

**Revised Evening Childcare Subsidy Request**  
Prepared by the GPSA Childcare Committee

**Legislative Intent:**

To support graduate and professional students at Washington State University by subsidizing evening child care.

**Statement of Need:**

Graduate and professional students with children face the same academic requirements as those without children but do so with the additional challenges of parenting. While many parenting issues are beyond the scope of governmental assistance, GPSA is in the unique position to increase the quality of academic experience for a large subsection of graduate and professional students by subsidizing evening child care for its constituents.

This subsidy will allow graduate and professional students with children to more fully participate in campus life and to better meet the requirements of their degree programs by partially subsidizing select childcare costs.

Furthermore, this program contributes to the overall academic health and cultural vibrancy of Washington State University by encouraging graduate and professional student parents to participate in the opportunities of their respective programs of study more fully than possible under their existing child care burden. An evening childcare subsidy can strengthen the educational experience for all students at WSU by allowing graduate and professional student parents to add their voice and diverse perspectives to a greater range of campus events.

**Legislative History:**

Over the past two years funds have been earmarked in the GPSA budget for childcare related programs. To date, no program has materialized; these funds have not been expended and were thus returned to the larger FS&A budget. Further, continuing with minimal GPSA programming runs the risk of loss of funding for building, expanding, and sustaining future programs for the betterment of the graduate and professional student community.

**Program Description:**

**A.Services Provided**

GPSA will subsidize evening child care for graduate and professional students of Washington State University as follows:

1. Child care services will be provided by the WSU Children's Center Evening Care Program
2. GPSA will subsidize evening child care, only, as provided by the above referenced Evening Care Program. No subsidy in part or total shall pay for child care services rendered outside the scope of the WSU Children's Center Evening Care Program.
3. GPSA will subsidize the cost of evening child care at 100% of the standard rate charged by WSU Children's Center for evening child care. [See §C. **Availability** (below) for limitations upon service provision.]

**B.Accessibility**

Graduate and professional students may access the GPSA subsidized evening child care at the WSU Children's Center students may receive the benefits of this program if:

1. They are currently enrolled as a graduate or professional student at Washington State University.
2. They complete all registration requirements of the WSU Children's Center (as determined by the Center for all who receive evening care services), AND
3. They are the legal guardian of child or children for which the service is being provided.

### **C.Availability**

Graduate and professional students may utilize the program under the following guidelines:

1. Evening Care Passes
  - a. Graduate and professional students must request an evening care pass in person at the GPSA office. No other forms of communication are sufficient to secure evening care passes.
  - b. Each pass entitles the graduate/professional student possessor to one night of evening child care for one child of whom they are legal guardian.
  - c. Families/households of graduate and professional students are eligible to receive up to two (2) passes per child per week
  - d. Family or household will be defined as one (1) or more adults having primary care responsibilities over a child or children, living in the same home as the child for whom childcare is sought.
  - e. Evening care passes will be distributed on a weekly basis
  - f. GPSA will distribute up to sixty-four (64) evening care passes in any calendar week.
  - g. Evening care passes will be distributed on a first come, first served basis
  - h. Graduate and professional students may request no more than two (2) passes per child per family or household at one time.
  - i. GPSA reserves the right to distribute any remaining passes, as available, at week's end, even to graduate/professional students who have previously received two (2) passes per child over the course of that week.
2. Limitations
  - a. GPSA expressly disavows any and all financial liability for evening child care services rendered without presentation of an evening care pass.
  - b. Any evening child care services rendered by WSU Children's Center for the child of a graduate/professional student who fails to present a valid evening care pass is the sole financial responsibility of the graduate or professional student benefiting from said services.

### **D.Infrastructure Required**

In order to support the program as described above, the following infrastructure is needed:

1. Evening care pass system
  - a. Cards to act as passes
  - b. Record-keeping system to track pass use
  - c. Staff time to distribute and track same
2. Billing system
  - a. System to receive and pay monthly bill from WSU Children's Center
  - b. Record-keeping of cost outlays

## **Program Oversight and Evaluation**

Oversight and evaluation duties of the Evening Childcare Subsidy Program will fall upon the Childcare Committee of GPSA (hereafter, the Committee), who will act within the following guidelines:

### **A. Implementation Period**

1. The Committee will convene weekly for the first four weeks following program implementation, to assess:
  - a. Issues arising from the distribution of evening care passes, including but not limited to scheduling and demand concerns
  - b. Concerns raised by graduate and professional students regarding the program
  - c. Concerns raised by the WSU Children's Center regarding the program
2. The Committee will convene bi-weekly, during the second month of the program, to assess the same concerns referenced above (see A.1. a – c)
3. The Committee will convene more frequently if assessments indicate more regular oversight and evaluation is required

### **B. Normal Operations**

1. The Committee will convene no less than once per calendar month, as long as the program shall continue in existence to assess normal program operations, including but not limited to:
  - a. Distribution of evening care passes
  - b. Record keeping
  - c. Efficacy of the program
  - d. Responsiveness to graduate/professional student need
  - e. Responsiveness to WSU Children's Center concerns
2. The Committee will conduct a more broad analysis of the program at the end of each academic semester, to be scheduled no later than the last week of classes. This analysis will include but not be limited to consideration of:
  - a. Achievement of program goals
  - b. Cost effectiveness of the program
  - c. Assessment of the ongoing relationship between GPSA and the WSU Children's Center
  - d. Assessment of the ongoing need for evening child care by graduate and professional students at Washington State University.
3. The Committee will conduct the more broad analysis in the Spring Semester early enough to develop an appropriate GPSA funding request
  - a. The Committee will prepare an annual report for the GPSA Senate in the first and second years which shall explain use patterns and need
4. The Committee shall meet with the GPSA President at least one (1) time per semester to present assessment information and discuss possible future directions of the program
  - a. Meetings may occur more frequently if and when necessary and upon request of any member of the Committee, the GPSA President, or member of the GPSA Senate

## **Funding**

The GPSA Childcare Committee requests funding from GPSA in the amount of \$8600 to equal that put forth by the Bookie Dividend (\$8600) for a total of \$17,200.00 to subsidize evening childcare for a minimum of 21 children's slots per night at 100% funding for the full academic year at the Washington State University Children's Center for graduate and professional student parents. Requirements of expending the Bookie Dividend monies state that the money must be spent on service to students. Subsidizing evening childcare at the WSU Children's Center is such a service.

The total budget above would allow for payment to the WSU Children's Center at the present rate of \$8.00 per child, for sixteen (21) children per night, four nights per week, for the remainder of the 2008-2009 WSU academic year (accounting for closures). This funding would cover 100% of the costs of evening childcare program as described above. At 100% coverage it is anticipated that students will be more likely to use the service, ensuring maximum impact for the monies expended.

## **Considerations for the Future**

Should the program become the success envisioned by the members of the Childcare Committee, a number of considerations for the future arise:

1. Computerization of the data collection and storage systems described above would greatly ease the Committee's evaluative tasks, as well as potentially streamlining accessibility of the program by enhancing scheduling.
2. Dr. Howard Grimes, Dean of the Graduate School has indicated the Graduate School would match GPSA monies should program demand grow. This provides, in essence, a ready-made solution if and when demand for evening child care outstrips the funds currently budgeted.
3. Exploration of the efficacy of a needs based program may also become necessary at some point.