

GSA

General Assembly Meeting #6

Zoom Edition
February 4th, 2021



@VTGSA

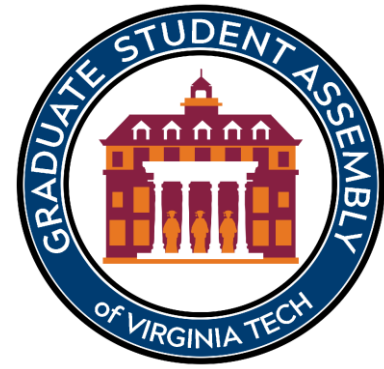


Graduate Student Assembly
of Virginia Tech



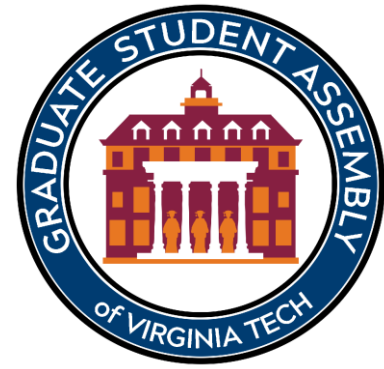
Gsa.vt.edu

This meeting is being recorded



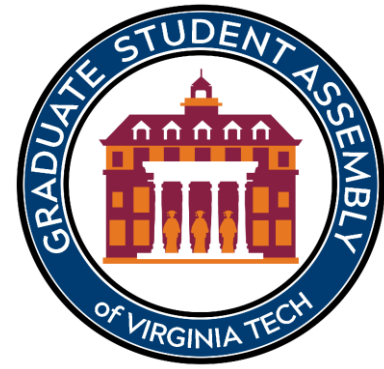
Agenda:

1. Quorum, approval of minutes, and adoption of agenda
2. Agenda Items
 - a. Graduate Cost of Living Survey
 - i. Commentary on proposed survey
 - ii. (Resolution voting postponed)
3. Subcommittee Updates
4. Standing Committee Updates
 - a. Finance
 - i. GSBB Policy
 - ii. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ce09TObWoLR9RGKCFd2_soMPcqfR-ogdrZ-cl1yZyos/edit
 - b. Internal Affairs/Judicial
 - i. New Constitution
5. Exec. Board Updates
 - a. VP
 - b. Finance
 - c. Programs
 - d. Events
 - e. Communications
 - f. Graduate Rep. to BoV
 - i. Recruitment for 2021-2022 Rep in progress
 - ii. <https://bov.vt.edu/studentrepsapply.html>
6. Open Forum
7. Closing/Adjournment



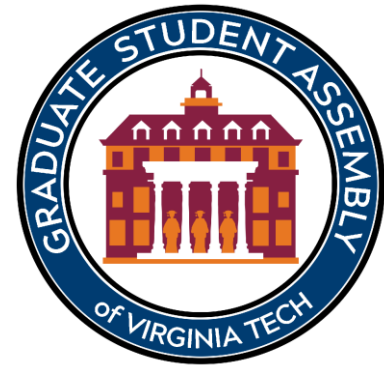
GSA Agenda Items

- a. Resolution voting postponed
- b. Graduate Cost of Living Survey



Resolutions Postponed

- Voting/Comments on Feb 18
 - CUSP 2021-21E and 2020-21F
 - CGPSP20-21C

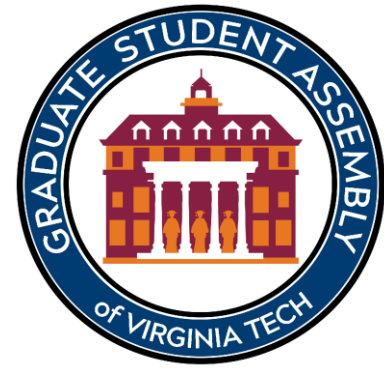


Graduate Cost of Living Survey

- Survey will be live by Monday morning (Feb 8th)
- 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.



- 1) Demographics
 - a) Location (Blacksburg, Roanoke, DC, other)
 - b) International or Domestic
 - c) College Affiliation
- 2) Employment/Deductions
 - a) Assistantship status: GA, GTA, GRA, fellowship/scholarship, wage/salary, loan, other (specify)
 - b) Do you have a multi-year assistantship offer?
 - c) Annual stipend
 - d) Do you work an additional job (external to VT)? Hours worked (weekly)?
 - e) Tax deduction (monthly)
 - f) Comprehensive Fee Deduction
 - i) Pays at beginning of semester.
 - ii) Monthly
 - g) Education costs (textbooks, hardware/software upgrades, technology subscriptions, etc; estimate expenses per semester)
- 3) Housing/Utilities (Monthly)
 - a) Rent/Mortgage (per individual, only include amount you are responsible for)
 - b) Number of roommates (0 if living by yourself, do not include children)
 - c) Gas/Heat
 - d) Electric
 - e) Water
 - f) Cellphone
 - g) Internet
 - h) Childcare costs
 - i) Grocery budget
- 4) Transportation (monthly, unless indicated otherwise)
 - a) Parking (semester)
 - b) Gasoline
 - c) Insurance
 - d) Vehicle tax (annual)
 - e) Distance lived from work location (miles)
 - f) Commute time to work location (one-way)
- 5) Medical
 - a) Receive medical/dental insurance from VT
 - b) Monthly premium
 - c) Assuming coverage improves, what is the maximum you are willing to pay for better health care coverage? (monthly)
 - d) What additional coverage do you seek to be covered by student health insurance?
- 6) Select & rank the 3 issues of most concern to you where you believe the Graduate School should prioritize:
 - i) Stipend/funding
 - ii) Availability of classes
 - iii) Work/financial commitments outside school
 - iv) Program structure/requirements
 - v) Assistantship/workloads
 - vi) Family obligations
 - vii) Safety/security on campus
- 7) Please feel free to include topics related to expenses you have that we have not brought up in this survey/Discuss issues GSA should advocate

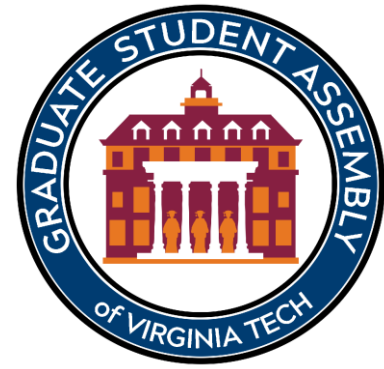


GSA Subcommittee Updates

- a) Student Services
- b) Diversity

Student Services Task Force

Cook Counseling updates



Contact Information or to schedule an appointment:

Rita Klein, Ph.D.

rfklein@vt.edu

(540) 231-7809

<https://viriniatech-hipaa.zoom.us/j/5921817210>

Zoom ID: 592 181 7210

Drop-in Zoom hours (no appointment necessary!):

Tuesdays 10 am - noon

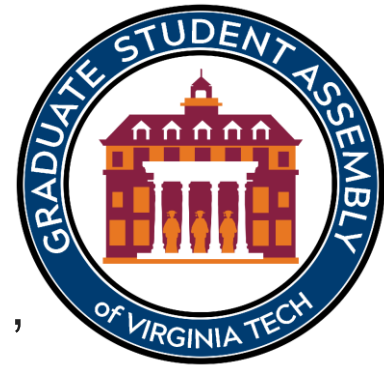
Thursdays 3 – 5 pm

Fridays 3 – 5 pm

On-line appointment scheduling:

<https://vt-ucc.titaniumhwc.com/ScheduleGraduateFirstCookConnect>

Job Search Circles



- The Graduate School, in collaboration with Career and Professional Development, will host Job Search Circles to assist graduate students with their job search process and create a space for sharing resources and peer support. In spring 2021, two job search circles are available for VT graduate students: Job Search Circle: Academia and Job Search Circle: Industry/Government/NGO.
- To register or to learn more information: <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/student-life/professional-development/JSC.html>

Schedule

Industry/Government/NGO track:

Tuesday, February 16, 12:00-1:00pm

Tuesday, March 16, 12:00-1:00pm

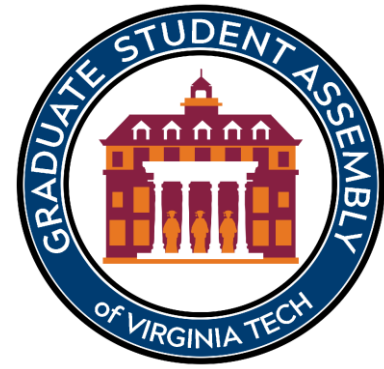
Tuesday, April 13, 12:00-1:00pm

Academia track:

Thursday, February 11, 12:00-1:00pm

Thursday, March 11, 12:00-1:00pm

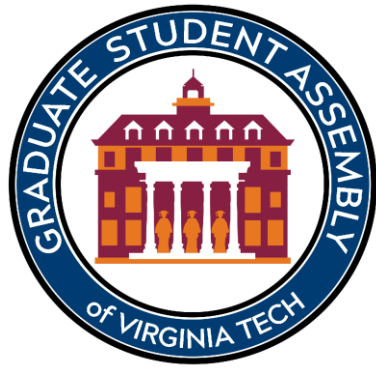
Thursday, April 8, 12:00-1:00pm



GSA Diversity Subcommittee Recommendations

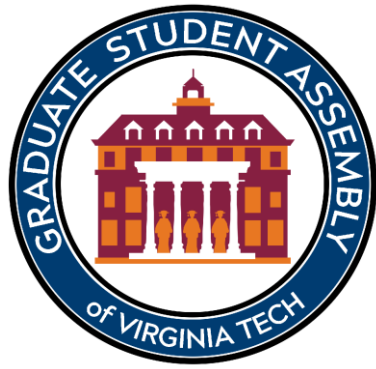
Hypatia A, Emily Burns, Matt Flores, Sarah Hall,
Shawnice Johnson, Rose McGroarty, & Aanuoluwapo
Ojelade

Data Sources



- ◆ UVA's BOV Plan for Diversity & Equity
- ◆ 2019 Graduate Student Climate Survey
- ◆ *By the Numbers* Website (Graduate School)
- ◆ Engineering Graduate Enrollment by Gender & Ethnicity Website
- ◆ Interview with Dr. Shernita Lee, Director of Office of Recruitment, Diversity & Inclusion (Graduate School)

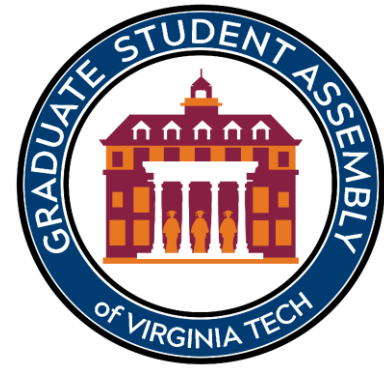
Long Term Goal # 1



Improve transparency at Graduate School and department level about recruitment of Underrepresented Minority (URM) students.

Long Team Goal # 1

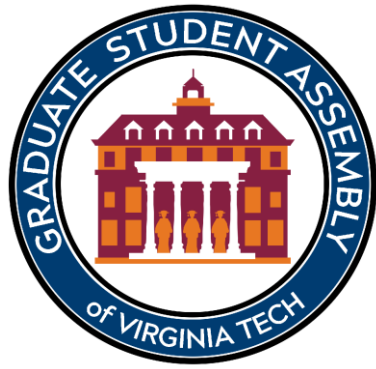
Action Items



- ◆ Strive for recruitment and enrollment levels of URM graduate students by department that reflect the overall VT enrollment numbers of URM graduate students.
- ◆ Publicly share departmental recruitment processes and efforts for URM graduate students. Also, communicate the number of students department's can fund in recruitment initiatives.

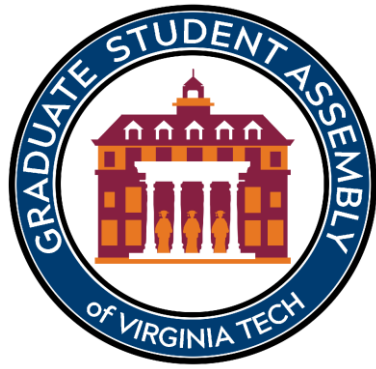
Long Team Goal # 1

Action Items Cont'd



- ◆ Create a separate recruitment and retention category for international students that is separate from URM graduate students and from the general recruitment/enrollment category.
- ◆ Create a Coalition for Next Generation Professionals using the model of the Coalition for Next Generation Life Sciences, for additional disciplines.

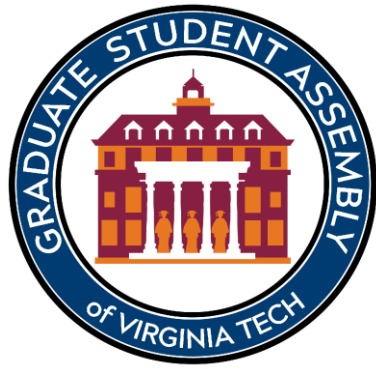
Long Term Goal # 2



Secure additional funding to support URM graduate students.

Long Term Goal # 2

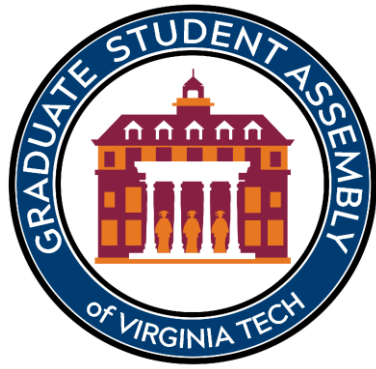
Action Items



- ◆ Create a full-time A/P Faculty or Staff position within the Graduate School focused solely on graduate student recruitment.
- ◆ Raise funds to support recruitment for students from developing countries.

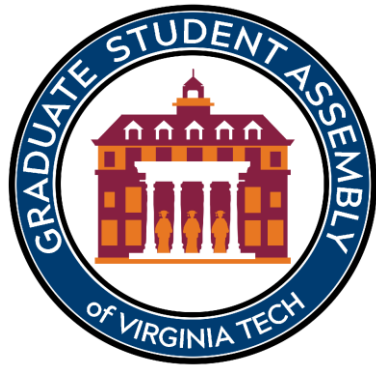
Long Term Goal # 2

Action Items



- ◆ Offer a grant writing course regularly through the Graduate School in collaboration with departments. Also, find and secure predoctoral grant funding to support students' research interests.

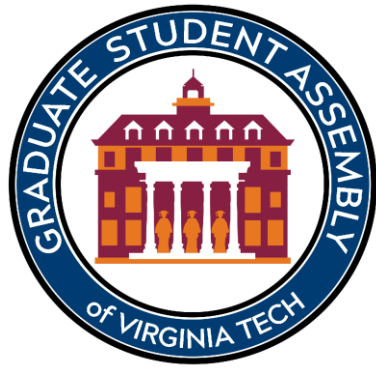
Long Term Goal # 3



Improve support of equitable experiences for URM graduate students.

Long Term Goal # 3

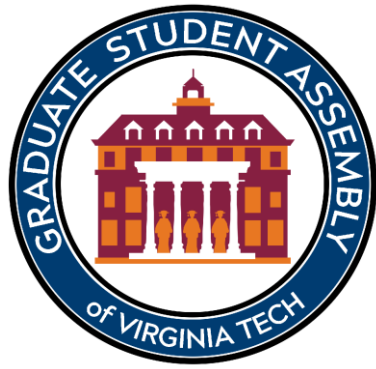
Action Items



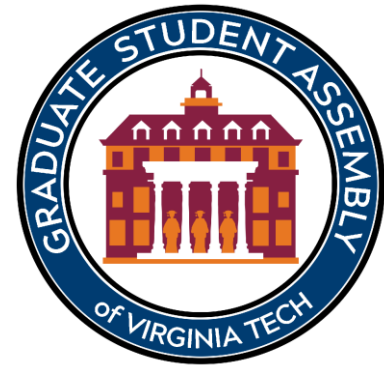
- ◆ Create a mentorship program and student support group for URM graduate students.
- ◆ Cluster hire URM employees in the graduate school, in departments, as well as Cook Counseling, so URM graduate students receive support from URM employees.

Long Term Goal # 3

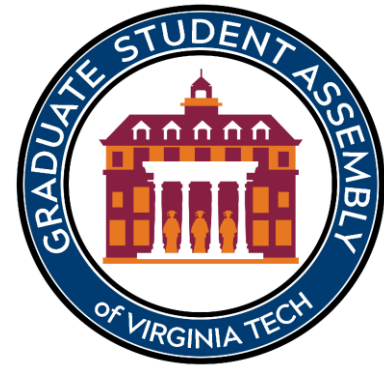
Action Items



- ◆ Have department leaders implement equitable hiring processes for GA's (e.g., replicate the Graduate School practices for hiring GA's).
- ◆ Create and implement concrete policies/contracts between graduate students and their advisors/departments related to dissertation work.

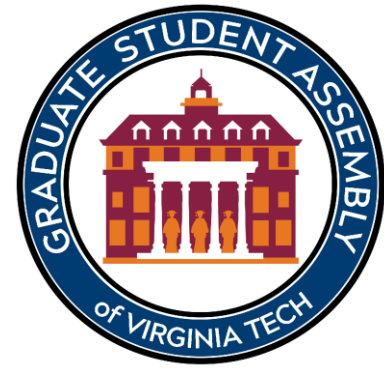


Questions? Feedback?



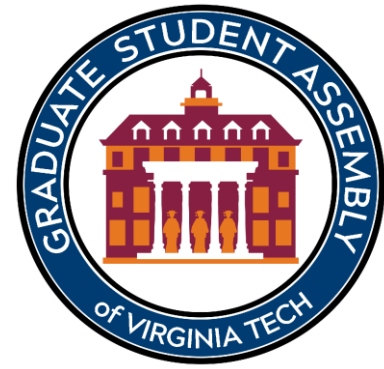
GSA Subcommittee Webpages

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



Standing Committee Updates

Judicial
Finance

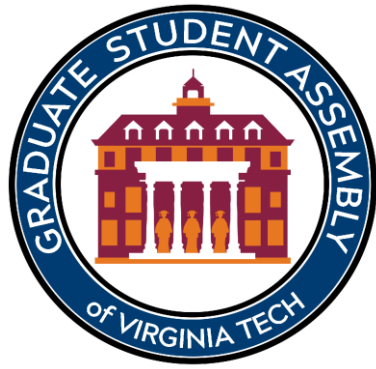


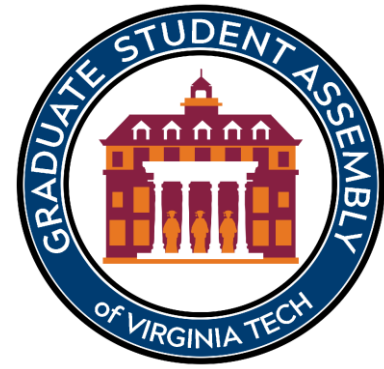
Judicial and Internal Affairs Committee

Constitution Update

Main Points

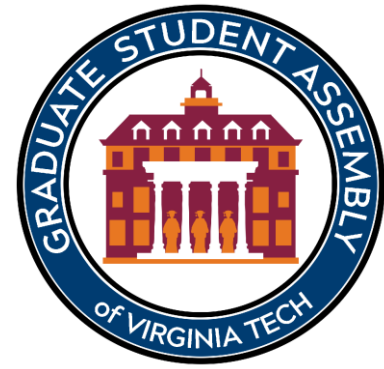
- Name is still undecided
 - Between GS and GSS at the moment
 - Speak up if you have an opinion





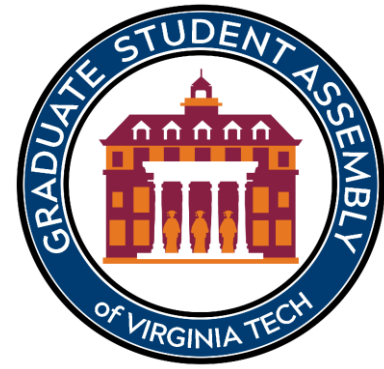
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- Staying at 2 delegates per department / program
- Added accelerated MS students to be included as viable representatives
 - Contact me if you know of any other groups we are unintentionally missing

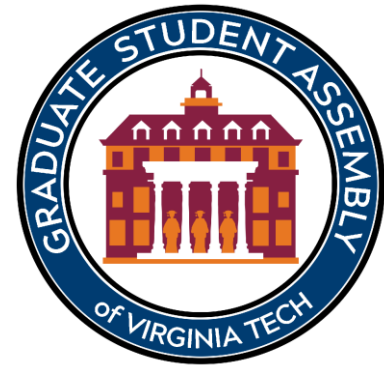


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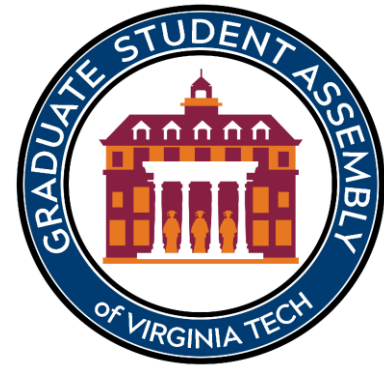
End.

Contact Me at: awmurphy@vt.edu



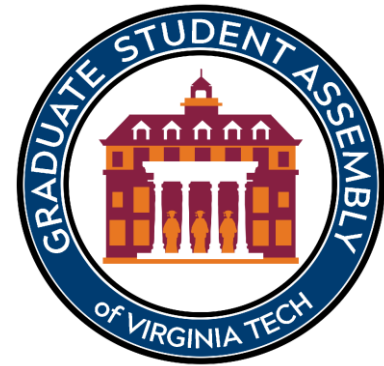
Finance

Alexis Hruby

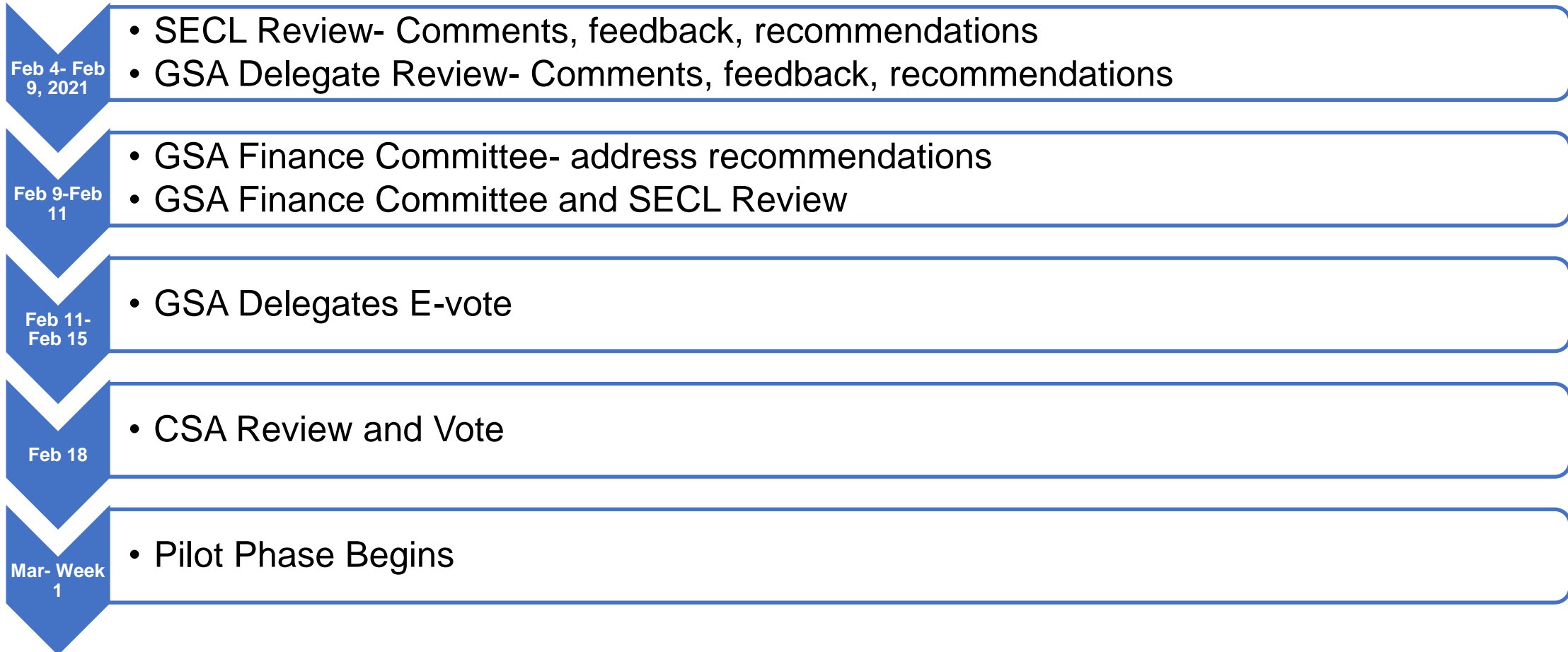


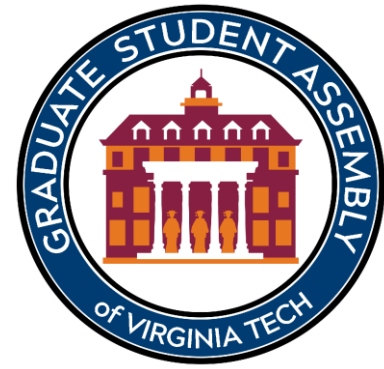
GSBB Update

- Pilot Phase-1: To begin Week-1, March 2021 until Aug 2021
- Operating Budget- \$50,000
- GSBB Policy and Procedure under Review by SECL and GSA Delegates
- Payment Processing and Reimbursement- Student Budget Board and GSA Finance committee will finalize before Pilot Phase begins



GSBB Policy & Procedure Pilot Phase-1 Timeline



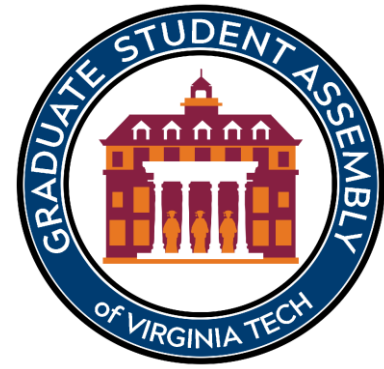


GSBB proposed structure- Pilot Phase 1

Proposed structure for pilot-phase only: Mar, 2021- Aug, 2021

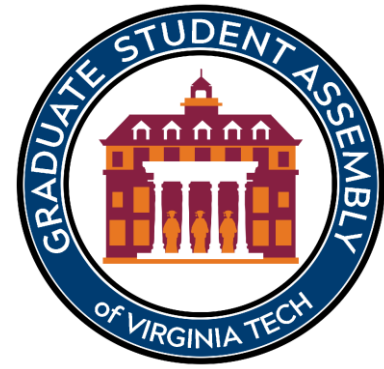
- 3 members from the Finance Committee of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) including the Finance Director of GSA, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Secretary of the Finance Committee.
- 1 Executive Board member of the Graduate Student Assembly
- 3 Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) Delegates,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

***If anyone is interested to be part of the board during the pilot phase- tahsin@vt.edu**



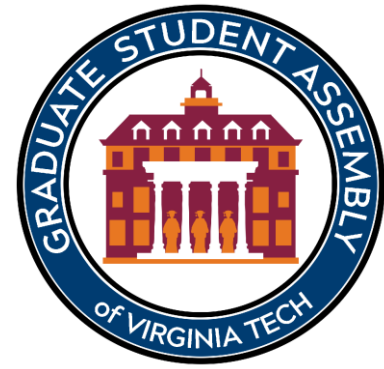
GSBB policy and procedure- Pilot phase

- 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

BoV
Events
Programs



2021-2022 BoV Rep Application

- Apply to be the Grad rep.
- Get more info from Sabrina Sturgeon.
- Application Due Feb 12.
- <https://bov.vt.edu/studentrepsapply.html>

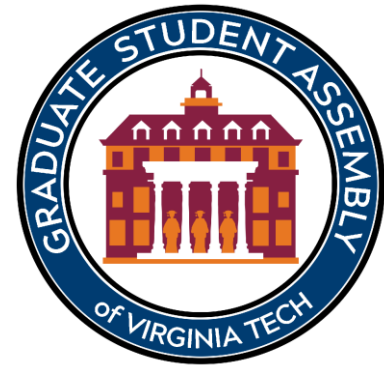
TENTATIVE EVENT

Spring Social

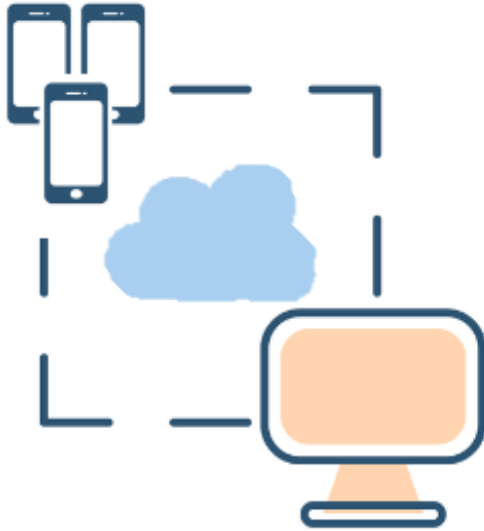
- Location:
- Rising Silo Farm Brewery at Glade Road Growing Farmstand
- Date: Early May in the evening (likely a Thursday or Friday around 6pm-9pm)
- 1 drink free per graduate student + 1 meal? (at least for delegates)
- Ticketed event with limited attendance (required RSVP, first come, first served)

2351 Glade Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060





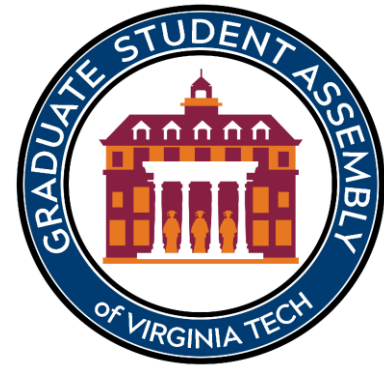
GSA Programs Updates



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

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

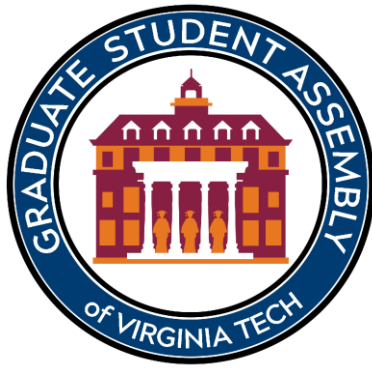
- Abstract Submissions Open
 - <http://bit.ly/2021GSARS>
 - Must use VT Google Account to submit form
- 3 types of Presentations
 - Synchronous Virtual
 - Research Talk – 10 minutes
 - Flash Talks – 5 minutes
 - Asynchronous Virtual
 - Video Presentations – 15 minutes
 - All will have synchronous Q&A



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

