



**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

**To join via Zoom:**

<https://wsu.zoom.us/j/91407917022?pwd=U1UyMFBxWENreG5ScGFiN3B6O2YvZz09>

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.

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 Meetings' Minutes  
<https://forms.office.com/r/MMqSQcqmj0>
  - **Hannah Martian:** I motion to approval of the August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.
  - **Nazua Idris:** Second.
  - **Do you approve orientation and 8/28 Meetings Minutes**
    - **Yes:** 42
    - **No:** 0
    - **Abstain:** 0
  - **Marwa Aly:** So, we reach you the majority and we have approved the meeting minutes for the orientation meeting and 08/28 meeting.
  - Approval of the Agenda  
<https://forms.office.com/r/cbDYx7GV5e>
  - **Hannah Martian:** I motion to approval of the Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Agenda.
  - **Nazua Idris:** Second.



**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

- **Approve the Agenda**
  - Yes 45
  - No 1
  - Abstain 1
- **Marwa Aly:** So, we reach you the majority and we have approved the 09/11/2023 agenda.
- 05:45 | New Business
  - Approve Budget plan for 2023-2024  
<https://forms.office.com/r/bUHxcgJj1q>
  - **Hannah Martian:** I motion to approval of the 2023-2024 budget.
  - **Nazua Idris:** Second.
  - **Do you approve Budget plan for 2023-2024?**
    - Yes 47
    - No 1
    - Abstain 3
- **Marwa Aly:** So, we reach you the majority and we have approved the 2023-2024 budget. I would need to share before we go forward with our agenda, that after we vote, and now we have approved the plan for the budget. Any change through the budget has to go through the Senate again. Especially if it's 1,000 or more transferring between one account to another, or if there is a change in the plan in bit like inside the account itself.
- 06:00 | Guest speaker
  - Counseling and Psychological Services, Cougar Health Services  
Please share as many questions as possible with our guest speakers using the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/EBg6uqh2Gz>
- **Marwa Aly:** So today we have Dr. Jennifer Ellsworth, and she is a license psychologist Con, in the counseling and psychological service at WSU. So, Dr. Jennifer Ellsworth, are you here? I know that she, her session, should start at 6, and we are 20 min before. Okay, so let me do that. Stop sharing. Since she is not here yet, and I will. Yes, I will do that, Madison, so I will use the gallery so I can see all of you now, and I would need to to move into changing like I need to hear a motion to move into the next item and our agenda, and postpone this guest speaker as it is so can we hear this item.
  - **Madison Hönig:** I motion to table this item and move on to the next item.
  - **Hannah Martian:** Second
  - **Marwa Aly:** If you approve of this motion, raise your hand.
  - Block vote by zoom hand raise.
  - **Marwa Aly:** A majority of hands were raised and we will move on to New Business discussion on Pullman transit bus route.



**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

□ 06:45 | New Business

□ Discuss proposed Pullman transit bus route that GPSA will lobby for

· **Tathagata Pal:** Hi, everyone. I hope everyone can hear me. So today, I will share the results from the survey that GPSA LAC has done over the last two weeks. I'm also going to propose to all of you that the list live agenda for the years 2023 and 2024, and then we will vote on that once all of you like. If it passes the Senate, we'll finalize that as the official GPSA Agenda for the upcoming year. So, as you can see on this screen. So, this is the like the very broad sorry. Yeah, it's so. It's a very broad result of the survey. So, the total number of participants that we had was around 247. Out of those 247 participants. 174 are from WSU Pullman, and 73 are from other campuses and rec centers.

· **Tathagata Pal:** So, it's a very great thing that we got responses, not only just from Pullman, but from other campuses, graduate, and professional students as well. So, the picture over here shows how many people like it. What is the percentage of people who took the survey who chose one of these items as their topmost priority? So, the number to the right is the percentage of people who have chosen that particular item as their topmost priority. So, as you can see, 27% of the people who took the survey show housing to be one of the main problems, like the topmost problem they want GPSA to work on. Then, 25% of them chose mental health. 12-person parking tickets, 12% childcare, 9% of them transportation, and 8% of them food security, and 7% others. So well, Jennifer, do you have a question? Or is it raised from the previous one? I think, okay, yeah, I think it's from the previous one. Yeah.

· **Tathagata Pal:** Okay, so moving on so, as you guess, know. Sorry. So, what we are going to do is we are going to work at the Pullman City level for transportation and food security. So, our community affairs chair, Madison, she is doing a great job. Awesome job for addressing the food security on the campus. That's why LAC won't focus on food security for the upcoming year since we already have a dedicated Committee for addressing the Food Security issues chaired by Madison and the transportation. We are mostly looking into transportation at the city level. It makes much more sense to talk about the local issues at the local authority level rather than going to the State or the Federal. So that's why we'll be talking about the transportation at the city level, and for the other 4 items, the housing, mental health parking tickets, and childcare, so initially, what we thought is, we are going to. We will choose the top 3 of these 4 or 5 items. But then the Lc committee talked among themselves, and we figured out a way to incorporate all of this into our list of agenda. So how we will do this is so GPSA is already like a member of PE couple of organizations that lobby at the State level. One is the Washington State Washington Student Association, and the other is the Student Government Council, which is like a member, like a student organization for all the WSU campuses. So, we generally have 2 different agendas for these two organizations. So that's how that's what we're going to do. So, we are going to GPSA to draft 2 agendas for these 2 different organizations and put housing and mental health on both agendas. And we will put the parking ticket on one of the agendas and the childcare on the other. That way, GPSA could address all the agenda items at the state level. And I'll now talk a little more about the city-level lobbying about transportation. Marwa, can you please go to the next slide?

· **Tathagata Pal:** Marwa? Can you hear me? Oh, yeah, thank you. Alright. So, this is the proposed bus route for the Pullman transit. So, the GPSA is working with the Pullman City Council to get a direct bus route from the apartment to the department. So, we are just calling this apartment to the Department route. So, on the left, on the screen, the blue one is the current apartment land express route that we have. and the brown one is the campus route we have. So, what generally happens is people who take the apartment land express. They get off at the Beasley Colors scholarship, across the road and then take the campus route to other parts of the campus. So, what GPSA is proposing, like lobbying, is going to lobby for is to use all the resources in these 2 in these



## GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

2 routes and merge them into one single route. So there are 4 buses in the apartment land, land, express route, and one bus in the campus route. So, there are a total of 5 buses. So, we'll ask this Pullman city council to merge these 2 routes and use those 5 buses into this one route. So that people like the students. They can get into their bus from department land and go to their department directly without changing buses in between. This will save time for a lot of the students because there are some like most of the time. There's a huge queue in the mobile track waiting for the campus route to arrive, and the average waiting time is around 12 to 15 minutes during the harsh winter conditions. It should be different for the students; they won't face the problem of having to wait in long lines for the buses at those 2 transition points. So, we are asking to keep the number of buses the same. We are not asking to keep increasing the number of bus stops as well. So, if you see on the right the March route, it shows all the all. The bus stops. The name of the bus stops. It's exactly the same as what it is right now. So, we are very, very positive that since this is a very pragmatic ask, this will get passed in the Pullman City Council. We should have the merged bus route from January onwards. Yes.

· **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** So, yeah, that's a very nice suggestion. But I have one thought on this. So when you show that 4 buses are running for department land, the 4 bus is not for the entire period. So, in the morning, or, I think, in the busy time, there are 4 buses. However, they reduce the number of buses, but the campus route is always one bus. Sometimes it's 2, I guess in the busy time. So, another problem is that this total of 5 buses is not constant, first of all, so when this is not a busy time, let's say in the busy time you will get all the 5 buses. You know the proposed route, but not busy time. There will not be 5 buses, maybe 3 or something, considering 2 buses from apartment land and one from Campus Road. In that case, did you calculate the time? So in their non busy time, I mean, it's not busy for everyone but for someone. In that case, someone is waiting, let's say, for Trial Lane and wants to go to Owners Hall. He or she has to wait a long time because there are only 3 buses, and the route is so big.

· **Tathagata Pal:** Yes, I did a very preliminary investigation with the time. Now, like the time issue, it also depends on many other factors that I am not currently aware of. So, I need to talk with the Pullman City manager about this. So what? What we calculated with 5 buses. It's around average—the average wait. The time is 8 min for each bus. Stop along the route. Now, if you take out 2 buses, I think that will go up to 12 min or 14 min at most. But I am not 100% sure of the times, because there might be other factors that, if that is, that will be that is going to affect the time, the wait time. But that's a very good point that you raise. I would need to talk about this with our like—the Pullman City manager. Ask for confirmation from him, like, what? How is this going to affect that? Wait time for the students? Thank you, alright so.

· **Tathagata Pal:** Marwa, please go to the next slide. So, this is the summary of the GPSA Legislative agenda for 2023-24. So, at the city level, we are mainly working on transportation. Transportation has not, like a direct route from the permanent apartments' land to the campus and where we are going. We are looking for an extended hour for the route mentioned above. So, a lot of the graduate and professional students. They have to stay back after hours after 6. They even stay back till 8, 9 at night. So it would also benefit them if we have, like. Some extended our capability for this direct bus route so that they can take it from the campus and go directly to the . , to the apartment, and also, our GPSA is working with a community if the LAC is working with the Community Affairs Committee on lobbying for installing CCTV. Cameras in the ground, graduate housing, complex lobbying for the neighborhood watch party with the help of WSU PD. So, again, I want to mention that this is done along with the Community Affairs Committee, which Madison again shares. LAC mostly organizes transportation, but we got huge support from our President Ajay. So, he helped me draw that diagram that I just showed you. Yes, Hannah, please go ahead.



**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

- **Hannah Martian:** So, my question is, could you talk more about this neighborhood watch party and what that would look like?
- **Tathagata Pal:** Oh, yes, so we'll be having a meeting with the WSUPD Chief Jenkins very soon. And there! So we will discuss the prospects of this watch party with him, and then maybe Madison will follow up with more updates as we go forward.
- **Madison Hönig:** Hannah, to clarify. It's not, I mean, I think, PAL. Watch parties. Maybe not the right term. It's a neighborhood like a community watch, so this exists in many different communities where people are informed of what happens and what they can do to report anything suspicious. It's also a way to get you more connected with your neighbors. So, let's say you're coming home late one day. You can call one of your neighbors and ask them to stand by the door. We're, you know, working out what that would look like. But we are going to be talking to WSUPD tomorrow about implementing something like that. And yeah, the idea is to have more of a community safety initiative. Yeah.
- **Tathagata Pal:** Thank you, Madison. Thank you for jumping in here and clarifying that point. Okay, so I got a question from Sarah on the chat. So, Sarah? I try to answer your question. Now, since, like for the REC and the other campuses. At the city level, lobbying is not that relevant. So, moving on to the State level of lobbying? So, GPSA will first work on housing, like, how can we afford more affordable student housing at any location? In the Washington WSU system and the second, the second one is very important. It is mental health.
- **Tathagata Pal:** So, GPSA would support a Telehealth support program. So, what this allows you like doesn't matter wherever you are. This campus, or on which REC center you are stationed, would allow you to consult a mental health physician over Zoom from any part of the country, not just from Washington or the Cougar Health Service. So, we are like, we are a big supporter of the telehealth program that will help all the graduate and professional students across campuses and REC. Also, as I mentioned, childcare will be one of our third priorities for our state legislative agenda. The parking and parking tickets are like putting a price on parking permits or student tickets. Again, this will help any people around the campuses and the Recs. So, I just wanted to mention a quick point here about childcare. So, I am currently working with Andrew to put up some of the very good resources I got hold of recently on the GPSA website. So maybe you will all receive an email regarding childcare and these updated resources on the GPSA website once they're up.
- **Tathagata Pal:** I'm now moving on to the Federal level. So, the first thing is at the Federal level. WSU is working with one organization called the Energy Pierce. The National Association for Graduate and Professional Students and GPSA are closely related to the WSU and the Government Relations Office. So GPSA is working with both these organizations to lobby for continued and increased research funding. The agenda for the WSU student or WSU Government Relations office is very much focused on getting more funding for some specific programs, like building a new news center for different departments. So that way, it aligns with our vision as well, and so, and then moving on at the Federal level. We are again going to talk a little about the international student's aspect. So, as you might know like this, these intense students are employed by the Federal government. So, if we want to lobby for the intense students, it is the only place where we can talk about it. Talk about it. So, for we have, like broadly, we have, like, 2 of the agendas.
- **Tathagata Pal:** The first is lobbying to allow the F2 visa holders to work like that's a dependent visa, and the other one is increased. Work hours for the F. One visa holder because people with families would have to support their families. They would have to like to pay for insurance and everything for their dependent ones. 20 HA week might not be sufficient for them. So, we think that GPSA can also work on these 2 aspects. I know this is very specific to the intended students,





## GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

but this is important because the Federal agency is the only place where we can lobby for the international students. So, this is alright. So, we have a quick question in the chat. Stephen.

· **Stephen Onayemi:** Yeah, for the job you're doing. And your team. I just wanted to jump in for the housing. Lobbying for affordable student housing. Did you also consider those in the REC centers? People pay more than people in Pullman. When I was in Pullman, I knew it was between \$ 700 and \$900 monthly. Rec centers are paying up to 1,200 and 1,300. So, is that also part of what is included in this lobbying?

· **Tathagata Pal:** Yes, Stephen, so thank you so much for this great question. So, I just wanted to point out one fact: whatever we are doing at the state level. It will affect people from around all the campuses, including WSU Campuses and REC. It's not just about WSU Pullman. It will affect you if something good comes out of it—all the people from the Rigs and all the WSU. Campuses are going to benefit from our state-level lobbying.

· **Stephen Onayemi:** Yeah. Would you put off the ranks that REC centers are paying for like a pre-allo process, and other places like, you know, put it off so they can? People in the State know that students are going through a lot, especially with rank.

· **Tathagata Pal:** Yes, so what we are thinking is, if this agenda gets approved today, then GPSA, our LAC, is going to go ahead and start researching each one of these individual problems. So, they will reach out to people to collect more quantitative data so that we can show the legislators they're going to reach out to, like other people organizations who are also working on the same problems. So once this gets approved today, then we are going to start working on each one of these agenda items and research more. Then, we will come up with our final agent, like a final written and printed version of the agenda. Excellent job, thank you. Thank you. Any other questions?

· **Oluwafemi Sunday:** Yeah, I have a question that clarification, or maybe so. The suggestion is that I love this idea of the Federal level when you talk about lobbying for increased hours for, excuse me, one. Is that all with us? But I'm thinking because if I, for instance, if I'm thinking, let's say, 9 credits for these times, I know the minimum is 10 credits. Let's say I have 10 clients 9 credits. That means I have how many hours to prepare for class? Let's say I have. Is that not 18 hours per week? So, if you're talking about increasing the hour, the 20 hours, you might be, I'm sorry, I'm an educational psychology student. So, it might, it might be it. It might probably impact some other, you know. Maybe academic it might have affected some people academically. But I'm thinking, instead of increasing the hours. For instance, we have some Ph.D. students for these types of education or communication—the hourly rate. Our time is low. Some of them are earning probably 19 point-something hours, 20 point-something hours. Why not? I likely will lobby to increase the rates and keep this 20-hour. For instance, if I'm working 20 hours, although you can do more than 20 hours, you can do an extra 5 hours. I'm not. I'm I don't know. Maybe of that. For instance, I work 20 hours, and I order 5 hours work for my professor on the project. So, on what? The Creator, that's a platform for me. Whereas I get data, my input is 5 hours per week on that I don't know. Maybe you are aware that international students can do that as well. Graduate students can do that. So, while increasing the hours, because there's already a platform for that where you can do an additional 5 hours per week, I guess. Why? Why not? We concentrate on increasing the rates. So, just my recommendation.

· **Tathagata Pal:** Right? Although for me thank you so much for your input; I appreciate that. So? Yeah, we'll look into this. So, this is like a broad like, if, when I'm talking about each of these points, there are so many different things that can be done for each of these agenda items. We are still not sure what exactly we are going to work on. But we are going to keep this in mind when we finalize our agenda about increasing the rates per hour instead of increasing the hour itself.

- Approve the GPSA legislative agenda.



**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

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

u

- **Hannah Martian:** I motion to approval of the GPSA Legislative Agenda for 2023-2024.
- **Nazua Idris:** I Second.
- **Do you approve Budget plan for 2023-2024?**
  - **Yes:** 51
  - **No:** 0
  - **Abstain:** 2
- **Marwa Aly:** We reached a majority and we approve the agenda for 2023-2024.
- 06:06 | Guest speaker
  - Counseling and Psychological Services, Cougar Health Services  
Please share as many questions as possible with our guest speakers using the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/EBg6uqh2Gz>
- Guest Speaker Dr. Jennifer Ellsworth
  - Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) – location, Offices
  - **Dr. Jennifer Ellsworth:** So, as far as where we're located, here is our handy campus map. We are south southeast of campus at that entrance near Stephenson, near the Olsen, like a cultural center, and from coast to spark in the old yeah, in the old home and hospital renovated to service cougar health services. So, we're in the same building as Cougar Health Services, the medical clinic, and the access center. Here is a picture of our entrance. So, the south entrance takes you into the waiting room of the medical clinic. The north entrance takes you into a stairwell, essentially. Still, as you either use the elevator or go with the stairs, you would find the access center on the second floor and the reception area for the counseling center. On the third floor, we have a lovely space. We all feel lucky to work here. It was renovated about 8 years ago for the counseling center. So, it's a very welcoming, inviting space for students to enter, which is important. Suppose you're seeking care to address. Here's what a typical office looks like: they're inviting spaces. So, it's a lovely environment to do the work of Therapy.
  - CAPS Mission
    - The primary mission of Counseling and Psychological services is to assist students with problems and concerns that interfere with academic development and persistence toward a degree.
    - Also central to the mission of CAPS is the training of doctoral interns and advanced graduate students in Clinical Psychology.
  - CAPS Staff
    - **Dr. Jennifer Ellsworth:** We are staffed by a wide range of professionals. So, we have licensed psychologists who work here. We have licensed clinical social workers. We have licensed counselors. We also have some folks who are working towards their licenses. We're lucky to have a psychiatric nurse practitioner who provides psychiatric and medication management services at the counseling center. This slide also reflects our



## GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

doctoral interns with us full time and the support staff, the patient service representatives, and program coordinators who provide critical infrastructure to ensure everything is running as it should at caps. So, here are some key things to know about the Council Center. Our services are confidential, which is especially helpful in thinking about confidential resources on campus.

- Important Things to Know about CAPS
  - Services are confidential.
  - No additional costs
  - Same-day appointments
  - Voluntary – students call caps to schedule appointments.
  - In-person and telehealth appointments are available.
- Getting Started at CAPS
  - Initial Consultations
    - Same day schedule
    - 25-30 minutes with a counselor
    - Treatment recommendations
  - Crisis Appointments
    - Same-day scheduled
    - 50-minute appointment
    - Follow-up appointment
    - Follow-up planning and treatment recommendations
    - After-hours crisis phone
- CAPS Services and Mental Health
  - Initial Consultations
  - Crisis Services, including after-hours crisis line
  - Brief, individual therapy
  - Group therapy & workshops
  - Psychiatric services
  - Psychological assessment
  - Primary care mental health
  - Community Referrals
- Mental Health Treatment
  - Brief, Focused Individual Therapy
    - Many Students' needs are met within 6 sessions.
    - Students can access up to 12 sessions per academic year.
    - Maximum of 25 sessions total while at WSU
  - Group Therapy & Workshop
    - Variety of Groups and workshops (e.g., CBT or Anxiety Support Groups)
    - No Session limits
- Common Presenting Problems
  - Top 3 presenting problems at CAPS
    - Anxiety & Stress
    - Depression
    - Academic Problems
  - Additional Presenting Concerns
    - Relationship or Family Challenges





**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

- Trauma
- Disordered eating, body image
- Grief and loss
- CAPS Liaison for Graduate and Professional Students
  - Dr. Jennifer Ellsworth, Ph.D.
  - Licensed psychologist
  - [Jennifer.ellsworth@wsu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.ellsworth@wsu.edu)
  - (509) 335-4511
- Questions:
- **Sarah Gruntmeir:** Since REC students don't pay the student health fee, is there a way to use the Telehealth services with CAPS?
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** That's a great question. So the price system services are available. Everyone can use those, and I'm going to go ahead and put the number in the chat, and now I'm second-guessing myself. I feel like, Oh, I'm on the spot. I don't want to get it wrong. so I'll slide over and grab one of these bones. Yes. Yup, I got it wrong. I got nervous. Okay, let me try this again. 509-33-5215. So that is our priceless after-hours pricing.
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** There's the question also about the Research Extension Center students. At the last meeting I was in, the question came up. Several people from Cap said yes, they could pay this student. And then a couple of other people in your health services. Leadership said, no, they're not able to do that. So there was some internal confusion on that question, and I will add this to the list and writing of questions and concerns services. We have the capacity and the technical requirements to offer that service. And I know research extensions on our students. We all are technically home students. Right? That's your home campus. I would say yes if it were up to me, but I will pass that on to leadership.
- **Marwa Aly:** Is there a specific counseling service to help deal with the death of a PI or someone within the department?
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** That's a good question. To me, that falls into the work category we're all equipped to do. We work with students' experience. Breathe, and loss are related to all sorts of close relationships and complicated relationships that absolute support could be.
- **Rose Maleki:** I wanted to ask a question about this confidentiality. I want to know if they record the videos. So when we say confidential, it raises the question for me because, to the best of my knowledge, they ask you to wave the right to the video they let them record. Yeah. So, my concern is who has access to this information. And what are these videos used for? This is one of the reasons that. Some students do not feel safe services, and I have one more question. Would you like me to wait until you answer this, and then I will go to the next one?
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** So, some of our counselors record their sessions with the counseling center. It's primarily for our therapists who are in training. So, our Ph.D. Students here engaged in applied training are reporting their sessions to review them with their clinical supervisors. It's only for that therapist and that supervisor to review that the focus is always on the therapist in training. So, I'm a clinical supervisor. My goal. My effort is to help the doctoral students I'm working with improve their skills as a therapist. So that's what I'm watching with the mind tool. They are saved securely, their password-protected—the only people with the password. My supervisor has given me the password, but I have to like to write it down and look it



## GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

up every time. So, it's she and I who have access to that. Those videos are routinely deleted. Usually, they're around for 2 or 3 weeks. They're not part of someone's charge or record, and they're deleted promptly. It's also helpful to know that that tool is used in our training program. So, our informed consent form describes that we engage in videotaping. But there's also space for people to indicate whether they agree. And if someone says No, I do not agree to tape, they're not going to be taped, so that may play out for someone. It may be that they were going to be referred to somebody who's not, who's not videotaping anything, right? It can narrow the pool of who's available to work with someone. It could, at busy times in the semester, make me wait a little bit longer for someone who isn't required to take it. So yeah, it's a valuable training tool. I benefited greatly from taking my sessions and reviewing them with a clinical supervisor when I was in training. But it's not mandatory.

- **Rose Maleki:** My second question is, considering our diversity in Pullman. All these. You know, linguistic diversity, cultural differences. What kind of training are your teams getting in diversity, equity, and inclusion to make sure that they are aware of underlying factors that are not simply psychological? But can you know, block the way that students and their therapist can communicate?
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** Thank you. That is a lovely, thoughtful question, and I'm delighted to be able to answer it. Caps is committed to ongoing professional development and training in diversity, equity, and inclusion. And the expectation that is held for us as therapists is that we can provide culturally informed Therapy—some of the resources in place. We have our diversity training series. That's for it's required for all of the caps. So the doctoral students, the interns, the licensed staff. Everyone participates twice this semester in additional training and dialogue areas determined yearly. So, our doctoral interns lead those trainings. 2 will present one semester, and the other 2 will present the other semester. They're working with a member of this new clinical staff. And those are often focused on helping to increase skills with specific populations. And that might range from working with people of specific races or ethnicities. They might be working with neuro-divergence students. We're looking at different populations and how to serve them. Well, we also, in addition to that, have an ongoing diversity dialogue series, and every month or 2, everyone's invited to that one. It's not as tailored for the graduate students to be able to attend. That happens during our regular weekly staff meeting. But we'll have ongoing diversity dials with the Internet. I am learning but also self-reflecting to work effectively with the students.
- **Rose Maleki:** And do you ever receive any feedback from the students? I mean. So, with all the investment you have in DEI. Do you ever ask students if they can see the reflection and what services they receive from your staff and therapies?
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** We have an annual satisfaction survey that we invite all the students who participated in Cap services to complete for us. And we review those results as a staff. One question is whether people feel that the services were responsive to their cultural and cultural importance.
- **Marwa Aly:** Do you have follow-ups for students who have problems beyond the scope of caps and need inpatient service?
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** We do a lot of follow-up work. We really work to partner with our colleagues that pull in regional hospitals. And we're seeing a student for mental health reasons. They can make referrals to us. We can communicate, and they can share information with us. So we're able to follow up when they let us know. Hey,



**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

we've had a student here who, for example, has attempted suicide. Suppose we've got that student's name number. In that case, we can proactively reach out to them to discuss the resources available at the counseling center. I think that all of us, our senior clinical staff, also have the experience of working with students who need hospitalization and work to facilitate and support that process. Many of us also have the experience of soon as we work with participating in inpatient treatment and then coming back to campus and continuing.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** What is the difference between a counselor, a therapist, and a psychologist? What do they do specifically?
- **Jennifer Ellsworth:** Yeah, thank you, Desmond; I appreciate that question. I think that we tend to use counselors and therapists interchangeably. We use them as synonyms for each other, and several different types of professionals can work as a therapist. So, a psychologist can be a therapist. A social worker can be a mental health counselor can be a therapist, and there might be some differences across those disciplines. But here, at the counseling center, we all do similar work providing Therapy and counsel. So, Therapy is our primary service, and that's talk therapy. That's 50-minute appointments. That's where we're going to work with people experiencing depression or anxiety, or I love working with graduate students, and I hear lots of like graduate school stressors, difficulties, navigating relationships with difficulties, with dissertation, progress. Those are all things that we're able to help with during Therapy. Most of my colleagues are therapists. We also have a psychiatric nurse practitioner, and this specific job of a psychiatric nurse practitioner is medication management. If a student is, and we also have a lot of really capable healthcare providers in the medical clinic who do a lot of this work, they'll prescribe the antidepressants. They'll prescribe medication. However, our psychiatric nurse practitioner is a specialist. So let's say, for example, someone is experiencing depression, and they've tried a number of medications and tried all different dosages and are needing specialty care. That's where a psychiatrist, a psychiatric provider, comes in. Desmond, does that help?
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yes, yes, yes, thank you. Thank you. Yeah, thank you.
- **Hannah Martian:** I went to undergrad here and have been using the services at CAPS. The services have improved every year. Dr. Amy Smith saved my life. I say this to destigmatize this, and we should promote it more with other graduate students.

Vote for College Rep. At-large Nomination from Special Nomination Committee <https://forms.office.com/r/P0xR181b9S>

- **Ashley Wells:** Hi, everyone. This is Ashley, Internal Affairs chair. So, it's just to update everyone on what has happened in the past week. As Internal Affairs Chair, I was able to chair the special nomination committee. Thank you to all of you who are here right now and who were a part of that committee. The committee worked hard over the past week to read over all of the applications for the college rep at the large open position, read through them, and gave their feedback. Then they, I'm sorry, voted on who the next college rep at large should be as a doesn't note. As for the bylaws as chair, I was not allowed to vote unless there was a tie to break and there was no tie. So, Marwa, you can move on to the next slide. Okay, no worries. So we have a vote of 6 out of 6 on a pose. Hopefully, everyone will read the report that I sent out to all of the Senators on Saturday, I believe, Saturday



## GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

morning. And it has all of the information about all of the votes who voted, who the 6 applicants were, and who won, unfortunately. Sorry, there's no slide here for it. But if you want, you can take a moment and look through that email if you want to. Then, if you have any questions, we can talk them through now.

- **Rose Maleki:** Can you share it verbally as we don't have it here? Can you please share part of it verbally?
- **Tathagata Pal:** Sorry guys. So, I have that slide open in my system. Do you want me to share my screen, maybe? Yeah, sure.
- **Marwa Aly:** Please give us more information about the candidate talking about this slide.
- **Ashely Wells:** Thank you. Okay. So, the avid reads. So, during the open application period. From August 21 to September 1, the committee received a total of 6 applications for the college representative vacancy, and all of the applications. All of the applicants were eligible for further review, and the committee members reviewed the applications and made nominations for the vacant college representative seat. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the following applicant for the college representative position. So, Augustine Ata, who is from the college of that Matt will be taking the position or is nominated to take the position for college at large for the College of Agricultural Human and Natural Resource Sciences. They received 6 yay votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstain. So again, if you want, you can see the other applicants within the report. But because, again, it was unanimous. Vote. I, as chair, did not vote.
- **Rose Maleki:** I have a question. As Ashley, as I was reading through the report that you kindly and kindly shared with everyone. So, I'm a great fan of keeping people; I mean choosing people from the department to represent that department. Do you know what I mean?
- **Ashely Wells:** Yes, sure. Again. I did not vote on this committee. This was the decision of the committee members, and I did tell all of the committee members who were going to vote that they should take into account the College of Origin, that the applicant came from the fact that whoever was chosen to be voted into this position would automatically become the Grant chair, and also the application essay in itself. So, all 3 of those things were considered in the vote. So this is just what the 6 committee members decided on.
- **Rose Maleki:** So you know what my concern is we cannot say. Of course. It's not about any specific person. So it's not about Augustine. It could be anyone outside that department. We know that someone who depends, I mean, who comes from another department may not be familiar with the concerns of that department. The thing is how much we put emphasis on it when we invite people to vote, so to me. English is not my first language, but when I read their report, I felt uncomfortable that there was more emphasis on being a traveler. Grant. Then, being the representative of a college being a travel, grant is a skill and privilege. Actually, we cannot expect everyone to be ready for that, even if I had never been. For example, the Travel Grand Chair, I had the opportunity to learn it, be trained for it, and use other people's fund of knowledge for it. So, to me, it shouldn't be. That's very important. I mean, it is more important that we put people from the same college away simply because. We think that being travel travel, grant chair is more important than the other one. I'm unsure if I can transfer my concern or if it is other people's concern.



**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

- • **Tathagata Pal:** Ashley. Can I jump in real quick here? Yeah. So, Rose, I completely agree with you on this. So what might have happened is like people. Have. They have given more importance to the fact that this person was involved with the travel grant. But this position is first about representing the college. Then, it's about serving on the committee as a chair. So, again, the thing is, as Ashley was mentioning, he shouldn't have any role whatsoever in the vote to play. So, only the members of that special committee voted. They decided to choose this particular person unanimously. And that's where it is standing right now. And definitely. It's like a Senate. It's our job to either support these or disprove this like it's on the up to the Senate now.
- • **Rose Maleki:** We all should have the ability. So, if I have a committee, I should share my concerns with them. That being a travel grant, for example, is an offer to represent the whole college. I just one, I don't understand it. It doesn't make sense to me that people choose someone else simply because they can be better. So, to me, they need to be. We need to train the committee.
- • **Tathagata Pal:** I completely understand. Respect your thoughts in this regard, Rose. But I think this is a very personal choice like it's up to the committee members. It was their personal choice to like whatever things they wanted to emphasize. It was their personal choice.
- • **Rose Maleki:** This is not personal now.
- • **Marwa Aly:** Now, thank you so much for your discussion. Because of the time, I have Edmund, and we can have Ashley. Okay, but I have Edmond raising his hand first, and then you have the floor to emphasize that. Please go ahead.
- • **Edmund Larbi Afari:** My concern is, in order to prevent this from the reports, I see that there are 3 people from Carnes. So why don't we make that the major requirement? Since the person is supposed to represent Carnes, then we can probably eliminate those who are not from others. Those are not from that department. Maybe we can consider those from other colleges if we don't get any rep from Carnes. I think that would prevent all these issues since we need someone to represent Carnes.
- • **Ashley Wells:** So admin. I think you make a very interesting and good point, and that is the problem. The bylaws dictate that for college at large. Everyone who wants to apply is allowed to apply and is looked at in the same way if we want it so that only people from Carnes can apply when there's an open position. We would have to change the general bylaws and the whole structure of at-large representation. Right now, the way that it stands. The committee has the right to do what they want when it comes to the vote. I emphasize all of the things that were important to the committee, but I cannot go in and change their mind or tell them how to vote or how not to vote. It's their choice. They read through the applications they wanted, and this person and I support them. So, with that. I think that this is a larger conversation that we can have. Do we still want to keep it at large? Do we think that at large works I have my own specific concerns about at-large representation in general that I think we can talk about, you know, on a broader scale, maybe as a board. But I think for this vote, I support that they look through all the applications. This is the one they wanted, and it is within the bylaws dictated right now.
- • **Marwa Aly:** What would be the next step if this vote didn't pass?





**GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM**

- • **Ashely Wells:** I can recheck the bylaws. I don't know off the top of my head, and I don't even know if the bylaws dictate the next step. But I'll read through that right now, and I'll let you know.
  - • **Tathagata Pal:** Would it need a 2/3rds majority to pass? Or would it need a 50% majority?
  - • **Ashley Wells:** I do believe it is two-thirds checking right now.
  - • **Amir Hossein Moadab:** Hi, so I have a question. In case that this doesn't get approval. I mean, who's going to take care of all those applications that are awaiting receiving the travel, Grant? I mean? What's going on for that committee cause? Personally speaking, the most important thing for me is to just put one of the senators or one applicant in the position of travel grant chair so everyone can take advantage of the travel grant committee instead of getting stuck in a loop of I don't know special committee.
  - • **Marwa Aly:** So until now, we will postpone the committee until we get the chair because it cost us money for the training. So if I take that, I should have this position right now as a temporary. Still, if I take it, I have to take a train training. If I take a training, we will pay money, and then the next person, we would pay money for the next person, and if it's like a few days, we are just waiting. We have a confirmation from the finance team that we can do that.
  - • **Marwa Aly:** So with that, I would open the vote for the college rep at large nomination from the Special Nomination Committee.
  - • **Madison Hönig:** I move to approval the nomination from the Special Committee for the College Rep at large.
  - **Madison Hönig:** I move to approval the nomination from the Special Committee for the College Rep at large.
  - **Hannah Martian:** Second.
  - **Vote for College Rep. At-Large Nomination from Special Nomination Committee**
    - **Yes:** 38
    - **No:** 8
    - **Abstain:** 4
  - **Marwa Aly:** Since we reach the majority, the motion has passed and we congratulate the college rep at large nomination coming from the special nomination committee as a travel grant chair.
- 07:20 | 10-min Open discussion
- **Marwa Aly:** I will start with the programming committee updates. Unfortunately, Jeremy can't be with us today because he is sick, so hopefully, he can feel better soon. But let me share his updates. So, he is thanking everyone for waiting in the welcome week, and he wants to share that there will be 3 events in September: the coffee hour, the polling night, and the Pen Book Club. So, if you have any questions. You can reach out to him.
- **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** Hello, everyone. Thanks. Who has joined our first event that happened last week? So, our next event is formatting your thesis or dissertation. I



## GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

request you all share this, even with your costume, so that whoever is writing their history has some mutation. They'll benefit from there. Also, those who missed the first step can always email us, and we'll share the recordings. And this is also Zoom Events. So, if you register from our web page, we'll get the registration link. If you have any questions, you know where to email. Thank you.

- • **Rose Maleki:** In line with what we have just discussed. I do believe that it is true we cannot control people's opinion personal opinions about something, but we need better training. I believe in making sure that we know these are connected. Still, power and privilege can bring power and privilege with it. Working on the committee shouldn't be affecting people's decisions because this is a privilege that someone and many others couldn't have. I just, I just. I hope we can have better training to make this clear, that although this is a personal opinion, we should be working together to make it as equitable, I want to say, as possible. And also, I have a link. I would like to put it in the chat for the university committees. If you are interested in different university committees. Please feel free to choose as many as you are interested in. We have lots of students waiting for the Drivers ticket appeal committee. So, they are waiting for advocacy. They are waiting for students like you who support them so they don't need to pay that much for their ticket. So, if you have one or two hours and months, please use this to help other people with what they really need to work on. I can drop the link in the chat, and I will be grateful if you share your interest with me. Thank you so much.
- • **Oluwafemi Sunday:** I don't know if I can respond to Rose. See some suggestions. I think, and also, I'm one of the committee members. I don't know if I'm permitted to say something here. Please feel free to say whatever you want. Okay, alright. So actually, I read the 6 applications and if I will choose, based on the rubric that I have. and apart from that. I'm a reviewer. I review for journals. Medication, I review, and there are. You know the key things you look for in accepting an application. If I found it in the bylaws, it doesn't say that like, we were saying, now that okay, if we have done it in such a way that we only have applicants from that college representing that college. It's quite easy. But we don't have much in the bylaws, meaning anybody from various colleges would apply. And I've already applied. I tell you, I'm not seeing this to put anyone down. I, even the 3 people from that college. If you read, yeah, I'm just saying this red. Yeah, they are. They are. They are good candidates. Alright. But there are other components, other key factors that someone from that department, that colleagues pass that probably do not have, you know, because you read, based on qualities you read, based on the dash queues you read, based on exposures you read, based on interactive without all that students, you understand. So when I've read all those things, you every one of us in that in that particular, whatever wouldn't that should have been? You know it kind of, let me say, on your call queues, right? Whereby the chair of that time would have been coming to see. Oh, this person! So, if I'm, although it's not a blind date, what only if I want to see next time you should be blinded. That's just my concern. It would help if you were blinded next time we want to do something like that. The applicant's name or any other information about the applicant should not be there. You know, that will give you total fairness that will still M. Maintain that term what we did in that department, in that the committee's what we have done. I'm telling you this finished it, and for us to have chosen that particular candidate for the 6 of us is still big. This means that that person has something that or did not have. Apart from sending some saying committee, they're like a rubric, and we all graduate today, even for somebody who has my room done that before we have been training videos, classes, or whatever we have taken. You know there are rubrics that you follow, you know, at times



## GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

you may want to do something, but the rubrics will tell you. No, no, do not do that. These are the guidelines. So, we are pretty based on the guidelines provided and in line with the bylaws we already have. So that's just the issue, for we could do better in the future. You know what refining the bylaws is so that we can pick candidates from the particular college to represent the college. Thank you.

- **Madison Hönig:** I just wanted to say something quickly. I did write it in the chat. I do. I want to shout out the special committee for doing all that work and reviewing it. You know they did it on their own time. I absolutely do not want to undermine the work that they did. It's very clear that they, you know, put forward a good suggestion. And I just wanted to acknowledge that I don't want to undermine their work and that Ashley did in organizing all of this.
- **Rose Maleki:** I second it, Madison and Ashley. The concern that we have here is not really about people. Of course, everyone here has leadership skills. Everyone here has proven himself or herself. So, these concerns are at a larger scale than what we see in people today. You know, we have the right to ask why, to know how to raise questions. Right? So, it doesn't. It doesn't mean that. The person chosen is not the right person, of course. Welcome to our team. You're so glad to have you here, so it was just a concern.
- **Arpita Sinha:** Oh, I was just curious. I posted that on the chat about the PDI events. If you're having more in-person stuff happening from PDI, we have been considering that for a bit, to have more in-person stuff on PDI. We have been out of the Covid Zone for the last couple of years. Do we have any considerations in that regard?
- 07:30 | Adjournment