Senate Brief - September 23 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 7th, 5:30-7 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.
➢ For up to date information about the GPSS, make sure you go to gpss.vt.edu rather than gsa.vt.edu. The old GSA website is supposed to redirect to the GPSS site, but it doesn’t always work correctly. Any GPSS url that includes “gsa” is outdated.
➢ Do you know of any graduate groups on campus that we could invite to take part in the GPSS? Let us know!

Upcoming Events

➢ Virtual Graduate and Professional School Fair
  ○ Monday, October 4th: 11:00am - 3:00pm, Brazen
➢ VT Walk-in Flu Shot Clinic
  ○ Wednesday, October 6th: 9:00am - 5:00 pm, Rec Sports Fieldhouse
➢ Teaching Philosophy Statement Writing Workshops
  ○ Wednesday, October 6th: 11:30am - 1:00pm, Zoom
  ○ Wednesday, October 27th: 11:30am - 1:00pm, Zoom
➢ Diversity Statement Writing Workshops
  ○ Monday, October 18th: Noon - 1:30pm, Zoom
➢ Meet the Dean Events:
  ○ Donuts with the Dean - Thursday, October 7th: 9:00am-10:00am: Room F, Graduate Life Center
  ○ Guac Talk - Wednesday, November 17th: Noon-1:00pm, Student Lounge, Graduate Life Center; RSVP by November 15th at 9:00am

Resolutions
Dr. Janice Austin read CAPFA Resolution 2021-2022A and answered Senators’ questions.
  ● We waived our right to comment having no objections to the resolution.

Old Business: All five resolutions passed by a wide margin and will be moved out to shared governance (commissions and ultimately the other senates). You can read those resolutions here. The abbreviated bylaws and resolutions that advanced are:

8. GPSS Resolution 2021-22F, Resolution to raise the low wages of University staff and get ahead of state requirements.
9. GPSS Resolution 2021-22G, Resolution to address the chronic underfunding issues of the CCC and to provide short term relief and mechanisms for ongoing support.
10. GPSS Resolution 2021-22H, Resolution to create more of a focus on parental leave policies and provides more generous support packages.
11. GPSS Resolution 2021-22I, Resolution to improve the safety and reliability of Virginia Tech’s campus for undocumented students.

New Business: Resolutions K-M and the GPSS Bylaws moved on to a second reading. Resolutions N1-N3 were delayed for their first reading until the next meeting. You can read all Resolutions [here](#). The abbreviated 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 campus police.
15. GPSS Resolution 2021-22M, Resolution to repurpose the Threat Assessment Task Force and reduce student surveillance.

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