



## Senate Brief - October, 20, 2022 Meeting

This document should be distributed to all graduate students within your department or through your departmental listserv so that everyone may engage with the activities of the Senate.

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### Resolutions Updates

#### GPSS Resolution 22-23A

The GPSS Resolution 2022-23A: Resolution to Provide Sanitary Products for all Campus Bathrooms has had its first reading at the GPSS.

You can read the current draft of the resolution [here](#). If you would like to give any feedback to the GPSS on this resolution, please reach out to your department senator.

### Updates

#### Federal Debt Relief

The Federal Student Aid office has opened up applications for federal student loan debt relief. Eligible borrowers can receive a “full or partial discharge of loans up to \$20,000 to Federal Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 to non-Pell Grant recipients”. The form takes less than 5 minutes to complete!

You can apply for federal debt relief [here](#).

#### Housing Survey

The GPSS Director of Advocacy, Alice Fox, is looking for participants to fill out a housing survey to ascertain the actual housing needs of the graduate community here at Virginia Tech. Participants will be entered into a prize draw to win a gift card once the survey is complete.

If you haven't already done so, you can fill out the housing survey [here](#).

#### GPSS Travel Fund Program

The TFP winter cycle is open! If you are attending a conference between January 1st - March 31st, 2023, you can apply for funding through the GPSS. Application must be submitted by **November 15th**.

For more information on the TFP, and to apply, click [here](#).



### Freedom of Expression and Inquiry Draft Statement

The university Freedom of Expression and Inquiry Task Force has a draft statement that they would like feedback on. This statement, once completed, will be published as Virginia Tech's official stance on Freedom of Expression and Inquiry.

The statement covers things like:

- Constitutional rights
- The right to gather and/or protest
- Debate
- Tenure

If you would like to contribute to the statement through giving feedback, please use [this form](#) **before November 1st.**

### Events

#### Halloween Social

Save the date for our GPSS Halloween Social - **Thursday, October 27th at Moon Hollow Brewing** from 4:00pm - 7:00pm. Costumes are encouraged and there will be a prize for best dressed!

#### Little Hokie Hand-Me-Down

The annual Little Hokie Hand-Me-Down will take place on November 15th-16th. Those wishing to donate items (including gently used clothing, toys, and books) can do so at the GLC front desk.

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## Community Outreach

### Kids' Tech University

Kids' Tech University invites you to be a part of the STEM fun!

We are excited that Kids' Tech University, a program for kids ages 9-12 and their parents, is being offered Virtually and In-Person in the spring 2023. On Saturdays, Jan. 28th, Feb. 18th, March 18th and April 1st, 2023, 250 kids and their parents will come to Virginia Tech, Blacksburg Campus to participate in STEM Interactive Session and hands-on activities.



Hands-on activities will take place from 1:30-3:30 (with 30 minutes for set-up (1-1:30) and take-down (3:30-4:00) on either side ):

If you, your club, your lab or your department are interested in hosting a hands-on activity for the kids/parents to explore/do [please fill out this survey](#).

### **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](#).