Senate Brief - March 3, 2022 Meeting

Please be mindful about who you share information with concerning GPSS. More importantly, be careful about whose information you share so that nobody is put in danger.

This document should be distributed to all graduate students within your department or through your departmental listserv so that everyone may engage with the activities of the Senate.

Task Force Sign Up!

❖ **Living Wage:** Please sign up to be on the task force for securing a living wage for graduate students. We fought hard for these seats, please take them! Email Jack Leff or gpss.vt.edu if you have questions.

❖ **Blacksburg Graduate Housing:** Please sign up to be on the initiative to start a cross-campus and community working group to establish affordable housing for graduate students in Blacksburg. This will be a strong community engagement opportunity with the town of Blacksburg! Email Alice Fox or gpss.vt.edu if you have questions.

Assistantship Workload Survey!

❖ Please fill out and distribute this preliminary survey to assess contract hours vs. perceived workload for graduate assistants. We will be using these data to advocate for additional time protections, contract clarifications, and changes to University Policy 6210 that defines assistantship roles and responsibilities. We need as many responses as we can get by March 21st!

MONEY!

❖ The GPSS Travel Fund Program is back! Fill out the form to be reimbursed for conference participation until March 14th at 11:59 PM.

Additional News:

❖ CGPS&P Resolution 2021-22 D to Institute a Living Wage will return from deferral and be presented at the University Council meeting on March 21st at 3:30 PM. The Zoom Link will be provided when we have it. The meeting will take place in Pamplin 1045.
  ➢ Please maintain parliamentary order during the council meeting. Only council members are permitted to speak during the meeting unless otherwise recognized by the chair. Breaking these rules jeopardizes our ability to advocate for graduate students in this space and exposes us to being barred from doing so. Further, the room is equipped with microphones in the ceiling; please refrain from clapping or other extraneous noises to ensure folks on Zoom can hear what is going on in the room.

❖ **BOV Public Comment:** Tuesday, March 22 at 1:45 PM. Please register to speak or submit comments by March 15th here.

❖ The GPSS has voted to sponsor Take Back the Night! (24 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)