



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Graduate Student Senate

Meeting of the Whole

March 15th, 2021

20 Senators in attendance

Executive Council Attendees: Avery Rasmussen, Aayudh Das, Jaspreet Nagi, Michael Hoaglund and Rosie Chapina

Attendance was taken via online participation.

Senator attendees and clubs that had a representative present can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

Minutes were recorded by Michael Hoaglund.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Aayudh Das at 4:30pm.

Minutes from the last Senate Meeting on February 22nd, 2020, were approved unanimously and will be released on GSS website.

Executive Board Updates:

President Updates: Avery Rasmussen

- Next steps & progress re: stipends and fees report
- Reorganization working group updates
 - Internal alignment subgroup representative opportunity
 - Graduate student forum Tuesday (3/16 at 4:30pm)
- New DOSA spring 2021 outdoor programming committee representative opportunity
- Food insecurity initiative updates
- Upcoming programming & events!

Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Co-Curricular Work Group Committee: Rosie Chapina

Subgroups

1. Diversity Inventory and Curricular Group
2. Everfi Bias Module Group

Points raised

1. Will there be a standing DEI Work Group after our work comes to an end?
2. A workshop for international students that focuses/expands on discussing racial justice
3. Implement a required course (e.g., Rubenstein course) that encompasses DEI
 - Implement guidelines and safety precautions when doing fieldwork
 - What to do when you experience racial slurs/microaggressions

Committee Updates:

GSS Career Services Update (Michael Hoaglund)

- GSS Career Services Survey Analysis
- Discussed Career Resources currently utilized and underutilized by UVM Graduate students
- Discussed gaps in current UVM Career Center dissemination and resources

Updates:

- Regular meetings with UVM Career Center Director – Pamela Gardner
- Developing channels for proper communication to Graduate Students
- Graduate College newsletter, Graduate College Website, UVM Career Center Website
- Defining roles for program advisors vs. UVM Career Center
- Upcoming Graduate Student Career Workshops! (Expected week of April 12th)
 - Elevator Pitch Workshop
 - Negotiating Salary Workshop
 - Both followed by an “After party” (15 min Q&A)
 - Stay tuned for updates!

Discussion with Speakers:

Erica Caloiero, Vice Provost of Student Affairs (Interim)

Opening Remarks

- Discussed how she is the interim Vice Provost of Student Affairs and is filling the role of Annie Stevens who filled this role for the past 25 years
- Expressed desire to open a dialogue with GSS

Q & A with Students

- The housing concerns regarding Graduate Students was discussed,
 - Specifically, how a more centralized process is needed
 - Discussed having a follow up meeting with GSS Housing Committee to discuss this issue further
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion concerns were brought up with two alarming statistics
 - 25% of UVM students report experiencing discrimination
 - 29% of UVM students report experiencing Food Insecurity
- Erica noted that while efforts are being made, she does not think these issues are being addressed systematically
- She discussed the issues, questions and concerns with Graduate Students and was happy to set up more meetings to discuss these concerns

Meeting was adjourned at 5:38pm.

Appendix 1 – Senator Attendees

#	Full Name	Programs
1	Andrew Nadeau	Physical Therapy
2	George Love	Mechanical Engineering
3	Emma Rose Horowitz-McCadden	Interprofessional Health Sciences
4	Atoosa Parsa	Complex Systems and Data Science
5	Irfan Tahir	Mechanical Engineering
6	Sandra Nnadi	Plant Biology
7	Aya Cheaito	Clinical Psychology
8	Suraj Bhattarai	Animal Biosciences
9	Mohamad Rabieh Khalifeh Khalife	Neuroscience
10	Baxter Worthing	Plant Biology
11	Mari Tomanelli	Medical Laboratory Sciences
12	Christopher Halsted	Natural Resources
13	Melina Harris	Sustainable Innovation MBA
14	Berke Tinaz	Plant Biology
15	Colin Giles	Mathematics
16	Collin Mitchell	Accountancy
17	Alison Hall	Biology
18	Abigail Rec	Natural Resources
19	Holly Paige Chaos	Mathematics
20	Jenan Husain	Neuroscience

Clubs with a representative present: ISA, NSA, Women in STEM, RGSA, DPT Club