General Assembly Meeting
2022-02-10 @ 12:30 PM
Online via Zoom

Advisors/Graduate Student Life
Julie Choe Kim (GAPSA Advisor, and Director of Graduate Student Life)
Bernard Atieme (GAPSA Advisor, and 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
President Gregory Washington

Program Representatives
Aayushi Hingle (Doctoral, Communication Studies)
Alamin Molla (Doctoral, Geography and Geoinformation Sciences)
Aleyah Dawkins (Doctoral, Mathematics)
Andrew Leisner (Doctoral, Physics)
Antarjot Kaur (Master's, Bioengineering)
Ashish Hingle (Doctoral, IT)
Douglas Nedza (Doctoral, Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences)
Drew Bonner (Doctoral, Sociology)
Emily Jeffries (Master's, Public Policy)
Emily Richard (Doctoral, Psychology)
Hannah Abraham (Master's, Data Analytics Engineering)
Huy Phan (Master's, Social Work)
Ian Hamilton (Master's, Applied Industrial and Organizational Psychology)
Isaac Gibbons (Master's, Cybersecurity Engineering)
Kathleen Klingenberg (Master's, Art History Graduate Association)
Kelsey Coles (Master's, Arts Management)
Kimberly Talley (Master's, International Security)
Krista Beran (Doctoral, Nursing)

Leslie Escobar (Master's, Higher Education and Student Development)
Nia Pollard   (Doctoral, Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Nicole Burke (Master's, Special Education)
Nikhitha Telagamall (Master's, Health Administration and Policy)
Ninon Nelson (Master's, Global Affairs)
Peng Warweg (Master's, Education)
Shuai Wang (Doctoral, Computer Science)
Susannah Barnes (Master's, Economics)
Terilee Edwrads-Hewitt (Doctoral, Cultural Studies)
Tyler Martinez(Doctoral, Writing and Rhetoric)
Yang Long (Doctoral, Statistics)
Zack Machuga(Master's, Earth System Science)
Zikun Li (Doctoral, Education)

Attendees
Varun Medasani (Master's, Data Analytics Engineering)

Agenda
12:30 PM - 12:45 PM	Welcome & Check In
12:45 PM - 1:30 PM	Special Guest: President Gregory Washington
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Discussion & Other Announcements

Other Announcements
- GAPSA is partnering with University Career Services to launch our first-ever Graduate Student Resume Competition. This is an opportunity for graduate students to practice writing their resumes, learn about resources that the university has to offer in resume writing and career services, and potentially win some fun awards. Submissions are due by Sunday, February 13. Details are on the website below: https://gapsa.gmu.edu/gapsa-ucs-spring-2022-graduate-resume-competition
- Call For Proposals: The Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference will be held in-person on Friday, April 8, and will include a breakfast, lunch, plenary and breakout sessions, poster presentations, and a closing reception for 3MT® winners. The application deadline for graduate student poster and panel presentations is February 18. Find out more here: https://go.gmu.edu/gradconference
- The Mason Sustainability Council's Carbon Neutrality Task Force is working in partnership with Mason Facilities to develop a new Climate Action Plan (CAP) to accelerate the university to carbon neutrality. The CAP will help Mason decrease its environmental impact as part of the university's accelerating response to the climate crisis. Your feedback helps the university take climate action! More information about the Climate Action Plan is available at the CAP website: https://go.gmu.edu/CAP To get

informed, register for upcoming Town Halls on February 18 and March 9, both at 12 p.m.: https://go.gmu.edu/CAPTownHalls
- The new Graduate Education Website is officially live! Please visit https://graduate.gmu.edu to explore the website, then fill out the following form to offer feedback: https://forms.office.com/r/xVC0EyEChF

1. Career and professional development, especially for international students. We recognize that this is a major area of concern that many of you voiced thoughts on. Please be sure to join the #careers channel on Slack, where we are actively discussing ways to improve grad and professional career development. **One way we'd like to hear from you is specifically what career-related resources you and your peers are looking for, and how the existing university career resources are not sufficiently meeting these needs.** This will help us know what to specifically advocate for!

2. Transportation on campus. We have heard that there have been changes to the shuttle routes this semester, and they are disrupting many students' commutes to and from campus. We will be scheduling a meeting with Transportation Services to figure this out. In the meantime, please join the #transportation channel on Slack and **let us know which specific routes have been impacted**, so we can provide adequate details and information.

3. Software fees and other auxiliary costs associated with graduate education. Once again, if this is an area of concern for you and your peers, please join the #finance channel on Slack and let us know of your specific concerns. For example, we heard some comments on software costs. Which softwares, and in which courses/programs?

4. Finally, we heard concerns surrounding faculty-student ratios and the need for more consistent levels of high-quality mentoring all across campus. Our team has served on last semester's Grad Ed Task Force to address this very issue. If you have concerns you'd like to share with us, please email gapsa@gmu.edu with some details so we can include them in our ongoing discussions on the future of graduate education.