# Open Forum (5:00-5:30)

Sign-in Link: https://tinyurl.com/GPSS0413Signin

Slides Link: https://tinyurl.com/GPSS0413Slides
Sign-in Link: https://tinyurl.com/GPSS0413Signin
Voting Link: tinyurl.com/GPSS0413Voting  Contact Us: GPSS@vt.edu | www.gpss.vt.edu

# Senate Meeting

## 13th April, 2023

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# Meeting Agenda

1. Opening remarks & senator sign-in

2. Exec Board Reports

3. Commission and Committee Reports:

4. Ad hoc reports:

5. General Orders: SSD Presentation

6. Unfinished business: None

7. New business: Elections, Student Finance

8. Closing remarks:

# Opening Remarks

Sign-in if you have not!

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!

# Notes on Zoom

**Voting:** Only senators and designated proxies 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.

# Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from the Mar. 30th meeting.

https://gpss.vt.edu/the-senate/senate-meetings-minutes/minutes.html

# Director of Programs

- If you received a cap and gown loan, please check your e-mail for pickup details and instructions
- Summer TFP cycle opening in next two weeks – please make sure your constituents know!

# Vice President

We have had a number of senator changes during this semester, if you will be graduating, or switching senator roles, please remember to reach out and let me know! Ideally, try and find a replacement senator for your position. Once this is done, email gpss@vt.edu or chloerobertson@vt.edu to let me know about the changes!

# DIRECTOR OF EVENTS!

Spring Social! - April 29th Blacksburg Municipal Park (stay tuned for exact location/time)

(SPREAD THE WORD)

Final Drinks night - April 28th, 6PM at Maroon Door (one free drink while supplies last!)

Dean Taco Talk - April 28th, Noon, GLC meeting room C (https://forms.gle/WyNRw9PW7QxYpWTe8)

(SPREAD THE WORD)

Events Calendar: https://tinyurl.com/GPSSEventsCalendar

# President

Follow-up conversation with Katie Polidoro and Martha Glass

Conversation with Tim Sands on Graduate Contracts and funding

Transition to new Exec!

# External Committees/Commissions

Open remarks

# General Orders: Presentation

Updates from Service for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office

Resources Page Ideas:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MWW7-GVdBsd1agV3Due_TcpyQHKLCZqR/view?usp=sharing

# General Orders: COA Information

Web Page from the grad school:

https://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/tuition-and-costs.html

# Unfinished Business: None

# New Business: SAFAB Policy Comment

Policy for the Student Activity Fee Allocation Board (SAFAB)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FDr_ac_AG7zPJCm0AmRdLP8N3QCi5qy1/view?usp=sharing

Major Changes - SAFAB Policies apply to UCSOs (GPSS, USS, VTU, …)

- Defining SAFAB for first time. It will report out its policy recommendations and allocations to the USS and GPSS
- Increasing flexibility so organizations can use funds as they see fit on items ranging from Decorations, Food/Beverage, Printing/Copying, Student Travel for Conferences, Wearing Apparel
- Centralizing standard needs including: office supplies, potentially food/beverage serving supplies
- Removing telephone since organizations aren't using this line item.

# New Business: GSBB Policy First Reading

Policy for the Graduate Student Budget Board (GSBB)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zGxNpyo7UT3gVP8WosbKxm4OGQrvXtkI/view?usp=sharing

- Strongly encouraging having a local vt event in relation to conference/competition funding
- Awards and Website fees will not be funded
- Provided guidance on funding contracted speakers/performers/guests
- Adding costume/competition based uniforms
- Adding guidance on Departmentally Affiliated Organizations
- Increasing Food/Beverage cap to $2,000 per year
- Guidance on insurance
- Adding programming supplies to support event specific items which are necessary to the function of the event and support the mission of the organization
- Increasing reimbursement rates for travel expenses
- Adding urgent summer decisions guidelines and streamlining the reallocation requests

# New Business: Elections

| Positions | Name |
|---|---|
| Director of Events | Isaac Pressgrove |
| Director of Communication | Riley DeHority<br>Shathushan Sivashangaran |

- Hiring of a Grad Assistant for 23-24 Academic Year

tinyurl.com/GPSS0413Voting

# 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).

# Closing Remarks: BT Transit Feedback

Blacksburg Transit is in the process of developing a Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) to help guide service improvements over the next 10 years in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. Whether you are a current rider, past rider, or even if you have never ridden our buses, **we need your help** to understand how and why people are using (or not using) transit so we can improve our services in the future. Complete this short survey **by April 28** to tell us about your experiences, desires and priorities. You can be entered in a raffle for a chance to win one of three $50 VISA gift cards! More information about the project is available at www.ridebt.org/tsp.

# Closing Remarks: Privacy and GobblerConnect

We received feedback from the Associate Director for Student Organizations and Administration regarding unwanted emails being sent to some senators. The Associate Dean noted that student contact information can be found on GobblerConnect which may be one way your emails get shared. Visit the following link for instructions on how to keep your email safe by changing your privacy settings: https://engagesupport.campuslabs.com/hc/en-us/articles/204033014-Changing-your-Privacy-Settings (this link will also go in the minutes).

*If you have concerns about being repeatedly contacted by the same group or person and if the concerns escalate, you can report those concerns to the office of Student Conduct, who investigate these types of potential policy violations and oversee no-contact orders.*

# Closing Remarks:

GPSS GA Position:

Description:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YlSxVokBQEY1L6WtH0NE8JwJ9iCP6GdeG3YlWpqycxI/edit?usp=sharing

Application:

https://forms.gle/YP9H2ZYPA23YBBqn8

# Conclusion

Motion to Adjourn!

Events Calendar:

https://tinyurl.com/GPSSEventsCalendar

**Senate Discord:**



tinyurl.com/GPSS22SenatorDiscord

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