



GPSA Senate Meeting Minutes
January 08, 2024, | online | 5:30 PM

To join via Zoom:

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

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

Here's the agenda:

- 05:30 | Call to Order
 - ☐ Approval of Last Meeting` Minutes
<https://forms.office.com/r/MMqSQcqmj0>
 - **Hannah Martian:** I motion to approve the 12/04/2023 meeting minutes.
 - **Jeremy Boutin:** Second
 - **Motion of 12/04/2023 meeting minter:**
 - Yes: 45
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
 - **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.
 - ☐ Approval of the Agenda
<https://forms.office.com/r/cbDYx7GV5e>
 - **Hannah Martian:** I motion to approve the meeting agenda for 01/08/2024.
 - **Nazua Idris:** Second



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- **Andrew Sutherland:** Niyi, do you have a question?
- **Omo'ba 'Niya Ogunkoya:** Can you hear me now?
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Yes
- **Omo'ba 'Niya Ogunkoya:** So my concern is the is about the decision that the chair and the I mean the vice chair took about some few minutes back. I want to appreciate your initiative. But I think that in in such cases like you remember that before we went on holiday. The last time I actually made mention of this like if we actually need to always be on the ground to attend meetings. And now I read the first line of the message. It reads that well, that the chair and the vice chair are taking decision. So, we can hold this meeting online. Well, I am thinking that subsequently, subsequently, that could be in request.
- **Marwa Aly:** I don't want to interrupt to you. Thank you for your concern, but we need to restrict to the agenda. So, we have 10 min open discussion. Can we please? Can you please hold this concern until we get to this point. Thank you so much.
- **Motion of 1/08/2024 meeting agenda**
 - Yes: 44
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion carries.
- 05:35 | Guest speakers
 - ☑ **Dean of the students to discuss Emergency Fund Issues.**
 - **Dr. Heather Case:** Hi, there, everyone, thank you. Thank you so much. So please, can you introduce yourself? Absolutely so, my name is Dr. Heather case, and I really appreciate the opportunity to be here. Is it possible for me to share my screen because I did some slides?
 - **Marwa Aly:** Yes, absolutely. Please go forward.
 - **Dr. Heather Case:** So, my name's Dr. Heather case, and I oversee the student care network and the other team that I oversee is health education. But today we're just going to talk about emergency funding. And that is a collaboration between student financial services and the office of the Dana student care team. So, all applications for emergency funding must begin with the It's called the EFR. The emergency funding request. I know in higher ed, we use a lot of alphabet soup. So, I'll try and make sure. I define what each one of those things is today. the reason for that is because to make sure that we are in compliance with Federal financial aid laws, student financial services must be the first stop for that application and then some of the things that they consider has the student, if eligible, to file a fast for a WASP. Do they have one of those on file? Have they utilized student loans? Not necessarily. They have to



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utilize all, but there has to be some element of self-help. So that can be work study that can be for graduate students a lot of times that looks like student loans. Also do they have unmet need. So, what that means is? Let's say it costs 1,000 a year to attend Washington State University as a graduate student, and the student receives \$20,000 of financial aid. That means they would have \$30,000 of unmet need. So as long as there's unmet need, they remain eligible to be considered for emergency funding. The student also must be making satisfactory academic progress or sap. and the student must be enrolled in at least 3 credits. So those are the general criteria that they're going to run through first. So, I'm kind of a visual learner. So, here's a visual representation of the process. So, the student completes the emergency funding request student financial services evaluates that if there is any funding available through student financial services. sometimes students maybe become eligible for new scholarship that they weren't eligible. For before or there are some additional student work opportunities or other things. SFS will. If they can fund the student, they will do that, and it never comes to the office of the Dean of students. So, they either award the student, or if they're not able to award the student because they just don't have any available funds, they will forward that to the Dean of students. So again, they students still must meet the criteria. But if SFS doesn't have money, then they'll forward it to the Dean of students. So, Dean of students. Emergency funding is kind of the last. Stop on the train if you will. So, if there's any other money, they will award that first, because as we'll see on this slide, the Dean of students, students, emergency funding. You can only apply for Dean of student's emergency funding twice in your academic career. So that is why SFS tries to fund students from their pockets of money before they come to us. A couple of other key things funding cannot be used for any academic expenses. So, a lot of times students will come and say, I have an outstanding bill, but the requirements of the funding that we have are that it cannot be used for any academic bills. So, if a student pays off their academic balance and then say so that they can remain in good standing, and then they need a little help with rent or something else we can help with rent. We can help with medical expenses. We can help with unexpected car repairs like its winter now. So, let's say you're driving. And suddenly you hit a pothole and you have a flat tire, and you don't have that in your budget. Those would all be kinds of emergency expenses that we can help with. So, one request per academic year and 2 per academic career documentation of expenses is required so that could be an overdue on your rent, a utilities bill, a medical bill for medical bills. We do need to see, because all students must have insurance to be enrolled as a student. So, we must see that its whatever insurance is going to pay has been paid, and then we can sometimes help with a portion or all of the balance depending on the amount. So just writing us a note and saying, I have. These medical bills are not going to suffice. We need to see the bills. If it's said, a medical procedure that you need to have. We can also accept a medical like a quote, you know, a lot of times like my daughter just had



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her with them teeth out, and they gave us a quote for what that was going to cost us about. You know our approximate out of pocket expense. So, we can also use those for documentation. So, we have the general Dean of students. Emergency funding, which is has is made up of donations. So, people in the community alumni have, and employees have donated to that emergency funding. There are 2 other sources of grant money that we have available now, and those are based on legislature from the State of Washington. So, one of them is House Bill, 1559, and that is related to food insecurities, and its brand new this year. The other one is based on Senate Bill 5702, and that's the Housing insecurities. Grant, that was in the pilot last year has become The Senate approved it in an ongoing way. So not just the Pilot Universities in the State of Washington, but all public 2 year and 4-year universities now participate in that. So, with that came a few changes to that funding and there was a little bit of a delay. So, if you applied for funding under that at the very beginning of the school year, we did not have that grant money yet, because it switched from a pilot to permanent. But we do, that's all-in place now, and ready to go. So, let's talk a little bit about what those look like. The housing and security grant. Dean of Students funding is limited to \$500 per request. We can go a little bit higher than 100 for housing insecurities. but that would be rent or utilities. Those fundamental needs only priority for funding from the grant is given in the following order. Passport students receive the top priority, and those are students who were in foster care or were documented as experiencing houselessness before they graduated from high school. So that's our top priority. Second priority is undergraduate students from the State of Washington, because all of these come through WASSAC, which is Washington Student Achievement Council, and that is really focused on the undergraduate experience. But thus far we've had enough money that we've been able to fund graduate students and any other students out of state students, sometimes international students. So, I don't anticipate that we wouldn't be able to serve all students with this grant. But I just want to be clear that the State has because this is this is money that is based on taxpayer dollars. So, I just want to be clear. These are kind of the priorities. Thus far we've been able to serve students from all categories, and I would anticipate that that will continue the other Grant House for 1559 is the food insecurities. Grant. There are 2 parts of it. Section 2 applies to lots of universities, and that included funding for a point 7 5 benefits. Navigator. that position should be posting any day now. Hopefully, very soon you'll see that. And then that person will be joining our team, and we've secured some additional funding to make that a full-time position. So, it's a one position. And they will be doing 2 primary things, one meeting with students and helping them identify all resources that they might be eligible for state funding or Federal funding. and they also must help be a part of the team that develops a hunger free and basic needs campus strategy. And that is do in initial plan is due in the spring and then the following year, we must submit our findings about where the gaps in our service. What kind of supports do you still need, with the hope



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that WASAC and others will take that back to the legislative body and perhaps increase funding in those areas. The other section 3, WSU was chosen as a pilot. This is really related to undergrads. But I think it's super exciting that we were able to get that funding. Only 2 universities, 2, 4-year universities in the State were selected, and we were one of them. So how that relates to graduate students is that if we can fund some of the undergraduate student needs that might free up funding in other areas for graduate students. and just say no. Specifically the grant was. There was a directive from the State of Washington to try and find a system that might emulate the K to 12 pre reduced lunch and on that grant, priority is given to passport and wasps eligible students, Washington residents. And then, if there's money left over after we after we meet the needs of those students, then we can go to any other first year. Students. I will tell you I don't think we're going to get to non-Washington undergraduate students, because the pool of money is small. But it does decrease the need for up to 200 undergraduate students in their first year. The other thing that I just want to point out because I like to share this because I find that a lot of people aren't aware of this. We do have student care which is case management. And so, for that extends for anyone who's enrolled in at least one class. And so if you have concerns for yourself meeting your fundamental needs, we have concerns about any of your peers. You can submit a student care, referral for yourself or for someone else. I read all those referrals and then assign a care case manager who will offer support to the students. So, some of the things that case management can help with our academic concerns. the whole fundamental needs, whether it's financial food, housing, utilities, all those things that we've talked about. We can connect things to other resources. We also offer post hospitalization, support and general social, emotional support and I think it's important to note that we do nonclinical case management. So, it's not going to replace counseling. But it is going to be a support and connecting students with resources and eventually the benefits navigator. Once we get someone hired in that position, we'll also be a part of that team. And then last, but not least, contact information. So, I went to that kind of quickly. But I want to be sure that I can answer any of the questions you might have. So, I was stop sharing.

- **Marwa Aly:** So are there any questions?
- **Omo'ba 'Niyi' Ogunkoya:** The first is if part. If for instance, a student though right on track, runs out of his assistantship. Does your office cover that like? If the student as have about one semester or 2 semesters at most go. Does your does your office cover that, or does your what's it called funding? Does it help with ameliorating the financial share implication of such. One or 2 semesters. That's the first. Now, the second is, what exactly does the funding your office not cover? What does it not cover all? What have you mentioned are the things that it covers? But my concern is, what does it not cover? And the last one is does, does it? Does it? Does. Does the funding in your office include that the students should be XYZ student, for instance, must the student be an international student



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or a local student before they can't benefit from the phone. Those are the questions that I have.

- **Dr. Heather Case:** Okay, great. So, the first question does it cover? If your assistantship would run out? Emergency funding cannot cover any academic expenses. But what often happens because it starts with student financial services. they may have access to like completion grants or other things that the students might be eligible for. So, by completing the emergency funding request that will allow soon financial services to see if there are other financial resources available through their office. They also often will check with departments to see if departments have additional funding, they may also be able to connect students with, if not an assistant ship? Are there other part time jobs on campus for seems to can accept part time positions just because of whatever may be going on in their lives after 6 months they're eligible for tuition remission. Right? So, after 6 months, you can get 2 classes per free for free per semester, so they will work soon. Financial services will work with other students to try and see what else might help them fulfill their goal to complete their degree. So that was question one question, 2. What does it cover or not cover? So again, student financial services will fund students if they have resources that are available, be and won't even sometimes they don't even send students on to us because they've met the need of the students without having to rely on our emergency funding? So, when I answer this question, keep in mind, this is the emergency funding. The Dean of students has access to soon. Financial services may have funds that can cover other things. Right? Does that make sense? So, in the office of the Dean of students, it can cover housing cost. It can cover utility bills, medical bills, unexpected life events that happen right? So, I use the example of like a car that needs repairs. It could also be you know. Maybe you maybe you live someplace, and your heat went out, and so you need help with that. That would kind of technically fall under utilities. But it's not paying it to the utility company. It's like. but you know, I need a new heater. So, anything related to fundamental needs we can help with. I would caution you, though, because there is a limit. If it's Dean of student's money, it is limited to \$500 per semester. With the housing money we can go up to sometimes, if we if we have funds, we can go up to \$1,000. Right? So, if you have \$3,000 worth of expenses, you certainly can submit that. But we're not going to be able to pay for all \$3,000. We can help you look for sometimes community action center has resources. And so, we try to stay in connection with them. So, we know if they do or they don't. So, we're not sending students on useless trips to that location and the other thing we find with international students. So yes, our money can cover international students for one of the few funding sources that can help with international student expenses. But the other thing we find is that sometimes international students may have students that were children that were born here. And so those children are eligible for Washington State benefits, even if the graduate student themselves might not be so. We tried to help connect them with that. And I think we're



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going to be able to do an even better job of that once we have a benefit navigator. So, I think that's all. 3 questions. Yes. Did I cover them?

- **Madison Hönig:** Hello, Doctor Case. Hi! My name is Madison. I am the chair of Community Affairs, but I'm also the chair of the Special Committee for Food Security. I have been advocating for the University to kind of you know, invest more resources into addressing some of the issues on of food insecurity, particularly for graduate students and you know, one of the concerns that I have had has been how the pilot project was run and kind of not really focused on graduate student needs. Given that the fact that graduate students disproportionately actually use the cougar food pantry and from my conversations on the Cougar, food Pantry Advisory Board, I was informed that a lot of that money could not actually be designated to be used at the cougar food pantry because the cougar food pantry was designated as emergency food. But we're doing some analysis on usage numbers that we have, and the cougar food pantry is not actually being used as emergency food. At this point it is a supplemental resource because students are facing such a food insecurity crisis. And I really would love to kind of hear you speak a little bit to what the student care network is going to be doing to address that. Given that since I've been here and working on this issue every semester, we're seeing drastic increases in usage, and it doesn't seem to be improving.
- **Dr. Heather Case:** Yeah, that brings up several important concerns. First, I'm going to caution you about the food pantry, because here's the reality that is funded completely, solely through either donations which are very small percentage of the expenses or undergraduate student fees. Graduate students do not pay fees that go to the food pantry. So, my concern is, the more you continue to raise that. And as undergraduate students figure that out. Undergraduates can say we want the food pantry to only be for undergrads. Right? They haven't done that yet.
- **Madison Hönig:** So, I think that's really I can actually speak to that as well. I am currently drafting the referendum question to actually have graduate students fund. It did pass yesterday last year with a majority vote. Yes, but we didn't have enough people to who voted to meet the threshold.
- **Dr. Heather Case:** So, I have spoken to undergraduates about it. They are aware that we do not pay for it. But given that we have been doing a lot of extra work to designate GPS a funding to fund the cougar food pantry, and I also managed to get cast and the graduate school to each donate \$5,000. So, we're actually offsetting that by doing a lot of advocacy work. And I think the undergraduate students do recognize that. So that piece aside, I think the problem is that a lot of things get advocated for at the State, and then when the State when they earmarked the money. They had very specific requirements that our grants had to meet to be able to be considered for the pilot program. It absolutely had to focus on undergraduate students. Only that wasn't my choice. That wasn't anybody here at WSU. That's what how the legislative requirements came down



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right. But that's just the pilot for the 200 undergrads. The other piece of that is that the benefits navigator will be available to every student undergrad graduate professional anyone and like, I said, that position I checked today so I could give you the most up to date. I hoped it would be posted today. Hopefully, in the next week to 10 days it will be posted, and we can get that person on the team. So the first thing will be that people individual students, can schedule appointments with that person, and they will be able to say, Here's what resources you're eligible, for. Let me help you apply for those. Let me get those help you get that because I agree that food insecurity is a significant issue for undergraduate and graduate students. Right? And you're right. I didn't define the food pantry as emergency, the State said, food pantries are deemed emergency and cannot be used right? So again, I decided. Well, it's their money, and they get to decide how we get to spend it to some degree. So, I will come up with proposal that will meet all those requirements with the hope that if we're funding 200 undergrads per semester that that frees up so they won't. Those 200 students hopefully, won't be going to the food pantry, right? And then that will leave some more resources for other students, but the other piece is that by April we must have a food security plan that says. here's where the holes are. WASSEC has been very good, like the State might put requirements on. You must spend it this way. You can't spend it that way. But WASSEC has been really good about taking the data that we're collecting and going back and advocating, so that the housing and security grant that was pilot is now a part of the budget, right? And they did that with the data that we were collecting and the pilot programs and the money to pay for navigators also came from the data that we've been collecting. So, I'm very hopeful that we'll continue to move in the right direction. But as with any large government entity it never happens as quickly as we'd like right? So, you know, if you or other students want to be involved, we're going to have a committee just to look at that, that food insecurity and to create that plan. Again, there are some guidelines that state is given us that we must include, but that doesn't mean we can't include extra. And that doesn't mean, I mean, we would love to have students involved in that. So that we can really represent what students needs are, as it relates to fundamental needs and housing and food. So might not be the answer. Exactly you wanted. But hopefully, I'm trying to be as transparent as I can, so you can kind of understand all the different moving parts that are involved in trying to meet students hunger needs like, and food needs.

- **Madison Hönig:** I think it would be great to include a graduate student input on that plan. Because a lot of this work has been sort of done over multiple years. So, I think we have some valuable insight that we can contribute, and I think I'd love to connect on that. But thank you.
- **Dr. Heather Case:** Yeah, send me an email. And then, you know, if you want to meet one on one, and kind of figure out who might be a good person to be a part of that, I'd be happy to do that.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Hi, Dr. Case. my name is Rose. Hi. I'm the chair of



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University Affairs and college representative of College of Education. Actually, my concern is about the money that we return and this is the question I want to ask you. First of all, when was the last time that you updated that \$500 emergency funding?

- **Dr. Heather Case:** I have been here a year and a half. It's been \$500 since I've been here I can't speak to when it was or wasn't updated prior to that but I certainly could reach out to SFS and ask them and get an answer back to them.
- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Yes, thank you so much, because we cannot compare. I joined WSU in 2,021. \$500 in 2021 is different from \$500 now. and you know our graduates, as soon as our international students have access to nothing more than these, very, let's call them emergency funding. And it is sometimes surprising to me that we update many things. But when it comes to basic needs, we are still not updating how much is enough to support our students. Or you receive all these bills. For example, when people apply for very basic things like, let's say, rent. It cannot be less than 900. It cannot be less than you know. 500 for bills, let's say. And so, 500 needs to be updated, based on the time we are now. This is the request that I have from you. If you can facilitate it for us, we are eager, we are willing to cooperate to see how we can make everything better for you and for our students. The other thing is, so we receive those financial Aids. Perhaps you know that every day we send every year we send our students to advocate on Cook's Day. Apart from that Washington Student Association funds, different students going to Olympia for a day or 2 for basic needs. It's for free for all the students if they just reach out to them. So, someone is paying for it. Let's say charity givers or text. Taxpayers, someone is paying for the hotel that I stayed in. Someone is paying for the food that they serve in this center when we talk to senators, and we talk to representatives. And then it's so frustrating when we hear that we return the money. We put the \$500 cap here, and then, if we have extra money, we return it. My concern is how much we return every year. And how can we have access to it so that we can have some engineering on how much we receive? And maybe if we still have time. And, for example, Rose has applied for that 500 this academic semester. But we can send an email to all our students. We have this money available. If you are in critical situations, please apply via the inform, and it is equitable because it reaches everyone. Do we have any figures about how much. We return after we have these funds, please.
- **Dr. Heather Case:** Yeah. So, the first. When I came last academic year. I, my team, did not take over emergency funding or the grant until January, so we've had it for about a year. They did return money the year before I took it over and I don't know how much that was. I wasn't in charge of it at that time. I think it's also important to realize that there when we get the money. There are multiple campuses that it's earmarked for, right? So just because the money comes to WSU doesn't mean WSU. Pullman has access to all that money. and so, the return amount. We did return a little bit this year. But it wasn't. It wasn't from Pullman campus, right? So, like



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when they say. Oh, this amount got, returned. The State reports it as WSU. They don't report it as oh, Pullman returns. Nothing but Tri-Cities, returned this, and Vancouver returned that right? So, I think a couple of things. One is that you have my commitment that I will go back and talk to SFS about when the 500 limit was raised. I think I think the \$500 limit is related to how much money we have in that fund and trying to make it sustain as long as possible, because once that funding is gone, if we don't have more donors who give us more money. We don't have that emergency funding period. As I shared with you, we can go up to a thousand dollars related to housing from the other grant and so that limit we were trying to look at what is rent roughly. And how many students can we serve per year? I think it's also important to understand that this really is supposed to be emergency funding. It's not supposed to be funding that helps students from month to month and so the State never intended it for it to be that. so, housing we can give more, and I will be completely honest with you. We did not receive the money from the State until almost December. So now that we have it, we are, anybody who has a document who applies has the documentation and has a housing request. We're processing those as quickly as we can because we don't want to give money back. The good news is that this year 25 of the total funding can be rolled over. So, if for some reason a campus doesn't use all their money, we can roll it over. We haven't quite figured out what all the stipulations are related to that, because that's a new that's a new component. When it went from pilot to permanent funding. That's a new component. So, I don't ever want to give money back to the State. I don't know about y'all, but like if the State gave us money, I want to give it to students, and that is my goal is to get this money in the hands of students. So, we don't have to give any back.

- **Golrokh (Rose) Maleki:** Thank you so much at your case. My last request, based on what you said right now that this is not the money which is supposed to cover months to months pace. We are talking about emergency funding and emergency funding can go to food and housing, as you said, and these are months to months, but because we know we can apply for it once an academic semester. So it's once I mean. No one said that we think you're going to pay for month to to month expenses. But it should be anything, any bills that really addresses basic needs of graduate students. And this is what my request is. We need more compassion from your office. From people like you, who know international students have limited. If any access to other fundings. Then, when when you consider international students, it's not one group only. We have people who are more vulnerable than others. Someone from Canada is international. Some someone from England is international. And someone like me from Iran is also called international in the States. But how much resources I have access to can be really different. So by talking about nationality is just an example. Because I represent college of education, we really have diverse people coming from different countries. And when you say international, it cannot be only one. That's what my request is. We need



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more compassion, more understanding from your office while dealing with international students. Thank you so much.

- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you, Rose. Thank you, Doctor Heather Amir. I'm sorry we don't have time for your question, so can you please send me your question, and I will forward to Dr. Heather. Thank you. Thank you so much for being with us today. Thank you for being patient, answering our questions, and we are looking forward to follow up with you on this case. Thank you.
- **Dr. Heather Case:** Absolutely. And I just the last thing I want to say is if you have questions. Email me. we're here 8 to 5 French, 122. You're welcome. Stop by we do really try to take every case on a case-by-case basis based on the documentation we have and in keeping with Federal financial aid law that we do have to follow. So yes, please let me know how we can help, and I look forward to meeting all of you when I can help.

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- **Marwa Aly: So,** thank you for asking all these questions. Thank you for all the concerns that you shared with Dr. Heather about the emergency fund, because it's very, very important. And it's a real issue for graduate students. So now we have other speakers. They are part of us. They are graduate students. They are taking care of issues that really impacted graduate students. So we have WSU case. We need to welcome them. And I will give them the floor. They have 20 min. Yeah.
- **Yiran Guo:** Great, thank you, Marwa, and good afternoon, GPSA, Synod and everyone I'm going to introduce. We're going to introduce ourselves quickly, and I'll start. My name is Iran Gore. He him pronounced, and am a current a SE. And a Ph. D. Candidate in the school of mechanical and materials engineering And I've been a part of case organizing and bargaining committee, and we're heading off to bargaining session on Wednesday as well. I'll pass that to Ksenia.
- **Ksenia Pereverzeva:** Hi, my name's Ksenia. Standing 3 years ago, and the pronouns are shaver, and I am a senator in GPSA for the school environmental sciences, where I'm also working in my master's. and I just joined the case speaking committee.
- **Kate Herbert:** Hi, I'm Kate. I'm a senator, and I represent the anthropology department. I'm setting for my master's and I'm just really involved in in case I don't have a specific role. But I'm just here to present.
- **Ninh Khuu:** Hi, my name is Ninh. I'm a former GPSA. Senator. I'm a Ph. D. Student department of plant pathology, based out of Prosser, and I am part of the Organizing Committee and the Bargaining Committee, and I will now move to the next slide and pass it to Ksenia.
- **Ksenia Pereverzeva:** Awesome. Thank you. So first, I would like to thank GPSA. For giving us some time to present to you all tonight. So we are here to talk about WSU case, the coalition of academic student employees at WSU. Case is a union composed of academic student employees who work together to collectively bargain with our employer, WSU. Management to increase our working conditions. So academic student



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employees or ASEs are people who have dual role of being students and workers and academic positions. This includes undergraduate and graduate tutors, Ra's Tas instructors and staff assistants, and possibly you're both as well. But just we want to make it clear that the WSU. Case is not a separate entity. It is all of us. We formed our union through an ASE. Lead, grass roots movement. So, me, you, your constituents, and departments are all part of the bargaining unit. So, there is no union, there is no union without us. We started bargaining with the University Administration in February of 2023, and we've now come to agreement on 36 proposals, and only have a handful of proposals left on the table, including an understanding of wages, fees, leaves, vacation time, and health care benefits. Currently admin is increasingly pushing back on proposals for these items, and we have set a strike deadline of January seventeenth, which I'm sure you've heard of next Wednesday for them to finish bargaining these topics though WCPS. Was formed with the goal of improving working conditions and addressing systematic issues in academia and higher education. and we share many of these same objectives as GPSA. Can I get the next slide, please? Thank you. So, while we have many common goals, GPSA. And WSUs are still distinct different entities but were still together. But we'll get into it. So, we have distinct roles that can be leveraged to make the most progress, to improve graduate professional student life and both are essential in improving academic and working experiences for all students at WSU. So GPSA represents graduate and professional students in Pullman and on rec campuses and advocates for student-related concerns. But the legal scope of WSU-Case allows the Union to represent and cover graduate students and undergraduate students performing academic jobs, all campuses. So that includes Tri-Cities, Vancouver, and Spokane, and it mostly gives us power to bargain over employment conditions. So GPSA's designation allows for unique representation and advocacy roles on many university committees. However, through WSU we are legally given equal weight in negotiating wages, benefits, and working conditions with the WSU administration Though, as you can see, both GPSA and WSU Case participate in very important roles and GPSA involvement in the bargaining process is essential because of our vast knowledge and experience with advocating for students. Hope I didn't go too fast. I know we're a bit short on time, but I'm going to hand it over to Yiran right now to talk us through. We've been able to do with the bargaining table.

- **Yiran Guo: Yeah, thank you, Ksenia, and, thanks to the hard work of many of our peers who have participated in bargaining, we have won so much** and I'll highlight just a few of those. Now we have one strong protection for workload harassment and health and safety. So once the contract is finalized, the agreement are that we have made on a table now means that you have a say in how many hours you work, and you can be protected from all working as a while is unreasonable working conditions. You have protection against harassment and discrimination, including bullying. You have protections against unsafe working conditions, and all



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of these rights are enshrined in the contract and are enforceable through the contract reference procedure. Although none of these protections existed before we're looking forward to get them. Once the contract is in effect, we'll also be able to enjoy some newly won child care funding, in addition to GPSA funding, that we have one language that provides us with worker related visa fee coverage. All of this was possible through the work of all of us. You, me and or WSU Case, is in this room, and throughout the State. We have worked hard to show. Admin that we are serious about this. We're able to do this to use our collective power as a bargaining unit of over 1,500 ASE to pressure admin into providing us agreements over 17 proposals through the pressure of our strike authorization vote in early November, and our direct actions in December such as a sitting at a Vice President Shelton's office, and prior to this, Ed. Means stalling tactics when it came to bargaining, meant that we are only revolting rich tas on proposal at a rate of 2.5 tas per month compared to 17 proposals over the last few weeks and our pressure is working, and we have to escalate the pressure to win that we deserve. So, here's what's left on the table in terms of articles where admin have not come close enough to yeah, see? Demand to reach agreement. We, as academic student employees, organize our Q&A because we need and demand higher wages, better health, care and access to sick leaves and vacations. Let's have a show of hands who here is happy with their pay or our housing insurance plans. Who likes the \$5,000 out of pocket, Max being one third over one third of your pay. I guess so like. That's why we organized and wanted to bargain. Those admin is unwilling to waive to residual tuitions, and falsely claimed they are not legally allowed to do so. However, the relevant legal structure doesn't prohibit them to do so, as Admin get raises, and we continue to build new athletic buildings. We are told that we cannot get raises, and we must continue to pay for those buildings. Our out-of-pocket maximum are more than twice as high as the Admin health insurance plan and guess how much they are. and M. Min has not had down even the bare minimum of getting quotes for better plans until we force them to. We have now provided admin with a pathway to wrap up our housing insurance benefit plan with benefit plan designs with the rest of the contract. But Admin continues, drag their feet insisting that we include our current plan in the contract without negotiating it, and in Chancellor Chelton's newest email, they claim that it's going to affect other people and effectively holding hostage of non-A/C student groups, even though we have providing and pathways to reduce that impact or eliminate that impact. We got no improvement until Admin can finish negotiating this contract. And I want you to. I want everybody to know that this is important, and know whatever we have bargained, and one on the table is out in the cloud and will not materialize until we finish bargaining and that we already talked about in the previous slide. They don't exist yet, and we need our admin to come close to us and make sure they finish bargaining health insurance. And with that I'll pass to Ninh.

- **Ninh Khuu:** So the articles left on the table are incredibly important to



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ASEs. And so, we have set a strike date of January 17, next Wednesday. There are a number of reasons behind the decision to set a strike date first is that admin has not been bargaining in good faith, admin have consistently failed to provide information be requested, making it impossible for us to make well research proposals. though State law requires them to bargain any changes to our health insurance plan before making changes. They made unilateral, unbargained changes to healthcare in May of 2023, when we asked to bargain the next plan, year from 2024 to 2025, they claim they do not have the appropriate information for us to bargain until November of 2023. Now they're pushing those dates back even further and saying they can't get this information, at least until the end of the month. They've continued to throw obstacles into our path as we try to win living wages, good health, care, fee waivers and leaves. In November we concluded our strike authorization vote with 93% of participants voting to allow the bargaining committee to authorize a strike admin can prevent a strike at any point by offering a fair contract that reflects the value and worth of ASEs. Unless admin is given a timeline, and without pressure of a strike they will continue to hold the conditions of our new contract hostage and continue to drag on this process. So, what is a strike? A strike means that we collectively withhold our labor and force our employer to give us a fair contract withholding our labor means that we stop all our work duties. Instead of our usual work, we participate instead in picket lines and other visible disruptions. On and around campuses. A picket line is essentially a protest that creates a physical boundary between workers and the workplace. The strike is for all ASEs. Our strength comes from our unity and majority participation will be the best protection against any adverse action. The strike will be happening across campuses and departments. I'll now pass to Kate. Now who will tell us a bit about the facts of going on strike and will be posting some links in the chat.

- **Kate Herbert:** Thanks, Ninh. So, as Ninh said, I'm going to be going over some facts or common questions about striking the first. Is it legal to strike? Yes, in Washington State strikes by public sector unions which includes case are neither prohibited nor an express right. This means that it is not illegal for us to strike. Many public sector unions have struck in Washington before including U. Dub post docs, researchers, and ASEs the university will claim that the strike is illegal because of this ambiguity. But be clear that this is a scare tactic? Second question, can I go on a strike as an international and or undocumented student? Yes, you have all the same rights to strike and access to strike benefits as domestic and or document students. Your student visa immigration status is dependent on your student status, not work status and is under Federal jurisdiction and not determined by Wazoo. Third question will I still get paid if we go on strike ASEs. Who complete our strike duties will be eligible for \$500 per week of strike pay from the UAW strike fund. This will also cover health and other benefits. If these are withheld by the University. We will also be doing additional fundraising to help support a strike. Fourth question,



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when will the strike end? The strike will end whenever Wazoo Admin demonstrates they are taking our living and working conditions seriously and give us a fair offer on the remainder of our contract. There are a number of ways that ASEs can get involved and ensure. They and their cohort or department are ready to go on strike first, and most importantly, is to sign up for picketing shifts, participating in 20 HA week of picket duties is how you earn strike pay. If Wazoo withholds wages during a strike. Picketing is also how we can make a physical representation of the work stoppage making the strike something that Wazoo cannot ignore. Being on the picket lines together is a huge exercise of our solidarity. I will drop the link for the sign up in the chat. In a minute, or you can scan the QR. Code at the top of this slide, or I guess Claudia's putting the links in the chat so you can just use those. You can also attend a strike info, or training session. At these sessions, you will learn more about what it means to strike, and how you can get your department ready for the strike. You will also can ask questions and talk through. Strike readiness with fellow ASEs. We'll also drop the link for sign up in the chat, or you can scan the QR code on this slide. You can also organize a cohort or department strike readiness meeting a strike. Readiness meeting is where people from a department get together to talk through what a strike looks like for them and their work duties and determines how they can prepare to be ready for a strike together. A number of these have already been held by various departments. Some departments have even joined together for theirs. If you would like to work on setting up a department meeting case. Organizers can provide support, just email contact@wazoo.org you can also join a committee. If you would like to be part of the groups that are working on planning for the strike, please join in some example. Committees are picketing. This committee makes plans for picket sites and demonstrations. Community engagement. This committee connects with faculty staff and students who are not, as and local communities about supporting our union and other conversations relevant. You can indicate your interest via form link. We will put in the Zoom chat. Thanks, Claudia. I'll give it back to Ninh for further questions.

- **Ninh Khuu:** Does anyone have any questions?
- **Arpita Sinha:** Hi, everyone. This is Arpita. I'm a Ph. D. Student, and also a Senator at large. My question is that I have sometimes noticed that WSU K's emails come from the people. You guys are doing a great job. So, I support that. But also, I have noticed that there are Gmail emails that are attached to it. And sometimes WSU emails are attached to it. So I'm a little confused with the whole thing. And I'm sure many people like me gets confused. So, if you guys could just elaborate that. And also, how are you guys organizing within yourselves to make sure that because the moment you see, many people are on their Gmail coordinating, and it's coming on my WSU. It just leaves a little bit of a confusion. I see a few of the head nodding in here, which I'll take it as same confusion. So, if anyone could answer that, that would be great and all the very best.



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- **Ninh Khuu:** So online, you can sign up at our bargaining website for emails directly from us. We will send you emails through there. But if you're receiving emails from your own department members, that's how we think organize is people within our own department. And we try to ask people to use non-WU emails, if possible.
- **Amir Hossein Moadab:** Hi, first of all, thanks to the team for all you're doing fantastic job. I have 3 things to say. First of all, So, let's say we reach to agreement about wages. If you don't reach to tentative agreement for other proposals. Are we going to still do the strike or not? Cause I see that, based on the proposal of WSU. Based on wages, apparently they are buying of sometimes, so they can save money, and I'll be down for a strike. But I'm not sure if we reach to agreement, we're still doing that or not and my second question is the fees and tuition waivers. I see that the only difference that our proposal and WSU proposal has is in technology fees. So, do you have any data? How much this technology fee is? I mean, is it worth to fight for it. Cause I see that we already step back of many of those fees in our latest proposal. So do you have any data. How much is it? And the last one is, so, we reached to TA for summer session. But there is a vague part for me that in the very last one for international student summer funding. I remember that we had this 6 week. Payment for the ones who do not have any appointments, but we still step back of this, and there is a vague sentence which means which says, upon ratification, the parties will convene a joint Union management initiative to explore solutions. For as S, who are unable to find employment. But it doesn't, says up, say how and how much they're going to pay. So, it's a bit wait for me, so if you can clarify for me, I'll appreciate it. Thanks.
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you, Amir, for your questions, and before we we go forward, was hearing the answers. I would like senators in person to start your dinner, and we can continue the discussion while you having your dinner. Thank you so? And then you can answer that question. Yeah. So we, you will continue your session through the dinner. So you will have. You will have more 15 min. Yeah, I know that this is a big issue, and a lot of senators have questions to ask. Thank you.
- **Ninh Khuu:** We really appreciate this extension, and one, we will strike over the rest, even if they have tentative grief on our wages, because it's all more than that, and we'll get into it with answering parts 2 and 3 as well. No health insurance is something. We have given them a pathway to finish with everything else, but they have completely ignored us, and they've completely given up their fiduciary responsibility just to give an analogy if you're going to buy a very expensive car, are you going to get quotes? Yes. WCU. Did not until we forced them to get quotes. They did not even bother to look at how much it would cost to give us vision coverage outside of Pullman, how much would cost to cover mental health coverage, or how much it would cost to reduce your out-of-pocket maximum till we force them to second. Regarding fees. We're not just under disagreement about technology fee, which is about \$20. We worked with them to remove our ask for SNA fees and cougar held



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services, but we want is for them to cover the residual tuition called building fees. If you take your tuition, waiver and you minus it. From what you're charged for tuition. It's \$189 per semester. That is residual tuition called the building fee, and they will not budge on that, even though they completely can. and then I'll pass it to Yiran to address your last question about international students during session summer session.

- **Yiran Guo:** Thank you, Amir and for the question about summer session. And then the International Student summer funding is one of the core issues we try to bring to the bargaining table about equity amount. I guess he is regardless of your status. And we knew that international students, especially certain members of ours, including myself, like, could face a situation, a immigration situation where it bars us from taking external employment during the summer, and so port ourselves. And then we brought this issue early on, and then supported with a lot of testimonies. An Admins attitude was fiercely rejecting the idea, and this is a compromise where we talk through the difficulties as is a fee seeing, and then WSU is always reluctant. Naturally, when they are looking at something that doesn't have a dollar figure attached to it. They want to know how much it costs and how they can implement it, and if it, if it affords a and administrative burden. So, this is the language. We, we see that we can get our foot in the door and then start setting up programs that will assist ASEs in the future, and then we will take them up, and then our our international staff, as our supporting staff, recognize this language, will be enforceable, which means in when the contract is ratified and doubles. You fail to uphold to this language; we'll be able to grieve it and then make sure what benefit and passwords we're asking here can be realized.
- **Omo'ba 'Niyi' Ogunkoya:** Thank you, gentlemen, ladies, thank you all. Thank you. For all that you do. I really appreciate it, but my concern is the my concern is the aftermath of the distract action. If per adventure management decide not to respond as earlier as expected will it not have implicit the things that we are supposed to do as graduate assistants will be part of like grading and stuff like that will be part of and again, knowing that the university has a timeframe to operate like 16 weeks, and there, above and then now, we have a whole lot of upgrading, and all of those piled up for us to meet up with later on. I'm just I'm just wondering. I mean, is the university going to extend the time for us to meet up with all these assignments, or the assignment will be done by somebody else, because I think by a that by good bargaining practices. One of the things is that for everything you paid for, you need to work free, except it is otherwise. I want to be educated. I want you to. Okay. But I'm also worried that the thing that we're supposed to do while the strike is on will be kept for us in with, you know. So that that's my concern. But 100%. I support what you do. And I you have. I mean, I support you, and I'm going to support you all the way as a Unionist. But then I also want us to put all of this in perspective. So, we don't get out of a place. Thank you.



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- **Ninh Khuu:** If you cut out a little bit, but if I think I understood your question, it's if we go on strike. Are we expected to make up the work? The answer is, no. This is why a strike works. It is collective action and solidarity to show them like we do the work on the ground. We make everything work and they're going to have to give us a fair contract as soon as possible to avert that they are panicking right now.
- **Destiny Brokaw:** How soon can a contract be effective? I am hearing varying answers. Are there any ideas on how WSU will respond? Was reporting hours for TAs and RAs. These concerns within my department, and like.
- **Yiran Guo:** The contract negotiation. Once WSU agreed to our proposals, and we reached tentative agreement on all of articles. We will prepare the documents and then spend a period of time typically 10 days in other A/C contracts contract campaigns. And all of us ASEs will have a time to read and understand the contract as T. 8, and vote on that. Once a majority of multi members voted. Yes, it will be ratified. And then various elements of the contract. Well, start kicking place depending on how they are written, but most of those would be effective immediately upon ratification, or like upon ratification, and the management sign off to it, and we don't expect a huge delay between that. However, the other things people maybe see hearing is how this process can drag on, and that's why strike is important at this moment admin is finding every opportunity to make sure this process goes longer, because that would be cheaper for them. In terms of excuse me in terms of any ideas about how I guess you respond with reporting hours of TAs and RAs so far they have responded about tracking your paid time off instead of tracking hours for your work duties? So we can talk more about that later on. And if you have questions feel free to reach out to our bargaining committee about more specific details for department.
- **Sarah Gruntmeir:** Can you address how class attendance will be affected with the strike for grad students? Can professors retaliate if RA/TAs do not attend during the strike? Does the strike only affect work and not class work?
- **Ninh Khuu:** Yeah. So we'll just reiterate. But we've said all the time what matters is collective action, and as many people at the picket line as possible. United front prevents targeting and retaliation. A complete work. Stoppage as much as possible is the best that we should do. A strike is primarily on our paid work, but the strike will be more effective if you're able to withhold as much as possible. If you're able to skip your class attendance, please do. Professors cannot retaliate if we act in solidarity and united, they cannot fail an entire class.
- **Suhina Deol:** How many graduate students actually plan to strike? Do you have a percentage, where people who do not respond are considered no?
- **Ninh Khuu:** We had a 93%. Yes, vote for our strike authorization and what's happening now is, we are getting ready to have 80% participation in the strike. We are on the ground at every location, talking to people. So



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if you want things to be successful, talk to people, stay focused and sign up for your picket shifts.

- **Sajjad Uddin Mahmud:** During strike, students won't get laid from their assistantship, what if \$500/week from CASE will not be enough for someone? Is that a gross amount? How Tax will work on that?
- **Yiran Guo:** Okay, thank you. So yeah. And Sahina, sorry if I put your names. And great questions. Did so just to cover the grounds a little broader. You have to fulfill 20 h minimum per week. Picketing duty, to get your 500 h \$500 per week. Once you log it in one week, or picketing, or 20 h of picketing, you'll get a paid after the week, so there's like one week delay you get on ace day. So that's actually better sent off as used 10 workdays. And it's not taxed. It's not considered payment, which also means for international students like me. Visa is not going to interact with my visa restrictions. So I can get my strike pay just normally what we'll do for our strike is that we'll have picketing sign up shit. That's why it's important to do the picketing sign up, and during that day there will be people manning the picketing line and help you to log in your hours and then well, you'll be able to fill in some information about how you would like to receive the strike, pay, or through check or deposit in your bank account such something like that. And if you want to help with the picketing committee, you're strongly encouraged to come to our meeting or discuss about a lot of the details there, including since you may have concern, but we don't have quite a time to talk about today. As for like how long you would drag on, rest assured that UAW is a big union, and they have had a big good track record just for academic unions like the big UAW Strike. They were able to send everybody money last year's you'd up research scientists and research engineer post Doc. Strike. They also were able to send money quick and organize it quickly and I'll pass that back to the floor. Thank you.
- **Ninh Khuu:** Yeah, thank you, Marwa, for letting us speak, and just reference back to Dr. Heather Case's presentation. Wsu case is here to advocate for your employment contract, so that you have wages, fees, and healthcare, so we don't have to rely on these emergency funds as much. Thank you.

- 06:30 | Dinner Break

- 06:45 | New Business

- ☑ Affiliate funds report for Fall 2023.

- **Marwa Aly:** GPSA funded 11 RSOs in Fall 2023 with a total of \$830. The used fund is around \$4525. The remaining fund is around \$3775.

- ☑ Childcare updates.

- **Marwa Aly:** Since the YMCA is not a WSU vendor, we cannot continue providing childcare programs. GPSA will be opening a reimbursement after-school program for kids 5-12 years old. GPSA received 10 applications with a total of 13 kids. Only 5 kids meet the requirement, but the GPSA committee will be expanding the age range and accept those



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applicants who were younger than 5. We will also be reopening applications.

- **Desmond:** Do we have a specific reason why we selected those ages?
- **Marwa Aly:** Yes, we have a specific reason for that, because the initiative program for the after-school kids from 5 to 12. So, we had the money from the SNA Committee initiated just for these kids these category 5 to 12 years old. you know, but because we don't have. Now this program any more. We are trying to help families as much as we can from the spring. This is an announcement that in a spring we will have the after-school program with the WSU child Care Center, and they have a lot of opportunities for families more than what the YMCA was offering for our families. Yeah, so does that answer your question. Thank you. If anyone has any further questions, this is about the case.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** So, we are going to be reopening applications for this, are we going to be expanding the age, range requirement, and if so, to what age range.
- **Marwa Aly:** 2 to 12 is the maximum.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** how long has this program been open? Because my concern is s because we're giving a reimbursement reprovng money to former children who were involved in this project program. If the youngest that a child could stay at home is 13. Well, there could have been kids who were in this program before they turned 13 and that's kind of that's because those children aged out, they're now automatically deny, or their families are automatically denied this reimbursement.
- **Marwa Aly:** I hear your question. But the after-school program age in all like the maximum in all the facilities that open this program is 12. So, I mean, there, I mean, there is no after school program that will accept kid and 13 years old. Does that make sense.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Yes, but here's the thing. Somebody could have applied to this program before or applied for reimbursement before their child turned 13. Now we're reopening this application. Children who might have turned 13 last week are now families are now denied this opportunity.
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you for clarifying your question. We don't ask for the kids per certificate. So, this program is for the full. If they have their kid, who? Where? Who was 12 years old in full, they still can apply, they still can reimpress for the money. Does that make sense? So, we don't go with their birth certificates. It's just age limit for the program itself. Does that make sense?
- **Andrew Sutherland:** Yes it does.

- ☐ Senator Nomination: Susmita Dahal, at-large School of Music
- 2/3 vote majority is needed to pass.



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

- **Ashley Wells:** Hi, everyone so very simple vote. Here we did have a nomination for us Susmeta da hall to become Senator at large of the School of Music, the current a representative for the School of Music is no longer going to be a Pullman graduate student. They are graduating. And they went ahead and nominated this student. So the way that this works in our bylaws is that that is perfectly fine. We're just going to bring this to the Senate and see if we can get a 2/3 majority vote to have this person come aboard and join our Senate.
- **Susmita Dahal:** Hello, everyone. Am I audible?
- **Marwa Aly:** Yes, we hear you.
- **Susmita Dahal:** Yeah. Hello, everyone. I am Susmita Dahl from Nepal, and I am new PHD in biological system engineering and for me, GPSA is very new and in this meeting I have known very, very can you please show your face. Okay and from I have been. I have worked, worked as a treasurer in engineer back then in my country. I hope that from this platform I can relate to my colleagues, my senior, my, and I have get very get more knowledge about WSU. And yes, obviously, I will leave. I will do my tasks.
- **Andrew Sutherland:** I motion to vote on Susmita Dahal as Senator-at-large for the School of music.
- **Tathagata Pal:** Second
- **Vote for Susmita Dahal as Senator-at Large**
 - **Yes:** 42
 - **No:** 0
 - **Abstain:** 3
- **Marwa Aly:** We have reached a majority and the motion passes.

☐ GPSA committee meetings and expectations.

- **Marwa Aly:** Let's refresh ourselves about expectations and that's good that we have our new center here to hear about these expectations. First expectations as a GPSA Senator. So, you can be absent from one meeting per semester if you would like to, or if you have something, and you can't attend in person. If we have the meeting in person sending me an email, so you can attend online. If you have something urgent that you can't even attend online. you can send a friend or request from other Senator to attend the meeting as a proxy. Okay, this will keep your attendance and please make sure that you respond to the attendance form. Really, I did. Went through. I did go through all the meetings to look for certain Senators, because they didn't sign that they were there. Okay, so it was a like challenges for me to do. Second, what are your responsibilities as a GPSA Senator? Attend meetings? Raise issues, ask questions, share all the details with your correspondence. Okay, share the minutes that we share with you with your connections. If there is an issue like today's issue about the emergency fund, and we will share we will discuss an important



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issue like this with the Admins. We need your voice. We need your coincidence for voice. We need their concerns. Admins need to hear that, if we don't expect that they will respond or not, but they need to hear that. And our responsibility is to say it. Does that make sense? So, this is your responsibilities. These are your responsibilities as GPSA Senator as GPSA. And I told you have to be assigned for a GPSA committee member. For a GPSA committee. I'm sorry for a GPSA committee right? And your duties is to attend the committee meetings and do your duties. please because each committee has its own responsibilities. They have their own target. Each member have. Each member is a value member in this committee. Without your work in this committee the committees will fail. Do you want GPSA committers to fail? We don't want that right? So please attend the meetings and do your duties any question regarding that? Thank you. Online attendance. Do you have any questions?

- ☑ Travel grant update
- **Attah Austine:** Hi, everyone happy New Year. The first update from travel grant today is that we are hopefully sometime this month. Considering eliminating the need for redacted documents. I'm going to be putting this up for a vote with the committee and give be giving you more updates later. And then the next update is about our website. So, we are currently working on putting more information that would aids students. I'm working with the chair of communications on this, and you know he might, if you have something to say, can probably say that later. Andrew. I also had a question last semester about sharing costs, especially Uber and Lyft costs at conferences. And I was asked what the best proof would be and I think the ideal proof for shed costs would be having to independent receipts. But I doubt that that uber and lifts would provide you, you know, 2 different receipts for one trade. So, if you share the cost, I think the person who made you know the lump. So, I mean, like the payment should be the person who provides a receipt, and then when the person gets a reimbursement, they split with the other person. And then the final object is that GPSA travel. Grant also reimburses for the use of private or personal vehicles to nearby airports. So if you use your personal car, you can apply and we can reimburse, not for gas, but for mileage as well as the wear and tear of your car. So, if, again, you shared a ride with somebody to the airport. There is no need for both of you to apply or submit an application to be reimbursed for you know the car, right? Because if we pay both of you, it means we are paying for 2 cars. Alright and concerning the website. If you have, you know, concerns or ideas. That we can, you know, contribute to what's improving the website or the committee in general. Please reach out to travel on gpsa.grants@wsu.edu Thank you.
- ☑ Fundraising Event Update
- **Ashley Wells:** Hey, guys. It's me again. Alright. So, as you all know, I am the GPSA Internal Affairs chair, and I'm also the chair for the Special Fundraising Committee. Just wanted to give a super quick update on what my committee has been working on over the break. So, I'm very excited to announce that we do have an official date for our GPSA fundraising reception. We're going to have a flyer that's going to be coming out very soon for all of you guys to see and to start passing around. However, our reception is going to be Friday,



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March first, from 6 Pm. To 8 pm. In the Elson Floyd Cultural Center, just to give everyone a little event description. So, the GPSA will be throwing a fundraising reception in support of our graduate student travel grants. 100% of the proceeds that we make during this event will go towards this endeavor. WSU staff administrators and professors are especially encouraged to attend and support graduate students with their conference funding attending conferences is of great importance to graduate students, academic journey, and that is why we have selected this mission to fundraise for. So, my committee's fundraising goal is about 8,000 to \$9,000 and just a reminder to everyone here that we are going to be use using funds from the GPSA Gift account to fund this specific event. So just wanted to send you all that reminder. We're going to go over ticket prices and things of that sort throughout the coming weeks, and I will be presenting that to you all once. That's a little bit more finalized, but just wanted to let you all know how that's going. So thank you.

📅 Upcoming Programming Events

- **Jeremy:** Hello, everyone. Thank you so much, Marwa. I know you guys are excited to go home, so I won't take up too much of your time. We are in one of the last portions of our Senate meeting. I just wanted to stop in and let you guys know the fun upcoming events this month. The programming committee and I put together 2 events. The first one coming up is our GPSA coffee hour in open house. This is going to be in the GPSA office in Cub 308. We're going to have free coffee snacks. Feel free to stop by socialize. Kick off the new semester, and you know if you don't get a chance to speak to one another here as much, or if you have a specific question for a committee chair that you don't have, you know the time to address during our Senate meetings. Feel free to stop by. Have some free coffee, some breakfast pastries and yeah, make sure you stop by this Friday between 10 and 12 the second event that we will be putting on is a candle making workshop so one of our missions in the programming committee, as we try to recognize and celebrate local businesses in Pullman. So, the gathering place is a new business that just opened last year. The owner, Kristy, is very excited for our event, so it's completely free for graduate students. You just must sign up by sending me an email saying which session you would like to attend, and the sessions are January 20, third and 20, fifth, between 7, 5 and 7 Pm. The third event that I want to bring up tonight is not one that we put on ourselves. But we partner with the URec. It's a program that goes on throughout the spring semester and encourages students to embrace their fitness journeys. So, it's pretty simple. All you must do is sign up. Record your fitness journey throughout the spring semester. And once you complete the program, which is a 9-week program, you fill out a very short essay, and then you can be put into the running for a bunch of prizes, the first prize being a \$500 scholarship, the second one being air pods, and then we have about 5 or 6 additional prizes for other people that attend the program. Those are in the form of fitness punch cards that you can use at the URec as well as 1 h training sessions that you can use at the URec as well. That you just must go to urec.wsu.edu slash you fit to sign up the deadline is January 20 first. and if you have any



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questions, feel free to shoot me an email. Stop me before I run out of here after our meeting. But yeah, if you have any questions, just let me know you.

- **Andrew Sutherland:** Hi, there! I am the director of the Communication Committee or Director of Communication. I'm just making a point that if you would like anything to be promoted on social media. Please let me know, like a week in advance. If you would like me personally to create a flyer for you, or like some sort of promotional item, please let me know. And so, I can start working on that ahead of time. But if you're wanting us to at least create a slate announcement which basically gets emailed out to the student body slate announcement gets promoted it. Or it takes about 10 business days to be sent out, but to create that message you'll take me a few days, so at least let me know. Within 3 weeks of the first day, you would like the event to be promoted. If you have any website, updates, or website ideas, please let me know. I'm trying to work on a few different things when it comes to mental health, resources, legal resources, and other types of resources that should be available to the student body and kind of like a collective area, especially for graduate students. Or if you would like certain types of things that would be edited on the website itself. Please let me know, and specifically provide me the URL link on that specific page that you would like edits. At the same time. If you have any other thoughts, or anything that you think we should be communicating or letting the student body know. Please let me know, and I'd be happy to help and work with that.
- 07:20 | 10-min Open discussion
 - **Omo'ba 'Niyi' Ogunkoya:** Thank you. I tried recent it the all the time, but it's okay, my thought is that the before we went on holiday the last time, we're talking about taking such decision like you took today. Of course, I want to admit that you took a good decision at the right time, but I'm also of the opinion that in subsequent occurrences subsequent unplanned occurrences as such. You may as well send a message like you did today, but it's going to be in a form of request. So, we can send in mails in acceptance of your position. You know by that you're seeking our pos. I mean, you're seeking our thought, and you're not imposing your thought on all the members of Senate. That's my opinion.
 - **Marwa Aly:** Thank you. Niyi. But I would like to clarify that we all, as a community, we all as a family of GPSA. There is no control. Ajay. We are just helping each other. So, Ajay didn't receive any emails to execute from attending in-person meeting today. But I did receive bunch of emails. That's why I discussed with Ajay, and we found that it's better if we make it option, because we would like the Senators to be safe. We know about transportation issues because we have it in our agenda. We know about the Wizard because some of us fell this and this ice. Okay, but it's not. It's not an issue of controlling. There is no one who is controlling or taking decisions in front of others, but just as it should be. you know, it's like a family you have. you know you should have someone to help you with your decisions, right? And we all are helping each other. So, if I didn't receive these emails. I might not consider that issue right. As we



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always say, if we didn't trace our voices. If we didn't say what is going on. We can't expect. Expect that the other side will know about what's going on right. If we didn't say it, we don't expect that they know it. So thank you so much for your concern, and I hope that I answered your question. Thank you. Arpita. Okay.

- **Arpita Sinha:** Hi, everyone. I'm Arpita, and I'm a Senator and also a member of LAC committee.
- **James Asare:** I'm James, and a member of the Lac community. Okay? so I know we. We've ended. But we received an email today for those who are going to go to Olympia. And I think with their last statement there was something to the effect of GPSA won't be able to provide food during the trip, and since I've had experience with going to Olympia for to advocate for graduate students, Did I pronounce it right? Yeah. She brought it up that it will be great if we had a budget for that, because well, not to tell people to buy whatever they want to reimburse, because that could go really up that for those 2 days at least. If there's a flat rate of about \$50. Because GPS. A is just sending 10 people. It will be great to accommodate that, since in the past the Lac has also been able to give off money we did not use to GPSA. Who are thinking this would be a worthwhile thing to mention, so that people who are going to go will not have to think about finding money for food. When they are also going to advocate for the rest of the students. Yes, so we wanted to mention that so that we will start this discussion going forward. Thank you.
- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you so much. So, the Budget Committee will take your request under consideration, because I would like to say that this is a request to the Budget Committee, right? So we need to take this under consideration in the budget commit. Does that make sense? Thank you. Any other concerns. Oh, okay. So, we send. They have like, 5 min. So I would like to share that. We have our next meeting for priority. Fifth online, and because not everyone has an officer space. The GPSA reserve a room cup 206 for you to find it as a space for you through the meeting, so you can just to go cop 206 to attend the meeting from there was your laptop, or was, or I think you can use a computer in the room itself. March Fourth, it's in person. Do we have an option. So and according to the webinar. we will discuss if we can have. It's optional again, like this meeting. March eighteenth online and we also have cop 206 for you if you would like to have a space to attend the meeting. April first online. and the room is L43So it's the lower level at the cup room 43. And then last meeting May 13 in person. please. Emerson. Okay, I don't think that the snow will. we're in this time. Yes.
- **Tathagata Pal:** Hi, hi, everyone. So I am, PAL, and I am the GPS of VPLA. So, I just wanted to make a quick clarification for the question that and James had so for the during the trip. So, one of the dinners on January twenty-first that would be provided for by the WSU. And I'm not. I'm not sure this point of time, but most likely during the day of our return on January 22nd. They are going to arrange some kind of like pizza, or just jimmy on sandwiches for the dinner. So, the only meal that is left is for the



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lunch on January 22 guess the hotel can would give you the breakfast as well. So, on January 22. So, this year the LAC Committee is running into a shortage of budget as of now. And I actually need to talk with the budget committee chair, and other people to manage for some extra money, because, as you know, like this year, all the meetings, everything was in person, and we had to do a lot of travel, and that that requires a little more money, and we still we still have a few meetings left in the spring. So just thinking of that as a precautionary measure. I thought that it might be like at this point of time. GPSA cannot afford the reimbursement for the meals. But I'll talk with our Budget committee chair as well, and other committee chairs. If they have any extra bit of money left for from Sam for the semester, so that LAC. Can use it and can reimburse you for the for the lunch on January 22.

- **Marwa Aly:** Thank you. Thank you, Pal. Thank you for your committee. Thank you for all your efforts that you do for the legislation work again. Please share all this information with the Budget Committee, and they will find the solution for you. Thank you. So, before we adjourn the meeting today I would like to share with you why I shared these shapes was different colors, because we all are different. We don't have the same shape, and we don't have the same content. We don't have the same color, but we are on the same page. Right? So please consider that we all on the same page. Otherwise, if we will fight, if something wrong happened, if we couldn't like deal as a family. the page will be disgusting, and no one would like to join this page again. Right? So, we need to keep this page looks fantastic as it was right. Thank you.
- 07:30 | Adjournment