

**General Assembly Meeting**  
*Graduate and Professional Student Senate*  
03.16.23

**Prior General Assembly Meeting**

03.02.23

Meeting minutes approved (32 y)

**In attendance**

President | Ben Beiter: present

Vice President | Chloe Robertson: present

Senators: 42

Quorum reached: yes

**Motions**

Motion to add a line that at *minimum* the Chairs of CUSA, CGPSA, and the President's of GPSS and UGSS should be on the planning and implementation team

Motion made by senator

Final wording of motion: add a comment to CGPSA Resolution 2022-23A ensuring student representation on the planning and implementation team

Vote: 32y, 1n, 0 abstain

Motion to approve CGPSA Resolution 2022-23A

Motion made by Benjamin Beiter

Vote: 28y, 1n, 0 abstain

Motion to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes

Motion made by Benjamin Beiter

Vote: 25y, 0n, 0 abstain

**General Notes**

- Executive Board Updates
  - Director of Programs
    - Cap and Gown loan program is now open (apply by March 20th)
    - TFP '23 is closed and \$22,600 was distributed
  - Director of Finance
    - The last day to request GSBB funding is March 31st and there is still \$27,000 to give out
  - Director of Events
    - GPSS Social at Moon Hollow on 03.24 at 6pm
  - President

- There are BoV meetings on the 19th and 20th March that are open to the public
- External Committees and Commissions
- Ad Hoc Committees
  - Living Wage Taskforce
    - The report is released and available ([https://www.provost.vt.edu/content/dam/provost\\_vt\\_edu/Graduate%20Asistantship%20Support%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf](https://www.provost.vt.edu/content/dam/provost_vt_edu/Graduate%20Asistantship%20Support%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf))
  - Health Insurance Survey
    - The GPSS is looking for a qualitative researcher to volunteer an hour of their time to look over the results of the survey (please reach out to [gpss@vt.edu](mailto:gpss@vt.edu) to volunteer!)
- Presentation by Katie Polidoro and Martha Glass from the Sexual Violence and Climate Committee (SVCC)
  - The SVCC is on their second year and they've been asked by the President to find a means of sustainable cultural transformation that makes VT a place that protects against sexual violence
  - They see this as an iterative process where they try certain approaches and, if those approaches don't work, they'll try another
  - They want to increase awareness and allyship across faculty, staff, and students across the campus
  - The SVCC want to make broad calls for membership. This means some students were chosen due to their roles and/or positions at the university but other students were from the student body at large
  - The SVCC want to send expand their communication to increase awareness at VT and to make their communication more transparent
  - The SVCC are outsourcing paid positions and larger roles because they don't want to overwork students; they want students to feel engaged but not burdened or exploited
  - SEGAL are subject matter experts on cultural change management but do not have any expertise on sexual violence
  - The SVCC are using subject matter experts on sexual violence that come from VT
  - The SVCC are bringing the authors of *Sexual Citizens Book* (which is a long-term ethnographic study on sexual violence on college campuses from a public health perspective) are coming to work with the SVCC and President's Council at the end of this month (March '23)
  - <https://www.sexualcitizens.com/>
  - Grad students are invited to *Transforming Space and Culture: A Talk with Authors of Sexual Citizens* which will have a virtual option. EVENT DETAILS
  - A senator was concerned that students were being informed of decisions made by the SVCC after those decisions were made. The SVCC representatives said they had 4 graduates and 3 undergraduates serving on the SVCC so students were being heard and consulted

- The representatives don't want to share the names of folks serving on subcommittees without discussing it with them first
- A senator pointed out that graduates aren't paid a living wage and still do extra labour, so the SVCC not utilising graduates for fear of not being able to pay them seems a little disingenuous. The SVCC can compensate graduates in other ways such as parking, food, etc.
- A senator who served on the SVCC said they felt that Katie Polidoro has the students' best interests at heart and that their experience on the SVCC was a good one
- A guest at the GPSS wanted to know how much SEGAL is being paid for their work. The SVCC representatives said they'd ask the President's Office for that information as they currently don't have that number
- A guest speaker at the GPSS noted that the United Feminist Movement (UFM) have made it clear that they don't feel involved with the SVCC and the guest wants to know what the SVCC is doing to address this concern. This concern was brought up with the first SVCC created at VT (this iteration is the second). The representatives said the Title IX office and UFM have had a good relationship for a long time but some of the conversations around SVCC have made that relationship tougher
- The SVCC weren't willing to give UFM a larger proportion of representation than other groups at VT
- The SVCC scheduled the *Transforming Space and Culture: A Talk with Authors of Sexual Citizens* event on the same day as UFM's *Take Back the Night* to kick off April 1st and discussed this decision with UFM
- The GPSS President said they will reach out to UFM and see if they wanted to also present at the GPSS
- The GPSS President suggested that senators who are interested in further discourse with the SVCC reach out to him and arrange a time for another meeting
- Elections
  - The GPSS suggested that the scheduled Q&A for each candidate (which is usually held after each candidate's speaking section) be amended to a general Q&A after all candidate's pitch due to time restrictions

### **Old Business**

- CGPSA Resolution 2022-23A
  - This is the GPSS' second reading and if we approve the resolution it will go to University Council
  - A senator wanted to recommend adding language regarding who should be on the committee

### **New Business**

- CGPSP 2022-23D

- The meeting was overtime so we will be discussing CGPSP 2022-23D in our next meeting on March 30th.

**Closing Remarks**

- VTSSD survey: <https://forms.gle/NLSSbJ8Z8KmhtBqe7>

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chloe Robertson