



# THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

## Graduate Student Senate

### Meeting of the Whole

**April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

19 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 March 15th, 2021, were approved unanimously and will be released on GSS website.

### Executive Board Updates:

#### GSS Election Updates – Aayudh Das

- Formal vote from **April 19th-21st**
- Results by 28th April
- Write in campaign must consist of **at least 10% of the ballots cast**
- If you have questions, feel free reach out-

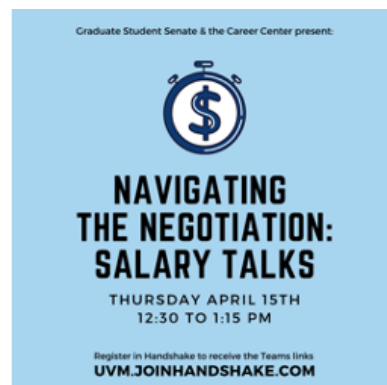
- Aayudh Das (chair, plant biology, [aayudh.das@uvm.edu](mailto:aayudh.das@uvm.edu))
- Avery Rasmussen (public health, [aerasmus@uvm.edu](mailto:aerasmus@uvm.edu))
- Sandra Nnadi (plant biology, [sandra.nnadi@uvm.edu](mailto:sandra.nnadi@uvm.edu))
- Kamruzzaman Khan (civil and environmental engineering, [kamruzzaman.khan@uvm.edu](mailto:kamruzzaman.khan@uvm.edu))

### President Updates: Avery Rasmussen

- Updates re: stipends, housing & fees
- Reorganization working group updates
  - Campus-wide Reorganization Brainstorming Session on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00pm
- “Fun” committee representative opportunity
- Food Insecurity initiative updates
- Upcoming Events:
  - Graduate Student Food, Financial & Mental Health Resource Information Session on Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
  - Food Pop-Up April 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm
  - Bias Response Team Graduate Community Gathering on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:30pm
  - Bias Step Up Session on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:00pm

### GSS Career Services Update: Mike Hoaglund

- **Tomorrow @ 12:30pm and Thursday @ 12:30pm**
- **Sign up via Handshake**
- **Please reach out with any questions: [mhoaglund@uvm.edu](mailto:mhoaglund@uvm.edu)**



## New Business:

### Resolution: To Call Upon the University of Vermont to Combat the Erasure of Queer and Trans Students

- Max Cordes Galbraith presented the resolution to Senate

*Motion to move Resolution to Emergency Business approved.*

*Motion to approve Resolution.*

*Motion approved (28 yes vs. 0 no).*

## Discussion with Speaker:

Kerry Castano,

### Discussion of Amorous Relationships Policy

- Opened discussion with Graduate Students their perspective on this policy
- Policy prohibits faculty/staff from having relationships with students if they have current and direct professional responsibilities over that student
- Proposed changes include prohibiting employees from engaging in an amorous relationship with:
  - with a graduate student in the same department and/or graduate program
  - with a graduate student if the employee has influence or authority over other academic experiences/requirements of the graduate student
- Also prohibits amorous relationships between graduate students and undergraduate for whom they have “educational responsibility”

## Q & A with Students

- Graduate Students expressed concern about current relationships and making sure they are grandfathered in with regards to this policy
- Graduate Students noted how the language needs further clarification on graduate student vs. employee standing as about 8% of graduate students are also employees
- A senator also noted how this policy should not interfere with students that are authentically in love and there should be language included in this policy to prevent that

*Meeting was adjourned at 5:31pm.*

## Appendix 1 – Senator Attendees

#	Full Name	Programs
1	Andrew Nadeau	Physical Therapy
2	George Love	Mechanical Engineering
3	Patrick Payne	Public Health
4	Marcus Weinman	Cellular, Molecular, & Biomedical Sciences
5	Irfan Tahir	Mechanical Engineering
6	Jenan Husain	Neuroscience
7	Max Cordes Galbraith	Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration
8	Ekraj Dahal	Materials Science
9	Mohamad Rabieh Khalifeh Khalife	Neuroscience
10	Baxter Worthing	Plant Biology
11	Liana Redmond	Counseling
12	Montana Lara	Neuroscience
13	Jayita Barua	Cellular, Molecular, & Biomedical Sciences
14	Berke Tinaz	Plant Biology
15	Colin Giles	Mathematics
16	Collin Mitchell	Accountancy
17	Alison Hall	Biology
18	Abigail Rec	Natural Resources
19	Maaz Sattar	Biomedical Engineering

**Clubs with a representative present:** CMC, SACNAS, Women in STEM, RGSA, IRSA