



## **Graduate Assembly Meeting**

2023-3-10 @ 2pm

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**

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)

### **Guests**

Austin A Deray (Assistant Director, Graduate Student Life)

Stephanie Bluth (Associate Director of Graduate Career and Professional Development, The Graduate Division)

Shauna Rigaud (Community Based Learning Coordinator Graduate Teaching Assistant, SOC Professional Development Co-Chair)

Megan Warner (Proxy of Public Health)

Tolu Abidogun (Proxy of Public Health)

### **Program Representatives**

Aayushi Hingle (Doctoral, Communications)

Brandi Williams (Doctoral, Chemistry and Biochemistry)

Brooke Potter (Master's, Biodefense)

Douglas Nedza (Doctoral, Climate Dynamics)

Gretchen Baas (Doctoral, Criminology, Law, and Society)

Hernan Nelson Adasme (Doctoral, History)

Inaki de Guzman (Marco Ignacio) (Master's, Sport and Recreation Studies)

Jacob Custer (Master's, Economics)

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)  
Rafaella Irene Silva (Master's, English)  
Stephen Marcus Brick (Master's, Nutrition)  
Teresa Martin (Master's, Social Work)  
Toby Stephen Hickson (Doctoral, Cultural Studies)

## **Agenda**

2:00pm – 2:05pm	General Introductions and Check-In (Ayondela)
2:05pm – 2:15pm	Resolution (Emily)
2:15pm – 3:00pm	Graduate and Professional Career Development (Dr. Stephanie Bluth)
3:00pm – 3:25pm	Office of Civic Engagement and Civic Learning (Shauna Rigaud)
3:25pm – 3:30pm	Closing Remarks

- Executive Board nominations are open!
- MaGIC is here! March 31<sup>st</sup>- Merten Hall
- Next Graduate Assembly - April 14<sup>th</sup>
- Graduate Student Picnic - April 28<sup>th</sup>

## **Resolution (Emily)**

Link to the resolution:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YuwJRPplu67guWMlyFwmZeFNiDXg4915/view?usp=sharing>

The Chair recognized Emily Crawford, VP of Arlington, to introduce [Resolution No. Res-003](#).

Emily proposed the resolution, which was then seconded by Toby Hickson, Cultural Studies Student Organizing Committee.

Douglas Nedza, Representative of Climate Dynamics, PhD, inquired about the role of GA representatives with the resolution. Dr. Julie Choe Kim, GAPSA advisor, suggested that representatives should seek feedback from their constituents (i.e., students in their graduate programs) to determine how to vote on the resolution.

Douglas asked how the resolution would benefit the students. Emily and Julie explained that it would be sent to the administration for consideration.

Aayush Hingle, Representative of Communications, PhD, an international student and researcher, expressed appreciation for the resolution, as international students often face challenges and are underrepresented. Aayushi seconded the closing remarks and it was decided that the vote would take place at the next meeting.

The resolution will be the first item of old business to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Graduate and Professional Career Development (Dr. Stephanie Bluth)**

Dr. Stephanie Bluth delivered a captivating presentation on equipping Master's and Doctoral students with the tools necessary for successful career readiness beyond graduation. The presentation covered various topics such as resume building, job search strategies, and networking techniques. Please provide suggestions through the link:

[https://gmuedu.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/GradStudentSuccessCenter-GRP/EcKhOFmVG8IKjtq3m0JyTMkBnIE-pAZx43OFK8TLcWW\\_PQ?e=b5TQhe](https://gmuedu.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/GradStudentSuccessCenter-GRP/EcKhOFmVG8IKjtq3m0JyTMkBnIE-pAZx43OFK8TLcWW_PQ?e=b5TQhe)

- Contact Dr. Stephanie Bluth: Dr. Stephanie Bluth, Associate Director of Graduate Career and Professional Development, Graduate Division, [sbluth@gmu.edu](mailto:sbluth@gmu.edu)
- Link to the slides: <https://gapsa.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/GAPSA-PD-presentation.pptx>
- Link to provide feedback for graduate & professional students: [https://gmuedu.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/GradStudentSuccessCenter-GRP/EcKhOFmVG8IKjtq3m0JyTMkBnIE-pAZx43OFK8TLcWW\\_PQ?e=b5TQhe](https://gmuedu.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/GradStudentSuccessCenter-GRP/EcKhOFmVG8IKjtq3m0JyTMkBnIE-pAZx43OFK8TLcWW_PQ?e=b5TQhe)
- Graduate Student Travel Fund: <https://graduate.gmu.edu/financial-support/conference-travel-funding>

Upcoming initiatives:

- Centralized graduate teaching training (online) will launch in August 2023.
- Accelerate to Industry (A2i): Mason is part of an NSF-funded program to prepare doctoral students for and connect them to careers in industry, so more resources and programs will be coming.

Ayondela McDole asked if anyone knows whether their program has someone specifically designated to help graduate students with career readiness.

- Brandi Williams shared that there is no one in Chemistry to help with this, but the advisor encourages students to attend conferences and network with people. Brandi Williams also asked if there are any funds available for travel.
- Krista Beran shared that she has not received much guidance or direction on how to find a job after graduation in the School of Nursing. She recently discovered the Department of Graduate Fellowships.
- Lauran Poole shared that in the Master's of Science in Management program in the School of Business, Meg and Kaleb Lewis provide support in finding internships and careers.
- Megan Warner shared that the College of Public Health has career advising provided by Raven McCormick.
- Ashish Hingle pointed out the difficulty in finding the person in charge of career readiness and suggested that the department should appoint someone for this role.

- Ayondela McDole shared her positive experience as a graduate student at Syracuse participating in a program called CUT: Certificate in University Teaching that provided her with excellent preparation for teaching. She suggested that such a certificate program could be valuable for other graduate students as well.

### **Office of Civic Engagement and Civic Learning (Shauna Rigaud)**

Shauna Rigaud shared that the CECiL team is available as a resource to help students explore civic and community engagement, identify ways to get involved with issues that they are passionate about, and connect those passions with academic and career interests.

- Link to the slides: <https://gapsa.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/GAPSA-Presentation.pptx>
- Contact Shauna: [srigaud2@gmu.edu](mailto:srigaud2@gmu.edu)

Questions asked by the representatives and answers from Shauna:

- Teresa Martin inquired about the possibility of CECIL collaborating with the social work department.
- Ayondela McDole asked how the CECIL office would support students conducting experiments targeting a specific demographic.
- Shauna shared that CECIL could connect students with community or industry professionals to gain more insights and knowledge.
- Douglas Nedza mentioned that their department does not have a system in place to connect students with the community when it comes to independent research.
- CECIL provides services such as connecting students with volunteer opportunities, and certain community and government resources.

### **Closing Remarks**

- Run for Eboard:
  - Run for GAPSA Executive Office. Application link: <https://gapsa.gmu.edu/elections/>
  - All positions are open. Any current execs would have to run for re-election, if they are interested
  - All positions come with some form of compensation, either a part-time GA position for the president or scholarships for the rest of the officers
  - No prior affiliation is needed to run for the election
- MaGIC is here! March 31<sup>st</sup>- Merten Hall
- We need more than 30 voting members to vote on the resolution. Please attend the last Graduate Assembly - April 14<sup>th</sup>