

GSA General Assembly Meeting #9

Zoom Edition
April 22, 2021



@VTGSA



Graduate Student Assembly
of Virginia Tech



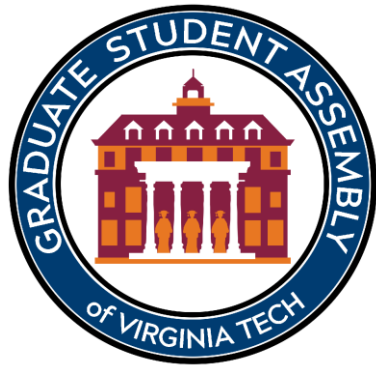
Gsa.vt.edu

This meeting is being recorded



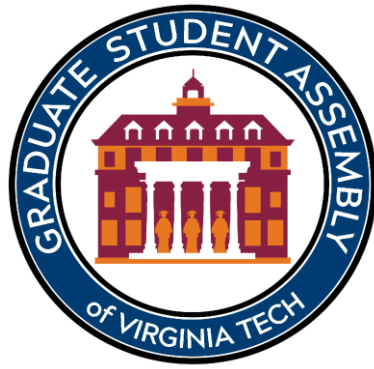
Agenda:

1. Quorum, approval of minutes & agenda
2. Exec. Board Updates
 - a. VP
 - b. Finance
 - c. Programs
 - d. Events
 - e. Communications
 - f. Graduate Rep. to BoV
3. Agenda Items
 - a. Resolutions
 - i. CUSP-2020-21K
4. Subcommittee Updates
5. Standing Committee Updates
 - a. Graduate Student Budget Board
 - i. Updates from CSA
Reps/Finance Committee
 - b. Internal Affairs/Judicial
 - i. New Constitution Status
6. Elections
7. Open Forum
8. Closing/Adjournment



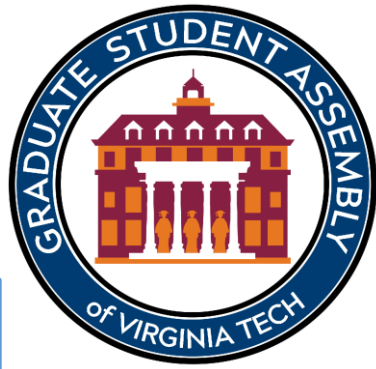
GSA Executive Board Updates

2021-2022 Graduate Rep to BoV



- Phil Miskovic

By the numbers:

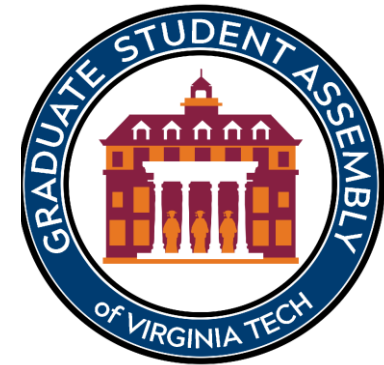


General Assembly Meetings:

- Average attendance of 50.
- 74 different Delegates.
- 45 Programs/Departments/Other Affiliations.

Shared Governance:

- All 31 Graduate and Professional Student seats were filled in all Commissions/Committees/Councils.
- 20 seats were filled outside the GSA Executive Board.

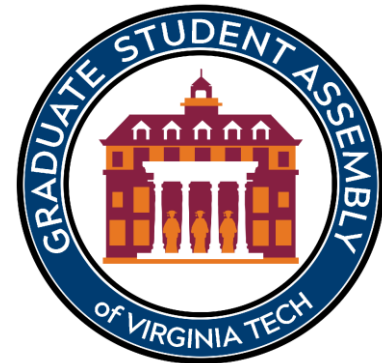


Spring Social **at the farm!**

- Location:
- Rising Silo Farm Brewery at Glade Road Growing Farm
- Date: Sunday, May 2nd 2-5pm
- GSA Recognition Ceremony at 4pm
- Door prizes from Sugar Magnolia, Hethwood Market, Glade Road Growing, and Blacksburg Farmers Market
- 1 free drink per graduate student + 1 free meal for active delegates
- Options: sparkling water, ginger beer, kombucha, beer, cider, soda (regular water is always free and available as much as you need)
- vegetarian options, take out containers available
- Restrooms available, single stalled gender neutral
- Farm roads open for exploring, but wear sneakers!
- Ticketed event for VT graduate students only (required RSVP, first come, first served on Qualtrics survey) pods?

2351 Glade Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060





Have you supported our local partners this year? How did it go? Get anything tasty? Share in chat or DM June! 😊

deals! **discounts!**

the GSA BUY Blacksburg! initiative

VT VIRGINIA TECH™

FOOD **FUN**

HETHWOOD MARKET

15% off and Special Grad Student Breakfast Sandwich at their Saturday morning farmers market 8-12

BLACKSBURG FARMERS MARKET

GLADE ROAD GROWING

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

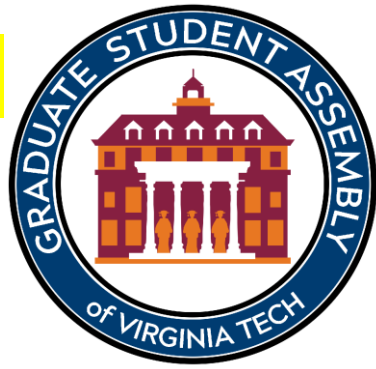
15% off online with code vtgrad15

\$4 off token and 10% merchandise discount

****MUST SHOW PROOF OF GRAD STATUS** i.e. ID with special GSA sticker**

To become a partner or to learn more, check out <http://gsa.vt.edu>.

Events this year (a few lessons learned)

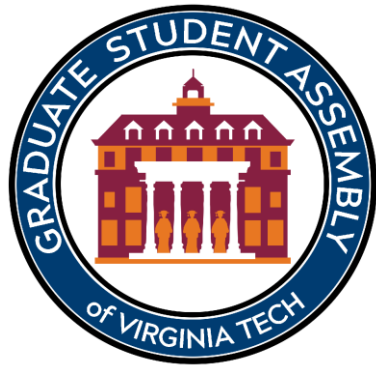


- We need to collect graduate and professional student emails from them directly during orientation so that we can send them things without pre-approval from the Graduate School or others
 - Solution: **create a GSA listserv** that students voluntarily opt-in to receive and can also, if they choose, opt out
- Graduate and Professional School Fair (GPSF) takes a lot of work and coordinating with administrators. A virtual platform is very costly and has a lower rate of return (meaning we made less to put in our generated funds than previous years). Some schools did not talk to any students.
 - Solution: try to **keep this event in-person** and start recruiting both schools and students early in the semester (at the latest); try to **reach out to professors** to encourage their students to attend.
- Little Hokie Hand Me Down had an amazing amount of donations but so many were left over!
 - Solution: **Strategize early** and spread the word to everyone you know! We should also **consider inviting adjunct faculty and staff** members to an exclusive window of time near the end of the event.
- Our Spring Social is coming up soon! While COVID put some restrictions on when and how we could hold in-person events this year, hopefully this will not be the case next year or again (but never say never...).
 - Solution: Oh wait.... It's not a problem... It's a reminder!
 - **SEE YOU THERE!!!! :)**



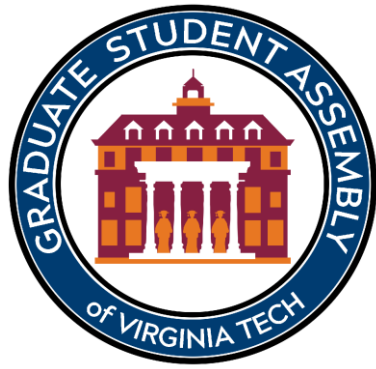
GSA Agenda Items

a. CUSP 2020-21K



Cost of Living Survey

Graduate Student Cost of Living



Monthly cost of living breakdown (across campuses)

- Basic cost of living, \$1341.77, 66.6%
- Comprehensive fee, \$328.25, 16.3%
- Grocery costs, \$200, 9.9%
- Transportation costs, \$55, 2.7%
- Health insurance premium, \$92.51, 4.6%

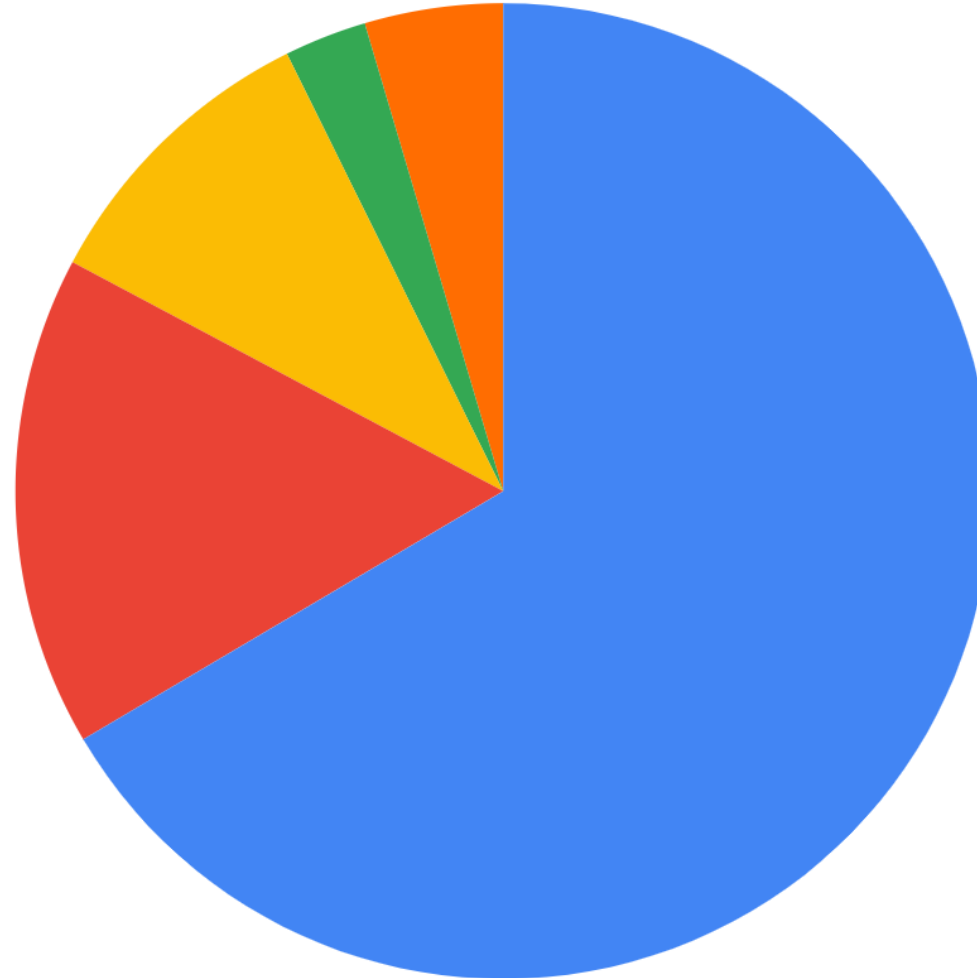
Basic cost of living: tax deduction, rent/mortgage, gas/heat, electricity, water, phone, internet

Transportation costs: parking, commuting, car insurance, property tax payment for vehicle

Grocery costs

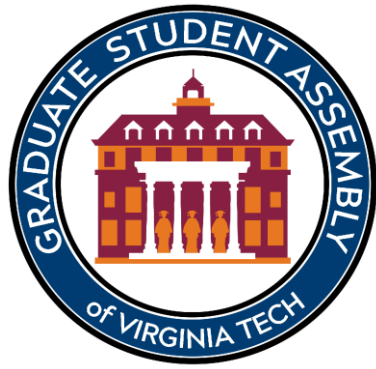
Health insurance premium

Comprehensive fee



Monthly total:
\$2,017.53

Graduate Student Cost of Living

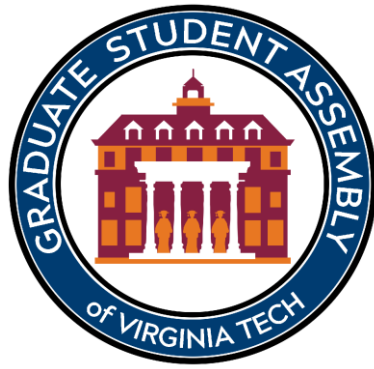


General Information

- 1,100+ recorded responses
- Completed by students across all Virginia Tech graduate campuses
- Data collected for 5 weeks, from February 5th to March 13th

Final report will also include:

- Costs related to childcare
- Out-of-pocket health care costs
- Other desired coverage for student health care
- Commuting time/distance
- Educational costs outside of tuition and the comprehensive fee
- Information about stipend averages across colleges and graduate programs



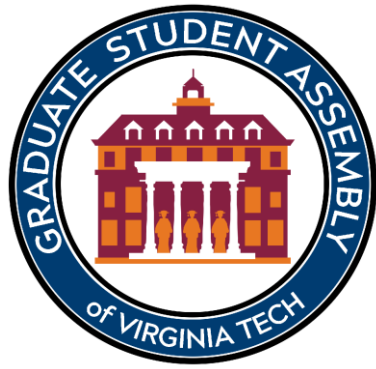
GSA Subcommittee Webpages

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



Standing Committee Updates

Committee on Judicial and Internal Affairs
Finance



Bylaws:

Discussing all procedural aspects of how GPSS will function.

- Defining “Academic Entity” and who gets to send Delegates
- Define exact structure of Caucuses in GPSS
- Establish Standing Committees and their duties
- Senator membership on GSBB
- Change how we make comments to Shared Governance Resolutions
- Process of writing resolutions
- Seats on Shared Governance Commissions, including new ones
- Setting Quorum



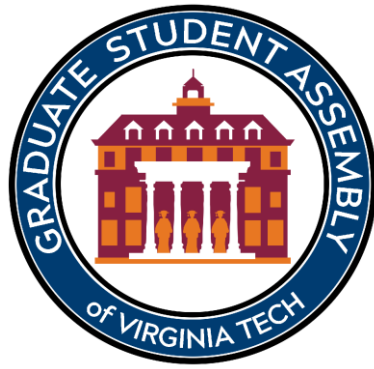
GSA -> GPSS Transition Team

Team to manage internal changes in the switch to GPSS, and communicate with administration during overall shared governance changes.

Meeting 3-4 times over the summer.

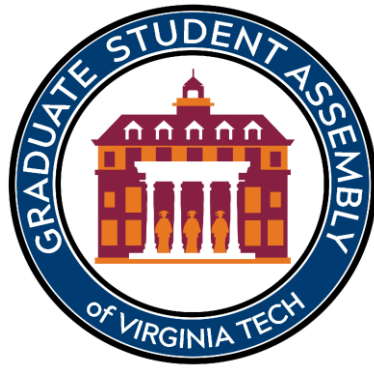
Proposed Membership:

- Maruf
- New Executive Board Members
- Current Internal Affairs/Judicial Committee members
- Others if interested



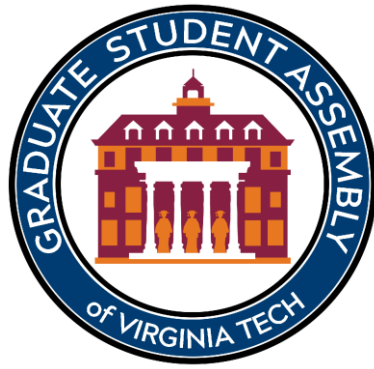
Finance

Alexis Hruby



GSBB Pilot Phase-Update

- GSBB is live now! All necessary information → GSA website
- \$50,000 budget until August 2021
- Accepting requests from Eligible Organizations (Student orgs with “Graduate” in their name)
- Please convey this message to departments, eligible organizations you might know
- Food, Conference and Outreach program will be funded → Policy in GSA website.
- GSA 2020-21C: Resolution that confirms that GSBB policy will be governed by GPSS Bylaws (2nd reading at CSA 4/29)
- Pilot Phase 2: 2021-2022 academic year, planning May-July 2021



Elections

Aidan Murphy, Elections Czar



Procedure

During the meeting, each position will have the self-nominees give two-minute statements.

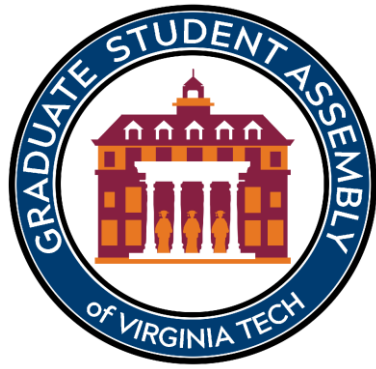
After the meeting, a poll on GobblerConnect will be open.

- Opens at 7:15pm EDT on Thursday April 22nd
- Closes at 11:45pm EDT on Sunday April 25th

Position: President

Self-Nominated Candidates:

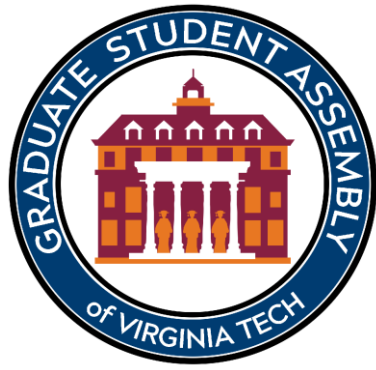
- Jack Leff

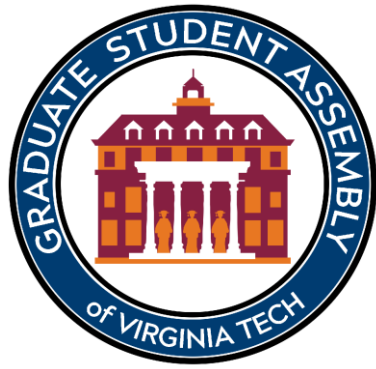


Position: Vice President

Self-Nominated Candidates:

- Alice Fox
- Rongxuan Wang





Position: Director of Programs

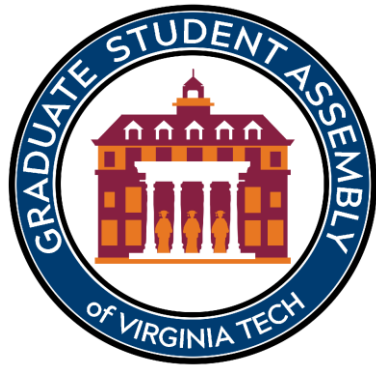
Self-Nominated Candidates:

- Micki Palmersheim
- Trevor Jeyaraj Jeyaraj Samraj

Position: Director of Finance

Self-Nominated Candidates:

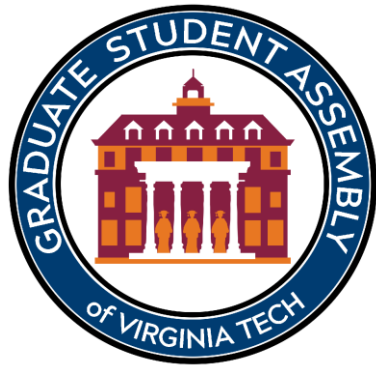
- Anusha Prasad
- Hannah Cunningham



Position: Director of Communications

Self-Nominated Candidates:

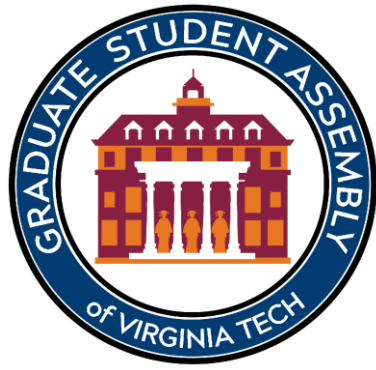
- Amanda Borroughs



Position: Director of Events

Self-Nominated Candidates:

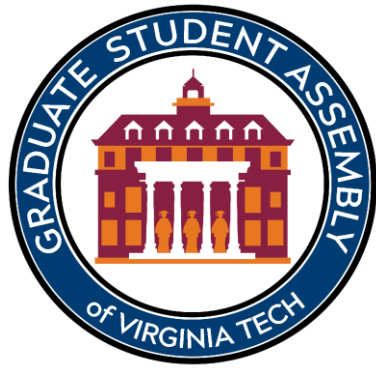
- Emily Burns



Closed Door Discussion

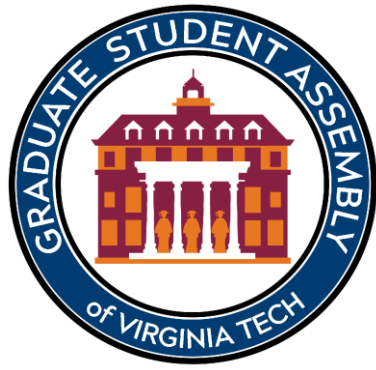


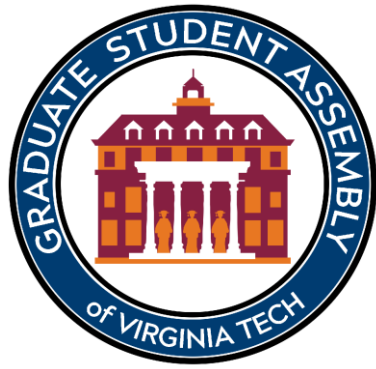
Dean DePauw



THANK YOU!

Open Forum





Accomplishments/Thank you

- Diversity Subcommittee Report
- Buy Blacksburg
- Graduate Cost of Living Report (*in 10 days*)
- New Constitution (*official at next UC/BoV meeting*)
- Graduate Budget Board

Closing/Adjournment

