

GSS GENERAL BODY MINUTES



The University of Vermont

Date: 02/25/2022

Time: 0802 - 0900

Facilitator: Graduate Student Senate

President Report

Rosie presented conversations from the Graduate Executive Committee (GEC)

- Stipends will be determined using the Vermont Basic Needs Budget
- Reason master stipends aren't using the same metric as doctoral students is to be addressed
- Discussion at the committee of the level of the comprehensive fee and the elements that are included in the fee

Question regarding the Comprehensive fee

- Rosie has access to the list and will provide it to the graduate student senators

Comment regarding transparency of the stipends and GEC committee letter

- Interest in getting the letter that Dean Forehand will be sending regarding what was discussed at GEC that will be sent to the Council of Deans

Meeting with the graduate college to discuss workload of graduate teaching assistants

- First step in addressing the apparent overworking of graduate students
- Survey to go out next month

Vice President's Report

Meeting with Dean Forehand

- The dean would like to meet with all of the committees
- Committee chairs should contact Rhonda Lynn with the scheduled meeting times
 - o Concern voiced by several (4) senators regarding attendance of Dean Forehand at committee meeting
 - o Concern voiced by senator that the concern of Dean Forehand's attendance relates to lack of trust with the administration

- Interest from the committee chairs for this to be an opt-in opportunity and for time to be given for discussion at the committees
- Comment by Vice President Beach regarding the nature of Dean Forehand's request being less observational and more inquisitive/collaborative
- Executive board members will bring the opt-in suggestion to Dean Forehand at their meeting next week

Discussion of how graduate housing is offered

- Priority advertising to international students for 2 weeks, followed by GradNet advertisement

GSS-Sponsored Development and Advertisement of Events by Senators

- Session hosted on February 11th (1430-1600 on Friday) had zero attendees
- Inquiry regarding why students did not attend and curiosity as to what students are interested in attending
 - Attendance may be related to timing – mixed suggestion to avoid Fridays
 - Conflict in timing for lab-science and non-lab-science programs
 - Lack of advertisement regarding the GSS events
 - Advertisement expected through the GSS meetings
 - Lack of awareness of the content that is present in the emails
 - More social media outreach from GSS
 - Role of senators in presenting events to their constituents
 - Potential relation to the amount of time worked by graduate students
 - ACTION ITEM: discuss the topic of scheduling at subsequent meetings
 - Senators are interested in seeing a list of potential professional development topics
 - Request for involvement from committees in planning events

Secretary's Update

Minutes have been approved for the December Meeting on 12/03/2021

The minutes were read from the August meeting and approved.

- Motioned by Paul Suk-Hyun Yoon
- Seconded by Daniel Munteanu

Discussion on Sexual Violence Prevention Council

- Comment by senators on welcoming Elliot Ruggles into the UVM community; outreach by individual graduate students to welcome Dr. Ruggles into our community

Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Committee Proposal

Review of the proposal from the SAPE committee on *Campus Community Timely Alert Notifications for Off-Campus Crimes* (See last page for details)

Discussion of the Proposal

- What area would be covered by the proposal?

- This would be decided by the program designed by the Administration. Current proposal does not include specifics of this nature.
- Suggestion of using the UVM Proximate Zone as a starting point for the area
- Has SGA been approached for co-sponsorship?
 - Topic has not been discussed yet. SAPE committee chair (Justin Salisbury) feels this would be a good opportunity for SGA collaboration

Call to Vote by Holly Paige Chaos, Seconded by Baxter Worthing

- Vote by general consent. No dissent on the motion. The resolution passes

New Business

Concern voiced by senator regarding comments by faculty advisors regarding GSS as a distraction

- Senators have experienced comments from advisors that acting as a senator is not a primary role of graduate students
- Concern voiced by senators regarding the ideal venue for this discussion, may not be an element for a GSS General Body Meeting
- GSS Exec Board could put together a suggestion list for how to approach these conversations with advisors
- Additional senator opinions:
 - service is an important part of being an academic; professors have to perform service as advisors, reviewers and committee members

Discussion on the Planning of meetings

- Senator feels that meeting should be either virtual or in-person, but a hybrid meeting may not capture as many students
- Planning for meetings that are in-person would need to consider the timing and accessibility of the meetings
- Survey will be sent out to determine level of interest in in-person or virtual events
 - Additional determination on masking or non-masking for in-person meetings

Discussion of senators hosting informal meetings

- Senators can host informal meetings at their own leisure
- Suggestion by Paul Suk-Hyun Yoon to have informal meetings at the Allen House

Committee Updates

Discussion regarding the 2022 UVM Campus Climate Survey

- Importance of all campus community members voicing their experiences
- Feedback will be used to inform the university policy, DEI strategic planning,
- Survey can be accessed at: go.uvm.edu/climatesurvey

Announcements

Coffee Hour being hosted by GSS in the Davis Center following this meeting (02/25/2022 from 0900 – 1100)

GSS Bowling Event hosted on Tuesday March 1st from 1800. See GSS newsletter for details

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 22nd at 1800

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:00 p.m. and was passed unanimously.

Resolution Urging the University Administration to Establish a System to Alert Students, Faculty, and Staff of Off-Campus Crimes

Whereas, graduate students at the University of Vermont routinely live off-campus; and

Whereas, some of the violent crimes and hate crimes committed on campus are reported to the campus community through the CAT ALERT system; and

Whereas, violent crimes and hate crimes committed against students, faculty, and staff beyond the property lines of the UVM campus are not reported to the campus community through any formal system; and

Whereas, students, faculty, and staff ordinarily travel through properties and areas adjacent to the UVM campus; and

Whereas, crimes that occur near the University campus create relevant safety concerns for the University community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Senate urges the University Administration to create an opt-in timely alert notification system and protocols, which could involve expanding existing timely alert notification systems, for alerting the campus community of crimes committed against members of the UVM community beyond the boundaries of the campus of the University of Vermont.

