



General Assembly Meeting

2022-04-21 @ 12:30 PM

Online via [Zoom](#)

Advisors/Graduate Student Life

Julie Choe Kim (GAPSA Advisor, and Director, Graduate Student Life)

Bernard Atieme (GAPSA Advisor, GPA, Graduate Student Life)

GAPSA Executive Officers

Steven Zhou (President)

Wai Ling Fong (Executive Vice President)

Dylan V. Scarton (VP of Fairfax)

Troi Dixon (VP of Arlington)

Marissa Howard (VP of SciTech)

Jane Aronds (Director of Communications)

Guests

Dr. Sharnnia Artis, VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Chief Diversity Officer

Austin A Deray (Assistant Director, Graduate Student Life)

Program Representatives

Aayushi Hingle (Doctoral, Communications)

Andrew Leisner (Doctoral, Physics)

Antarjot Kaur (Master's, Bioengineering)

Ashish Hingle (Doctoral, IT)

Dani Harrison (Doctoral, Chemistry)

Douglas Nedza (Doctoral, Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences (AOES))

Emily Gerson (Richard) (Doctoral, Psychology)

Emily Jeffries (Master's, Public Policy)

Eunice Kim (Master's, English)

Greta Swain (Doctoral, History)

Huy Phan (Master's, Social Work)

Isaac Gibbons (Master's, Cybersecurity Engineering)

Jonathan Marine (Doctoral, English)

Kathleen Klingenberg (Master's, Art History Graduate Association)

Kimberly Talley (Master's International Security)

Krista M. Beran (Doctoral, Nursing)
Melissa Schexnaydre (Master's, Arts Management)
Nia Pollard (Doctoral, Chemistry and Biochemistry)
Nicole Burke (Masters, Special Education)
Nikhitha Telagamalla (Masters, Health Informatics)
Shrishti Singh (Doctoral, Bioengineering)
Shuai Wang (Doctoral, Computer Science)
Susannah Barnes (Master's, Economics)
Terilee Edwards-Hewitt (Doctoral, Cultural Studies)
Zikun Li (Doctoral, Education)

Agenda

12:30 PM - 12:50 PM	Discussion on Tuition (see below)
12:50 PM - 1:00 PM	DEI Announcement Guest: Austin Deray, <i>Assistant Director of Grad Student Life</i>
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Guest: Dr. Sharnnia Artis <i>VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Chief Diversity Officer</i>
1:30 PM - 1:50 PM	Guest: Mason Sustainability Council <i>Introducing the Climate Action Plan</i>
1:50 PM - 2:00 PM	Other Announcements Elections April 27-29 (<i>Meet the Candidates on April 26</i>)

Tuition Increases Announced

The University is proposing a 3% tuition increase for both undergraduate and graduate students for the 2022-2023 academic year, but no student fee increase. Details are available [here](#). A few specific notes were brought up during the Board of Visitors meeting last week:

- The six year financial plan originally budgeted for a 3.5% tuition increase year-over-year. Due to the pandemic, undergraduate tuition did not increase last year; graduate tuition increased by a flat \$441 (around 3.5%) last year. A 3% increase represents a slightly smaller amount than prior years for graduate students.
- One-third of the tuition increase will go towards need-based financial aid.
- Of the remaining two-thirds, a large portion will go towards faculty and staff salary increases. For background context, the Virginia state is approving a 4%-5% faculty/staff salary increase, but Mason needs to match around half of that amount. This is where a large portion of the tuition increase will go to.

We will be holding open discussion on this topic during our April 21 General Assembly meeting. **Please review the slides linked above and come prepared with questions and thoughts about this.** If you have specific questions or clarification, please email gapsa@gmu.edu with your question(s) by Tuesday, April 19, and we will try to get answers from the Finance Office in

preparation for our GA meeting. After the GA meeting, there will be an opportunity to submit written feedback directly to the Board of Visitors by Friday, April 22 [via this form](#).

Graduate Division Implementation - Feedback Requested

Last semester, the Office of Graduate Education released a [report](#) with recommendations on how a more centralized “Graduate Division” could improve graduate student services. The team is now working on implementation - specifically, answering detailed questions on which services should be more centralized and which shouldn’t, what priorities to emphasize, and what challenges graduate students face that should be addressed immediately. We need your feedback and input! **Please complete this short [5-minute survey](#) to share your perspective on what you would like a Graduate Division to emphasize and prioritize.** This is your opportunity to share specific challenges that you or your peers face and would like addressed, such as ongoing topics we’ve explored in the GA (career services, transportation, emergency funds, etc.). Feel free to email gapsa@gmu.edu if you have any questions!

Transition Planning

Thank you so much for your hard work and volunteer time this past year! First of all, we would like to invite you to join our Graduate Student Spring Picnic on Friday, April 22 from 12 PM to 2 PM on the Fairfax SUB 1 Quad. We will be publicly recognizing and thanking you for your service, and offering a small gift as a token of our appreciation. Please RSVP for the picnic [here](#). We also are planning for transition to the next academic year. **Please complete this [short form](#) to let us know of your program's plans for next year.** Thank you in advance!

- Presentation by Austin A. Deray on DEI Certification, Graduate Student Life [Presentation Slides](#)