

Meeting Start >> 1735 hrs
Quorum >> 47

Reminders:

GDPR Application Reviewers Needed:

End of Year Celebration RSVP: <https://forms.gle/ZXFatDVquENi6t4b8>

Sustainability Committee Roadshow: 1740 - 1815

Earth week webpage:

<https://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/sustainability-programs/earth-week.html>

Green Labs: <https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/01/sustainability-greenlab.html>

CAC Background information: <https://vt.edu/sustainability/background.html>

To get more involved as a graduate student, contact:

Emily Vollmer: vollmere@vt.edu

Kristina Cook: kristinac@vt.edu

Nathan King: naking@vt.edu

Sustainability Office: sustainability@vt.edu

Debate on Commencement Speaker Response: 1820

Letter here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qE000rCk14HKRDFo5_3n2DxDyAENKfxuaj-JCF-oLwA/edit?usp=sharing

President Leff: I would like to have a strawpoll vote and discussion to see if folks would like this to be the basis of the letter, or if it needs toned down, or if it needs to be more intense. This vote is non-binding and merely a way for us to see where this letter needs to head so that we can make changes better.

>>**Sen. Comment:** A longer more detailed explanation of why this is terrible is needed, then capped with telling him to go fuck himself [3 senators agree].

>>**Sen. Comment:** The letter needs to be short and sweet for clarity.

>>**Sen. Comment:** We should not sign it as graduate students as there are graduate students who do not agree and we should not claim they are on board. [2 senators agree]

>> Sen. Comment: Our main goal should be to change the tradition and focus on that but use Youngkin as an example of the tradition being a poor one [4 senators agree].

>> **Sen. Comment:** I prefer a more positive statement.

>>**Sen. Comment:** I favor the 'start a conversation' option. [2 support]

>> **VP Fox Comment:** This probably isn't something we should be looking to be gentle about or start a conversation about. There is ample evidence that Youngkin is racist, against women's rights, and a threat to an education system based on critical thinking as a whole. There isn't a conversation to have about whether these things are acceptable. They are not. Full stop. The question is how should we respond when someone like this is being lauded with a speaking position at the university. [4 support]

>> **Sen. Comment:** I just want to make sure that, like, in crafting this message that we are cognizant of the words we use, but more so, like, how the words be used to affect the level of respect and subsequently power that we have as a Senate. Like, going forward because I think we can get the same message across or maybe an even better one, and retain our level of, like, respect, essentially, by the University. Which then will make it easier to get things done in the future. So yeah, just being I guess cognizant of, like, the message that we put across and making sure that it does not hurt us down the line when we are trying to get other things past.

>>**Sen. Comment:** I'm tired of conversations about whether or not it's ok to have racists on campus. [4 support]

>> **Sen. Comment:** Putting a vote in for some attacks and critiques! I think they are valuable even if they're paired with other perspectives.

>>**Sen. Comment:** Positive: Offer who we would pick instead

>> **Sen. Comment:** After Pence's recent talk at UVA, I think it's worthwhile to call this shit what it is. Youngkin is very likely to dehumanize many VT students at their graduation. It would be a shame not to at least voice SOME insults their way. [2 support]

Strawpoll Vote: 13 current letter, 9 more intense, 10 nicer

VP Fox: Send comments / constituent comments my way, and I'll make sure they are in the minutes.

Meeting Adjourn 1845 >> 30 yes, 0, 0