

General Assembly Meeting
Graduate and Professional Student Senate
20.10.22 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Prior General Assembly Meeting

10.20.22 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Meeting minutes approved

In attendance

President | Ben Beiter: present
Vice President | Chloe Robertson: present

Senators: 57
Quorum reached: yes

Motions

Motion to add Amendment A to GPSS Resolution 2022-2023A
Motion made by Ben Beiter
Vote: counted // approved // 38 yes, 1 abstain

Motion to extend the meeting
Motion made by Ben Beiter
Vote: counted // approved // 22 yes, 6 abstain

General Notes

Old Business

- GPSS Resolution 2022-2023A
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New Business

- Freedom of Expression Statement and GPSS Official Response
 - Discussion regarding the Freedom of Expression draft was divisive and many views were shared in regards to the GPSS official draft response to the statement
 - Due to time constraints, a poll to approve the GPSS official draft response was halted due to losing quorum
 - A poll was later sent out via email and the GPSS official draft response was not approved by the senate. Vote: counted // not approved // 25 yes, 5 no, 3 abstain

- The first reading of CGPSP Resolution 2022-23A has been moved to the Nov 17th meeting due to time constraints

Executive Board Reports

- Director of Advocacy
 - The housing survey report has found that rental prices in Blacksburg have risen 60% from this time last year with housing expenses having increased 7.5%
 - The GPSS will be organizing graduate cords for senators who would like to showcase their service to the senate when they walk at graduation
- Director of Finance
 - Those wanting to submit to the GSPB will have until the 16th January when it reopens
 - They are currently reviewing the applications that came in before November 1st
- Director of Events
 - The Little Hokie Hand-Me-Down is happening on November 15th-16th
- Vice President
 - Can senators please canvas their contacts to see if anyone else would be interested in signing up as a senator

External committee and commission open remarks

- Staffing Affairs Commission
 - Focused on revising the senate's constitution and bylaws to bring them more in-line with overall university governance. They are also concerned with how to promote senator attendance
 - A senator proposed adding language to their constitution and bylaws to ensure diversity is prioritized when it comes to appointing senators
- Personal Transportation and Device Working Group
 - Working on updating the language of the current policy (5005) regarding transportation devices, scooters, hoverboards, etc.
 - The group will be putting out a survey to get everybody's opinion on the current language and any thoughts that anyone has on the devices
- Campus Development Committee
 - The committee are working on installing two elevators between the Johnston Student Center and Calgary Hall to make it accessible for students who cannot use the two sets of stairs
 - The committee would like to get this project started in the next month or two and it should be completed sometimes in 2023

Ad hoc committee reports

- Contract Policy ad hoc committee
 - The written work from the committee is currently going through CGPSA and will be refined into a final draft afterwards
- Health Insurance ad hoc committee
 - The committee will be ending out a survey next week and hope to get the survey responses by the beginning of next semester

- After the survey results come in, the committee will work to renegotiate some of the health insurance policies with Aetna
- Graduate Stipend Task Force
 - The 5% raise that graduate students got was not a result of the Graduate Stipend Task Force and was instead a state-mandated raise for all state employees, which include those on a Virginia Tech assistantship
 - The Task Force is currently working on writing a draft of recommendations for an increase in student stipends specifically

Closing Remarks

Meeting was automatically adjourned due to losing quorum

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chloe Robertson', written over a horizontal line.

Chloe Robertson