

# GAPSA General Assembly

## April 26, 2021

### Meeting Notes

- Welcome & Reminders
  - All eligible graduate and professional students will receive an email invitation to vote on April 28 - be sure to remind everyone to vote!
  - We plan on working with the Provost's office to launch the initiative to get graduate student video vignettes to share the graduate student story
  - Please don't forget to take Dr. Bray's graduate student [survey](#) on how covid has affected your funding and grad student experience!
- Petition on Tuition Increases ([link](#))
  - Q: How many signatures do we want?
    - As many as possible! We have 10,600 graduate students (not including law), so we would want good representation.
    - Even more importantly, please also consider sharing a specific and direct comment to the Board of Visitors so they will read it when they vote on the tuition increase on May 6: <https://bov.gmu.edu/meeting-minutes/>
  - Q: What is the strategy to get this petition noticed by highest administration?
    - We have tried several avenues but have not gotten an additional audience beyond the public comment at the BOV link above.
    - AAUP is helping us distribute this as well.
  - **Final vote for GAPSA to officially support this petition: 19 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain**
- Committee Wrap-Up
  - Financial Transparency
    - Survey (in collaboration with graduate student associations of other R1 institutions in Virginia) has gone out to get information on graduate students' financial situations
    - It will be sent out to GA reps shortly!
  - Virtual Learning
    - Results from Fanni's survey on international student virtual learning will be used to figure out recommendations for next year
    - Discussion on how emergency funding may not be accessible to some students, and how we can expand its use for next year
      - Especially re: subsidizing technology
  - Growing the GA
    - Accomplishments: (1) we should be able to get non-voting representation on the Faculty Senate starting next Fall - pending confirmation, (2) we are

sending a small token of thanks to GA reps who have regularly attended our meetings, and (3) we have started building a roster on our website to make it easier for students to find out who their rep is and how to contact them

- Future Plans: better communication from GAPSA to Reps to student body, more recognition for what GAPSA does so students know who to reach out to for assistance
- Career and Professional Development
  - We had a focus group earlier this month with career services
  - We are drafting a document proposing why we need more work on career and professional development
  - Potentially working with the task force on creating a Graduate School to create a centralized career and professional development school
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate
  - Vote on (a) creating the program, (b) reaching out to named units to get support and co-sponsorship, and (c) developing the curriculum
  - Goal: inaugural cohort for Spring 2022
  - **Final vote: 19 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain**
- Other Updates
  - Time to Degree Completion proposal to the Graduate Council
    - It is currently under consideration by the Graduate Council, no updates yet
    - Although there was concern over a default two-year extension, there is discussion over making it easier for students to request an one-year extension
  - Next Year's GA Reps
    - We leave the decision on who is the representative for the GA up to the department/program. Please have your department/program head/coordinator email [gapsa@gmu.edu](mailto:gapsa@gmu.edu) with a nomination of who the GA Rep will be for 2021-2022 (whether it's yourself or someone else)