

Graduate Student Association Meeting Agenda

Date: August 24, 2020

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Presiding Officer: Holly Gruntner (President)

- I. Welcome/Introductions
 - A. All officers present
 - B. All appointed department reps present
 1. Applied Science, Biology, & Chemistry still in need of reps
 - C. 30 total in attendance: 17 officers + reps & 13 graduate students
- II. Public Comment
 - A. Will departmental grad organizations still have access to GSA funds as in previous years?
 1. Dean Torczon confirmed that money has been allocated for this purpose, but we don't know how dispensation will be carried out yet (to follow-up)
 - B. There was discussion at the townhall that graduate student admissions will be suspended in the future. Does suspension have to be enacted across all departments? Would suspension of admissions free up resource to fund students whose progress has been affected by the pandemic?
 1. GSA will follow up on this, potentially at any upcoming townhalls.
 - C. Has there been any confirmation that the Halleran Dissertation Fellowship will still be on for the AY 2021-2022?
 1. They are accepting applications for this year, but next year is still up in the air.
- III. Officer's Reports
 - A. President, Holly Gruntner
 1. Grad Town Hall: GSA agrees that the last graduate student town hall was a success and will take Dean Velleca's and Dean Torczon's offer to host another one, possibly in mid-September – preferably with the COVID management team present.
 2. Department Reps needed from Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry
 - a) Emma Hepworth, new Biology rep nominee
 - b) Tina Naik, new Applied Science rep nominee
 - c) Still need Chemistry rep
 3. Dean of Arts & Sciences Grad Student Advisory Group – GSA will assemble a team of four graduate students, consisting of two Master's students and two Doctoral students from both the Arts & Sciences that will meet with the A&S deans once a month and provide feedback.
 - a) GSA will put out a call for interest, that includes a short application; if sufficient interest exists, there will be some kind of formal selection process.
 - b) Holly will sit on this committee; at least one officer from the GSA should be on the Advisory Committee in the future, preferably the GSA President.
 - B. Vice President, Tomos Evans

1. A&S Faculty DEI Committee request – Contact Tomos (tlevans@email.wm.edu) if you would like to serve as a grad student rep on the Faculty DEI Committee
 - C. Treasurer, Justin Cammarota:
 1. GSA received the funding amount requested from the Dean’s Office, as much as was requested.
 - D. Secretary, Taylor Triplett
 1. Future GSA Meetings will be held virtually mid-month on Monday afternoons going forward
 2. GSA will need a new website in the future; if you have experience building websites and want to help, reach out to Taylor (triplett.tb@gmail.com)
 - E. Parliamentarian, Zeke Wertz:
 1. Nominations for department reps will be accepted through the first two weeks of the Fall semester; if more than one rep expresses interest, their respective department must make a selection.
 2. GSA department reps must attend every GSA meeting or send a proxy. If a rep misses more than one meeting without finding a replacement rep, the department can lose its GSA funding per GSA bylaws.
 - F. SA Rep, Chardé Reid
 1. The first SA meeting of the semester is August 25th at 7pm over Facebook live (see Student Happenings email Aug 24th for link).
 - G. Social Chair, Phillip Emmanuel
 1. GSA will dedicate its three on-campus/in-person event reservations for Journal Club; GSA will keep other social events (Halloween costume parties, trivia nights, game nights, etc.) virtual.
 2. Email Philip (plemanuel@email.wm.edu) with ideas for virtual events
 - H. GSAB Reps, Alexandra Macdonald and Casey McLaughlin:
 1. The GSAB meeting will be held September 25th; reps are considering a virtual meet and greet.
 2. GSAB reps are gathering ideas for GSAB funding. Discussed options:
 - a) COVID assistance fund, intended to alleviate costs of remote work
 - b) GSAB funding to aid DEI initiatives
 - I. Journal Club, Justin Cammarota and Jim Rick –
 1. Journal club needs speakers. Officers + department reps need to spread the word.
 - J. Department Rep. updates?
 1. Caroline: AGSC has a DEI committee, figuring out how AGSC will work with GSA
 2. Jasper: History is doing a collective DEI statement
- IV. DEI Committee Updates – Tomos
- A. DEI meets every other Wednesday at 4 p.m. (next meeting is Sept. 2)
 - B. The committee operates with a rotating chairperson; action items are being delegated to particular task forces.
 - C. GSA will explore the possibility of using GSAB funding for DEI initiatives
 - D. DEI subcommittee is exploring the logistics of establishing a speaker series, and will work with Grad Council and SA in order to generate events.

- E. Email Tomos in order to be added to the Committee email updates (tlevans@email.wm.edu) or to join a task force.
- V. School in the Time of COVID - Everyone
 - A. Discussion re: how the semester is going so far with COVID-19 safety measures in place
 - B. General discussion regarding 1) instances of uneven implementation of remote learning options by particular professors/departments 2) issues scheduling qualifying exams 3) the lack of designating eating spaces for graduate students and restrictive water consumption policies indoors 4) whether TA's are required to teach in person, even if they feel unsafe 5) concerns regarding how to access cleaning supplies for classrooms 6) whether students can receive a free COVID test, on or off campus, when desired 7) how effective are the mandatory Kallaco COVID tests 8) how at-risk students can opt for remote instruction without compromising their private medical information
 - 1. GSA will seek clarification and official stances from the college on these issues
 - 2. GSA will determine how to host an anonymous grievance reporting platform, either the website, a google form, etc.
 - C. GSA voted to respond to the College's recent with a formal statement by Friday, August 28th. GSA will invite SA and the Union to sign on as well.
- VI. Open Floor – Everyone
 - A. The Lemon Project will hold a virtual update on the Memorial to the Enslaved on campus August 25th at 6:30pm (see A&S Newsletter to RSVP and submit questions)
 - B. The William & Mary Workers Union is holding a virtual information session for graduate workers next THURSDAY, 8/27, 5-6 P.M. If you're paid by William & Mary to do work, then you're invited! RSVP: wmworkersunion@gmail.com
- VII. Meeting Adjourned
- VIII. Take-Away Action Items:
 - A. Drafting a response to the COVID email from Friday, August 21 by Friday, August 28.
 - B. Creating a Google Forms survey to collect comments/grievances/concerns from graduate students about their COVID experience
 - C. Fulfilling the DEI Committee Action Plan shared in the GSA Google Drive
 - D. Encouraging students to present at Journal Club
 - E. Brainstorming what the GSAB reps should request from the Advisory Board at the end of September