

Vote Results:

Resolution 21-22 T: 42 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain
Resolution 21-22 U: 39 yes, 3 no, 0 abstain
Resolution 21-22 V: 20 yes, 2 no, 0 abstain

Meeting Start 1730 ;; Quorum 42

VP Fox: Myself and the Judicial and Internal Affairs committee have appointed Senator KJ Chew as our elections chair for the 21-22 election cycle in accordance with our bylaws. We need to vote to confirm his position.

Discussion, no comments.

VOTE >> 32 yes, 3 abstain ;; Senator Chew **confirmed** as Election Official for the 21-22 cycle

Official Chew: All rules and procedures along with role descriptions have been posted to the website. Please fill out the qualtrics survey with your intent to run for one of the GPSS executive board positions or your application for consideration for the Chief of Staff or Parliamentarian. If you would like to be considered for nomination to the BoV, please also fill this out, and we can help you with the rest of the paperwork.

<https://gpss.vt.edu/the-senate/elections.html>

VP Fox: Worth noting, for the CoS and Parliamentarian, we are only collecting names. They will be nominated and selected by the next Executive Board from the candidate pool we manage to acquire. We do not have control over the BoV position, but we do recommend candidates.

Sen. QUESTION: Can we nominate other people?

VP Fox: No. You can highly encourage people to run and fill out the forms, but do not fill out the intent form for someone else.

Commission and Committee Updates:

President Leff: Conversated with HR, Brian Gary confirmed that while HokieMart still has a procurement contract with prisons, there is seemingly no evidence that we are currently acquiring goods through this channel for the university. So, a team will still be needed to really dig in and ensure this is the case, but so far so good.

HR also seemed cautiously optimistic for pushing the \$15 minimum wage through by sometime next year -- which was the timeline we presented in this resolution.

CGPSP [President Leff]: Many big wins here over the last two weeks. The Resolution to increase graduate pay to match the cost of living was passed unanimously. It should be taken

up by the UC some time in late January or early February -- will update when we know. We would love to see another round of strong grad student support.

The Resolution to expand parental leave was taken up by the dean and will be pursued administratively, but everyone was largely on board with the expansion of these important.

We pushed through an amendment to the GPSS constitution to expand the election period to the first 3 weeks of Spring semester to improve the flow of elections and align better with the BoV selection process.

CUS [VP Fox]: Updated their Resolution on the T&P committee stakeholder to include folks from OEA *and* COED/DAC. The updated copy will be placed on the GPSS website.

Start of Old Business

RESOLUTION T

Sen. QUESTION: Can you tell us what commissions / committees these will be heading out to?

President Leff: Unfortunately, no. After we pass the two readings in our Senate, I coordinate with April Meyers to find which committees or commissions are the best fit. Some of them get tossed around between a few different committees before one takes them up. So far, CGPSP have taken on some of the similar ones to this, so they may end up with it. But it will probably include other commissions or committees along the way.

Sen. COMMENT: It may be hard to remove immigration inequities as some of my department's projects require security clearance and government approval.

President Leff: Noted. We are trying to mirror the federal guidelines, but the federal law does supersede equal opportunity hiring practice. But this is good to know for later in case it comes up.

No further comments.

Resolution U

Sen. AMEND: This Resolution still makes mention of the 9-12 month contracts which have now been changed to CoL.

No discussion.

VOTE >> Strike 9-12 month contract mentions >> CARRIED 37 yes, 2 abstain

Sen. QUESTION: Will this increase fees by expanding health contracts over the summer?

President Leff: It is pretty difficult to fund without increasing fees. However, by having a seat at the table we can better advocate for lower rates, different types of payments, what could be offered. This Resolution is just attempting to give grad students more input on what's going on here.

Sen. QUESTION: The resolution is asking that we basically have an input on the fee structure we're not asking them to raise the fees, were asking them to look into how the fees can be restructured?

President Leff: Yes. And I'm being hesitant in my language becomes some of these things can only be funded by fees and might require an increase. But we are specific that this should be avoidable. Because it is a huge financial burden on grad and underegrad students.

No further comments.

RESOLUTION V

Sen. QUESTION: What are the additional fees you need to use Cook? I know there was a proposed fee increase at one point that got shut down.

President Leff: Yes, that was just an example. But this Resolution is more about the importance of having grad student input in designing these structures. You must pay the entirety of the health fee during summer to have access to Cook and Schiffert, even if you're only using Cook. We've heard many stories of students getting kicked out of Cook or struggling to access Cook resources due to staffing shortages and problems.

Sen. COMMENT: Cook has been on deferral and Schiffert is not provide quality mental health coverage. Why should we pay more money for a service that is basically doing nothing?

Sen. COMMENT: Part of the problem is that, because Cook is understaffed, clinicians' caseloads are too large, so people only get in every 2-3 weeks. They never stop having intakes, so they are adding between 2 and 7 clients to their caseload every week.

Sen. QUESTION: Is there a graduate psychology clinic here?

Sen. RESPONSE: <https://psyc.vt.edu/research/psychological-services.html>

No Further Comments

VOTE

Extended Discussion / New Business: PCG

Preliminary changes to university governance structure included changes requested to GPSS bylaws and constitution as well as student composition of PCG.

President Leff: Basically the way it's gonna work is that each Senate is going to have a commission that reports directly to them. So we are getting a new commission and it's named PCG-- that is going to be majority graduate students, unlike any other commission on campus, it will report directly to GPSS and it'll handle all of the ideas that are brought up in GPS and write resolutions and make them actionable. That's the idea. And we are able to determine membership. The membership list has to be pretty close to the other commissions that are subservient to Senates.

Sen. QUESTION: What are the term limits of membership, especially Chair?

President Leff: One year.

Sen. QUESTION: So then this new commission could put forth a resolution directly to the UC?

President Leff: No. The way it'll work is that commissions will bring resolutions to the Senate. And then the Senate will get a chance to vote on it. And if the Senate votes it down, then it dies. It doesn't, it goes up to University Council. Commissions cannot go behind Senators' backs. And so there's a couple of different situations here. The most common one is gonna be an issue arises, and we want to make a resolution about it. So we send that to the Commission, and they workshop and they basically vote on it. From there it goes to the Senate. If the Senate votes it forward, then it'll go to university council -- More or less. Sometimes there'll be a group of people, or University Council, who will decide whether or not additional constituencies will need to weigh in. So sometimes things will have relevance for graduate students that are unforeseen or something like that. And so what will basically happen in that situation is that it'll get kicked down to the commission with the understanding that the graduate students basically run it, and the commission can block it. The Senate can block resolutions that way as well. So in some ways, it does empower us, but it gives us a more specific purview of that. So, it limits our ability to provide resolutions outside of our scope. But it does give us a specific scope that we can act within and develops an appeal process for as well. We can block resolutions that are making their way to University Council relevant to the graduate students that we feel are harmful. It gets a little bit trickier when you have freestanding commissions like the Energy and Sustainability Commission or parking and transportation. But I think that the idea there is they're gonna have to cooperate with the Senate to get buy-in before they advance things to UC.

Sen. COMMENT: I think the BoV rep should be ex officio as well as someone from the office of policy and governance.

President Leff: Interesting. I think the idea was to preserve the boundary between the BoV and the Senate. But I can bring that up to Robert tomorrow. For P&G it's common practice for them to show up anyway. But I can bring that up as well.

Sen. QUESTION: If this was this system is implemented like in the next year, if we had passed all the resolutions that we did this year, is the intention sort of that they would all go through this commission and wouldn't have to go through any other commissions like CGPSP in order to go directly to University Council?

President Leff: Yes and no. So there'll basically before it actually hits the floor of University Council, there is a body that is essentially just the President's Advisory Council that will help to determine whether or not it is relevant to the charges of other commissions. And therefore needs to be heard by other bodies. So there is a possibility that it could be shared, and there are some cases where resolutions might be better to be shared. So I think about something like the Climate Action commitment, for example, is a resolution that has such wide ramifications for the university that are really needed all of the input from all of the Senates to be successfully adopted. And so in situations like that, they are encouraged to share and there are mechanisms to do that. And I should also mention there's an appeals process as well. So it's not like a one and done -- the president's cabinet does not have full authority. But the general idea is that it'll basically streamline the process.

For example, for one of the last resolutions we pass in terms of Graduate contract clarity, that would probably be a case where it goes straight from commissions, senate, UC yeah. But then other ones like \$15 an hour probably actually get redirected into the staff senate, for example.

Sen. QUESTION: I just have a question of how professional students like vet med students, might be represented? Seeing that it is the Graduate *and professional* student Senate.

President Leff: Good question. I'll ask about that in the meeting tomorrow. Part of this is to try and get as much representation as possible. But the challenge is that professional students traditionally have not interacted with shared governance much. But we need to work on improving that.

Sen. QUESTION: How will CGPSA relate to the general CSA, if at all?

President Leff: PCG will be under the GPSS. CSA will be moved under USS.

>> MOTION to Adjourn >> CARRIED 36 yes, 2 abstain

18:45 Meeting Adjourned