

General Assembly Meeting
Graduate and Professional Student Senate
19.01.23

Prior General Assembly Meeting

12.02.22

Meeting minutes approved

In attendance

President | Ben Beiter: present

Vice President | Chloe Robertson: present

Senators: 50

Quorum reached: yes

Motions

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting

Motion made by Ben Beiter

Counted // 30 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Motion to add comment to CFA Resolution 2022-2023A about including language that specifically addresses inclusivity of minority faculty members

Motion made by senator

Counted // 31 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

Motion to add comment to CFA Resolution 2022-2023A querying the replacement of accessible language with an exhaustive list of references which could obscure the meaning of the resolution

Motion made by senator

Counted // 31 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain

Motion to waive right to comment on CAPFA Resolution 2022-2023A

Motion made by Ben Beiter

Counted // 24 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain

Motion to adjourn meeting

Motion made by Ben Beiter

Counted // 31 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain

General Notes

Executive Board Reports

- Director of Programs
 - Spring 2023 TFP application to open Jan. 23 – conference travel April 1-June 30
 - \$20,000 total

- GRDP application for Spring 2023 closes tonight 11:59 PM
 - \$10,000 total
- Submit your abstract for the GPSS Graduate Research Symposium (taking place in late march) to present as either a poster or oral presenter
- The speaker for the GPSS Graduate Research Symposium hasn't yet been finalised
- Director of Finance
 - GPSS Budget:
 - Budget Board (SBB): \$23,461.76
 - Spent: \$15,000
 - Generated Funds: FY 22 starting balance: ~\$78,000
 - Income: \$22,000
 - Fall 2022 Expenses: ~\$18,000
 - Spring 2023 Budget: \$8,000
 - Expected deficit for 2022-23 FY: \$6,000
 - Ending Balance: ~\$72,000
 - Graduate Student Budget Board (GSBB):
 - Total: \$91,000
 - Allocated: ~\$31,300 (34%)
 - 50% through 22-23 awarding cycle (8/22-11/1 & 1/16-3/31)
 - **GSOs can contact gsbb@vt.edu** if they have any questions, would like to set up a time for office hours, or apply for money
 - Student Activity Fee Allocation Board (SAFAB):
 - Responsible for allocating funds (**\$1 million**) to UCSOs, GSBB, and SBB.
 - Graduate Student representation: GPSS President, Director of Finance, and GSBB member
- Director of Events
 - Senators are invited and encouraged to fill out our event survey (<https://tinyurl.com/GPSSSpringEvents>) so we can organise events for the rest of the semester
- President
 - Sexual Violence Climate and Culture Working Group
 - The SVCC are contracting a group called SEGAL to facilitate their processes. Graduate and professional students are still welcome to sign up and register their interest to help with the SVCC
 - Director of Advocacy
 - Our Director of Advocacy, Alice Fox, has stepped down from her role due to other professional commitments. She will continue her work with the groups and initiatives on campus dedicated to advocacy

Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- Living Wage Taskforce
 - Working on raising the minimum stipend
 - Working on removing comprehensive fees for graduate students

- The details for the exact figures and findings of the task force should be out out in the next two weeks and then the report goes to the Provost, then the Dean of the Graduate School, and finally the Board of Visitors
- Health Insurance
 - The survey for garnering information from students about our health insurance is being created
 - The GPSS is looking for graduate students to test the survey before making it live
- Graduate Contracts
 - The Human Resources department at VT may be willing to help the GPSS add detailed language to our graduate contracts that helps specify parts of our job description

Elections

- There is an amended election timeline which is as follows:
 - 01/31/23: Submission of Completed Candidate Packet Due to Elections Subcommittee Chair (email to taylorcl@vt.edu), this includes the Statement of Intent and Platform Statement
 - 02/02/23: Nominee Statements of Intent and Platform Statement will be sent out to Senators and published on GPSS website
 - 02/06/23 - 02/09/23 (TBC): Meet and Greet with Candidates Event
 - 02/13/22: Deadline for Candidates to Make Arrangements for their Personal Statements if they expect to miss 02/16 GPSS Meeting
 - 02/16/23: Candidate Presentations, Questions & Answers, and GPSS Discussion on Candidates. Voting Period Begins (after GPSS Meeting)
 - 02/24/22: Voting Period Ends at 11.59pm
 - 03/02/22: New Executive Board announced

State of the Senate

- Housing Survey
 - Closes at the end of the month
 - There are plans to start a task force once the survey is complete and we have all the feedback
- Listening Sessions
 - The GPSS will start holding listening sessions where any graduate students can come to us to bring up issues, talk about initiatives, or simply get to learn more about the GPSS and what it does
- GPSS Initiatives
 - Please fill out this survey (<https://tinyurl.com/GPSSInitiatives>) to let us know what initiatives you would like to see the GPSS work on this semester
 - Any initiatives that aren't picked this semester will be given to next year's executive board as suggestions for future work

Old Business

N/A

New Business

- CFA Resolution 2022-2023A
 - The GPSS would like to add a comment about including language specifically targeted inclusivity of minority faculty members
 - There are not many minority faculty members that achieve emeritus status despite the achievements they make during their tenure
 - The concise language used in previous drafts has been replaced with references to an extensive body of text which obfuscates the meaning to readers
- CAPFA Resolution 2022-2023A
 - There was no discussion about this resolution

Closing Remarks

- Student Lobbying Day
 - There is a Student Day of Action on Feb 3rd in Richmond VA
 - Contact Terri Erwin (terri@virginiainterfaithcenter.org) for information on how to buy the bus ticket from Roanoke to Richmond.
 - Tickets are \$25 for the bus and lodging at a youth hostel Thursday night (with 3 meals included)
- Student Interviewees
 - The Sexual Violence Culture and Climate Working Group and the Sexual Violence Prevention Campaign Subcommittee are looking for graduate interviewees
 - Interviews will be focussed around sexual violence prevention
 - Contact Lauren Surface (lkeister@vt.edu) for more information
- Brown Bag Mentoring Lunches
 - The Dean of the Graduate School has organised a series of lunches (where you bring your own food) for graduates to discuss mentoring on the following dates:
 - Tuesday, January 24th 12:20-1:20 @Fralin Life Sciences Building Room 105
 - Thursday, February 9th 12:20-1:20 @ CID
 - Monday, March 27th 12:10-1:10 @G101 Riverside Circle Roanoke
 - Thursday, March 30th 12:20-1:20 @Liberal Arts Building Conference Room 005
 - Thursday, April 6th 12:20-1:20 @ NVC
 - Thursday, April 27th 12:20-1:20 @Newman Library MPR
 - Please note there will be the option to Zoom in as well

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. D.', written in a cursive style.

Chloe Robertson