

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
(<https://www.wm.edu/offices/procurement/covid-19-purchasing-support-and-cost-containment-plan/index.php>)
- 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>
 - 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**