Open Forum (5:00-5:30)

Enjoy Some Food!   Please Sign-in!

tinyurl.com/GPSS22Signin

GPSS Orientation

25th August, 2022

Sign-in Link: tinyurl.com/GPSS22Signin
Voting Link: tinyurl.com/GPSS22Approval   Contact Us: GPSS@vt.edu | www.gpss.vt.edu

Senator Sign–in/Dept. Check–In

tinyurl.com/GPSS22Signin

Orientation

This portion of the meeting will be recorded so people can revisit this information later.

→ What is Shared Governance?

→ What is GPSS?

→ What Events do we do?

→ Who are Senators?

→ What are commissions, task forces and committees?

→ What are internal committees?

→ What is a resolution and how do they work?

→ How can I write a resolution?

→ What are Robert's Rules?

→ How do meetings work?

Shared Governance

The structure in which that the multitude of constituencies and groups at VT interact with each other and admin to make change at the University.

- Central Body is University Council (UC), which has many Commissions and Committees
- Also under UC are the Senates
  - Staff Senate
  - Faculty Senate
  - A/P Faculty Senate
  - Undergraduate Student Senate
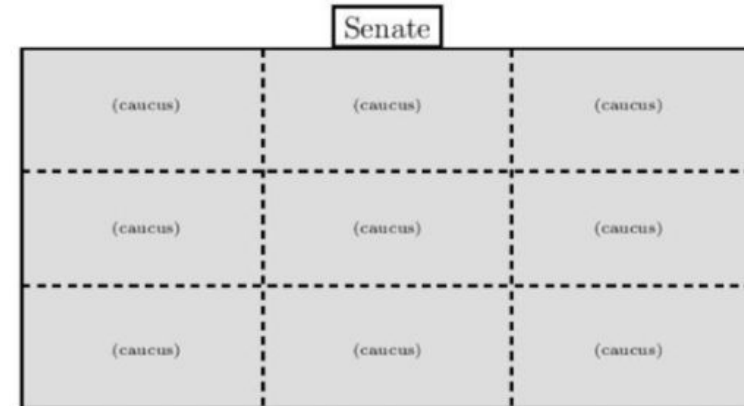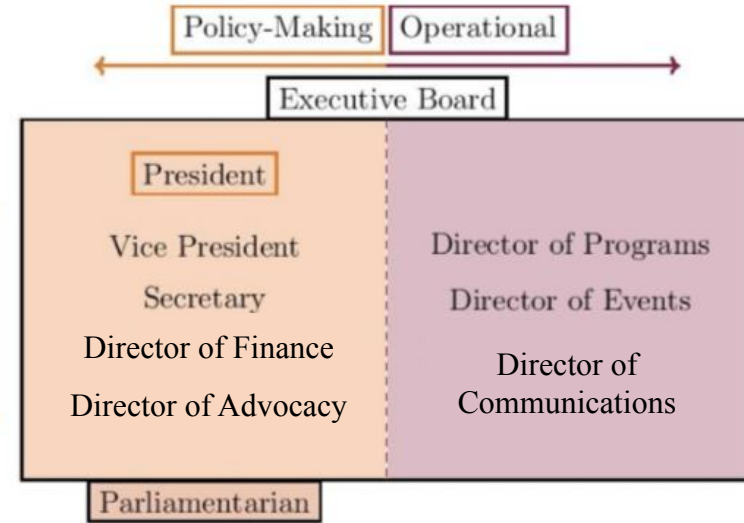 - Graduate and Professional Student Senate

GPSS

GPSS serves as a voice for all graduate students through both advocacy to the University as a whole and community-building for all our constituents.

- Bring together representatives from all departments for common issues and action
- Members sit on university commissions and committees to represent graduate student interests at all levels of the university
- Write and pass resolutions as new University Policy
- Hosts events and programs for all graduate and professional students to provide academic and social support as well as build a shared community among graduate students

GPSS Structure

- Two Senators From Every Department
- Elected Executive Board
- Cabinet of All Graduate Leaders

Policy-Making · Operational

Executive Board

Cabinet
BoV Rep.
Roanoke President
D.C. President
Past President
(etc.)

President

Vice President
Secretary
Director of Finance
Director of Advocacy

Director of Programs
Director of Events
Director of Communications

Parliamentarian

Senate

(caucus)	(caucus)	(caucus)
(caucus)	(caucus)	(caucus)
(caucus)	(caucus)	(caucus)

GPSS Executive Board 22-23

- President: Ben Beiter
- Vice President: Chloe Robertson
- Director of Advocacy: Alice Fox
- Director of Finance: Jonathan Gendron
- Director of Programs: Cissy Ming
- Director of Communications: Noor Tasnim
- Director of Events: Pending Election!
- Board of Visitors Student Rep: Anna Buhle

Senators

Senators are representatives from each department or program. These are students who:

- Communicate with all the other members of their department and bring their issues and interests to Senate meetings for discussion and action.
- Attend all Senate Meetings (or send a proxy if unavailable)
- Participate in at least one Commission, Committee, or Taskforce

Events

Events:

- Welcome Back BBQ
- Regular Senate Brewery Gatherings
- Meet The Dean Events
- Little Hokie Hand Me Down
- Graduate and Professional School Fair
- Other Fall Socials

Programs

Programs:

- Travel Fund Program → Funding for conference presentations (most popular)
- Cap & Gown Loan Program → PhD and master's robes
- Graduate Research Development Program (GRDP) → Student-run, merit-based research grants
- Graduate Research Symposium → Present your research to interdisciplinary audience. Prize money available

University Commissions

Commissions are UC entities that deal with a certain domain of issues at VT. Their membership are representatives from all the senates and pertinent admin.

University Commissions:
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Senate Commissions:
- Commission on Faculty Affairs
- Commission on Research
- Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs
- Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies
- Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
- Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs

Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs (CGPSA)

22-23 Chair: Alice Fox

Senate Membership:
- Senator from the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
- Senator from the Pamplin College of Business
- Senator from the College of Engineering
- Senator from the College of Natural Resources and Environment
- Senator from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- Senator from the College of Veterinary Medicine
- Senator from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- Senator from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Senator from the College of Science

External Committees

Committees are basically the same as Commissions, just smaller in scope, make recommendations:

- Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
- Information Technology Services and Systems Committee
- Athletics Committee
- Transportation and Parking Committee
- Commencement Committee
- Employee Benefits Committee
- Graduate Curriculum Committee
- Library Committee
- Intellectual Property Committee
- Budgeting and Planning Committee
- Campus Development Committee

Ad hoc: Task Forces, Working Groups

Task Forces are temporary groups formed to address specific issues:

- Living Wage Taskforce
- Taskforce on Freedom of Expression and Inquiry

Working Groups are similar, but longer-term:

- Campus Accessibility Working Group
- Personal Transportation Devices Working Group
- Sexual Violence Climate & Culture Working Group

Internal Committees

Committees to conduct the daily workings of GPSS. Each is run by an exec board member

- Graduate Student Budget Board (GSBB, chaired by Director of Finance)
- Committee on Judicial and Internal Affairs (assists the President and VP)
- Programs Committee (Assists the Director of Programs)
- Events Committee (Assists the Director of Events)
- Communication Committee (Assists the Director of Communications)
- Advocacy Committee (Assists the Director of Advocacy)

Possibility for more, temporary committees as needed. More information on these roles in Section 3 of the GPSS Bylaws.

Graduate Student Budget Board (GSBB)

Voting members, at least one from each college. One member chosen as Vice-Chair.

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)
- College of National Resources and Environment (CNRE)
- Pamplin College of Business
- College of Literature and Human Studies (CLAHS)
- College of Engineering (COE)
- College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)
- College of Science (COS)
- Extended Campus

Handle ~$85k+ available for graduate student organizations (RSOs) to use for events!

What Is A Resolution

→ Resolutions are **proposals & policies recommendations** that **impact the university**.

→ Resolutions can be **written & submitted** by **anyone**.

→ Resolutions are to be **discussed & approved,** first by **the appropriate Senate**, then by the **University Council**, and lastly by the **President** and, if applicable, **Board of Visitors** to be enacted **in effect**.

GPSS + CGPSA → UC → President & BoV → 🎉

Resolution F: $15 Min. Wage for Employees
Resolution B: Contract Extension from 9 month - 12 month
Resolution J: Expand Protections for International Students

How to write a resolution

→ A Resolution consist of:
- Header,
- Approvals,
- **WHEREAS** Statements,
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Statements,
- **Policy Reference.**

→ **WHEREAS** Statements describes the 1) context of the issue, 2) bodies involved, 3) **nature of the problem and solutions**

→ Consult Budget Office, Legal Counsel, Human Resources

Resolution for the Creation of a MOCK RESOLUTION to Showcase What an Approved Resolution Will Look Like After It Has Completed the Shared Governance Process
Fictional Commission on Governance Training
Resolution 2017-18A

Approved, Commission on Governance Training	April 19, 2018
Faculty Senate Review	March 26, 2018
Staff Senate Review	March 22, 2018
Graduate Student Assembly Review	Waived
Student Government Association Review	Waived
First Reading, University Council	April 23, 2018
Approved, University Council	May 7, 2018
Approved, President	May 7, 2018
Approved, Board of Visitors	June 4, 2018
Effective Date	August, 2018

WHEREAS, resolutions are the official document required to communicate new policies or revisions through Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University's Shared Governance System; and

WHEREAS, Commission Chairs hold the ultimate responsibility for writing resolutions and sharing them with the four constituent groups, as outlined by the University Council Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, current Commission Chairs, along with other participants in Virginia Tech's Shared Governance System, have expressed interest in learning when and how to effectively write a resolution, as well as see an example of the final product for informational purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Office of the Vice President for Policy and Governance create a MOCK RESOLUTION to be used for training purposes only effective August, 2018, in order to provide an example of an approved resolution once it has completed the shared governance process.

Initiatives and Resolutions for this year

Initiatives: **Focus on Data Gathering this Year!**

- Living Wage Task Force → what will the future of grad student compensation look like?
- Graduate student workload study
- Affordable housing for low-income graduate students and families
- Review of Student Health Insurance

Resolutions

- Providing free sanitary products for all campus bathrooms
- Creating a training program for graduate student advisors
- Defining GTAs as students for the purposes of disability accommodations

Robert's Rules

Rules of Procedure that governance operates on:

- Quorum
- Actions of the Senate done through Motions (First, Second, Discuss, Approve)
    - Approving agenda
    - Amendments
    - Adjourning
    - Votes to Approve
- All Resolutions get First and Second Readings

General Meeting Plan

- Open Forum when we can discuss anything
- Quorum and Opening Remarks
- Present Agenda
- Updates from Exec Board, BOV Rep, and Internal Committees
- Updates from Commissions, External Committees
- Updates from Ad hoc groups (working groups, taskforces, etc.)
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Closing Remarks

Senate Brief sent out after every meeting.

End of Orientation, Questions?

Senate Meeting

25th August, 2022

Meeting Agenda

1. Opening remarks & senator sign-in

2. Exec Board Reports: Internal Committee signups!

3. Commission and Committee Reports: Signups!

4. Ad hoc Reports: Graduate Stipend, Freedom of Expression

5. Unfinished business: None:)

6. New business: DOF Approval, Events Elections, GHS Chair Approval

7. Closing remarks: Reminders, Communication, Events!

o. Vote To Amend Agenda

Amend Agenda: add approval of GHS chair nominee to New Business.

https://tinyurl.com/GPSSAgendaVote

Meeting Agenda

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2. Exec Board Reports: Internal Committee signups!
3. Commission and Committee Reports: Signups!
4. Ad hoc Reports: Graduate Stipend, Freedom of Expression
5. Unfinished business: None:)
6. New business: DOF Approval, Events Elections, GHS Chair Approval
7. Closing remarks: Reminders, Communication, Events!

1. Opening Remarks

Sign-in if you have not!   tinyurl.com/GPSS22Signin

If you have not registered as an Senator yet (haven't received the info emails this week) please email VP Chloe Robertson (chloerobertson@vt.edu) to be added to the roles!

2. Exec Reports: Internal Committee Sign-ups

- Graduate Student Budget Board
- Committee on Judicial and Internal Affairs
- Programs Committee
- Events Committee
- Communication Committee
- Advocacy Committee

https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22ICSignup

2. BOV Rep Report

BOV Rep: Anna Buhle

3. Commission/Committee Reports

No meetings yet this year!

Sign ups for Commissions/Committees: ⟶

Important that we fill all seats, this is our representation in Governance!

https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22ECSignup

3. Commission/Committee Reports

Open time for all reps to Commissions/Committees to give updates and have discussion.

4. Ad hoc Group Reports:

Freedom of Expression (FoE) taskforce:

Draft a statement affirming Virginia Tech's commitments to academic freedom and the constitutional right of free speech. The statement should acknowledge existing statements and policies and bring them together in the context of the university's academic mission. If appropriate, the new statement could replace existing statements to establish a coherent and unified expression of the university's commitments. And to develop recommendations for exercising and demonstrating these commitments in a manner that exemplifies Virginia Tech's Principles of Community.

Two members of the senate are currently sitting on the taskforce to represent graduate student interest and inclusion in the project.

4. Ad hoc Group Reports:

Graduate Stipend Task Force (Living Wage):

7 graduate student members.

Working on Formal Recommendation for the University to **pay all Semester Fees**.

Other Initiatives:
- Formally define long-term Cost of Living compensation goal
- Supporting Graduate Students in applying for grants
- Explore additional philanthropic sources

5. Unfinished Business

None!

Normally second readings or tabled discussions.

6. New Business: Approval

Approval of Director of Finance:

   Jonathan Gendron (Current Interim DOF)

Approval of GHS Chair:

   Rose McGroarty (selected by nomination committee)

https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22Approval

6. New Business: Elections

Director of Events Elections! 3 Candidates:

- Mandip Chhetri Budhathoki
- Gia Hoa (John) Hoang
- Yohan Sequeira

Timeline:

- Introduction Today
- Meet the Candidates Event (next week, TBD)
- Next Meeting: Final Speeches and Election

6. New Business: Parliamentarian

Senate expert on Robert's Rules (acts as arbiter when there is a procedural disagreement)

Can be a Senator or any Graduate Student.

Interest form to go out with Brief.

7. Closing Remarks: Communication

All Senators are expected to communicate with your constituents.

- Send out Senate Brief to everyone
- Anonymous Feedback Form:

Comments to ME Senators

This form is a way to submit comments, questions, raise issues, and any other communication to the two graduate student Senators who represent the Mechanical Engineering department in the Graduate and Professional Student Senate: Ben Beiter (------------@vt.edu) and -------------------- (------------@vt.edu).

The GPSS is the governing body at Virginia Tech made up entirely of grad students. We discuss and create resolutions that go through the shared governance process at VT, as well as host events for all graduate students at VT. Each department gets to send two senators to the GPSS, and we, as the senators for ME are here to hear anything you'd like to bring up to us, and we can bring it up to the Senate at large.

All comments made in this form are anonymous (the form does not save your email). If you feel comfortable sharing your name and email or would like a response from us, please enter you name and email below (we will not share your info with anyone).

7. Closing Remarks: Communication

Hi All,

We hope you all had a good summer. We know you are all busy getting settled in and ready for the fall semester to start.

The Political Economy Research Lab (a new RSO) has heard that many graduate students have not received the 5% stipend increases they were promised in their latest contracts.

Please help by filling out this short survey about whether or not you got the 5% increase:

https://tinyurl.com/PERL5Survey

Your responses are appreciated and go a long way in helping determine the scope of this issue.

Any questions or comments can be sent to politicaleconomylab@proton.me

Political Economy Research Lab
A RSO at Virginia Tech

7. Closing Remarks: Events

Get ready for some fun events already planned!

1. **GPSS Senator Social:** Saturday Sept. 3rd, 3-6pm, Rising Silo (first drink or app on us!)
2. **Taco Talk with the Dean:** Friday, September 2, Noon, GLC Multipurpose room
3. **Halloween Costume Party:** October 27th, Moon Hollow
4. **Fall Social:** November 14th, Rising Silo

Follow the GPSS Calendar to get updates!   https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22Calendar

Conclusion

Results of Vote?

Remember to Sign-up for Internal Committees and External Committees/Commissions. Will be open for 1 week.

All senators must serve in one role!

Food orders for next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn?

Senate Discord:

tinyurl.com/GPSS22SenatorDiscord

Public GPSS Discord for all grad students:
tinyurl.com/GPSS22GradDiscord