

January 24, 2025

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Graduate Student Association at Vancouver (GSAV) Report

SUBMITTED BY: Katie Clare, GSAV President

The Graduate Student Association at Vancouver is a Registered Student Organization within WSUV that primarily focuses on encouraging community and collaboration within the graduate student body at WSUV.

The Graduate Student Association at Vancouver reports the following updates:

- GSAV was formed in 2019 as a coalition of graduate students with common interests in advocating for student needs on the WSU Vancouver campus. The role of this RSO (club) has evolved into a student-led group with focus on improving community and increasing collaboration across the Vancouver campus. Our group also provides peer advisement on navigating university resources as well as a platform to seek peer feedback on university related issues.
- While GSAV is not directly tied with ASWSUV, over the last few years we've made strides to increase the involvement and representation of graduate students within student government. Graduate students now have a representative on the ASWSUV Senate, and the role of the GSAV President involves regular collaboration with the ASWSUV President and Vice President to ensure graduate student representation. Graduate students are more represented in student government at Vancouver than they ever have been, and there are ongoing efforts to further increase this in the future.
- GSAV has been financially supported both by funds from OSI and by funds through the Office of Research and Graduate Education, through Vice Chancellor Christine Portfors. These funds have been used to host a variety of social and academic events including Coffee Hours, Game Nights, Co-Working Days, and Semester Kick-Off Events. These events have led to a substantial increase in graduate student involvement from under 30 active students in 2022 and 2023 to over 50 students regularly attending events in 2024.
- Currently there are 338 graduate, medical, and professional students on campus. GSAV involvement from graduate students has historically been largely from CAS, but in 2023 we've had about equal attendance between students in CAS and ENCS, as well as increasing involvement from Education, Nursing, and Human Development. In future years, we're hoping to continue to expand our reach into these departments and ensure students in non-thesis based programs are represented by our organization.
- In 2023, graduate students were given access to a room to use as a lounge, open to graduate students across all disciplines. This room is being used regularly as a community space, and provides a natural space for graduate students to meet people from other departments on the WSUV campus. The acquisition of this space has dramatically increased the sense of community on our small campus and resulted in a lot more familiarity within the graduate student body on campus.