

GSA

General Assembly Meeting #4

Zoom Edition
January 21st, 2021



@VTGSA

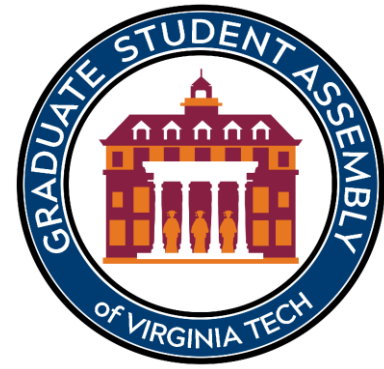


Graduate Student Assembly
of Virginia Tech



Gsa.vt.edu

This meeting is being recorded



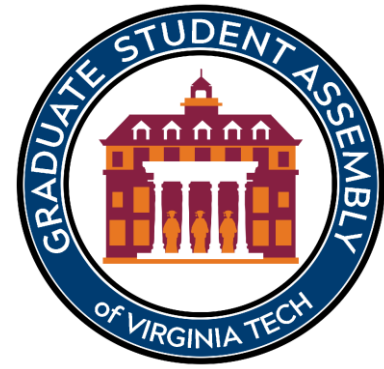
Agenda:

1. Agenda Items
 - a. Motion to change February 25th Meeting
 - b. VTgRATE
 - c. Tuition/Fee Proposal Timeline
 - d. Graduate Compensation Survey
2. Subcommittee Updates
3. Standing Committee Updates
 - a. Finance
 - b. Internal Affairs/Judicial
 - i. New Constitution (1st Reading)
4. Exec. Board Updates
 - a. Programs
 - b. Events
 - c. Communications
 - d. Graduate Rep. to BoV
5. Open Forum
6. Closing/Adjournment



GSA Agenda Items

- a) Change assembly meeting dates
 - b) VTgRATE
 - c) Tuition/Fee proposals



Meeting Dates

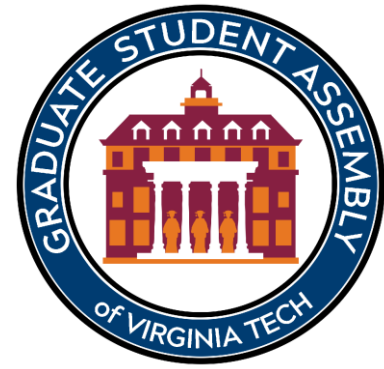
- Feb 25th, 2021 (Spring Break Day 2)
 - Week after or week before
- March 18th (Day after Spring Break Day 3)



Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence

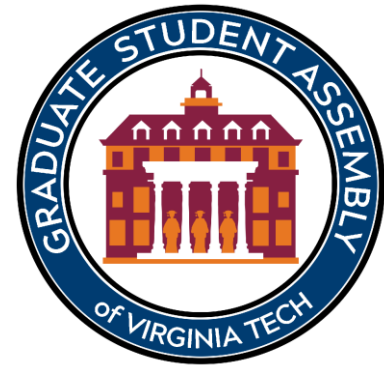


- Teaching resource and mentorship program.
- Social Media
 - Twitter: @VT_GrATE
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VTGrATE>
- Sara Lamb & Jonilda Bahja, co-program managers Spring '21. Contact: vtgrate@vt.edu
- **Ask A Fellow** <http://vtgrate.org/ask-a-fellow/>
- Calendar Events
 - **Spring Application Cycle Open 'til midnight on Sunday 2/21** <http://vtgrate.org/>
 - **Spring Teach-In on 3/23, 3:30- 6:00 pm**
- Fellows Co-Working Hours:
 - **Wednesdays 4-5** (next on 1/27) <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-CvrzwiEtZTbUw8brMlv7Lu2YiE4sRW>
 - **Alternating Thursdays 12-1** (next on 2/4) <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkdO6trDssHNMG0rWUwsLUaQtiRUbudddK>



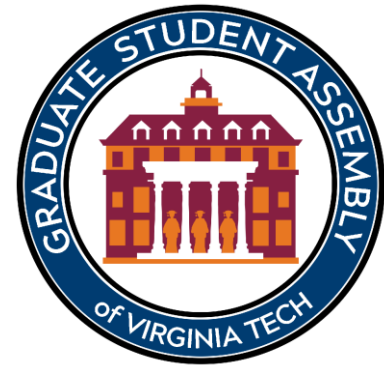
Tuition/Fee Proposals & Timelines

- Every February BoV releases tuition/fee recommendations for upcoming academic year
 - February 19, 2021-tuition/fee plan released
- There is an open comment period where students can submit comments prior to the vote (March 22nd BoV meeting)
 - GSA will make these links known when we are provided with the info
 - Comments Due Feb. 19
 - Public (in-person) comments on March 8th.
 - GSA/SGA President has 'guaranteed' 3minutes/each to speak
 - Other students may request to speak but time opportunity is not guaranteed



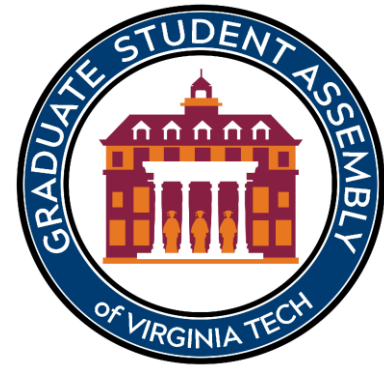
“Proposed” plan for 2020-2021

- ~3% increase in tuition; 5% increase in comp. fees
 - COVID-19 happened:
 - tuition freeze was implemented
 - comp. fees increased by 2.5%
 - Supplemental Assistance increased by \$58 (annual stipend increased by \$58 for those on assistantships)
- *Maruf's guess* for 2021-2022:
 - Tuition will increase by ~3%; comp. fees will increase by 2.5%; supplemental fee increases by ~\$60 (for those on assistantships)



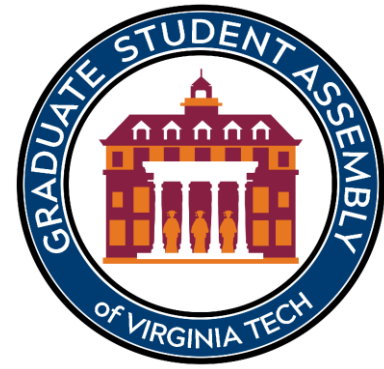
Plan of Action

- GSA Letter to BoV
- New Grad Compensation Survey



GSA Subcommittee Updates

a) Graduate Compensation Survey



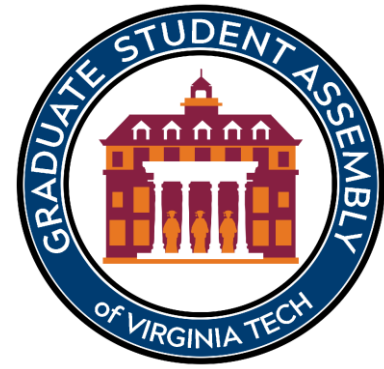
Compensation Survey

- Analyze cost of living for VT grad students across all campuses
 - Goal: 1000 responses
 - Analyzes monthly expenses
- Similar survey will be sent to graduate students at UVA, VCU, & GMU.
- Timeline: provide commentary on survey design by next assembly meeting. Send out shortly afterward



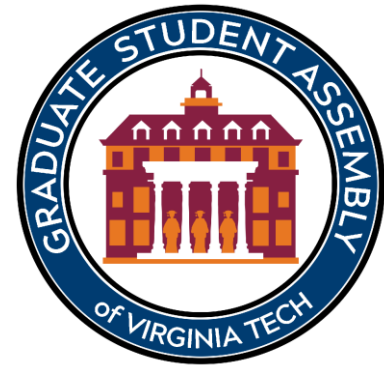
Cost of Living Analysis

- Location (Blacksburg, Roanoke, DC)
- International/Domestic
- Roommates (include spouse/significant other)
- Rent/Mortgage.
- Transportation/Parking/Gas
- Insurance
- Utilities
 - Gas, electric, water, cell phone/internet
- Tax deduction (monthly)
- Comp Fee deduction (monthly)
- Annual stipend
- Grocery budget
- Do you have another job? Hours worked.



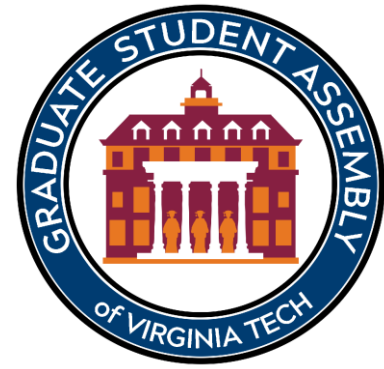
Compensation Survey

- If you wish to be involved email us both:
 - Maruf Hoque mhoque2@vt.edu
 - Rebecca Salgado rsalgado97@vt.edu



GSA Subcommittee Webpages

Email Sharon Stidham (sharon62@vt.edu) with progress/advocacy efforts so everything can be published online.



Standing Committee Updates

Judicial
Finance



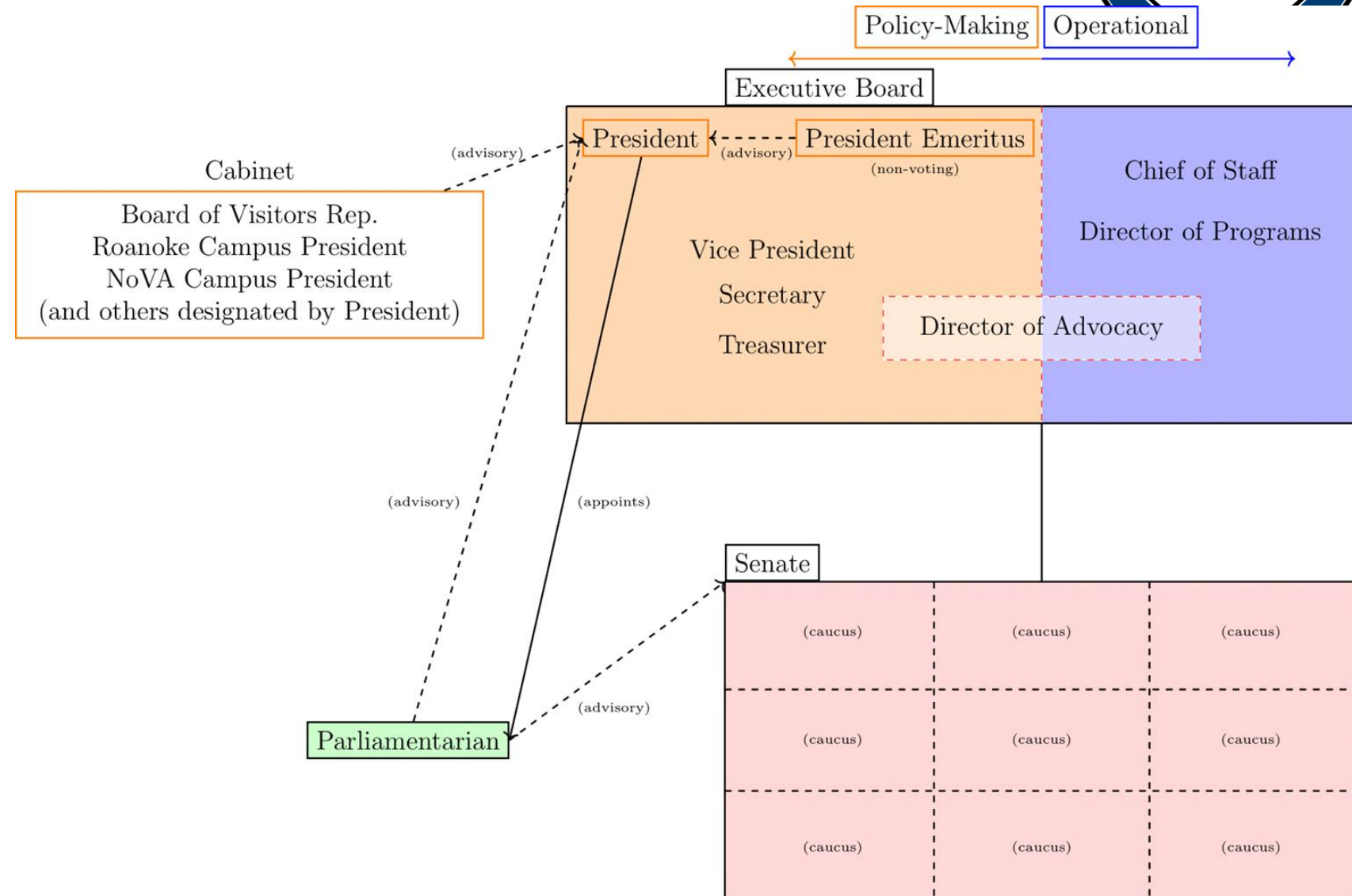
Constitution

Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee

Changes to Exec Board



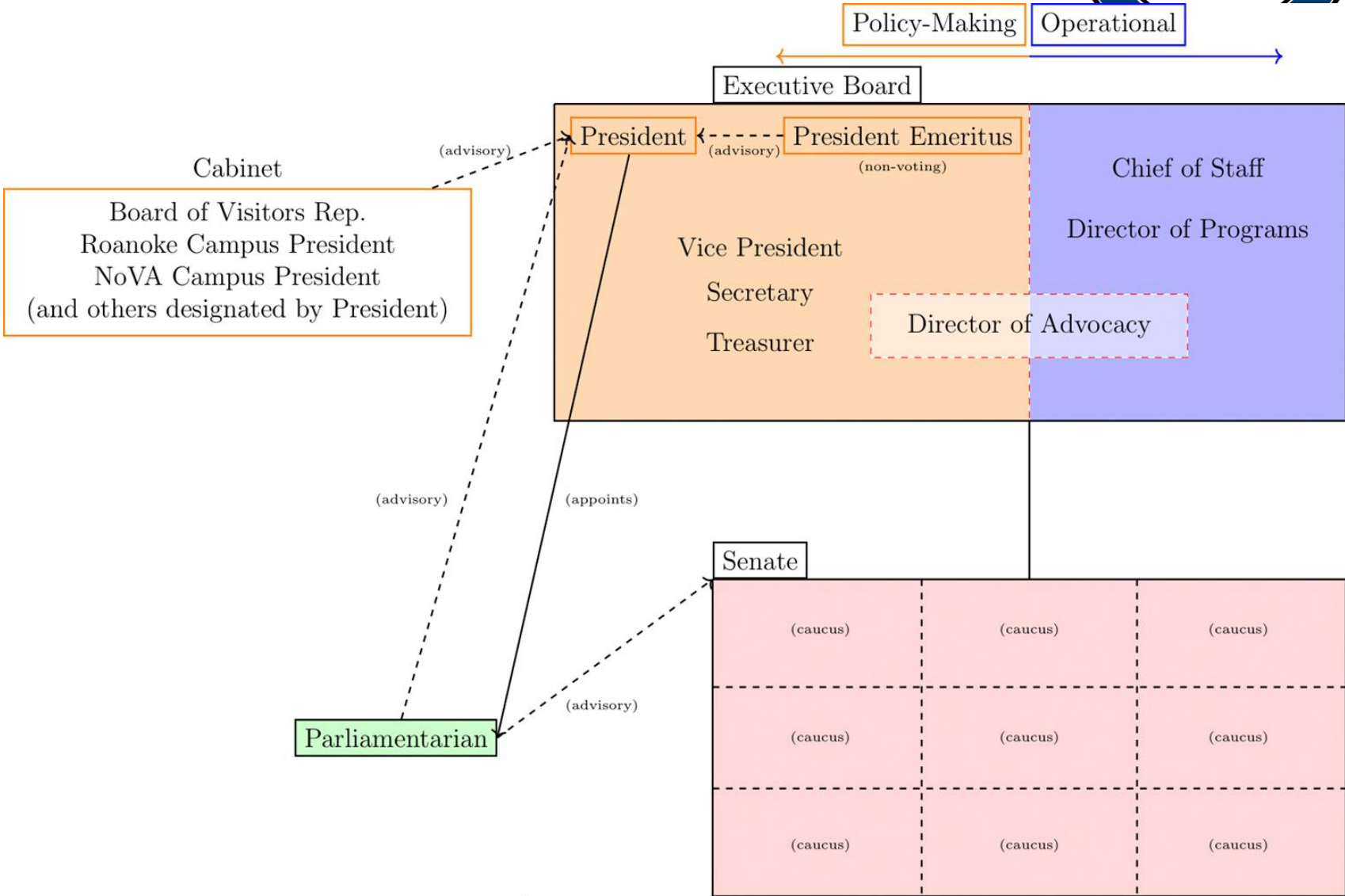
- Adding:
 - Cabinet
 - President Emeritus
 - Chief of Staff
 - Director of advocacy
- Moving elections



Changes to Senate



- Identified within caucuses
- One senator per program
- No more Judicial Branch

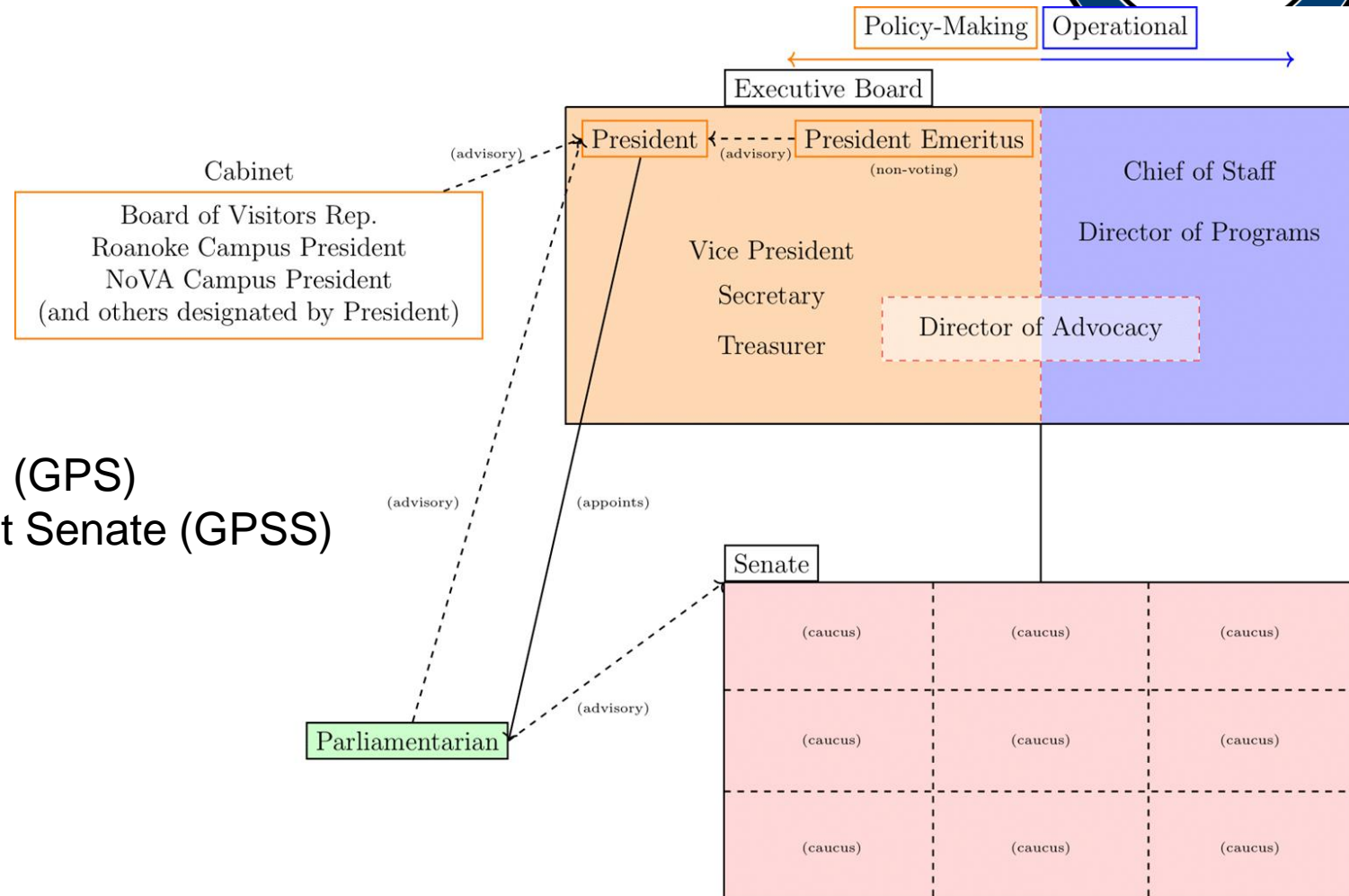


Discussions/Questions

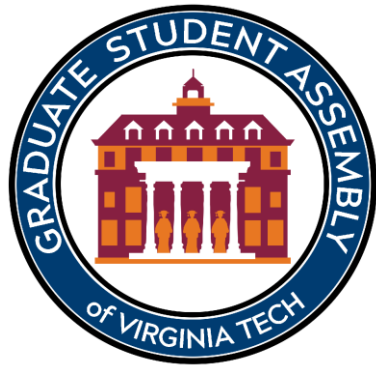


What should our name be?

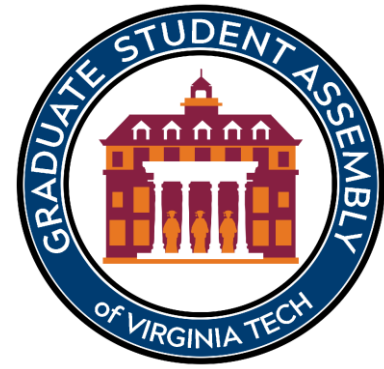
- Graduate Senate (GS)
- Graduate and Professional Senate (GPS)
- Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)



Fin



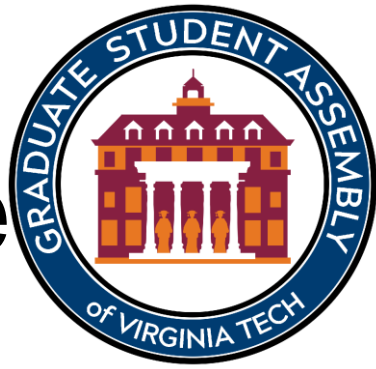
- If you have any further comments please share with the Judicial/Internal Affairs Committee
 - You have 2 weeks to share additional comments
 - There will be a second reading at the next meeting
 - We will stick around after the meeting for further discussion
-
- Comments: email Aidan Murphy (awmurphy@vt.edu)



Finance

Alexis Hruby

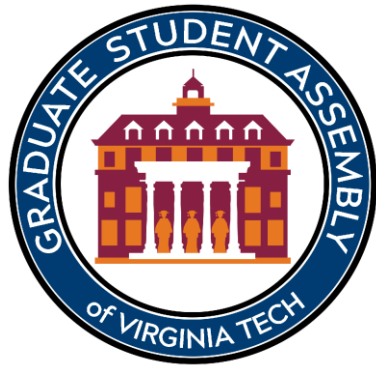
GSBB proposed structure- Pilot Phase



Proposed structure for pilot-phase only:

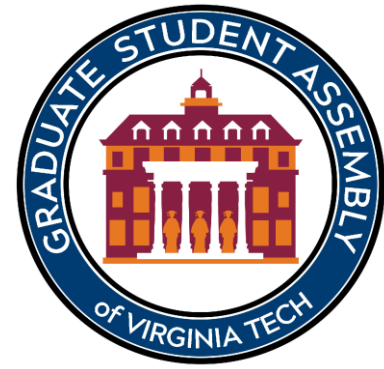
- 3 members from the Finance Committee of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) including the Finance Director of GSA, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Secretary of the Finance Committee.
- 1 Executive Board member of the Graduate Student Assembly
- 3 Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) Delegates, who are nominated by the GSA and the Finance committee of GSA.

GSBB Funding Categories- Conference



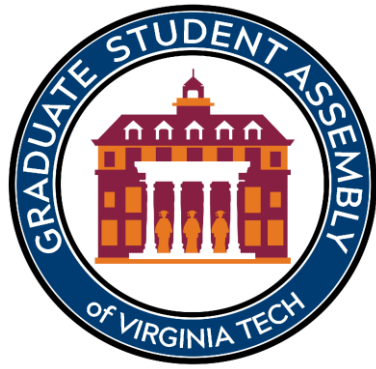
- A maximum of 2 conferences per academic year will be funded for every graduate student organization.
- There will be no restrictions on number of students applying for conference from each graduate organization
- Conference funding includes, travel accommodations (airfare, gas, train, car rental, parking, shuttle), registration fees, and lodging only.

GSBB Funding Categories- Food for Meeting/Events

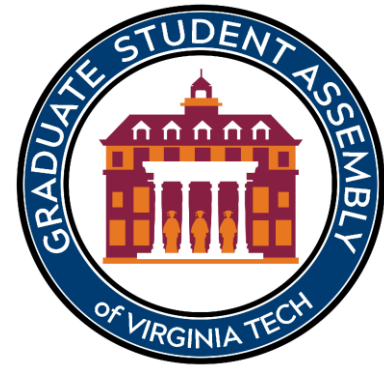


- Food service charges, supplies, food, and beverages will only be funded for meetings and events specific to the organization.
- Meetings or events may include weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual gathering hosted by the organization. The purpose of the meetings or events must follow the mission of the organization.
- The meetings/events must be held on Virginia tech campus
- Alcoholic beverages for organization meetings/events will not be funded. Events with alcohol or held at locations where alcohol is actively being served will not be considered for funding

GSBB policy and procedure- pilot phase

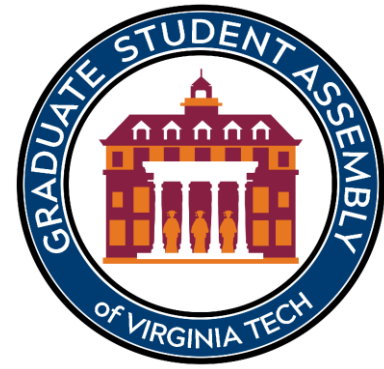


- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ce09TObWoLR9RGKCFd2_soMPcqfR-ogdrZ-cl1yZyos/edit?usp=sharing
- Pre-working document → feedback and suggestions welcome
- Feel free to comment on the google doc



GSA Executive Board Updates

Programs



GSA Programs Updates



**37th Graduate Student Assembly
Research Symposium and Exposition**

Research Carries On!
Join us online
March 22nd - March 24th, 2021

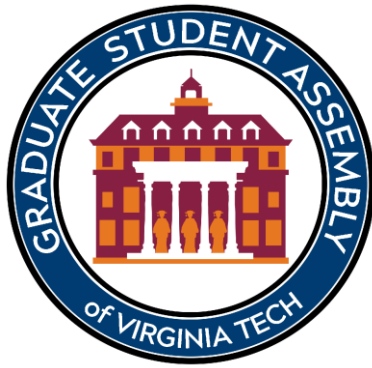
- Abstract Submissions Open
 - <http://bit.ly/2021GSARS>
 - Must use VT Google Account to submit form
- 3 types of Presentations
 - Synchronous Virtual
 - Research Talk – 10 minutes
 - Flash Talks – 5 minutes
 - Asynchronous Virtual
 - Video Presentations – 15 minutes
 - All will have synchronous Q&A



GSA Programs Updates

- Travel Fund Program
 - Winter Cycle
 - “Travel dates”: January 1st – March 31st
 - Spring Cycle
 - “Travel dates”: April 1st – June 30th
- Winter cycle applications will open in February
- Graduate Research Development Program (GRDP)
 - Will run this spring
 - Details forthcoming
- Applications likely to open in March

Open Forum



Closing/Adjournment

