

Purdue Graduate Student Senate (PGSS)

9th Senate Meeting, FRNY G124

Thursday, February 6th, 2025; 6:00 PM - **End Time: 7:29 PM**

Virtual: <https://purdue-edu.zoom.us/j/93765096294>

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:13 pm

II. Roll Call*

- a. 38 out of 55 Senators, quorum (28) is met
- b. Moving to ()
- c. Announcement of Newly Elected Senators and Alternates (Appendix A)
- d. Senator Roll Call will be appended to these minutes (Appendix B).
- e. Executive Officers:
 - i. Present:
 - 1. President
 - 2. Treasurer
 - 3. Senate Chair
 - 4. Parliamentarian
 - 5. Diversity Team Chair
 - 6. Public Relations Officer
 - 7. GRAC Chair
 - 8. Legislative Affairs Officer (came halfway)
 - ii. Absent:
 - 1. Chief of Staff
 - 2. Community Team Chair
 - 3. Career Team Chair
 - 4. Life Team Chair

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Motion to waive reading by Senate Chair
 - 1. General consent
- B. Motion to approve by senate chair
 - 1. Second by ME
 - 2. General consent

IV. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Motion to approve philosophy
 - i. Seconded by history

V. Special order

VI. Officer Reports (Appendix C)

- 1. President
 - a. Updates on SSC on document the emergency loan program
 - i. Questions rose:
 - 1. 3 months to pay loan back
 - 2. Opt- in policy
 - ii. Answers
 - 1. Emergency loan during COVID 1 month to pay back – but it could change unlike the emergency loan
 - 2. Looking into the opt-in
 - 3. Zero percent interest

- iii. Another question by senator
 - iv. Will they take it out right out of paycheck?
 - 1. Short answer yes
 - b. Purdue general council
 - i. Feedback
 - 1. Non-discrimination statement - won't be taken down as of right now
 - 2. Governors state order excludes Purdue only state agencies
 - 3. State legislators in Indiana - all DEI programs on campus would not change
 - c. Team activities
 - i. Bob Dylan concert - 20 tickets reserved for grad students
- 2. Diversity Team Chair
 - a. Discussion with DEI committee: business as usual despite political climate
- 3. GRAC Chair
 - a. Small research grant - officially opened Friday
 - i. APPLY! and reach out

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

Emergency Legislation

A. Introduction of Emergency Legislation

- a. Motion to introduce **SP25-R00X** by ()
 - i. Second by History
 - ii. General consent
 - iii. Read by Senate Chair
- b. Procedural vote
 - i. Uncounted rising vote, ayes have it
 - ii. Assigned number SP25-R002

B. Consideration of Emergency Legislation

a. SP25-R002: Expresses Public Opposition and Concern regarding SB 235

- i. Sponsor report: yield time to authors
 - 1. QGSA: representing all students, discussing how this bill will affect diverse perspectives – will affect all, aims to hold Purdue accountable
- ii. Parli
 - 1. because it is emergency legislation, no official ruling but no evidence of being unconstitutional
- iii. President report
 - 1. No report, yield the rest of the time and back to Senate Chair
- iv. Questions seeking factual clarification:
 - 1. Senator Global Science: logic of why it should be passed before the state votes on it
 - a. We have sources that the legislation that they want Purdue and other Indiana universities opinion on, being proactive instead of reactive. sending a strong message that Purdue is against this
 - 2. Senator immigration and criminality
 - a. not in Purdue's non discrimination policy, just focused on SD235
 - 3. Senator Civil engineering: will Purdue have any loops to get out of this
 - a. any promotion of DEI will come with a fine \$250,000 and no exemptions, specifies education systems; no private donation, etc. to go toward DEI efforts
- v. Discussion:
 - 1. Against legislation: no one
 - 2. For this legislation: no one
 - 3. Motion to end discussion by President
 - a. Refuse motion by Senate Chair
 - 4. motion to amend the legislation by History
 - a. stand at ease to perfect the language for ~10 minutes
 - b. amending (and status of immigration, residency, and criminality)
 - c. General consent
 - 5. Moved to the amendment senate chair
 - 6. seconded by GRAC
- b. Amendment to the legislation **Expresses Public Opposition and Concern regarding SB 235**

- i. Question for factual clarification
 1. CS: minoritized people does that include international students because they make up more than 90% in their specific department
- ii. Discussion:
 1. Against legislation: no one
 2. For this legislation: no one
 3. Other questions
 - a. Do you have any reservations about the amendment
 - i. Remove minoritized because it already includes it – also
 4. Motion to amend the amended remove “minoritized” GRAC
 - a. Seconded by Philosophy
- c. Amendment to the amendment in the body of the legislation
 - i. Question for factual clarification
 - ii. Discussion:
 1. Against legislation: no one
 2. For this legislation: no one
 3. Hearing none ending discussion by Senate Chair
 4. Motion to amend the amendment
 - a. Question for factual clarification
 - b. Discussion:
 - i. Against legislation: no one
 - ii. For this legislation: no one
 - iii. Hearing none ending discussion by Senate Chair
 - iii. Vote in discussion:
 1. Uncounted rising vote, ayes have it
 - iv. Discussion
 1. Against
 2. For
 3. Hearing none going to end discussion by Senate Chair
- d. Vote for this legislation:
 - i. For; 29
 - ii. Present; 31
 - iii. Legislation is adopted

X. Announcements

- a. Diversity Team Chair
 - i. Sexual Health Awareness Week - next week February 10, 2025
- b. GRAC: accessibility grant open to
- c. Parli: Thursday, March 6th at ETA time; Housing Listening Session
- d. Life Team: Coffee at Greyhouse, movie night tomorrow Sonic,
- e. ATT senator wants to vote against
 - i. Parli: too late to change as the vote was already taken; a member needs to request a vote before the motion so they have to record – it is too late
- f. LRC Senate Chair – having a parliamentarian workshop with Parli on February 26, 2024

XI. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by GRAC
 - i. Seconded Physics
- b. Hearing none adjourned by Senate Chair
- c. Adjourned 7:29pm

Reference documents:

1. [Financial Code of Operations.](#)
2. [PGSG Constitution.](#)
3. [PGSG ByLaws.](#)
4. If you are not already on the discord, please follow this link: <https://discord.gg/kXPPfv24>

- TENTATIVE -

APPENDIX A

NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS AND ALTERNATES

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

Alternatives	
Department	Name
Anthropology	Fionna Fahey
Chemical Engineering	Samantha G
DVM	Maya Fulton
EAPS	Sam Harris
FNR	Julia

APPENDIX B
SENATOR ROLL CALL

[SEE ATTACHED TWO (2) PAGES]

Program name	Senator name	Present(Y/N)
Aeronautics and Astronautics (AAE)	Arjun Rajashekar Adiga	1
Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE)	Harsh Pathak	
Agricultural Economics	Emily Forsythe	
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication (AgSEC)	Aimable Mugabo	
Agronomy	Binod Joshi (N)	
Animal Sciences	Iqra Nazir	1
Anthropology	Taylor Symone Borgelt	1
Aviation and Transportation Technology (ATT)	Gustavo Sanchez Cortes	1
Biochemistry	Gaoya (Grace) Meng	1
Biological Sciences	Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai	1
Biomedical Engineering	Mikayla Roach	1
Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP)	Pascal Okoye	
Chemical Engineering	Katherine L. Young	1
Chemistry	Samson Marvellous Oladeji	
Civil Engineering	Deepak Benny	1
Communication	Clara Elisa Hortua Alvarado	1
Computer Science (CS)	Mahmood, Syed Hasan Amin	
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)	Jacob Mishne	1
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS)	Vincent Sassard	1
Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE)	Ariana Jolie Lazo (N)	1
Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)	Nimit Agarwal (N)	1
Engineering Education	Anyerson Cuervo	1
English	Dylan Henderson	
Environmental and Ecological Engineering (EEE)	Yiming Liu	1
Food Science	Daniel Alfonso Fajardo Reyes	1
Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR)	Delaney Frances Jones	1

Health Sciences	Marwan Alajlouni	1
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History	Srishti Dutta Chowdhury	1
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA)	Khadija Mbacke	1
Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM)	Kasey Paige Riha	1
Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS)	Can Carkoglu	1
Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics (IMPH)	Rachana Sapkota	1
Industrial Engineering	Kamelia Sepanloo	
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC)	Tuba Marjan	1
Languages and Cultures	Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore	1
Management (MGMT)	Rajeev Karunanayake	1
Materials Engineering	Ankit Kumar	1
Mathematics	Geoffrey Baring	1
Mechanical Engineering (ME)	Aishwary Shrivastava	1
Nuclear Engineering (NE)	Stepan Ozerov	1
Nutrition Science	Rojina Thapa	1
Philosophy	James Harry Day	1
Physics and Astronomy	Allen Roy Murray (N)	
Political Science	Sarandan Green	1
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe)	Emmanuel Oluwarotimi	1
Sociology	Juwen Wang	1
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation (TLI)	Elnara Mammadova	
Art & Design	Carolyn Guerin (N)	
Computer and Information Technology (CIT)	El Breidi, Khalil	1
Economics	Navid Safahieh	
Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology	Jude Tetteh Quarshie	
Nursing	Christelle Altidor	

Electrical and Computer engineering (ECE) (INDY)	Avijit Saha	1
Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC)	Nguyen Le	
Mechanical Engineering (ME) (INDY)	Shahrzad Ghadiri jafarbeigloo	1

APPENDIX C

OFFICER REPORTS

President - Somosmita Mitra(pgsg.president@gmail.com)

This month has been busy and productive. Here's an overview of my activities and updates:

Internal PGSG Operations:

- Managed ticket distribution for Purdue Convos events, including Mingus Big Band, *Hadestown*, *Pretty Woman*, and *Chicago*.
- Handled ticketing for *Cirque Du Soleil* and *Annie*.
- Attended Networking as a First Generation Student event for PGSG and had Vice Provost of OGSPS attend.
- Conducted an E-Board meeting.
- Attended Senate and Team Night.
- Initiated discussions on restructuring the PGSG budget for 2025-26 with the E-Board. Team leads and committee heads were asked to share information and provide feedback on proposed changes.
- Generated codes for the Lyft program and adjusted its timing and pricing.
- Organized dinners for Career. Learnt there will be a potential next Chair. Strongly encouraged hosting an in person event in Indianapolis.
- Procured \$10k in funding for Airport shuttle service tickets. Reached out to Lafayette Limo and Lyft for quotes.

Communication Updates:

- Senators representing departments in Indianapolis are encouraged to reach out. PGSG will fund one activity per department in the Indianapolis area. ECE has been supported for hosting an event already.
- Interested candidates for the PGSG President role are invited to connect. The position requires approximately 20 hours per week. Please note that I will not be available during the summer to train the next President.
- Due to some extreme desire for engagement I had written three grants in 2023. Transitional Housing, Accessibility and Small Research. This January, all three grants have become a reality and are accepting applications. Pretty full circle on all initiatives. Time to step down from role.

External Engagements:

- Participated in meetings with the OGSPS cabinet.
- Met with the Purdue Student Board of Trustees member.

- Held discussions with the PSG President and Vice President.
- Coordinated the purchase and setup of hot chocolate for students during the cold weeks of January.
- Attended University Senate Meeting.
- Working on the Selection committee on the next Student Trustee. Reviewing applications.
- Met with the Purdue Legal Office, general counsel and associate general counsel on DEI and State senate legislations.

Legislation Updates:

OGSPS – Move-In Package:

- Contacted the emergency loans program regarding the move-in package.
- The program can offer loans with a repayment period longer than one month and at a 0% interest rate.
- Currently addressing a potential issue for international students who might risk falling out of status if the funds are provided via a loan.
- Discussions are ongoing with the bursar.

University Senate:

- For the move-in package, the URPC will potentially vote in favor, contingent on modifications, for presentation to the University Senate.
- The modification requires that the package be made explicitly optional and that the interest rate remains at 0%.
- Feedback has been forwarded to the LRC for further review.
- Potentially placed on University Senate agenda for February.

Parking Passes type A Type:

- Awaiting the Senate Chair to create a survey to assess parking needs.

Let me know if you have any questions or need further details on any of these initiatives.

Chief of Staff - Holmes Alexandria(pgsg.cos@gmail.com)

- Successfully organized a team night to foster collaboration and morale.

- Attended and actively participated in Senate meetings to discuss and address ongoing issues relevant to the organization and its members.
- Followed up on the implementation and progress of the Lyft ride program to ensure accessibility and safety for graduate students during after-hours.
- Attended Educational Policy Committee meeting
- Planned and Executed outreach event for INDY and WL students

Treasurer - Shuangting Li(pgsg.treasurer@gmail.com)

Helping Students to reimburse their Travel and Professional Grant

- Continuously working on reimbursing Travel ,Professional, GSOGA grant and equipment funds to help graduate students and SAO get funds, answering questions

Keeping Track on the Expenses within the Budget

- Continuously keep track of the expenses from the Teams within the budget approved by the Business office and Senate. I keep track on the expenses of the teams and work closely with whole eboards to support activities from PGSG and create better experiences for graduate students from a financial perspective.

Attend Series of PGSG Events

- Networking as a First-Generation Grad Student
- Summer Internships Preparation
- Resume workshop by diversity team

Update the Regular Expenses related to PGSG activities and Share with Team Chairs

- Continuously share the team expenses with team chairs
- Cooperating with team chairs and president to plan events this spring, including Indy events

Working with Treasurer 2 to revise the Qualtrics Form for streamlining the GRAC and Team reimbursement process

- Revise the form based on the feedback from Team chairs
- Update the GRAC reimbursement form and add options of small research grant and accessibility grants

Communicating with BOSO about the officer payments for officer fall payments

Planning budget for next academic year

- Start to discuss with president for planning the budget for next academic year based on the usage for this year

- Attend meeting with career team to hear thoughts about the opinion about career team budget
- Will meet with other teams in February to hear about thoughts for the budget next year

Senate Chair - Victor Gutierrez-Shultz(pgsg.senatechair@gmail.com)

- In process reviewing University Trustee candidates.
- Created parking survey, sent to Eboard members first prior to sending to graduates students.
- Finished formatting joint PSG and PGSG

resolution. Public Relations - Shalom

Kpetsu(pgsg.pro@gmail.com) **Parliamentarian - TBD**

(pgsg.parliamentarian@gmail.com) **Diversity Officer - Jia**

Cheoh(pgsg.diversity@gmail.com) **Legislative Affairs - Alex**

Seto (pgsg.lad@gmail.com)

- Met with the NAGPS (National Association of Graduate - Professional Students) to discuss strategy for tackling this new and ever-changing political landscape.
- Attended an discussion about open access in research (in this new landscape...)
- Met with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (U.S. GAO) regarding graduate student compensation (vis a vis federal funding).
- Ongoing monitoring of state and federal executive orders and legislation:
 - IN SB235 - prohibiting diversity policy for state agencies
 - IN EO25-14 - prohibits diversity policy for state agencies
 - IN SB441 - legislates the definition of gender; disaffirms
 - ~~IN HB1684 - restricting divorce~~ (this one has been withdrawn as of yesterday)
 - IN SB0171 - restricting emergency contraception
 - IN HB1644 - restricting (university) student voting
 - US: A few bills to terminate and/or reorganize the Department of Education
 - ...
- ^ this is not good for your mental health (the monitoring) ^
- If anyone is interested in advocacy, please let me know. I'd love for more people to get involved. (You don't have to monitor legislation if you don't want to)

Career Chair - Desmond Mensah(pgsg.career@gmail.com)

- Networking as a First-Generation Grad Student (October 14, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
- Summer Internships Preparation (February 3rd, 5:00-6:00 PM)

Community Chair - Sindusha Mysore Saiprasad(pgsg.community@gmail.com)

Purdue Graduate Student Center
504 Northwestern Ave, West
Lafayette, IN 47906



Life Chair - Praga Giri(pgsg.life@gmail.com)

Grant Review and Allocation Chair - Secret Permenter(pgsg.grantreview@gmail.com)

- The Accessibility Grant (AG) opened on January 20th and the Small Research Grant (SRG) opened at the beginning of January. The AG is open year-round with applications accepted on a rolling basis, while the SRG will follow the same calendar and schedule as the Travel and Professional Grants.
 - Worked with the Vice PR and the Webmaster to get the website up and running and to get flyers circulating on social media platforms.
 - The new grants have been fielding some applications and interest so far, which we are very excited about.
 - The Transitional housing grant has received a few applications recently as well.
- Encouraged more students to apply to the grants, including some outside of STEM who either did not know about the extent of what they can use some of the grants for (like Professional).
- Set up a meeting with SAO and BOSO to discuss plans for GRAC funding in the future.
- The December grant round was voted on in January. Updated breakdown of spending thus far is below:
 - **Please note:** All below budgets are based on **allotted** numbers, meaning the amount of money we have thus far awarded to different individuals and groups. It does not yet account for those who have denied their awards, those who used less than their awarded amount, nor those who missed the award acceptance deadline.
 - Mental Health Partnership- \$0 spent/ \$1,500.00- 0% spent
 - Strategic Partnership Grant - \$0.00/ \$2,000.00- 0% spent.
 - Graduate Student Equipment Fall- \$0/ \$2,500- 0% spent.
 - Professional- \$24,181.11/**\$40,570.00 - 54.7% spent**
 - GSOGA- \$14,348.33/\$40,000.00 - 35.9% spent
 - Symposium - \$1,500/\$11,500 - 13.0% spent
 - Travel- \$51,250/**\$89,630.00 - 57.2% spent**
 - (NOTE: Graduate School Tier 3, \$15,300/\$45,000.00; 34% spent)
 - Transitional housing Grant \$670/\$10,000 - 6.7% % spent
 - Overall Budget – \$89,279.44/\$210,200 - 42.5% spent
- Attended e-board meetings and dinner with the Career team to discuss improving PGSG in future years. Dinner with the GRAC team has been scheduled and invites sent accordingly.
- We are starting to gauge interest in candidates for GRAC chair and vice chairs for next year. If interested in any positions, please reach out.