle that aggression? So 2 questions, yeah, why did you create meet tenure, your vice President position, and for me in CVM (College of Vet Med). I am worried if you would replicate that kind of behavior as college rep. So why did you quit that position? And how would you handle microaggressions? Maybe even full blown aggressions from students.
- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** At some point in our lives we need to work with people of understanding. and then we should try as much as possible not to take things personally. That said, I had to quit because the President at the time who? I would decide not to mention his name guts. Personal, personal, in the sense that if I was working on the Executive with him, he does not have the right to use ashwords on me. and if I want to be a gentleman, if you use ashwords on me, and I call you to other to probably seek redress so that we can talk together on that And you think you were right. I think we cannot all be right at a time, so the best for me to do so that there will be peace was for me to step down. That's it. And that said at this time at this at a time. I was probably in the 1st year or the second year of my research. Now I have gone, I mean, I've moved, advanced into my research. I have. That's it. And that said at this time at this at a time. I was probably in the 1st year or the second year of my research. Now I have gone, I mean, I've moved, advanced into my research. I have. I have all the time to myself, and a little time to to see my advisor and stuff like that. So I think I have more time now to work. Yeah, to work outside of the department that said. we advanced. By the time we advance daily we grow from our experiences. And so, if the aggression that the President at the time showed towards me was so aggressive that I called him to other, and he refused to add to my call. I think it's about. I mean, I'm holder today with more experience to know how to seek better way to address issues that I'm not pleased with, and I think I've done that a couple of times after that. So I mean, experience breeds a man.
- **Matthew Wun:** You mentioned representing international students. The largest program in Vet Med is mainly domestic students. How are you planning to represent them?
- **Niyi Ogunkoya:** Well, I I mentioned domestic student 2. I'm not keen about absolutely concentrating on international students, domestic students inclusive. And this time around. I am interested in working with Senators like Austin had asked. But again, I'm not working alone. I want to work with senators. I want to work with other college reps, and I want students to be represented in boards in committees, and I'm going to advocate for that. So it is not absolutely about international student. However, I mentioned international student because



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION



as one of them. I know what it means to be far away from home, and I know what it means to seek support. I know what it means to seek support. So while of course, there's no way I want to concentrate on international students removing local students. If there's any point that I've spoke on this floor, I've spoke for everybody. At certain times. I spoke for transport. I spoke for everything, and I have not specifically pointed at international students as my main beneficiary in Hall. My interest is about everybody, everyone, all graduate students who in our graduate committee and outside our graduate committee, I mean, what is in our graduate student association. And outside, I just want all of us to benefit, and I'm willing to stand for to support them in all of what they do, not myself alone, but in collaboration with other Senators and other Representatives.

---

Candidate 4 | Kenita Dahal  
Chemistry  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Q & A: 3 mins

- **Kenita Dahal:** My name is Kenita Dahal. I am currently pursuing Phd program in chemistry under Dr. I basically study molten salt at high temperature. And we focus on chemical and from physical studies. I work primarily through dodging nuclear center. Because that's where the nuclear reactor is at so mainly my focus in chemistry is flock elements. That being said, I have prior background in organic chemistry and microbiology, which back home in Nepal, which is, I come, which is where I come from. It falls under chemistry. So biochemistry, microbiology, they were all under the biological science program. So I came from that background, having the having said that. I do think there is some correlation between vet. Med. Program and chemistry program here, even though vet. Med. Has a is a separate umbrella than chemistry, because I think they both are interdisciplinary program, and they fit into. Both. Both of them are associated with different deals, such as biological sciences or microbiology. That being said, my key focus on my vision as being a representative would be to build bridges, not just between departments, but also between every individuals. I have been a little bit. The reason I chose to nominate myself, which I've not done before. I don't have any position or prior experience regarding any governing body in WSU is because I want to focus on the safety when it comes to labs. I've been teaching chemistry for the past 5 years now, and all the students from different fields. Whether it's engineering, whether it's vet med chemistry. Any field you want to go to pre-med has to have a basic understanding of safety when it comes to Lab, which includes Ppe wearing goggles, lab coats. And I think I want to focus on bringing that into attention when it comes to safety in lab and student well-being. Another thing I would like to focus on is the mental health. Sorry I finished. My master's in Wichita state, and I'm doing my Phd here. So during my master's, I basically created a program called which was a hybrid program during COVID-19 in 2020, where we were basically teaching online, but making sure that students would enroll and would show up for their lab, because chemistry is one of the foundational course that you have to take whichever field you want to go into, which kind of like kept the enrollment going one of the key, my understanding, one of the key issues here is the lack of enrollment of students in these programs, especially in science, because of the lack of grants. So that's another thing I would like to focus on if you nominate me, so here is my pitch.
- **Augustine Attah:** So last year myself and the current CVM. Senators met with Dr. Dored Bodgeson, the current Dean for Cvm. And we kick, started a conversation about certain goals. The 1st is ensuring that the college-wide scholarships are readily available for all students in the college, as well as providing Master's Degree to Phd. Students and routes to their Phd. And was wondering how you intend to continue these conversations and to make sure that these goals materialize.
- **Kenita Dahal:** there are lots of collaboration that happens in chemistry. And vet, med, you talked about master's program, which is something I was talking with Dr. Buckley, who oversees the teaching program here in chemistry, who also teaches biology students which you know they're integrated. So there is an integrated program called the Ms. Which it falls under Ma, like masters of arts. But you can technically get away with a master's degree with biology. So there is that that's happening. And that's being



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

implemented right now, I the chemistry program that I want to. Again, the key focus is on students showing up on time student being interested in attending all the courses, and they try to pursue the biology and the chemistry for courses, and not just focus on the stem of the courses, and then, you know. maybe get a degree in engineering or something. So one of the key thing is to make sure that the enrollment keeps going. There are resources available for the students to keep on going, and then they move on. And then also, I think they're working on something similar. I don't have exact phrasing for you yet, but it's like an interdisciplinary program with Master's and bachelors. So you can actually graduate with your Master's degree, even if you're not very strictly proficient in. Say, P, chem, right? But you can still go into biology program, and then you can graduate out of it with your master's degree. So something like that is happening me personally have not reached out to anybody or nobody has reached out to me for me to have proper information on that. But I do have collaboration with Dr. Buckley, who oversees these programs. And I'm part of the member of Acs. So I kind of like I'm in, in and out of the circle. But that's 1 approach that I think I would be the best way to go.

- **Madison Hönig:** You currently mention lab safety. That is something that is working with the union to represent that issue. Are you currently planning to work with them? Also, you mention undergrad enrollment. Since we represent graduate students, could you provide more clarity?
- **Kenita Dahal:** So, when you come to lab safety as a grad student, you are responsible for overseeing the students in your undergrad like as a ta, right? So, you have to make sure that all the students have the lab equipment. So, what GPSA does, which is a graduate. Chemical society is they sell those lab coats and lab notebooks to undergrads, and they benefit from those money, and then that money goes into grants like, for example, travel grants for grad students. So, you kind of like, have a program where you actually sell them for discounts, so that undergrads would buy them. But the profit goes to the Graduate Chemical Society, which means the graduate students that they can use for travel grants. So, there is one way to go about that second one I meant on the enrollment is that you get employment as a ta. If you have larger number of students, for example, in the summer. Usually, students don't want to enroll. There aren't many classes that the students will enroll, that TAs are not getting jobs because there won't be any, you know classes happening for them. So part of them is like, you want to keep the classes flowing and like uninterrupted, so that the grad. Students can have like jobs. You know, without having to worry about whether they're going to get ta next semester or Ra next semester, you know. Keep seeking. For if there is any other grant. So because chemistry and biology these are very core courses that are that should itself be self-sufficient, you know, and same with Vet Med program. Like they are all interdisciplinary. There are so many courses you can actually put in and design experiments accordingly, that everybody can benefit from it, but it's way bigger than I just like said it in like 30 seconds

Voting Link: | <https://forms.office.com/r/XG8zhA13RX>

- **Joseph Akowuah:** I motion to vote for the Representative for Vet Med.
- **Zahra Khodaverdi:** Second
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Point of Order, are we going to open debate?
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yes
- **Augustine Attah:** You know, everybody who actually, you know, is contesting. But where I'm sitting here I feel like there is a misunderstanding about what we actually do. You know, as a college rep. However, I think that the goal is not for the candidates to know everything about the college colleges. They're going to be represented, but to have the willingness and the preparation to actually like come up, you know, and then show up. I've been a college rep at large myself, and I literally had to go see a Dean. The other senators the 1st meeting nobody else showed up. Imagine showing up in a new college, and you're the only person there, right? So that's the second of things you have to be prepared for you know, and don't make. Don't set like the bars too high for yourself, and set yourself up for failure. There's so many comments that were made here, and I know you're not going to do half of that right. So just show up and prepare, you know, to meet



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

a lot of huddles, and I appreciate all like the interest to represent. CVM.

- **Vote on Representative for Vet Med**
  - Shah Alam: 23
  - Malachi Chukwu: 7
  - Niyi Ogunkoya: 8
  - Kenita Dahal: 22
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have finished voting and Shah Alam has won the majority.

---

College Representative for College of Communication |

3 Minutes Presentation Time

---

Candidate 1 | Andrew Sutherland  
Media Literacy  
College of Communication  
Q & A: 3 mins

- **Andrew Sutherland:** I am the current representative of Moreau College for communication, and currently the chair of the communications for Gpsa as your current representative for, or chair for communication for the past year, and or really 2 years, I've been mostly working on trying to do promotional material and also communicating with the graduate student population through slate announcements, our website and on social media. I am currently Ada certified, which allows me to make sure the website is accessible, and I also work actively to ultimately send out communication messages to the graduate student population at the same time as the current representative of Murrow College for communication. I work very closely with our graduate coordinator and our Dean, and next year one of our big goals is to ultimately try to get a student, whether that is me as the representative or whoever's part of our graduate student association program to ultimately sit on various other committees in our department, and I, in this representative position, hope to help organize that. But at the same time next year I would like to either sit on one of 3 or chair one of 3 different committees. Whether that is continuing as the communication chair, sitting as the University Affairs, Chair Committee or Internal Affairs. In the case of the Communication Committee, I wish to continue on with what I'm doing right now with communication, but also expand it, whether through like trying to actually implement live streaming on our website, which I ran into a lot of technical issues, this semester. But we are figuring that out. And this is mostly due to an update of system update to our website, that kind of really pulled our website back, but also expanding on other resources, too, such as teaching and working with other committees, to ultimately expand, to get a better understanding of what graduate students want from us when it comes to the University Affairs Committee. My big goal is to ultimately get more Senators involved. We kind of have a big issue where only a select handful of people sit on University Affairs committees, and my big goal is to ultimately established subcommittees. So the person who sits on the University of University Committee will have a group of people they work with to ultimately communicate and directly engage with the student population to get a better understanding of how we, as the GPSA can better represent them and then, when it comes to fraternal affairs, if I am assigned to this committee, my big goal is not just to work with elections and ultimately try to make that election process and getting involved in GPSA more accessible. But the big thing I actually want to do is advance. What eternal affairs does, and serve as kind of a sergeant at arms. A fun fact about me is that I've read multiple editions of Roberts rules of order. And I kind of have a very good understanding of procedural motions. We're currently on the 12th edition of Robert's Rules of Order, and my big goal is to actually work.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** if you became chair of university affairs you'd establish subcommittees. That will do certain things. I have a problem with that, because, honestly, we have too many meetings to attend. There's a lot going on right. Everyone is busy, and we are really struggling as senators and college reps to be part of the existing university committees and represent grad student. Is there not any other way to really connect with the University Committee other than establishing, setting up more committees, that we need more meetings that people cannot really show up and I mean, it's it's too much work and is there not any other way.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So the 1st thing I'm going to respond to that with is that we took an

obligation to represent graduate students regardless of the work, but what the general reasoning why I am wanting to subcommittees is mainly because we have a issue where we have multiple representatives sitting on multiple committees when we have a lot of senators who are just sitting in internal committees, but also this opens up more opportunities for leadership opportunities for other senators. I personally believe that we ultimately delegate a lot of the leadership roles when it comes to the university and 2 representatives, and this also can ultimately allow us to delegate opportunities. At the same time, it won't be for every committee at the University, but it's ultimately going to be more opportunities for other graduate students who have certain types of issues that they wish to address, to ultimately help, lead, and work with. To address these issues. The perfect example of this would be transportation or housing. We constantly talk about issues with housing and transportation, but we only bring up the issues when we have a guest speaker from that department, but we don't do a follow up. It's ultimately led by one person, by ultimately getting people together who have a similar attitudes and beliefs of what needs to be addressed, we can ultimately have a more systematic organized approach to ultimately leading in these different types of committees plus, we can ultimately delegate more individuals to ultimately get more information from other graduate students or help organize different types of arguments that we can present to these types of committees.

- **Matthew Wun:** I find the way you speak to the VP disrespectful at times. Do you expect your communication with the future Vice President, President, to continue the way it has been?
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Well, when it comes to procedural motions based in Roberts rules of order, whether that is a point of order or a point of inquiry or a point of information. Roberts rules of orders does establish that we are allowed to interrupt the chair at any point in time. This is ultimately for making sure that the meeting is functioning in a certain types of organized manner as well as working on trying to gain new insight into information, but I apologize. If I came off rude. I'm a very direct person, and I've been told that sometimes I do come off that way last semester, when it came to Marwa. She did very much appreciate in certain capacities about my knowledge around Robert's rules of order, and actually maintaining and trying to maintain function within the meeting, especially when it comes to as the communication chair. My job is to ultimately try to keep track of notes and meeting minutes, and sometimes I need more insight, so I apologize if I come off as rude in those capacities.
- **Haden Kingrey:** I motion to vote on the College Representative for the College of Communication?
- **Nazmul Hossain:** Second
- **Joseph Akowuah:** I really appreciate Andrew's answer, but I reject the premise that we signed up for this role, regardless of the work involved, because I remember that when Nazua was advertising for the position, she provided the average hours that seniors and college Rep are going to put in when they sign up for this role. And we, our academics, come first. This is something that we are doing to help students. We are volunteering, but academics come first, so I don't think that it is best to lead with that assertion that will you sign up or this? So I'm going to create more committees. I'm going to put you there. You're going to do this because you sign up for this. No, but we have to. We have to pay attention to what we told people when they were signing up to it, and also the Academics calendar. I'm sorry the academic schedule and things like that. But apart from that, I like the answer.
- **Moazzam Rind:** Are we allowed to abstain or do we have to vote?
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yes, you can abstain. It is just a simple majority.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** I want to provide a little bit more clarity to Joseph. This my idea is generally just. If I become assigned to the University Affairs Committee. Most likely I'm going to get assigned communication chair mainly because I've been in that position for 2 years. It's just a general idea that I've recognized an issue with within GPSA, mainly because I personally think we should be granting them more opportunities for leadership roles for graduate students in our depart within our program, our organization, but that being, said I, I also kind of reject the notion that yes, our priority is academics, but also at the same time we signed up for this position in this organization because we understood the responsibility of what it means to represent graduate students. And sometimes we can go above and beyond.



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

And generally my idea right now of these subcommittees are most likely going to become voluntary. That's generally my mindset right now.

- **Vote on Representative for College of Communication:**
  - Yes: 41
  - No: 6
  - Abstain: 6

---

College Representative for CAHNRS

|

3 Minutes Presentation Time

---

**(Oieswarya, Prabesh)**

Candidate 1

|

Hector Bothello

Economics

College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences

Q & A: 3 mins

- **Hector Bothello:** So I am a Phd In economics in Washington State since 2021. I'm also doing my master in statistics, and I have a master and bachelor degree in economics, too. I have been Senator for 2 years now. I have been also part of the peer mentor program here in WSU. And I have been working in the central Bank of Colombia, and as a researcher in the National University of Columbia, too, I feel motivated to become a college representative because I believe that I have the skills that that is able to give me this responsibility position. I want to serve my classmates and my graduate peers. I feel that my capabilities in the terms of organization, my qualitative skills, and allows me to judge and take the best decisions in the committees that I want to be become part with. I want to become part of the award committee. The Professional Development Committee and the University and Students Affairs Committee in each. In this committee I hope to provide, like an objective view of how to assign the allocate the resources that we have always orientated to serve the most amount of people with always focusing in the development of my of my peers, and always being helpful in order to promote this kind of events and organization. That's all. Thank you so much for listening to me, and thank you so much for you both.
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** My question is like you didn't mention anything about the communications. So you are full from the scholar, and I am also the currently representative. So you know about that. So how you would approach setting up the communication. My question is no different than the other questions. So how you would approach setting up the communications with senators of the college is really a large college you know about, and with the senators and the like, the general students, because. As a policy representative, I really find it's really difficult to set communication with the old senators and the students, though I tried my rebel West. But there is a lot more opportunity to enhance the communication. So what's your plan in the communication? And the second question is like, you have mentioned 3 committee which committee you more specifically want. And why do you think you are more appropriate for these committees.
- **Hector Bothello:** So the communication is always a barrier and an issue between all the committees and all my senators. Peers, even with myself, is really difficult to approach to each Senator, but I strongly believe that the communication between college representative and senators and constituents it's extremely important for the good development of the GPSA. And it's not only for me, it's always for all the college representative. I strongly believe that it's necessary to to keep pushing to our senators, to keep communicating with their own constituents and being able to to verify this kind of relationship. It's important to to make stronger our communication skills and about the the committee that I am more interested in. So the one that is focused more, my attention is the Awaram Scholarship Committee. I really want to enhance and expand the opportunities that my peers will able to go to different academic events and also the travel grants and the different programs that GPSA can allocate the resources that they have. I





## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

believe that my skills as economist are able to contribute to this community in a big manner.

- **Augustine Attah:** I represented Connors and I brought up a concern, a student concern. There was a student who was, you know, harassed by the one of the professors. I brought it to one of the Deans and the Deans. One of them told me that they were helpless. So my question to you is, What would you do? You know what will be the next step if you bring up a concern to your Dean, and they tell you that they are helpless.
- **Hector Bothello:** my 1st action will be focusing which kind of harassment he's suffering and if the like, the military authorities cannot help like. I believe, that we should take that case to upper levels.

Voting Link: | <https://forms.office.com/r/QNss4UQyhJ>

- **Joseph Akowuah:** I motion to vote on the Representative for CAHNARS.
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** Second
- **Vote for the Representative for CAHNARS**
  - Yes: 37
  - No: 7
  - Abstain: 5
- **Madison Hönig:** I motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.
- **Amir Hussain Moadab:** Second
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** Yeah, I just, I just have a yeah. I am in, like in support of the motions. But one thing like we just said, set the agenda in a way so that we can finish the meeting with time, because 2 and a half hour to 3 h is fairly long time to ask you like for a meeting, but I'm supporting the motion as we want to finish the agenda, but, like coming down the roads, we need to be cautious, and this is one of the thing we I have been seeing again and again, either in person or online meeting.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So some of these things are unpredictable. I mean, I did know that this meeting was going to be extensive. I mentioned that in the email I anticipated 8 pm. Now, this is this floor is for Senators. This discussion is for you to decide, because I am chairing the meeting. I don't have a sway at this very moment, so the Senators are going to vote on it, yes or no. But yes, if we vote yes, we extend the meeting to 8 30. We will still continue with the agenda. Item. If we vote no, the meeting will end, and we will shift all items to next meeting.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Point of Order, during the vote count, I was informed by Nazua that someone who is not a Senator or Representative voted. The original vote count was Yes- 25, No - 17, but with this insight, the vote count is Yes - 24, No - 17.
- **Vote to Extend the Meeting to 8:30 pm**
  - Yes: 24
  - No: 17
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have finished voting and Hector Bothello has won the majority

## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION



08:00

New Business | Candidate Speeches for Vacant Senator-at-Large Positions  
2 Minutes Presentation + 2 Minutes Q&A

Candidate 1 | Name : Folake Okor  
Senator-at-Large Position : Communication

- **Folake Okor:** Yes, so good evening, everyone. My name is Folake, Oka. I'm a second year. Phd. Student in the department of Communication, and my research interest area is in health communication, specifically, substance misuse prevention. I have my BA. And Ma from a BA. From Nigeria had an MPA. From Lagos in Nigeria, and then master's Illinois University, and I'm the immediate past registrar of Caleb University in Nigeria. I'm a board member of Crawford University, Ogun State, Nigeria. Currently over the past year I've had the privilege of serving as the Senator at large for the Department of Communication, and that has really increased my desire to keep ensuring that my department has a voice on the floor of the Senate and currently I serve on the University Affairs Committee, and I've gained valuable experience working with the chair of that committee and other members. And we've done a few things to take actions that benefit the campus community like, I said, although my role as a senior invest administrator back home in Nigeria has been of tremendous advantage to me in this role, but serving in this role this past few months has, you know, allowed me to gain international leadership experience. And so, if I'm re-elected as a Senator at large for my department, I will continue to ensure that the connection and the communication between my department and the GPSA. Remains unbroken and more effective. So thank you for your time and attention.

Candidate 2 | Name : Portia Amoa-Danquah  
Senator-at-Large Position : Kinesiology & Ed Psych

- **Portia Amoa-Danquah:** I'm a Phd. Candidate from the Department of Kinesiology and Educational Psychology in the College of education. I've been the Senator at large for my department since last semester. So this is my second semester of GPSA and this evening I would like to share a little bit about my leadership experiences in GPSA and outside GPSA. So outside GPSA and before joining the programming committee, I worked with student involvement as a programming graduate assistant. Basically, I led and supported the student entertainment boards, undergraduate executives in the events that they planned. I also ensured that all events were executed in accordance with the policies and regulations of the university. So this is basically one leadership experience that's the most relevant to my current position with the programming committee. I also serve as the American Educational Research Association as a Graduate Students committee co-leader for the Qualitative Research Special Interest group. It's a very long name. But that's 1 task here, or basically one task here. That's probably the most relevant to my current GPSA position. Is that I plan. I schedule and organize meetings among graduate students. Basically, I co-facilitate a reading group. In some ways I serve as a channel between graduate students committee and then the reading group. So within GPSA for the last semester I've worked the programming committee chair and the other Senators in planning non-academic events. And I've supported. I've also co-led the planning of events like Friendsgiving, for example, and when needed. I've also supported my colleagues in the events that they have planned or taken the lead on. I have also represented my departments in meetings which we've had with the Dean of College of Education and the Department's chair of teaching and learning. We have that once a semester.

Candidate 3 | Name : Md. Rakib Hasan  
Senator-at-Large Position : School of Design&Construction

- **MD. Rakib Hasan:** I am in a two-year masters of architecture program in school of design and



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

construction under Holland College of Engineering and Architecture. I am honored to stand before you today as a candidate for the Senator at large position in GPSA. I'm eager to serve in this role because I am deeply passionate about advocating for graduate students and fostering an inclusive academic environment where everyone can thrive throughout my academic and professional journey I have actively engaged in leadership and community driven projects. For example, back in my undergraduate years back in Bangladesh I worked on a riverfront development project collaborating with some local governing bodies and communities and communities to improve urban conditions. My experience made me believe in the power of teamwork problem, solving mindset and leadership in addressing real world challenges. Additionally, I played several key roles in organizing campus events, managing student programs and fostering collaboration among peers skills that have prepared me to represent with the diverse needs of WSU graduate student community in WSU. I have been, I have seen graduate students often face unique challenges like research funding work, life, balance and professional development. As a senator I will actively listen to student concerns and collaborate with university leadership and advocate for policies that support our academic and professional growth. My goal will be ensuring that every voices is heard, and that meaningful improvements are made for the benefit of all graduate students.

- **Joseph Akowuah:** So the candidate said that he is very passionate about serving students. I wanted to find out that, did he apply in the 1st opening, and if not, why is he doing it now? Is it only because the position is vacant?
- **MD. Rakib Hasan:** I am in WSU for a very short period of time. But in this period of time I have seen some like issues in graduate students like work life balance and like the connection between the after graduation career and the education. I am very eager to work in that position. So that on the carrier network is more focused here and yeah, I think that will sufficient.

Candidate 4		Name	:	Victor Aliyu
		Senator-at-Large Position	:	Veterinary Med. (Professional)

- **Victor Aliyu:** I'm privileged to stand up Senator at large for dev professional students and the College of Veterinary Medicine as an international student and doctor or veterinary candidates. I'm currently a 1st year student, PhD student in the biomedical sciences in CVM. And I'm deeply motivated to join GPSA to advocate for different needs of the students, for college academics and both domestic and international students at the University of Idaho, leadership roles in student organizations, such as Isac Tedx, Jci, amongst others. and I've been, I've been prepared to act as a liaison between my friend my peers and the leadership. During my tenure. I had secured funding, mental health resources and plan several programs aligned with GPSA rule for providing us as providing and ensuring essential support services for students. My motivation stems from my own experiences, navigating the challenges of balancing academic, clinical training, veterinary medical colleges and professional development. While addressing funding issues, mentor mentorship issues and inclusivity. I aim to prioritize transparent representation of students while tackling issues which domestic and intelligent students also suffer from while enhancing resources, such as career development dedicated to serving the world.
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** So, your goal seems like really like a little bit really broad and
- like, so do you have any plan like how you will work on the like you're saying, like, you'll work on like funding crises and supporting students. Do you have any specific plan how you approach this kind of things?
- **Victor Aliyu:** Working with currently elected Senators for the College of Economics, and also trying to make students know about the availability of resources around them. I think one of the issues we have, as in medicine, we have, we get very invested in work, and we are more like separated away from the school. So we don't know so much about the resources are available to us as students and I think working with the college representatives and elected Senators as well. To make these available resources known to the students, will be the 1st line of action, also working hand in hand with the Senators for the professional CVM students. because most times students from the College of Veterinary Medicine do not attend events planned by GPSA most times because of the strenuous work activities, lab activities as well. So trying to make inclusivity for students as well would be another way. I will try to make this up.

## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Bulk Voting Link: | <https://forms.office.com/r/PWwv2Tpmddp>

- **Joseph Akowuah:** I motion to vote for the senators at large.
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** Second
- **Madison Hönig:** Is this a block vote?
- **Nazua Idris:** Yes
- **Amir Ali Shahmansouri:** So after voting to these 4 candidates will be any other vacant position or designator seats will be filled?
- **Nazua Idris:** Yes, we will still need to fill 15 seats, and we will be doing voting on the next meeting. Since we couldn't fit all of them together. So we divided them up into 2 meetings.
- **Moazzam Rind:** Yeah, I was not. I'm not able to understand how we are voting in bulk for all of them like together. So we just have to agree with, like, you know, or we just have to disagree with everyone. I don't know. But it depends on you guys.
- **Nazua Idris:** Yeah, I think it's yes, no abstain. It used to the case, by the way, like previously, like a committee, will bring all the bulk voting, and people would just do about voting on the results. This time we're doing it a little differently, so that, like people have separate voting for each candidate. But since these people are representing their own academic unit, and they were the only people who applied. So that's why we're doing a bulk voting.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So technically, if they were part of general election, even only just their votes will automatically make them win because they are coming from their own college. That is why we are able to put them together and do a bulk voting for them, but the rest of the positions where we have multiple candidates, for we would have to vote for them individually. *So the floor is closed for discussion.*
- **Joseph Akowuah:** But I have a question. Why are we voting for them this way? Because it looks like I don't have a choice to vote for some and not vote for others. Right? I must approve all of them. What if I want to reject someone?
- **Nazua Idris:** So according to the rule that I shared with all of you. If you remember, I said, the 1st criteria is like, if someone is like representing their own academic department, so they will be automatically considered. So that's why we did that way. As I already mentioned like previously in the past. What I used to do is like the special committee would bring like no one would be brought to the Senate. They would just bring the entire result, and people will just vote on that result. But this time we are trying to do it differently, especially where we have more candidates who will be listening to them, and then there will be, you know. Already mentioned like previously in the past. What I used to do is like the special committee would bring like no one would be brought to the Senate. They would just bring the entire result, and people will just vote on that result. But this time we are trying to do it differently, especially where we have more candidates who will be listening to them, and then there will be, you know time for separate voting. But since these people are the only people apply from there you know, academic unit. We thought that we will follow the previous rule and do a bulk voting.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** Yeah, thank you as well. But I still think that even if it is presented to us, we should be given the chance to reject someone that we don't think deems fit for the position, because even if the person is the only candidate coming from their college, it doesn't mean they should get into GPSA, because the position is vacant, right? We still have to decide whether they fit the position or not and reject it. So this is like forcing us to vote for everybody, which I don't think is fair. In my opinion.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** So like I, said Joseph, because they come from that academic unit. If they vote for themselves and get one vote they become, they will win the election.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** Yeah, so honestly, I think probably we shouldn't have done this, because if they are the only ones that apply from that department automatically they should be given. So I really think it's for lack of better words, a waste of time for them to come here to come and present, and at the end of the day we just give it to them. So initially, I thought, we are going to vote on multiple candidates. So probably going forward. We should really review this process, because if you're just giving it to them, then there's probably no need for them to come here.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Thank you, Edmond. I think I probably agree, and I think this was also



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

discussed previously. In that case it will be in the power of the Special Nomination Committee to just assign. And I think that's what Nazua was saying. They will just bring the results if it is. If the candidates are from that academic unit. So maybe we will take that into consideration as well.

- **Vote for Senator at Large:**
  - **Yes: 39**
  - **No: 3**
  - **Abstain: 3**
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have finished voting and we have reached a majority.

08:20

New Business | Approval of **\$1000** RSO Sponsorship Request from CVM Class of 2026

5 Minutes Presentation + 5 Minutes Q & A

- **Michael Estrella:** we're from WSU CVM, and we're presenting for the Junior Review. So basically, if you guys don't know the Junior Review is kind of like an informal send off for 3rd years as we transition into our 4th year. It's mainly just a celebration of all the hard work we've done and put in over the last 3 years. Kind of a way to commemorate what we've done as well as bring underclassmen and some faculty and staff together, just like, I said, as a big celebration and commemoration. And we've actually maxed out our capacity this year at 330. So that's kind of why we're needing the additional funding right now. Our preliminary costs expected are about \$7,000 for food, about \$1,200 for some memorial stuff, and then we're trying to be generous and give all of our guests one complimentary drink, whether that's alcoholic or not decorations. DJ, and required support staff. So all of that adds up. So, I think it was about 9,000 or \$11,000. And then, currently, we're sitting at about \$7,500 that we've received from corporate corporations, alumni veterinary faculty as well as a Cougar Starter for family and friends to donate to help make this a memorable night for all of us. So yeah, just kind of in summary. We're hoping that GPSA would be generous and help donate a thousand dollars to kind of make this a memorable night for all of the veterinary students and veterinary staff.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** I motion to vote on the sponsorship OF \$1000 to CVM.
- **Moazzam Rind:** Second
- **Vote on the Approval of \$1000 RSO Sponsorship Request from CVM Class of 2026.**
  - **Yes: 35**
  - **No: 3**
  - **Abstain: 2**
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority and the motion has passed.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** It is currently 8:32 and I would like to motion to adjourn the meeting.
- **Redwan Ahmad Khan:** Second
- **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** Yeah, just one quick comment. So this meeting and the last last or last couple of Senate meetings are longer. And it is unusual, because I'm here at GPSA for over 3 years, and this is the 1st time I'm having experience with like longer than 2 h meeting almost every Senate meeting. So I think it needs to be considered from the next Senate meetings.
- **Madison Hönig:** So I'd like to just make it clear that Andrew and I are in the middle of Prelims. We I've been waiting in this meeting in order to have a conversation and present things and make sure that travel Grants gets \$1,000 from my committee. And now none of these things can get voted on because we keep having issues with decorum, with voting issues. And I understand. But this feels very disrespectful. Now the meeting is adjourned, and none of this stuff will get done, and a lot of it is very time sensitive now. A \$1,000 will not go to travel grants, and we cannot have a presentation about the resolution and I just wasted so much time from my prelims. In order to do this I am incredibly frustrated, and I hope that we can remedy this for the future meetings, because this is just not acceptable anymore.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Thank you, Madison, so I'm not sure where you think we had it wrong. And I appreciate all the senators who are still online, even up to this point. And this is why I do not add items to the agenda simply like that, because I can estimate how the discussions will go every



## GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION



time. We try to go into details and try to cover all the switching between candidates and because of this, I knew today's meeting was going to be long because the items to be discussed are all necessary. And so we worked really hard to compile it and put it all together in as concise ways as possible, for instance, this is why we voted on all the senators together. So for sure we will try and make the meeting as brief as possible but that will mean that some items will not be discussed, and so when I present the agenda, and this goes to the Executive Board members, when I say that there's no time for new items, this is what I mean, because I can estimate the time for each item during the preparation of the agenda. I agree that all the discussions are important, the ones we are not able to get through today, they are going to be shifted to the next Senate meeting. But once again there will be a lot of other agenda items to be discussed in that Senate meeting as well so when you send me a request, and I humbly tell you that we will not have time for that, please understand that it's not because Desmond doesn't want to add your agenda item or bring that agenda up for discussion, it is because we will not have time for that. I appreciate your time so much but the meeting has been adjourned and seconded. But before you go, I am still working hard to ensure that together as the Senate, we will have some time to meet and chat about the needed changes that will move GPSA forward. And so I have partnered with the Graduate School for the next Evening of Excellence. This will be a dinner and awards night and that is when we are going to give all the GPSA awards and that is when graduate school is also going to give all the awards. And I was in a meeting with the dean of graduate school and necessary arrangements have been made, it is going to be beautiful, it is going to be nice, there's going to be a lot of food, a lot of music, and a lot of awards. So kindly add that to your calendar and thank you so much for joining today's meeting. I will see you on the next one.