



**General Assembly Meeting**  
2022-10-14 @ 1:00 PM Online  
via Zoom

**GAPSA Executive Officers**

Ayondela McDole (President)  
Hsien-Tien Shen (Executive Vice President)  
Xiaorong (Sherry) Shan (VP of Fairfax)  
Emily Diana Crawford (VP of Arlington)  
Ninon Vict Nelson (VP of SciTech)  
Ashish Hingle (Director of Communications)

**Advisors/Graduate Student Life**

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

**Program Representatives**

Aayushi Hingle (Doctoral, Communications)  
Amber L Verstynen (Master's, Climate Science)  
Anthony Woodson Peter (Master's, International Commerce and Policy)  
Aya Nusir (Doctoral, Neuroscience)  
Brandi Williams (Doctoral, Chemistry and Biochemistry)  
Catherine Marvin (Master's, Global Affairs)  
Douglas Nedza (Doctoral, Climate Dynamics)  
Esteline Pascua (Master's, Real Estate Development)  
Gergana Hardy (Master's, Sociology)  
Gretchen Baas (Doctoral, Criminology, Law, and Society)  
Hernan Nelson Adasme (Doctoral, History)  
Jacob Custer (Master's, Economics)  
Jeff Vomund (Doctoral, Education)  
Jonathan Nichols (Master's, English Proxy)  
Kathleen Klingenberg (Master's, Art History)  
Kelby Gibson (Doctoral, Writing and Rhetoric)  
Krista Beran (Doctoral, Nursing)

Kyle Tiemeyer (Master's, International Security)  
Lauren Ashley Poole (Master's, Management)  
Marcus Brick (Master's, Nutrition)  
Marissa Gandolfo-muller (Master's, Forensic Science)  
Nikhitha Telagamalla (Master's, Health Informatics)  
Niloofer Kalantari (Doctoral, Information Technology)  
Nora Cleary (Doctoral, Public Health)  
Oreoluwa Elizabeth Joda (Doctoral, Juris Doctor)  
Sherazade Ariavand (Master's, Interdisciplinary Studies)  
Toby Stephen Hickson (Doctoral, Cultural Studies)  
Yang Long (Doctoral, Statistical Science)

### **Guests**

Andrew Leisner (Doctoral, Physics)  
Shauna Rigaud (AAUP Graduate Committee)  
Lili Deveneau (AAUP Graduate Committee)

### **Agenda**

1:00pm -1:15pm	Introducing the Executive Board
1:15pm-1:25pm	History of GAPSAs
1:25pm-1:50pm	GAPSAs: This Year's Vision Goals and Looking Forward
1:50pm-2:00pm	Your Role as a GA Representative Graduate Assembly Protocol
2:00pm-2:10pm	Poll: GA priorities this year
2:10pm-2:20pm	This year with AAUP
2:20pm-2:30pm	Closing Remarks November's Graduate Assembly

### **Introducing the Executive Board**

All the Executive Officers introduced themselves.

### **History of GAPSAs**

Julie shared the history of GAPSAs. The slides will be shared [here](#).

### **GAPSAs: This Year's Vision Goals and Looking Forward**

Goal slides can be found [here](#).

### **Your Role as a GA Representative**

President Ayondela McDole explained that this year there will be more conversation between representatives and the Executive Board. Representatives are responsible and welcome getting opinions from the students of the program. Ask what the issues your program have. What can be changed in your program? For example, the shuttle is a problem for grad students.

Ayondela conducted 3 polls regarding the University Resources, Trust, and Concerns:

- Poll 1: Please select the three university resources that you use most.
  - Library 87%; Writing Center 47%; Career Services 43%; Health Services 40%; Mason Shuttle 37%; Mason Pantry 7%; Emergency Aid 3%
- Poll 2: I have a person in my program that I trust and would go to first with any issue I may have.
  - 70% of representatives reach out to a faculty member; 17% to a fellow classmate; 7% to an admin; 3% to someone outside of the program; 3% don't go to anyone
- Poll 3: Please select what you are most concerned about this school year.
  - My performance during coursework and in my program: 50%; My career after graduation: 47%; Receiving an extension to complete my program 3%

#### Following Discussion

- Some programs have listservs or communication channels: Nursing, Sociology, Ed Psych, Criminology, Forensics (job posting mostly), Global Affairs, Writing and Rhetoric, Art History, Climate Science, Physics, Chem/Bio-Chem, Sociology and Anthropology
- Program doesn't have listserv: Interdisciplinary Studies
- Concerns from representatives:
  - Low stipend
  - Lack of summer fundings
  - Lack of information about future classes
  - Lack of disability services and access to the professors (i.e., No Zoom classes because COVID is over)
  - Financial support
  - Patriot Pantry food selections are not healthy
  - Housing is expensive
  - International students are getting a lot of emails regarding requirements and facing complex bureaucracy, resulting in an effect on mental health.
  - Patriot Web is difficult to use
  - Lack of clarity on tuition costs and scholarship opportunities
  - Lack of direction with career services
  - Emergency funds support someone who is close to finishing the program only
  - Parental help almost doesn't exist. The parental leave policy only offers possible extension in time-to-degree limits.
  - Iranian students need emotional support from their peers

### **This year with AAUP**

Shauna Rigaud, doctoral candidate in Cultural Studies, and Lili Deveneau, doctoral student in Sociology, presented on the work of the AAUP Graduate Committee. AAUP stands for American Association of University professors. You may view the slides from their presentation [here](#).

Any graduate student who is doing research or teaching is invited to join AAUP.

AAUP Happy Hour Eventbrite Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gmu-aaup-happy-hour-tickets-433715232937>

Contact AAUP: [aaupmason@gmail.com](mailto:aaupmason@gmail.com)

### **November General Assembly**

The next General Assembly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 3:00-4:30pm via [Zoom](#). Representatives should come with concerns and comments from their program.

- Jacob: what will be the best way to reach out to all the students from the program?
- Ayondela: Check in with the administration or office assistance of your program to ask for the listserv.
- Julie: contact the director of the program to ask if there's a listserv. Find a class or meetings most program student participates in to use as a channel to communicate with students from the program.