

REMOTE CART
GSAVT-General Assembly
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5:13 PM (ET)

CAPTIONER: Standing by.

MARUF HOQUE: Good afternoon, everyone. We have a quorum.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: If any of the delegates have not signed in, please sign in. I guess we can keep this as an open forum.

MARUF HOQUE: We can do open form until we have quorum. Anything exciting you won't to share other than a take away from everything?

JUNE JONES: I can remind everybody that FASFA has come through for us this year. If you have done that do it now. Lots of stickers for that. Plan and encourage your constituents to fill out the FASFA.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: This is a good sign that no one has any problems to bring up. Not bad at all.

MARUF HOQUE: I guess there is wrong with my screen sharing. Let me figure it out.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: When she figured out, we have quorum so you can get started.

MARUF HOQUE: All right. Let's try again. Before we have quorum and I hope my screen share is okay. We will move on. So here is the agenda. There is a slight modification with what is shown in red. So we have quorum, but approval of the minutes from last meeting based on what is posted online. Do we have a motion from that?

»: Motion to approve a shift in second.

MARUF HOQUE: Great.

And motion to approve the agenda?

»: So moved.

»: Second.

MARUF HOQUE: Great. Thank you.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: We are technically supposed to ask for abstentions.

MARUF HOQUE: Any abstentions to the minutes or the agenda? All right seen no abstentions, we will move on. All right. We will go straight to the agenda items for today. Will be kind of quick. Are cost-of-living survey closed last Friday evening. There are a total of 1073 responses. That is the final count. First I would like to tell everyone this whole thank you, thank you, thank you for spreading this message to your delegates. We really could not have done this without you.

And whatever messaging you all did it huge thank you from my end and everyone else that is analyzing the survey. Now clearly we are not going to analyze this quickly because it is 1073 responses. So we promise to have a full report to you by the final assembly meeting which will be April 18 if I am not wrong. But stay tuned for that. All right. Resolutions, I will pass this off to Awad and Aiden. I will talk about the final one. But go on with the first one.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: The first one for the Commissioner, we had no comments on that.

And so I can assume we can just have a motion to waive the right to vote on both of those resolutions. Someone has to start the motion.

»: I moved to waive a motion on 21H

»: There is a second and I can be that person.

AIDAN MURPHY: All right I think with a show of thumbs up, hands; however, people normally vote, if you can show support for that or not. Oh, thank you.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: All right the other resolution here that I wanted to bring attention to before we need to vote on this. I think it is on April 2nd or something, but I just want to kind of put a word out for this one. I think we need to take more time with this one and be more thorough about it. Let me share it here.

And for some reason I am not looking like a host, Sharon and so if you could give me screen sharing privileges, please.

SHARON FLYNN STIDHAM: Give me a second. I am being incompetent. Okay. You are set or you so should be.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: First thing the good news about this whole resolution is about creating new majors and not from CUSP. I think that was slightly change with the new governance structure. You know things that are not necessarily relevant to graduate students would have to be passed to the graduates for an incentive. If you guys can see my screen now, we have this new resolution by the Commission of faculty affairs and it is to extend the term of the Associates averaging at Tech currently. Limit is four years cumulative in a sense without -- whether they do for years Virginia Tech or some other institution as well. I think there is a lot of stuff in this resolution about how Virginia Tech aims to imitate what other institutions are doing. They pick the names, let me zoom in -- please send it to your constituents, like North Carolina State, Cornell, Penn State, Stamford, it tends to add an additional year for postdoc at Virginia Tech or additional year board eligible he a post-doctorate. I think again generally there is No Avenue to advocate for postdoc and we are not a post-doctorate body or anything. But I think some of the comments that we can attach to this resolution is at most institutions, they have lots of fellowship programs. They have support programs for post-doctorate. We don't have that or at least it is not readily available. The only thing you will find out if you look up postdoc at Virginia Tech is the job posting at hiring criteria. That is it. If you try to look at any of those universities there are complete websites for support, for

opportunities, for all of that. This might be a good opportunity to attach a comment with that regard.

And I think it would be much more relevant for some disciplines. I do not have a lot of information about the postdoctoral experience at Virginia Tech.

And again, this is not necessarily because we are advocating on behalf of postdoc. But this is one of the opportunity's will be get opportunity and where there is a right avenue to make that kind of commentary.

So I guess if anyone has anything to say that or you can take this to your constituents or if you have postdoc in your own labs and get feedback on what kind of comment there would be positive to add on this other than if you are going to do it like other institutions, it may be make a website that give postdocs more information about what it is like to be postdoc at Virginia Tech or anything else. I think there are lots of things we can comment, not necessarily on the content, but what should come with it.

AIDAN MURPHY: I think with this Jack has a question in the chat he would like to ask.

JACK LEFF: I am curious how this resolution interacts with a kind of terrible job market and I were whenever we have something like that that it is going to be like taken up to basically delay taken on more teen faculty positions. I'm wondering like whether this resolution does that or if it has the language about emphasizing more tenure-track positions and how that might interact.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: There is kind of a Q&A attach to the bottom of this resolution.

And it does have, it says after their term elapses then they have to move into something else whether faculty or research faculty or some other role or they cannot be employed at Virginia Tech.

So I think that there is a positive impact from it. Again, you can be a postdoc for up to five years. At Virginia Tech you are limited to four, but at the same time, I just don't think it is great that we are seeking to imitate them just in terms of extending the term of cheap labor. I think it is just like for graduates in a sense I think it is like all but salary.

So adding one more year to that with no improvement in the living standards, I think that is something we should add.

JACK LEFF: I think it puts it better than I can get at and I think a question that follows up is nice. But I think is predatory, underpaid exploitive labor.

And so I would be inclined to add a comment that basically, just make sure that the university is aware that when they pass resolutions like this in these to come with either more explicit focus on salary expansions or expansions in tenure-track positions for our postdocs or what have you.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: Into to Alice's point, which goes hand in hand with this, Alice, it does not have anything regarding that. It just says one more year. That would be a really good comment to have. Again, I think the religious and in scope is not anything about the quality-of-life improvement. It is not surprising that none of those things are there. They should pass another resolution with regard to those things.

And that would be a good commentary to add too. COOGAN: I want to give a comment about this apparently that has been brought up by postdocs. No one is actually pushing for this, but a lot of this has to do with several fine opportunities that they can apply for as postdocs that they cannot apply for after postdocs and this gives them an extra year to apply for them. Now does have the possibility of someone being delayed a promotion because they cannot be a postdoc longer, but currently it appears that the emphasis is on the other direction right now.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: So again, I just think lots of commentary that can be added to this one. So please send it to your constituents and get feedback from in a sense of also varies. Postdocs can provide context. This is a graduate student body, but on this. It doesn't have anything to do with the postdocs, but a commentary on things we can add as comments that should be looked at later on because lots of people who are in the graduate student body will end up in the postdoc position. So pay it forward in the sense.

And then I just see your comment. I'm not sure if you want to chime in that?

KAREN: Sure. You were talking about what we see on other websites and many other schools with postdoc associations.

And so I know that they have just established that.

And so that will be a body that will be able to have more voice with the research and innovation office.

And they can bring up, and I'm sure they are bringing up some of the issues of salary and benefits. I do, like I dove into it, like spec said, I know the postdocs have been supported of one additional year and the benefits that they get. But you are bringing in very good points. So that is all.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: Okay. Excellent. Please send comments you want attach to the resolution. Again, the resolution was sent out, I honestly don't remember when I sent this out, sometime last week I guess and we have to return it into weeks so I guess by the end of next week depending on the comments I get I will attach them and then we can vote on adding those comments on our feedback to the shared governance. So with that, good we can move on the next resolution.

And FYI, sharing my screen stopped your screen share.

MARUF HOQUE: All right. So moving on. So if we go back in time a couple of weeks, I wanted to -- hold on -- there we so going back in time a couple of weeks, I mentioned that GSA was at to bring forward a resolution of shared governance to make election in international -- University Holiday. Simply put this was in my opinion a very simple ask and it was a real test to see how the University works and what shared governance is, sort of like what goes into a resolution being made, but not a resolution being made by the student idea for the University policy. So basically, University holiday day off, so basically, I reached out to the registrar for our resolution just to see what they would say.

And I got a long e-mail. I took the step out to share with you all. I will read it directly. So here are some things that we need to consider before taking a full day off at the University. So number 1 the number of days in the fall semester using the Carnegie

credit our definition to determine the number of contact hours needed per credit. Currently the fall semester is already a day shorter than this spring so reducing it further would be problematic. We have to look at the impact on lab science. I note those of you who have taken a lab know this is a disruption to it.

And lab experiments typically set up weekly and any nonclass disruption is a disruption to the schedule. Lab science departments have in the past strongly voiced her opposition to adding nonclass days to any term. Any adjustment to the counter will require a change of the current policy and ultimately, any day off needs support from the academic support committee.

And that is a committee that reports to the CUSP. With all of that said,, something I did not physically write in here, for any form of change or any form of resolution to go through a shared governance, all of these entities basically need to give a yes, by the end of next week otherwise it is not going to go through the shared governance for this year. That is like the timeline that we are working on.

So I kind of asked all of you if you want me to like push forward with this, I can definitely ask these people to be like hey, can we figure something out in a week? But I think all of you know how like these commissions and committees work. It is not exactly a real probability for this academic year.

And my recommendation would be whoever is in GSA next year, would they're going to be called, to make this the action item. So a couple of problems I see with all of that: This next election day, it is not going to be a holiday. I see this as a very low probability of going through and if we push this off until next year, this really means we are looking at 2022 election day being the official holiday.

And I see a lot of questions.

And so I will ask Kayla for the questions.

KAYLA ALWARD: I guess I had a comment or a clarification. Just in your interaction with working with these committees and who this would have to go to in order to receive approval so it could move further on, would it not kind of for a lack of better terms pissed them off if we say hey, we need this done by next week? Like I

would say that in and of itself may be another reason to push this off for next year so we can give everyone an adequate amount of time to think about this and not spring it on them for last minute? Just, I guess, I thought.

MARUF HOQUE: I guess this would kind of sort of annoy them. It is like how much do you want to push this change for this cycle? That is what you are really debating.

And so I saw something in the chat for all elections versus general elections. We post it as general elections in November. Any other questions?

KASE POLING: I don't know who are academic support committee person is, but I am 99% sure somebody else in CSA can remind me. I think that is with Victoria sits on. I don't think they met this year. I am not for certain, but I am pretty sure it is the one that had not met this year.

MARUF HOQUE: I hope you are not right, but that is interesting.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: What commentary are you talking about?

KASE POLING: Academic support.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: I am not entirely sure. We only have representatives. We don't have anyone on academic report

MARUF HOQUE: I would assume it is a subdivision of CUSP.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: And I believe CUSP has been issuing resolutions for new major, new major so it seems to me the only thing. They have had their hands full with that.

MARUF HOQUE: To answer Alice's question that is something we can further investigate. At this moment I am not aware. But again, like that level of investigation, we need to still look into it. Basically, again, it would push the timeline. What I am bringing up is this is a test to see how something works. Maybe I should have brought this up two weeks in advance. But it just popped into my head when we drafted this entire thing. But all of the shared governance takes a bit of time.

And to propose real change we really need to start at the beginning of the year. I see Kase's hand up.

KASE POLING: I can verify that academic support has not met.

JACK LEFF: I feel like we should reach out to CUSP to see if they were taken it last minute. I think this is a support resolution, I think it is politically expedient and it makes sense to push it through if we can. But maybe we should see if CUSP is going to give us push back or not and if not, maybe try to work it through.

And I would also recommend, I think some of these things are pretty easy hurdles politically speaking to get around. For the lab science point, we can carve out an exemption next year so if the registrar's office is happy and the lab scientist are happy and if four lab science goes into effect next year. We can time lapse this out.

MARUF HOQUE: So Jack, I agree with you. Let me make another point to see how it gauges with everyone here. What are your thoughts on canceling, what is it, fall break,, which is a random Friday and taking election they off? Because that really solves the entire thing. Of like we have a random day off. We want to use it for election day.

KAYLA ALWARD: I think it makes sense to us as graduate students, but I think undergraduate students might be missing that day. If I remember right it is a Friday, right?

MARUF HOQUE: Yes.

KAYLA ALWARD: I know that at my previous university that fall break always was held on the same weekend as a huge football game and at the undergraduate population would be very upset if that they was taken away. But I am all for it. It is just a concern may be to think about.

MARUF HOQUE: I see your hand up, Emma?

EMMA BAUMGARDNER: I think ultimately, they serve different functions in my having election day off my understanding is that people can go to the polls. But like the priority of having election day off is to go vote. The priority of having fall break off is to not have class.

And so I think like they serve different functions.

And I am all in favor of having election they off. I think that serves a really great purpose and is really important, but I think that it would detract from the purpose that fall break currently serves.

MARUF HOQUE: Emma, could you lower your hand unless you are voting on another function? Thank you. All right. So okay, I think what I am going to try to do is push it forward.

And then if they are not willing to meet or anything, I will propose the idea of fall break off even though I get that it is not fall break for this even though I understand that they serve different purposes.

And again, I just want to see where this conversation Lance in a week.

And in all honesty, if it does not get anywhere in a week, it is kind of dead in the water anyways for this cycle. Is everyone okay with that? Can I get a thumbs up for that?

JACK LEFF: There is new information in the chat.

And I am convinced by that argument. I don't actually wish to propose to take off all fall break. But somebody said it serves to comply with Indigenous Peoples Day.

And that is the case 100% we cannot propose to take off all break. It might be an additional point.

MARUF HOQUE: Really? Is that true?

JACK LEFF: I just saw that in the chat. We should double check that is what I am same before we vote on this.

MARUF HOQUE: Sure. We should check that. Okay. Let's see where this goes in a week and I will provide an okay for something like that. Okay, let's move on. The subcommittee updates. Only the diversity subcommittee gave me a slide. So Emily, are you on the call?

»: Hi, everyone. The diversity committee, we presented our recommendations and action items on March 32nd CGPSP.

And as a result of the input we revise one of the action items to recommend a contract between advisers and students to recommend a mandatory faculty training on the expectations for graduate education. Because of expectations talk about what we were thinking should be a contract between graduate students and their academic advisers.

And then our board of visitors, Sabrina will present our three action items to the BOV this coming Sunday.

And Maruf will submit the diversity subcommittee report to the new Dean next year.

And then our report is posted on the GSA website if anyone wants to look at that. Thanks. Are there any questions?

[No response.]

Okay, thanks.

MARUF HOQUE: Thank you, Emily. All right I will briefly give any other subcommittees a quick minute to chime in, if anything. If you have updates, I did not get slides from you. I will put this memo out again. Whatever work you guys have done, I know it has been great. Please e-mail it to share so she can publish this on the website.

And so for future years they can look at this. Hypatia, do you have a question?

HYPATIA: For clarification purposes I stated my question before about the day off in November. We talking about presidential elections are all elections? As someone stated Virginia has elections every year.

So I am not sure if we are talking about presidential elections are all the elections.

MARUF HOQUE: My understanding it was all elections.

HYPATIA: Okay, thank you.

MARUF HOQUE: And can you lower your hand as well? Thank you. All right. Standing committee updates. We will start with judicial.

And can combination of Ben and Aidan --

MARUF HOQUE: Ben, I don't know, if got a full slide deck from you. It we cannot hear you.

BEN BEITER: Can you hear me now? Okay, as far as the Constitution goes and we found a number of presentations as stuff on it. There have not been any substantial changes from last time. There have been a number of language changes in the document though.

And I guess we didn't send that out, we didn't get that out before the meeting so I guess we probably won't vote on it, I guess I don't know the exact rules on that but I think more than likely to get it passed before the end of the year, we need to vote very soon on the Constitution. Is that correct? So I guess we will send out the final Constitution finally and we will vote on it within the next couple of days I guess.

AIDAN MURPHY: I think that sounds like what we should do. You can correct me on this, but I don't think we have received any questions or concerns for the clarification etc., anything from other members of this body.

So I think with respect to this body based on that lack of comment, it seems like we are ready to wrap it up and come to a vote on this issue.

BEN BEITER: Yes. so just to be clear, all the major changes that we made, I detailed in the presentation last week and most other things we basically kept the same from the last Constitution. But yes, we will send that out and then be voting on it before long.

And then we also have a resolution that needs to go through shared governance I believe along with the Constitution that will, also need to be voted on.

So I guess that resolution as far as I am aware is just to take the action of enforcing this new constitution and making us the graduate congressional students Senate in not GSA anymore.

And I don't know if anyone else, also from last week we voted on a name, but we have not finalized the acronym yet. If anybody has a lot of opinions on that let us know.

GAPSS and GPSS are the front runners. We will have a resolution along with the vote and the Constitution.

MARUF HOQUE: All right. Thank you.

And to provide a quick summary of this resolution, it is basically everything we have been presenting all year in a resolution format this is GSA will convert to GPSS.

And we will adopt this new constitution.

And this also -- I we are very close on this. In needs to go to share governance in the next month so it goes into effect as soon as possible.

And I see that Hypatia has a question.

HYPATIA: Yes. it is about the Constitution and I am not, my question is not whether we should dictate other GSA or the new name or groups what to do, but my question is, is there any path in this new constitution that we are going to adopt or vote on that other, that remote campuses can use to kind of guide their issues to the general Constitution? I am not talking about dictating anything. I am talking about a path, a clause in the Constitution that allows the remote campuses to come in and become part of GSA.

MARUF HOQUE: We have established or an extended campus caucus structure in the Roanoke greater DC and Richmond. So you will be a part of that. So it additionally, who the president is for the greater DC campus, Rhône Oak campus, and someone else, I cannot remember right now, we'll serve on the president's cabinet. You will have two fronts to bring forward, issues and causes for GPSS.

HYPATIA: I'm not talking about me. I'm talking about for the future.

MARUF HOQUE: Yes.

HYPATIA: So basically, it is understanding after what you said is there is a clause somewhere in the Constitution that we would vote on that allows these remote campuses to come in and at one point join in the path of Blacksburg GSA. As remote campuses, we have much less power. If we become, if there is a way to bring those

issues into GSA Blackford, then there is a bigger number of people that can't be supporting that, that there is a bigger chance of success if everyone agrees on that.

MARUF HOQUE: Yes, that will be a thing. So yes, it is written in the Constitution and it will be further elaborated in the bylaws.

HYPATIA: Okay, where do I find a copy of that?

MARUF HOQUE: We will send this out very shortly.

HYPATIA: Okay,, thanks.

MARUF HOQUE: And we have also shared this a few times in the past. But the final version will be sent out and Awad can answer it.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: I want to speak about it first and as soon as we are done with this, I will send the new constitution and the resolution that we will be E voting on I guess next week.

MARUF HOQUE: Okay. Is there one more question, Hypatia?

HYPATIA: Yes. every time I ask it seems there is a shutdown to the question because I'm trying to clarify. I don't want the boat to happen and say why didn't you ask? So thank you.

MARUF HOQUE: Emily?

EMILY BURNS: And I raised my hand and I miss the last meeting. I apologize if it is something we have gone over. What I just heard you say is there would be a GPSS for the extended campuses and then the president of that will report to Virginia Tech's president? Okay. I just wanted to make sure I heard it right. Is sounds like the extended campuses will have similar power as the Blackford DPSS.

AIDAN MURPHY: Yes. that is built impartially through the extended campus caucus, which extended like in parallel to the college caucus. So for example, the, for example, the College of science will come together for a college of science caucus, one of the non-college caucuses will exist is for representatives from extended campuses, as well as of the added seat for the president of whatever external extended campus organization to sit in the cabinet.

EMILY BURNS: Thank you for going over that if that was a repeat.

AIDAN MURPHY: No worries.

BEN BEITER: I believe the slides in the GSA meeting are part of that if you want to take a look at it.

EMILY BURNS: I will. Thank you.

MARUF HOQUE: Any further questions on Constitution, name change, acronyms? Seeing none, moving on, finance, Alexis, are you on the call?

ALEXIS HRUBY: Can you hear me?

MARUF HOQUE: Yes.

ALEXIS HRUBY:

[No response.]

MARUF HOQUE: Alexis, are you there? Okay. I will shift this over to the CSA route. We have good news for you. So Kase, are and in the call?

KASE POLING: Hello. My nose is stuffy so bear with me. As of an hour ago the graduate student budget Board was approved as of an hour ago. That is good news for us. I believe we will be sending out like a training module information packet to different graduate students, organizations. So become familiarized with that.

And I think that is it.

MARUF HOQUE: One more, timeline.

KASE POLING: So we have been really pushing for this because we wanted the trial period to start as soon as possible.

And so as of tomorrow the training module will be sent out and then we will start taking funding request for pretty much immediately. If you have any organizations that you know of that are in need of funding, we will send information out and you can apply for it and we will have our first meeting March 31.

MARUF HOQUE: Just to reiterate, these are currently registered organizations that have the word graduate in the name? These are the ones that will be able to move for funding. Okay, Kayla, no more questions? Okay, anyone else have questions on the GSBB? All right. Seeing none, move on. Election plans. I will shift this to Adan.

AIDAN MURPHY: All right. So if you would like to go to the next slide. Again, the same disclaimers from last time, which is the elected positions will follow the current because. We are not talking about the newer positions in the hope hopefully implemented in the future Constitution.

And that we are currently only considering these two to go through the last day of the fall semester so that ideally if the new Constitution were to be approved in time, the next election we would have at the end of the fall semester would be for the new positions in the new constitution.

So I think next would be steps zero. It would be I am the person to Cornet all the stuff.

And I think this is correct, but because Awad sent this out he can tell me if it is wrong, but I think March 26 is a new deadline for self-nomination and I think the following day I will send out a list of and send a list of the self-nominated candidates.

And I don't think I have anything to add to that. Next slide.

And thinking after that, it could be nice to have some sort of something where the new possible candidates can be met with four people who want to know more who they are voting for and stuff like this. I considered organizing such a meet the current candidates thing for like a step one. But because that is a lot of people's schedules, I figured I would hold off on that.

And then that gives from the 27th two the 22nd of April. It will be the election day on the 22nd. I am monitoring the chat to try to read some of the comments.

So I think I would just go through those currently and ask if there are any questions. I did not put a question slide next because I figured it would be nice to leave the time line up this slide. So elections are -- that is me. Okay. The 26th is correct for self-nomination.

SHARON FLYNN STIDHAM: Anyone that indicates to you they have an interest tell them to read the dang Constitution as it currently stands. I think most of us are open to answering questions directly from anyone should they wish to ask. To

AIDAN MURPHY: Yes, I think that is probably true at least for Sharon who just said so and myself. If you have questions about positions, I am not on the exact board, but if you have questions --

SHARON FLYNN STIDHAM: AID, you are the CZAR.

AIDAN MURPHY: I guess I do have something. But as Sharon was saying e-mail who position you might be interested in. If you are unsure about whether or not we would want to take up the position. Would Maruf like to add anything to what I'm saying?

MARUF HOQUE: Yes. but first I saw a hand raised.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: I typically people run for those positions on the very last day I guess. But I think we really have lots of momentum with everything that has been presented and everything that is going on. I think it will be really important that we have people who run for those positions and make sure that all of them are filled by the time that we have our elections a little bit earlier in April so that they can get to, you know from the outgoing executive board, and again, there are so many positive changes that we need the good momentum to continue on. The one of thing I just want to add was regarding the operation itself. Like understand that lots of people, there is lots of talk about how the executive positions are lots of work and sometimes they can be but thanks to like our Internal Affairs committee, the new constitution had the work laid out extremely well for the entirety of the operation is starting with actually, and I realize that is something we have not been great at giving everyone who is a delegate or going to be a senator. What exactly is the scope of everything we are doing and making sure those ways are clear. The incoming executive will have lots of helping hands on this. I think this is a great time to run for this and I hope a lot of people do.

AIDAN MURPHY: And I agree in both the sense that taking of these positions in the old Constitution still, your term would be shorter and after that, taking positions in the new Constitution hopefully with the changes we made in the new executive board

under the new Constitution, hopefully, the change will be in there and it will make the distribution of work for the executive board members less, just less, I guess I want to end there. oh, yes and I forgot to say less time, of course at the end of the meeting or during the time I presented last meeting I myself am not running for any of these positions, obviously, because I am running the elections. That seems really silly. So just know that, that I am not running for any of these. So your vote to confirm me as what, the election CZAR was not or won't be abused.

And I think that is all I have to say unless anyone else wanted to have any further questions or at anything.

MARUF HOQUE: Thank you, Adan.

And I want to say you are free to attend the executive board meeting if you want to watch what happens. On next one is March 31 at 5:30 p.m. if you are interested. Just reach out and I will send you this Zoom link.

And to clear the air a bit I will not be running next year. So you need a president. You need to figure that out amongst yourselves bite whenever the deadline is. All right? Any questions before we move on?

EMILY BURNS: You are not running for the fall position?

MARUF HOQUE: No.

EMILY BURNS: Okay.

MARUF HOQUE: All right. Executive board updates. I have a few updates, but I would like to get the rest of the executive board a chance to comment before I give my final slide presentation. We will start with Awad. Any updates?

AWAD ABDELHALIM: Nothing really just the shared governance resolution from everything earlier and to answer Hypatia's question I don't think anyone from the current executive board is running. They can confirm this. But I don't think we will have any continuing positions.

MARUF HOQUE: Martina, are you on the call?

MARTINA SVYANTEK: Yes, I am. Next week is the graduate research symposium. Tomorrow is Friday.

And Friday, we will be e-mailing out and sharing information regarding the finalized schedule. We have four judges per presentation this year and I am really excited because we were able to invite back Virginia Tech doctoral alumni to participate as judges in our virtual format. Our keynote will be starting Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

And after our keynote presentations which will be pre-recorded, there will be an hour of Q&A with our panel, which is Lydia Brown.

And Alex Agard, and one hour of Q&A with them.

And then we announce our ward winning presentations.

And sum up the symposium for everyone.

And that is what my brain has been focused on for the past month. If you have any questions about TSP, the travel fund, or GRDP, graduate research development fund, we will be addressing those after research symposium has been completed.

MARUF HOQUE: Thank you. Sharon?

SHARON FLYNN STIDHAM: I do not have anything of interest to add. Please if you would like to know more about my position, feel free. But for those of you who were with the lovely software site I have created training materials.

MARUF HOQUE: Before I pass it on, let me see how many presentations?

MARTINA SVYANTEK: Off the top of my head, it is over 50 and less than 60.

MARUF HOQUE: June?

JUNE JONES: Hi! I cannot get my camera to work. I was still planning the spring social. I have taken all of your concerns for the account.

And if you would like to help with that either the day of or even before feel free to shoot me an e-mail.

And especially I would put the call out there for anybody who is interested in being the Director of the events for next year. You can work beside me with this event

and it will be easier, I think, to share the wisdom of the position if we want something real rather than just like hypothetical.

So I would enjoy anybody's company who would like to help with this event. I will be stepping down from this position next year. I will not be running again for Director of events.

And maybe I will take a minute here to be transparent about my thinking about the executive board. I think the only position I would consider running for is president for next year. I think that it is tough we don't have continuity right now and I will say that there is a lot of time commitment to being president of any executive Board member and I have been hesitant to think about running again. I am worried about my dissertation. My dissertation proposal as you all as graduate students. Think about running the position. What is the time trade-off?

And can I handle it.

And maybe there's are questions you are wrestling with and may you want to step up with these positions.

So I think the last time I said to the exec board I would definitely not run for anything or do anything, but I think right now, I am doing so searching about whether or not I can continue on the exec board for now. So to be upfront with you all for now for what I'm thinking about. I'm not running for Director of events. But I might run for president.

So I will leave it there.

So I am currently also working on an initiative about changing our student ID so they include the word graduate student. I'm e-mailing Student Services and we had the support of the Dean and Monica Gibson on this. This could be a great symbolic potential gesture from the University technology we are not regular students or undergrads, but graduate students.

So I am excited about this even if it doesn't necessarily come with anything besides you know you can pull your ID out to show that you are a graduate student. I think it would help us with events and also if we had given our other student

organizations like explicitly graduate student organizations is a quick way to identify ourselves. I thought that was important so I am pushing for that right now.

And I think the last thing I will say is I want to take a minute to thank everybody for coming to these meetings. I really appreciate and we all appreciate that people are showing up for our General Assembly meetings. You can do a lot of things with your time, but a lot of them are doing things during meetings. I think you deserve a medal. It is hard to go to constant Zoom meetings. Thank you for coming to these meetings. Ever being there and for sharing your information that you learned with your constituents. We were on you to spread the word about a lot of stuff. Knowledge is power and maybe you are a graduate student so shoot me an e-mail if you have any questions about anything I said or you want to talk about anything. Thank you.

MARUF HOQUE: Thank you, June.

And John message me that he cannot speak right now, but he is not running as well, but just to get that information out there, but he will stay on to help support the graduate student budget board and other support as well and to clarify my position, I am not running, but I know there is a president emeritus or whatever position so I'm happy to stick around and help in whatever way I can to provide that additional guidance. Is a on to my updates, so we just came out of a CSA meeting right before this one.

And I would like to talk about student activities. So currently the student budget board has \$300,000 in excess funds this year. Dining services is 10 million dollars in debt. We need to reallocate funds to dining services. This is money that we pay. What are your thoughts on this? And Kase and Kayla and Awad were in the meeting.

AIDAN MURPHY: If I may ask for context and additional thoughts from people who have thought about the question, that at least would be nice.

MARUF HOQUE: So dining services includes all of the dining services like all of the meal plans and everything, primarily undergrad students for food at the dorms and other things.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: Typically, those were accessible to all students, but this year because of COVID they were all serving on-campus students. I am not sure now.

And I will chime in on this because I'm talking, but mostly because their business model is mostly built on people buying meal plans and it also lots of food is off-campus in the dining center, since this year they were only restricted to on-campus residents and then with that on-campus enrollment, on-campus residents were lower and they could not get revenue from staff or faculty. Mabey they were serving 20% of the population they would usually serve.

And they did not furlough the majority of their staff I would say.

KAYLA ALWARD: My understanding and you were there so correct me if I am wrong on what the argument is but Frank put this up. If we don't contribute to pain down -- pain down the debt now, students in the future will have potentially increased fees in order to pay down that debt.

And that was one of the things that was brought up and may be a reason why we should put some of this money toward it or one of the reasons it was brought up and we should do this and bring it down.

ALICE: That argument makes sense if it is a guarantee that student fees will not be raised in the future. But if we pay this and agree to pay it then what is to stop them from continuing to raise a student because 300 thousand is nowhere close to 10 million, not a drop in the bucket. So unless we see some hard guarantees that the future students will not still be paying on this debt, you know to it degree that \$300,000 is not really covering that in any meaningful way, whereas if there is an opportunity to use that \$300,000 in a way that does benefit the students and place, now we can ensure students will benefited by better programs or better allocation of the funds that we can direct in any way, which I am not sure of the extent. That would be the more preferable option is to say for it in our own ways rather trust the university that it will be the case.

AIDAN MURPHY: Particularly if I can say this in a really cheeky way, our fees as graduate students are already pretty high proportionate to the income. So that makes it hard like you are saying to justify this.

MARUF HOQUE: I would like to add in a comment, CSA decided not to make any official comment until the board meets this weekend when they officially decide

what the tuition fees will be. So there is a lot of we don't know right now because we don't know what the board of visitors are going to do this weekend.

KASE POLING: And if I can add, to address the idea that student fees for like dining services or whatever my still go up, I certainly don't know what they would do with the odds are like yes, they probably will. But it is \$300,000 that they don't have to consider. Like they used the example of like if you put more money down you don't pay as much interest over the long run. That was their justification for every little bit goes to help. Now what we kind of decided at CSA was let's take this back to our constituents and discuss is this the best way to help students? And so what we are kind of bringing to you all now is before we discuss in CSA again how to allocate \$300,000, before we say no, we are not going to give dining services this money, what are we going to do? That is what I am looking for. I want a better solution that more directly help students before I say no, we are not giving this money to dining services.

MARUF HOQUE: I would like to use this opportunity to answer as many questions as I can in the chat. I will skip the parking services will because I don't agree with it. Why are they and it? The reason for that is they only have limited dining services to on-campus students like it was given to every student before or like every student had the opportunity to purchase a dining plan. So because of that a lot of students purchased it and can graduate students get free dining dollars? I think we can maybe put that up as an option for something. Does the money roll over if we don't use it this fiscal year? If so student activities, going into like the rollover budget board, if we don't use the dollars it does roll over to the next fiscal year when it does operate on the fiscal year. You can't get an account, but yes, I know campus is not great this year.

And pull a Ron Swanson -- suggested a return to all students who paid fees this year. That could be a formal recommendation as well. Oh, yes, I think you are aware that the board of visitors are still deciding to give back, what was it, 90 something dollars in the transportation fee to the students? \$96 in the transportation fee. That could be something I think that happens as well. Any other question on this? I note this has been a lot. So distributing small grants for graduate students, so theoretically that is what graduate budget board is attempting to do with the policies and procedures we

put into place. With this kind of money, I it would have to go to all students, not just graduate students.

And Emily, had taken your point as well. So Shaga is asking an interesting question, if it does rollover to next year, does it affect the future budget for GSA? The implementation of graduate budget board is going to be a complex thing, pretty complex thing over the summer so establishing a real budget and that takes a good bit of work, but to ensure, I don't think this affecting the future budget next year.

Do we have access to the other services paid for through this fee? No.

So to Phil's question, access to other services, for the student activity fee, going to the budget board? This is not any of the other auxiliary fees that we pay.

And I think dining is the largest one from what the doctor said today earlier. So to answer Alice's question, which is an interesting point that was brought up in CSA as well, this is working with the market to create a food voucher program, really to come, I think food insecurity and everything. So know that will not work from what they have said because that works with the VT Foundation funds.

And this is not Foundation funds. It is a simple way of putting it. So that was a proposal brought up, but it will not work. All right. Any other question about this? I don't know if that question is serious or not, specs so I will not acknowledge it right now.

AWAD ABDELHALIM: I think what they were understanding is if the money received by Virginia Tech become state money is money cannot be donated to foundation, which gives it to the Dean of Students or other student support programs. So in a sense it has to be within that internal structure of Student Services cannot exit out of that.

MARUF HOQUE: I would like to call on Conrad if he wishes to speak.

And Conrad is a representative of the Student Government.

CONRAD BRILES: I want to add if it is not pertinent to everybody's mind, where you assess and SGA which also money here they there to help support itself when the Hokie effect is not go through we are allowed to withdraw 10 grand per year and it is a

little bit of a life vest from time to time. But that is another consideration and I thought it might be useful for GSA and considering this.

MARUF HOQUE: All right. Looking at the time and I have a big final thing to chat about. I will push all of these questions to the open forum at the end. All right. I think all of you are where there is a search going on for the next graduate Dean as promised from last meeting. We are getting an interview time with the four finalists once they are selected. The way I am planning this and basically, I guess I get to dictate when in whenever this happens, but the times that we have been provided are the bottom of the screen. So those interested please block off these times and there will be a call for volunteers in the next few minutes.

And the way I am looking at the composition is I am requesting my student for each college. So there is representation from a wide variety of majors that we have. A student for Roanoke and DC as well. I'm asking that you attend on planning a session with me this upcoming Monday -- Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The goal of this planning session is to really compile a list of questions that we narrow down to maybe five or six that we ask in the hour. Faculty affairs is recommending that you attend a training session on March 25 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

And so if you are interested I have a list of colleges on the next slide that we will open up for the call for volunteers, but I am asking everyone to quickly look at their calendars. Please ensure that you have March 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. blocked off just so we can plan things. Thursday March 25 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. blocked off and all of those times on the dates below to actually attend the interview. What I want is a consistent group of students to show up and provide the back to me so I can ultimately provide that to the search committee.

Additionally, if you are not selected or don't volunteer to attend these sessions there will be an open forum session. The time is unsure right now. It will be on the same dates. Where I encourage every graduate student to show up and ask questions. Most likely that will be around 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. even though it is not officially confirmed. So with an official call for volunteers so we will start up with number 1 and if Dryden could record names, that would be good for me.

So college one, agriculture and life sciences, do we have a volunteer? If you want to volunteer raise your hand and tell me what college you are a part of.

KASE POLING: I can do engineering and my favorite class ever is March 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00. As long as I don't have to be there for that 30 minutes.

MARUF HOQUE: I forgot. I forgot that class happens then. We can probably shift it a little bit earlier. I keep forgetting that time. Let's pull up the schedule. I realize that many students actually attend a class on this call so what make the 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. time on. Can we have, his 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. okay? And to answer your question, Shaga, this is all the time. Is of 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 it would be 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. on the same day.

And the rest of these times are still there okay. So Hypatia, do you want to tell us he would like to represent?

HYPATIA: Architecture, DC I guess.

MARUF HOQUE: Thanks. Morgan?

»: Cows, agriculture and life science.

MARUF HOQUE: Thank you. Jack?

JACK LEFF: So I can only make it for half of the training and half of the Thursday meeting because I meet that day, but I would love to represent college agriculture and sciences.

MARUF HOQUE: Which half can you represent?

JACK LEFF: The first half. I teach the other.

MARUF HOQUE: And you said the training session is?

JACK LEFF: I teach at 2:00 so I can be there until 2:00.

MARUF HOQUE: I don't think this training session will go for the full 90 minutes so I think we should be okay. But yes Jack, Morgan, could you lower your hands? Just reach out to the chat. Can you give me an update on how many we have?

DRYDEN EPSTEIN: We are at four volunteers right now.

MARUF HOQUE: Any other volunteers before we send this out on e-mail? And Dryden can you state what is covered right now?

DRYDEN EPSTEIN: I have engineering, architecture, agriculture and life sciences and College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

MARUF HOQUE: So we are missing business, inter-college -- inter-college, all of the disciplinary programs that exist that are not part of inter-college, natural resources and environment, medical, which is considered to be the vet med and the medical students and diversity -- I should say I modeled this out with the Caucus structure that we had. Or with GPSS, you know what I. But I will send this out for the future. I will send this out via e-mail and we will collect our responses in the next 48 hours or so.

And TBMH is actually inter-college.

And with that we move into open form. I guess before we move on, if you did wish to volunteer for that, if you could stay on from five to 10 minutes, I will give a real quick thing for next time,

KASE POLING: Can you show me the schedule?

MARUF HOQUE: I will leave it on here and leave it to open forum. Kayla?

KAYLA ALWARD: I have a question about graduate student budget board. I wanted to check with you about the list of organizations that can apply. So is it actually going to be every organization that has graduate in their name? So that would not be all-encompassing?

MARUF HOQUE: It is unfortunately the organizations that have kept up the RSS status with SECL. If you have not done that it doesn't work for this pilot phase. But we wouldn't want everyone to update their student organization status to make it a thing.

KAYLA ALWARD: I need to find a time to talk to you about this for reasons. But thank you.

MARUF HOQUE: Sure. Any other questions? We can also make a motion to end this meeting if it is fine and dandy with all of you.

ALEXIS HRUBY: So moved.

AIMANE NAJMEDDINE: Second.

MARUF HOQUE: Thank you for coming. Are meeting next is April 22, a little from a month from today, but clearly there is a lot of things happening in the middle so we will be in communication over e-mail. Thank you, again for coming to support it. It means a lot and I will see you in about a month.

SHARON FLYNN STIDHAM: I would like to say thank you do are close closed captioner. You've done a fantastic job and thank you so much, Caryn.

MARUF HOQUE: And I will stick around for five to 10 minutes. I would chat about the graduate search for all those things, but other things as well.

CAPTIONER: Meeting dismissed.

6:48 PM (ET)