

General Assembly Meeting
Graduate and Professional Student Senate
12.01.22 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Prior General Assembly Meeting

11.17.22

Meeting minutes approved

In attendance

President | Ben Beiter: present

Vice President | Chloe Robertson: present

Senators: 48

Quorum reached: yes

Motions

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting

Motion made by Ben Beiter

Counted // 29 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to adopt this statement on behalf of the GPSS

Motion made by a senator

Counted // 32 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to add a comment to CEOD 22-23B stating that the GPSS believes it does not mention initiatives regarding reparations for stolen land

Motion made by a senator

Counted // 26 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Vote to add friendly amendment to the previous motion to add a comment to CEOD 22-23B

Motion made by Ben Beiter

Counted // 32 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to comment that usage of the word "Blacks" in CEOD 22-23B to refer to a group of people is deemed offensive and should be amended to less offensive terminology

Motion made by a senator

Counted // 31 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

General Notes

Executive Board Reports

- Director of Advocacy
 - The housing survey is almost up to 500 responses and is still welcoming new respondents

- The Sexual Violence Culture committee is looking for graduate students to sit on the different sub-committees. Register your interest [here](#).
- Director of Programs
 - Spring GRDP is now open. The deadline to apply is January 19, 2023 at 11:59pm
- Vice President
 - Many senators forget to sign in to meetings and/or do not attend.

Commissions/Committees Reports

- Commission for Staff Policy and Affairs
 - Working on updating the constitution and bylaws for the commission. They are also discussing educational opportunities for faculty, grad students, and students. The commission also runs walking tours that anyone can take if they are interested in history.
- CGPSA
 - Working on resolutions and policy changes.
- Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
 - They are working to meet VTs sustainability goals but students wanting to contribute to this can register their interest
- CGPSP
 - Has not met since the last senate meeting (11.17.22)
- UAC
 - UAC has not met since the last GPSS meeting. But from an athletics perspective, our last football game was canceled. Come out to support our basketball teams and other sports (I believe Women's basketball is in the top 10 for the first time since 1999, and only the 2nd time in program history!). Men's basketball plays #1 UNC on Sunday at home
- CUSA
 - Signed off on their joint finance policy approval committee (SAPSC). So, they have our first joint subcommittee

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- Health Insurance
 - Hopefully, a survey will be sent out by the end of the semester
- Living Wage
 - Defining CoL method: \$32,431
 - There is a plan to increase the stipend level above the minimum in order to be competitive

Bookholders statement

- Virginia Tech students were paid below the minimum wage at Bookholders (a private business on Main St) but when they brought this to the attention of the Department of Labor, Bookholders brought a lawsuit against them
- The GPSS and USS are voting on whether to adopt this statement but the university currently has not offered the VT students involved any support

Cranwell International Center Presentation

- Rob and Vivian are here from the CIC
- Nationally international student numbers peaked pre-pandemic and VT is number one in the state form the amount of international students (including institutions such as GMU and UVA)
- International graduates students made up 60% of the total graduate population here at VT
- During the pandemic a lot of people left the field or were fired, so CIC has been trying to hire from staff for their office and they currently have two active searches going
- The CIC staff process the paperwork not only for current international students but also for graduates students who are on OPT or STEM OPT
- CIC sends out a biweekly newsletter through a listserv that details events and services
- Housing is difficult for graduate students
 - Suggestion: an online version of the housing fair that happens here for prospective students to begin understanding their options (I don't know how possible this would be)
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Old Business

N/A

New Business

Resolutions

- COED 22-23B for comment
 - We need to make political progress on land recognition because this current statement only acknowledges the land VT sits on, but makes no mention of how reparations and/or initiatives are being made regarding the land they stole
 - The statement should explain what 'meaningful engagement' means in the context of the statement and/or the resolution
 - Senator moves to make the second point a friendly amendment to the original motion to comment

Closing Remarks

Cookies with the Dean

- Event canceled

Elections

- Happening in January

Communication over winter

- This was our last meeting so if anyone has any events/issues/initiatives that they would like to share with us then please reach out via email to: gpss@vt.edu

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chloe Robertson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chloe Robertson