

GSS GENERAL BODY MINUTES



The University of Vermont

Date: 11/18/2021

Time: 1900-1933

Facilitator: Graduate Student Senate, Microsoft Teams

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the 11/05/21 GSS Meeting were approved

Motion to approve minutes by Holly Paige, Seconded by Collin Giles; no dissent

Executive Board Updates

❖ Vice-President's Update

- Outlined and reminded everyone of the rules of engagement (attached at the end of this document)

❖ Secretary Updates

- The search committee is currently going through the process of first-round interviews for the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator.

Club Recognition

- oSTEM: A national LGBTQ affirming organization that provides services and support to LGBTQ students in STEM
 - No objections from Senate → Approve

Committee Reports

❖ Compensation and Benefits Committee (by Baxter Worthing)

- Presented slides that were presented to graduate faculty last week.
- Outlined the progress on fees and recommendations from the Compensation and Benefits Committee.
- The administration should continue to decrease comprehensive fees by \$50 per year until it reaches \$1000/year.
- Presented recommendations on tuition and international student support: For students in unfunded professional doctoral programs, ensure tuition frozen for the duration of their time in the program, continue exploring variable tuition rates to reduce costs for programs without funding for students, and explore resources available to international students and build a database of opportunities.

- Presented recommendations for stipends such as increasing minimum doctoral stipend to that outlined Vermont Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage document, increase master's stipends in an equitable manner compared to increase in doctoral stipends and encourage more applications for individuals and university training grants and other means to secure stipends for unfunded students in eligible doctoral programs.
- Talked in detail about the "Vermont Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage". It is a market-based analysis that accounts for estimated monthly living expenses in Vermont. The full report can be accessed here: <https://lifo.vermont.gov/assets/Subjects/Basic-Needs-Budgets/1defd5222f/2021-Basic-Needs-Budget-and-Livable-Wage-report-FINAL-1-16-2021.pdf>
- Presented comments on the data presented by Dean Forehand. According to Baxter's analysis (based on Vermont Basic Needs Budget and Livable Wage), Graduate Students should earn \$36,308 a year as a living wage if not sharing a room. If sharing, then this number goes down to \$29,658 as the rent goes down.

❖ Housing Committee (by Jenan Husain)

- The second committee meeting will be this week.
- Please reach out to Jenan (jhusain@uvm.edu) for ideas on helpful online housing resources.
- Is working on cleaning and analysis of housing survey data.

❖ Graduate Student Advocacy & Experience Committee (by Tate Moeller)

- Will be sending out a form to give out gift cards for grocery expenses.
- Will be updating the GSS Pawbook by the end of the year.
- Working on services for incoming students in Spring 2022: airport pickups, campus tours and mentorship programs.

Announcements

Advertised a professional development session next semester (Friday, Feb 11, 2:30pm in the Sugar Maple Room in the Davis Center).

Next Meeting

Friday, December 3 | 0900, MS Teams

Motion to adjourn the meeting made at 1933, no dissent. Meeting adjourned at 1933