

Open Forum (5:00–5:30)

Sign-in Link: tinyurl.com/GPSSOct20Signin

Slides Link: tinyurl.com/GPSSOct20Slides

Sign-in Link: tinyurl.com/GPSSOct20Signin

Voting Link: None!

Contact Us: GPSS@vt.edu | www.gpss.vt.edu



Senate Meeting

20th October, 2022

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Meeting Agenda

1. Opening remarks & senator sign-in
2. Exec Board Reports
3. Commission and Committee Reports: Open remarks
4. Ad hoc reports: Health Insurance, 6210 Policy, Living Wage
5. Guest Presentation: VT Campus Master Plan
6. Unfinished business: None
7. New business: Resolutions 22-23A
8. Closing remarks: Reminders, Communication, Events!

1. Opening Remarks

Sign-in if you have not! tinyurl.com/GPSSOct20Signin

If you have not registered as an Senator yet (haven't received the info emails this week) please email VP Chloe Robertson (chloerobertson@vt.edu) to be added to the roles!

1. Notes on Zoom

Voting: Only senators and designated proxies may vote. Vote using yes (green checkmark), no (red X), and abstain (coffee cup away) emotes.

Speaking: Everyone will be muted and you will have to use the raise hand feature to unmute yourself. Priority will be given to senators over general graduate students.

Please RESET your emote after voting or raising your hand. We cannot distinguish between leftover emotes and current emotes so it is on you to remember to remove your answer after the vote concludes. If you do not lower your hand we may not call on you.

The most important rule is that you MUST show off your pets and tell them they're very good courtesy of the GPSS.

1. Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from the October 6th meeting.

<https://gps.vt.edu/the-senate/senate-meetings-minutes/minutes.html>

1. Opening Remarks: Shared Governance

Resolution Tracker:

<https://governance.vt.edu/ResolutionTracker/UnderReview>

Tutorials and Information:

<https://governance.vt.edu/GovernanceTutorials>

1. Opening Remarks: Debt Relief

Apply, Apply, Apply!

<https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief/application>

Director of Advocacy

Please take the housing survey, and encourage all other graduate and professional students to do so as well!

<https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/GPHousingSurvey22>

We need this data to see movement on affordable housing for graduate students!

Director of Finance

GPSS Budget, beginning of the year:

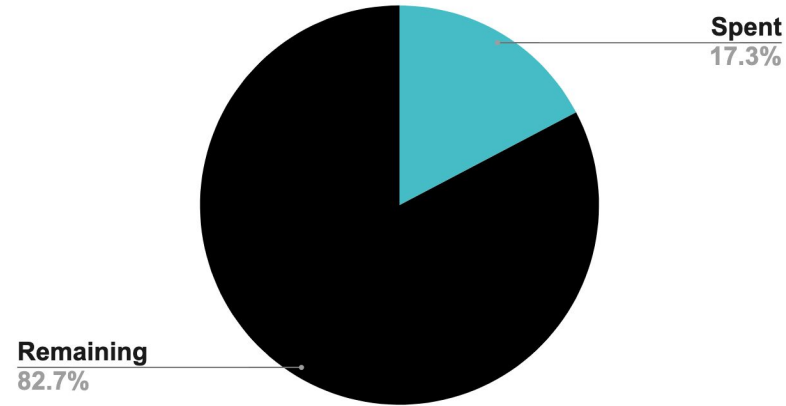
- Budget Board: \$23,461.76
- Generated Fund: \$77,996.26
- Spent so far: ~\$16,000
- Generated: ~\$25,000

GSBB:

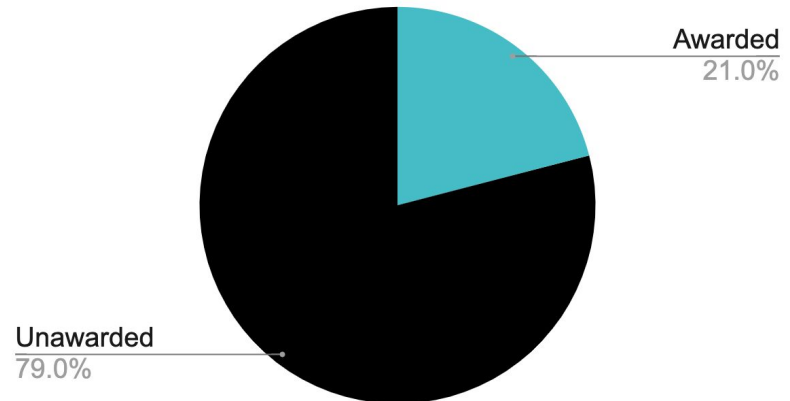
- Total: \$91,000
- Allocated: ~\$19,000 (21%)
- 38% through 22-23 awarding cycle (8/22-11/1 & 1/16-3/31)

Student Fee Allocation Board

SBB Funds (\$23.4k)



GSBB Funds (\$91k)



Director of Programs

The GPSS Travel Fund Program (TFP) Winter Cycle is open!
(<https://gps.vt.edu/programs/tfp.html>)

If you are attending a conference in the coming months, consider applying for money. All the application materials and instructions are online.

Please note: read the FAQs before you submit your application to ensure your application is correctly formatted. Incorrectly formatted applications could cause delays, or a refusal, of your application.

Director of Events:

1. Halloween Party:

Next Thursday (OCT 27th) from 4-7 PM at Moon Hollow Brewery

- Rewards for costumes! 🧛‍♂️
- There will be Candy! 🍬
- Also alcohol if you want it 😊

Fill out the survey so I can get a headcount!

<https://forms.gle/cukBd2trjnJAzYiN9>

2. Hokie Hand Me Down :

Nov 15-16, Donate gently used clothing/toys at GLC front desk

Vice President: Commissions & Committees

- **CGPSA:** First Tuesday of every month from 3:30pm – 5:00pm
 - Senator from the Pamplin College of Business
 - Senator from the College of Natural Resources and Environment
- **Employee Benefits Committee:** Last Thursday of every month from 2:00pm - 3:00pm
- **University Curriculum Committee for General Education:** First Wednesday of every month 2:30pm – 4:00pm
- **Commission on Faculty Affairs:** Second and third Friday of every month 10:30am - 12pm
- **Parking Appeals Hearing Committee:** First and third Friday of every month 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Vice President: Commissions & Committees

- **Ad hoc committees:**
 - Policy 6210 (this doesn't count as a committee seat due to timeframe)
 - Health Insurance
 - TFP
- **GSBB:** Every other Wednesday 4:00pm - 6:00pm
 - Senator from College of Architecture & Urban Studies
 - Senator from the Pamplin College of Business
- **Internal Committees:**
 - Advocacy Committee
 - Events Committee
 - Programs Committee
 - Policy and Internal Affairs Committee
 - Communications Committee

President:

Student Finance Leadership Team / Student Fee Allocation Board

Not being a UCSO anymore (University-Recognized Student Government Entity)

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External Committees/Commissions

Open remarks

Ad Hoc Committee: Programs

Committee to look at historical data for the TFP, conduct a study on graduate student conference travel and create a report for the grad school asking for **Increased Funding**.

- Meet several times between now and February → e-mail cissym@vt.edu if interested

Historically: Budget of \$100,000 for TFP+GRDP per FY

Right now we have extra money rolled over from last year so current TFP's budget is higher.

Ad Hoc Committee: Health Insurance

If interested: <https://tinyurl.com/GPSSAdHoc>

Creating a list of issues: <https://tinyurl.com/GPSSHIissues>

Working on turning this into Survey Questions.

Ad Hoc Committee: Policy 6210

If interested: <https://tinyurl.com/GPSSAdHoc>

Updates to Policy 6210

New policy with basic requirements for graduate contracts of any kind

New policy governing Graduate Instructors of Record (with DAP)

New policy or section on Disability Accommodations for Graduate Assistants (with DAC)

Ad Hoc Committee: Graduate Stipend Taskforce

Working Draft of Recommendations: outline and adding more

Defining “minimum cost of living” for minimum stipend for students.

Currently Investigating

- Data on current funding steps of students
- Projected plan for raising average stipend (\$2250/mo) to COL
- Small group on international student considerations
- Small group on additional support for grant applications

Presentation: University Master Plan

Please Welcome Liza Morris and Terry Kingrea

Old Business:

We have no old business to revisit in this meeting.

New Business: GPSS Resolution 2022-23A

Motion for amendments

- Making explicit that menstrual products should be made available in all restrooms
- Including a new clause that references an interactive campus map highlighting where accessible restrooms are on campus

Open Remarks

<https://tinyurl.com/GPSSResolutionA>

7. Closing Remarks: Communication

All Senators are expected to communicate with your constituents.

- Send out Senate Brief to everyone
- Anonymous Feedback Form:

Comments to ME Senators

This form is a way to submit comments, questions, raise issues, and any other communication to the two graduate student Senators who represent the Mechanical Engineering department in the Graduate and Professional Student Senate: Ben Beiter (-----@vt.edu) and ----- (-----@vt.edu).

The GPSS is the governing body at Virginia Tech made up entirely of grad students. We discuss and create resolutions that go through the shared governance process at VT, as well as host events for all graduate students at VT. Each department gets to send two senators to the GPSS, and we, as the senators for ME are here to hear anything you'd like to bring up to us, and we can bring it up to the Senate at large.

All comments made in this form are anonymous (the form does not save your email). If you feel comfortable sharing your name and email or would like a response from us, please enter your name and email below (we will not share your info with anyone).

7. Closing Remarks: Grad Support

- The Research Notebook Accountability Group invited graduate students to join them!

Are you a graduate student that has struggled to keep the habit of maintaining a research notebook? Join us!

**Research Notebook Accountability Group
for all VT Graduate Students**



Our first cohort starts on Oct 17th!
Scan the QR code to sign up!

We are a student-run peer support group for students with ADHD

7. Closing Remarks: Events

Get ready for some fun events already planned, more to come!

1. **Halloween Costume Party:** October 27th, Moon Hollow (<https://forms.gle/cukBd2trjnJAzYiN9>)
2. **Fall Social:** November 14th, Rising Silo

Follow the GPSS Calendar to get updates!

<https://tinyurl.com/GPSS22Calendar>

Conclusion

Motion to Adjourn!

Senate Discord:



tinyurl.com/GPSS22SenatorDiscord

Public GPSS Discord for all grad students:
tinyurl.com/GPSS22GradDiscord