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 bought 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://virginiatech-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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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

Feb 4- Feb 9, 2021	• SECL Review- Comments, feedback, recommendations • GSA Delegate Review- Comments, feedback, recommendations
Feb 9-Feb 11	• GSA Finance Committee- address recommendations • GSA Finance Committee and SECL Review
Feb 11- Feb 15	• GSA Delegates E-vote
Feb 18	• CSA Review and Vote
Mar- Week 1	• Pilot Phase Begins

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)

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