

GAPSA General Assembly

March 11, 2021

Meeting Notes

- Announcements
 - GAPSA elections: information and application packet will open on March 16, and they will be due April 9. Email aderay@gmu.edu if you have questions
 - We are updating our website to recognize and honor all GA reps who have served with us! Your name and email will be posted on our website. If you do not want to have your information posted, please let us know. Also, we would love to post your photo as well. If you are OK with us posting your photo, please email gapsa@gmu.edu with your headshot
 - We will be holding a panel on “Interdisciplinary Research: What, How, and Why?” on Thursday, April 8 from 11:30a to 1p Eastern. If you are interested in joining the panel, please email ldevenea@gmu.edu
- Guest: Dr. Bray, Associate Provost of Graduate Education
 - Update on Possible Graduate School
 - We are starting a “Graduate Education Reimagine Task Force” to create a white paper to present to the Provost and the President in Fall 2021 to address the possibility of a graduate school.
 - We are looking for a graduate student representative to join the task force by the end of March. Participation entails a bi-weekly meeting, plus work throughout the summer. If you are interested in serving, Dr. Bray offered this link to nominate yourself or another grad student for the taskforce:
https://gmua1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cScVbYuZHZS5cJo
 - She seeks nominations by next Friday, March 17
 - Graduate Student and Faculty Expectations Policy DRAFT Review
 - We have a draft of graduate student expectations, which has gone through multiple internal reviews (e.g., legal team, provost’s office, etc.). We are now starting to solicit external reviews and feedback on the document.
 - The proposed policy does not make any major changes to the graduate student experience; rather, it stipulates in writing requirements for respect, civility, and equal opportunity given to graduate students
 - If you are interested in reviewing this document and would like to give feedback, please email gapsa@gmu.edu to see the documents and submit your feedback by Friday, March 19, and we will then pass it along to Dr. Bray
- Guests: GMU-AAUP, Shauna Rigaud and Dave Zeglen
 - The AAUP is proposing that all graduate students get a two-year extension on their Time-To-Completion clocks for their graduate program, due to the pandemic
 - Notably, we argue that placing the burden on students to ask for an extension creates disadvantages to students who may not feel comfortable doing so; in addition, there is currently no university-wide method of asking for an extension (it currently depends on the school/college)
 - Q&A

- What about programs that don't require research to complete the degree? Would this allow us to take more time to take classes or do a practicum?
 - It functions the same way, you'll get a two-year extension
 - Move to endorse this proposal - seconded - **PASSED (informal vote)**
 - Please reach out to aderay@gmu.edu (by Monday, March 15) if you are interested in joining a team to create an official proposal for this - we will need to complete this by next month
- Constitution and Bylaws
 - Please review the changes we made to the GAPSA Constitution and Bylaws. A summary of the changes is below:
 - Adding the process to amend the Constitution
 - Adding a new executive board position: the Executive Vice President, who will serve as the internal secretary for GAPSA and act on the President's behalf in case of his/her absence
 - Added a clearer definition of GA rep vs. GA proxy
 - Added President's role as liaison with other organizations, and voting member of the Graduate Council
 - Added stipulation that the program gets to decide how to select a GA rep
 - Making some small clarification notes throughout
 - Q&A
 - Adding a quick note of clarification: "in writing" includes messages sent over email - **PASSED (18 to 3)**
 - Vote to pass Bylaws? **PASSED**
 - Vote to pass Constitution? **PASSED**
- DEI Committee Update
 - Goal: set up a DEI Graduate & Professional Student Certificate program
 - Drew Bonner (GA Rep, Sociology) describes the proposal:
 - 4-module course (one module per month, one course per semester) focused on increasing graduate students' DEI competencies and implementation of DEI principles in professional, academic, and personal interactions
 - Modules will be led by staff facilitators along with student co-facilitators
 - Certificate issued for both co-facilitators and attendees
 - Hoping to launch in Spring 2022, partnering with GAPSA and other UL departments to put together curriculum, the facilitators, etc.
 - Formal proposal will be sent out shortly for review and feedback, then we can formally vote on the proposal next meeting
 - Q&A
 - Who will qualify for the co-facilitator track?
 - We expect students to be attendees first, then co-facilitators
 - The first cohort will rely on our team identifying co-facilitators who already have DEI training
 - Requirement?
 - No, just an optional opportunity
- Committee Updates

- Financial Transparency
 - The Senior VP of Finance and Administration will attend our next meeting to discuss financial transparency with us
 - We have also been working with the other student leaders at R1 research universities in Virginia, and we are hoping to get survey data on graduate student cost of living - we will need your help distributing!
- Professional Development
 - We are considering ideas on how to create professional development tracks for graduate students to engage in
- Online Education
 - We are discussing a possible resolution to advocate for more resources to increase quality of online education
- Growing the GA
 - We need to come to a consensus on what to propose re: Faculty Senate - more information to come!
- Upcoming Events
 - Workshop on creating a research poster (Mar 22 @ 3p): <http://cglink.me/2d7/r1027617>
 - Grad Student Appreciation Week: April 5 through 9
 - Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference on April 8 and 9