



General Assembly Meeting
Graduate and Professional Student Senate
20.10.22 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Prior General Assembly Meeting

10.06.22 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Meeting minutes approved

In attendance

President | Ben Beiter: present

Vice President | Chloe Robertson: present

Senators: 40

Quorum reached: yes

Motions

Motion to end meeting

Motion made by Benjamin Beiter

Vote: counted // approved // 320 yes, 2 abstain

General Notes

- Students who would like information on leaves of absence should visit [here](#) for more information.

Old Business

- N/A

New Business

Resolutions

- 2022-23A Resolution to Provide Sanitary Products for all Campus Bathrooms first reading
 - Potential amendments will be written into new drafts for senators to comment on in the next meeting
 - These amendments are:



- 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

Executive Board Reports

- 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)
- Director of Advocacy
 - Benjamin Beiter speaking on behalf of Alice Fox
 - The housing survey is still live and welcoming student feedback. Senators who haven't already done so can fill out the housing survey [here](#).
 - The GPSS is looking at creating graduate gown decorations for those who served on the senate during their time at VT
- Director of Programs
 - Benjamin Beiter speaking on behalf of Cissy Ming
 - The TFP winter cycle is open and welcoming applications. Graduates can apply for the TFP winter cycle [here](#) and are asked to read the FAQ's before submitting their application
 - There will be a spring TFP cycle for conferences later in the year
- Vice President
 - If senators haven't already signed up for a commission or committee, they should contact Chloe at chloerobertson@vt.edu to see what they could serve on
 - The GPSS is looking to get two senators from every department and there are many departments who still don't have any senators
- President
 - The GPSS is looking at not being a University-Recognized Student Government Entity (UCSO) anymore

External committee and commission open remarks



- UCCGE
 - Working on Pathways Program revision and is looking for input from grad students teaching a Pathways course.
 - UCCGE wants to standardize the learning paths to three only and see if the respective LO's make sense
- CAWG
 - There is no update because half of the subcommittees haven't even met yet.
- Commission on Research
 - Looking at allowing postdocs, grad students, and adjuncts to be PIs for IRB and IACUC
- University Athletics Committee report:
 - UAC met last week. Major point of discussion of interest to GPSS—last year a subcommittee of the UAC met, evaluated data, and discussed a change to University policy regarding excused absences for athletes while they're participating in university-sponsored athletic events. Apparently the university doesn't have any "excused absences" (the exception may be for religious holidays or other legally-protected things, but I can't remember); faculty have discretion. This proposal would allow a certain percentage of classes to be missed for such events (I believe 17% was proposed). University Athletics Committee report: UAC met last week. Major point of discussion of interest to GPSS—last year a subcommittee of the UAC met, evaluated data, and discussed a change to University policy regarding excused absences for athletes while they're participating in university-sponsored athletic events. Apparently the university doesn't have any "excused absences" (the exception may be for religious holidays or other legally-protected things, but I can't remember); faculty have discretion. This proposal would allow a certain percentage of classes to be missed for such events (I believe 17% was proposed).
- CGPSP
 - Going to be voting on changing internships from 1 to 0 credits next meeting

Ad hoc committee reports

- Graduate Stipend Taskforce
 - Writing drafts of recommendations to send to the university by the end of the semester
 - Recommendations will define the 'minimum cost of living' minimum stipend for students
- Health Insurance Taskforce Updates



- Committee are looking at creating a survey and want to collect student data regarding things they would like to see changed

Guest Speaker

- Liza Morris presentation - Overview of Campus Master Plan
 - They update the architectural master plan every 10 years but it's not a construction document
 - It provides guidance on where and how to grow if the uni needs to
 - The state likes to know that the uni has a plan
 - It is a living document that can be amended if needed
 - You can download the full plan on the facilities website
 - Questions
 - How are resources for graduate students being factored in?
The grad housing in the GLC will be moved when GLC is demolished. && moved to Newcrest
 - Family-style student housing hasn't been planned. They have looked at Glade Rd but said that would be developer-led
 - The GLC is meant to be replaced & moved, so where?
The GLC will be demolished. GLC to move into a remodelled Newcrest
 - Were grads involved in the 2047 plan?
Yes

Closing Remarks

Upcoming events

- Fall Social: November 14th, Rising Silo
- Little Hokie Hand-Me-Down: November 15th-16th in the GLC

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chloe Robertson". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Chloe Robertson