



GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes
February 05, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

To join via Zoom:

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Meeting ID: 914 0791 7022

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

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

Here's the agenda:

- 05:30 | Call to Order
 - Approval of Last Meeting` Minutes
<https://forms.office.com/r/MMqSQcqmj0>
- **Andrew Sutherland:** I motion to approve the 1/08/2023 meeting minutes.
- **Hannah Martin:** Second
- Motion of 1/08/2024 meeting minter:
 - Yes: 41
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1
- **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.
 - Approval of the Agenda
<https://forms.office.com/r/cbDYx7GV5e>
- **Hannah Martin:** I motion to approve the 2/05/2024 meeting agenda.
- **Nazua:** Second
- Motion of 2/05/2024 meeting agenda:
 - Yes: 48



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- No: 0
- Abstain: 0
- 05:35 | New Business
 - Bylaw Revisions: Presentation to Senate
 - **Ashley Wells:** So, this is Ashley here. Internal affairs chair for the GPSA so I wanted to take some time today to begin to present the GPSA bylaw revisions. As I mentioned to you all last semester, there's been a lot of conversation regarding wanting to update the bylaws and make them more coherent, and able to better fit the needs of the GPSA. So, my committee and I have been hard at work over the last few months, adding edits, so that moving forward, there will be less confusion over certain bylaws. There's a plethora of different edits. So, I decided that today I could just present a few of the larger ones to you. All that more so affect the Senate, and then what we'll do is we'll have this discussion today, and then I will email out the edited word document to all of you directly after today's meeting that way, you will all have a full month to review the document, and we will officially vote on all of the Bylaw revisions during our March Fourth Senate meeting. And just keep in mind, as we're talking today, that we will not be voting on individual bylaws. We will be voting on the edited document as a whole. So, before I get started, anyone have any questions on any of that? No cool Marwa, can you go to the next slide, please? Great. Okay? So, the first bylaw that I wanted to talk a little bit about is actually in Article one, section one, and regarding the GPSA Senate meetings. This is a change that I've noticed was a bit of an issue last semester, and there was a lot of conversation amongst Senate members about it. So, my committee and I so decided that this would be a very good change for us, moving forward. So, it will read that any one time change to a location or time will be made as deemed necessary by a majority of the Executive Board. From there a majority vote from the Senate will be needed to make major and recurrent changes to the location and or times of Senate meetings. Notification must be given to the Senate one week prior to a regularly scheduled meeting for a one-time change. So, I think that this will better encompass emergencies that happen amongst the Senate, so that, the President and Vice President of the GPS still have some power to make small changes when needed for a singular meeting. However, we do still want to be fair, and allow the Senate to have a little bit more power when it comes to larger scale changes for Senate meetings. So that's the first change I wanted to present to you all. The second bylaw change that I wanted to let you all know about. Is in Article 6, section one, C, part 4 and this is specifically about things that Senate members should know and be aligned with when they become a Senator, and this is giving specifically chairs some power over their committee in terms of what Senators should and should not be responsible for. So, it will now read removing committee chairs if they are not responsive after 10 business days, or if they have 2 unexcused absences. This action would also automatically remove them from the GPSA Senate. This would be a last resort, and the committee chair would



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be required to send an initial warning email to the Senator before going down this path. So, this bylaw is for a worst-case scenario situation. If a committee Member Senator is being completely unresponsive to their chair. Their chair cannot get in contact with them again, as it states for 10 business days, or like it also says, if a committee member has 2 unexcused absences from specifically committee meetings, so this is talking more about committees rather than just Senate meetings. So again, giving a little bit more power and control to committee chairs when they feel as though their members are their members, or one member is not being responsive. So, we thought that this was pretty fair, and again this would be a last resort and committee chairs would still be required before even going down this path to send an initial morning email to make sure that everyone is on the same page. The last change I wanted to talk about. And I'm going to let Marwa take over in a moment for this is regarding Articles 8, section 3 and 4, which is changes to RSP funding Amaro. If you can go to the next slide, please and I'm, Marwa, just going to let you kind of take over because this is some wording that Marwa was specifically drafted up. And I want her to be able to have the opportunity to explain the changes for how RSO. Funding will be moving forward.

- **‘Niyi Ogunkoya:** I want to thank Ashley for the review of the Bylaws. What I didn't hear, except this, is not included in the Bylaws in the case that there are disagreements in committees. For instance, which is not impossible, of course, because we are human. What are the channels? Or is there a review on the channels to settle such disgruntledness. If there are disagreements in committees between committee members and the chair of any committee? Are there channels to investigate such disgruntledness? And if they are known, I think, we should also design that because some committee chairs may likely become too powerful to behave in a certain way that may not likely go down with members of their committees and then we can always find a common ground to settle each time there is a disagreement. That's my thought. So, I mean if there is none, we need to have that. But if there is any, I would be I mean I would appreciate it if you wanted to talk about it, especially if it is included in the bylaws. Thank you.
- **Ashley Wells:** Thank you. Question. Could you please answer his question before Rose. Yeah, thank you so much for that question. So right now, there isn't technically anything in the bylaws that dictates a quote on quote chain of command, for if there are committee issues but I think that the precedent that has been set for GPSA is that the committee head is generally in charge of all things regarding their committee, and if there are any issues or concerns about any power, imbalances that should go to the GPSA precedent. I think that's the way that it makes the most sense being that you know that that is one of the reasons why the GPS President is there? I haven't heard that there have been any desires for a different level of issues. But I will also say that from my position, internal Affairs Committee. If there are any more high-level issues regarding codes of conduct or things like that, where people are going against what the bylaws dictate. Then that would be something that would go to the internal



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Affairs chair.

- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Hi, Ashley, my question is, why are we putting all these changes in only one ticket to vote for?
- **Ashley Wells:** Yeah, no, that's a great question. The reason is because well, 2 reasons, really one, because this is the way that it is traditionally done when there are by loss. Changes like this normally would be one, yes or no vote. But the second reason is that there are so many different bylaws to vote on, that it would be almost impossible for us to specifically for Senators, for example.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Is there a way to at least vote for several things?
- **Ashley Wells:** the way that the bylaws kind of dictate that the bylaws are edited is that it's up to my Committee, the Internal Affairs Committee to make specific conversations and to have specific votes if needed, on the bylaws. Present a very thorough and edited draft of the bylaws in a way that is coherent, and that makes sense. And then for the Senate to go and be that last entry point and just have one vote. So, this is a way to just speed up the process for us to not be having multiple different votes in multiple different ways. So that's why my committee and I took many, many months, and really focused in to make sure that all these bylaws were edited very heavily, so that we could present a more holistic picture to all of you, and why there should hopefully be no reason for any additional votes moving forward. Of course, if, for whatever reason, the vote does not pass, that we can go back to the drawn board, and then my committee will go and re review everything. But that is the reason why. Why this is happening in this way.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** It wasn't a question, but also kind of an ex, an expansion of like information for a means, a question. In, because you made the point about like in cases of people committee members or committee heads abusing their power. There is a there is technically a formal process for possible impeachment. If we, if they are in the process of violating the bylaws or creating an environment that is in view abusive. There is a system in that capacity as well of impeachment.
- **Ashley Wells:** Yeah, yes, thank you, Andrew, so much so. Yes, again, if anything gets to that level where again, someone is violating a bylaw, whether that be a senator a chair of a committee, one of the higher ups on the executive board. There are many different channels and ways to go through the impeachment process to go through again, bringing it up to my committee. Internal Affairs Committee and looking into conduct issues as well before or more on the ground level issues with specific committees, try to keep it contained within the committee, and then also, the GPS can help to troubleshoot. Alright. Are there any other questions concern about anything before we move on to the RSO funding piece.
- **Marwa Aly:** So, moving forward with RSO funding. So, we had a lot of conversations between our So and the Budget Committee about the type



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of but the budget that GPSA is giving to our souls, and we all agreed that the annual, the annual budget, is not the best way to go forward. So that's why. With this a change, we remove the as the annual budget. We removed it totally and made all the applications to be just for semester applications, so like in a spring and full related to that. We change it. The budget limitation. So previously for semester funding there were no minimum, but the maximum was 2,000 with any allocation between the 2 semesters. With this exchange the minimum is 300, and the maximum is 2,000. I know that with the annual applications they could have up to 2,500, that praying is the importance of the sponsorship. So, because the limitation of fund sponsorship was stopped. But now with this fund was opening just the semester funding. We open the. We are planning to open the sponsorship again, and it can be any in any like amount as soon as no RSO. Will not be funded more than 2,500 per academic year, which is also stated in the previous bylaws. So, if this statement is still the same, but we shall still change it. The annual funding we remove the annual funding. We have now the semester funding. We set a limitation minimum limitation for the semester funding. So, any RSO can have this as a back pool for them or a safe limit for them that they, anyway, they will have the 300 as a minimum, but the maximum they could have up to 2,000 any questions so far. I would also add section A, section 3, a point 2, the fund is an RSO. To be eligible for fun. They should be registered RSO. And to be our registered. We just added what rules in the WSU. The bylaws for WSU. Is to have their active web page on presence because that wasn't clear on the GPSA bylaws. So now it should be clear that to be eligible for the font to receive the fund, they should be an active member on the presence, good presence. Any questions so far and other than that, the application opening, the application, and the limitation of the application, and all these still the same? Yeah, again, this is the same. Any organization would be recommended to receive 1,000. They should come to the Senate, meet Senate meeting, present their blend, and receive the final approval from the Senators. Yeah, and it's all what I have any question. Okay, hitting month, especially.

□ 2024-2025 General Election Announcement

- **Ashley Wells:** General Application Open on Presence from Monday, February 5th – Monday February 19th at 11:59 pm. GPSA Candidate Debate will take place March 4th during GPSA Senate Meeting.
- **Arpita Sinha:** Could you approve more detail for why the GPSA President and Vice President run on a ticket? Since that is in the bylaws.
- **Ashley Wells:** President and vice President, run on a ticket. So, if you currently know that you are very interested in running to be either President or vice president, you do need to find a running mate and commit to both submitting an application together. Each person on the ticket does need to send in a separate application, but you will be running together, and you will be voted on together as a package deal. Kind of to



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go back to the bylaws a little bit. One of the proposed bylaws that we do have as an edit is that while there will still be 2 separate tickets, we are going to have an edit that for everyone who's running on a ticket. So, let's say you are a Presidential candidate, and you have found someone who's going to be a vice presidential candidate. There is going to be a bylaw edit that states that both of you needs to have at least one year of experience of GPSA leadership, and that could be Senator, being a college rep, etc., etc. Right now, that is not the case, but that is going to be an edit that we are proposing, moving forward. So, it's just something to keep in mind. But yes, you will need to find a running mate. You cannot run by yourself if you want to run to be President or vice President and thank you again for that question. That's a good point.

- **Arpita Sinha:** How would the voting be counted if there are multiple tickets?
- **Ashley Wells:** One vote is counted towards both the President candidate and the vice president together.
- **Arpita Sinha:** Yes, Ashley, can I, if I may ask you that you know, since we are talking about revising the bylaws right now. I was wondering if your team ever considered that you know this particularly like running as a ticket could sometimes restrict people to run for a position. So would you like, would you and your team consider that as a future proposal. Because I feel like I do understand the logic behind it. It's the traditionally like in the country. How it's done. I'm guessing that was the whole thought behind it. But being with GPS a. For this long I do have my concerns of this thing. However, I'm not putting anyone under the spot to do this like an overnight change or anything. I understand the whole process that it goes through. But I don't know if it has been under review ever but since we are talking about it, and it's a time of election I thought I would just say it out loud. My concerns and see how it's being received.
- **Ashley Wells:** Yes, it was heavily under, back and forth about that a lot actually but it was decided, after conversations, my committee, and also conversations with the Executive Board and Executive team, that it should stay together first and foremost, to just not change up the structure of GPS. A too much there are some cons with, you know, that joint ticket, but I do think that there are also some pros in terms of making sure that the President and the Vice President of GPSA. Are of the same mindset and understand each other because they work together so closely and heavily. Throughout that year together GPSA. So that was really the main reason why we decided to just keep the tickets together instead of splitting it. But it was something we talked about. Quite a lot.

□ Cougar Food Pantry Referendum Question

<https://forms.office.com/r/eUhQbc8gpD>

- **Madison Hönig:** So, the Community Affairs Committee, and the Special Committee for Food Security put together this information packet and today we are going to be proposing the cougar food pantry referendum question. Which I think it's on the is it? On the next page,



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Marwa? The full question. No, it's not okay. So, if everyone could reference this document? So, we are going to be voting to basically approve the question. The question is, then, going to be put forward in the election ballot. So, do you want me to share that question now? Yes, if you could share it on the screen, that would be great. I thought. I put in the full question, so what we are doing is we are proposing a \$5 fee per semester for all Pullman grad fee paying graduate students the documents helpful because I include some summary points, information about how the fee will be used, what it requires for the referendum to pass how it will benefit students. And then why, it's important. At the end of the page. There's also some information about what a yes, vote means, and then what a no vote means. So right now, we are not voting in favor of the fee. We are just voting that the wording for this question is approved by the Senate to be proposed to our student body. Does anybody have any questions about this? So, you can see this question here. And I saw Paul through it in the chat as well. Shall the fee-paying Pullman graduate students establish a \$5 incidental fee to support the cougar food pantry to continue utilizing the services and supplement funds provided by the fee-paying undergraduate students. Question, mark.

- **Tathagata Pal:** Hi, Madison, thank you so much for your hard work on putting this document together. Just a quick clarification. Should we be also adding, like graduate and professional students. because I believe they will also be paying this dollar 5 fee. Right?
- **Madison Hönig:** Yes. Professional students would also be paying this. So yeah, I can add that in my notes as well, so we can amend it to saying, shall the fee, paying Pullman graduate and professional students established a \$5 incidental fee to support the cougar food pantry, to continue utilizing the services and supplement funds provided by the fee-paying undergraduate students. So, I did want to say I forgot to add this in the Senate has to approve this. Then this is going to be put forward to the IAC. Committee. which Ashley is the chair of. They're going to review that it is in congruency with all the bylaws in our constitution, and then we pop that into the ballot and then hopefully, it gets past.
- **Abbas Mammadov:** Hello. Thanks for the presentation. I have a few questions here. So, the one of the statements I read there, it's about the cougar food pantries. Primary funding comes from fee paying Pullman undergraduate students. So historically, were there policies in place that mandated graduate students to contribute to the cougar food pantry? Or has it been like solely supported by undergraduates?
- **Madison Hönig:** Yeah. So, it's a fairly new program. And it was started by the undergraduates. And so, it was only ever funded by undergraduate students. And they have, you know, generously allowed us to continue using it, but on the same for us not to lose access. GPSA



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has been supplementing by you know, adding funding directly to the cougar food pantry so that we don't lose access because they could withdraw access at any time.

- **Abbas Mammadov:** I see, thanks. And how about the statement that approximately 40% of graduate students use the cougar food pantry?
- **Madison Hönig:** I mean this statement request clarification regarding this source of the information. Is there any official statistics to measure one of the professors in my department is analyzing the data this is information that I got from the from Mary. Who is the food pantry coordinator. What they're they used to just have people sign in. But the new system is using the cougar cards where people are tapping in when they visit the food pantry. So that's getting a little bit more precise data.
- **Abbas Mammadov:** Yeah, I see. But again, even these statistics tell us tells us that that this is not most graduate students using the full country at the end of the day. But, like even bigger question is, why should the financial responsibility of addressing food insecurity among graduate students solely fall on this, on their shoulders rather than being a, let's say, shared responsibility of the university.
- **Madison Hönig:** I fully agree this is something. I am fully with you for that. I think there is something problematic about graduate students who are disproportionately experiencing food insecurity being the ones who are shouldering the burden of essentially spreading money to help each other out. In in tangent with me. Kind of contributing to this to the food pantry, graduate students contributing to the food pantry. We've also been doing a lot of advocacy work about having different departments contribute. I am also trying to push student affairs like at our last meeting, when we had student affairs come visit to actually put more funding towards the food pantry, because, as it stands, they do not. They consider allowing the cougar food pantry to use the space in the cub for free as a contribution. So, graduate students are not a huge part of the student body. If we're talking about the ratio of graduate students to undergraduate students. You know us paying that \$5 fee is going to give them a little bit money. But it's not going to cover the usage that graduate students are currently using. We are disproportionately using the cougar food pantry. So, of the graduate students who are using of the students who are using it. It is a large portion of that is graduate students, even though it isn't most graduate students. I would say that there is quite a bit of pay disparity, as we know. Those students who are at the lower ends of the pay grades are really struggling, and I can. I can say that, speaking in my own department. I think, Kate who is also here from the anthropology department, we can. We can speak to the fact that this is like a huge problem. So, it, you know. It might also be reflecting some differences in pay income some differences in in the number of dependents that certain students have. So yeah, it's not the majority. but for those people who need it. This is an essential service, because there are also no other resources on campus for this.



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- **Abbas Mammadov:** But just to add a few points to, I mean, considering existing fees like the Pullman SRC Fee. I don't know mandatory media fee Pullman cup fee transit fee it is, I think, crucial to question the necessity and like fairness of these fees. If a student doesn't utilize certain services covered by these fees, why should they be obligated to pay for this kind of fees. The CUB, for example, has different amenities, like bookstore, computer store some restaurants. But students pay for those so separate services. Yes, there is some recreational spaces, but I think which some people would argue that those services should be provided by the school at no additional cost to any student, and as a student organization should. They are not a concerted effort to advocate for a reduction or elimination of this type of fees, especially considering the financial strain many students face, could they increase in fees coupled with mandatory but potentially unnecessary charges, contribute to the prevalent issues of putting security among students. I think this are kind of open questions. I'm not waiting like someone to address them here right now.
- **Madison Hönig:** I do think that you are bring up a lot of great points. I do believe that, given some of the ratification of the tentative agreement with Case that some of those fees that we have been paying will be removed. So, we are going to be paying less fees than we have been on the other hand, from what I've understood from some of the analysis that Mary has done, most students who are coming in to the cougar food pantry are getting a full bag of food so one reusable bag is usually sort of the average of what people are leaving with and that the value of that food exceeds \$5. So even within one visit. You are benefiting more than you have paid and that is partially since given having more fees, more money to run the food pantry. Mary can purchase things in bulk. So, you can actually get food for a cheaper price than you would be able to get at the grocery store. So that's although \$5 is I understand I am also there. And feeling like this is unfair for graduate students to be bearing the cost of addressing food insecurity on campus, and this should be a priority from the university. But, nonetheless, this is an essential service. And the \$5 will go a long way. so yeah. I just to kind of address some of your questions. I do not want to take up too much time. So, if you have any other questions feel free to send me an email, and I can do my best to answer them.
- **Ninh Khuu:** Yeah, I'd say this great discussion they're having. But in all honesty, this is overdue. I think you saw the last meeting with Doctor Heather Case. They're they don't want us saying anything, cause they're aware that we don't pay into it. And Madison brings up the great point where we are disproportionately using the food bank, the food pantry, and we do need to also pay towards it. And we understand not everyone's going to use it. We are glad, not everyone uses it. That would be a very bad sign. But we do have to support people that need it. There are folks who have kids' emergencies happen. This is one of the best places where they can easily get emergency food. And again, like



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Madison, also made up the great point of it's a really great way of pooling our resources and getting things much cheaper than anyone else can purchase the map and if you're upset about fees, our union contract runs up August 2026. If you want to negotiate to remove fees that's the place where you do it at the negotiating table.

- **Tathagata Pal:** Hi, Madison. Again. Thank you so much for sharing this with us. A quick question. So, it says, approximately 40% of graduate students are using that Google food pantry? Is it 40% of graduate students? Or is it like the 40% of the total number of people who are using the food pantry.
- **Madison Hönig:** Yeah, I think this is where I probably phrased it a little bit oddly. I think I can amend this so approximately, 40 of users of the cougar food pantry are.
- **Suhina Deol:** If people are citizen's, does the food pantry or GPSA unit help them apply for food stamps?
- **Madison Hönig:** The student affairs Doctor heather case, as Nin mentioned did mention that they're potentially going to be funding someone to navigate basic needs who should be assisting folks with kind of, I guess accessing government resources and external resources. I will say, I think at our last meeting. You guys probably heard me push quite a bit that we haven't. I will speak to the GPSA website as well. We. We haven't really been consulted a lot on some of this some of this work. And to answer your question about the GPSA website. Yes, our committee did put together a list of resources. The Food Security committee did put together a good page on the website. We are currently working with the Communications chair to try and get that up. But we are getting some pushback from the university. They do not want to put it on the webs on our GPSA website because they think it is redundant and they were asking if they could take the information that we had compiled. I'm pushing back on that a little bit, because, you know, it is the work that we did. And we're going to try and see if there's a compromise to be able to add that to our GPS a website. I don't know if Andrew, you want to jump in medicine because we have time here.
- **Marwa Aly:** Do you think we can go forward with voting on the question right now, or do you would you like to amend it the next?
- **Madison Hönig:** I can, if folks are able to, I can amend the question to include professional students as well. I'm happy to call the question and put it to a vote. If I have a seconder for that.
- **Suhina Deol:** I second that.
- **Tathagata Pal:** So, I just wanted to clarify, like, add to something that Madison already mentioned about the basic navigator. So, the GPS Ls is working on a proviso this year that is, around 1.8 million dollars. So, the problem with the current navigator is that it's only funded at point 7 5 ft. And it was really getting hard for WSU to find a navigator at point 7 5 ft. But this year we have been able to find sponsorship for around 1.8 million



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dollars that would fully fund the basic needs navigator position at in in all the colleges in Washington. So, this would actually swing to answer your question. This should alleviate some of the problems that we're students struggle trying to find the resources that are there. And once we have this position up and running, I'm pretty sure like we can work with. Andrew to advertise that in our website, pointing that out. So, you know.

- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** I know incidental fee may have a meaning as a phrase together. Do you think we can make it easier to understand, for some folks whose first language is not English.
 - **Madison Hönig:** What we could. So incidental fee is meant to be put in there so that it's classified as non-tuition. So that's the reason it's in there is because it has implications. For, like the legality of us passing this. What we could do potentially and if Ashley would be okay with that is, we could on the ballot include information about what incidental means like below in order to make it more accessible. I think that's a great idea. Yeah, I don't want to amend language too much. If it has implications for, like what we are then legally bound to doing so. Yeah, but that that sounds like a great idea. Really appreciate that, Rose.
 - Do you approve the Cougar Food Pantry
Referendum Question:
 - Yes: 45
 - No: 6
 - Abstain: 4
 - **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.
- Update from the GPSA LAC about bills that were endorsed by the GPSA and Coug Day, 2024
- **Tathagata Pal:** The GPSA LAC has successfully co-organized the Coug Day at the Capitol 2024 in Olympia on January 21-22.
 - We had around 85 students (10 of them were GPSA representatives) in the capitol and had 95 meetings with state legislators.
 - We talked about various issues including the graduate and professional student specific housing and childcare issues.
 - We specifically lobbied for HB2101 7 SB6038 for childcare and HB2114 & SB5961 for housing
 - We also lobbied for hb1889 that will enable all the professional students in WA to acquire a professional license irrespective of immigration or citizenship status.
 - The GPSA supported HB2101 and SB6038 for increasing childcare support to our students. Both bills have successfully



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passed the policy committees in their respective house of origins.

- The GPSA supported HB2114 and SB5961 for putting a rent-cap on housing rent increments. Both bills passed the policy committees in their respective house of origins.
- All these bills will hit the fiscal committees next, and we'll continue to lobby for these bills.
- GPSA LAC chair testified for each of these bills during the committee hearing meetings highlighting why these bills are very important for our graduate and professional students.
- **Ninh Khuu:** I said, love the photo. Love the work you guys do. I'm glad you also hit that last point, because what I'm hearing from my department is the university is only looking at, maybe to cover. TAS, but they're not looking to cover students on grants. Can you speak to that?
- **Tathagata Pal:** Okay, so I can give you some numbers. So, the total requirement for the WSU right now for to for to support this agreement is around 9 million dollars. So, WSU is asking for 5 million dollars from State and rest, 4 million dollars from the Federal, and I have not got any specific information from the from the from the WSU. Like Excel, like Government Office, where it says that they're only going to support TAS like, I have not got any information like that. So, they just say that we need this total amount of money to implement whatever is necessary.

- Travel grants will contribute \$1000 to LAC.

<https://forms.office.com/r/KFPbvZJtLu>

- **Tathagata Pal:** I motion to vote on Travel grants contribution of \$1000 to LAC.
- **Nazua Idris:** Second.
- **Marwa Aly:** We are opening to discussion.
- **Tathagata Pal:** So, if anyone would like to say something to support the vote or question. You have 1 min to do that. Yeah, sure. So, the reason for this specific like contribution from a travel trends. Is that like this year? Starting from this year, everything went back to offline and all like GPSA LAC committee members and the chair, and the President and the VP. They need to travel a lot all around the State, and also GPS this year was able to send the chair like I went to DC and talked with like the Congress delegations as well. So, this has kind of like. It was not considered before we made the budget for the LAC. So, we are still running low on like by around \$2.5,000 and this \$1,000 would definitely really help a lot to sustain like what we are doing right now from an advocacy perspective. So, I would appreciate all of your support on this. Thank you.
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you, Belle. I would add to that before. Go to the



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voting form. Is that true? Any budget with the committees is a trip budget to the SNA Committee. So, if we use we can, we can use a gift account. But if we use a gift account, we will affect the GPS. Say, and there is no money that we can that could be come again to this to this gift account, but it's better to use the money from this and an accounts. It's an account. One of them is a profit grants, and they still have money, and instead of all the money, all the rest of the money, we just contribute to each other, and try to use them on the best way that we can. any other discussion points? Okay, please use the appropriate form.

- Do you approve the contribution of \$1000 from the travel grants to LAC?
 - Yes: 34
 - No: 6
 - Abstain: 2
 - **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.
- PDI will contribute \$2000 to Awards and Scholarships for GPSA research expo.



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<https://forms.office.com/r/BSz7cDUM39>

- **Tathagata Pal:** I motion to vote on PDI contribution of \$2000 to awards and scholarship for the GPSA research expo.
 - **Anita Paneru:** Second.
 - **Amir Hossein Moadab:** Hello, everyone! This is Amir, the chair of awards and scholarships. So based on our budget shortage to support students for poster printings which costs like a little bit less than \$4,000. This \$2,000 is essential, as in the past. Awards, and a scholarships committee received external contributions from other companies. So, I'll appreciate if you support us in this regard. Thank you.
 - **Suhina Deol:** Yeah. I'm also on the awards and scholarship, but as a member and I was just wondering like since this is a continuous need for the committee. Is there any way like we can have the. We can get more money regularly, or as having a regular vote needed here.
 - **Marwa Aly:** So, I would say the chair of the committee needs to give us like. Add this money to the adjusted budget for next year, you know. So, each committee should by tomorrow give the respond to the form how much money they would need for next year. So, the Budget Committee can make the request, so they need to add that money to the money that they should ask Amir.
 - **Amir Hossein Moadab:** Actually, I need to clarify something here. given the situation that we have about the awards part, because we have a mutual budget for awards and research exposition events, and given the situation, that graduate school will no longer support us on \$5,000. So, this budget shortage will be around \$7,000 for awards and scholarships, and I already notified the president of GPS a. To adjust the budget about for the next budgeting.
 - Do you approve the contribution \$2000 from the PDI to Scholarship and Awards:
 - Yes: 40
 - No: 3
 - Abstain: 0
 - **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.
- 06:20 | Break
 - 06:30 | Guest speakers
 - **Fossil Free WSU.**
 - **Stevie Fawcett:** Well, first, thank you for having us. We really appreciate this opportunity. To come. Talk to you all about fossil fuel divestment. I have 2 of my colleagues with me today Mason and Ryan, and we have some slides for you. So yeah, I'm going to let Mason start us off.
 - **Mason Burns:** Thank you. I'm Mason. I'm the vice chair of ESA. Yeah.



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Want to talk about fossil fuel divestment. So, for the past couple of years, we've been looking and working with WSU to divest from fossil fuels, and through our campaign. A little few questions. If you want to go on to the next slide. Stevie is what is fossil fuel divestment. To put simply, it's the opposite of investing rather than putting money into a certain company or entity. We're asking to pull money out. In this case we're asking to pull money out of fossil fuel driven companies from the institution's endowment fund. From over to the next slide. Specifically, we're looking at the top. 200 companies. This is a list comprised of the top 200 companies by estimated carbon reserves. Predominantly WSU is invested in chevron. That's their main entity stakeholder if you will. Next slide, Stevie. So why divestment campaign one fossil fuels contribute to the climate crisis the most, and as we've seen it has worked from a divestment standpoint. So rather than having all this funding for, and the continuum of fossil fuels pulling that out further kind of extenuates the impact of we need to make smarter financial decisions long term rather than short term. We've seen it work through the South African apartheid, I think, in the nineties. And then we've seen it work much smaller scale. But throughout the world, as other entities have divested from banks that have funds and fossil fuels as well as the companies themselves. We've also seen schools like WSU in America, that have divested from fossil fuels as well. Some notable ones are locally Seattle University, Oregon State University of Hawaii, and more predominantly prestigious schools, such as University of Massachusetts, Oxford, Stanford, California, Washington, and Yale. So, it's not Going to be only WSU doing such actions. We do have other entities that have done the same.

- **Stevie Fawcett:** Awesome thanks, Mason. So, we've seen other schools do this for a long time. It's been going on for a while now. So, I kind of just want to take you through WSU's journey. So, we initially started off a couple of years ago, in September of 2021. So, we're all from the environmental Sustainability alliance which is part of ASWSU, the student government and we formed a subcommittee? Specifically for this topic, for fossil fuel divestment. And so, in the subcommittee we kind of discuss, you know. What? Where are we going? What are we trying to accomplish? And how are we going to accomplish this? And the first things we started to do? Or go through to the board of Regents meetings. Because, as some of you may know, they have public comments where you can go, and you sit down at the end of the meeting. You can say, you know, here's this issue. I would like to bring up about WSU, and so we've been going pretty much every month since September of 2021, and saying, hey, you know we know where WSU. Is investing in fossil fuels, and that's fueling our climate crisis. So can we please work together to divest. So, in addition to that, we wanted to gauge student opinion, and we'll get into those to those results in a second. But we released student online survey in November of 2021. And in response to that we also released a student petition which we'll also get to later. At that time, we also met with the head of Regents Regent Dickinson. which was a productive meeting. It seemed like they were on board with what we were



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asking for and then Mason met with President Schultz on this issue. That was a couple of years ago, now. November 2022 and so then further along our journey we decided to gauge faculty, opinion, and employees of WSU, and so we released a survey yet again. And once again we'll go through those results in a second and then, in response at least partially in response to our campaign, Washington State university, decided to make a sustainability task force which addresses a lot of different sustainability problems across all our campuses. And so that, launched in December of 2023. And so, a couple members of our campaign have been on that taskforce. Working with other people to write down the goals and clearly make sure that you know we can use this task force to push our goal of fossil fuel divestment. In addition to that, we've also been reading with the Vice Provost Ramos. She's part of the Board of Regents, and she's been really interested in our campaign. So, with that, I'll head off to Ryan to take you through some of those survey results.

- **Ryan Culp:** Alright, thank you. So, the results. So far from the student petition, I believe we would like to these results over a 2 year period. So, the questions we asked the questions we asked after providing some information was, would you support us divesting from fossil fuels? I forgot to announce myself. Hi, guys, I'm Ryan. I'm the treasurer for the U.S.A. Getting back onto it. So out of the 1,051 that responded, 732 said, yes, they support. That's almost 70 70%. A 121 said they were unsure which was about 11 to 11, a half percent and 198 said that we should not divest. And so that was about 19. So, among the students, we got positive results. If you ignore the people that were unsure, it was about 70 versus 19. So pretty good sort of agreement there. Though we may have some disagreements out of the student population, most would agree that we should divest next slide moving on to faculty and staff we had about half the number of respondents a little less than and we got different results. Here we got 2 out of 247 said, yes, 56 said unsure, and 162 said no. So, in this case it's a 53 versus a 35. So, we've got less agreement out of the staff and faculty. So that includes, I believe, your common employees and your professors. anybody. That isn't a student that works for the school, but we still got a majority agreement out of the faculty and staff that we should divest next slide. So, we have our student petition, which got over 1,000 supporters over 2 years. Apologies. I think I believe I should correct myself. The student petition about the yes, I'm sure. No, I believe that was collected over the course of a few weeks. But the student petition, we've collected over the course of 2 years, and this is just saying that they would support our divestment and we still have it opened. So, it's a thousand and goes up, you know, every day. and then next slide. So, the result, so far is we have spoken to the regents and the President. They are aware of our movement, and they do seem supportive. We have accomplished a few things, but we haven't accomplished our main goal of divestment. We obviously want to get to get them to set up a resolution to either direct divest or Tell the Investment Committee the WSU foundation to divest. That's kind of our main goal so far. And we did get the sustainability task force set up. And we do have a few of our members in that group which



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has been very positive towards this overall goal. So, but have we accomplished our goal? And then the answer not yet. So obviously, we still need support to kind of push even farther ahead to get those resolutions made in the Senate and the port of regents.

- **Stevie Fawcett:** Awesome. Well, thanks, Ryan. so like, Ryan said. We've seen a lot of positive feedback from our campaign, which is nice to see, it took some schools like Gonzaga, like 10 years to get to where we got in about 2 years. But, like Ryan also said, We're not there yet. So, in 2024, we have a few different goals, and pretty much the entire goal can really come down to visibility. We want to make sure that. You know this isn't just something that people say. Yes, we agree with, and then they brush it under the rug. We want to make sure that we get a firm commitment on this something that's trackable. And we want to make sure that students and faculty members, you know, voice their support for this invoice. You know their opinion that we shouldn't be investing in fossil fuels. So, this year that that really includes gathers more support from the student body. We've gotten a lot of positive results, including that student survey and the 1,018 signatures on our petition. We also want to gather support from student organizations. That's why we are here right now. We've been going to lot of different student organizations this past year and doing this presentation. We have a separate petition, for WSU organizations. Which I'll get to in a second. And we also want to get support. From faculty. This is probably going to go down the avenue of Faculty Senate and we're also going to release a faculty petition down the line. So, stay tuned for that. And then eventually, we're going to bring our campaign to the Board of Regents, and we're probably going to do that through the sustainability task force. So really, our timeline right now stands with the sustainability task force because it helps with that is that the members of this task force are going to perform, formulate all these sustainability goals, and they're going to write them out. And then they're going to give them to the Board of Regents, and when the Board of Regents receives them, they're going to review them and either reject them or approve them. And so, we want one of those objectives to be fossil full divestment, and we want the Board of Regents to approve that message. To do that. We're making sure that we're continuing to talk with the Board of Regents as well as the WSU Foundation. We have a meeting with Mike Connell, the CEO of the foundation. a couple of weeks to talk through a realistic way, to divest from fossil fuels, and what that timeline might look like so if any of this sounded interesting, I can also throw it in the chat. But this is the petition that we were talking about that has 1,018 signatures on it. This is for individual WSU students. So as graduate students. You know, this is a petition that we encourage all of you to sign. If this campaign sounds interesting, if it sounds like something that you agree with, we highly encourage you to scan the QR. Code. I can also, like, I said, through the link in the chat since this is a Zoom Meeting. But this, you know, this is another way to get our voices out there, but really what we're what we're asking here is for a signature from GPSA as a whole and so how we've gone about this in the past, and how we'd like to this go! How we'd like this to go! We will let you



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discuss among yourselves whether or not you think GPSA as a whole should support this campaign, and then we will actually send you a separate petition, or you will sign, you know, not just like your first and last name, but you'll sign GPSA, and we've already had a few different organizations. Sign this petition? And so, with that, I believe that's my last slide. Are there any questions I see hand up already?

- **Marwa Aly:** So, I will start from the last point that you mentioned. So, you mentioned that you want GPSA to sign for you as a GPS say, body. So, does that mean the president and advisor for GPS to sign for you? Or do you want signature from all the Senators? And it shares at WSU?
- **Stevie Fawcett:** Right? Yes, so all members of GPSA are welcome to sign this petition. However, when we say we want GPSA to sign we would like you guys to have a conversation amongst yourselves and reach a consensus. Whether or not you would like to support this campaign, and if you do choose to support this campaign. We will send the GPSA president or one of your officers a separate petition if that makes sense.
- **Tathagata Pal:** Yeah. Hi, Stevie, thank you so much for this great presentation. So, I just wanted to ask you one thing. So there, apparently, there is a program in the Washington State called the Climate Commitment Act and WSU. Is a part of it. In fact, like WSU is asking 19 million dollars through this act. For the University, and it might like it. It may have some other implications, but one of the implications is that it helps to offset some of the carbon usage that we do on the campus. So, what I would say like, do you know anything about it like, are you guys like following up with that or anything like that?
- **Stevie Fawcett:** Yeah, that's a great point. I don't know much about this.
- **Tathagata Pal:** I'd like strongly to suggest that you can reach out to the WSU Government Relations Office. It's on the WSU's legislative agenda this year that they would like. It's one of the priorities this year that they would ask 9 million dollars from the State for the through the Climate Commitment Act. I am, do not. I am not very sure what it does, but it might have some implications on the carbon usage offset as well.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Yeah, thank you for this presentation. My question is, what are some disadvantages that people or reasons that people may say no to it.
- **Stevie Fawcett:** Yeah, I think the biggest concern with divestment is the potential instability. So, you know something. When we bring this to students. A lot of them will say, well, you know, investments return on investments are a big part of revenue for Washington State University. So, if we divest. Won't our tuition go up to make, you know, to make up the difference? So that's like a probably the biggest concern that we've seen from students, and you know, that's totally valid. But it's not necessarily proven so like, I don't know if you remember the list of other institutions. That have already divested. They haven't really seen these big negative impacts. So, it's more like worrisome about the change that may cause harm.



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- **‘Niyi Ogunkoya:** Were you talking to me? Please? Right? Yeah. I was, going to ask, what implication is this? adjustment, so to speak, for this request, what? What are we? What? What is the what's the benefit overall for students and for the for the environment like, why is there a need to change and why should we be involved in that? Knowing that we're not the decision makers. So that's my concern.
- **Stevie Fawcett:** Yeah, no, that's a great question. Well, I think that you know, students do have a lot of power, both undergrads and graduate students at their university, because, you know, they are. They are the entity, this thing that's the university centralized around and so, you know, I think, especially among ESA, we really believe that. You know, our generation is pretty concerned with climate change. As we see these like huge you know, these huge negative effects that are happening around the world like flooding and storms and wildfires that are especially prevalent here. So, we feel that we have the responsibility to do what we can to make sure that this university is doing its part against, you know, to in the fight against climate change? You know. And as students and as the people that you know are going to be taking over the world, basically. I think we have a responsibility to make sure that that world is worth living in and so, you know, this is a pretty good opportunity for us to do that, because Washington State universities, you know, is a big player. They have a lot of money, and they have a lot of investments, and if that those investments change, that's a big signal to those fossil fuel companies that you know we're not going to hold on, you know, we're not going to wait and stand by while the world is. you know, basically burn to the ground. We're going to do our partner and make sure that this happens. We I did have something to add.
- **Ryan Culp:** It's also that the school's money is made up of the student's money and the students have some have deserves some right to have an opinion on it, even if in most cases you don't really care about what the schools investing in. If the school is investing in like, not necessarily like political, but like controversial subjects like oh, they have, like a like 10 million dollars in some kind of apartheid state which has happened before then the students have a right to argue against that type of decision making of the administration, or just the apathy of the administration and I believe I had one more thing to say, but I think I'll just ended at that.

□ **Pullman 2040**

- **Marwa Aly:** Our next speaker, Pullman 2040. So, Pullman, 2040 is a process which engages all community members to develop a collective vision for the Pullman community and the strategies to accomplish that vision.
- **Francis Benjamin:** So, my slides are very simple. With this release. Talking about Pullman 2040. So, from a 2040 is a process that was started about 9 years ago. Now. We're almost into year 10 where we brought the community together to say, what do we want Pullman to look like in 2040 kind like you know, the previous speaker that was talking about, what do we want investment to look like? It's but it's for a community, and we had a wide range of people provided input with it.



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And out of it we came up with 5 different areas that we're currently working on projects that we want to accomplish by 2,040 and these are projects that I would love to be able to find ways to partner with the graduate students. The first one area looking at community identity. In the context of how do we improve the first impressions when people come to the Pullman community? And how do we make sure that it? That our Pullman community is a welcoming community as a place? That that you as individuals? It's not your hometown as graduate students are from somewhere else. But what are you missing? That if Pullman had would make it feel more at home, so that welcoming piece within this also wayfinding that has to do with signage and how do we make sure that the signs are ones that you can easily find your way around town. And so, we're working to improve the way finding add additional art as a part of the community increase the number events that improve our downtown. So, there's this downtown focus. So that's in this first area with that community and identity the next area that we're focusing is in education and learning and within education and learning. It's when we look at education learning, that is, really from cradle to grave. You know. How do we make sure that there's learning opportunities for everybody? And some of those learning opportunities are with our young professionals is creating opportunities for connection points for young professionals to be able to collaborate and build resumes and work collaboratively among themselves to leadership, looking at what are different leadership training opportunities that we can provide for a whole community and even within that community of education, experts is a number of people within our community are really experts in their specific area. And how do we help get them connected to individual community? They would like to learn about that specific topic. So that's within this education learning, just, I'm giving you a highlight. So, we've over 50 different projects that we're working on that we want to accomplish by 2,040 under growth and developments. How can we increase business opportunities within Pullman? And for those business opportunities to really reflect the needs of the individuals with within our community and using an example. you know when we hear from the black community they'll talk about. There you must go to Spokane for a black hair stylist. So, what can we do to work to get a black hairstylist in your area. When I would talk with the Korean community they talked about, they drive to Seattle to get their spices the type of spices that really reminds them of home here in in Pullman. And I even know of one person when they were graduating. They had their meat and spices shipped, especially from South America, because they really wanted that that home, that home field type of a thing. But what can we do to help encourage businesses in this area? To be able to provide that W, that wide variety. continuing. This is with the airport that was part of what's driving our airport expansion. We have a new terminal that is going to come online mid-May and with that airport it will allow you to walk from the terminal directly onto the plane, and you don't have to go outside forward or go outside to get your baggage when you when you do, when you do come here and part of what? The with the



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terminal coming online as a city. We're working to make sure there is a transit service that gets to the airport, too, for those that don't have vehicles continuing in this also is the college Hill matters piece of how we make sure that when it for College Hill that it's a place that there's connection points and it's not just overrun with apartments. But there's but you get to know your neighbors and relate with your neighbors. Continuing down into health and safety. This is an area where we're looking at food security and what are ways to improve that around housing around housing affordability around safety. What are things we could do to improve the safety for those that are in our community, including. And you'll see here behavioral health. How do we increase the number of physicians and help healthcare providers that are that are within our area that gives you that overall, the help and safety piece and then when we get into the last one, which is recreation environment this is how, how do we? You know, you can see these 5 areas there? It's broad throughout the community and it's fun. Because there's so many different projects like that I can talk about. And I love to talk about them. But this gets into, how do we increase community and youth activities with within the area. How do we expand and our parks and our trail system? If you think about Pullman? If you if you look at the parks. The parks are very south, heavy among the town, and how do we get parks into the north area of town? So that it's so. The parks are close to everybody as opposed to some people having to travel further for our parks. Included within this is that several environmental issues around our water supply repairing stewardship an environmental stewardship. Where within the environmental piece, it's how do we? How do we improve education to our community members around the environment? How do we help support that? With science that's going on? How do we help people and making good decisions and in their decision making, as it relates to the environment and then also, how do we get our environmental groups to work on a collaborative way. Several over 30 different environment groups within our region that are working. And how do we make sure that they're working collaboratively together, and as opposed to individually and singularly so with that that gives you an overview of 2,040. We've been pleased to have representatives from GPS involved from the beginning through this process. So, your leadership has and has and continues to be involved and help and help guide with the issues in this way. But I wanted to come to make as the centers. Are you aware of Pullman 2040, the different projects we're working on because we'd love to be able to connect in either individually or with GPS as a group on some of these different issues. Because if we if these are issues that are going to make a change in a difference in our community, and you're right now here in Pullman for a short period of time. But once you graduate you're going to leave, and there's going to be times where you want to come back, whether for a homecoming or for some other events and you'll come back and or any, and you're going to want to, you know, show off the town what you're proud of for being here, and I would really, you know, for me it'd be great joy if you're able to



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come back and point at something and say and tell your kids or your friends say I had a part of making that happen. That's a legacy. It's an opportunity for a legacy for you to leave within the community and may Pullman better because of your involvement in it. So, thank you very much. And with that? Are there any questions?

- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** My question is, how many representatives can we have? And is this like a committee that we can have representatives involved?
- **Francis Benjamin:** There's a steering committee that there's leadership on for from GPSA. There are also individual community members that are that are on the steering committee. Also, it's really a wide diverse that in that way. But for each one of these projects, what we would do is we, we have projects that are being worked on in this area. So, if there's a particular area interested, we can focus you into that specific project also. So, it's an opportunity for an individual that says, hey, I really care about the trail system, and I'd like to. I'd like to expand and enhance it in some way, or there's maybe there's an aspect to the trail system. You know, I was in it. I was in a conversation earlier it would have been last week with the Chancellor around Art, and, you know, imagine taking some of the student's artwork and being able to place it along the trail and create this art walk as a part of the trail system.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Hi, this is not just only my question, but also my partner in the back of us of our place. We're living because she screamed this while you were talking about safety, and this is something I wanting to know when it comes to your safety program. But is there going to be like added or expanded infrastructure to enhance safety? One of the things that we've noticed, oddly enough, is like in different types of residential areas. And even in certain cases in downtown area, there's not a lot of like street lighting. Is that something that you're all looking at.
- **Francis Benjamin:** So that's a good question and we are in project right now, that is a joint collaborate project between Pullman, 2040, the College Hill Association, and also the town gam where we are. Gathering data. This this semester on where all the different walking routes that people have on College Hill and what we want to do is identify walking around both in the daytime and nighttime, because your traffic patterns, change between the day and the night to be able to identify those. And then, once we've identified all the major walking routes, then go into each area. Do an evaluation of how is it as it relates to lighting? How is it as it relates to snow removal? How is it? Is there any safety concerns or perceptions, or is it a good path, or is it not a good path? And then from there the funding to be able to start working systematically through these, to expand to improve the walking routes on College Hill. College Hills are First hill that we're working on. But then we want to expand this out to other hills. So that's just an example within the safety as relates to walking paths. So, if there's no other question, is the thing I'd leave with is, you can go to the Pullman twenty-forties website [Pullman 2040.org](http://Pullman2040.org). In order to see this information also within it, you can reach out home in



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2040@gmail.com, for to reach out and contact me or others within pull in 2040. Thank you very much, and I would appreciate if you can share the slides with us to share with us.

Please share as many questions as possible for our guest speakers by Monday noon using the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/EBg6uqh2Gz>

- 07:20 | 10-min Open discussion
 - **Andrew Sutherland:** yeah, this is just a question about the agenda. I don't know if I missed it when I had to run out of the room quickly. But did we cover the A&S Committee needs volunteers to review re applications?
 - **Marwa Aly:** No, we didn't thank you so much for bringing this up. So, Amir, would you like to talk about that? So, the Awards and Scholarship Committee? They did receive a lot of Applications for the Excellence Expo, and they are looking for volunteers. So please, if you are, if you are hoping to help, if you want to volunteer email, Amir and get in touch with him. Thank you so much, Andrew, for bringing this up. We were busy with the voting. Thank you. Yeah. It's total of 150 abstracts. Thank you, Amir, moving forward. Travel grants.
- The A&S committee needs volunteers to review RE applications.
 - **Marwa Aly:**
 - **Augustine Attah:** The travel grants committee has voted to remove the name reaction requirement. There will also be an increase of reimbursement for mileage rate to \$0.67 per mile for private owner vehicle only. Finally, provisional 14 days window to re-evaluate application denied “specifically” due to spend authorization. Approved applicates eligible for up to \$250.
 - **Marwa Aly:** I have a question here. Is there any limitation like maximum reimbursement?
 - **Augustine Attah:** I should say there are no max maximums. For example, if you have like a conference in Portland. Right, you can. You can drive all the way to Portland, but that's a lot of miles, right? So, the calculations would. Would, you know would stand. But the only thing that would restrict you would be the cap, you know, the reimbursement cap that we inherently have. Say, it's a domestic travel, right? So, you're not going to get more than 800 and having said that, we also have, like restrictions as to you know, like airports, you know it must be nearby airport, right? If you decide to drive all the way to. You know Massachusetts for a conference. Yeah, you're not great to get more than \$800, you know. Unfortunately. But I want to, you know again. But the point that only the owner of the car should apply for reimbursement. a provision of 14 days. Wait 14-day window to for applicants who were rejected specifically for spend authorization. So, submit the spend authorization form and they are going to become. See that for a reimbursement up to 250 dollars, and so there's no need, for, you know, applicants to resubmit the entire app application grant Committee has the application. We just want to, you know. Given the opportunity for applicants to submit a proper spend authorization form and would reevaluate the application again.



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- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** So, my first question is, if I take my husband's car to travel, it means I won't be reimbursed?
- **Augustine Attah:** yes, there's no way I'm going to note your husband's car. I think that the big factor here is, you know, trust, right? And the fact is, there's no way I can tell that the applicant did not use their car because we don't have so receipts. The only thing we ask for is a map showing your you know, your destination, that's all we ask for, right. So, when we talk to our constituents, we should please tell them that you know it's about conscience, you know. Are you okay asking for you know, more money than you know you necessarily need or should apply for, so it depends on how you feel if you use your husband's card. The fact is there's no way. I'm going to know. I was able to, you know, detect, you know. S. This situation where 2 people use the same card and both applied because of, you know, I kind of like went through the application thoroughly. And then so like, you know, like a trend, that's how I was able to know. Otherwise, there's no way to know.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Okay, thank you. And the other. Sorry I have one more question. I can wait for others to ask, and then I will come back.
- **Marwa Aly:** So, you know you, you have the students. They applied to that. They went to this meeting or conference. Is there way to go to the meeting? Right? If they took the bus? If they took the car, if they drive if they have a friend, drive for them. I think what you need to ha! To ask for is a receipt for the guests right with this, you know. With this, even if 2 students applied for similar service. you will have one only of them. Submit the receipts because both won't submit the same receipts. Right?
- **Augustine Attah:** Right? So, the fact is, this mileage reimbursement is not a GPSA thing. This comes from like a travel policy from the universe. And you do not so many receipts, because besides your gas, we don't even you're not considered for gas, you know reimbursement. You're considered according to what the IRS as well as where and tier of your car, that's what it's been considered here, not gas. So, there's no way to. So, I've you know. My department, for example, has done this a couple of times for students, and all you must do is say, hey, I went to Spokane, and they calculate, you know, like, say, maybe like up to 100 sorry, 160 miles, you know, to one throw, and you get like \$100. That's it. That's it. There's no, there's nothing, you know, like extra required. Okay, so I will take arbitrary. And I have another question, Rose, please, can you also share your question through the shared?
- **Arpita Sinha:** So, I'm sure the IAC Committee was involved, and I'm sure the Travel Grounds chair will know what exactly we're talking about. So, if I could get like a more follow up on my situation to say on record on the Senate, because I haven't been hearing my case. So, it's been a bit of a confusion. And I see reevaluating the SPI spending authorization, new things coming up which is great. So, I applaud for that, but also update on my situation. Which I have raised, my concern would be great. So yeah, thank you.
- **Marwa Aly:** I would like to not make comment on this. If the Vice President or the President can comment, I would really appreciate that. Can they comment in the shared. Thank you. And if anyone, Demo, please share your question through the chat.
- **Tathagata Pal:** Next is the Jeremy just told in the chat. If we can extend the meeting



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for 10 min, and I am. I think we should do that because we it's not possible to go through all the other re agenda items within 2 min. So maybe I can make a motion to extend the meeting for 15 more minutes.

- **Marwa Aly:** Okay, let me stop sharing my screen. I didn't see this in the shed, so I hear the motion. Can I hear? Second.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Second
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you. If you are with the motion. Please raise your hand.
- There are others that they didn't trade their hands. If you are with a motion, please raise your hand. Okay, okay. So now we approve expending the meeting 10 min and we will go forward with agenda and then go back if we have time to. The trouble grants. How does that sound? Okay? So, Amir, can you share your updates about the excellence awards nomination?
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So, this is just our announcement, since the GPSA excellence awards, nominations have been open since January second and the applications will be closing on February 21 of this month. Let me just pull up my notes. If you have a friend, or you know somebody who went above and beyond to represent the university as a graduate student, as an instructor, as a research assistant academic advisor, whoever you can nominate them, or even an RSO. And you can nominate them. For the GPS, an excellence award. There is a link that is available here@gpsawsu.edu pro slash program, dash, dash events, slash excellence award. You can find it on our website. But if you have any questions, please contact Amir at Gpsa.scholarships@wsu.edu.
- **Arpita Sinha:** There is certain confusion between different awards such as graduate teaching assistant and teaching award.
- **Jeremy Boutin:** Hello, everyone. Thank you so much, Marwa. My name is Jeremy Boutin, the programming committee chair. I just wanted a few seconds just to make sure you guys are all aware of the upcoming events for February. This. This Wednesday. We have our game night at host games. It's from 6 to 9. There's going to be plenty of prizes, some food. So, make sure you stop by this Wednesday. For Valentine's Day, instead of traditional couple related events. We're going to have an event at the axe throwing bar in Moscow. So, this is very couple, friendly as well as a single friendly. This is going to be on February thirteenth from 6, 45 to 8. So, make sure you stop by. And last, but not least, we have our mindful yoga event. That's going to be on Wednesday, February twenty-first this is, going to be a hybrid yoga event. So, if you can't attend in person or students in the rec centers as well should feel included to participate. If you can't make it in person, make sure you just send me an email to register, and I'll be able to send out a zoom link so you can join the class if you can't make it in person. But that's all the events left for February. If you have any questions at all, feel free to send me a quick email, and I'd be happy to answer them for you. Thank you.
- **Ashley Wells:** Hi, everyone. So yeah. As you all know, I'm also the chair for the Special Fundraising Committee, and we are officially selling tickets for our fundraising reception, which will be March first from 6 to 8 pm. We're mostly trying to sell tickets to WSU staff and professors and things of that sort. However, we are going to be selling a few select student tickets at \$30 per student. So, if you are interested in coming and dressing up and having a glass of



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wine with us, please do feel free to buy a ticket and to sign up. We also encourage you to let your constituents know, meaning your professors and staff within your departments. That they're more than welcome to come and to purchase a table to support WSU GPSA's travel grant funding. So, I will drop the link to purchase tickets in the chat once more. And yeah, that's basically it. Thank you so much.

- **Arpita Sinha:** Regarding which one I had! I had 2 of the things going on. You have 2 min. You're free to choose whatever you want. I think I would choose, because I think the other one is more particularly, I can follow it up on the personal email with the IAC Company and with the Travel Grants and everything. But I think I'll go ahead with a scholarship committee, and I do see the criteria is done an excellent award. So, if they might have a word or 2 to share cause. I did share my concerns about the evaluation process of how it is to be done, and one of the applications versus when you have many applications when you take an average of that. So, people getting more applications are in, in they have less chances of getting that versus one full application. Where from the especially when you have an especially when you have it from the students who do not write as much as probably a faculty would write to you. So, I think I have had an intense thought about it. So, if the Travel Grants committee would like to step in and would like to say that one is better than the many, or it would be much easier for us to reach out to the constituents, and would like to talk about that accordingly.
- **Tathagata Pal:** yeah. So, I just want to add here, like, I have like, had the heard this concept from several students last year when I was the chair of the committee. So, this is really something that we may need to investigate in the future. But yes, just wanted to throw it in there. Okay. So, we might not have enough time to go thoroughly. But we address this issue that our Peter mentioned a lot of times during the meeting. And I think, today, in today's meeting that we had with the committee members, we got a better and more equitable process for have already selection. For sure, there might be some, you know.
- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** Okay. So, we might not have enough time to go thoroughly. But we address this issue that our Peter mentioned a lot of times during the meeting. And I think, today, in today's meeting that we had with the committee members, we got a better and more equitable process for have already selection. For sure, there might be some, you know.
- **Marwa Aly:** Amir, I don't want to bother you, but it's 7 40 now, so can you please share your answer on the course and concern us. That shared this through the shared was me, and I will make sure to include them in the minutes. Thank you so much. And, Austin, can you please share your answers to the Senator's concern with me? To include them in the minutes as well. Thank you so much. Thank you. Everyone for being here today. Thank you for expanding the meeting. The meeting is assured, and have a great night, everyone, thank you.
- 07:30 | Adjournment



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If you need clarification or have any questions, please get in touch with the corresponding individual.

President and Executive Board Chair– Ajay Barman; presgpsa@wsu.edu

Task Completed:

- Plan and conduct executive board meeting.
- Plan and conduct executive team meeting.
- Board of Regents presentation
- CougDay at the capitol 2024

Meeting attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- GPSA Special Fundraising Committee meeting
- Weekly Cougar Lobby meeting with ASWSU
- Bi-weekly SGC steering committee meeting.
- SGC president's meeting
- Faculty senate meeting
- Weekly PDI committee meeting
- Meeting with the travel grant chair
- Meeting with the VPLA
- Meeting with communication chair
- Meeting with programming chair



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- Meeting with internal affairs committee chair
- Meeting with PDI chair
- Meeting with Vice-president
- Meeting with GPSA advisor Matt Shaw
- Meeting with state legislator T'wina Nobles
- Meeting with state legislator Ron Muzzall
- Meeting with state treasurer
- Meeting with staff of state legislator Vandana Slatter
- Meeting with staff of state legislator Ortiz Self
- Meeting with state legislator Clyde Shavers

Executive Vice President and Budget Chair– Marwa Aly; vpgpsa@wsu.edu

Task Completed:

- Facilitate purchases.
- Prepare Senate agenda.
- RSO workshop for spring semester.
- RSO application for additional fund.
- Childcare reimbursement applications and processes.
- Coug Day at the Capitol 2024

Meeting Attended

- GPSA executive board meeting.
- GPSA executive team meeting.
- Lobby meeting with ASWSU.
- Provost session and SGC meeting.
- GPSA Budget meetings.
- Meeting with VPs.
- SGC meeting.
- Fee committee meeting.
- S&A training.
- Student Health Insurance Advisory Board.

Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Chair of Legislative Affairs– Tathagata Pal.
gpsa.vpla@wsu.edu

Task Completed:

- Staying in Olympia till end of February 2024 and working as GPSA legislative liaison.



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- Working with WSA to lobby for graduate and professional students' specific bills in Olympia.
- Cougar Day, 2024 successfully executed. We had 95 meetings with 83 WSU participants (10 of them were WSU graduate or professional student).
- Bills on Housing and Childcare passed policy committees successfully. I testified in front of the committees for all the GPSA endorsed bills.
- Worked with the GPSA Fundraising Special Committee to plan the GPSA Fundraising Event.
- Also advocating and supporting for WSU's state ask of \$5 Million to support the agreement reached between WSU-CASE and the University.

Meeting Attended:

- Meeting with WSU President Kirk Schulz in Olympia.
- Weekly Meeting with WSU government affairs team in Olympia.
- Meeting with all GPSA's legislative coalition teams in Olympia.
- Regular meetings with many different WA legislators.
- WA legislature committee meetings in Olympia.
- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting.
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting.
- Weekly SGC Legislative affairs committee meeting.
- Weekly Cougar lobbying meetings with ASWSU (before the Cougar Day).
- Bi-weekly SGC steering committee meeting.
- Meeting with Ashley for GPSA Fundraising committee.

Chair of Internal Affairs– Ashley Wells; gpsa.internal@wsu.edu

Tasks Completed:

- Scheduled Spring 2024 Internal Affairs Committee meetings to review Bylaws Edits
- Scheduled Vet Med Senator Meeting with the Dean of the College – February 2024
- Preparing systems for Spring 2024 GPSA Elections
- Agenda writing, email sending, room booking, etc. for GPSA Fundraising Event

Meeting attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive board meetings
- Chairing Bi-weekly Special Fundraising committee meetings

Chair of Professional Development Initiative–; gpsa.pd@wsu.edu

Tasks Completed (in coordination with PDI GA):

- Event host assigned for Spring 2024
- Event organised: Time Management for Graduate and Professional Students 02/01/2024.



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- Grammarly account distributed for Spring 2024

Meeting attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly GPSA PDI meeting

Chair Programming- Jeremy Boutin; gpsa.programming@wsu.edu

Tasks Completed:

- Complete necessary paperwork after **GPSA Coffee Hour & Open House (1/12/24)**, and **Candle Making Class @ The Gathering Place (1/23/24 & 1/25/24)**.
 - Collect attendee list/receipts and submit to Student Involvement.
- Prepare for **Restaurant Friday: O-Ramen (2/2/24)**, **Game Night @ Palouse Games (2/7/24)**, **Ex Throwing (2/13/24)** and **Hybrid Yoga Class (2/20/24)**.
- Coordinate with the Chair of Communications for advertisement of future events.
- Coordinate with the Vice President and GPSA Advisor in monitoring the use of funds designated for graduate and professional student programming purposes, update budget when necessary.
- Contact and meet with committee members to plan Spring events.
- Create flyers, purchase request forms and promotional materials for January Events.
- Identify volunteers for February Events.

Meeting attended:

- **Weekly** GPSA executive board meeting
- Numerous planning meetings for February events with necessary participants.
- Monthly Programming Committee Meeting.

Chair of University Affairs- Golrokh (Rose) Maleki; gpsa.university@wsu.edu

Tasks Completed:

- International program orientation
- Introducing representatives for Chancellor's Award
- Introducing representatives for the Board of Conduct

Meeting attended:

- Executive Board meeting
- University Affairs Meeting
- President's commission of Status of Women discussing



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Chair of Community Affairs-; gpsa.community@wsu.edu

Tasks Completed:

- Sent Referendum Question for Approval by Food Security Committee and Community Affairs
- Proposed Referendum Question to Senate for approval
- Planning Spring Semester Event Calendar

Meeting attended:

- Attended Cougar Food Pantry Advisory Board
- Attended Bi-weekly GPSA Executive Board Meetings
- Attended College Hill Association Meeting
- Community Affairs Committee Meeting
- Food Security Committee Meeting

Chair of Travel Grants-Augustine Triumph Attah; gpsa.grants@wsu.edu

Tasks Completed:

- Daily email correspondence with applicants and staff
- Emailed applicants on the status of their application.
- Set up meeting with CAHNRS Senators

Meetings attended:

- Travel grant Committee meeting (2x)
- Weekly GPSA Executive meeting
- Met with GPSA president.
- Student media board meeting

Chair of Communication – Andrew Sutherland; gpsa.communications@wsu.edu :

Tasks Completed:

- Setting up HR meeting with KUGR to start a graduate student focus show.
- In discussion with Cable8 to help them organize a Graduate and Professional Student round table discussion.
- Website edits to update travel grants,
- Developed a Food Security Resources Webpage on the GPSA Website.
- Developing a Mental Health Resources Webpage on the GPSA Website
- Coordinate with the Programming Chair for advertisement of future events.
- GPSA Excellence Awards Application through SLATE.



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- Promotion of the GPSA Fundraising through Socials, The Daily Evergreen, and developing a direct means for people to donate to GPSA through the website.
- Promoted Childcare Reimbursement over socials.
- Promote Cougar Day at the Capitol accomplishments over socials.
- Promoted GPSA Research Exposition & Academic Showcase over social media.

Meeting attended:

- Meeting with KUGR
- Weekly GPSA Executive board meeting
- Meeting with Assistant Director of Marketing.

Chair of Awards and Scholarships- Amir Hossein Moadab gpsa.scholarships@wsu.edu:

Tasks Completed:

- Assigning the first batch of RE applications to reviewers
- Voting on transferring 999\$ from DG to RE budget
- Application opening and advertising for Excellence Awards
- Decision making for DG applications.

Meeting attended:

- Open meeting with other senators to discuss a fairer process for reviewing applications.
- Touch base meetings with Showcase.
- Weekly GPSA Exec board meeting