

# Open Forum (5:00–5:30)

Sign-in Link: [tinyurl.com/GPSSSignIn9-8](https://tinyurl.com/GPSSSignIn9-8)

Slides Link: [tinyurl.com/GPSSSlides9-8](https://tinyurl.com/GPSSSlides9-8)

Sign-in Link: [tinyurl.com/GPSSSignIn9-8](https://tinyurl.com/GPSSSignIn9-8)

Voting Link: [tinyurl.com/GPSSVoting9-8](https://tinyurl.com/GPSSVoting9-8)

Contact Us: [GPSS@vt.edu](mailto:GPSS@vt.edu) | [www.gpss.vt.edu](http://www.gpss.vt.edu)



# Senate Meeting

8th September, 2022

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# 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: Commissions, Events Elections, Parliamentarian
6. New business: Health insurance, TimelyCare, Affordable Housing
7. Closing remarks: Reminders, Communication, Events!

# 1. Opening Remarks

Sign-in if you have not! [tinyurl.com/GPSS22Signin](https://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](mailto:chloerobertson@vt.edu)) to be added to the roles!

# 1. Notes on Zoom

**Voting:** Only senators may vote. Vote using yes (green checkmark), no (red X), and abstain (coffee cup away) emotes.

**Speaking:** Everyone will be muted and you will have to use the raise hand feature to unmute yourself. Priority will be given to senators over general graduate students.

Please RESET your emote after voting or raising your hand. We cannot distinguish between leftover emotes and current emotes so it is on you to remember to remove your answer after the vote concludes. If you do not lower your hand we may not call on you.

The most important rule is that you MUST show off your pets and tell them they're very good courtesy of the GPSS.

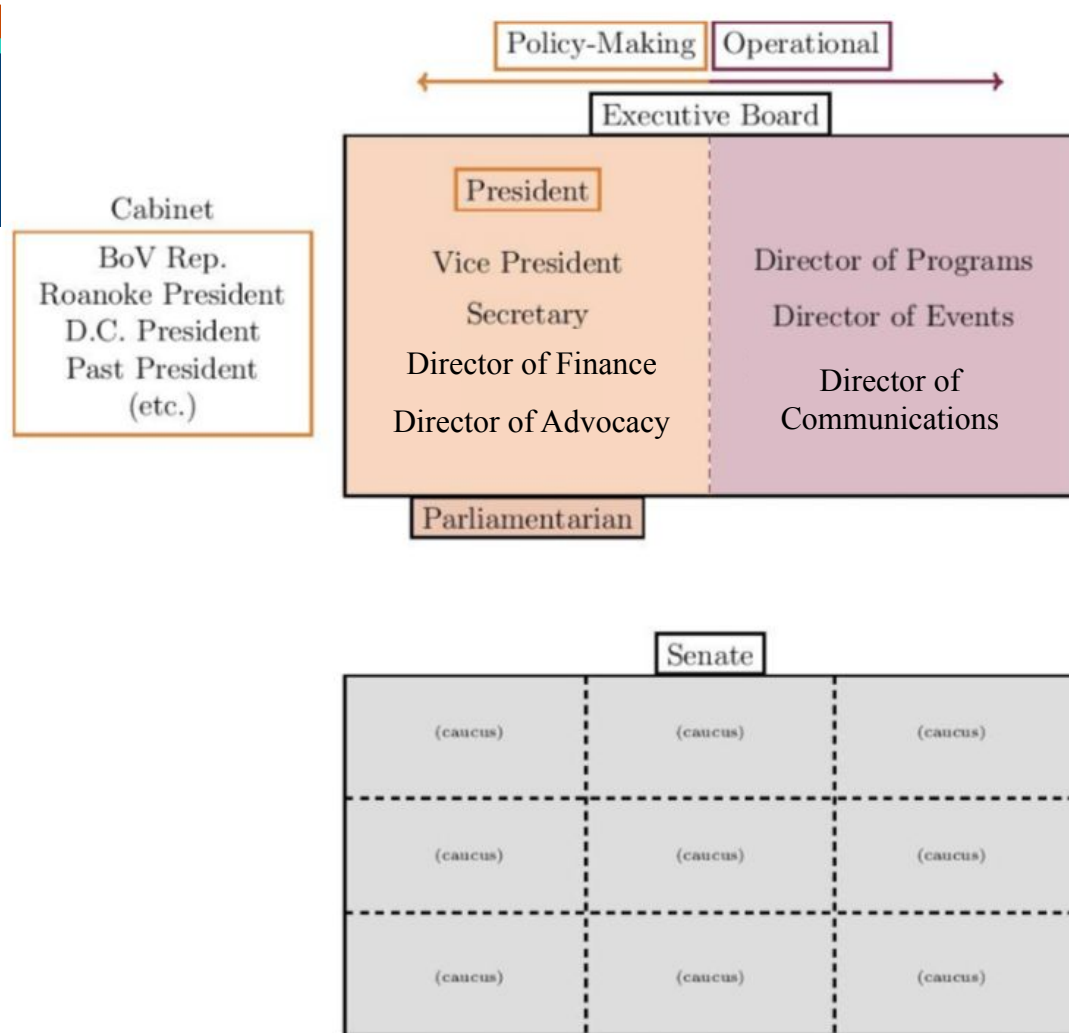
# 1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were sent out last week with the Brief, and can be found here:

<https://gps.vt.edu/the-senate/senate-meetings-minutes/minutes.html>

# 1. Caucuses

- Subdivisions of the Senate that group all senators from the same college together.
- Discuss college issues, plan events, unite GSOs, and interact with college administration on behalf of grad students
- If you are interested in helping start your college caucus, email [gpss@vt.edu](mailto:gpss@vt.edu)



## 2. Exec Reports: Internal Committee Sign-ups

Internal Committee Assignments are going out!

For GSBB, we are still looking for at least:

- 1 Senator from Pamplin College of Business
- 1 Senator from College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS)

It is a **requirement** that all senators participate in at least one external or internal committee/commission. Please fill out the interest forms if you have not!



<https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22ICSignup>



# 3. Commission/Committee Reports

It is a **requirement** that all senators participate in at least one external or internal committee/commission. Please fill out the interest forms if you have not!



<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: FOE

Freedom of Expression (FoE) taskforce:

- Discussions on defining the scope of Freedom of Speech at VT and the issues we should address.
- Began drafting a FoE statement, will be due by end of semester
- Will write FoE policy to govern classrooms in the Spring

# 4. Ad hoc Group Reports: Living Wage

- Draft of Formal Recommendation for the University to **pay all Semester Fees.**
- Defining Cost of Living for Graduate Students
  - currently working with monthly while still working on the problem of 12 vs. 9 month contracts

	Blacksburg - Fin Aid	COL Survey	MIT Calculator
<b>Health Care/Insurance</b>	\$84.79	\$92.51	\$228.00
<b>Fees</b>	\$277.11	\$306.44	\$0.00
<b>Room</b>	\$1,174.22	\$819.92	\$786.08
<b>Board</b>	\$536.44	\$200.00	\$279.25
<b>Books/supplies</b>	\$122.22	\$0.00	\$208.58
<b>Personal</b>	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$375.66
<b>Transportation</b>	\$176.44	\$195.96	\$459.08
<b>Loan Fees</b>	\$22.22	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Insurance</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Taxes</b>	\$0.00	\$310.41	\$575.75
<b>Utilities</b>	\$0.00	\$211.44	\$0.00
<b>Total Monthly</b>	<b>\$2,793.46</b>	<b>\$2,136.68</b>	<b>\$2,912.40</b>

Email [bbeiter1@vt.edu](mailto:bbeiter1@vt.edu)  
for more detailed  
updates.

# 5. Unfinished Business: External Com's

GPSS formally approves all seats for representatives it sends to external committees and commissions.

[tinyurl.com/GPSSAssignments](https://tinyurl.com/GPSSAssignments)

Motion to Approve



<https://tinyurl.com/GPSSVoting9-8>

# 5. Unfinished Business: External Com's

**Still Looking For:** On the Commission for Graduate and Professional Student Affairs (CGPSA)

- One Senator from the Pamplin College of Business
- One Senator from the College of Natural Resources and Environment
- One Senator from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- One Senator from the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design

A Senator for the Employee Benefits Committee

A GTA specifically, for the University Curriculum Committee for General Education

Sign-up if you have not already done so: <https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22ECSignup>

# 5. Unfinished Business: External Com's

Also now have two Ad Hoc Groups with a grad student rep.

- **Personal Transportation Devices Working Group:** A workgroup charged with reviewing University Policy 5005 and specifically the use of personal transportation devices on campus, scooters, e-bikes, mopeds, hover-boards, etc.
- **Parking Appeals Hearing Committee:** Group that hears and approves/denies appeals for parking tickets.

Email [gpss@vt.edu](mailto:gpss@vt.edu) if you are interested in sitting on one of these!

# 5. Unfinished Business: Parliamentarian

We have one candidate for Parliamentarian:

**STS Senator Ranald Adams**

Motion To Approve



<https://tinyurl.com/GPSSVoting9-8>



# 5. Unfinished Business: Events Elections

Two Candidates for Director of Events:

- **Yohan Sequeira**
- **John Hoang**



<https://tinyurl.com/GPSSVoting9-8>

# 6. New Business: Health Insurance

Presentation from **Rebecca Folmar** and **Amanda Marcum** from the office of Risk Management on Health Insurance.

Any Questions?

GPSS will be working with this office to send a survey gathering feedback on health insurance out in October!

# 6. New Business: TimelyCare

Presentation from **Erica Coates** on TimelyCare!



# 6. New Business: Affordable Housing

GPSS will be convening a Graduate Student Affordable Housing Taskforce.

Draft Charge: <https://tinyurl.com/GPSSAffordableHousingCharge>

Informational meeting by DOA, Alice Fox, on **Thursday, September 15 from 3 - 4 PM.**

Zoom link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83200376411> and will be shared.

Launching a Graduate Student Affordable Housing **Survey** after the Meeting!

# 7. Closing Remarks: Training

Training on Roberts Rules and Shared Governance. *Mandatory* for all senators sitting on external Commissions and Committees, who did not already attend the one this week. Open to all who want to learn!

**Next Thursday, September 15th, 5:30pm.** Zoom link sent out next week

# 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 your name and email below (we will not share your info with anyone).

# 7. Closing Remarks: Events

Get ready for some fun events already planned, more to come!

1. **Halloween Costume Party:** October 27th, Moon Hollow
2. **Fall Social:** November 14th, Rising Silo
3. **Graduate and Professional Student Fair:** October 3rd, Commonwealth Ballroom

Tell all the Undergraduates you know!

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

# Conclusion

Results of Vote?

Remember to Sign-up for Committees/Commissions, if you have not, and reply to the email giving your assignment so that we know you know!

Food orders for next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn?

**Senate Discord:**



[tinyurl.com/GPSS22SenatorDiscord](https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22SenatorDiscord)

Public GPSS Discord for all grad students:  
[tinyurl.com/GPSS22GradDiscord](https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22GradDiscord)