



SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2025

In-person

CUB Junior Ballroom

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

05:30 | Meeting called to order by senate chair

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

- Andrew Sutherland: I motion to approve the GPSA meeting minutes from 12/2/2024.
- Haden Kingrey: Second
- Approval of the 12/2/2024 senate meeting minutes.
 - Yes: 35
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- Senate Chair: We have reached majority, and the motion has passed.

Approval of the Agenda

- Nazua Idris: I motion to approve the GPSA Agenda for 1/13/2025.
- Redwan Ahmed Khan: Second
- Approval of the 1/13/2025 Senate Agenda.
 - Yes: 35
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1
- Senate chair: We have reached majority, and the motion has passed.

Welcome Address

Ajay Barman, GPSA President

Ajay Barman: Welcome back to WSU and I hope your 2025 is going well. It is an absolute pleasure to welcome all of you to the spring, 2025 semester. 1st and foremost, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your work during the fall 2024 semester. The work you put in advocating for your peers on transportation, housing, childcare, maybe engaging with our campus community through Lauren McClusky race, travel grant or driving important initiative like food drive arranging professional development programs or simply creating an environment through social events. So that we can feel WSU as a home. As your work has truly made a difference in shaping the graduate and professional student experience. Here, your dedication and passion make the GPSA the vibrant and impactful organization. It is today, as we look forward to the spring, 2025 semester. I want to take a moment to acknowledge that how critical your role is as a senator. The discussions we have here, the decisions we make and the support we



provide to our through GPSA to our graduate and professional students. Your voice is one that represents the diverse, talented and driven graduate and professional student across the Washington State University. This semester we are planning to go to Olympia to advocate for higher studies. We will host our Research Exposition, run an election and advocate and continue our support to the grad and professional student community. Maybe through travel grants through RSO funding as well as professional development initiative and our programming events. Each of you bring a unique perspective and skill set that help us grow stronger, more inclusive, more impactful in our mission. The work of GPSA is never easy, but it is always meaningful. The road ahead may be challenging, but I have no doubt that together we can meet those challenges. The Vice President and our, and this is our job to help them to success, to be successful. Be successful in their work, and to all of you. Thank you for your contribution to this amazing student organization. Let's combine your report and have a successful spring for 25 semester.

New Business

| Election of Senator-at-Large for the CVM (Neuroscience)

Nazua Idris (GPSA IAC Chair): We will be listening to the 4 candidates for the Senator-at-Large for the College of Veterinary Medicine. We had a lot of nomination, but we have selected 4 candidates who are from the College. Each candidate will have 2 minutes to introduce and present themselves.

Candidate 1: Olalekan Akinsulie, 4th year Ph.D. candidate, Immunology & Infec. Diseases
Thank you very much, everybody, for having me here today again. My name is Chris Akinsulie. I'm from Nigeria and I'm a veterinarian veterinary doctor by training. I had my master's degree from Europe, from University of Edinburgh, and currently I'm a Phd. Candidate at Washington State University College of Vet Medicine. Specifically my knowledge on infectious disease and I would say my leadership experience started from my undergrad, where I was the General Secretary of the Association for Veterinary Medical Association there in Nigeria, and I learned the rudiments of leadership from from that level. Ever since then I've worked and also volunteered in various positions. Currently I'm the United States Young Ambassador to Washington, State for the American Society for Microbiology and I've also served as a reverse mentor for the Federation of American Experimental Biology Association and I've also volunteered as a peer mentor for the College of Veterinary Medicine and also for the international programs. I'm particularly interested in becoming a senator, because I believe I have what it takes to represent the students at my college, and I believe that with all the experiences I've had over the years my leadership experience, I can give a quality representation to the people there. Thank you very much for having me.

Candidate 2: Charchil Ayodo, 1st year Ph.D. student, Immunology and Infectious Diseases
So I'm a 1st year Phd. Student from the College of Vet Medicine specialized in immunology and infectious Diseases. So I believe that I'm the right candidate for this job based on the experience and expertise that I have and that revolves around leadership, advocacy, and representation. Just to walk you through on my experience and expertise in my undergraduates as undergraduate student. For my second year and 3rd year I was elected to be the student Congress representative, whereby majorly my roles were to be involved

in oversight legislation, representation, and advocacy. I believe that aligns with this purpose of GPSA Senator and just to go on before I came for my Phd. Here I worked as a manager and team lead for Washington State University and there we were involved in a lot of experience in terms of collaborating with multidisciplinary teams and overseeing the projects, as well as advocating for equitable resource distribution. There. I also served as the director for welfare, as we all know, our constituents need welfare to be taken care of and advocated for to the letter. So that is one of the main important roles of a Senator. Another thing is there. I also served as a mentor and a trainer for Washington State University study abroad students. I was actively involved in that coordination as well. Now, diverting a bit from that, I own I'm a founder of an organization that looks into inclusivity among the less privileged persons in the community. So finally, I'm also an international peer mentor, where I interact with a number of students. So I understand diverse challenges that they go through. Now, when given this chance, together with other senators, I believe that we shall walk through some of the challenges that students face, including housing, transport, child care food as well as mental health with collaboration. I believe this is something that we are capable of doing. Thank you and go Cougs

Candidate 3: Mathew Wun, DVM Professional Student

My name's Matthew. I am from Sydney, Australia. I'm currently a small animal. Internal Medicine resident at the teaching hospital, and also a master's student. So my background. I graduated from the University of Sydney, then did a internship at the University of California. And now I'm here some of my experience. I was a elected member of the Academic Board at the University of Sydney. I try and advocated to improve veterinary funding for teaching and research. During my term at WSU. I'm a student member of the University Recreation Advisory Board, so I advise the Department on how we can improve the University recreation for all the student population. I'm also the Vice president of the Graduate Student Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine. So try and foster collaborative and welcoming environment for all of the graduate students at the college of Ed. Med. And then I, just during my role as the veterinarian at the hospital. I teach and mentor the senior veterinary students as they rotate through the hospital, so work really closely with them, and also have served as a advisor for senior thesis for a lot of the students there, so I hope I'd be a good candidate for the position just because of the wide variety of students that I get to interact with during my day-to-day work. And I'm interested in just advocating for the graduate student population at at Wsu. Thank you.

Candidate 4: Hussnain Rashid, Ph.D. student, Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Hello, everybody, and thank you very much for this opportunity. My name is Usnand Rashid. I'm from Pakistan, and I'm doing Phd. In veterinary medicine. I come from a very humble village in Pakistan, which is distant, which is more humble than more distant, and if I'm here standing today talking to you, it is mainly because of my mentors and my teachers and their kindness and their patience with me. So through my journey, what I have learned I did a fellowship a few years back, and there I realized that there is the idea of giving back to the community. And when I reflected on my own journey I realized that this teaching and helping other people was my vocation, and since then I started pursuing this. I had the opportunity to work with the school going kids in a mentorship program until the Covid hit, and then later on, I had the opportunity and privilege to be teaching in a university setting

and then I left Pakistan. I spent 2 years in Ghent University, Belgium, and now I'm here. As for my leadership statement, I don't think I have as many roles to talk about as my fellow colleagues, but the thing is for me, leadership is mostly informal where you are just working as a peer to your fellows, and you're just trying to help. And in that capacity I believe I was doing very well as a de facto grad school coordinator in Pakistan. And then also, during my job in the University, I was the contact person for my peers in all the technical things that we were doing. So thank you very much again for this opportunity, and looking forward to the prospect of working with you guys. Thank you

Questions and Answers for the candidates

- **Golrokh "Rose" Maleki:** What is one of your plans to best represent your very large college?
- **Olalekan Akinsulie:** One thing I could do is work on promote what GPSA is doing and talk more about what we are doing.
- **Charchil Ayodo:** I would echo that, but I would also expand on promoting mental health resources.
- **Mathew Wun:** One thing I would do is work more on working times and working conditions. Unfortunately, while graduate students are here to become professionals, they are used mostly for their labor. My goal is to advocate more for those students and help them get better conditions.
- **Joseph Akowuah:** One of your roles will be working with the Research Expo. Are you familiar with this and what are you planning to do it?
- **Olalekan Akinsulie:** I would like to bring more awareness for this event and increase exposure by providing more clarity on the event.
- **Charchil Ayodo:** I would be an advocate for them and encourage them to submit, while also helping them with the process.
- **Mathew Wun:** I would encourage through engagement. I would talk with my classmates on the clinic floor to encourage them with the application process.
- **Augustine Attah:** How would you reach out to break out of your comfort zone to reach out to your department.
- **Mathew Wun:** I always try to form a personal connection so I can better connect with them.
- **Olalekan Akinsulie:** There are a lot of programs within our department to bring students together and at those events, I can bring it up and reach out to them to then.
- **Charchil Ayodo:** The first thing I would do is organize a meeting and so I can get a better idea of their knowledge and where they are at.
- **Hussnain Rashid:** The idea is to reach out to everyone through email, while reaching out and holding space for them.

Voting to elect the new Senator-at-large



Augustine Attah: I motion to vote on the Senator-at-Large for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Folake Okor: Second

Voting Results

- Olalekan Akinsulie: 6
- Charchil Ayodo: 11
- Mathew Wun: 29
- Hussnain Rashid: 9

Senate Chair: Congratulations Mathew Wun, you have been elected as the new senator-at-larch for the College of Veterinary Medicine (Neuroscience)

New Business | Committee Chairs Update and Plans for the semester

1. Internal Affairs Committee: Nazua Idris

Tasks completed include

- Processing nominations for vacant positions
- Signed contract with SESRC for Ballot Service
- Election announcement & forms ready to be posted waiting to hear back about the apportionment numbers
- Working to institutionalize inclusive election policies
- Working to communicate allowable election campaign policies
- Reviewing applications
- Setting up ballots and moderation strategies for exec board candidate debate
- Reviewing the system for processing the results and presenting report to senate. Running election for vacant senator positions

Import dates include

- Feb 3, 2025 – Feb 17, 2025 Application Period
- March 3, 2025 Candidate Debate
- March 3-7 Voting

Questions & Answers for the Chair

- Shah Alam: How many senators per department?
- Nazua Idris: 1 senator per 10 students.



- Destiny Brokaw: Is there a way to help departments who have less than 10 to move them to a different department?
- Nazua Idris: I can look at it.
- Redwan Ahmad Khan: What should we do if there are more than 1 senator?
- Nazua Idris: You can always collaborate with other senators.
- Saheed Ogunkoya: Please mention your name when asking a question.
- Arpita Sinha: Is the executive board planning to better to explain president and vice president to run? Andrew Sutherland: I am planning a communication plan to better explain each of the positions and the requirements to run.

2. Community Affairs Committee: **Madison Hönig:**

Tasks Completed

- Distribution of personal safety alarms
- College Hill Association Walk Audit for Pedestrian Safety
- Winter Break Boxes Advertisement

Upcoming Events

- CAS Meeting with Dean Meehan on Friday, Jan 17 at 2 pm in Thomason Hall
- Smart Spoons: Crafting nutritious Meals on a Budget with PDI on March 18th at 4pm
- Upcoming Community Affairs Events will be announced shortly

Questions and Answers for the Chair

- **Haden Kingrey:** Is this going to be advertised to all CAS students or just senators?
- **Madison Hönig:** I would encourage all senators to communicate with their departments

3. University Affairs Committee: **Golrokh "Rose" Maleki**

If you are interested in working on a university committee, please reach out to me.

Below are the current open committees.

- WSU Police Department Advisory Board
- Sustainability and Environment Committee (SEC)
- EP-15 Review Committee
- Compliance and Civil Rights Student Feedback Committee
- Employee Excellence Award Committee
- Commission for Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation



- Research and Arts Committee

Questions and Answers for the Chair

Portia Amoa-Danquah: What would happen if more than 1 person wants to be on a committee?

Golrokh "Rose" Maleki: It takes time to fill out the form, but we always reach to make sure people is representing us

4. Travel Grants Committee: Augustine Attah

Tasks Completed

- We have awards around \$43,000 in travel grants this year.
- We are prioritizing airfare and registration fees.

Questions and Answers for the chair

- Zahra Khodaverdi: What happens if you are traveling at the end of the month?
- Augustine Attah: You file your application once you return, even if you left before the previous travel period, you apply for your return date, which is based on that travel date.

5. Professional Development Initiative: Sajjad Uddin Mahmud

Report

- Grammarly application for Spring 2025 is open. The deadline is January 24.
- Versatile PhD is open for everyone. Go to PDI website to login using your WSU credentials.
- Professional Headshots with ASCC – Jan 30
- Python Working Group – Jan 30

Questions and Answers for the chair

- Charchil Ayodo: Is there is provision to reapply for Grammarly?
- Sajjad Uddin Mahmud: Each Grammarly subscription is for 1 semester. You can apply again in the following semester

6. Awards and Scholarships Committee: Joseph Akowuah

Report

- Research Expo – March 27th, GPSA's biggest academic event. Deadline for abstract submission – Jan 22, 2025 – please ask your colleagues to submit abstracts. Beasley Coliseum requires more numbers than before.
- Deadline for Excellence Award Nomination – Feb 28, 2025

Questions and Answers for the chair

- Saheed Ogunkoya: What inform your decision for the deadline?



- Joseph Akowuah: We work with the Showcase so we can have time to review the abstracts.
- Andrew Sutherland: How many abstracts can I submit?
- Joseph Akowuah: If you submit more than 1, you will have to present both posters.
- Redwan Ahmad Khan: Are you able to contact academic coordinators to promote these events?
- Andrew Sutherland: No, I do not have those academic coordinators contacts. Rather, since it is a university event, I need to work with the marketing to promote the event. I would encourage senators to communicate this with their academic coordinator.

07:25 | Motion to extend Meeting Time

Edmund Larbi Afari: I would like to motion to extend our GPSA meeting by 10 minutes.

Andrew Sutherland: Second

Saheed Ogunkoya: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's beats me that we need to extend this meeting, I see no reason why we need to complete the business of the day today, we can adjourn this meeting and have the rest of the agenda items attended to in the next meeting. So I move to counter the motion on ground that there should be no extension in today's meeting, thank you.

Voting on Motion to extend meeting

Yes: 38

No: 8

Senate Chair: We have reached majority and the motion passes.

07:30 | Business continues | Committee Chair reports

7. Communications Committee: Andrew Sutherland

Projects of focus

Social Media Promotions and Slate Announcements for Social Events and Programming. We are working on a change where we promote all events at the beginning of the month with Slate.

Working on developing a method to highlight graduate students accomplishments through social media promotion and through the Daily Evergreen.

Promoting GPSA election through website edits and slate announcements.

Promotion of PDI events through social media and slate announcements.

Promotion of Research Expo

Continue monthly promotion of Travel Grants.



8. Programming Committee: Redwan Ahmad Khan

Programs of focus

- Ice Cream Social - Jan 15th, 2025. - \$750
- Palouse Divide Hike – Jan 25th, 2025 - \$500
- Restaurant Friday – Feb 2025 - \$500
- Movie Night – Feb 2025 - \$700-\$1000
- Restaurant Friday – March 2025 - \$500
- UFit Program - March 2025 - \$500
- Ice Skating – March 2025 - \$500
- Drag Queen Bingo/Wellness – March 2025 - \$1000
- Restaurant Friday's – April 2025 - \$500
- Programming Committee Appreciation Dinner – April 2025 - \$1200

Questions and Answers for the chair

Saheed Ogunkoya: Why is the funding for some projects larger than others even though the targeted participants are way less?

Redwan Ahmad Khan: it because of the different resources.

New Business:	RSO Spring 2025 Funding		Budget Chair
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Lists of RSOs with approved funds

- \$900 – GradSWE
- \$800 – American Mathematical Society
- \$900 – School of the Environment Graduate Student Association
- \$300 – Association for Bangladeshi Students and Scholars at WSU
- \$500 – Mount Vernon Graduate Students
- \$300 – Nepali Student Association - WSU
- \$900 – Plant Pathology Graduate Student Organization
- \$500 – Nigerian Students and Scholars Organization
- \$500 – Crop and Soil Sciences Graduate Student Association

List of RSOs pending approval – Lacking Fall 2024 expenditure report

- \$900 – American Statistical Association - Graduate Student Chapter at WSU
- \$500 – Korean Graduate Student Association
- \$400 – Association for Women in Mathematics



- \$700 – Rivers, Watersheds, and Communities Club
- \$800 – Apostolic Faith Church Campus Group
- \$700 – Pakistani Student Association
- \$800 – Agricultural Automation and Engineering Club (AAEC)
- \$800 – Prevention Science Graduate Student Organization
- \$800 – WSU Cricket Club
- \$900 – Communication Graduate Students
- \$900 – Biology Graduate Student Association
- \$900 – Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) chapter at WSU

Budget Chair: Kindly reach out to your respective GSOs to submit the Fall 2024 expenditure report before they can receive funding for spring 2025.

07:40 | Adjournment

- Saheed Ogunkoya: I move to end the meeting.
- Andrew Sutherland: Second

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