

General Assembly Meeting
Graduate and Professional Student Senate
02.16.23

Prior General Assembly Meeting

02.02.23

Yes

In attendance

President | Ben Beiter: present

Vice President | Chloe Robertson: absent, Noor Tasnim substituting

Senators: 46, 2 Proxy

Quorum reached: yes

Motions

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting

Motion made by senator

Counted // 31 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to formally request that Living Wage Task Force report immediately be made public before it is sent to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors

Motion made by senator

Counted // 32 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to waive the right to comment on CSPA Resolution 2022-2023A

Motion made by senator

Counted // 33 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to waive the right to comment on CAPFA Resolution 2022-2023B

Motion made by senator

Counted // 29 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Motion to comment on CUSA Resolution 2022-2023A to resolve the language between what is proposed in the resolution and what's actually written in the document regarding impersonation (Student Code of Conduct, Section V, Offenses Against the Community, Impersonation)

Motion made by senator

Counted // 26 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to comment on CUSA Resolution 2022-2023A that the GPSS had a robust discussion on how law enforcement interacts with Student Code of Conduct violations and that this should be taken into consideration whenever changing the Student Code of Conduct

Motion made by senator

Counted // 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion to Adjourn Meeting
 Motion made by senator
 Counted // 38 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

General Notes

Executive Board Reports

- Director of Programs
 - Travel Fund Program
 - The Spring 2023 TFP applications are still open until February 27th
 - Seeking volunteers to review applications. Can be done from anywhere and with any schedule before March 5th. Email cissym@vt.edu with how many hours you would like to commit.
 - Seeking Peer Reviewers for Spring Graduate Research Development Program applications
 - Email cissym@vt.edu if you are a graduate student interested in reviewing applications for the Spring Graduate Research Development Program
 - Especially seeking reviewers with backgrounds in science/engineering and quantitative methods
- Director of Finance
 - We want requests for funding to give graduate student organizations more money.
 - Email the Graduate Student Budget Board (GSBB) at gsbb@vt.edu if you would like to set up a meeting/attend office hours.
- Director of Events
 - Visit tinyurl.com/GPSSEventsCalendar to view planned events for GPSS
 - We'll have more social events coming up this semester
- President
 - Google Workspace Committee
 - 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
 - Sexual Violence Climate and Culture (SVCC) Working Group Updates
 - A group of senators helped draft a statement from the GPSS regarding the previous meeting's vote of no confidence in the current proceedings in the SVCC
 - The statement detailed the GPSS' discussion regarding the SVCC and helpful feedback on how to move forward with the working group
 - President Beiter delivered the statement to VT President Sands and Katie Polidoro, who chairs the SVCC

- President Beiter attended the monthly SVCC meeting and mentioned that the working group had an hour-long discussion regarding the GPSS statement. The group had a discussion on how it could be improved and increase engagement with students.
 - Katie Polidoro will come speak to the GPSS during a meeting in March.
- President Beiter also brought forth the statement during the President Advisory Group meeting and had a discussion with President Sands regarding the statement
 - The University seems to be amenable towards making a statement on sexual violence and giving an update on the SVCC
- The SVCC seems amenable to providing compensation to students participating in the working group.
- There was a larger conversation among senators regarding the hiring of an HR firm and its involvement in the SVCC

External Commissions/Committees

- Transportation and Parking Committee
 - Transportation services has a survey out to get feedback on parking experiences on campus:
<https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=OcMZsn2q8pM%3D>

Ad Hoc Committees

- Living Wage Taskforce
 - Report is complete and officially out of hands of taskforce, however details of the report not public yet. It will be delivered to the Dean of the Graduate School and the Provost.
 - During the last taskforce meeting, the Dean of the Graduate School mentioned that she would like to work on how information from the report should be shared with students and departments.
 - Suggested that students should talk to their departments about this and that changes will be coming.
 - The Board of Visitors (BOV) will be meeting in March to discuss the budget. This will hopefully be a part of the discussion
 - There was a discussion among Senators regarding the transparency in the report a motion was made to make the report that was sent to the Provost public before it is sent to the BOV
- Health Insurance
 - The draft survey is live, please share it with your constituents:
<https://tinyurl.com/GPSSHealthInsuranceSurvey>
 - Will help get better healthcare services for constituents

Elections

- The deadline for executive board applications for the 23-24 academic year is Feb 20th, 2023
- Still looking for people to apply for Vice President, Director of Communications, Director of Finance, and Director of Programs
- Without an executive board, the senate cannot run and the programs, events, and initiatives that the GPSS works on will stall

Old Business

None

New Business

- First reading of CGPSA Resolution 2022-23A: Resolution to Expand and Secure Access to Reproductive Care at Virginia Tech
 - Senator mentioned that although the resolution mentions Schiffert Health Center, they are working to ensure that this resolution also applies to the Roanoke and Greater DC area campuses
- CSPA Resolution 2022-23A
 - Motion to waive the right to comment on resolution
- CAPFA Resolution 2022-23B
 - Motion to waive the right to comment on resolution
- CUSA Resolution 2022-23A
 - Two motions were made to add comments to the resolution

Closing Remarks

- 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
- Latinx Symposium
 - Looking for someone who identifies as Latinx to represent GPSS as a panelist at the event
 - If interested, email President Beiter and he will put you in contact with the organizers
 - The event will be held on Thursday, March 2nd
- Fundraiser for Turkey Earthquake Relief
 - There's been an in-kind donation collection to send supplies to Turkey
 - We can still make monetary donations at: <https://donate.tpfund.org/team/479874>
 - Credibility Check:
 - <https://www.charitynavigator.org/ein/208392006>
 - <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/turkish-philanthropy-funds-inc>

- Committee to select Grad Student of the Year
 - If anyone is interested in serving on the committee to select this year's Grad Student of the Year, email jkeister@vt.edu. They would like a representative from GPSS. Everything is conducted via Zoom/google docs.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noor Tasnim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Noor" and last name "Tasnim" clearly distinguishable.

Noor Tasnim