

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
Meeting of 5 November 2025 at 5:30pm  
In-person and remotely via Zoom

**The following GPSS members and staff attended the meeting:**

Ryan Wicklund, GPSS President  
Annika Peterson, GPSS Vice President of External Affairs  
Juan Andres Contreras Mora, GPSS Vice President of Internal Affairs  
Noah Nguyen Hough, GPSS Vice President of Administration  
Pavandeep Josan, GPSS Vice President of Equity & Inclusion  
Riley Talamantes, GPSS Vice President of Finance  
Anne Rizvi, GPSS Budget & Office Director  
Claudia Chan, GPSS Creative & Communications Director  
Maitri Karia, GPSS University Affairs Director  
Richard Boyechko, GPSS Senate & Technology Director  
Yujin Yang, GPSS Community Outreach & Events Director  
Zoe Love, GPSS Policy Director  
Renee Infelise, SAO Advisor

1. [ACTION] Call to Order 5:48pm

**Ryan Wicklund** called the meeting to order at 5:48pm.

2. [ACTION] Approval of the Agenda 5:48pm

**Riley Talamantes** moved to approve the agenda. **Fatemeh Hosseinzadeh** seconded. No objections.

3. [ACTION] Approval of the Minutes 5:49pm

The Senate considered the meeting minutes from May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 as circulated by Noah Nguyen Hough on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. **Nick Klop** moved to approve the minutes; **Alexandros Peltekis** seconded. No objections. Motion passed at 5:50pm.

4. [INFORMATION] Land Acknowledgment 5:50pm

On behalf of GPSS, **Pavandeep Josan** acknowledged our presence on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples:

“Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed to making the history that led to this moment. Indigenous people have lived here continuously since time immemorial, and Seattle is now a highly cosmopolitan territory with overlapping sovereignties and fidelities. But acknowledging the land we are on is only the first step. Therefore, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate of the University of Washington in Seattle acknowledges the Coast Salish people of this land, the land that touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations, and all traditional lands on which we live and work.”

Furthermore, **Pavandeep Josan** shared some resources to get further involved in the struggle for indigenous rights.

#### 5. [INFORMATION] Announcements & Public Comments 5:51pm

**Ayush Goyal** shared an announcement about the Dempsey Startup Competition (deadline: November 18<sup>th</sup>). **Emilio Castanedo** shared an announcement about the “Take Up Space: Race & Public Policy Symposium” at the Evans School. GPSS Officers and Senators provided further announcements to the Senate.

#### 6. [INFORMATION] Graduate School Dean Joy Williamson-Lott 6:02pm

**Ryan Wicklund** introduced the Graduate School Dean Joy Williamson-Lott. She is a historian of education by training and has been in the dean position since 2019. She shared about the work of the Graduate School. All degree programs except MD, PharmD, DDS, and JD are under the umbrella of the Graduate School. The Graduate School is responsible for everything from admissions through graduations for graduate students, including tuition waivers and programming events. The Graduate School also reviews all graduate programs every ten years.

The Dean has monthly office hours, to which we are all welcome. The next one is November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. While the programs are best equipped with guiding students about the specific process of earning the degree and the local situation, the Dean is interested in hearing about how the graduate education at UW works as a whole. She cannot problem-solve very local concerns, however, nor undo decisions made by the student’s program.

Graduate Student Research Resilience Fund is raising money to help support Ph.D. students whose Principal Investigators (PIs) have lost federal funding. The funding is applied for by the student’s program.

#### 7. [INFORMATION] Student Health Fee Presentation 6:20pm

**Natasha, Jack,** and **Shannon Bailie** gave a presentation about the proposed Student Health Fee (SHF) of \$125 per UW-Seattle student per quarter. The fee is spearheaded by ASUW. The fee is not health insurance, but rather a shared investment that would support students having basic services available on campus. Currently students pay \$175 Student Activities Fee (SAF) per quarter, but only \$69 of that goes to fund Counseling Center, Husky Health, and LiveWell. The other \$106 go to fund everything else from the Food Pantry to GPSS. The speakers then outlined what additional services and resources on campus would be improved if the SHF is instituted. The fee will be voted on by the student body next week.

**Riley Talamantes** further explained the impact that the institution of the SHF would have on GPSS and other SAF-funded units. There is information online about the specific programs that SAF funds.

At 6:49pm, **Riley Talamantes** moved to extend the time. **Pavandeep Josan** seconded. Motion carried at 6:49pm.

At 6:56pm, **Pavandeep Josan** moved to extend the time. **Emma Modrick** seconded. Motion carried at 6:57pm.

#### 8. [INFORMATION] Icebreaker 7:03pm

**Tricia Jenkins** led the icebreaker for the Senators.

#### 9. [ACTION] Committee Formation 7:11pm

**Pavandeep Josan** briefly shared again about the core GPSS committees (Judicial, Elections, and Finance & Budget). At 7:16pm, he moved to extend the time by two minutes. **Riley Talamantes** seconded. Time extended by 2 minutes at 7:17pm.

**Pavandeep Josan** moved that the GPSS appoint the four nominated senators to the Elections Committee. **Riley Talamantes** seconded. Motion carried at 7:17pm. Eli Drake, Ayush Goyal, Andrew Kramer, and Muhammad Tariq were confirmed to the committee.

#### 10. [ACTION] Judicial Committee Elections 7:18pm

**Riley Talamantes** moved to extend the time by two minutes. Pavandeep Josan seconded. Time extended by two minutes at 7:24pm.

Andri Fernanda, Catherine Pedrosa, Hannah Langha, MJ Mencias, Lupita Gutierrez Ramirez, and Nick Klop were elected by their peers to the Judicial Committee at 7:53pm.

#### 11. [ACTION] Legislative Agenda Draft (Second/Third Reading) 7:27pm

**Annika Peterson** presented for the second reading the draft of the 2025-2026 GPSS legislative agenda. The draft was then discussed and amended on the floor.

**Annika Peterson** moved to suspend the order to advance the agenda for approval. **Emma Modrick** seconded. **Riley Talamantes** moved to approve the legislative agenda. **Matthew Benson** seconded. No objections. Motion carried 7:46pm. See “Appendix A” for the full text of the legislative agenda as approved.

#### 12. [INFORMATION] Resolution on Installation of Bidets and Hand Showers in UW Campus Restrooms to Advance of Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (Second/Third Reading) 7:51pm

**Pavandeep Josan** presented the resolution for the second reading. The draft was then discussed on the floor.

**Pavandeep Josan** moved to suspend the rules to advance the resolution for approval. **Riley Talamantes** seconded. No objections. The motion carried 8:03pm. **Pavandeep Josan** moved to approve the resolution. **MJ Mencias** seconded. No objections. The resolution was approved at 8:04pm.

13. [INFORMATION] Joint Resolution A Joint Resolution for a Graduate and Undergraduate Student Regent 8:05pm

**Ryan Wicklund** presented for the first reading the joint resolution with ASUW.

14. [ACTION] Adjournment 8:02pm

**Riley Talamantes** moved to adjourn the meeting. **MJ Mencias** seconded. **Ryan Wicklund** declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by **Richard Boyechko**, GPSS Senate and Web Director.

<p><b>1The Graduate and Professional Student Senate</b></p> <p>GPSS represents more than 17,600 graduate and professional students at the University of Washington. Our mission is to amplify our students' voices and experiences, build community, and advocate for the removal of inequities.</p> <p>As graduate and professional students, we face distinctive challenges throughout our academic journeys that demand tailored solutions. These concerns are central to our 2025-2026 Legislative Agenda. We outline key priorities for students to create a fairer and more equitable educational landscape.</p>	<p><b>D(evelopment)</b></p> <p>To effectively prepare tomorrow's graduate students, we need to cultivate development opportunities for today's K-12, undergraduate, and graduate students. By establishing equitable pathways for advancement, we can build a more diverse and representative campus. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting WEIA and protecting funds from supplanting general-fund support</li> <li>- Expanding eligibility of the Washington College Grant and re-establishing Bridge Grants</li> <li>- Allocating funding for research opportunities</li> <li>- Tuition waivers for Native American and Indigenous American students at UW campuses</li> <li>- Protecting and increasing work and financial aid opportunities, emphasizing undocumented and international students</li> </ul>	<p><b>A(ffordability)</b></p> <p>Pursuing higher education should be a way for students to secure their financial futures; however, escalating living expenses and the ongoing student loan crisis threaten students' degree completion and economic prospects. To effectively tackle the affordability issues surrounding higher education, we need significant changes to the costs students encounter. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allocation of funding for the Washington State Graduate Student Loan program</li> <li>- Providing grant-based funding to high-demand graduate degrees through a pilot program or expansion of the Washington College Grant</li> <li>- Opposing tuition increases at Washington State public institutions</li> <li>- Stable housing options and resources for international students during extended university breaks</li> <li>- Increase protections for students borrowing from private lenders</li> </ul>	<p><b>W(ellness)</b></p> <p>Accessible and affordable healthcare are essential for students and has remained a top priority for GPSS. By promoting healthy communities on campus and affordable healthcare, students can better concentrate on their education and positively impact the overall wellbeing of the University of Washington. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting students' right to free speech</li> <li>- Support for on-campus healthcare services, including mental health and counseling sessions at no extra cost to students</li> <li>- Supporting students' basic needs, emphasizing accessibility and affordability of on-campus housing and healthy food resources</li> <li>- Expanding EBT and Apple Health access and eligibility for Graduate and Professional Students</li> <li>- Protecting transgender and queer students' private information</li> </ul>	<p><b>G(rowth)</b></p> <p>As the University of Washington increases its enrollment and maintains its status as the top educational institution in the state, students need a more advanced and supportive learning environment. Enhancing our campus will help students achieve their goals as they engage in world-class research. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand voting rights to student regents serving on public universities' Boards of Regents</li> <li>- Allowing student workers on all campuses the right to unionize and bargain for better working conditions</li> <li>- Increased technology access and flexibility with course offerings to include more hybrid, virtual, and asynchronous learning options</li> <li>- Allocation of funding to provide sharps disposal boxes on campuses</li> </ul>	<p><b>S(ervices)</b></p> <p>The University of Washington boasts the largest graduate student population in the state. It is essential for graduate students to have access to supportive resources and services that encourages them to focus on their education, making this a key priority as we build our campus community. Therefore, GPSS supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanding the Working Connections Childcare program to include low-income graduate students and public universities</li> <li>- Increased support for students with dependents, including supporting early registration for students with dependents</li> <li>- Revising the limit on the services and activities fee from 4% to 6% to better fund units</li> </ul>
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	- Protections for international and undocumented students		- Support physical and mental health resources for sexual assault survivors		
<b>Comments here (all are welcome to comment) --&gt;</b>					

**Title:** Installation of Bidets and Hand Showers in UW Campus Restrooms to Advance Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

**Sponsored by:** M A Tariq (AB), Pavandeep Singh Josan, Muslim Student Association (MSA) at UW

**Written by:** M A Tariq (AB)

**Resolution Number:** 01.2526

1. WHEREAS, the University of Washington (UW) enrolls a total of 62,763 students across its Seattle, Bothell, and Tacoma campuses, including 45,097 undergraduates and 17,666 graduate and professional students [1]; and
2. WHEREAS, approximately 8,470 of these students are international, representing about 13.5% of total enrollment, with 3,987 international graduate students as of Fall 2024 [2][3]; and
3. WHEREAS, communities including Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, South Asian, Middle Eastern, and Buddhist populations practice water-based hygiene as a matter of religious observance, cultural tradition, and personal dignity, and the lack of such facilities in campus restrooms can create barriers to inclusion and comfort for these students, particularly among international and graduate populations [4][5][6][7][8]; and
4. WHEREAS, the UW student body, comprising many diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, requires access to personal hygiene tools such as bidets and hand showers to practice their faith and maintain dignity, yet many UW restrooms currently lack such inclusive facilities [9]; and
5. WHEREAS, Harvard University has initiated programs to install bidet toilets across campus restrooms to enhance hygiene, sustainability, and inclusivity, and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) has recently installed bidets in its Student Centre washrooms, improving accessibility, hygiene, and inclusivity for students from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, providing models for culturally and religiously inclusive restroom facilities [10][11]; and
6. WHEREAS, the University of Washington's Diversity Blueprint and the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity (OMA&D) reaffirm the institution's commitment to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for all members of its community, including international and religiously diverse students, and the University of Washington's Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) affirms its commitment to fostering an equitable and inclusive community, as articulated in its mission to "*amplify the voices and experiences of graduate and professional students at the University of Washington, build community, and advocate for the eradication of inequities*" aligning with the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for all members of its community [12][13];

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE (GPSS) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:**

1. THAT the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) of the University of Washington directs UW Facilities Services and University Administration to install bidets

and hand showers in restrooms across UW campuses, prioritizing main student areas, libraries, and student centers; and

2. THAT the GPSS submit this resolution to the UW President's Office, the Office of Planning & Budgeting, and the Division of Student Life to implement inclusive restroom initiatives across all UW campuses.

### References:

1. University of Washington Office of Planning & Budgeting. *UW Fast Facts 2024–2025*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washington.edu/opb/uw-data/fast-facts>
2. University of Washington News. (2024, October 14). *UW's 2024 Entering Class Is Most Diverse in University History*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washington.edu/news/2024/10/14/uws-2024-entering-class-is-most-diverse>
3. University of Washington International Student Services (ISS). *International Student Statistics (F-1 and J-1 Visa Holders, Fall 2024)*. Retrieved from: <https://iss.washington.edu/about-iss/statistics/>
4. Pew Research Center. (2023). *Religious Practices and Beliefs of Muslims*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/>
5. Narayanan, V. (2020). *Hinduism and Ecology: Cleanliness as Sacred Duty*. Oxford University Press.
6. Singh, P. (2021). *Everyday Sikh Practices and Cleanliness Traditions*. *Journal of South Asian Studies*.
7. UNICEF. (2022). *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Practices in South Asia*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/reports/wash-practices>
8. World Health Organization (WHO). (2022). *Cultural and Religious Considerations in Sanitation Design*. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241514705>
9. Pew Research Center. (2023). *Religion and Public Life: Global Religious Demographics*. Retrieved from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/>
10. World Health Organization (WHO). (2022). *Guidelines on Sanitation and Health*. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241514705>
11. University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union. (2025, January 10). *Bidet Installation in UTM Student Centre Washrooms*. Retrieved from LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7368691961542770689/>
12. University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity. *Diversity Blueprint 2022–2026*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washington.edu/diversity/diversity-blueprint/>
13. GPSS. *About GPSS / Mission Statement*. Retrieved from: [https://www.gpss.uw.edu/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.gpss.uw.edu/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

*Presented to GPSS for approval on*

*Approved on*

CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT  
**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION JR-32-1**  
**BOARD BILL 5.XX**

32<sup>nd</sup> Session  
2025-2026 Academic Year

Passed by the Board [Month  
Day], 2025. YEAS XX NAYS XX.

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**Nandana Jaideep**  
**President, Board of Directors**

Passed by the GPSS [Month  
Day], 2025. YEAS XX NAYS XX.

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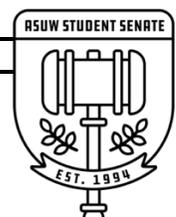
**Ryan Wicklund**  
**President, GPSS**

CERTIFICATE

I, Erick Jacobsen, Speaker of the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE RESOLUTION JR-32-1** as passed by the Senate on the date set forth.

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**Erick Jacobsen**  
**Speaker, Student Senate**



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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION JR-32-1**  
A Joint Resolution for a Graduate and  
Undergraduate Student Regent

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Under Consideration - 2025-2026 Academic Year

**A.S.U.W.**

**Fall Quarter 2025**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Sponsored by** Erick Jacobsen, *Speaker of the ASUW Senate*, and Ryan Wicklund, *President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate*.

Referred to Committee on XXXXX Affairs. Read on the floor XX/XX/XXXX.

1 **WHEREAS** the Board of Regents of the University of Washington  
2 consists of twelve Regents including a student Regent and a  
3 faculty Regent [1]; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Student Regent position was introduced in the 1998-  
5 1999 school year and, since then, has been filled by one student  
6 each year, totaling 28 Student Regents [2]; and

7 **WHEREAS** out of these 28 Regents, 20 (71.4%) were enrolled in  
8 graduate or professional programs and 8 (28.6%) were enrolled in  
9 undergraduate programs [2]; and

10 **WHEREAS** out of the 20 graduate and professional Student Regents,  
11 only 12 (42.8% of all Student Regents) had previously enrolled  
12 in the University of Washington as undergraduate students, and 8  
13 (28.6% of all Student Regents) had not [2]; and

14 **WHEREAS** in the past ten years, only two of the six graduate and  
15 professional Student Regents (20% of all Student Regents over  
16 that period) had previously enrolled in the University of  
17 Washington as undergraduate students, indicating a decline in  
18 that trend [2]; and

19 **WHEREAS** in the past ten years, only four of the ten Student  
20 Regents (40% over that period) were undergraduate students [2];  
21 and

22 **WHEREAS** 45,097 undergraduate students were enrolled in the  
23 University of Washington across its three campuses in the 2024-

24 2025 school year, with 17,666 graduate and professional students  
25 [3]; and

26 **WHEREAS** undergraduate students therefore comprise 71.9% of all  
27 students at the UW, while only 40% of student regents in the  
28 past four years, and 28.6% of student regents overall have  
29 represented this massive supermajority of the student  
30 population; and

31 **WHEREAS** even among the graduate and professional student  
32 regents, the declining trend of "Double Dawgs" who earned their  
33 Bachelor's Degree from the University of Washington has led to  
34 further disconnect from the undergraduate experience at UW, and  
35 the shorter length of most graduate and professional programs  
36 further exacerbates Student Regents' lack of familiarity with  
37 the intricacies of UW as an institution; and

38 **WHEREAS** only two Student Regents (7.1%) have hailed from the  
39 Tacoma campus of UW, and only one (3.6%) has hailed from Bothell  
40 [2], despite Tacoma comprising 8% of the UW population and  
41 Bothell comprising 9.6% [3], representing a more minor but still  
42 persistent underrepresentation within the UW Student Regent  
43 position; and

44 **WHEREAS** much of the disproportionate representation of graduate  
45 and professional students in the Student Regent position can be  
46 attributed to the fact that graduate and professional students  
47 already have a Bachelor's Degree and therefore are more likely  
48 to have more experience in leadership, meaning that  
49 undergraduate student applicants are always disadvantaged when  
50 applying for the position, since the hiring committee is more  
51 likely to be focused on one's raw qualifications for the  
52 position than the benefit that could be brought by bringing in a  
53 perspective consistent with the vast majority of students; and

54 **WHEREAS** the Student Regent is not charged with representing the  
55 student body, but does bring a student perspective to how  
56 certain policies and actions may benefit or hinder the mission  
57 of the UW and its duty to advance the education and experience  
58 of its students, providing a valuable service which cannot be  
59 understated; and

60 **WHEREAS** the undergraduate experience is incredibly important to  
61 the direction and decisions of the UW, since it represents the

62 vast majority of the UW experience, and reflects on the wide  
63 success or failure of certain policies or decisions; and

64 **WHEREAS** the graduate and professional experience is still  
65 equally important, as it is a major source of UW's R-1 research  
66 institution status and brings millions of dollars of funding  
67 into UW as well as national attention and prestige; and

68 **WHEREAS** the difference between the undergraduate and the  
69 graduate or professional student experience is a lot starker  
70 than the difference between any individual college or program,  
71 and is a lot more affected by the current structure of the  
72 position than any such factors; and

73 **WHEREAS** an undergraduate Student Regent is unable to bring a  
74 full perspective on UW's graduate and professional programs and  
75 a graduate or professional Student Regent is historically unable  
76 to bring a full perspective on UW's undergraduate programs,  
77 leaving all singular student regents at a significant  
78 disadvantage in fulfilling the duties of their role; and

79 **WHEREAS** having one Student Regent has led to a zero-sum  
80 competition whereby EITHER graduate students OR undergraduate  
81 students get their backgrounds represented in the Board of  
82 Regents, often at cost to each other, despite the vast  
83 importance of both perspectives; and

84 **WHEREAS** the lack of proportionate representation has been  
85 identified as a concern of ASUW and GPSS, who collectively  
86 represent 53,063 of the 62,763 students in the UW system;

87 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE**  
88 **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:**

89 **THAT** a seat shall be added to the University of Washington Board  
90 of Regents which shall only be open to undergraduate students  
91 enrolled at any of UW's three campuses; and

92 **THAT** the current seat of the Student Regent shall be restricted  
93 to students enrolled in graduate or professional programs at any  
94 of UW's three campuses; and

95 **THAT** the existing committee for the selection of the Student  
96 Regent be tasked with reviewing and approving candidates for

97 both positions, with the final decision on both seats falling  
98 ultimately to the Governor of Washington State; and

99 **THAT** this modification of the Student Regent position be  
100 implemented for the 2026-2027 school year if possible, or  
101 otherwise as soon as is permitted by the legal and  
102 administrative procedures currently required to approve such a  
103 decision; and

104 **THAT** this legislation be forwarded by GAVEL to:

**Robert Jones** | President, *University of Washington*

**Tricia Serio** | Provost, *University of Washington*

**Aarti Bhat** | Chair, *UW Faculty Senate*

**John Carmichael** | Washington State Commissioner, *WICHE*,  
President, *Evergreen State College*

**Gerry Pollet** | Washington State Commissioner, *WICHE*, and State  
Representative, *Washington State Legislature*

**Michael Meotti** | Washington State Commissioner, *WICHE*, Executive  
Director, *Washington Student Achievement Council*

#### **References:**

[1] **Current Board of Regents** (2025).

<https://www.washington.edu/regents/officers/>

[2] **EAC Elections Records: List of Historical Student Regents**  
(2025).

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QZuS2hefBnZJLi3f8V4wfja07EWxw3MExegvH JDSdo/edit?gid=1671491166#gid=1671491166>

[3] **UW Fast Facts** (2025). <https://www.washington.edu/opb/uw-data/fast-facts/fast-facts-html-only/>