

General Assembly Meeting
Graduate and Professional Student Senate
02.02.23

Prior General Assembly Meeting

19.01.23

Yes

In attendance

President | Ben Beiter: present

Vice President | Chloe Robertson: present

Senators: 41

Quorum reached: yes

Motions

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting

Motion made by Ben Beiter

Counted // 26 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to call for a vote of no confidence in the Sexual Violence Climate and Culture (SVCC) working group due to their approach to sexual violence

Motion made by senator

Counted // 32 yes, 0 no, 4 abstain

Motion stating the Graduate Students want the Living Wage Task Force recommendation report to be made public as soon as possible

Motion made by senator

Counted // 30 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Motion made by senator

Counted // 25 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

General Notes

Executive Board Reports

- Director of Programs
 - TFP
 - The Spring 2023 TFP applications are open and we already have a number of applicants
 - Can senators please spread the word so more students can get financial support
 - GPSS Graduate Research Symposium

- They make recommendations on whether to use Google or move to Microsoft
- They communicate with students regarding these discussions
- Graduate students get a representative on this committee and the current representative is stepping down. Senators are welcome to volunteer for this position and can do so by emailing: gpss@vt.edu

Commissions/Committees

- (CSPA) Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs
 - They have a resolution for rebuilding the staff senate constitution and bylaws which is relevant for the graduates because there will be seven non-voting seats from other organizations which means the GPSS could have a non-voting seat on the staff senate
 - There are staff and AP faculty awards currently accepting nominations
- Personal Transportation Devices
 - A survey is open for students to give feedback (<https://forms.gle/vNJxx18NJHmiRzbo9>)
- CGPSP
 - They voted for the Co-op Program Change where you pay \$80 for an internship instead of having to sign up for 1 credit (which was how this worked previously) and the vote passed
 - Establishes a Master of Science degree for data science
 - Drafting a definition for Instructors of Record
- CUSA (Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs)
 - There was a discussion Student Activity Fee Allocation Board which allocates money to all the UCSOs and budget boards for GSBB
 - The new allocation board has UGSS and GPSS representatives and the authority from that board will come directly from the senates

Ad Hoc Committees

- Living Wage Taskforce
 - The taskforce is not voting on the report and instead works on consensus
 - The report is not currently finished but is tasked with discussing the minimum living wage (according to cost of living) for graduate students attending VT
 - The report will not be made public at that time and is not public now
 - After the Feb 9th meeting the report will go to Provost Clarke and Dean Surprenent and then will likely be brought before the BoV so they can look at the university's budget
 - Next week on We 3rd at 2:00pm (GLC Room C) there will be a GPSS listening session which will focus on the Living Wage Campaign
 - If students want to be involved with the Living Wage Campaign, they should discuss the movement with other graduates to raise collective consciousness and support for a living wage for all students
 - Students can also discuss the campaign with their departments

- The BoV meetings are public, so the GPSS can let senators know when the report will be discussed for senators and graduates who are interested in attending
- Health Insurance
 - The survey will be shared out soon and will collect feedback from students regarding our health insurance

GPSS Initiatives

- The Living Wage Campaign is a priority initiative for the GPSS based on a survey garnering student feedback
- The second most voted for initiative was to establish training for mentors

Elections

- The GPSS ensures graduate and professional student voices are heard, so students
- The new deadline for executive board applications for the 23-24 academic year is Feb 20th, 2023
- Without an executive board, the senate cannot run and the programs, events, and initiatives that the GPSS works on will stall
- All executive board positions are given a stipend of \$5000 per year

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Closing Remarks

- RGSA BPDS
 - They are hosting an event in Roanoke called the Biomedical Professional Development Symposium around June 2023 (exact time and date TBC)
 - Students interested in the symposium can contact Frazier at (mcf712@vt.edu)
- Brown Bag Mentoring Lunches
 - The Dean of the Graduate School is hosting Brown Bag lunches (Zoom option available) for all graduate and professional students
- BoV Rep for Graduate Students
 - The GPSS is calling for applicants for the BoV representative position
 - Applications are due by Feb 19th, 2023 at 11:59pm

Signed:



Chloe Robertson