

GSAVT-General Assembly  
January 21, 2021  
2:15pm-4:00pm PST  
Remote CART Captioning

>> I see there is a question the chat.

>> Yes, I will post the link. I just did that link for, I just put that link in every GSA meeting.

>> I have a question, when is the link sent out.

>> E-mail and agenda

>> I agree.

>> Yes.

>> Okay let's begin then there is a modified agenda due to a couple last-minute changes happening can I get a motion to approve the agenda just a modified version. Just the main thing is them open for will be in the and instead of the beginning.

>> Motion to approve.

>> Is there a second?

>> All right, I'd like here are the agenda items for today some changes assembly meeting dates that we will have presentation from the people and then tuition and fee changes for the upcoming year. So I think as you know spring break, with December meeting after that. It is definitely for spring break to our second day. So clearly I would like to respect everyone's time off.

So I can I get a motion, basically we can meet the week before the week after I don't necessarily care for a difference. Are there opinions on when to meet all can I get a motion and a second for February 25 changing that date?

>> Is there any preference as to which like, are there any events coming the week before?

>> I don't know? I guess that's out of context I guess. We are talking about the assembly meeting today. The new fee proposal will be released on February 19. So if we meet the week before then we are meeting before that proposal is coming in. Open commentary. In a briefing is going to be a lot of it and be open. Until March 8.

That's when the majority of the comment period is over. We have basically three or four meetings before the actual comment. Is open and available.

>> I move that we meet the week before.

>> I second that. I second that.

>> The week before February 18. Then our February 26 -- Mecca February 25th meeting will be on February 18. Changes in our calendar. The second is March 18 is the day after spring break. Do you agree we are open that day but I don't know if we need to meet the day after the day off? I don't know if everyone's taking a day off. That is a guess is different question and we can hold Afro perform.

>> Joseph you have any issues on this.

>> How bizarre. There we go. Sorry about that everybody.

>> Joseph can you just kind of throw some garbage on the screen for a moment. There it is.

>> Ask and you shall receive. Thank you sorry about that.

>> You are getting captioning, though.

>> There is a comment that is relevant from Jessica.

>> Was there anyone who proposed moving the second meeting? Or that wanted to do that, I mean?

>> We are we are scheduled to meet five times?

>> We are we are scheduled to meet five times?

>> So wait we have nine meeting schedule for the year? Interesting. So to be honest for a proposed canceling both of the February ones beat. . I think we need to come in person and discuss. If we wish to cancel anything I will opt for one of the other ones.

>> For those of you who are not reading the chat Martina reminded us that April is election and March we have to file as our candidates and then we have for my last two years. So the case is put forward for open forum.

>> So let's table meeting dates to the form and we are still moving ahead with changing the February 252 a week earlier. Tans are made for the a PhD candidate landscape architecture. Amoco program manager for VT great. I am here tonight when you all go back to talk your constituents in the room you may be interested in what we are about. We are here meant touring and teaching excellence program.

There is a group has quite a large group of membership of people that are active in some more than others in the program. And the fellows especially are inviting new applicants into the program. People who want to be interested in giving workshops or sharing some of their experience in teaching or perhaps they want to join us for some about co- working hours.

Which I have listed on the slide at the bottom. Yes so I just want to point out that we exist that we have social media and you can follow us on Twitter or Facebook. If any of your constituents are talking about future plans I will or wanting to teach or be in classroom spaces. We would love that if you could direct them our way. That is really what we are here for.

One of the things that people have been asking us is to work on teaching portfolio items. We are also coming up with workshop series and maybe some other activities. The ones that I'd like to mention specifically our we have a spring teach in. That is an annual event that we hold. That will happen in March. March 23. Then of course our application cycle is open.

So we are taking applications until Sunday at midnight on February 21. And that's my elevator pitch I do want to take up any more of your time but if you had a couple questions for me I can hang on for a minute otherwise I think the slide tells it all, otherwise I think the slide tells it all.

>> I will open it up for Q&A.

>> Hi Sarah, this is Emily what is the time commitment if you are fellow is it like a semester?

>> Know that is a great question I was asked recently so I have time to think about it. As a fellow in VT great the time commitment is an hour every month or month the fellows meeting we kind of check in reaching other and we do things that we need to do to pull up our events and workshops. Outside of that if you were able to. Typically members do the least amount of their newest in the program.

You can take on more responsibilities and because it is like a. Program, really that just means we facilitate communications and we are not the bosses it is like a fellows sort of set the agenda. Some fellows do more than others. I know that is very vague answer but if you only have a couple of hours work no big deal. The biggest time commitment comes twice a year we do application reviews. Or advancement views.

When people apply we asked the fellows to help us with scoring the acts that we get. So we can spread the word out. That is really it that is not time sensitive. Does that answer your question?

>> Yes, thank you.

>> Yes, great thanks.

>> Okay well if any of you have any burning questions after I leave please don't hesitate to e-mail at the e-mail on the screen or you can go to ask a fellow page on the website that you see on the slide. I look forward to connecting with you and your constituents and I hope you all have a lovely evening thank you for your time.

>> All right thank you Sarah. All of these will be posted on our websites to get these if you need them. Alright so kind of a deep dive into. All right a deep dive into what's currently happening into next week. The tuition papers how they work at the Virginia Tech. The finance group releases tuition for recommendations for the demo gear. This year everything will be released on or they promise by February 19 of this year. There is an open comment period. Between February of the release date to when they actually meet.

That is March 22. Students can submit comments via letter or something like that. The will be a public in person comment section. That will be on March 8. The GSA and myself are the only two individuals who are guaranteed 3 minutes for the in person comments to speak. Additionally, other students requested to speak but the opportunity is not necessarily guaranteed depending on time and the individuals request time to speak.

Provided a bit more, contacts so last year the proposal was a three person increase in tuition. In a five person increase encumbrance of fees. Then covid-19 happen. Tuition free was implemented by comp transit fees went up by 2.5%. All of us graduate students get a supplemental assistance thing from the University I don't how to describe that very well.

That increased by a \$58. That \$58 will is equivalent to the increase in the comprehensive fee. Basically the University said it is kind of a neutral game for all of us. My guess, for this upcoming academic year based on, purely this is a guess I will preface it with that. It is the tuition will increase by 3% and the comprehensive will go up by an additional two and a half.

I am assuming we will get another 58-\$60 or so of a supplemental fee for those on assistantship. So that is kind of how I see the thing being equated out over the next couple weeks. We will not know anything until February 19. Now plan forward, depending on what they actually say into I think the GSA a combined letter to the board. Additionally, as our question in the chat. Have they made any accessible measures. Yes they been made alive.

I think Zoom is available for comment., so while in the GS so -- the GSA will write a letter to POV for a disapproval recommendation. A lot of this stuff is very preemptive because we don't know where anything is going. Just increasing tuition fees for whatever reason without actually understanding what graduate compensation is that is more or less my opinion. More specifically,

What the cost of living is for graduate students at Virginia Tech and other locations. So moving forward, this kind of ties in with the subcommittee updates. Which we're going to management more right now. Graduate compensation committed to we are proposing that a new survey goes out to every single graduate student based on really based on looking at what the cost of living is for graduate students.

At Virginia Tech and across all campuses. The goal is ambition was with this. I'd like a thousand responses. Thinking a little bit bigger strategy, I want abortionists of the survey to look the same and we may communications with all the universities. But I would like a portion of our surge a to say UVA, VCU and course each University can tailor the survey to their specific needs.

mine then next slide will list of things that I would like to have in the survey. What I ask of all of you is one, provide feedback as you can right now. But provide additional feedback prior to the next meeting. But, most of the survey has not been so you can provide commentary now. We look at locations for black suburban Roanoke. If you live or move roommates which play for transportation. Utilities is they are.

What your tax deduction is and I think this is important to look at because I do not know what the tax deduction is. Paying a higher tax per paycheck. Comprehensive fee deduction monthly or if you pay you know make that payment once we look at that as well. An annual stipend can be found to the graduate school but we will use the graduate schools information in conjunction with what you will say.

Additionally grocery budget and how many graduate students have additional job help without their assistance. -- to help with their assistance. I will open the floor bit for the Q&A and additional comments that people have. I asked that people use the raise hand function so I can call on you.

>> I posed a leak in the check. Can we push them on transparency measures? Once is the obvious Zoom links to the public. Virginia Tech's Gordon F in terms of transparency. UVA scored a B. We can't rip really let them live that down and they have consistent and always transparency issues they need to address. Especially terms of funding and money. So we compress that as well that will be important.

I put the link to that in the chat.

>> Thanks. Caleb.

>> I don't know if this is important, but I think it might be beneficial useful to find out funding lies with the source of that funding is? Is it solely funded through their department or is it like for me for example, I am half under through the department and to have funded through the college. His two separate things. And once I started that I actually get more funding. It is a little bit collocated.

I think that might be useful.

>> I'm not sure if you're on the caller not do you know if the graduate school has information to that question?

>> Yes, we do.

>> Okay thank you.

>> You can contact Casey about that. And it is, we have it at an individual level but we can't release that because of privacy. But you can get a sense the numbers that are on split appointments. Yes, we have that.

>> Thank you, Alice.

>> Like Blacksburg specific parking and taxation member users. The implication of new tactics of owned and used vehicle is like \$400 yearly for the privilege of owning a car in Blacksburg. So I think having some of those fees on there would be pertinent because some of that is costly and you can't receive any compensation back because the stipend for the one that you do itemized tax deductions.

>> Sure we can add a line on there for taxes and transportation. Do you have another question your hand is still up?

>> Their other some other questions and comments in the chat other than their as well.

>> What about out-of-pocket medical expenses? We will talk about that as well.

>> So yes put that on there as well. To the individual less about travel expenses. Transportation parking and gas covers. I think we can also add in commute time to campus from location because I think that is important. Are there any other questions for this? So when will the survey be available? By next assembly meeting we hope to have the draft or a better draft of what this is right now.

Basically right after the next assembly meeting we will make this. So a little over two weeks from today.

>> Has Cory's chin related to children and related expenses they may be referred to his tiny roommates.

>> Yes, if you have tiny roommates, that is a problem with calling them tiny roommates. No I do think childcare expenses are significant. And we should include that as well. Additional classroom work from home, I think that is a good one to bring. We will probably ask GTA, GRA, or GA.

All right moving along with this I realize that many people have a lot of questions. If you wish to be, basically e-mail myself or Rebecca. The goal is again to make the survey in his complete stage by the next assembly meeting. And we will go over it in the next assembly meeting as a group. And then make it live very shortly after. Again I have a goal of making of collecting a thousand responses out of this. So, we will need your help.

The graduates schools L. My assumption is we do not have that granular detail of what we actually spend. I think, they have a lot of tuition what they pay us yeah. The survey does include is its location on the top line so we will have those individuals responses well. All right moving on, so this is kind of a comment to me before we go to some the updates.

If you are a leader of a subcommittee, I think all of the work needs to be public. In whichever way we can make it. So please e-mail Sharon who is the director of communication at that website with anything that you would like to share. We have and share and you can correct me from wrong, I think we have an unlimited number of pages that we can put up on the website. So each should be -- so each of us can have a several page and I'll be like that.

Sharon will give you a few seconds to say anything.

>> Just e-mail me, my upon my e-mail into the chat. I'd be happy to work with you to put things together but the sooner we can get this done or the more creative we can be about this the better it is all the way around.

>> All right thank you. Standing committee updates. The Constitution will pass this along to Aiden. Just tell me too hit next line when you're ready.

>> First before my presentation I would like to point out a comment from Carrie about having these rules surveyed to like quote unquote sign in. That is why normally sends out. I don't know if we need something like that.

>> I've been taking note of people as they entered.

>> Cool thank you. Yeah so I am going to go through what the major changes are before I start talking I just want to say that most of these things if I don't elaborate on them quite enough, they are detailed further in a video that I believe is sent out by with multiple other documents to the assembly. Someone can call BS on that if that is not true and I believe it is true.

The changes majored to the exec board are first adding a cabinet sort of informally advisory role these of the executive board. A set of people who will represent major groups that aren't within the GSA like helping to further represent students from Roanoke and nova and so on. As well as the president of a riotous staff -- the president Emma rightists. Emma rightists. So you can have further continuity and goals. So there is more overlap between the pass representatives in the current representatives so that the handoff is smoother.

From year to year. As opposed to the baton getting dropped every summer when a whole new set of people move in to take positions that they do not know anything about. No minimally about. Next slide please. Issues to a common set of senators can be discussed. More concretely.

We are changing to one Senator program because that the people in this body that currently attend is yielding a more productive year than past years with twice the number that currently attend. I don't even think that the full number of delegates who stated part of this party even attended. That is part of the reason for that change.

We also did away with the judicial branch because the only purpose seem to be elections. So, every election cycle there will be just a committee for elections created. Other than that it'll just be the executive branch.

>> One of the questions that we do want to bring to assembly Hall was or assembly at large as a whole. Is specifically we are not sure what we wouldn't want the name of the actual body to be. We've been told that with University governance



changes most parties are updating to using like Senate as their title. But we are not sure if graduates, Senate or professional or the were professional.

Or if the word student should be included. We were not sure. We have three or four of us that attend those meetings. Yes that is something that we want to see if there was input from the assembly. I think that is all I want to say on that. I think the next slide is if you have any further questions than I will type my e-mail in the chat.

Any additional comments just or suggestions that share those with us. But, what am I saying? Yes so this kind of constitutes as the first reading because the document itself was sent around. At the next meeting they'll be the second reading and so until then is when you if you have any advice or comments or anything. If you want to get in on this process than just e-mail myself.

So I will send you a link to the meeting and yes. Also this is part of the reason that the open forum has been moved to the end. It is so that, with any major questions that people have that might incite discussion is to be had at the end of today's meeting. So my committee doesn't eat up the time of other subcommittees. I think that is about it.

>> Will have a couple minutes for questions and it will take more questions at the end, so do you have a question?

>> Yes, it so can we if we don't want to right now we can table to the end. Is there any way you need to?

>> That will be towards the end thing I don't think that is a bad idea. That is just my only thing because it is going to be frustrating, I just want to bring out some stuff that people want to think about.

>> Okay cool hold onto those we can definitely talk at the end. About those.

>> I have a question.

>> I had a question very similar to that Jack? Just to kind of marriage act question there is a section talking about academic entities. So section two memory chip. Each academic entity Virginia Tech, for the purposes of this Constitution academic entity includes but is not limited to academic department school subunit, interdisciplinary corm -- program,

That was confusing to me because those definitions would be very important and what I was getting to is the same thing as Jack's question. I know some of the departments may not have senators that come regularly. But my

department and both of us usually come. So I was wondering like you need to if it goes into effect you need to debate whether one Senator or another is better.

But if we go into effect right after passage after it is approved by CSA. What would happen to one of the two of us?

>> I think that is a very fair question. And as someone who is also a department with two regularly showing members, I am also interested in one as well. I think that is probably better left to thinking about during a conversation at the end.

>> Okay I think the next question is already been answered. Representatives considered. It'll be the graduates of the graduate professionals.

>> Yes hi.

>> All right so I am just going to go over a few things and updates about the graduate student budget. We are going to be doing the pilots for these first so this is not the official set up of the graduate student budget board. So we going to have the three members from the finance committee. So would include the finance director the chairman and the secretary. Right now there's only three members so no one has to fight over this. We are going to have one executive board member of the graduate student assembly.

And three graduate student assembly delegates that are dominated by the GSA and the finance committee. So if anybody is interested in this please feel free to e-mail. I don't know if our e-mails are listed but I can put it in the chat. In case anybody wants to e-mail me. I can forward it to the rest the finance committee. Next slide please.

>> Just information about the conferences will graduate organizations. But I can only be a maximum of two conferences per academic year end will be funded for every graduate student organization. There is no restrictions on the number of students applying. If you have five or six students, or members that want to apply for the same conferences they can all go.

But it just can't be more than two conferences that year. The conference funding will include travel accommodations, registration fees and lodging. Next slide.

>> So let's see the food, the graduate student funding will find food in the old will is not old but the undergraduate budget they didn't find food at all. So this is really, really nice. But there are specific rules that will apply for graduate student funding of food. So applies food and beverages will be phoning funded meetings and events specific to that organization.

They will just have to be the weekly, monthly quarterly or yearly gatherings for the organization. The purpose must follow the meetings or events must follow the mission of the organization. It has to go with the mission of the organization. If your mission implies that you need to meet once a month then that will be fine to revive him for that.

They must be held on 15 -- they must be held on Virginia Tech campus and alcoholic beverages will not be allowed. -- will not be funded. I don't know if anybody has any questions but I will post my e-mail in the chat section.

>> I think there is a link for the working document for all of these. So feel free to comment the slides were made public at the end of the meeting. I will pause for a couple minutes.

>> Could you post that link or is it easy for you to copy and paste it?

>> The doc link?

>> Yes.

>> I will post it once we're done with the tire presentation.

>> I can do it right now actually one second period

>> Seeing how there is no questions I would like to move on.

>> Before we move on fully, we never approved the minutes for the agenda I believe we have not got that.

>> We did not do the minutes we did the agenda.

>> We did not vote on the agenda.

>> Great, so how do you want to do this?

>> Well, we kind of already went through stuff but, I mean, we could just have a quick vote on the remaining stuff is not like we cannot go back and undo the things that have been done. I think that would be the best. This is the last thing on the agenda.

>> Motion to approve the programs presentation?

>> Seconded.

>> Great thank you.

>> Hi everyone program updates abstract submissions are open. You can submit one time, you have to use your VT Google account and to access and fill in the form. So make sure if you've got five different Google accounts, like I know someone beside myself has to be living that life. Make sure you are using the Virginia Tech Google account to submit the form. There were two Gummy three types of presentations. It is all virtual. So we are just planning to do everything virtually.

There are going to be two different types of synchronous virtual presentations. A longer research talk and a flash talk. Then we will have video submissions up to 15 minutes long belated need to be prerecorded and there are few other parameters for the judging. All types of presentations will have synchronous Q and A during our three evenings on March 22 through March 24.

March 24 will have our key notes presented. We will have a Q&A panel with Q&A speakers and the awards will be announced at the end of the evening. Next slide please

Travel fund program, we will have the winter cycle and spring cycle the dates are on the screen. Winter cycle applications will be open in February. ENG RDP will run the spring and details are forthcoming. Applications are likely open in March when I'm not during we -- when I'm not dealing with the research and prose himself. If you have any questions please you to chat and share them.

>> All right thank you. Now an open forum open forum to discuss things and things that were discussed as well.

>> I will jump back into what we talk about first to keep things simple. One versus two senators per. So can you I honestly I should know this better. My understanding is there's departments right? So there is a college of engineering does an apartment and civil engineering and then there are programs. So structural and construction so want to so forth. How is it changing from how it is now to what will be?

>> Does each or a construction person in civil engineering in the College of engineering I am one Senator. MI represented the College of engineering, civil engineering, or construction program and civil?

>> Well first I would like to also call upon my fellow committee members and been in fail. Just in case I get stumped or I say some stupid. But my understanding is no it would just be a change from whatever. If the place has two representatives now, whatever that body is, they would just have one later.

Does anybody know what that body is though? What unit gets a representative?

>> I know is not College of engineering kisses to engineers. Is it per department or per program.

>> It depends on how it is set up. Like this thank you Phil for saving me. This was language from the original Constitution. So this isn't a change that we may.

>> The only thing that was changes to the one.

>> Yes which is also a perfectly nice change to discuss.

>> What was the logic behind that change?

>> The logic was that we small a small a body and how many currently people do we have in attendance currently? Fifty? I think there is supposed to be what like a hundred and 20-130 people here. But this year we've seen more through this smaller body than previously with a larger body.

That was our thought process if there is a compelling reason to not change things I don't mean this darkly. I mean, this literally if there is a compelling reason to not change things I would like to know I guess.

>> Do you think is because of the covid-19 situation.

>> I did ask for a compelling reason so I'll take that as my bad.

>> This is not so much a compelling reason to keep the status quo or to change it. I think it needs clarification because for example, for me it would be difficult to know when there is one representative for the school or or the apartment. It is just not clear.

I think you also have a quote unquote compelling reason when you said that you are as a body you are more productive by having less people attending the meetings which is obviously isn't easy because there is less people trying to come into an agreement on whatever. For me it's not compelling one way or the other it just needs clarification.

>> All right I understand your comments. And like I said the particular of where senators or as they are currently call representatives isn't our wording. We can look at that again. But that wasn't changed from the original Constitution. We were aiming to pull from any extra places.

>> How difficult would be to change if there was a need to change? I'm not saying that we will all we won't I'm just saying how difficult would it be to make changes to the way it is written?

>> Yeah, so that's why we are making a lot of changes right now is the Constitution is supposed to be rather difficult to change. The Constitution has to go through this hole twice re- eating's like two different readings process and then gets practiced around. It would be rather difficult if we didn't have the correct wording we would have to go through it all again.

This is why we are trying to change a lot of things structurally. Does that answer your question?

>> Yes absolutely. If that is the case take it when you can then we are just going to have to figure out a better way to convey the ideas clearly.

>> Yes, I think that is fair.

>> I just had a quick comment is there going to be flexibility since it is only one person for each department or college or whatever for if they can't make it. It's relatively easy to that is my only concern.

>> Yes.

>> Yes proxies.

>> She just pretty much answered my question but I was also wondering just to be clear, I'm from the the Department of entomology and there are two of us. With the change there will be only one person to represent the department correct?

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

>> I would just comment on that as well. Any graduate student who wants to be involved can come to meetings and discuss. But there will be only one voting member of the Senate.

>> Is it possible to, this is not pushing anybody to do what they don't want to do. If two students are interested from the same department or school, they are

both interested in continuing. Is there any way to grandfather that until the new those two people need to replace. All one drops out because they are graduating and one is left in place?

>> Please raise your hand next time.

>> There is currently not any provisions for any kind of grandfathering. But that is definitely something that should be thought about those kinds of changes if they are going from two down to one. No not yet but will think about.

>> I think part of this conversation could possibly be solved if we just better define that term as far as like where they come from. Because I know, the way I'm reading it is, it is saying there should be essentially a small entity from whatever academic bodily -- whatever academic bodily ascending representative. But I also see also some people saying it could be from your program area. While they are going to be six progress in civil engineering.

So we need to defined is each program allowed to send one? Or is each department? Lake is saving -- is civil engineering as a whole going to have the same one?

>> The Constitution is very vague on where the dollars has delegates come from. There are other programs where programs are in a department or contain too multiple departments. So they have their own. So we could.

>> They are not given a representative spot because otherwise they would not be represented by other department senators. That can be fleshed out that certainly can be fleshed out.

>> I want to echo up has been said and it can be fleshed out. I want to push to have two senators per academic program opposed to one. I think that the perception that we've done more work I don't think is a factor of the decreased population. I don't see anything in those conversations that I haven't seen the last three has.

I think it is more of a factor of the urgent need of the times. I think that mistake is tricking us into making us think we are more productive to fewer people. I thinking general it's always better to air on the side of redundancy. Because so many departments have only one person comes and we still want them to be representative. I think we better to have two people is that one.

I would be open to be proven wrong if there is people with a long historical memory of mine. I want to chime in. I did that is just my 2 cents on why ab [

>> I actually forgot what I was going to say at this point sorry.

>> I don't know why the hand is staying up?

>> Yes is there going to be whoever brought up the point of the two people people. In Northern Virginia I don't see anybody trying to take my place at any of these meetings. So having to will allow one person to miss a meeting if they have something coming up or whatever. So it is also a valid. But that is also related to how or how many people a department can send.

Also what happens or how is a program effective if they have no interest in having somebody or they have no interest from the students to be represented at this assembly? So I guess it is a combination of two things there.

>> Let me ask a targeted question. The current proposal is to have another representative whenever you tend meetings or the availability [Captioner standing by] any department representative?

>> okay my opinion is that it would not allow the person who really know what's going on at the student level completely as a university. You guys do a lot of work here that doesn't permit, that doesn't disperse over at least not Northern Virginia. So I think having somebody at this level would be important. That is just my opinion.

May be nobody's interested not in Arlington. But I am. But I can only speak on my behalf. I would not be able to get a response from everybody in Arlington. I just know that I don't see, students come in they ask what I have heard and what I know but nobody demonstrates a real interest in being part at any level to tell you the truth. It is different from other campuses in Northern Virginia.

>> Thank you.

>> First, I would just kind of echo what they said. There is not really a good I guess it's all a more question. Does any department have a good way of making their delegate? I know I just got volunteered. I want to do it and they knew that so they kind of told me hey go to this.

>> That is a really good point. That goes to one of the newer rolls in the executive board. That director of advocacy position would be geared towards going and trying to establish those sorts of organizations within other departments or, or within a department within programs. We teach this would be applicable.



Like some do but I don't think many do. My department was also not like that. I volunteered as the second because no one else had responded to the first e-mail. Ditto. That is part of the change that we would like to do as well. And that's why we have the director of advocacy somewhere between policy and operations. It is the operation that explicitly sets off a structure for policymaking within departments that this position would test with.

Some departments don't have any structure of any sort like that. So, yes.

>> I posted what I want to say in the chat but I was kind of thinking will to do one we could do we really do the primary member and the secondary member the primary member would attend all the meetings and in the secondary member would attend if the primary could not. And the secondary member could attend if the primary member could not.

>> I think at this point with some of the questions that we've had I would love to have anyone who wants to talk about that particular two verses one. Like Jack or who had extreme thoughts but not extreme had more thoughts and talk about that. I would be happy for that it is a sport now guys.

That would be cool if you guys wanted to come to our meetings. There Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. I be very happy to continue discussing. That is for anyone else as well. That is kind of a big question there would require more than what we have left. Questions about the structure that is being changed. While that is a big change numerically that is not a structural change and I wanted to address anyone's concerns about the structural changes as well.

>> So, looking at the executive board positions you have populated there. Given the fact that we are contemplating a graduate student budget board, I feel that the directive of programs position might end up being redundant. The research symposium could move to the directors of events which is not listed. As part of your executive board there.

The program directing of TLP G RDP could be handled by a larger graduate student body in the future.

>> This is where I would ask one of my community buds to hop in. Because I feel like this is okay with what we have. But I can't remember.

>> I would just say that is a good idea that we didn't think about because the budget board so no I guess we didn't consider that.

>> We did not want to bank on the budget board for putting it in here and then have something in our Constitution that didn't happen or didn't happen in exactly the way that we thought it would.

>> I would just say the exact policies of the budget are currently being decided upon from what I understand.

>> I made have a presentation on I feel like we are a better presentation the next time and day say yes we are still working on it. All right we have a lot of things to talk about we have all the talk is to else we have of things to talk about outside the Constitution.

>> A good transition we have a question about some of the student budget board stuff or the grad student budget board. What other stipulations under the conference travel funding. It says that a maximum of two conferences per academic year will be funded. So I just wanted to bring up the thought that if there's already a cap on how much money can be funded teach organization which is \$3000.

That is not listed on there but it is listed on the working document. I don't really see the point in limiting the number of different conferences. Especially being a department, while having a grad student group that has a lot of different areas. We have people that attending poultry conferences, dairy, beef, nutrition. That really limits us. I was wondering if we could make that change or recommend making that change. Seeing the stipulation that only \$3000

And two conferences per year.

>> I would wait a little while because my question does not follow what she was talking about. I want to do separately.

>> Yeah so along the length -- along the same lines of what Kayla said. Has there been a thought to or consideration to different size departments? With different amount of money that they can have especially for conference travel? Like for mechanical engineering has a lot of graduate students. A lot more than some of the small apartments. It might not be equal per capita of graduate student.

If there is a cap for each department that is just a thought.

>> Thanks. Okay Aiden.

>> Yes, I wanted to also bring up again if there are any strong opinions on what the name of the body we are to become should be. I would love to see those in

the chat as well I just got very lost in everyone's everything. Yet I just want to quickly say that

>> Thanks

>> I want clarification on the position that will be created for Northern Virginia. Is that going to be an appointment?

>> Are you talking about on the executive board? The way I see the way I see this on how individuals are selected we know them a ginger or whatever the side they want the main GSI present. And then they communicate with each other

>> I would agree with that like an appointment because that will defeat the purpose of having representation within a network you get in it a teacher assistantship because you get whatever network. Having somebody appointed which would shift loyalties. I would highly encourage to have that position to be either delves at the campus level or at any level but as an appointment

>> I don't think it is similar to the main body of GSA decide what did the perfect delegate is. We would not deal with who the representatives are. In my opinion other campuses to attend meetings more often than general assemblies.  
[Captioner standing by]

>> I just want to say I don't think is been said. By us. The constitutional bylaws were still writing them some of the things in a constitutional left intentionally vague. This goes through a longer process of being approved. But we have some more rules and such that will be in the bylaws that will be presented to GSA later this semester. I want to make that clear.

>> Thank you for bringing that up again.

>> I agree with the comment in the chat would you like to talk about vaccinations?

>> I just put the answer and chat. All the information that I have right now is that are qualified for 1C. I think what was in that it's a grad students. So I am assuming that that's where the clarity was. The lack of clarity was. That is your dual role as students and of assistantships. Mike has not told me he has not said anything differently.

That is where we are.

>> My department specifically as about GTA's and GRA's. I raised my hand is okay if I go.

>> Sure.

>> My issue is twofold, one is the surface level thing of this is a very dangerous confusion in my department was told as a whole know we are not including. It represents a deeper issue with this isn't the first time this confusion for the Realtime closed captioning provided by U.S. Captioning Company. in response. Of graduate students being sometime students and sometimes employees. It is dangerous. The fact that my entire department was given this misinformation.

This could be very significant. I think we need to really sit and clarify this. Because that is the status of the situation that we are in. It has been a problem for so long. The harping on it for years. Is so frustrating.

>> I know and I understand. And I have no control over HR. Or what they say. I totally appreciate and respect the frustration that you all have. And I share some of that. In my role of trying to add to that clarity. Jacketing the point. -- you have a meeting tomorrow with the Provost?

>> Yes.

>> Everything is been told to me as yes that GTA's, GRA's and GA's are as 1C. So.

>> I tried to address this last time. I was bounced around and I never made it to HR. Is there ever a we can have a direct line of communication with HR. I recognize it is not your department and you are a strong advocate of us have in a prominent role in the university. When is the point where we start to harass or HR. That is a terrible expression.

Just bother them to get some clear on this on the role. We need to have our time protected. If we are employees we need to start demanding employee work protections. It is fact that we are students we don't get as were protections and employees where we took a student production that is a problem.

>> That would be a good idea to bring the head of HR. Do you think it be wise to be bring them into some of the meetings? Sometime in the future?

>> Yes, I would love with the express purpose of clarifying the role. We are getting screwed at both ends. Set having institutional clarity and guidance would be very helpful. It be nice for HR to hear how dire the situation is. I know we make a joke out of it, but raise your hand if you work 20 hours a week? Strictly 20 hours a week? Not a single person can raise their hand.

So we are not students in that respect but we also get employee protection. By talking about HR about that is important. So we are not taken advantage of.

>> Sure I think for the remainder assembly meetings we will try to get them. So, 25 do you want to keep all of the meetings that you want to cancel. Let me go back to that slide.

>> I think is now wiki and anticipate having enough to talk about each of them. Given that this is been in my opinion the most productive one we've had this year. I mean,, if we think we are going to have things to discuss. I don't care. Come to five meetings instead of for it does not bother me.

>> It was just a brief follow-up on covert. Period

>> I guess there will be a motion to keep five assembly meetings this year. The February 25th meeting will be moved back to February 18. Keep in the March date exact same. And the rest the same as well. So the motion.

>> So moved.

>> Any seconds?

>> Seconded.

>> Okay motion passes.

>> Okay so this is probably going to be directed to anybody who has additional information. There was mention that some sort of valid identification check would be needed when receiving the vaccine. What do we need to bring if we are graduate teaching assistants. Because our IDs do not indicate any difference in that. Do we need to bring a paystub? Is there any information on how we validate our status.

With these 1C validations -- with these 1C vaccinations so we are not turned away.

>> I did ask Mike and from a perspective he is the primary person that helps with the status and what's going to be happening. I go to him. I asked him and the answer is no and that could change and we have too many people who are in this. Because you may have somebody who need to see what your status is. I am trying to figure that out so I can let you all know what you need to bring.

With you for the other possibility that the grad school could produce a list of all of you who are on us who are on assistantships. I am tiring to nip that in the above so we don't have more chaos than we already have.

>> Okay thank you.

>> If I could just say one more thing about the HR related. Part of the situation here Brian Gary and I have talked about this. He has responsibilities for employees. And you are all graduate students in that secondary employees. So that is part of the confusion. So I am going to try to talk with him also. Because just going to HR and the people within HR are going to answer only as you are employees. But others in places

Our students and I know that gets frustrating.

>> Does not exporting it.

>> That is my role right.

>> I know you are the bearer of bad news but that sounds bad right?

>> We don't need to get into all of it tonight but some of it is state related things. It is much more complex than I wanted to be indefinitely I think the clarification we need to have is not having to go to 16 offices but if you are a GA GTA or GRA in this case with the teaching in the covert and all that. Then you are in that 1C category like faculty and staff. But in other things you wouldn't be. But you need to know where to go. So I am going to try to and I am going to talk to Brian and Gary. I still think it is a good idea that he come to the assembly.

We just have to be in agreement. So you don't get more mixed messages. Okay I am done.

>> Thanks.

>> Is there anything else to chat at all? We have 3 minutes left. Riley to comment on your question I don't have a proper way to answer it just look at it in the 1C category and will look at it later. All right there is open forum a motion to enjoin the meeting.

>> This is been a great meeting and I moved to adjourn.

>> I second period

>> Adjourned. I will stick around for a few minutes if you have additional questions I want to thank you for capturing everything it slides all and everything will be on our website. Putting in the plug again if you wish to help out that they will be rapidly moving forward. With that thanks again for coming.

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