



To join via Zoom:

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/91407917022?pwd=U1UyMFBxWENreG5ScGFiN3B6Q2YvZz09>

Meeting ID: 914 0791 7022

Passcode: 598325

GPSA Senate Attendance Form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GSqts8TZjT>

GPSA Senate Absence Request Form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/YUiuuW1Pq1>

Issue response form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/XD82BGiV5K>

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.

Here's the agenda:

- 05:30 | Call to Order
 - ☞ Approval of Last Meeting` Minutes
 - <https://forms.office.com/r/MMqSQcqmj0>
 - **Hannah Martin:** I motion to approve the 3/04/2024 meeting minutes
 - **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Second
 - Motion of 3/4/2024 meeting minter:
 - Yes: 40
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **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 3/18/2024 meeting agenda.
 - **Nazua Irdris:** Second
 - Motion of 3/18/2024 meeting agenda:
 - Yes: 47
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

- **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.
- 05:35 | Guest speakers
 - ∅ Compliance and Civil Rights department at WSU.
- **Dr. Holly Ashkannejhad:** Thank you so much. I really appreciate the opportunity to speak to you all. So I am. I'm the director for compliance and civil rights. My office is a central resource for all students, staff and faculty for any concerns related to discrimination and harassment. We do worry about graduate students. We view you as a particularly vulnerable population and often when graduate students are coming to our office with concerns of discrimination and harassment, they are afraid to report they're afraid of repercussions to their academic pursuits and career. And so, I wanted an opportunity just to chat with you all to one walk through what it looks like to engage with my office and then answer any questions that you all might have. So, to start with, I hope this isn't too elementary, but I just wanted to show people. I know we do communications to the student population, but often students tell us that they've never heard of us until they need us, and they must find out how to connect with us. So I just wanna share my screen. Briefly, just to show you kind of a quick way to find us. If after today, you totally forget who I am and don't know how to contact my office again on the main WSU page. If you were to simply search for, I'm just going to type report discrimination. We're the first one that comes up here and it takes you immediately to our reporting form and so this is our website. You can see on the left-hand side. There's actually a lot of information on here. And there's information about resources that are available and those resources. We have them by campus. So, if you're on in tri-cities, or even Pullman or Vancouver, you'll have a lot of different options for you. There. They're also self-help resources. So, if you don't want to engage with the university, you'll have an opportunity to find other resources external to the university and then information about our policies and procedures is here. Both our procedural guidelines for formal complaints and the university's policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment. With that though I wanted to start on this file a report or formal complaint form. I had a good meeting earlier today and heard from one of your senators that some students are often kind of nervous about connecting with our office and want to make sure that they have some agency in that process. And that is feedback that we've heard from students many, many times. And so I just wanted to touch here on our website. So there is a button. You can immediately file a reporter complaint. But there's some language here to kind of help. Students feel a little bit better about connecting with us. So one just letting us know about discrimination, discriminatory harassment, which also includes things like sexual harassment and sex and gender, based violence, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct. All of those things. If you're making a report, it just allows us to connect you with resources and process options, and then your preferences are always considered in that process. So by contacting us, you're not necessarily starting some big university process that you have no voice or power in. We are here to help you. And so if you come to us and say, I just want to talk to you about something, or I just want to learn what my options are. That is the role we will serve. So I also noted here on this page. There's the ability to report concerns



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

anonymously. So on this page, when you click, file a report, you don't have to input your name at all, and you put general information, or whatever you think is reasonable for you if you want to protect your identity. With that, there are some limitations on what we can do. If we get anonymous reports, we try to respond to them the best that we can. But sometimes there's not a lot of information, or maybe there is information, but we want to make sure that the complainant is comfortable with the steps that we're going to take before we move in that direction. So if you ever have apprehension about sharing your name. We offer this low stress option for people to come in and just have an intake consultation with our office. You don't have to tell us your name. You don't have to tell us who your concerns are about. You can come in and say, hypothetically speaking, or this is happening to a friend of mine, and not link it to you at all, and we are happy to walk you through what your options might be in that space. So, I'm going to stop sharing this and then just briefly talk to you about what that process looks like when you make a report to my office. So, if you were to make a report, or if you had a friend, make a report about your situation, or maybe you disclose your concerns to an instructor, and they reported to our office. The first thing that will happen is my office will send you an email, and we will just say, Hey, we heard you might have a concern. We'd love to meet with you. Here's how you can connect with us. If you don't respond to us at all. We will probably contact you one or 2 more times, and then, if you don't want to engage at all, we will respect that and not pester you anymore. But you have the option to come in. Have that intake consultation. Learn about your resources and options, and one of the things that I think is really important for students to understand is that when it comes to discrimination, that's a huge spectrum of activities right from one comment online all the way up to really egregious hate crimes. So within that spectrum there's like a wide range of responses that the university can have. And so when you're coming to our office, that's our role is to try to come up with creative solutions that fit your needs. You will always have the right to engage in formal grievance processes if you want to see somebody held accountable for misconduct. But a lot of students come to us and ask for support and feeling safe in their environment or educational support for their department or college, because they think that there's some problematic behavior in that space. We will work with deans and chairs to ensure that kind of training reaches the audience. And I also want students to understand that just because they come to our office once, and they ask for some kind of a lower-level resolution. If they don't see improvement on that, they can always come back and file a formal complaint, and the university will address that through a formal grievance process with that formal process. Just briefly, it's there's a lot more to explain than I want to take up your time for here. But I just want to give you kind of an idea of what that looks like. So typically, we would not start a formal grievance process unless you wanted us to as a complainant. And so when students come in and they want to engage in the formal process, they'll let us know there are some rare circumstances where I would initiate a complaint on behalf of somebody that's usually in really rare circumstances. The times that I've done it before is where we had information that was like 10 plus years of sexual harassment, and a department or something really agreed just like that, that is, hadn't been checked. We might proceed in that space. But we'll try and find ways to protect identities and anonymity through that process. If you were if you interested in the formal process, so all you have to do is file a formal complaint that page I was just on you can report which is just getting connected with us or file a formal



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

complaint which is asking a university to review your complaint through the formal grievance process. Going through that process. You have 2 options in that process, too. One option is to engage in what's called a resolution agreement. That's a voluntary process. Both the person making the complaint and this person accused of misconduct have to agree to that process, but they would essentially come to a binding agreement between the 2 individuals and what that often looks like is somebody agrees not to contact somebody anymore or to engage in training and education, or to be responsive in some other way, and if they agree to those things, they could sign this by a new agreement. And then, if either party violates that agreement, that's where we go through the employment disciplinary process or through the student conduct process. The other option through the formal grievance process is a formal investigation, and that's really intended for folks that want hold somebody accountable and make sure that they see discipline for any found a violations of university policy. So, we have investigators on staff. They will investigate the conduct for you. Your role is to just let them know what's going on, share names of witnesses that you think might have information, share any evidence that you might have access to. So things like, if you have emails or text messages, things like that and then the investigator will gather all that information, interview everybody, and then issue a report of their findings. If the person accused of misconduct as a student, it goes to the Student Conduct board. If it said employee, it goes through the employee disciplinary process with their supervisor or whatever other function they have, like faculty, have a special committee that would review that information. So there are processes in place. They're designed to be fair and neutral. Through that process. We also facilitate supportive measures for students, and these run the gamut of different types of needs that students might have. You know common things that people request from us are, you know, I'm in classes with this other person. I feel unsafe in that space we might look at finding ways for them to attend class remotely or to move into a different section one or the other students. We've also put into place like workplace management plans or academic management plans. We try to be as creative as possible, so that the people are getting the support that they need from the institution. Because these rules that we have this process, these procedures. It's all about making sure that you have equal access to your education. So, within what we're able to do, we will try to come up with solutions for you all. If you ever have concerns past the investigation. I also encourage students to reconnect with us. One thing particularly with concerns that students may have about employees. Disciplinary information is often confidential personnel info. And so sometimes you don't get a complete picture of what happened to that individual. And so sometimes I hear from students. They feel like. Well, I don't know if they were even disciplined one. My office tracks the discipline. So, we monitor for that, to make sure it happens. But 2. Discipline doesn't always work and so if you're still seeing the same kinds of behavior from somebody, we encourage you to come back to my office so that we can re-engage in the process moving forward. And then the last thing I just wanted to mention I don't want to take up too much your time today. But I did want to mention retaliation against people engaging in our processes is prohibited. I one of the things that I hear from graduate students all the time. Is that? Well, what are you going to do? Because what if this person goes and talks to a professor at another university, and it impacts like my academic pursuits in that space or within the field. Those are all very real concerns, and they're all things that could happen. And we can't necessarily



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

put a protective bubble around you, but we can address that each time it happens. So my office has in the past worked with a similar office on another campus to engage and make sure there's support for a student that's gone through our process to respond to retaliation concerns and hold people accountable for that kind of behavior, or even put into place additional supportive measures. For example, we had a student, a graduate student number of years ago, who was very concerned about what her pi was sharing with other people, and we worked with the college to identify a better reference for her, and ended up being the dean of the college served as her reference for any future career prospects that she had. And so there are options available. I just want people to feel like they can connect with us and walk through what those might look like. That's all I really wanted to share with you all. If anyone has any questions for me, I'm happy to answer them.

- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** How can use the results from the GPSA survey to help raise awareness or be more accessible to the student population?
- **Dr. Holly Ashkannejhad:** I would love to have results of that if you wouldn't mind sharing that with me as well. I'm always advocating for us to have a greater presence invoice through the graduate school or the Dean of Students office, and all these different spaces. If you all share feedback, that people don't have a good understanding of our office that just helps support me in those actions. And then also, I just want to say at any point, if anybody wants to request that my office provide an overview of services to any group on campus, we will come.
- **'Niyi Ogunkoya:** I want to thank Ollie for stopping by today to educators. More on what office does, but then I am speaking from for the most part from the perspective of international students and I understand that a whole lot of us have some kind of fear. I mean when I say fear in this context, I'm not meaning fear on the negative side, but we do not want. I mean, we do not want to report situation, even when we think we are impacted by those decisions that are taken by individuals and institutions and stuff like that I want to hold it back. And this is because the system, as we know as a way of protecting its own. So for the most part international students and some other students suffer from what I call institutional retaliation. You know, the person who is involved in the real thing may not come after you. But some other people would. That is basically because the information adds, move from person A to B, and people are impacted by this. And yeah, and so students, especially international students, would want a double assurance that they would one not be impacted by the decisions that your office would take and 2 that their studies would not be impacted. You know. I mean you; you wouldn't want to impact. I mean, you won't want to imagine that somebody who comes from a faraway country gets into Washington State University, and because there was a disagreement loses his studentship, you know, that doesn't worth it, and some people want to go through that ground. They want to go through that pain. Just so they just complete their studies and get out of the system, you know. So Ill would want. This is a request for you to reassure students that whenever they have contact with your office, whenever they engage your office in any discussion at all. It would not impact them in any way,



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

and if it does, there is an alternative to make sure they are settled. They are not bundled out of the program, you know. Nobody wants to get bundled out of the program, you know, and you know, I mean, this is coming from people that I've spoken with and from personal experience. Some of us just want to bottle our, our very bad experience with some faculty and with some professors and all of those, just so we can get out of the system. This is a plea that one your office would find a way to protect students, international students and local students and more so to reassure students that their lives, their career, their interest, and everything that concern them would not be impacted by what I call the institutional retaliation. This is just not one individual retaliating, but a collective kind of retaliation that may impact the life, the career, the interest, and everything that concerns, you know. That's a request. And that is, yeah, a plea and a request.

- **Dr. Holly Ashkannejhad:** Yeah, have you raised a good point? You know, I started this conversation saying that I graduate students are particularly vulnerable population. Well, international graduate students are even more so. Most graduate students that engage with my office are really concerned about the very things that you described and you're asking for an assurance that nothing will be impacted. And I don't think I can give you that assurance. In good faith. We will walk through all of the potential outcomes with a student. We will talk about what the process will look like. We will give you options that we think will offer the most protection to a student, but ultimately, you know, we can't. Again. I can't put a protective bubble around you when it comes to retaliation, though if somebody does engage in those types of behaviors, whether it's the person that you had to complain about, or other individuals in a department or a college, we can still engage in that. This is a separate and distinct violation of university policy to retaliate against anybody who's engaging in process. So, what I would encourage students to do? Because I hear you loud and clear, there are a lot of very real fears that students have. I would encourage you if you had a concern. Come and talk to somebody, and share what your fears are, so that we can consider what options we might be able to put into place. I will tell you. We have worked with international students that we've worked with through their consulate. We've worked with department chairs to identify new mentors or P. I's, or support people through those processes. And so, we do look at all possible options.
- **Attah Austine:** Hi, thank you very much for the talk. So, I just want to echo Niyi's point. So recently I was part of a CCR investigation. I was a witness, and I just found out that my identity was released to the accused. Now this is a harassment case between a student and their advisor, and I found out that my identity and the identities of all that witnesses involved a lot of them. Some of them are subordinates of this professor. We're released to that professor. So, talking about protecting students, I think one way to do that is anonymity, right? Protecting witnesses. And I just want to Echo's point. And then, second point is, where I stand right now is I have personally lost faith in CCR. I don't know how much, you know.



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

That means to Hugh as a director. And this is because this. So I'm a kinds of rep. So I got to be involved in this case, because this student is, you know, a member of my constituency, and they reached out to me and told me that the person they investigate our CCR investigator helping on the case, had told them to forego to let go of the case, because apparently there is nothing CCR can do to the accused right? And I met this person today, and they almost they were about to cry, okay, so I think that there should be completion when CCR starts a project start working starts working with a student. Students want to see the end of that process. We want to see, you know, accused, you know, folks getting penalized. Otherwise nobody is going to want to go to CR. Nobody would want to seek CCR's help. Thank you.

- **Dr. Holly Ashkannejhad:** I appreciate that feedback. I would like to connect with you, maybe one on one external to this meeting, because some of what you're saying doesn't ring correct for me like we. We don't stop our investigations midway through. We complete them until there's a report. We so I can't. I can't envision, a scenario where an investigator would tell a student that the other part about anonymity through the process on our checklist for talking to witnesses, we specifically identify the cases where their name would be released throughout the process. And then people have the option of either going on the record and sharing information or sharing information anonymously, if that's something they prefer and so I'm wondering if that wasn't made very clear to you when you first were engaging with my office, because we often have people that engage and say, I don't want to be on the record cause I'm worried about the repercussions as a witness. And so that's a pretty common thing that happens in our space. And it sounds like it. Didn't that information didn't make it to you? And so, I'd like to chat with you. If there's any specifics you can share with me, so that I can like, verify that our staff are engaging in the process appropriately and if you specifically have experienced any harm by engaging in that process, that's also something I'd really like to hear from you about.
- **Attah Austine:** No, doesn't help but like you, said I can. I can talk to you. But personally, I have advised this person to like, seek other avenues to get justice. Because, yeah, sorry. So, I know you tried. But yeah, personally, I've lost faith in CCR.
- **Dr. Holly Ashkannejhad:** I'll reach out to you directly and totally up to you, if you want to engage with me or not. But I'm concerned about what you're sharing, and so I'd like to address it if I can.
- **'Niyi Ogunkoya:** Still have 3 min. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Marwa. Holly, I want to thank you, and Austine, I want to thank you for building on that and point. I mean, like it's going to look like only one person that experience that. And that is one reason like I mentioned what I mentioned earlier on a whole lot of us for the most part living in fear. And I want to say that with all sense of modesty and correctness that I have also engaged with somebody in your office who told me to? Let's go because I do not have enough evidence to nail whoever was involving the matter to



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

the cross. Of course I wasn't going to nail the person. I just wanted a a soft landing like, so that everybody can go about his daily business without one impacting the other, and then somebody in your office told me to answer the matter. Of course I did, and he went on to tell me that because they I mean folks who work in the institution have a way of protecting them. And you remember, I said, that in my, in my, in my point, earlier on, like. They have a way of protecting their own, and you know, when they protect who belongs to them, it means that whoever comes to complain, the complainant is mostly left in the code, you know. So I am not. I am not. Putting this out so you can be stringent on them. But I am putting this out so that students can be protected. We just we're not yet to drag with anybody. We don't want to see anybody fall. We just want to pass through this system and do whatever thing we are in air for, and then move on with life, you know. But then it will affect our morale. It will affect our Psyche to affect our productivity to that affect our personality, if and whenever we are across it, and we, we do not get justice. For the most part I do not mean justice in a bad way. I mean justice in a way that we can just concentrate on whatever we came in here, for. That's my concern, and I am pleading with you to up the game so we can be protected possible that that's my desire. That's my call. That's my that's my request.

- **Hannah Martin:** Hello! Thank you, Holly, for being with us this evening. I just wanted to, I guess more. Mine is more like a comment. But title 9 is a Federal law, and so the title 9 office is beholden to Federal and State laws. And so a lot of the stuff that they are doing is not their policy. But it's the policy of the State and the policy of the Federal government. So, if there are things we want to change, we would have to like. It's this local State government, federal government sort of a thing where those changes can be made, and that policy can be made. Because, unfortunately, a lot of complainant rights were rolled back under the trump administration, and it's made it harder for Title 9 offices to investigate these claims and so that's where a lot of the power is, and a lot of where the problems is. So, I just wanted to jump in and say that. But I really appreciate everyone sharing tonight. And I really appreciate Holly being with us.
- **To contact the Office of Compliance and Civil Rights at WSU:**
ccr.wsu.edu/file-a-report/
 - You can find different forms to file a report and explore different executive policies.
 - You have the ability to report concerns anonymously and CCR can provide support based on discriminatory harassment, sexual harassment, or sex and gender-based violence. Individuals can file either a report or a formal complaint. A report lets CCR know about conduct and helps CCR get people connected with supportive resources.

- 06:00 | New Business

 ☞ General Election Results and Voting

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



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

- **Ashley Wells:** Hi! Everyone. I hope that everyone had a wonderful and relaxing spring break. As hopefully. All of you saw I did share the election results for the ballots on Friday. Apologies again for that initial error with the email. But I resend it out, and it looks like everyone was able to receive it. Just fine. Hopefully, everyone had a chance to look it over and just to read through it. As Marwa did mention. Yes, the food pantry vote did pass. We did get enough votes to pass it. And it also passed with a majority. Yes, vote. So yeah, today, I just wanted us to look forward and look into, you know, reviewing the election process and also voting on the specific election report that I shared out on behalf of the Internal Affairs Committee and yeah, just as a note, the vote needs to pass by a two-thirds majority, not a 50% majority that we are about to do. So when we get to that point. If someone, either on the Internal Affairs Committee or the Executive Board, could help me, you know. Figure out when we get to 2 thirds, I would really appreciate that. I don't like math. So unless anyone has any questions or concerns about anything regarding the reports we can move forward. Yeah, I see some questions. Admins.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** yeah, actually, so, yeah, thank you very much for everything that you put in with the elections. So a couple of things to the first. The first one is that if you go to the website the Senator, statements and executive was statements. Unfortunately, they are still not there. So I was wondering why it wasn't uploaded there. And the next thing is that, why is it that we have to wait an entire week for the results to their preliminary results to be published or put on sites for people to know. So yeah, so the first one is that the Senator statements and executive voice statement is not on the website. You see, if you go you see, it's highlighted, but then it's not there.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** oh, because last year there was a document that had all the Senator statements and never so I was expecting that for this year I was only requested to do it for the representatives at the same time, if we actually went through, if you when it came to the election website when students could vote. They were given a bio of each one of the candidates there. Yeah.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** But I mean, probably next time that could be uploaded before, because people have to make that decision before the election date. Yeah, and I can expand a little bit more on that. I have to go through a third party to ultimately get the website approved for edits. In some cases, especially since this year, we were given we had a change in leadership of that type of within WSU marketing.



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

- **Ashley Wells:** Yeah. Well, I mean. I'll answer that, and I'll let you know that it took me about 15 h to go, and, you know, manage all of the data and kind of cross tabulate everything to make the report. So as WSU. You may have a different structure or a different way of doing their things, but for the way that the Bylaws dictate that GPS say needs to do our election. There's absolutely no way that we could get it out in a day. Unfortunately, it took me quite a long time over the break to get all that process. So also, within our bylaws, it does say that the preliminary results need to be out by, or you know the weekend before the next GPSA Senate meeting, which is today. So, the results did go out on time, as according to the bylaws.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** okay, I mean, that's according to the bylaw, that's fine. But probably going forward, we would have to review this. Iii didn't think that's from the previous bylaws. I would have bought it up. But just for transparency's sake, would want to limit the time that we take for election results to come out. Thank you.
- **Ashley Wells:** Okay, thank you. Again. It did them as quickly as I could. There really isn't a way to do it any faster than that. That's just the amount of time that it took for the people who would do the ballots to actually give me the ballots, and then to go in and to, you know, make sure all the percentages are correct and everything. I think it's more important that when I send out the preliminary results, that they are accurate and correct rather than getting them out as quickly as possible. So, I hear you, but I don't really see that really being able to change in the future. Thank you.
- **Madison Hönig:** I don't necessarily have a question. Oh, just to speak to Edmonds Point. I don't think as WSU runs as many positions as we do, so I think they were able to get it really quickly, because they only had that referendum question. A lot of their executives get appointed, which is different to the way that we run our election, so that might be why they got it out so quickly. Just add some context. I did want to speak to the referendum. I know Marwa kind of went ahead and announced it this was a huge undertaking, and I did want to kind of thank a few people who were instrumental to helping get those final numbers up. If we didn't have help from as WSU and some of our graduate students like Hayden Kingree, we would not have gotten that minimum vote. They sat out there in the Cub for 2 and a half hours. Encouraging people to vote getting that voter turnout up, and they increased our voter turnout percentage by like 3%. So that didn't happen. That would have. We would have not been seeing this referendum passed. I also did want to shout out, Ashley Wells and



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

Andrew Sutherland for really helping get the messaging out and then also Senator Nazwa. Idris for helping out on the actual in person polling station. Also big shout out to the Community Affairs Committee and the Food Security Committee for putting together those documents. I think this is a huge deal. This has been multiple years in the making, and I'm really excited to be able to see that graduate students will have access to the food pantry for the next 10 years. I did. Want to just say that I did speak to this at the cougar food pantry Advisory Board meeting this morning. Everyone was really excited, and they did want to kind of express their gratitude. For really putting together this advocacy effort, and I know we couldn't have done it without the support of the Senate. And I think the voting results speak to the overwhelming support for this initiative. So, I'm really excited to see what kind of efforts we can do next year. Now that we have access. So we can focus on other things. But I'm really happy. And I just kind of wanted to say, thank you to everyone.

- **Marwa Aly:** So can someone give the motion to vote on passing the General election results.
- **Madison Hönig:** I motion to ratify the 2024-2025 General Election Results.
- **Hannah Martian:** Second
- **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** I have a question. how does 35. Response generated. 46 years. 46 years, 5, 47 years. Now it's updated. Sorry it it was showed that it was 36 response to my end.
- **Madison Hönig:** I did just want to say something because there are I'm seeing some people who are opting to abstain. This is, I did want to just kind of clarify. Ratification is like a symbolic vote of the Senate, for, like a peaceful transition of power. So, we're just kind of as a Senate agreeing that the election happened. And like unless you have any like glaring. glaring issues with how the election was run. Like, typically, this is just more of a like symbolic vote. So, I just wanted to kind of clarify for people who have maybe have not ever been through like a ratification process.
- **Do you approve the General Election Results?**
 - **Yes: 48**
 - **No: 5**
 - **Abstain: 1**

- **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a 2/3rd majority and therefore we have ratified the election results.

☞ 2024 GPSA Open Applications (close on Friday, April 5th at 11:59pm)



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

- **GPSA College Representative-At-Large:** <https://wsu.presence.io/form/2024-2025-gpsa-open-application-college-representative-at-large>
- **GPSA College Senator-at-Large:** <https://wsu.presence.io/form/2024-2025-gpsa-open-application-senator-at-large>
- **Ashley Wells:** Alright. So general election results have passed which is fantastic. Yes, huge congratulations to all of you who ran for a position and now are going to be a pretty GPSA next year. Very exciting. We do have some vacant seats. Actually, as of today, instead of 37, it is 38 vacant seats. So I just wanted to go here and to show all of the vacant seats that are still open, just so that everyone knows there are still 3 college representative seats that are not going to be college representative at large seats one for the graduate school, one for the College of business, and one for the College of Agriculture, human and Natural Resources cards. And then there are 35 open Senator seats. Kinesiology actually just opened up a few minutes before. This meeting started. Just everyone is aware. So yeah, those are the vacant seats. Please feel free to share far on. Why, that these seats are open. Thank you so much, Andrew, for dropping those links into the chat. Marvin can go to the next slide. Perfect. Thank you. So the 2024 GPS. Open applications are now officially open. They've been open since earlier today, but they are open now, and they will close on Friday, April fifth at 1159 Pm. Very, very similar format to the way that the general elections went. If you are thinking or know, someone who wants to run for a college representative at large seat. They still need those filing forms to be submitted in. And Senator, you know filled out the way that it needs to be filled out sole with the picture and still with everything like that. A big difference is that instead of this being run through the traditional ballot form, like we just did for the General election. We are going to be creating a special nomination committee. That needs to be identified over the next few days, so as, according to the Bylaws, I am the chair of the Special Nomination Committee, being that I am the chair of the Internal Affairs Committee, and I will need some volunteers to help me out with this. Can be from the Internal Affairs Committee but does not in any way have to be. It's going to be kind of a first come first served basis for me. So just kind of took this directly from the bylaws no more than one senator from each college with the Internal Affairs Committee chair. As the chair of this committee, so people can come to me, and you can either put this into the chat, and I kind of just set down here the information that I'll need if anyone wants to volunteer to be a part of the Special Nominations Committee. Please put your full name, the college that you are originally from, for example, College of Arts and Sciences, and your email address into this chat. The way that this nomination committee is going to work is that we're going to work on primarily through teams and through email. That's the way that we did it last year. It's in accordance with the bylaws to be able to run this committee 100 through teams, and we'll be meeting probably one time in person through Zoom, and the rest of the time will just be us talking about. you know, divvying up the applications, making sure that everything is good with the process. And yeah, it's going to be a pretty straightforward committee. And again, everything will be done by



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

the end of the semester. So I know that was a lot. Other questions, Paul, let's say, give a question.

- **Tathagata Pal:** I would like to know if VPLA or other representatives can be part of the committee?
- **Ashley Wells:** Great question. Thank you so much so from my reading of the bylaws. It's a little iffy. It appears they it really should be mostly Senators on this committee, besides myself being the special nomination committee chair. So I'm going to kind of stick to that format that seems to be. But thank you, that's a great question.
- **Mario Luppino:** Yeah. So I cannot. Just the slide before this, where there's a lot of vacancies. I'm the entomology representative, and I'm supposed to graduate this year. So I wasn't going to run again. But if the position needs to be filled I could fill in for the for half the year. Is that allowed?
- **Ashley Wells:** That's a great question. I will say that for the most part, we try to stay away from that just kind of mitigate any issues halfway through the year. Then, having to go and refill that position, it gets a little bit difficult. So, I would say, maybe better is if you can maybe look around your department and try to see if anyone would be interested. That would be great or if you know of anyone in general who just wants to be on GPSA who would want an open position that would probably be a bit more preferable. But we could also talk about it offline if you'd like to.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** Yeah. So I have a friend who just won his election as a senator, but he's considering running for a college rep. Should he resign. I don't know what that resigned is the right word. But yeah, did he resign from his Senator position before he can run from the run for the college rep.
- **Ashley Wells:** That's a great question. I'm going to say that he does not have to resign. It does say in the bylaws you are allowed to run for 2 positions at one time, so I would say, because of that cause, I would say he does not need to resign. First, I would say that he can run. If he doesn't make it in, he can keep the Senator position, and of course, if he does make it, and then he must then resign from that Senator Position. Okay, perfect.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** Thank you.
- **Ashley Wells:** No, thank you for the question. Thanks. Awesome. Any other questions. One other thing I want to mention for the Special Nomination Committee. You can be a part of the Special Nomination committee, even if you are running for an open position. That's very well-known it's in the bylaws. I did it last year. There's absolutely nothing wrong with that. Not saying you should, or you have to. But if you would like to. There is technically no bylaw against that. So it's just kind of a note if anyone is interested in was thinking about. If that was a conflict of interest. Okay, great. Does anyone have any other questions about this? I'm starting to receive some direct messages from people who want to be on the committee. So thank you so much. Andrew, I'll send those over to you so you can write them down if you want, but if no one else has any other questions about this. I think that this is great. And I'll just be sending emails, you know about updates regarding this periodically throughout the next few weeks. So thank you so much.



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

☞ Transfer \$1148 from the communication account to LAC

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

- **Tathagata Pal:** Hi, everyone. So I am, PAL. I am the chair for the GPS committee. So this vote is to transfer around \$1,140 from GPS communications account to the GPS account. So the sole reason is, like we mentioned when we were transferring money from the travel brand to LAC. That LAC was running a little low on the phone remaining 5. So the main reason was like there were some unfortunate Expenses that we had to deal with. We had to do a lot of travel around the State, and also around the country that. That was one of the reasons why we need to transfer this money from the LAC. To the LAC. And at the end of the year when I reached out to some of the other chairs. Andrew told me that he has some amount of money that he's not planning to use anytime during the for the rest of the semester, and he and his committee agree to transfer that amount. But since amount is more than 1,000, it needs to be passed through the Senate. So here it is. Okay. So yeah, that's the reason that we're transferring this money from the communications.

- **Dylan Oates:** Could you remind me what the LAC is, please?
- **Tathagata Pal:** The legislative affairs committee.
- **Marwa Aly:** Yes, the legislative affairs committee.
- **Tathagata Pal:** Yeah. So does anyone else have any other question regarding this?
- **Andrew Sutherland:** I'm just going to make the point. When it came to my committee, I mostly used free and accessible resources throughout the semester, such as promoting advertisements through the Daily evergreen, our use of social media. And I already had some different types of resources, like graphic design resources to create like flyers, that type of source because I already had those. I rarely, if not only, use my committee budget once, and that was for the Fundraising Committee to per to print off some nicer design pamphlets. I'm not planning to use or print off or create anything or use that budget for any other reason. That's generally why PAL reached out to me or. This type of transfer.
- **Tathagata Pal:** So I just wanted to mention that. If we transfer this amount from the communications to LAC, so this would actually balance out all the deficit that we currently have in the LAC.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** The question, not about this specific transfer. If we transfer money to other committees like this when the need arises, does it mean next year? We cannot receive the amount that we have applied for? Or it's okay to save time some and use it when.
- **Marwa Aly:** So thank you for your question, Rose. There is no relation between this year account and next year account. So we already submitted our request to the Sneak committee hopefully. We can hear



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

from them next week or the week. I think they used to give us their feedback by the first week of April. Hopefully, you can get as much money as we can, so we can open all the programs. I just shared it with Ajay. So, we need to add to our meetings tomorrow that there is still, there are still a lot of money in GPSA accounts that needed to be used to benefit graduate students. So, we need to some thoughts about that money because we like promise to send back \$50,000 to the SNA account. But now we have more than \$50,000. So, if there are any other sorts that can benefit brothers, students, GPSA is more than happy to accommodate them, otherwise this money will be returned again to this. Any account for this year it's totally different than next year, so there is no connection. Other questions. So that is a great question about how we can decide the specific amount for each committee. So actually, that is the first responsibility in this is to the committees themselves. So the Budget Committee share a certain form with communications with all the committees. Ask them, how much money do you expect for your committee for next year. Why, that money is different than this year, and give us any other thoughts that might help through our presentation to the LAC Committee. So that's actually coming. First line is that committees themselves. Second is A is a discussion between the Budget committee chair, the advisor and the GPS. So the 3 of us met together. We discussed all the requested that have been received from all the committees, and then I did a like share all the numbers with the Budget Committee. They approve everything, and then we present it to the Snap Committee. I think I have another question. Dylan, does that answer your question. I think. Bell also answered the question. Thank you. So other questions, if no more questions. can someone give the motion?

- **Sarah Gruntmeir:** I motion to transfer \$1148 from the communication account to the LAC.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Second.
- **Do you approve the transfer of \$1148 from the communication account to the GPSA LAC account?**
 - **Yes:** 44
 - **No:** 3
 - **Abstain:** 0
- **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and therefore we have passed the motion.

☞ Update from the GPSA LAC regarding 2024 legislative session in Olympia

- **Tathagata Pal:** Yeah, Hi, everyone. Thank you so much again. So this is PAL and I'm the VP office for GPSA, and also chair of TellSC. So, I just wanted to give you some updates on like, what we are doing at the Lisbon front in Olympia. So that time 24 session ended in on March eighth. So,



GPSA Meeting Minute March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

some of our GPS and those bills have past the both the Chambers and they are. They have, like the Governor, has also acted on it, and those are laws. So, some of those bills are sent to 6038, and the House Bill 2111. So, these. Both bills were aiming to create more equitable childcare support in Washington State. So, these were like, since this was like a non-budget here. These were like small steps like towards creating a better support for the childcare. But these were real, real, necessary. Because going forward into 2,025. We'll have the budget here, and these laws will help us. Procure more funding for childcare and other basic needs in the State of Washington. So another GPS, and those bill was House Bill 8, 9. So this bill would actually allow anyone, irrespective of their immigration or citizenship status to apply for license like for a professional license in the State of Washington, so that has passed both chambers, and the last I heard it was on Governor's table, and the governor has always signed onto it. So, this is also has become a law the unfortunately, the one of the bills at GPS was really looking for the House Bill 2114. That was for the rent stabilization that did not pass the Senate. So hopefully. Going forward in the next year we will have some other version of this specific bill, and we have already started working with the other. At least some of the other lease letters regarding like what we can do, so that we can have a bill where it will pass like most of the people in the Senate were not in support of the Registration Bill because of the language. Some of the specific language and some of the specific comes and conditions. But we are. We have already started working on this front so that we can get something that would pass both the chambers in future. Another news that I wanted to share with all of you is that the State has approved a one-time 2.5 million dollars allocation to support the contract reached between the academic employees and the WSU administration. So, this was, this is, you support for all that kind of employees which most likely all of us are so, because this would help the University directly. But then the University would use that money to support academic employees like us. So, GPS also lobbied for this specific reason that, asking the State for. So, we were asking for around 5 million dollars from the State. But unfortunately, what we got is around 2.6 to point 7 million dollars, and it's a one-time allocation, so it won't like it's not guaranteed that it would repeat next year. But we can use this time to like the University can use this time to like, look for resources where they can fund this contract better. Or maybe we can go back to the to the list of next year. And again, like, ask for like repeated funding next year as well. But yeah, these are some of the updates from the LAC. And please let me know if you have any question, or any query or anything regarding this. Thank you so much.

- **Stephen Onayemi:** So, I was you said GPS a is lobbying or lobbied for something. It was wondering I was just curious. Who is the lobby for? GPSA?



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

- **Tathagata Pal:** es, yes, so I am. I am the acting legislative liaison in Olympia, and I was in Olympia during the session. And I was like, Yeah, the lobbyist for GPSA kind of like in house lobbies.
- 07:30 | Adjournment
- **Marwa Aly:** So with that, our meeting is ajourned met today and have everyone have great a great night and see you in 2 weeks.



GPSA Executive Board Reports

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 meetings
- Plan and conduct executive team meetings
- GPSA Fundraising initiative

Meeting attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly Cougar Lobby meeting with ASWSU
- Meeting with S&A Fees committee.
- Bi-weekly SGC steering committee meeting
- Faculty senate meeting
- Weekly PDI committee meeting
- Student Government Council meeting online
- GIESO general assembly meeting
- Board of Regents Tri-cities meeting
- WSA Board of Directors meeting

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

Task Completed:

- Facilitate purchases.
- Prepare Senate agenda.
- Send out decision letters for 3 RSOs about the affiliated funds.
- Open the RSO fund application for Fall 2024.
- Present the S&A budget request for 2024-2025.

Meeting Attended

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting
- SGC meeting.
- Weekly GPSA Budget committee meetings
- RSO meetings as requested.



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

Task Completed:

- Wrapped up the 2024 legislative session in Olympia.
- Started communicating with legislators for sponsoring legislation for the 2025 legislative session.

Meeting Attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive team meeting
- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Weekly SGC Legislative affairs committee meeting
- Bi-weekly SGC steering committee meeting
- SGC Meeting online by WSU Global
- S&A Committee deliberation meetings

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

Tasks Completed:

- Counted, votes and prepared preliminary general election date to the IAC and senate
- Created Open Application form for College Rep at-large and Senator at-large applicants
- Tabled for Food Security Committee’s Referendum vote
- Presented Transportation Advisory Group’s proposal to S&A committee

Meeting attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting
- Transportation Advisory Group Meeting
- University Parking and Transportation Taskforce Meeting

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

Tasks Completed (in coordination with PDI GA):

- Organized GPSA-PDI events: “Secrets to successful Public Speaking and Communications”.

Meeting attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive meeting
- Weekly PDI executive meeting



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

Tasks Completed:

- Complete necessary paperwork after **Restaurant Friday's: Rico's** (3/1/24) and **Drag Bingo** (3/8/24).
 - Collect attendee list/receipts and submit to Student Involvement.
- Prepare for **Climbing Event** (3/18/24), and **Full Moon Sound Bath** (3/25/24).
 - Create flyers, purchase request forms and promotional materials.
- 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 remaining Spring events.

Meeting attended:

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

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

Meeting attended:

- Executive Board Meeting
- University Affairs Meeting

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

Tasks Completed:

- Met with Internal Affairs Chair, Ashley Wells to coordinate in person polling station
- Met with Communications Chair to finalize Referendum informational materials
- Met with Community Affairs Committee to finalize Spring programming
- Ordered materials for in person polling station.
- Met with Programming Committee to support Drag Bingo Event
- Emailing with Pullman Parks and Recreation for Earth Day Park Cleanup
- Emailing with Phoenix Conservancy for Seed Cleaning Event

Meeting attended:

- Attended Cougar Food Pantry Advisory Board
- Attended Bi-weekly GPSA Executive Board Meetings



GPSA Meeting Minute
March 18, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

- Attended College Hill Matters Meeting
- Chaired meeting with Food Security Committee
- Chaired meeting with Community Affairs Committee

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

Tasks Completed:

- Started evaluation of Spring 2 applications
- Sent out emails to applicants

Meetings attended:

- Weekly GPSA executive board meeting

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

Tasks Completed:

- Setting up HR meeting with KUGR for radio training to start a graduate student focus show.
- Develop communication and program material for GPSA Fundraising Event.
- Developed communication material for GPSA Election and Food Pantry Referendum.
- Updated Travel Grant Webpage on the GPSA Website
- Developing a Mental Health Resources Webpage on the GPSA Website

Meeting attended:

- Meeting with Community Affairs Director
- Meeting with Internal Affairs
- Meeting with Chair of Travel Grants
- Weekly GPSA Executive board meeting