



Senate Brief - February, 02, 2023 Meeting

Brown Bag Mentoring Lunches

The Dean of the Graduate School is hosting brown bag lunches for graduate students intended to create and cultivate a community of practice with discussions around Mentoring: challenges, opportunities, experiences. All are welcome, and a Zoom option will be available!

Meeting Times:

- 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

GPSS Executive Board Elections

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate is officially accepting applications for the 2023 - 2024 Executive Board. As a member of the Executive Board, you will play a key role in ensuring that the GPSS continues to serve the best interest of the graduate and professional student population at Virginia Tech. The Executive Board consists of seven (7) positions, all of which are described below and in the application package. These positions also come with an additional, small fellowship for your work (not an assistantship).

Applications are due by Feb 20th, 2023 at 11:59pm.

If you are interested in applying, [please visit our website for more information](#) on the application package and how to email your application to our Elections Subcommittee Chair. This page also includes information about each position along with their respective duties, responsibilities, and time commitments.

Board of Visitors Representative Elections

The GPSS is calling for applicants for the BoV representative position. Information sessions regarding the position are being held on Monday, February 6 | 7:00-8:00pm (In Person) at Brush Mountain A and Tuesday, February 7 | 7:00-8:00pm (via Zoom [using this link](#)).



Applications are due by Feb 19th, 2023 at 11:59pm. If you are interested in applying, please contact

Student Health Insurance Survey

The GPSS and SMI (**Student Medical Insurance**) have put together this survey to gather some feedback about the Virginia Tech Aetna Student Medical Insurance plan from students themselves. The results of this survey will be used to understand what services students are currently getting as well as what they would want out of their health insurance plan. This will be used to advocate for insurance plans in the future that better match with student needs.

This survey is completely anonymous. Respondent emails, ip addresses, locations, and any other identifying information is never saved. Response data will not be made public.

The survey will first ask you questions about your current or past experience with the VT Aetna plan, then questions about your ideal health insurance plan, then finally some questions specifically about the SMI office.

[Please click here to fill out the survey.](#)

Graduate Research Development Plan Reviewers

Reviewers from all disciplines are welcome! Must be a graduate student engaged in research at Virginia Tech, and not a current GRDP applicant. Each proposal consists of an "extended abstract" describing the context, motivation, methods and impacts of an applicants' research, in addition to a budget and timeline for completion of proposed work.

Minimum time commitment is 1.5 hours from January 30-March 10, 2023 - including half hour-long training session and review of at least two proposals. Volunteers may be assigned to review proposals within their general area of expertise, or entirely outside of it. All work can be done remotely.

If interested, please fill out this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/7jgsxb8gra1Dt6Eg9>.

Additional background on the GRDP: <https://gpss.vt.edu/programs/grdp.html>.

Please contact Cissy Ming with questions at cissym@vt.edu.



GPSS Travel Fund Program Applications

Graduate students presenting research conducted at Virginia Tech are eligible to apply for the Spring 2023 Travel Fund Program! Grants may cover registration, lodging, meals, abstract fees and other costs of presenting at an in-person or virtual conference with a start date from April 1-June 30. Students from all disciplines are invited to apply, even if your conference abstract has not been officially accepted.

Applications due February 27, 2023 at 11:59 PM. Please e-mail cissym@vt.edu with any questions, and visit <https://gpss.vt.edu/programs/tfp.html> for full details and information.



Community Outreach

Faculty Mentor of the Month

Each month the Graduate School recognizes and highlights “the important role faculty members play in supporting, encouraging, and promoting an affirmative, inclusive scholarly and teaching environment, while contributing to the professional and personal development of graduate students, and cultivating excellence in scholarship”. In service to this, graduate students can nominate a faculty member they believe should receive this award. Participating in programs such as this help highlight faculty that are supportive to graduate students and rewards faculty who believe in mentorship and fair treatment.

To nominate a faculty member, visit [here](#).

209 Market Place Food Pantry

The Wesley Foundation at 209. W. Roanoke St.

If you, or any of your colleagues, are experiencing food insecurity then please check out *209 Market Place* which is a “donation-based, emergency food pantry that provides food, toiletries, and school supplies [for] free to Virginia Tech students in need”. Students can sign up for the food pantry and are allotted a number of points for the week that you can spend as you see fit. Find out more about 209 Market Place [here](#).