I. Welcome & Introductions
   A. Began at: 6:02 pm
   B. Attendance:
      1. Officers: Tomos, Justin, Zeke, Ali, Marie, Jen, Felipe, Leah
      2. Reps: Heather, Patrick (for Moira), Maggie, Kevin, Laurel, Annabelle, Elliot, Molly/Meagan, Spenser, Victoria, Elixabeth

II. Officer Reports
   A. President (Tomos)
      a) Dean committee has 2 reps from GSA, will add updates to agendas
      b) Diversity committee has rep
   2. COGS meeting update
      a) Dean came to one meeting, wants ideas on how to expand graduate studies
      b) Want our ideas, such as initiatives (synergizing different departments?)
      c) Leah replacing Tomos, so let her know
         (1) If dept reps want, ask at any department meetings (next meeting of COGS is next week)
         (2) Will send out general request email as well
   3. Grad Council update
      a) Needs people for officer roles on Grad Council: VP, Treasurer, Events Chair
      b) VIMS fall celebration (outdoor BBQ), this Saturday (10/16), all you can eat/drink
      c) Grad Bash, 11/6 Matoaka Amphitheatre
      d) Need replacement for Tomos on Grad Council

   B. Vice President (Marie)
      1. Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Meeting report
         a) Health Care subsidies: should be guaranteed for the future, cautiously optimistic they will increase
            (1) deadline for spring subsidy is 11/10
            (2) want to give them out before have to pay for spring insurance, hopefully the same process for summer
            (3) Some input from students about how helpful would be good testimonials to include
(4) Higher level insurance: if we are to be taxed as students, cannot get same benefits as faculty/staff (better for us to be taxed as students)
b) Graduate Research Symposium: will not return this year, but should be back by 2022-2023
   (1) Need volunteers to organize (only (?) Tomos left)
   (2) Ranges in size, 5 or 6 people last time to work with Chasity
   (3) Plan sessions, review abstracts, but don't pick winners
c) Call for input

C. Treasurer (Jen)
   1. Vote to approve budget
      a) Similar to previous years
      b) Extra money from unused GSA meeting funds for JC
      c) Professor Round table occurring this year?
      d) Motioned to approve budget, seconded
         (1) Passed by unanimous consent

D. Senate Representative (Leah)
   1. No relevant discussions this past month, COVID discussion stopped by president because admin can’t do anything else
      a) SA meeting occurred after GSA meeting, see attached notes about relevant information

E. Social Chair (Cam)
   1. Working on more socials

F. Parliamentarian (Zeke)
   1. Add GRS information?

G. Secretary (Justin)
   1. Officer Profile Surveys

H. GSAB (Felipe, Ali)
   1. GSAB Meeting outcomes/discussion
      a) Healthcare subsidies: broad sweep of Virginia schools-most have 100%, GSAB is pushing for 75% (currently 60%)
b) OGSR aware of COVID ongoing, so research delays have funding support in place
c) Partnership between grad center and career center: Sarah sending out emails with resources (10/1 about partnership, another about software for teaching or academic skills for "Real world" -Aurora)
d) Weekly lunches with professionals if people want advice
e) First in-person JC on Thursday, one member of GSAB (Gale Wertz) might want to speak at JC and help connect alumni with virtual JC options
f) Dean Virginia is stepping down after 8-9 years, restructuring position: Dean of Research and Graduate Studies
(1) Handbook, faculty, and safeties for graduate studies at other universities lacking here at W&M
(2) Try and get grad student representation when developing this new position
(3) Members of GSAB concerned as well
(4) Talk to OGSR as well about this
(5) Would like to know how this restructure is supposed to help graduate students or the Arts & Sciences in general
g) Emphasize Food Bank: resource for graduate students as well

I. Journal Club (Caroline, Tim)
   1. Annabelle standing in: upcoming JC talk on Thursday, in-person (hybrid: Zoom link sent out for those who are unable to attend) with pizza and drinks, however be conscious of mask wearing when not eating/drinking

J. Department Reps
   1. Elizabeth: try to teach lab, however no parking available
      a) Ability to get faculty tags?
      b) Raise concerns again at administrative level, maybe for those need to teach

III. DEI Updates
   A. Moving along with mentoring program, seems to be successful so far

IV. New Business

V. Open Floor
   A. Leah: raise professional development to any level of admin and ask questions about grad specific career counselors

VI. Meeting Adjourned: 6:58 pm
SA Meeting Notes:

1. The grad student senators from the Law School have started to form what they’re calling the Counterspeech Working Group. Here is their current statement:

"Over the past three years there have been multiple speakers invited to campus who are affiliated with known hate groups or who have otherwise engaged in hate speech while platformed on campus. These events and the administration’s response to student concerns surrounding these events received negative attention in national media, harming the William & Mary community’s reputation as an inclusive space. Despite these events, many students stood in solidarity with their community members to protest messages of hate and intolerance. When an organization exercises the right to free speech to platform hate against those from marginalized backgrounds, it is incumbent upon community members who believe in inclusion and equality to use their freedom of expression to stand in solidarity with their neighbors. The Supreme Court has best articulated that to counter the effects of hate speech, “the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence” (i.e. the 'counterspeech doctrine'). There is a need to better understand how to support William & Mary’s affinity groups when events like these occur."

Here are some reports of the particular events of concern:

- [https://abovethelaw.com/2021/02/law-school-very-disappointed-in-students-speaking-out-against-designated-hate-group/?fbclid=IwAR28vWCVvGGKN2cj6jCP-UkUcGJOAwCYNch6ALozGdqost2zhayM00dJ-O4](https://abovethelaw.com/2021/02/law-school-very-disappointed-in-students-speaking-out-against-designated-hate-group/?fbclid=IwAR28vWCVvGGKN2cj6jCP-UkUcGJOAwCYNch6ALozGdqost2zhayM00dJ-O4)

Although these events were held at the Law School, the working group is interested in addressing this as a university-wide community in order to prevent further events like this from occurring. Currently the working group has representation from the Law School as well as the undergraduate community, but they would like to recruit six additional members with an interest in these issues. I think that participating in this working group would not only be an incredible way of contributing to W&M, but also, I believe it would be a valuable professional development opportunity for A&S grad students. Employers across many sectors are more interested in seeing that candidates have experience with initiatives for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

If anyone is interested in joining the working group, they can contact Zach Outzen (Law School SA senator) at zroutzen@email.wm.edu
2. Student Assembly recently passed a bill that asks senators to distribute the following information on free flu vaccines:

"The Student Health Center is offering free flu vaccinations to the students who have the school insurance and the school will provide free vaccination clinics at Kaplan for those that do not have school insurance on October 25th and November 1st from 9am to 3pm. Influenza activity often increases in October, peaking in February, and can last as late as May. The general population has isolated at home since the beginning of the pandemic thus rendered them more vulnerable for the flu season."

3. Student Assembly is hosting a Town Hall on Wednesday October 20th in Tidewater B at 7pm where both undergraduate and graduate students can raise concerns and share their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. See the attached flyer.