Senate Brief - October 7, 2021 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.

Housekeeping and News

➢ Next meeting is October 21st, 5:30-7pm on Zoom. You must register in advance with your VT email address. New Business for next week is on the website and any questions should be directed to your senator or the executive board at gpss-exec-board-g@vt.edu.
  ○ Until further notice, all Senate meetings will be held on Zoom and only admit graduate students due to safety concerns. All members of the community are welcome to submit comments ahead of time for the record.
➢ Do you know of any graduate groups on campus that we could invite to take part in the GPSS? Let us know!
➢ Volunteers Needed for Little Hokie(tm) Hand Me Down
  ○ Do you like to help others? If so, please sign-up to host the registration table at Little Hokie(tm) Hand Me Down on Tuesday, November 9th, between Noon-5:00pm or Wednesday, November 10th between 10:00am-2:00pm in Owens Ballroom. We need to have at least one volunteer per hour, so please fill in each hour before filling in the second volunteer slot.
➢ VT Google Workspace For Education Survey
  ○ Survey to help VT understand how Google services provided by the university are being used today. This survey should take you 5 minutes.

Upcoming Events

➢ Teaching Philosophy Statement Writing Workshops
  ○ Wednesday, October 27th: 11:30am - 1:00pm, Zoom
➢ Diversity Statement Writing Workshops
  ○ Monday, October 18th: Noon - 1:30pm, Zoom
➢ Meet the Dean Events:
  ○ Guac Talk - Wednesday, November 17th: Noon-1:00pm, Student Lounge, Graduate Life Center; RSVP by November 15th at 9:00am
➢ Annual One Health Case Competition
  ○ Saturday, November 6th - sign up by October 18th at noon.
  ○ Teams comprising DVM, MPH, MD/DO, and PhD/MS (any field) students compete to solve cases using a One Health approach. Test your knowledge of infectious diseases, environmental health, infection control and prevention, emergency preparedness and response, and more! This is an excellent opportunity to not only win some $$ but also develop interprofessional skills and meet with graduate and professional students across Virginia Tech and VCOM with an interest in public health.
  ○ Contact Dr. Sophie Wenzel with questions: swenzel@vt.edu.
**Resolutions**

We waived our right to comment on CUS Resolution 2021-22A.

**Old Business:** The GPSS Bylaws and all three resolutions *passed* by significant margins and will be moved out to shared governance (commissions and ultimately other senates). You can read those resolutions [here](#). The abbreviated bylaws and resolutions that advanced are:

GPSS Bylaws
13. GPSS Resolution 2021-22K - Resolution to end prison labor contracts and reform hiring practices.
14. GPSS Resolution 2021-22L - Resolution to defund Virginia Tech campus police.
15. GPSS Resolution 2021-22M - Resolution to repurpose the Threat Assessment Taskforce and reduce student surveillance.

**New Business:** Resolutions N1-N3 moved on to a *second reading*. Resolutions O-R were delayed for their first reading until the next meeting. You can read all Resolutions [here](#). The abbreviated Resolutions that advanced are:

16. GPSS Resolution 2021-22N1 - Resolution to divest from fossil fuels.
17. GPSS Resolution 2021-22N2 - Resolution to divest from carceral corporations.
18. GPSS Resolution 2021-22N3 - Resolution to divest in compliance with the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions Movement.

Comments, debate, and discussion are in the minutes [here](#).