



GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2023, | online | 5:30 PM

To join via Zoom:

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Meeting ID: 914 0791 7022

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GPSA Senate Attendance Form:

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

GPSA Senate Absence Request Form:

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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 Meeting` Minutes
<https://forms.office.com/r/MMqSQcqmj0>
 - **Hannah Martin:** I motion for approval of the 9/11/2023 meeting minutes.
 - **Jeremy Boutin:** Second.
 - **Yes:** 43
 - **No:** 0
 - **Abstain:** 0
 - **Marwa Aly:** So, we reach you the majority and we have approved the meeting minutes for the 9/11/2023 meeting.
 - Approval of the Agenda
<https://forms.office.com/r/cbDYx7GV5e>
 - **Attah Austine:** I motion for the Approval of the 9/25/2023 Agenda.
 - **Hannah Martian:** Second.
 - **Yes:**49



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- **No:0**
- **Abstain:0**
- **Marwa Aly:** So, we reach you the majority and we have approved the 09/25/2023 agenda.
- 05:45 | Guest speaker
 - Student Services Coordinator/Advisor 1, Cougs Against Hunger Food Pantry. Please share as many questions as possible with our guest speakers using the following form: <https://forms.office.com/r/EBg6uqh2Gz>
 - Summary of Merri Elizabeth Lecoq presentation:
 - In spring 15,000 people were fed from the food pantry. This includes students and WSU Families.
 - Currently, 2,000 people every two weeks are being fed by the food pantry and the current budget is \$1 per visit.
 - Cougar pantry had fed almost 15k people during the Spring semester and 19% of that is Grad students.
 - Cougar pantry changed their system. Previously they had used GivePulse. Currently, they are using swiping the Cougar cards.
 - Major concern: There is a need to change how the pantry is running right now because:
 - 200 people during the weekday and 30 times on the weekend. With an average of 142 people in a day so impossible to feed all at once.
 - The Cougar Party is short on staff, so cannot be open every day. At the same time, there is a limit of 10 people per entry right now and 8 cougar card access.
 - There is no good data on demographic data that the Food pantry can provide us.
 - On average, 2-3 bags of groceries are being provided from the pantry per household as per availability.
 - Milk won't be available during the Fall semester as milk is an expensive commodity.
 - **General Question:**
 - **Marwa Aly:** Can you share the expiration date scene as many of the items go way past the expiration date?
 - **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Many canned foods are edible much after the expiration date. Food pantry does try to put food which are not that old. Having said that, some expired food can taste not that great, but it is not bad for your health. Foodkeeper.gov is a good resource to check out how old can be your food without being detrimental to our health.
 - **Edmund Larbi Afari:** Are the undergrads paying the whole of the food pantry or grad students?



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- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Yes. Currently, only undergrads are paying \$5 per semester.
- **Marwa Aly:** And I would like to add that GPSA funded the food country for this year with \$10,000. So hopefully, we can both the referendum and we can have it from our office.
- **Rebecca Gustine:** Why do you collect demographic data and what has it shown?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Food banks give food to food pantries and food pantries give food to people.
- **Charles Ugwu:** Is the food pantry funded by student fees or external food charity sources or both?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Both. Currently only undergrad students pay for the pantry and some donations. Like GPSA gave \$10k.
- **Rebecca Gustine:** What do you think are the barriers to accessing the pantry for certain groups? i.e., Can things be done to improve access?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** There is a lack of availability of people to work at the pantry or in other words a lack of staffs. We just need to hire more people.
- **Amir Ali Shahmansouri:** Why did you change the pantry availability to holiday?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** For both 5 and 6, food pantry is short staffed. They have volunteer options which can be seen from GivePulse.
- **Charles Ugwu:** What do you mean by food bank?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** WSU's food pantry get food from Colfax food pantry.
- **Nazua Idris:** Do you accept volunteers to help to keep it open?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Yes. But volunteers must be consistent (like every Thur 5-7pm).
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** How do you recruit volunteers?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** They have volunteer options which can be seen from GivePulse. Can also email Merri.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** How can GPSA help you?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Grad students can help in writing the grants.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Do we have a compressive list to which we can apply to?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** No
- **Edmund Larbi Afari:** Can we increase the money from \$5 to \$7?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Yes. We are in the talks.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** We know WSU receives state and federal funding. Can any of that money come to food pantry?



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- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** No.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** What prevents it?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Part of it was the phrasing of the funds. In the grant, it was mentioned “No emergency food fund” and food pantry is an emergency food fund.
- **Jeremy Boutain:** If we choose to do a food drive what ideas would work well?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Picking a specific food like soup truck, breakfast truck. Also, getting money as funds are much more helpful.
- **Ksenia Pereverzuela:** Is there any social media or website for the food pantry with updated time that’s open?
- **Merri Elizabeth Lecoq:** Food pantry website is the best way to find information about the pantry and any updates.
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- 06:15 | New Business
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training
 - **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** So, the only culture that you want to have for this workshop is to invite everyone. Come out of your **comfort zone** as we always invite you to. It is true that we feel safe and comfortable. Everything is under control, but there is no learning happening in the comfort zone when you enter the **fear zone**. Although we still do not feel that self-confident, we can easily find excuses to go back to the comfort zone where everything is under control. We can survive in fear zone and go ahead to **learning zone** in in which we can deal with challenges and problems, we can acquire numerous skills, and we can extend our comfort zone and the goal in every workshop or wherever you are working as senator, as chairs is to be on **growth mindset** in which you can find purpose. In whatever you're doing. You live your dreams, you set new goals, you learn unlearn, relearn new things, and you try to conquer the barriers, and you make new objectives for yourself. It happens that we come back and forth in going through the comfort zone to grow soon or go back to our comfort zone, but the more frequently you come out of it, it will be a better culture for you, and you feel safer to do so.
 - What is privilege? A systematic advantage that you were either born with or that was given to you, and if you have privilege, it can be invisible to you. It isn’t worked for, it isn’t earned, and it isn’t inherently deserved.



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- Important to note: Privilege does not mean that you have not worked hard or had an easily life. You just have not faced some barriers that others have faced.
- What is oppression? Oppression is a system of discrimination rooted historically and maintained through individual and institutional/systematic discrimination, personal bias, bigotry, and social prejudice, resulting in a condition of privilege for the agent group at the expense of the target group.
 - Important to note: Oppression does not mean that you have been explicitly discriminated against. Oppression is pervasive and systematic, so you are affected whether you are aware or not.
- Who are you?
 - **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** So, age those big categories are called social locations and each of them come with different social identities, while the social identity of age is adult young adults, elderly or youth citizenship status has its own social identities.
 - Mapping Your Social Identities include Race, Age, Citizenship status, sex, gender, sexual orientation, Dis/Ability, Class Status, and Religion.
- Intersections of privilege & Oppression
 - Someone can have various combinations of privileged and oppressed identities.
- Key Points:
 - Power & Privilege --> Lead to different “-isms” and systematic oppression.
- 10-min discussion with WSU transportation department.
 - **Chris Boyan:** wow! What a great meeting I was able to sit in on the diversity training and the Food Bank presentation. And I'm feeling blessed. So, thank you for allowing us to come tonight. We're with transportation services and every year at the start of the year we like to have a meet and greet with both the GPSA and with ASWSU. So, you are first on our docket. So, we get to come and introduce ourselves, and we just like to do the meet and greet and tell you a little bit about us, so that we work together throughout this semester and next semester. There's a little familiarity when we come to speak, so I'd like to introduce a couple of people that are with me. I'll have Gabby Rodriguez. Introduce himself first.



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- **Gabby Rodrigues:** Thank you, Chris. And Hello, graduate, and professional students. A pleasure to be here. My name is Gabby Rodriguez, and I'm the transportation demand management manager and I work closely with our ASWSU and GPSA Residence Hall Association student groups to promote transit and the transit system, and work closely with our director, Chris Boyan, and our associate director, Cody Wilson, on providing transportation options across the University.
- **Chris Boyan:** Cody. Please introduce yourself now.
- **Cody Wilson:** Yeah, thank you. Hello, everyone. I'm Cody Wilson. I'm the associate Director of Transportation services. So, under my purview is field operations. The front office, which is ticket sales. Excuse me, permit sales and ticket inquiries, and then our systems and processes doing it as well.
- **Chris Boyan:** Great. So, we're transportation services, and we cover a wide variety of things on campus. We have the parking the parking system. We do event parking and one of the other things that we do that's very important is transportation demand management (TDM) programs. And our biggest TDM program is the student transit program which is operated by Pullman transit. So, most of the time when we come to GPSA. It's usually to talk about the student transit program, and I don't think this year will be much different from previous years. By the way, it's interesting and nice to see some familiar faces in this group, and many new faces so welcome to you, senators, if this is your first time serving for GPSA serves on a couple of very important committees for us. One of them is the University parking and transportation task force the task force's main objective is to have an established internal review process that provides WSU with a comprehensive campus perspective of broad representation and parking and transportation issues and Ashley Wells is serving on that important committee. A subcommittee of that task force is the **Transit Advisory Group**. We call it **TAG** and TAG main charge is to be involved in the student transit program to solicit feedback and to really review the financial plans that support that student transit program. That's going to be a very important group this year and we'll be able to explain that in our next visit, but Ashley is also serving on that committee, so I didn't see Ashley in the room, but I'm looking forward to meeting her. I've seen her around, so I think she'll do well to serve on both those committees this year. A third really important area that GPS A is involved



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in is the parking appeals committee. And this year we've had 2 graduate students pointed to the parking appeals committee which really helps when someone gets a parking ticket, they're able to appeal that ticket, and that appeal is read by and adjudicated by volunteers, and we like to have students undergraduate and graduate students on this on this committee to help have a broad representation of appeals. And so that's great that we were able to have a couple of graduate appointments. On that area. This is a meet and greet. And really, we would just like to open it up. If you have a couple of general questions, we'd be happy to answer those, but we really look forward to working with you this year. Let me say one more thing about transportation services about the food pantry. We do food drives ourselves every year at least once a year to help support this the food pantry, and it's kind of neat you know. So, people can do that. I can't remember how many pounds of food we've donated, and then, personally, my wife and I have a huge garden, and it's way too much for us. So, we take all our produce that we don't need to the food pantry. So, if you get any of those good yellow cherry tomatoes, those are probably ours. They're super good. Any questions?

○ General Questions

- **Destiny Brokaw:** You wouldn't be able to answer this question. Never mind, this would be someone else.
- **Chris Boyan:** Are you talking about the new building that's being built?
- **Destiny Brokaw:** The parking lot. Yes, and then also, just like parking on the weekends like to come in for to do science and ta work and research and whatnot but I don't know if you would be able to answer any of those.
- **Chris Boyan:** Yeah, let me just say briefly that parking lots make the best building sites on campus. and so oftentimes when a new building goes up and they don't have an old building to tear down, it's gonna go on a parking lot, and I could list the last 5 or 6 buildings that have gone up have all gone on parking lots. So, the engineering building is a very important building to the to that school. And we are losing currently half of that parking lot. And at the next phase, when, if they can do some fundraising for the second building, which I hear is several years down the road, we'll lose the rest of that parking lot. When that happens, we adjust our inventory. So, we don't oversell these certain areas so that people are frustrated by not finding a place to park and so that's something we're closely managing. And right now, that area, when it's closed will be will



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still be able to have parking in that area. It's an unfortunate thing that we do for future planning. We're not able to do it this time, but in a few years, when that next building goes up, we are hoping to be in a financial position so that we can build extra parking in that area to make up for the loss of parking. And so, we are planning for that right now. We'll be talking about that in our task force meeting, and Ashley can relay that information back to you.

- **Arpita Sinha:** Hi, Chris, thank you for sharing those information's with us. I was wondering if you or your office would be the best office to reach out to in case, we wanted to have more information about the increment of the parking fees in the last 5 years, or in the last couple of years. What is the increment that just gives us an estimation of in what percentage that is going up to sort of, you know, do our advocacy work? So would do. We already have those resources online. Or would that be based on request? If I should reach out or any other office that you might want to request or suggest?
- **Chris Boyan:** Yeah, you can just send me an email and tell me what you want. And I'd be happy to share any of our financial 3-year rate increase year 2 this year was a 4 and a half percent increase, and next year will be a 10% increase. Those are already approved and are already slated to occur. So, I have but I can give you as much history as you want as far as rates, and ho! What the incremental increases has been 10% is a pretty big increase. We usually try to keep it to closer to Cpi. But there were several years where there was 0 increase. And when that happens, we start falling behind and then must play catch up. But other people, I'd be happy to share that with you if you just want to reach out.
- **Amir Houssein Moadad:** How many times can student's request an appeal for a ticket? At the same time, is there anything that you can do for REC Center parking?
- **Chris Boyan:** You can appeal any ticket that you get. Our goal with writing tickets is to remind people or to educate people on how the parking system works and the SRC Parking system in particular, used to be very complicated with a machine that didn't work, and now we have this wonderful app so boy, I wish I wish there was a big neon sign when you walked in there a year that said, Don't forget to enter your license plate. But we also are very gracious in waiving first violations, and I think the Appeals Committee is also very gracious. And waiving some of those



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SRC violations because they're not revenue generating. It's not a revenue generating parking lot. We're just trying to get people to do the right thing. So, we have some control, and that's really at the at UREC, request to try to do that. So, you can appeal a ticket. If you do it within 10 days of issuance, you're in the appeal window. If you try to appeal it on the eleventh day, then it's too late to appeal, and you're you fall out of that process. But if you stay in that 10-day window you can appeal. If you're not satisfied with your first decision, you can reappeal. and you can appear before the committee in a Zoom Meeting and explain your situation. and if you're still not satisfied with the outcome, you can. You can go to District Court. There are many options that are open if you stay within the legal timeframe. To do so, we find that the appeals the success of appeals in terms of getting a ticket waived completely or greatly reduced is very high percentage wise, and it also kind of depends on your parking records. So, if you are a person that has gotten one or 2 tickets over the 3 years or 4 years that you're here. They tend to take a little more grace on that. If you have 30 tickets on your account. Probably not so gracious. So, it all depends on the committee member that's reading and adjudicating the appeal.

- **Ksenia Pereverzeva:** Thank you, Chris, for all the information. I have a question pertaining students and specifically graduate students who work in the field during summer times, who need access to like loading docks, or maybe parts of campus that aren't okay to technically drive on. I know myself and other graduate students have like heavy equipment for field work. And it's just difficult to get close to the building without going into these restricted access areas. Are there any plans or any advice that you have for students who need to just park closer to building for like 10 min, 15 min without fearing getting \$100 of parking tickets.
- **Chris Boyan:** In some cases, it's a \$150 ticket if you drive pedestrian Mall without the proper access. But fortunately, you can get that proper access for us if you have an annual permit. You can get a temporary mall service permit that allows you 15 min access to drive right up into those loading docks that you need. If you don't have an annual permit, there's a way to purchase aa temporary daily permit to get that access for less than \$2. So, but the point is that you need to reach out to us and do a little pre planning and oftentimes people just think, oh, it's gonna be 5 min, and then they go in there and have a conversation, and before long they come out. You



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know it takes it takes our crew less than 2 min to write a parking ticket, so we urge people. Come talk to us or call us so we can help you with those needs. And we're happy to do that.

- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** How many volunteers can we send to this appeals committee?
- **Chris Boyan:** Cody, do you? Do you want to maybe answer that question. I know there's a committee makeup. But we're usually welcoming to people who want us.
- **Cody Wilson:** As far as the number of graduate students, I think right now we have at least 2 potentially 3. The charter calls for 2, but we are trying. We're getting so many appeals right now. We're really trying to build our committee up. So, while we want as many committee members as we possibly can. We would probably have to cap it at some point. Because we want that the civil service and we want faculty, and we want administrative professionals as well. So, if you have someone that really wants to serve, have them reach out to me, and then I can kind of determine where we're at with that committee. And you, you know, if we currently have 4 graduate students on there probably wouldn't add anymore. You know, 4 is not a hard number. Don't quote me on that. But we would just kind of need to look at the look at the current makeup of the committee and determine whether. you know if we really want to load it? I guess, into one student type or one employee type.
- **Arpita Sinha:** I'm quite curious about in terms of the decision making when the decision is made in terms of the last bus that we get from the from the campus. How is that decision made like, what kind of a conversation does that happen with the University? What is the process of decision that you know, in terms of the last bus. What got me asking you? That question is some, because usually during the weekend, especially also like people are working till late. A, that's an issue. And even in weekends there are screenings of movies and everything which kind of screens to a point where you missed the last bus, for, like a little bit of like, you know, just for a few minutes. So, I'm just a little curious about this whole decision making of like what the timing of the last bus from the campus at this point of time should be.
- **Chris Boyan:** **We are under a constraint with our partner Pullman transit to provide service with as much funding as we can provide for the student transit program. We have seen a quite a, quite a big**



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decline in revenue from the student transit program because of the reduced enrollment. And we'll go into more detail on the financial stuff. But it's mostly due to reduced enrollment, and the fact that there hasn't been any Cpi increase for the transit fee in 4 years. One of those years was a covid year, but 3 of those years the senate has not approved that 5% increase that helps kind of maintain that service. And so, part of the cuts that happened was to not run the service as late into the night. It's a mass transit kind of a business decision. It's a mass transit system. And they Pullman transit and student transit advisory group really try to come up with a way to serve the masses. And unfortunately, that happens during peak times and not during later at night. That is one of the things that I know students want to address and I know that we've been in meetings already with Ajay and Marwa along with Luke and Maccabee with ASWSU, and they have it in their hearts to put transit the transit program on the forefront of their what they want to do this year. And so, we're hoping to really help come up with a more sustaining funding model so that we can continue to have group best the best service we can for the bucks that we have to offer so I hope that helps a little bit. But it's mostly gonna be really a financial decision and a business decision.

- **Destiny Brokaw:** Hopping off for that during my master's I went to Auburn University in Alabama, and they had a system where they would take around like vans late at night to pick up students instead of buses. Would that be an option to use, like vehicles that the campus owns to pick up students like for late night hours at certain places.
- **Chris Boyan:** Yeah, the that is up and anything's on the table. That would be the university running its own transit supplemental system and the operating costs on that are high. And once you start something, it's hard to stop that. So, in our, in our professional opinion it would be better to continue to work with Pullman transit to come up with the best services. They're the. They're the. They're the transit authority. They're the ones that can apply for grants. W. She's not eligible for those grants. And so, they've talked about running later at night. They want to do that. They're just constrained by funding. They also have some constraints because they have a hard time hiring people things have gotten a little more normalized after Covid. But for some reason particularly transit drivers and school bus drivers are really in short supply. So, they're even having a hard time hiring people right now. Still.



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- 07:20 | 10-min Open discussion
 - **Marwa Aly:** So, this is the time for the open discussion. So, I will start with Suhina. She has an announcement to share with us.
 - **Suhina Deol:** Hi, everyone thanks, Marwa. So, the announcement I just wanted to make is that I don't know if you guys are all familiar with the WSU case, it's our new like, like Labor Union, and this Wednesday they have the rally on campus. It's from 12 to 2, and I can put the information in the in the chat and anyway, so it's really, it's important. I put the I put the link in the chat, and if you guys could just take a few minutes now, like, if you would be available anytime between 12 to 2, even if it's just 5 min if you could. Please attend because I have not been doing a lot of work with Case. I just want to let you know I went. I just. I had some time on Sunday. They went to meetings. There's like people working hard over there. And they asked if somebody was on GPSA and if they could announce it. So that's all I'm doing, you know. Anyways, those people are working so hard, and what they said is that the Administration has been dismissing everything that they've kind of said like they've been working so hard for all of us to get us better health insurance to get us livable wages, and they've just been dismissing them. And so, this event on Wednesday is like the biggest event. Okay, that they're gonna have, like all year. And so, if you could, just, you know, let people in your department know, and everything just to come out for a little bit. It would mean so much, because if we don't have enough people there this Wednesday, then, like administration is gonna continue to dismiss us. You know, and like, then kind of everything, kind of just goes away. They're just gonna continue not to listen. And so, if we can go, they'll kind of see that, hey? The graduate students, you know. Do you want better health care? And like they're not just, gonna you know, lay down and roll over and then, like those people that are working so hard, you know, like Claudia urine like all those folks. They'll continue to keep working hard, and then pushing all those you know awesome things for us. So please share, please. Rsvp, please.
 - **Marwa Aly:** We have a very big progress that Madison and her team made for the cougar for pantry. So, I will let Madison share this progress.
 - **Madison Hönig:** Hello, everyone! I did want to echo what Sueina. Was saying. The most concrete way to support food and security for grad students is if we get better wages and we can only get better wages if we go to rallies and we support collective action efforts. So please come if you can, I'm gonna help at the registration table. So come, say, Hi! Even if it is just for 5 min, the more people we have there, the more the more impact we can have. So, in that with that in



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mind, **I would like to announce, that this week after meeting with Dean Butler, who is the Dean of the College of arts and science. We successfully secured another cast donation of \$5,000 that is going directly to the cougar food pantry.** I would really like to thank all our cast senators who attended the meeting and those who didn't attend the meeting and submitted great questions. We have productive meeting, and we're hoping that this starts an effect of more people contributing we are now in talks with speaking to the graduate school about a donation. So, I would love to see our other college representatives and senators from other divisions continue to ask their leadership to also contribute to the cougar food pantry. This is, if food insecurity is a multi-layered issue, and we need help where we can get it. And as you heard from Mary, the cougar food pantry needs money. That is the bottom line, and you know we can only do so much as students. We'd love to see our admin support. One of the most concrete ways to address food, insecurity. And as you see, \$1 goes to feeding someone for a week or more. So, it's like the best return on investment. I think. So just wanted to announce that.

- **Marwa Aly:** So next we have travel grants.
- **Augustine Triumph Attah:** Hi! Alright! So, the tasks are. I am the members of the travel grant completed last week. Include reviewing applications for summer born and applicants have been contacted, and there are also, been put in touch with the finance team, and they'll be getting their reimbursement soon. And some of the meetings I attended over the past 2 weeks include the retreat with the GPS of President as well. No, I recently took over as chair, so there was a lot of catching up to do. and I also attended the Executive Board meeting. and met with my predecessor Ahhria and learned a lot from how. and I'd like to shout out to members of the Travel Grant Committee for their amazing work. They reviewed applications. In a in like a week. Usually, you know, we get like 2 weeks to do this, but you know they did it very good work in a very short time, and I really appreciate them for that.
- **Marwa Aly:** We have Madison again to share about the Race for Campus Safety.
- **Madison Hönig:** So, on Saturday at 9 Am. We've got our Lauren McCluskey race for campus safety. So, this is a 5 K. Or a 10 K. Race that you can sign up for, and the registration fees are going to be reimbursed for all graduate students. **You just must use the Promo code: WSUGRADSCHOOL23.** Please sign up it's gonna be a fun event. And a lot of us are, gonna be there. I also found out we're gonna have a GPS a table, so you can hear all about the events that are



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going on in October. I would love to see you there, I promise you. On my life. You do not need to run it. I will not be running it. You can walk it if you want and you can walk in and go see the bears, and it's a lot of fun. So please sign up. Get your friends to sign up, and I would love to see you on Saturday at 9 am. Thank you. There is also a self-defense class. Please note that this is only for women identifying individuals. So, this is being offered with WSU and the Lauren McCluskey Foundation. But this is open to all community members, and it's a free self-defense class. The location should be in the Chinook. If I am clear on that. But you can register online at LaurenMcCluskey.org. I think this will be super helpful. I have heard from a lot of you that there's a lot of interest in doing a mixed gender self-defense class. I'm going to see if we can organize that as community affairs. But in the meantime, this is a really great way for you to learn the skills to defend yourself. We all know what happened last year. It just might help you feel safer when you navigate around campus. So, sign up if you would like to. I did one last year, and it was helpful.

- **Marwa Aly:** Perfect, next is Andrew. Our Communication Director.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So, I just want to make the announcement that if anything, in the sense of like promotion for events or anything in the sense of accomplishments within GPSA. So, in the case of Madison. And getting that donation of \$5,000 please communicate with me so I can both not only just create an advertisement for social media, but also work in coordinates with the daily evergreen to try to do some sort of announcement in that capacity. At the same time, if try to communicate with me. For social media posts, at least one to 2 weeks in advance. In the case of a slate announcement, a slate announcement is basically university wide message I need at least 3 weeks in advance for these types of announcements specifically because it takes about 10 days, 10 business days to create that message. If you have questions, the general things that I need to know personally are the date range criteria for the events or the announcements, time, location, and any type of primary contact, but also the key idea, which is basically how you would describe the event. At the same time, we're working a lot on re updating and making the website more active. So, if you have any type of recommendations or would like me to edit certain things, we can set up a meeting, or you can email me with, a document with specific edit requests. And I will evaluate if those edit requests are capable, I can't do miracles. I will make that point as well as I need to also evaluate the logic behind creating that edit on the website. So, in event self, you can also contact me if you want to work on some sort of marketing or communication strategies and



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possible swag ideas, too, because we also need. And I have access, the proper Logos for GPSA. So, I need communicate with me.

- **Marwa Aly:** Next we have Jeremy programming committee updates.
- **Jeremy Boutin:** Hello, everyone. Thank you. Everyone who attended our bowling night at both. Last Friday. It was a major success. I just wanted to highlight all the fun events planned for October. So, we're continuing with our goal of having an event once a week. So, we have a whole plethora of events for October we have our restaurant Friday. So, the first Friday of every month we highlight a local business, and we give a \$10 discount to graduate and professional students that show up. So, for October we're going to be highlighting porchlight pizza. We're also going to be doing our Band Book Club. Our indoor volleyball competition. And for Halloween we're gonna have 2 events so there is going to be a Halloween themed full moon, Sound bath and a Halloween party at Etsy. Bravo! Both are the Saturday before Halloween. So, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out.
- October events:



**Restaurant Fridays:
Porch Light Pizza**

**Banned Book Club
10/12/23**

**6v6 Volleyball
Competition**

**Full Moon
Sound Bath**

**Halloween Party
@ Etsy Bravo**

- **Tahtagata Pal:** I just want to add a little point to this update that the Mala Bangladeshi restaurant in downtown Pullman. So, they are given out like 15% discount to all the graduate professional students every Wednesday, at least for this semester. So that's what I heard from them. And I just wanted to confirm. Convey that message.
- **Jeremy Boutin:** Yeah, thank you so much for adding on to that. I didn't add that to these slides I was still waiting from email to give me the green light, so it seems like they are offering it. So, thank you so much for that.
- **Elizbeth Groetseme:** What is a sound bath?
- **Jeremy Boutin:** o a sound bath is a spiritual event. It's thought of. You can think of it as a guided meditation. So, Nara Woodland, the owner of brain, body



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balance sound therapy and Pullman, so she gives sound bath to. She works with WSU. She's put on events like this in the past. So, she uses crystal singing bowls and guided meditation as a form of healing. So, it's supposed to be a mindfulness. Event to help celebrate Halloween.

- **Marwa Aly:** So then next is PDI.
- **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** Hello, everyone. So, we had our last event, which is the biggest event we've had so far formatting a citizen dissertation last week. I think nearly 200 students registered for that event, and more than 60 students present on the event. So, the next event, which is tomorrow. It's a resource for international students. Conduct will be conducted by Jennifer. So, feel free to join. And you can also have our upcoming events. And registration link on our website. I forgot to add another slide, which is the next next event. So, in the next week we have a graduate writing session collaborating with the graduate writing center. So, feel free to explore that as well. Thank you.
- **Marwa Aly:** Arpita, do you have anything?
- **Arpita Sinha:** Sorry I don't have anything to share, but I have a general question. Pertaining to the ones representing at large. I'm here kind of talking mostly about the senators with the duties. So, what happens when you reach out to the, to the constituency you are representing, but you do not get a response from them. What do you like? Would do we like? Have the Executive board tagged into it. What is? What is? That's what other things that's required for us to do, so that we are doing our due diligence in terms of doing our responsibility as a senator.
- **Marwa Aly:** So, you so you reach out to your constituents to send to them the announcements that in the agenda the minutes you don't have to receive responses from them. You know we don't expect responses from them. because we just need them to know what GPSA is doing. Does that make sense?
- **Arpita Sinha:** Does that mean, Marwa that so usually I in the past, when I have represented at large. Usually, the program coordinator or anybody in the in the lead. They would just be willing to sort of, you know. Put that across to the department. So do you, and to say that despite not getting a response from them, I should be sending our emails without anything, without trying to do anything else, but just assuming that we are just bombarding our emails, even if they're kind of having no response from their end. Which kind of makes me feel that if that's reaching out to the graduate students at the end of the day, cause, I'm not emailing the graduate student. If that makes sense. If anybody else has faced the same problem and have come up with some other solution.



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- **Marwa Aly:** Okay, so this is something like this is a different question. So, you need to reach out to the department coordinator to help you send out the emails to the graduate students at your department. You know, if you didn't receive any like response from the department coordinator, please reach out to Ajay and me so we can reach out to them and find the way. How you can reach out to the students, you know. But my first answer was, if you are expecting emails back from students. You know. So, we don't. We don't expect email spec from students. But we should have a connection with the department coordinators to help us to send out the emails to the Department's students, and that department doesn't make sense.
- **Arpita Sinha:** That makes sense cause. I was not talking about getting a response from the students. I was talking on the behalf of the department. There should have been an acknowledgement that they are sending those emails, or else we should be aware that those departments, the graduate students, are most likely not getting. So that's what I wanted to make sure that we might want to add that for senators at large, because they are not always like always in the same department, to be able to do that in person. So, to be aware that this is one of the issues that can happen. So, we can just sort of be aware about it, not like the students' responses to me, but just the department acknowledging that so that as a GPSA as a body, we can again follow it up on that.
- **Marwa Aly:** Then we have Amir.
- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** Just a quick update on awards and a scholarship. We have opened the application for dissertation grant. So, you should receive the email by October second the application is now open. But the public email will be sent by then. So, if you are interested, just apply there is no exclusion. Regarding being Senator and motivate your friends to apply for it. It's \$500 at most. So, I'm I and the committee are awaiting to receive your applications.
- **Marwa Aly:** Now we have Rose.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** I need some clarification on childcare. I just received an email. And I'm sure others have received an email as well. And I didn't know how to respond the question. So, I need some clarification.
- **Marwa Aly:** **Absolutely so. Unfortunately for some help the contract for between, like the MOU between GPSA and the YMCA** did not accept it from the contract office at WSU, because the YMCA is not a WSU vendor. Okay? So, what will happen after that is GPSA will reimburse the families that join the program. So, and I had just I had a conversation with the why that families need to pay one month, and then they will kind of hold the other payments until



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families can get reimburse, and then they can pay, because we know that families. You know I am a student. I am a parent, and I know how prices inflated, so much so I know that they might face a challenge registering their kids for the after-school program because they won't be able to pay. Even if they would be able to payments of like at the end of the semester. But they might not have the money through the semester. So, what will happen? That is that GPSA will open the opportunity for after school program. Any family has kids join after school program. Not only was the way, but with any vendor. Okay, they can be impressed for the program. And we are trying to find the appropriate cap, because, you know, if we open it for a for all families, we won't be able to reimburse all families. How could we support them during summer? So, it would be the same.

- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** I mean, last summer GPSA paid for it without being reimbursed, so that time WSU had no problem with them. But is it in a new rule?
 - **Marwa Aly:** It's not a new rule. But for some reason the contract went like in a long pathway. So yeah. Okay, so or another phone pathway. Let's say another pathway. So, yes.
 - **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Okay, so you have a question in the chat, Marwa.
 - **Prebesh Khanal:** Is there any such facility-Child care for REC students?
 - **Marwa Aly:** So, I don't know if you have facility like that in your campus. But if you, if you find a facility, you can ask for reimbursement. Yeah. So, she basically impressed families for after school programs kids ages from 5 to 12 years old. Any more questions, Pal.
 - **Tathagata Pal:** Is there a cap on the amount?
 - **Marwa Aly:** Yes, this is what I am working on with Matt Shaw because we do not want to hurt families and we know we have limited resources. Any more questions, any more thoughts. We have 3 min. Or would you like to keep these 3 min?
 - **Marwa Aly:** With no more questions, no more suggestions. I adjourned the meeting today. Thank you so much for joining the meeting. Thank you for all questions.
- 07:30 | Adjournment