

# GSA

# General Assembly Meeting #3

Zoom Edition  
November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020



@VTGSA

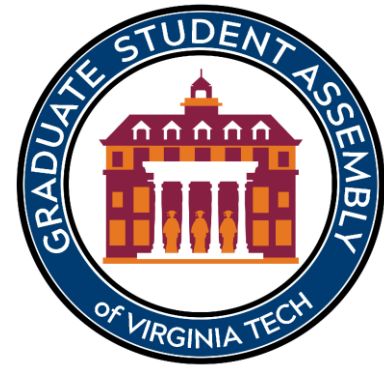


Graduate Student Assembly  
of Virginia Tech



Gsa.vt.edu

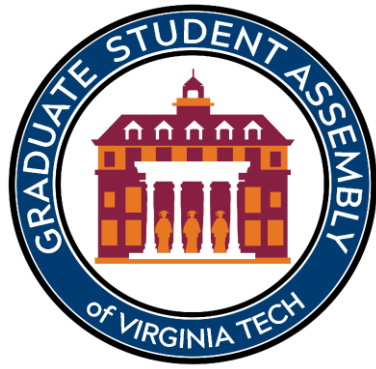
*\*This meeting is being recorded\**



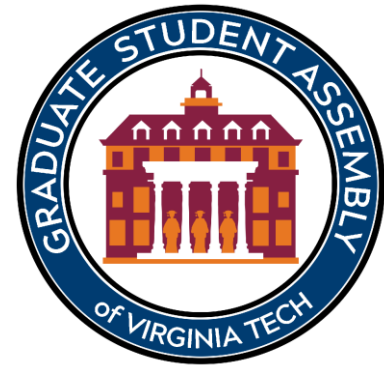
# Agenda:

1. Student Affairs Open Forum (30min)
2. GSA Agenda Items
  - a. Motion to change voting procedures
  - b. CUSP 2020-2021C&D
  - c. Confirmation of GHS Chair
3. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Diversity
  - b. Grad Comp/Capital Planning
  - c. Student Services
  - d. Going Green
4. Standing Committee Updates
  - a. Finance
  - b. Internal Affairs
  - c. Judicial
5. Exec. Board Updates
  - a. VP
  - b. Finance
  - c. Programs
  - d. Events
  - e. Communications
  - f. Graduate Rep. to BoV
6. Closing/Adjournment

# Student Affairs Leadership Open Forum (30min)



- Student Affairs Leadership
  - VP SA: Frank Shushok
  - Asst VP: James Bridgeforth
  - Dean of Students: Byron Hughes
  - Director of SECL: Heather Wagoner



# GSA Agenda Items

- a. Motion to change voting procedures
  - b. CUSP 2020-2021 C&D
  - c. Confirmation of GHS Chair

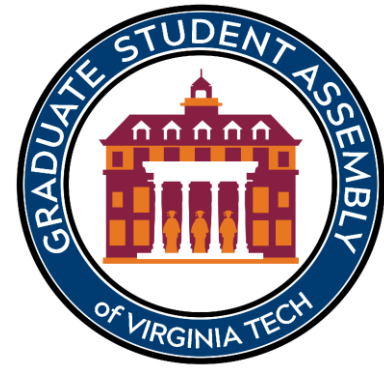
# Motion to change voting procedures



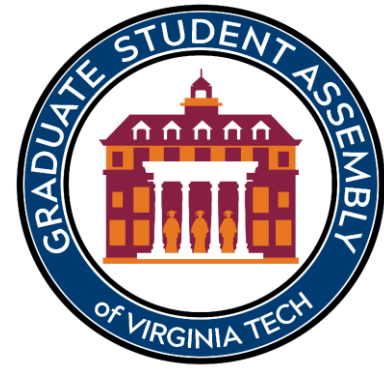
# CUSP 2020-2021 C&D



# Confirmation of GHS Chair



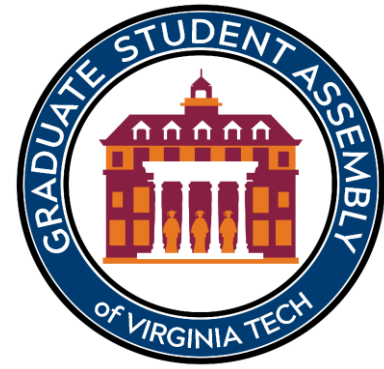
Kayla Alward



# GSA Subcommittee Updates

- Diversity
- Grad Comp/Capital Planning
  - Student Services
  - Going Green

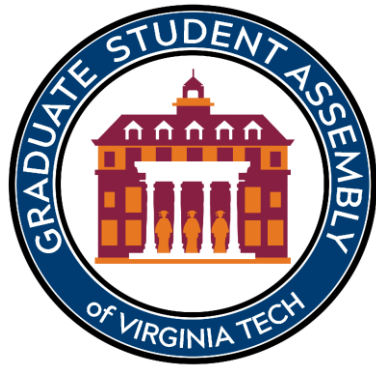


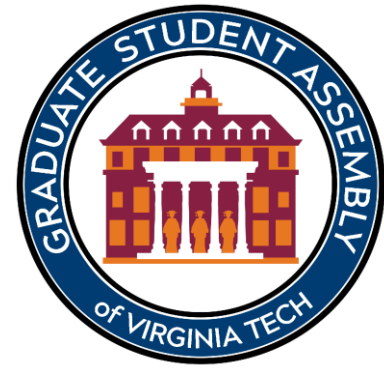


# Diversity

- Met with Dr. Shernita Lee and drafted short- and long-term goals
- Review data from spring 2019 Graduate Student Climate Survey, By the Numbers page, Engineering's Graduate Enrollment by Gender and Ethnicity
- Using UVA and Emory's diversity plans as a guide
- Additional data?
  - We have data from the College of Engineering, if any delegates have data from other colleges, please email me ([emilyb16@vt.edu](mailto:emilyb16@vt.edu))

# Grad Comp/Capital Planning

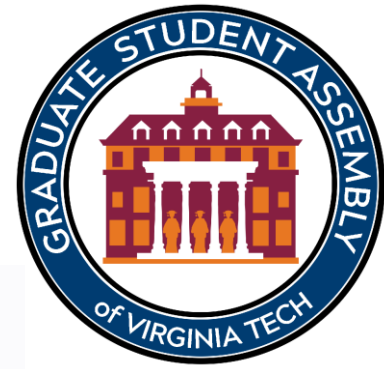




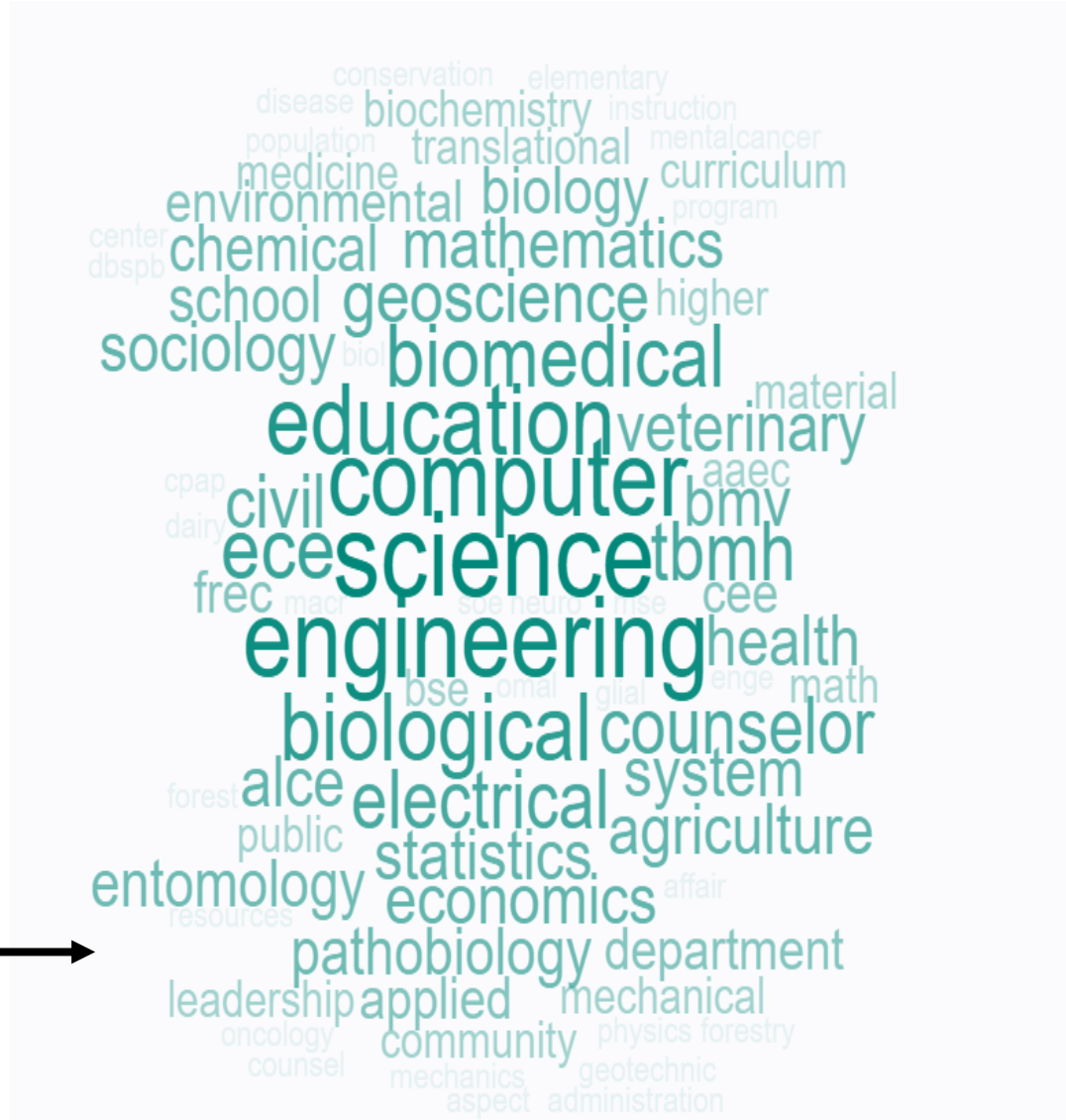
# Student Services Task Force

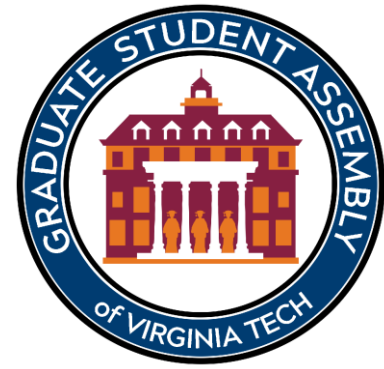
Isis and Dryden

# Survey Response Demographics



- 188 total responses
  - 154 from the Blacksburg campus,
  - 21 from the Roanoke campus, 8 from the DC area campus
- 76% of responses from students that have been VT grad students for 3 years or fewer
- Wide range of departments/graduate programs represented

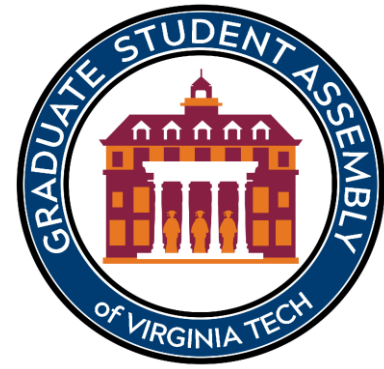




# Student Affairs Services for Improvement

1. Cook Counseling (16%)
2. Schiffert (13%)
3. Hokie Wellness (7%)
4. Recreational Sports (6%)
5. Student Engagement & Campus Life (5%)
6. Food Services (5%)

Honorable Mention: Cranwell International Center

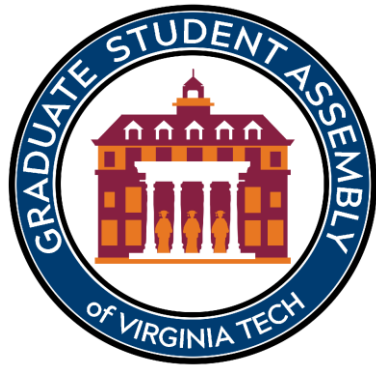


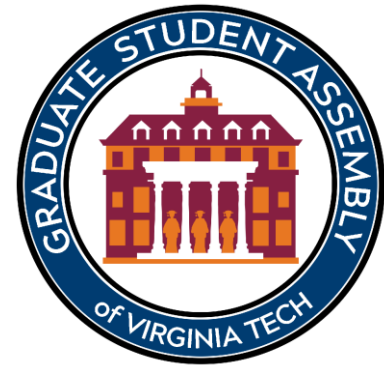
# Grad School Services for Improvement

1. Professional Development (14%)
2. Financial Resources (13%)
3. Diversity and Inclusion (11%)
4. Student Support Services (11%)
5. Daycare (7%)
6. Time Management Counseling (7%)
7. Resources for Families (5%)

# New Services to Be Offered

1. Graduate Specific Writing Center
2. Homestay for international students
3. Social events (?)



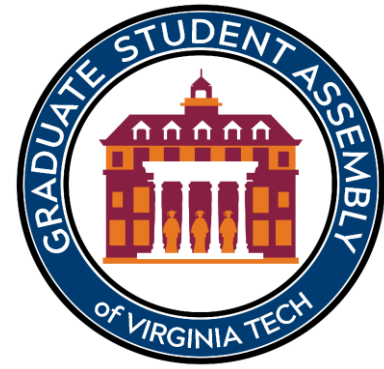


# Cook Counseling

- “I would like Cook to offer more counseling for students with stable mental health conditions, rather than mostly focusing on triage, emergency situations. I think there should be a more balanced approach, if possible (i.e. Cook needs more funding to meet the needs of students)”
- “There are not enough counselors for Students across the board. Especially since this generation of grad and undergrad students are seeking mental health services more, resources for this would be appreciated.”

Our recommendation: More staff, online portal

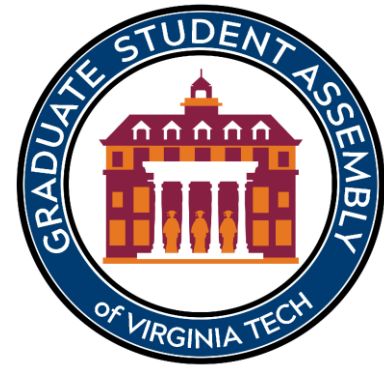




# Schiffert Health Services

- “Graduate students have no access to health services without a large fee. I feel as though basic services should be covered by Virginia Tech, because many graduate students cannot afford to pay the health fee leaving us with little access to health services.”
- “Just some consistency across medical practices.”
- “By giving more information about services offered, and to have more flexibility in making appointments there.”

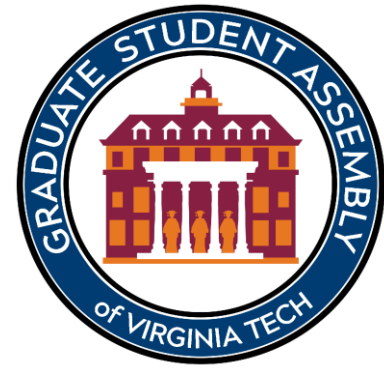
Our recommendation: online portal, more staff, longer hours



# Accessibility off Bburg campus

- “Accessible and equitable to Roanoke” (In response to so, so many questions)
- “There are very few services available to the Roanoke campus, and the ones that are are often for only med students or the medical school” (in response to Are there any services that are not currently offered by the university that you would like to see added?)
- “Staff more international advisors (DSOs) in the NoVa area.” (In response to How would you like to see the Cranwell International Center services improved?)

Our recommendation: Do these things virtually while working to set them up physically

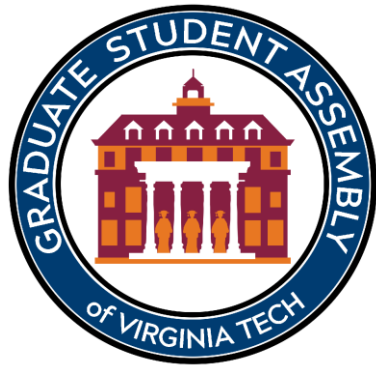


# Daycare/Student Awareness

- “I mean. Have some?” (In response to “how would you like to see daycare services improved?”)
- “I would like to know what they do, I am very unfamiliar with their services” (In response to “how would you like to see Financial Resources services improved?”)
- “Advertise your services more, add more assistance with job searches, etc. for non-academic track PhD students.” (In response to how would you like to see Student Support services improved?)

Our recommendation: A website, one single website that students can go to that has sections like “need family help?,” “feeling stressed?,” “looking for community engagement?”

# Graduate Specific Writing Center



- “the writing center is not helpful for academic publications [sic].”
- “It would be great to see more outreach regarding resume and CV work for graduate and undergraduate students. This is such an important part of our development.”
- “Include more programs about writing for research projects.”

Our recommendation: Set up a writing center for, of, by grad students.

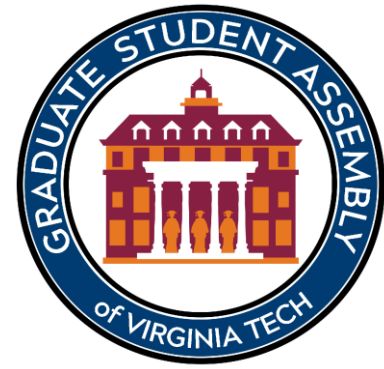
# Going Green





# Standing Committee Updates

Finance  
Internal Affairs  
Judicial



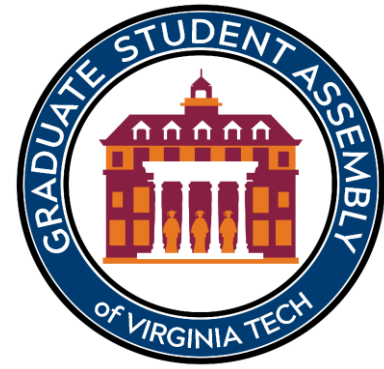
# Finance

- **Graduate Student Budget Board (Proposed)**
- **Updates:**
- Drive policy changes for the graduate SBB
- Funding for 3 major categories- Conference, Outreach and Food funding
- Scope as to how to **define** Graduate Student Organization
  - Driven by Graduate student members
  - Mission statement aligned with serving graduate student body primarily
  - Types of funding being requested
- **Next Steps:**
  - Focus group discussion with interested student organizations
  - Survey on “interests” in different funding categories
    - Funding categories
    - Funding limit/request

# Internal Affairs/Judicial







# Executive Board Updates

VP

Finance

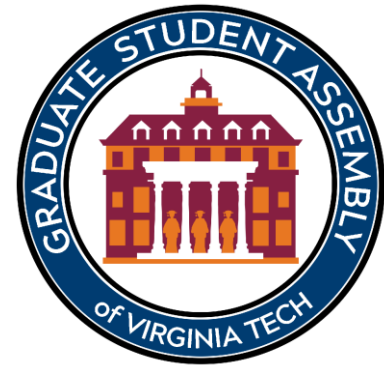
Programs

Events

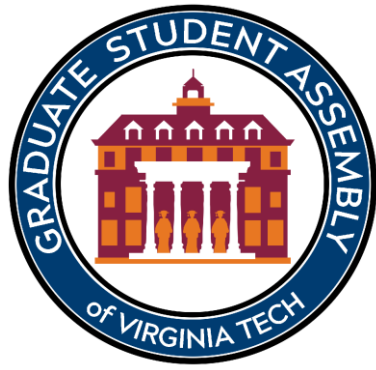
Communications

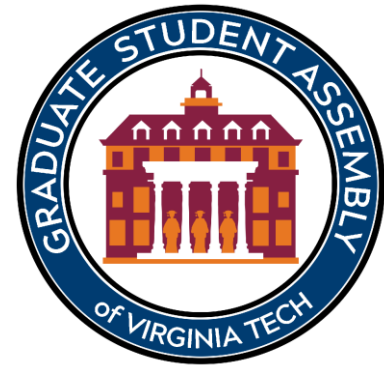
Graduate Rep. to BoV

VP



# Finance





# Programs

## **TFP: Applications are open!**

- Applications are due by November 13th
- TFP Fall covers July 1 to December 31

## **Symposium and Exposition**

- Planning underway for March event; unsure about in-person portions, planning on virtual presentations

## **Straw Poll**

- Interest in using the Cap and Gown materials for photo op rentals, as graduation is virtual?

# Events

## 7th Annual Little Hokie™ Hand-Me-Down

This program is designed to benefit Virginia Tech graduate students and families. We will be collecting unused/gently used children's items for parents and children ages 0 to 10.

### Donate

October 12th - November 6th

Gently used clothes, books, toys, lactation aids, strollers, unexpired car seats, baby gear, diapers, etc.

Drop-off at the Women's Center  
206 Washington St. SW

We ask that any donations be completely boxed or contained in plastic bags

### ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Toys (including music and DVDs,) books
- Gently used clothing (baby and maternity)
- Formula (that is not expired)
- Medical supplies (breast pumps, lactation devices)
- Strollers, unexpired car seats, school supplies
- Bedding (for cribs and moms!)
- Bathing and grooming supplies (bathers, unopened/unused creams, lotions, powders)
- Feeding supplies (bibs, baby bottles, food warmers)
- Baby gear (activity gyms, bassinets, play mats, baby carriers, swings)
- Diapers

WOMEN'S CENTER  
AT VIRGINIA TECH.



VT GRADUATE SCHOOL  
VIRGINIA TECH

### Get Free Items

Graduate Students

November 11th | 10a - 6p

Sign-ups preferred; limited walk-in availability

Graduate Students and Staff

November 12th | 10a - 2p

Walk-in with limited capacity

Items will be available for selection in the Graduate Life Center Multi-Purpose Room.

Sign-up times will be available starting November 4th on [womenscenter.vt.edu](http://womenscenter.vt.edu)



give what you can  
take what you need

deals! discounts!

# the GSA BUY Blacksburg! initiative

VT VIRGINIA TECH.

FOOD N U

**HETHWOOD MARKET**

15% off and Special Grad Student Breakfast Sandwich at their Saturday morning farmers market 8-12

**GLADE ROAD GROWING**

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA  
15% off online with code vtgrad15

\$4 off token and 10% merchandise discount

**\*\*MUST SHOW PROOF OF GRAD STATUS\*\***  
i.e. ID with special GSA sticker

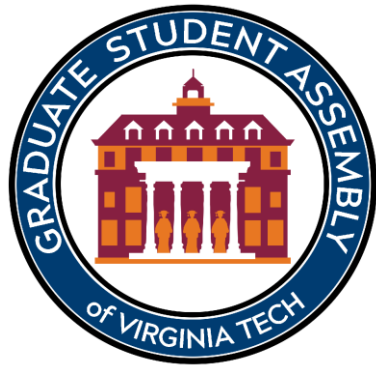
To become a partner or to learn more, check out <http://gsa.vt.edu>.

# Director of Communications



Need Volunteers and donations for Little Hokie Hand Me Down.

# BoV Rep



# Closing/Adjournment

