



Graduate Assembly Meeting
2022-11-16 @ 3:00 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)

Guests

Austin A Deray (Assistant Director, Graduate Student Life)
Antarjot Kau (Proxy of Master's, Bioengineering)
Beth Hosek (Proxy of Jeff Vomund, Doctoral, Education)
Giselle Quezada (SBAM, Foreign Languages)
Tyler Martinez (Proxy of Kelby Gibson, Doctoral, Writing and Rhetoric)

Program Representatives

Antarjot Kau (Master's, Bioengineering)
Advait Raghuvir Gogte (Master's, Computer Science)
Brandi Williams (Doctoral, Chemistry and Biochemistry)
Carolyn Hoffman (Doctoral, Health Services Research)
Catherine Marvin (Master's, Global Affairs)
Douglas Nedza (Doctoral, Climate Dynamics)
Erik Giblin (Master's, Education Leadership)
Esra Oktay (Doctoral, Bioengineering)
Esteline Pascua (Master's, Real Estate Development)
Gergana Hardy (Master's, Sociology)
Hernan Nelson Adasme (Doctoral, History)
Jacob Custer (Master's, Economics)

Jonathan Plante (Doctoral, Economics)
Kellie Wilkerson (Doctoral, Sociology)
Krista Beran (Doctoral, Nursing)
Kyle Tiemeyer (Master's, International Security)
Lauren Ashley Poole (Master's, Management)
Marissa Gandolfo-muller (Master's, Forensic Science)
Nikhitha Telagamalla (Master's, Health Informatics)
Nora Cleary (Doctoral, Public Health)
Rafaella Irene Silva (Master's, English)
Sherazade Ariavand (Master's, Interdisciplinary Studies)
Stephen Marcus Brick (Master's, Nutrition)
Teresa Martin (Master's, Social Work)
Toby Stephen Hickson (Doctoral, Cultural Studies)
Yang Long (Doctoral, Statistical Science)

Agenda

3:00pm – 3:05pm	General Introductions and Check-In (Ayondela)
3:05pm – 3:10pm	Introduction to Brain Trust exercise: 3 problems/ 3 solutions
3:10pm – 3:40pm	Brain Trust Exercise
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 Breakout Rooms
3:40pm – 4:00pm	Presentations to the General Group
4:00pm – 4:15pm	Closing Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The spring semester will have Assemblies scheduled for February, March and April. Stay tuned for more details!

Introduction to Brain Trust exercise: 3 problems/ 3 solutions

All representatives were assigned to breakout rooms to discuss what issues they thought could be important and could possibly be solved. There were 4 breakout rooms, and each room should at most come up with 3 issues and 3 solutions.

Presentations to the General Group

1. Grad student career fair
 - a. Some recruiters were not aware that it was a graduate event, and so they were talking to students as though they were juniors or seniors
 - b. At grad student career fair, some female students felt ignored at some STEM table.
 - c. *Solution:* find organizations that are interested in advanced non-academic positions
2. Lack of support for masters' students. Undergrads and PhDs are given support (money, time, admin etc.) but masters have to navigate working with few classes, while working and given more roadblocks through program restrictions, etc.
3. Lack of childcare services.
4. Lack of graduate community. *Solution:* Availability for grad specific events to watch/engage with children.
5. Stipends and funding are low.
6. Lack of GRA opportunities for master's students.
7. Lack of work opportunities. *Solution:* ask the department to provide a list of people who work in the field and provide opportunities for students to connect with them.
8. Academic support. *Solution:* Grad 101 workshop (i.e., what questions should I ask the advisor); offer mentorship opportunities.
9. Expensive parking permits.
10. Lack of connection between the campus and the students (GMU Educational Leadership Program). *Solution:* Speak with the program director to find more involvement opportunities for students.
11. Student health insurance has high deductibles and doesn't cover much. *Solution:* GAPSA can find out the timeline and a channel to provide students' feedback before selecting the next insurance provider.
12. Stay Mason Support Fund requires 12 credits completed to be eligible. It is not as feasible to PhD/master's students as for undergraduates. *Solution:* GAPSA had talked to UL regarding this issue last year. GAPSA can follow up with UL soon.
13. Childcare is a definite need for grad students who are parents. There is a website designed to highlight resources for student parents and to help them navigate university systems and the local community: <https://contemporary.gmu.edu/parenting-and-expecting-students/>
14. GRA income is important and necessary. Although grad students wish to participate more in the community and attend the events, getting more GRA hours has higher priority to cover the expenses.

Closing Remarks

- The spring semester will have Assemblies scheduled for February, March and April. Stay tuned for more details!