Meeting Start 1735 ;; Quorum 52

Minutes Adopted 38 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

**Announcements:**

**CGPS&P Resolution 2021-22 D** to Institute a Living Wage will be debated in the University Council on **February 7th at 3:30 PM**. Here is the [**Zoom Link**](https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/87660054253?pwd=bTFaNDk4MXNucDZIaWc5UVJZVEp4QT09). (ID: 876 6005 4253 ;; Passcode: 4489644698). Please sign in using the QR code when you arrive at the UC Meeting as a 'Guest' for record keeping purposes. April has since noted that given the influx of interest for this meeting, folks looking to attend do not need to email her.

We have since been informed that the chat will be disabled for this meeting. So, if you would like to be able to speak to the room and be heard, please do show up in person. The meeting will take place in[**Pamplin 1045**](https://goo.gl/maps/QNiJifa8uh4vTxgv7)**.**

Please read the Resolution to be prepared for this meeting, invite colleagues and friends to attend, and reach out to folks to gain support for this Resolution.

**Graduate Research Symposium** GPSSRS is now accepting abstracts. Any graduate student may submit an abstract. Please distribute it widely. Applications will close on February 15th. Please submit here: bit.ly/GPSSRS2022 and check the website for more information! [gpss.vt.edu/programs/gsars.html](https://gpss.vt.edu/programs/gsars.html)

**The Sexual Violence and Climate Working Group** is still recruiting graduate students for their subcommittees. Please see descriptions and application here: <https://www.president.vt.edu/strategicinterests/TaskForces/SexualViolenceCultureandClimateWorkGroup.html>

**Kayla Alward has been confirmed as the interim Director of Programs** with 28 votes yes and 1 abstention.

Registered grad student organizations (RSOs, UCSOs, USLPs, including RSOs not designated as a grad org but that have grad student members) are invited to complete a GLC space use and needs survey by **Friday, February 11** to explore the space needs of graduate student organizations and how current spaces in the Graduate Life Center might be better aligned with such needs. Only one member of each organization should fill the survey out. Take a few minutes to share your perspective:<https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ByZU4oxuQyrrN4?fbclid=IwAR0FW-1OBTop9wq4xLJEPTFIaEY1OssVhQqar_64lNVM2udh8iDgcn9WS5U>

Our former VP, Awad, notified the GPSS of problems with the library’s Open Access Subvention Fund (<https://guides.lib.vt.edu/oasf>) which prevented him from applying for funds to make his publication open-access when it was submitted and accepted while he was a student at VT but published after he graduated. Senator Li and VP Fox are working on fixing the language for this fund to encompass research completed and journal acceptance while a student at VT, regardless of alumni status.

**Covid-19 Updates:**

Everyone should now be receiving updates directly from the graduate school dean regarding covid-19 information and assistance. Please let Alice know if you are not receiving these emails! (AQFox22@vt.edu). This is what became of Resolution 2021-2022 O.

KN95 distribution points should be in full swing. Thanks to our advocacy efforts, there will now be a pick-up point in the VetMed area near the cafe.

The FBRI is holding a ‘community conversation’ (see ‘town hall’) to address comments and concerns about current Covid-19 protocols the university is setting. This will take place from Noon until 1 PM on February 7th. Zoom link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/86858418480>

**Commission Reports:**

**CSA:** Thanks to advocacy efforts from Senator Friedman and President Leff, the CSA has now put the Sanctuary Campus resolution and the International Student Protections resolution on the docket for the next meeting.

**CGPSP:** 2021-22 A Task Force Resolution is proceeding, but slowly. Resolution 2021-22 D for contract clarification is moving to DRSCAP. GRE Resolution has been heard and seems likely to proceed. Resolution T for equally opportunity hiring practices is in the pipeline.

State law HB1161 and anti-semitism task force against BDS seems like it will note survive the committee phase. It is inherently anti-free speech and does not seem to have been made in good faith by those leading the charge. There have been joint lobbying against this bill by both Jewish-led and Palestinian-led groups to prevent this law from escaping.

$15/hr minimum wage is moving forward. The buy-in is there, and it’s now about logistics.

**Voting!**

Ballots have now been distributed. Check your inbox and spam folder for a voting link from “Kai Jun (KJ) Chew" with the email "noreply@qemailserver.com"

The candidates for the roles are as follows:

**President:** Ben Beiter, Senator for Mechanical Engineering

**Vice President:** Chloe Robertson, Senator for the English Department

**Director of Advocacy:** Alice Fox, acting Vice President for the GPSS

**Director of Communications:** Damien Williams, Senator for the Science, Technology, and Society Department

**Director of Programs:** Cissy Ming, Senator for the Geosciences Department

**Director of Events:** Shakiba Davari, Senator for the Computer Science Department

**Director of Finance:** Blake Flinchum, Roanoke Special Delegate