

GENERAL BODY MEETING MINUTES



The University of Vermont

Date: 05/06/2022

Time: 0800-0900

Facilitator: Graduate Student Senate Vice-President, Miki Beach

Meeting Start

Called to order at 0803 having met quorum

Executive Council Reports

President's Report

- Overview of upcoming events and events that have recently been completed
 - o Board of Trustees Meeting,
 - o Request for help with the last mixer event
- Discussion of Senator duties
 - o Issue that many students don't know what is happening with the senate
 - o Do senators read newsletters and communicate with their department?
 - o Ideas for how to ensure more effective communication:
 - Challenge on disseminating the emails to other graduate students in other programs and departments

Vice-president Report

- Call for 2022/2023 senators will go out this weekend, 05/07
- Graduate student graduation will be hosted 05/21 at 1230

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the 04/26/2022 meeting

Motioned by: Colin Giles, seconded by: Paul Suk-Hyun Yoon

No dissent, motion passes

Budget

Alison Hall, GSS Treasurer, introduced the 2022/2023 budget

- Discussion of inability to utilize all of the Food Sharing Budget
- Reallocation of funds for some senate meetings to events
 - o Done to account for rising costs of events

Vote: 10 yea – 0 nay – 0 abstentions

Motion passes

Old Business

- Resolution to remove name of Justin Morrill from Morrill Hall
 - o Removal of the name on the building in relation to settler colonialism, the building's name does not meet the values of GSS and UVM
 - o The resolution is in conjunction with a similar resolution in SGA
 - o Discussion:
 - Comments in support of the resolution and thanks for Justin Salisbury bringing the motion to the floor
 - o Motion for a Vote on the Resolution:
 - Motioned by: Nick Gayton
 - Seconded by: Colin Giles
 - No dissent
 - Vote: 10 yea – 0 nay – 0 abstention
 - Resolution Passes

New Business

Compensation and Benefits Committee Update

- Fee data shared by Richard Cate, questions remain
 - o Significant challenges faced in collecting the data
- Total revenue generated through graduate student fees has steadily increased
 - o Number of students has increased, despite decline in fees
- Recommendation by committee chair to continue pressuring the administration on the topic of graduate student fees
- Granularity issue in fee allocation
 - o Majority allocated to:
 1. Center for Health and Wellbeing
 2. Recreation, Wellness, and Athletics (desire to disaggregate this field)
 3. Davis Center
 - o Majority of fees seem to be allocated to costs of lesser interest to graduate students
- Discussion:
 - o Identity Center fee: historically this has only been taken from undergraduate student fees. Confusion on identity centers not seeing funding from graduate

student fees. This may be a mistake on the behalf of Finance and Administration Department.

- Large collection of missing data in this field

TA/RA Survey Results (Slides at the end of the document)

- Stipends have been finalized for FY 2023
 - o Stipends are set to increase at 7.8% to \$29,658, 12-month stipend (Doctoral)
 - 9-month Doctoral stipends will see the same increase
 - Master stipends will see an increase of roughly 6%
 - o Meeting the living wage for the Vermont Basic Needs Budget
- Workload Survey
 - o 30% overall response rate (1/3 Master's, 2/3 Doctoral)
 - o Discussion of the components of the funding package – 27 hours of course/research and 20 towards assistantship
 - o Survey asked about hours worked towards assistantship (should be 20 hours)
 - Complications around data collected for GRA students working on their own research as they may have an appropriate workload of 47 hours
 - Majority of GTA's reported a substantial number of students working more than 20 hours per week
 - Data will be better analyzed over the summer and working to build a more comprehensive survey
 - General conclusion: majority of students are working more than they need to be, worry of students to advocate for themselves, breakdown of relationship between students and supervisor.
 - Potential to develop an 'itemized' contract for workload

Introduction of Elliot Ruggles, LICSW, PhD

- Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Coordinator
- Working on better methods to communicate with Dr. Ruggles
 - o [Calendly](#) or email (Elliot.Ruggles@uvm.edu)--- At the moment
- Has connected with several graduate students to better understand graduate student life
- Discussion of the work that Dr. Ruggles is tasked with at UVM
 - o Large part of the work relates to power
 - Graduate students have complex dynamics with power
 - o Discussion of family planning among graduate students
 - Ensuring equal opportunity in this space
- Has been working with the Title IX office
- Considers themselves a private resource, though not a confidential resource

Comprehensive Sustainability Plan (CSP)

- Presented by Elizabeth Palchak, Director of Sustainability
- What sustainability means at UVM
 - o Health environment and health societies
- Creation of a feasible and measurable goals with the intention to present the plan with the university in Fall 2022

- Intention to collaborate/support the State of Vermont and VT Climate Action Plan
- Key Themes
 - o Resilience, education, health & wellbeing, equity
- Request for senators to complete the CSP survey



Survey Link:

- o <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WHcXHGtN3EOq6zucQlYpZ4dbyHWeXcxFsfu69Exc16xURTVJvjZFofRSV0c2QU8wQU5WSkhQQ0MzWi4u>

Announcements

Thanks for the work of the Senators and Administrative support staff

Next Meeting

The 2021/2022 Senate is adjourned until the 2022/2023 semester.
Motion to adjourn was made at 0900 and was passed unanimously

- Slides from Dean Forehand Update and GA/GTA/GRA survey (below)

Dean Forehand Update and GA/GTA/GRA survey

FY 23 Stipends for graduate students funded with assistantships (GA/GTA/GRA)

GSS asked that we set minimum doctoral stipends at the living wage determined by the Vermont Basic Needs Budget. We did that (and added the cost of fees).

FY 23 minimum 12-month doctoral stipend is \$29,658. That's a 7.8% increase over FY 22.

GSS also asked that we bring master's stipends to the same level over a multi-year period with at least a 5% increase next year. We raised master's stipends for FY 23 by 6%.

FY 23 minimum master's 12 month stipend is \$23,802.

Dean Forehand Update and GA/GTA/GRA survey

Results

30% overall return (162/544); of those ~1/3 master's, 2/3 doctoral

Response rates by type of funding: 57% of GAs, 41% of GTAs, 25% of GT/RAs, 21% of GRAs

53% of responders said they routinely worked more than 20 hours/week

Big caveat: many -- especially GRAs whose GRA assignment was for their own research -- responded about their total effort rather than their GRA assignment.

Most robust data is the GTA data as they clearly responded specifically about their GTA duties and it's a big group.

56% of doctoral GTAs and 35% of master's GTAs indicated they consistently worked more than 20 hrs per week