Graduate Student Association Meeting Agenda
Date: September 21, 2020
Time: 5:45-7:20
Location: Virtual Meeting
Presiding Officer: Holly Gruntner (President)

1. Welcome/Introductions
   a. All officers present
   b. All reps present, except: History (Philip standing in) & Applied Science
   c. 24 in attendance: 18 officers + reps & 6 graduate students

2. Public Comment (recorded on Zoom)
   a. COVID testimonials for GSAB meeting

3. Officer’s Reports
   a. President, Holly Gruntner
      i. Grad Town Hall with live Q&A: to be held Thursday, October 1st, at 3pm with Deans Velleca and Torczon
      ii. COVID Survey for A&S grad students
      iii. New Chemistry Rep - Kayla Copeman
      iv. OGSR finance updates
         1. OGSR is committed to fund current grad students
         2. Future grad admissions may be suspended
         3. No OGSR Dean’s Research Grants this year.
      v. Graduate Council updates – October Trivia night upcoming, as well as mental health workshops
      vi. Black Lives Matter Merchant Square Protests: Taking place on Confusion Corner on Saturdays, 12-2pm to 2/1:30pm, grad students encouraged to attend.
      vii. Vice President, Tomos Evans
      viii. Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS) meeting update:
         1. GREs for new admissions may be made optional or totally suspended (on a Dept. by Dept. basis)
         2. COGS pushing for more graduate resources at the Cohen career center, as well as more post-doctoral positions to further support grad students
         3. Free grad student health insurance coverage discussed

b. Treasurer, Justin Cammarota
   i. GSA departmental allocations are forthcoming, more updates soon
   ii. Departments must spend funds on mission critical issues
   iii. Seeking Public Policy Department Rep

c. Secretary, Taylor Triplett (No Report)

d. Parliamentarian, Zeke Wertz
i. New constitutional amendment underway to grant GSAB reps voting rights and to formalize the Dean’s Advisory Committee
ii. Foundation documents located in the GSA google drive

**e. SA Rep, Chardé Reid**

i. Proposed & Passed Legislation
   1. Executive Order for the Annual **Budget**
      a. SA funds awarded last year may be reclaimed until Oct. 12, events must follow Covid-19 safety guidelines
   2. The No Class on Election Day **Resolution**
   3. The More Compost Bins on Campus **Act**
      a. Check out the additional compost bins at Grad Plex!
   4. The Memorial Art Display **Act**
   5. The Subsidized Emergency Contraception **Act**
   6. The VIMS Liaison **Act**

ii. The **Principles of Naming and Renaming Working Group** needs more BIPOC student feedback

iii. Monthly **Open Forums** with Chief Cheesebro

iv. Grad Council approves an additional SA position for the Law School

v. **Be the Reason & Six Feet of Fun** campus initiatives

**f. Social Chair, Phillip Emmanuel (No Report – See Journal Club updates)**

**g. GSAB Reps, Alexandra Macdonald and Casey McLaughlin**

i. Graduate Student Advisory Board: a group of Alumni from the college who advocate and provide funding for grad student initiatives

ii. GSAB reps will request:
   1. Reinstatement of OGSR research grants
   2. Remote teaching assistance: small awards to help students with remote teaching costs,
   3. (Possibly) Covid relief fund: a generalized fund to help Covid-related food insecurity, living expense issues, etc. Will need to avoid “Heart Fund” overlap:
      a. [https://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/heartfund/index.php](https://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/heartfund/index.php)
   4. Funded extensions for graduate students in need of extensions
   5. Free graduate student health insurance
   6. (Possibly) Waiving testing fees for grad students or alternatively advocating for more frequent on-campus tests for grad students who are required to be on campus

**h. Journal Club, Justin Cammarota and Jim Rick**

i. Tomos presenting October 8th

ii. Spread the word about future talks

**i. Department Rep. updates?**

i. Hannah, CS – Seeking help for the GSA website among CS students

ii. Chardé – Anthropology Department is holding its Sutlive lecture October 1st at 5pm

4. **DEI Committee Updates – Tomos, Philip**

a. DEI Committee will present at the GSAB meeting
b. DEI Task Groups: Events coordination, Funding initiatives, and Mentorship program

5. **Open Floor – Everyone**
   a. Arts & Sciences grads who live in Williamsburg but have no plans to come to campus this semester and would prefer not to take a COVID test, they can email COVIDResponse@wm.edu to be exempted. The team has been granting exceptions to all A&S grads who say they won't be on campus.

6. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:20pm**