

November 15, 2024

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Washington State University (WSU) Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Report

SUBMITTED BY: Ajay Barman, President and Executive Board Chair, WSU GPSA

On behalf of GPSA, I would like to thank the Board of Regents for your continued support of WSU graduate and professional students. It is with great pleasure that I report the following:

Key Efforts:

- **Programming events:** This year, we are experiencing a significant increase in in-person student participation in our GPSA social events. We organized a Halloween party at Etsi Bravo, GPSA coffee hour, two restaurant Fridays at Mela, and Porch Light Pizza.
- **Professional Development Initiative (PDI):** For the PDI, we are still offering a hybrid opportunity, including in-person and Zoom options for each event. All the PDI events occurred during school hours, so a hybrid option gives the students a better opportunity to participate without compromising their lab work. We organized “Professional Headshots Photoshoot,”; “Formatting your Thesis or Dissertation,” “CV To Resume: A Graduate Student’s Road Map,” “A Graduate Student’s Guide to the Career Expo,” “The Art of Critique: A Graduate Writing Center and PDI Collaboration.”
- **Registered Student Organization Funding:** GPSA assured funding to more than 35 WSU RSO groups and worked with the groups to support their Fall events. The applications for the Spring 2025 are now open. The application period is from October 15 at 11:55 a.m. to November 4 at 11:55 p.m.
- **Community Affairs:** We are determined to engage actively with the University and the local Pullman community. GPSA is collaborating with ASWSU to host a Food Drive event between Nov 2-8 to collect non-perishable food from the local community to be donated to the Cougar food pantry.
- **Legislative Affairs:** At the State level, GPSA will be working on including graduate and professional students to the work exemption for the Working Connection Child Care (WCCC) program and getting a proviso for having a state-wide survey on childcare resources. Due to shortage of funding, GPSA LAC were not able to lobby at the Federal level this year.
- **GPSA Senate:** GPSA invited WSU transportation and Pullman Transit to the GPSA senate on Oct 21, 2024. The guests and the senators join in a Q&A session. GPSA is working with WSU Transit Advisory Board (TAG) and Pullman city council to implement the merging of the ApartmentLand and Campus routes. GPSA pushed out a survey to ask students about their preference for the merged bus route and 60% of the students mentioned that they will prefer the merged route over the separate route.