

2020-2021

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL ELECTION INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICER CANDIDACY
INFORMATION PACKET:
SPECIAL ELECTION

Candidacy Information Packet Contents:

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2020-2021 CANDIDATE GUIDE

About the Graduate and Professional Student Association

The purpose of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) is to establish a forum through which graduate and professional students are able to address issues, give graduate students a chance to advocate for the greater good, enable graduate students to grow professionally and socialize with one another, and create a stronger graduate community that promotes personal and academic success. The goal of GAPSA is to bridge the gap between faculty and graduate students, build a stronger connection between University Life and graduate students, conduct professional development programs for graduate students, create social outlets for graduate students, build the strength of the graduate community, enhance the graduate experience, and increase Mason's competitive edge.

Structure

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) is comprised of only one elected, governing body, known as the Association (or Executive Board), which consists of the President, the Vice President of Fairfax Campus, the Vice President of Arlington Campus, the Vice President of Science & Technology Campus, and the Director of Communications. GAPSA is responsible for the general operation of the organization and for being the collective voice of all graduate and professional students.

Executive Officer Position Descriptions

Summaries of the responsibilities of the Executive Officer positions follow. Additional responsibilities are outlined in the [GAPSA Constitution](#).

President [NOT OPEN FOR SPECIAL ELECTION]

The President shall be elected by the entire electorate and is responsible for overseeing all aspects of GAPSA. The President shall preside over and set the agenda for all Association meetings. The President shall nominate and appoint non-elected members of GAPSA with the consent of the Association on a majority vote. During Association meetings, the President may only vote in the case of a tie. The President serves as an ex officio member of all three (3) Graduate and Professional Student Assemblies.

- The President is responsible for meeting with the Vice Presidents, Director of Communications, and any other appointed leaders of GAPSA on a regular basis.
- The President is responsible for meeting with the Director of Graduate Student Life and other advisors to GAPSA on a regular basis.
- It is highly recommended that the President be based on Fairfax Campus at least part of the time due to the volume of meetings that take place on Fairfax Campus. These include regular meetings with the Director of Graduate Student Life, all-day Board of Visitor meetings, search committee meetings, various University committee meetings, and many more.
- The President will be offered a half-time graduate professional assistantship (GPA) with the expectation that they will work 10 hours/week on average. The President must be a full-time graduate student in a degree-seeking program in order to accept the assistantship.

Vice President of Each Respective Campus [ONLY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS POSITION OPEN FOR SPECIAL ELECTION]

The Vice President of each respective campus shall be elected by the entire electorate of that campus. The Vice Presidents are responsible for meeting with the Director of Graduate Student Life and other advisors to GAPSA, representatives from University Life for their campus, and the Chair of their respective

campus’s Assembly on a regular basis. The Vice Presidents shall hold voting seats on the Association and serve as ex officio members of their respective campus’s Graduate and Professional Student Assemblies.

- The Vice President of each campus is responsible for appointing members to their campus’s respective Assemblies in conjunction with the other Association members.
- The Vice President of each campus shall serve as liaison from that campus’ assembly to the Association and as such, represent the views of that campus to the Association.
- The Vice President of each campus is responsible for all communication from their respective Assembly to the Association.
- The Vice President of each campus is responsible for attending regular (i.e., biweekly) meetings with the Executive Committee.

Vice President of Fairfax Campus (additional responsibilities) [NOT OPEN FOR SPECIAL ELECTION]

In addition to the above responsibilities, the Vice President of Fairfax Campus shall act in official capacity on behalf of the President in the absence of the President. The Vice President of Fairfax must be based on the Fairfax Campus.

Director of Communications

The Director of Communications (hereafter called “DC”) shall be elected by the entire electorate and shall act in official capacity on behalf of the President in the absence of the President and Vice Presidents.

- The DC is responsible for all communication from the Association to the Assemblies.
- The DC is responsible for the Association’s monthly newsletter and all other regular communication and marketing for the Association.
- The DC shall meet regularly with the President, Vice Presidents, and the Director of Graduate Student Life and other advisors to GAPSA.
- The DC is responsible for attending regular (i.e., biweekly) meetings with the Executive Committee.
- The DC is responsible for recording the minutes for all Association meetings.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Applications Available	Monday, May 4, 2020
Applications Due	Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 5:00pm
Review of Applications and Qualifications	Friday, May 15, 2020, through Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Election Results Announced	Wednesday, May 20, 2020

SPECIAL ELECTION PROCESS

Per Article III, Section 6, clause 3 of the Constitution for the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA), the Executive Board has the ability to appoint officers to fill vacancies.

The 2019-2020 GAPSA Executive Board will review all special election applications and appoint officers by popular choice of their committee. Appointed officers shall be notified within 48 hours of appointment and given the opportunity to accept. A public announcement will go out within 72 hours of the selection process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can I run for more than one position?

A: No, since there are only 5 elected positions.

2. Can I still be a part of this organization if I don't run for an elected position?

A: Yes, GAPSA is meant as an outlet to voice concerns, gather together as graduate students, and network with each other. We need and want as many grad students as would like to participate in the Assemblies and on various Committees.

3. Can I still run for a position if I am a part-time student?

A: Yes, GAPSA is open to all degree-seeking graduate students, whether they are full-time or part-time students. The President must be a full-time graduate student in a degree-seeking program in order to accept the graduate professional assistantship offered.

4. When does the term of office begin and end for each position?

A: All elected offices hold a one-year term, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

5. How much time will holding a leadership position take?

A: The amount of time spent in a leadership position and devoted to the organization is dependent upon the position. The following are minimum estimates of the time required by each position:

- President: minimum of 10 hours per week on average during the academic year (AY).
- Vice President of Fairfax: 5 hours per week on average during the AY
- VP of Arlington: 5 hours per week on average during the AY
- VP of Science and Technology: 5 hours per week on average during the AY
- Director of Communications: 5 hours per week on average during the AY

6. Do officers of GAPSA receive compensation?

A: Yes, GAPSA officers will receive scholarships or stipends, based on meeting expectations. The President will be offered a half-time graduate professional assistantship with a stipend and tuition benefits. Officers will be required to sign an agreement to terms in order to receive compensation.

7. Do I have to campaign?

A: No. The 2019-2020 Executive Officers will be selecting the candidates to fill the vacant positions; your application, including biography, candidate statement, and additional information should indicate what makes you qualified for the position.

8. When is the deadline for applications?

A: Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 5:00pm

9. How will the special elections be conducted?

A: Candidates will complete and submit the special election packet. The current Executive Board will review the applicants' packets and appoint officers to fill the vacant positions of Vice President of SciTech and Director of Communications.

10. When will the election take place?

A: There are no elections. Applicants will be notified after the review process is complete, no later than Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

11. How will I be notified of the outcome of the election?

A: Applicants will be notified whether they have or have not acquired an elected position via email. Election results will be announced to the public on the GAPSA website on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

CANDIDACY APPLICATION FORM

2020-2021 GAPSA Executive Officer Application

PART 1: CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: _____

G#: _____

Position Seeking: _____
(Vice President of SciTech Campus OR Director of Communications ONLY)

Academic Department: _____

Degree Program (please circle one): **Master's** **PhD**

Expected Date of Graduation* (month/year): _____

Campus where department is located: _____

During the 2020-2021 academic year, will you be a full-time student or a part-time student?* *Graduate students are considered full-time if they are enrolled in at least 9 graduate credits per semester OR hold a full-time assistantship and enrolled in at least 6 graduate credits per semester. Additional definitions available at <http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>.*

Please circle one: **Full-time** **Part-time**

Current Address: _____

GMU Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Preferred Email (if not GMU): _____

PART 2: ADDITIONAL REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

Please submit the following statements on a separate document:

1. A brief biography and candidate statement about why you would be qualified for this position (no longer than 500 words in total).
2. If applying for the position of VP of SciTech Campus, the candidate must provide a description of their connection to the SciTech Campus, such as attending classes at SciTech, working in labs or another site/office at SciTech, or living in Beacon Hall (no longer than 500 words in total).
3. Will you be able to meet the time commitments and expectations of the position? Describe your probable availability for 2020-2021 academic year, as well as other on-going time commitments (e.g., classes, work, and organizational involvement).

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PART 3: ATTESTATION AND CERTIFICATION

Are you in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University? Please circle one:

Yes No

I hereby certify that I have read the information contained in the GAPSA Executive Officer Candidacy Packet and that I have supplied truthful information on this Candidacy Application Form and additional application materials. I also give permission to Graduate Student Life to verify my enrollment information and academic and disciplinary standing.

Candidate Certification:

Signature

Date

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are due by Thursday May 14, 2020 at 5:00pm. Applications should be submitted by email to aderay@gmu.edu.

If you have questions, please contact Austin A. Deray, Graduate Professional Assistant of Graduate Student Life and advisor to GAPSA, at aderay@gmu.edu or 703-993-5582.