

GSA General Assembly Meeting #4

Zoom Edition
December 3rd, 2020



@VTGSA

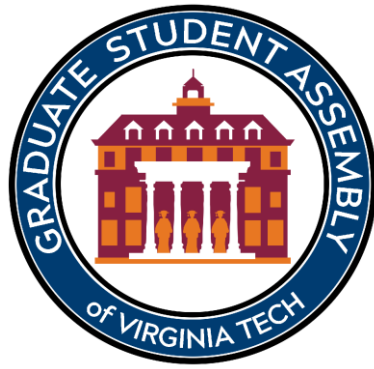


Graduate Student Assembly
of Virginia Tech



Gsa.vt.edu

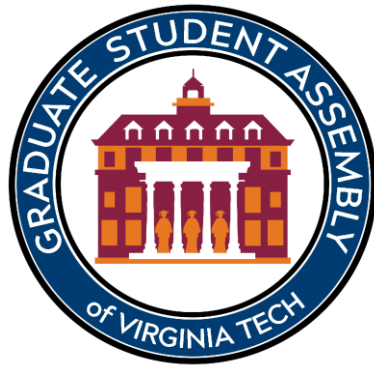
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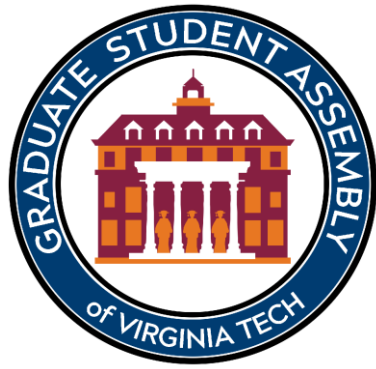


Agenda:

1. Open Forum (15min)
2. GSA Agenda Items
 - a. Motion to change voting procedures
 - b. Resolutions
3. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Diversity
 - b. Grad Comp/Capital Planning
 - c. Student Services
 - d. Going Green
4. Standing Committee Updates
 - a. Finance
 - b. Internal Affairs
 - c. Judicial
5. Exec. Board Updates
 - a. VP
 - b. Finance
 - c. Programs
 - d. Events
 - e. Communications
 - f. Graduate Rep. to BoV
 - g. President
6. Closing/Adjournment

Open Forum

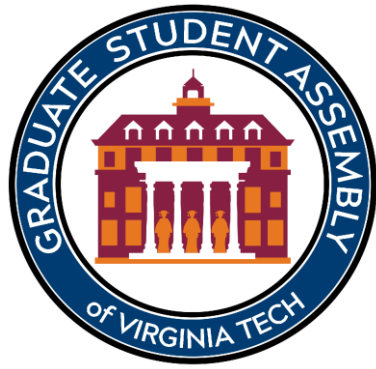




GSA Agenda Items

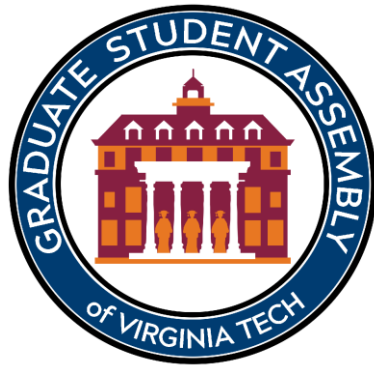
- a. Motion to change voting procedures
- b. Resolutions

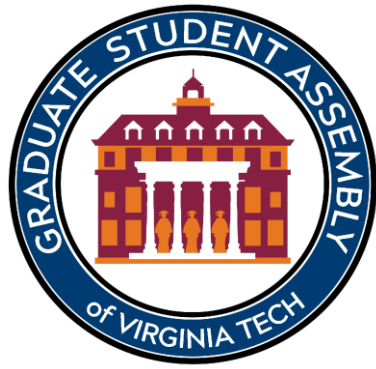
Motion to change voting procedures



Resolutions

- CGPSP_2020-21_A,B
- CFA_2020-21_C,D

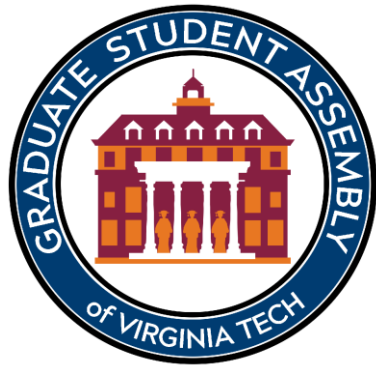




GSA Subcommittee Updates

- Diversity
- Grad Comp/Capital Planning
 - Student Services
 - Going Green

Diversity Subcommittee Update



Finalizing long-term and short-term goals as well as action items next week.

Draft long-term goals include:

1. Improve transparency at Graduate School and department level about recruitment of URM students.
2. Secure additional funding to support URM graduate students.
3. Improve support for equitable experiences for URM graduate students.

Please email Emily Burns with any feedback: emilyb16@vt.edu.



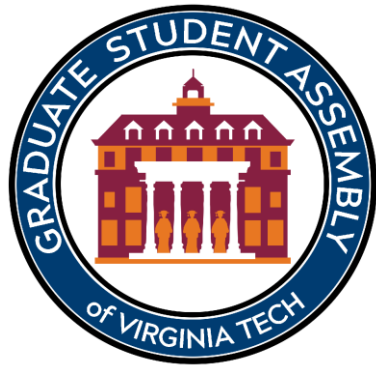
Graduate Student Compensation subcommittee updates

- Thank you to those who responded to the survey that was previously sent out! (over 200 responses)
- Looking for graduate students from a variety of departments who would be willing to answer more detailed questions about financial situations (only identifiable information would be department you belong to)
- Please email Becca Salgado rsalgado97@vt.edu if interested!

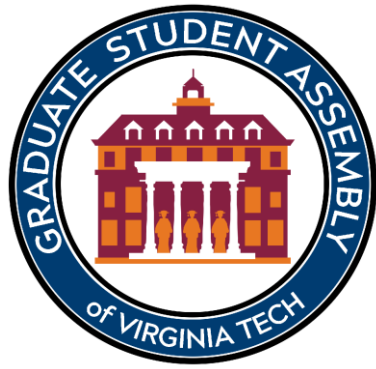


Standing Committee Updates

Finance
Internal Affairs
Judicial



Finance



Graduate SBB (GSBB) Update- Pilot Plan 2021

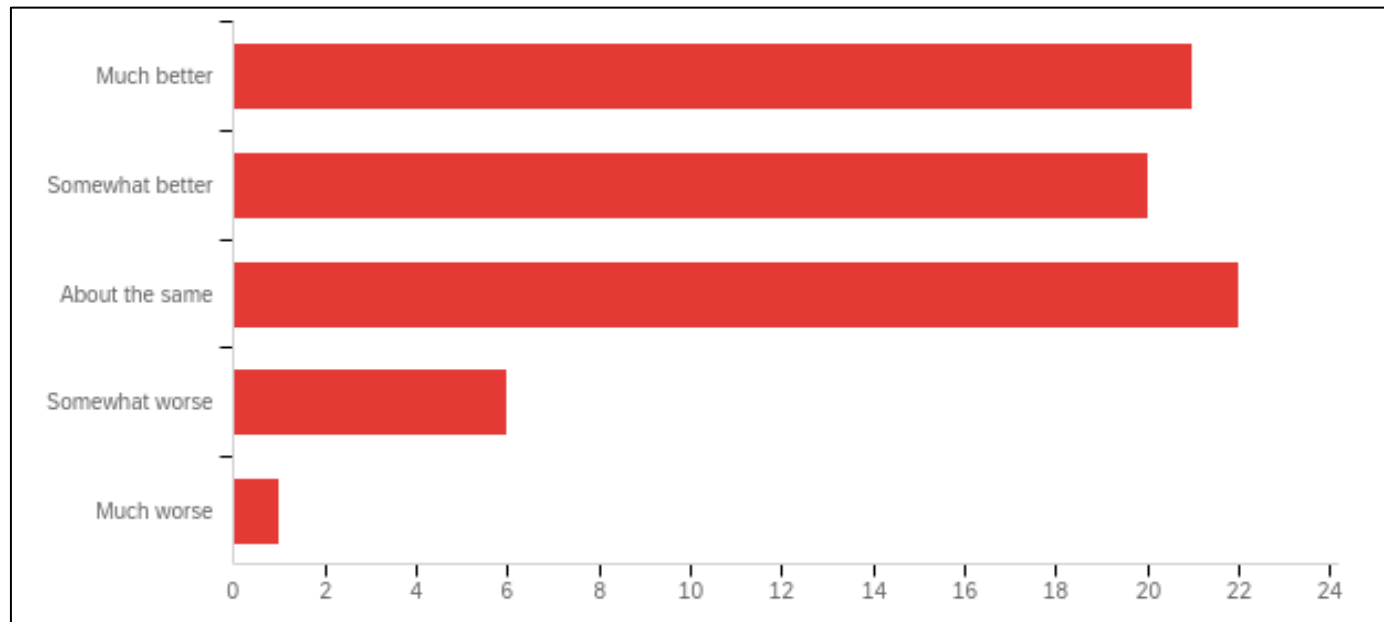
- Pilot (Phase 1) Grad SBB starts March 1, 2021. Items fundable through Aug 1, 2021
- Will only fund orgs with '**graduate**' in their name (during phase 1)
- GSA Finance will establish the structure of the board and get training to allocate funds and draft policy (CSA will need to approve of policy in Feb.
- Will reconvene during Summer 2021 to reevaluate policy & procedure for pilot Phase 2 to take place 2021-2022 academic year

GSBB Survey Response Results



Overall Perception of GSBB?

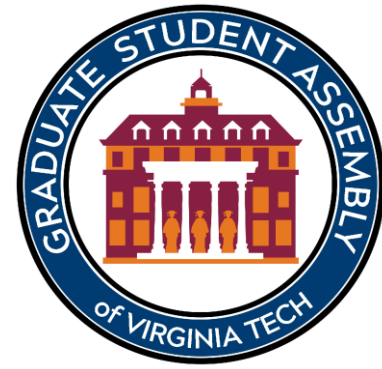
- How do you project you'd feel about the student activity fee following the formation of a graduate student budget board with the intention of using the student activity fee for enriching graduate student experience?



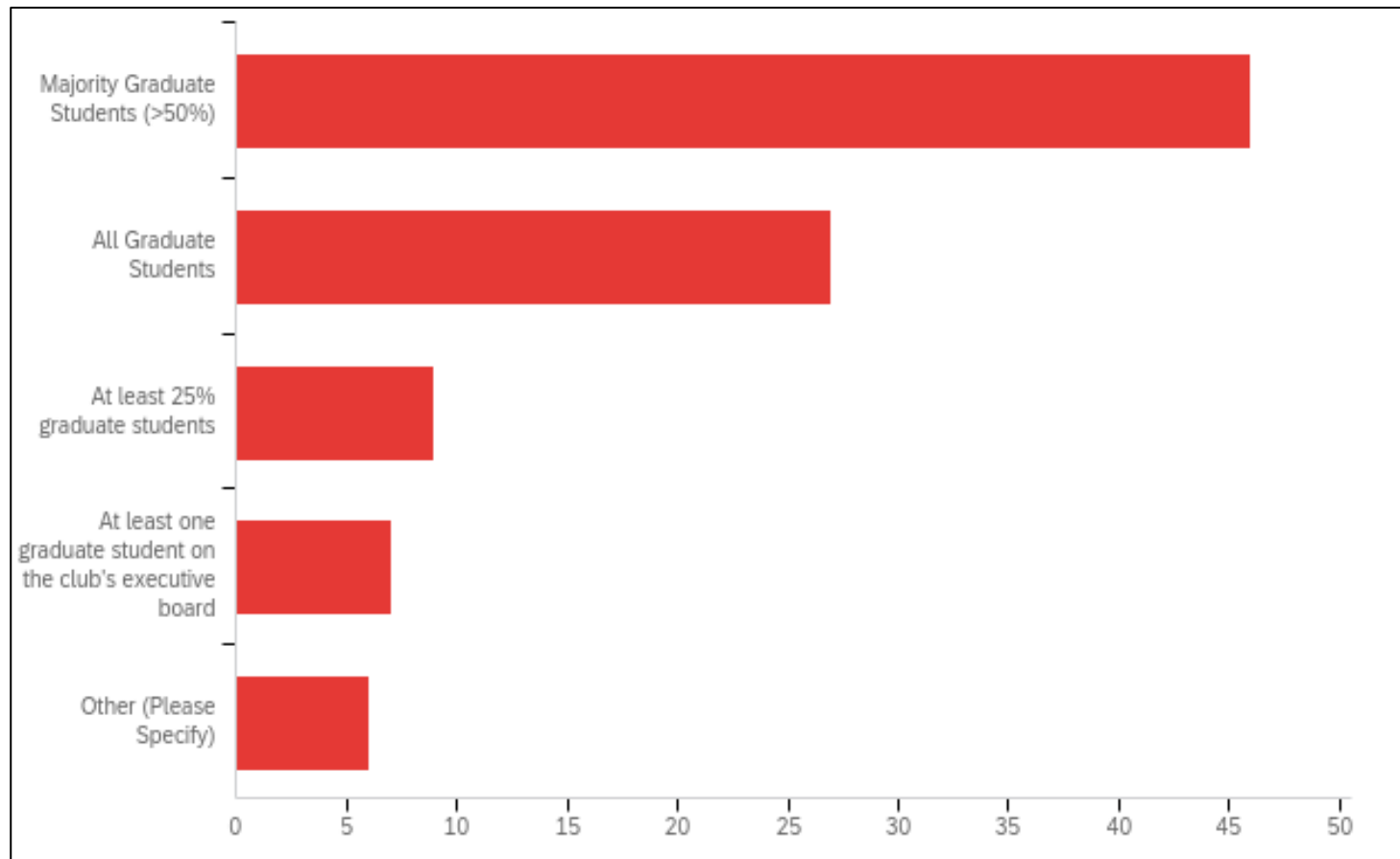
Answer	%
Much better	30.00%
Somewhat better	28.57%
About the same	31.43%
Somewhat worse	8.57%
Much worse	1.43%

59% said somewhat better or much better and 31% said about the same. Very few said somewhat worse or much worse

Defining "graduate student organization"



Which of the following options should constitute a “graduate student organization” in your opinion along with the mission to serve the graduate student community at Virginia Tech?



Budget allocation- Current Expenditure

If you are or have been part of a student organization, which of the following categories does/did your club spend the most money?

Top 4 Categories expense:

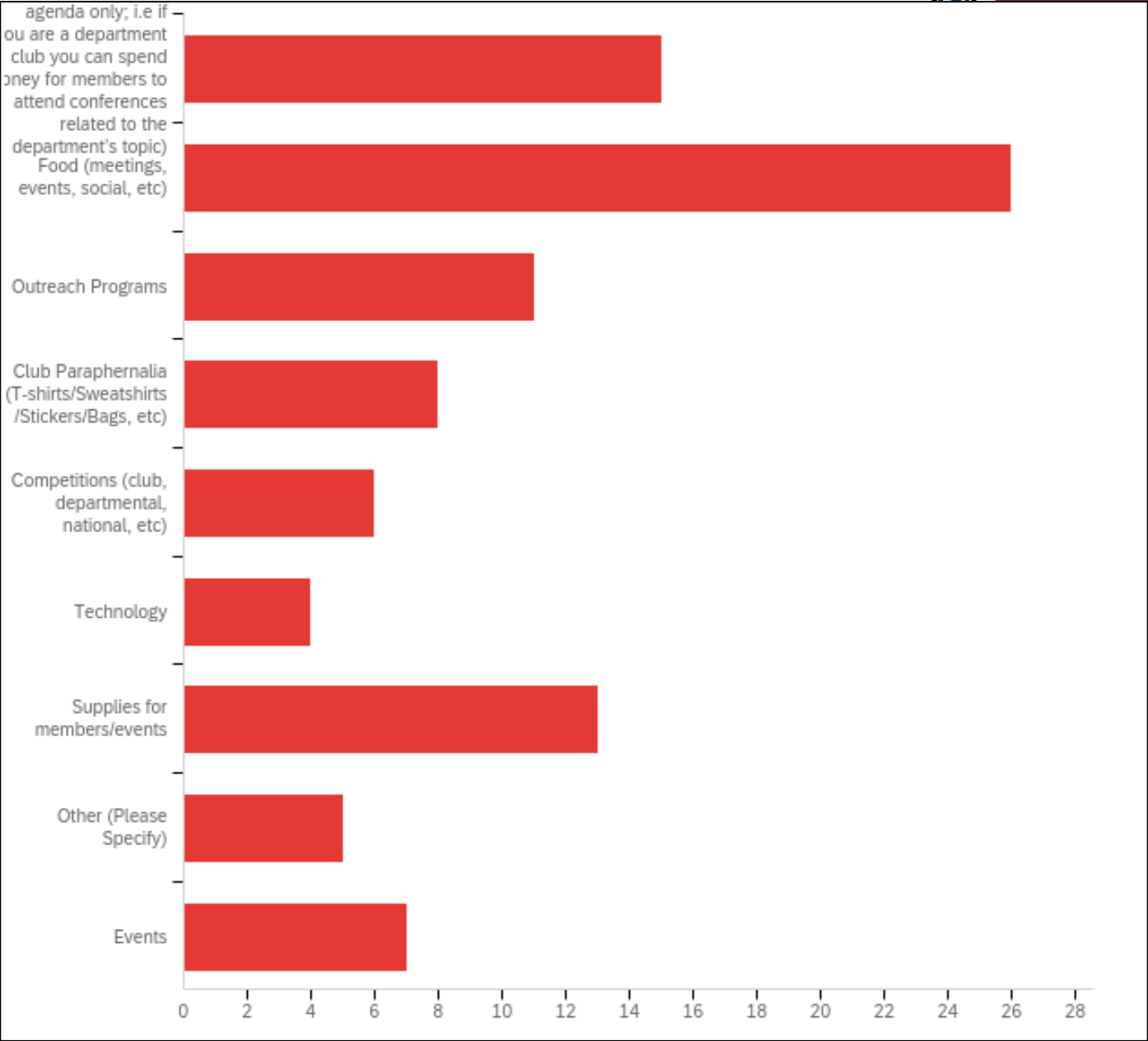
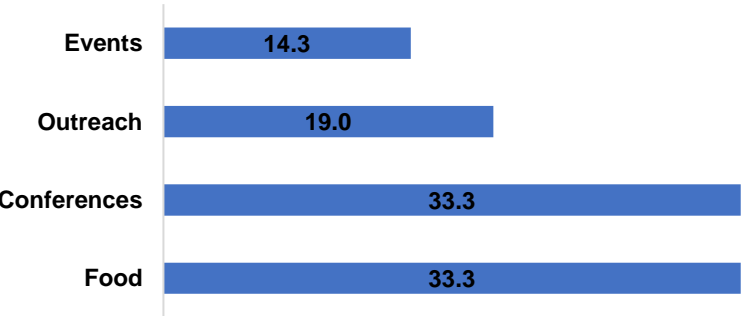
Food- 28%

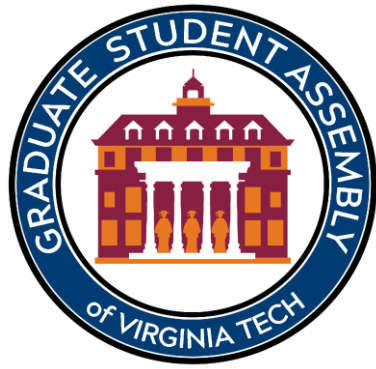
Conferences- 15.8%

Event related- 14%

Outreach programs -11%

With more budget, where would your organization spend the most money?





Internal Affairs/Judicial

GSA Constitutional Overhaul



Problems

- No easy way for an individual to figure out where to bring issues
- Little or no communication with other branches (e.g. Roanoke, etc.)
- Exec board has too much work loaded on them
 - Makes it hard to get anything meaningful done policy-wise
- Transitions from year to year aren't smooth with transfer of information
- The documents, as written, are unapproachable



Mission statement

“The mission of the Graduate Senate is to serve as the unified, collective voice of all graduate students and graduate employees, advocating for our needs among university decision-makers and through university systems; create a vibrant community rooted in a culture of inclusivity and support; ensure access to the resources necessary for scholarly and professional success for when we leave Virginia Tech; and foster a network of coalitions among all graduate departments, programs, and groups to help us achieve these goals.”



Mission statement (summary)

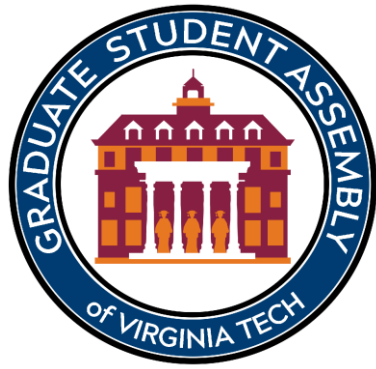
Four main goals of the assembly:

- Advocacy
 - Work with decision makers to address needs of the graduate student body
- *Movement building
 - Help guide departments in forming internal structure for advocacy
 - Use these to have more informed advocacy
- Community building
 - Host large events to connect people, and to help with issue resolution
- Scholarly and Professional Development



Tentative structural changes

- Restructure documents to be more approachable (to follow in next slide)
- Add positions:
 - Advocacy oriented position
 - President Emeritus
 - Chief of Staff
- Construct cabinet to advise president
 - Include people like representatives for Roanoke, post docs, etc.
- Move elections to December/January, so old members are around to help with a smooth and informative transition



New document structure

Split into three separate documents:

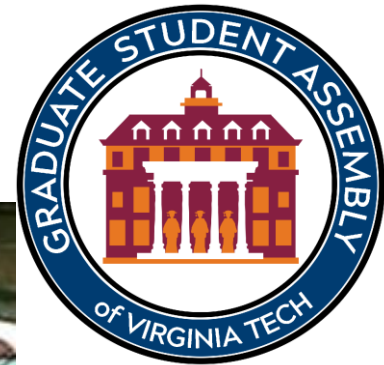
- Constitution
 - High level structure of the assembly
 - Long term goals of the assembly
- Bylaws
 - Specific rules and regulations pertaining to day-to-day goings on
- *Handbook
 - Does not have any legislative influence
 - Reference for position expectations (exec board as well as delegates)
 - Reference for standard assembly procedures



“Why don’t we take all these words....

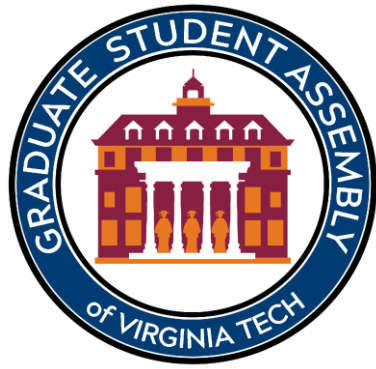


...and push them somewhere else?”





Questions?



Executive Board Updates

VP

Finance

Programs

Events

Communications

Graduate Rep. to BoV



Program Updates

- Fall TFP Cycle complete – more to occur in 2021
- GRDP – spring 2021 – updates will be available soon
- GSARS
 - Currently over \$20k raised in sponsorships
 - Most submissions will be virtual, asynchronous
 - Working on “live” presentation options and scheduling
- Cap and Gown – virtual commencement, so no lottery for F20
 - If interested in renting, please contact gsa-cap-and-gown-g@vt.edu
 - New process – rental cost (\$10) AND materials must be dry cleaned at renter's expense prior to return to prevent holds on student accounts

President: Town Hall



How shared govt *really* works...

How GSA can be effective at advocating for change

Meeting will not be recorded

The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a light purple background. At the top, there is a decorative header with geometric shapes in yellow, orange, and blue. Below this, the text "GSA President Town Hall" is displayed in a large, black, sans-serif font, followed by the date and time "12/10/2020 @6pm" and the URL "bit.ly/Dec2020_TownHall". In the bottom left corner, the GSA logo is repeated. In the bottom right corner, there is a portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a red and white checkered shirt, looking directly at the camera.

Closing/Adjournment

