



SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 3, 2025

In-person

CUB Junior Ballroom

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

05:30 | Meeting called to order by senate chair

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- **Haden Kingrey:** I motion to approve the GPSA Meeting Minutes for 1/13/2025
- **Nazua Idris:** Second
- Voting for approval of the GPSA Meeting Minutes for 1/13/2025
 - Yes: 56
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.

Approval of the Agenda

- **Nazua Idris:** I motion to approve the agenda for 2/3/24
- **Amir Ali Shahmansouri:** Seconded
- Vote on the Approval for the 2/3/2025 GPSA Agenda:
 - Yes: 48
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority and the motion passed.

Report from Coug Day | GPSA VPLA

- **Ali Maleki:** Hello, everyone thank you. For joining us today. We had our group day on Monday last Monday. It was a big success. We had a hundred 2 groups coming here in Olympia, and a hundred 2 meetings. So it was a big number of meetings for us. Yes, so it was a big success for us. We had a lot of mixing just to comparison. Today was the Uw's lobbying day. They had more than 300 students coming here, but they only had 70 meetings, so it was a big success for us. We talked about different bills. But the bills that were important for us as a graduate student were childcare support. That all of us, some of us had some issues about that sexual harassment protection was another bill that we were focusing on protecting a student's free speech. That is definitely one thing that we needed to focus on when we dropped a bill in the House on that. And also we had a bill on a student experiencing homeless program. So if a student has a problem and experiencing

homelessness. They can go to the university, and the university has a program to support themselves. If any of you wants any bill, any specific details about the bill. I can share it with them. It is public. But that's the report on our cook day. Thank you.

- **Desmond Aboagye:** All right. Thank you, Ali. Are there any questions for Ali? All right, Ali. My only my only comment is that. And of course I was there with you. I think that next time, and we have one whole year until we go for the next cook day. Is it possible that you and your committee can develop a bill that is particularly directed towards the graduate students, because I saw that all the bills that we spoke about mainly came from the undergrads, and I am interested in because, together with Rose, you were very vibrant in talking for these things, so if we are able to develop something that has direct impact on graduate students. I believe we will be able to push it through and probably make an impact as well. Something we can do.
- **Ali Maleki:** Sure, actually on childcare support. First, I should mention that we only were 7 graduate this year. So the agenda was biased to undergrad because there were 95 undergrad student attending cook day, but I'm working actually, I and my peer from University of Washington working on a childcare support. So if a family gets the salary of the family is below 65% of Median of Washington State salary, they will qualify for childcare support. This law is already there, but it only applies to the people who works full time. As you know, graduate students are working 20 h per week, so they are not qualified for this. We are working, and we are finding because we need to find a sponsor for that bill. We are working to find a sponsor for that bill, and we drop it in the house soon, probably this week or next week. This is just for the graduated students. Yeah.
- **Desmond Aboagye:** Yes, thank you because the one we spoke for wasn't that one? I remember that Bill was only targeted towards registration for students with dependents, but this one seems directly targeted towards us. So good. All right. Thank you for your time.
- **Ali Maleki:** Yeah. Just sorry just to sorry to interrupting you, just to mention the agenda was when I came the agenda was there, so I didn't. I didn't have to to choose the agenda. They decided on the agenda last semester, so I didn't do anything with the agenda, but for next year, if I will be here definitely, I will consider that, too. Thank you so much for your comment.

New Business | Senator-at-Large for Chemistry

Candidate Speech and Voting (2 minutes talk time, plus 2 minutes for questions and answers)

Md. Wahad Uz Zaman | First Year PhD Student, Department of Chemistry

- **Md. Wahad Uz Zaman:** Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I'll start my presentation. What universe has together is more powerful than what sensors effort from my core heart. I believe that graduate and professional student Association, GPSA. Serves as a vital platform to bring graduate and professional students together, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. Hello, everyone. Good evening. I'm Md. Wahad Zaman, a 1st year. PhD. Student in the Department of Chemistry at Washington State University. I'm deeply honored to be nominated for the position of Senator at large for the School of Arts and Science. This role

represents an incorrigible opportunity to connect with the fellow graduate students and advocate for supportive, inclusive environment, where we can thrive both academically and personally. My passion for chemistry is, since from my childhood I liked the different structure of chemistry and their hybridization style equally. I'm also excited about working for the student in the School of Arts and science. If elected as a Senator at large, I will prioritize on strengthening the communication between GPSA and the students, including those in the School of Arts and science to ensure every voice is heard and every concern addressed in my previous leadership. Roles including serving as an Vice President of Russia University Research Society, which was an student, led voluntary research organization. From there I gained valuable experience in uniting people together and implementing impactful research initiatives and as an executive member of Russia University Science Club. I collaborated on organizing various science program, science job fairs, career fairs, and seminars and higher education related programs. I believe that this experience says it could me well to contribute GPSA effectively and to build a more stronger and more connected graduate student community in at WSU. Thank you. Thank you for considering my calendars.

- **Moazzam Rind:** Just to make sure that the candidate is here to represent the school of chemistry.
- **Nazua Idris:** Yes
- **Zahra Khodaverdi:** Is Wahad the only candidate?
- **Nazua Idris:** I had 3 people apply for this position and Wahad is the only person who applied out of the 3 who is part of the chemistry department.
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** I motion to vote on the Senator-at-Large for Chemistry?
- **Nazua Idris:** Second
- Vote on the Senator-At-Large for Chemistry:
 - Yes: 42
 - No: 4
 - Abstain: 8
- **Desmond Aboagye:** The motion has carried and Wahad Uz Zaman has been elected as Senator-at-Large for Chemistry.

New Business | PDI to transfer \$2000 to Awards and Scholarship

- **Joseph Akowuah:** this year our Washington Scholarship Committee has a budget deficit and this is because a couple of things are change. A couple of things are changing from what it was last year. So, the 1st thing is that we're moving research expo from the senior ballroom to basically Coliseum, and that is going to cost GPSA. It's going to cost GPSA a thousand \$850 as well as academic showcase would also pay \$1,850. We're paying more for venue than last year, and that is also good, because this year we hit a record number of 275 after submissions which has never happened. So, it means that we need more space for the people who are going to present. The other thing is that last year. Our Awards and Scholarship

committee printed posters for the GPSA participants, and they were restricted to a size of 36 by 40, 36, by 24 inches, and that was quite small. So based on the feedback we received, we've doubled that size so that people can present their research more visibly and then engage with participants. So, some of these things is increasing our budget. We have currently had a budget deficit of 2,075. And if we get that \$2,000 from PDI Committee would help offset this cost. Thank you.

- **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** So yeah, PDI, had 2 \$25,000 for this academic year, and we already spent around \$15,000 for our institutional membership, which is versatile page and Grammarly. We do have we already have, have, like all our events from fall, and we set up our events for the spring. One of the calls that we do is like the in-person event of this spring semester. So, we already have one event, and we are having 2 more, and probably 2 more. So, we're still planning on that. But, however, with. we do have some surplus money and for 18 or \$3,000-ish. So, we can comfortably like contribute to evidence. Scholarship committee for this research expo, because one of the things that PDI can contribute is the event that aligns with PDI goals and the goals of PDI are academic development, career, development, professional skill, development and personal growth. So, I think the research expo matches with all these 4 metrics. So hence PDI will be able to contribute this \$2,000 comfortably for the research expo and our rest of the events will go smoothly with the rest of the budget.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** I motion to approve the transfer of \$2000 from PDI to Awards and Scholarship.
- **Nazua Idris:** Second
- **Destiny Brokaw:** What is the rationale of moving the venue?
- **Joseph Akowuah:** At first, there was not really a good reason, but as we started to get more and more applications, we realized there was a greater need for space.
- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** So I'm the former chair of Awards and scholarships. So, apart from the venue and changing the venue and its probable costs. This is a transfer that every year happened thanks to PDI. Because we didn't have enough money to cover for awards and a scholarships committee, and this year it's getting even worse because they are paying for awards themselves so, and about the changing the venue. This is a joint event with a showcase. So it really is dependent to their decision making, too. So I really, actually, humbly ask you to vote for this transfer as they needed a lot. And it helps graduate students. Thank you.
- Vote on the approval of the transfer of \$2000 from PDI to Awards and Scholarship.
 - Yes: 44
 - No: 3
 - Abstain: 3
- **Desmond Aboagye:** We have reached a majority, and the motion passed.



- **Nazua Idris:** I will be quick. Because I already sent you like super long emails. Last week. So as you know that at 8 Pm. Today our applications will open, and it will be open until 1159 pm. On February 17, if you by any chance like cannot access the applications after 8. Please send me an email so that I can see like what's going on. And you all know, like you have all got the list of activities that we have planned for this week and for next week. Please keep sharing this information with your constituents, and just to like. Let you know that I do not have any conflict of interest this time with the election, since I'm not applying for any of the positions. So, I just wanted to give that declaration. Can you move to the next slide, please? And one important thing that I wanted to draw your attention to is like the election campaigning. If you are running for a position, you can campaign, but remember, the campaign period starts at 8 pm. Today, and it will last until 1159 Pm. On Friday, which is the Friday before the candidate debate, which will be on March 3rd, and please check page 22 on the bylaws, because it has a list of things that you can do or you can use as campaigning materials and you can campaign using materials and post them on your social media and use your email to reach out to the constituents in your department. But you cannot use any GPSA platforms, events, meetings. Let's serve to campaign for yourself, and a candidate cannot offer any kind of monitor benefits, material goods, or services in exchange for a vote and all campaign materials must be in accordance with WSU policy. If you do any campaigning on campus, for example, you create a poster and post it on the wall of your department. So, it has to like be. It must meet all the criteria required by WSU policy, and I will share a link on the chat, where you will find some descriptions about like what WSU approves and what they don't. Yes, I'm done. If you have any question, if we have time for question. I don't know.
- **Ajay Barman:** Nazwa, if you also kindly announce the info session we are organizing for the upcoming general election.
- **Nazua Idris:** will be tomorrow from 11 Am. To one Pm. In the GPS office there will be coffee and pastries, and the other info session will be next week. On Monday, from 12 to 2 Pm. Please come, stop by and let your constituents know that they can also stop by. Yes, Charles.
- **Charles Ugwu:** Yeah, yeah, thank you. So much. So in in the College of Veterinary Medicine, for example. We have about 8 different academic units. One of them is or neuroscience. For example, if someone is running president for neuroscience who is eligible to vote for the person, is it just the people in neuroscience, or anybody from the college.
- **Nazua Idris:** I can answer these questions accurately after we set up the ballot. But, I think the college of Vet. Med. Is like a huge college, and your case is unique, usually like when someone runs from English, like all the people in English votes, but in vet med like, it's such a big college, but it's considered like one single academic unit. So I have to talk to Shh to see like how they will set up the ballot. Are they letting, like all the people in your graduate program, vote for like different candidates, like one in neuroscience, one in biomedical science. And the 2 other programs that you have? Or are they going to limit those voting within? You know, like neuroscience, biomedical science pet science, but just so, you know, like,



doesn't matter like how many votes they get like. If there are 2 candidates from neuroscience and, like the person who will get more vote than the other, one will be elected as the Senator for the neuroscience.

RSO Spring 2025 Sponsorship Application

- **Desmond Aboagye:** Because of the transition we had to take time to review all the document before, even as of now, we are still not sure, because there are still some payments that are lacking from last semester, and Marwa couldn't get about it because of the transition process. So, I am not particularly sure, even up to now, exactly how much we have for operations and budget and finance, but we do know that we still have some money to sponsor some of the RSOs that did not receive funding through affiliate funding applications. So, the sponsorship application is open. If you could kindly take a picture of this QR code, I can also email this to all Senators so that you can share with your RSOs that did not receive fund or were not able to apply for funding and they can so now use this form to submit applications and receive some funding for the activities. All right.

6:10 | Programming Committee Movie Night Survey

- **Desmond Aboagye:** The next thing I was going to talk about briefly is the programming Committee so red one, I cannot give you time because we are out. I really want to stick to 6:10, but if you can help Redwan needs your suggestion on venue for movie night. This is the QR code. Kindly scan it and give Redwan what you think will be the best choice.
- **Zahra Khodaverdi:** Yeah, I just need a few seconds. I wanted to ask all folks that we would appreciate to you all vote for the movie night survey, because we've been really struggling with to know that which place is more convenient. And every graduate student would like to have the movie night at so.

06:10 | Adjournment

Senate Chair: Thank you all so much for joining, it was a very good meeting, goodnight.
End.