



General Assembly Meeting

March 21, 2025

11:00am – 12:30 pm

Zoom meeting

GAPSA Executive Officers

Carolyn Faith Hoffman (President)

Xiaorong (Sherry) Shan (Executive Vice President)

Dhiman Goswami (Vice President of Fairfax)

Bree Buker (Vice President of Mason Square)

Selina Martin (Vice President of Science and Technology)

Naessiamba Eab-Aggrey (Director of Communications)

GAPSA Advisors

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

Program Representatives

Anthropology, MA	Livia Santos
Arts Management, MA	Gloria (Jiaying) Dai
Athletic Training, MS	Lila Abu-Saleh
Biosciences, PhD	Madeleine Becker
Business Analytics, MS	Bansi Jignesh Mehta
Chemistry and Biochemistry, PhD	Brandon Speed
Civil, Environmental and Infrastructure Engineering, PhD	Shreya Guha
Climate Dynamics, PhD	Austin Reed
Counseling, MEd	Sarah Sahal (proxy for Amanda Williams)
Criminology, Law, and Society, MA	Mackenzi Moran
Cultural Studies, PhD	Stephen Tobias Hickson
Education, PhD	Sahar Wahidi
English, MA	Jonathan Nichols

Finance, MS	Eray Onur Tulun
Global Affairs	Justice Marie Roney
Global Commerce and Policy, MA	Marcus Lewis
Health Systems Management, MHA	Shelby Morrow
Information Technology, PhD	Hadeel R. A. Elyazori
International Security, MA	Jake Boggs
Law, JD	Jaclyn Patricia Jones
Law, JM	Dhrav Bhavin Parikh
Linguistics, PhD	Nilima Hakim Mow
Mathematics, PhD	Joseph Franks
Neuroscience, PhD	Lindsey Bertin
Nutrition, MS	Solomon Aboagye
Peace and Conflict Resolution, MS	Shamini Velayutham
Physics, PhD	Paula Fudolig
Political Science, PhD	Sanggyu Suh
Public Health, PhD	Julia Mandeville
Public Policy, MPP	Sekani (Munk) Cain
Sociology, PhD	Julissa Zelaya Barrera
Software Engineering, MS	Ashima Sharma
Sports and Recreation Tourism Management, MS	Deb Rivero
Statistics, PhD	Tengyu Song
Writing and Rhetoric, PhD	Tyler Martinez (proxy for Kelby Gibson)

Guests

Dr. Tim Gibson (Associate Professor of Communication & President, GMU AAUP Chapter)

BaoTRAN Beatson (Interim Director, Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS))

Juliet Blank-Godlove (Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, University Life)

Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
11:00am - 11:30am	Guest Speaker: Dr. Tim Gibson, American Association of University Professors
11:30am - 12:00am	Guest Speaker: BaoTRAN Beatson, Office of International Programs and Services
12:00am - 12:30am	GAPSA/Graduate Life Updates

[\(Slide here\)](#)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tim Gibson

Associate Professor of Communication & President, GMU AAUP Chapter

Email: tgibson1989@gmail.com

Overview of AAUP (American Association of University Professors):

- Mission: To protect academic freedom and ensure that all faculty members have a voice in university governance and curriculum.
- Faculty should have the autonomy to define what is important in their discipline and deliver that knowledge to students.
- Advocates for transparency in how universities are run and emphasizes the importance of faculty participation in shaping academic policies.

AAUP at GMU:

- Established in 2017, currently with around 100 members.
- Definition of faculty includes all individuals who teach at GMU, including teaching assistants with student contact.
- Key areas of advocacy:
 - Improved stipends and health insurance for graduate students
 - Academic freedom in teaching and research
 - Influence on university decisions related to classes, compensation, and job security
 - Graduate students are considered an essential part of AAUP

Current Activities and Focus Areas:

- Regular committee meetings held to support both faculty and students
- Preparing for engagement with the Board of Visitors (BOV) regarding:
 - Clarification that criticism of Israel does not equate to antisemitism (note: The state of Virginia adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism into law in 2023: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2023/may/name-1002643-en.html>)
 - Proposing a university resolution to increase scholarships and funding opportunities for women, minority, and LGBTQ+ students
 - Advocating for greater inclusivity at GMU

Support for International Students and Faculty:

- AAUP acknowledges concerns among international faculty and students regarding visa status, especially in light of recent protests (e.g., Columbia University)
- AAUP is committed to connecting and supporting affected individuals across departments to prevent isolation

Contact and Participation:

- Chapter Email: aaupmason@gmail.com
- Website: www.aaupmason.org
- Weekly Executive Meetings: Fridays at 10:00 AM
- Upcoming Advocacy Action: April 1 – Outreach to BOV regarding anti-DEI resolution. Interested individuals should contact AAUP to join the effort

Guest Speaker: BaoTRAN Beatson

Interim Director, Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS)

Support for International Students:

- OIPS aims to provide accurate, up-to-date information and support amid rapidly changing immigration policies
- Emphasizes the importance of reading all official communication from OIPS

Key Updates:

- No current Executive Orders restrict the ability of international students to study or work in the U.S.
- A potential travel ban may affect individuals from approximately 40 countries; OIPS will issue official updates when confirmed
- All students with an I-94 form are considered registered
- Additional registration may be required for those on F-1 visas and holding I-20s—OIPS will contact those affected directly
- NAFSA has information about Executive Orders and other actions available online: <https://www.nafsa.org/executive-and-regulatory-actions-trump2admin>

General Guidelines for International Students:

- Always carry essential immigration documents, including passport, I-20, and I-94, even if you hold a state-issued driver's license
- Avoid international travel if your F-1 visa is nearing expiration
- Be cautious about posting protest-related content on social media
- Keep your address updated with OIPS

Advising and Contact Information:

- Phone Appointments: Call 703-993-2970
- Online Drop-In Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 PM to 3:15 PM (Log in after 1:15 PM via <https://go.gmu.edu/OnlineDropInHours>)
- Email contact: oips.gmu.edu

GAPSA and Graduate Life Updates

Recent events

- February GA Meeting:
 - Guest Speaker: Rose Pascarell, Vice President for University Life
- GAPSA Events:
 - GAPSA/Facilities & Campus Operations Discussion: Held March 20

Upcoming Events and Deadlines:

- Final GA Meeting: Friday, April 18 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (via Zoom)
- Interview Prep Workshop: “Ace the Interview”: March 25 | 1:00 – 2:30 PM (via Zoom). Register at <https://cglink.me/2d7/r2280933>
- Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference: April 4 | Merten Hall, Fairfax | Begins at 8:45 AM
 - Registration: <https://cglink.me/2d7/r2276078>
 - Volunteers contact: dgoswam@gmu.edu
- Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week: March 30 – April 5
 - Events and registration: <https://cglink.me/2d7/r2280806>
- Spring Picnic: April 25 | 12:00 – 2:00 PM | Merten Lawn
 - Register: <https://cglink.me/2d7/r2282079>
- Climate Survey Launch: March 25 – Invitations will be sent via email

Board of Visitors (BOV) Engagements:

- April 1 | Full Meeting with Public Comments | Merten 1201
 - To view the agenda and register to provide public comment or to submit a written comment, visit <https://bov.gmu.edu/postings/>
- April 10 | Finance and Land Use Committee (FLUC) Meeting | 3:00 – 5:00 PM | Merten 1201
- April 17 | APDUC Meeting | 10:00 – 11:30 AM | Merten 1201
 - APDUC: Academic Programs, Diversity & University Community

Health and Wellness:

- Workshop: “Coping with Burnout as a Grad Student” (<https://cglink.me/2d7/r2268012>)

- April 10 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM | Zoom

Symposiums and Research Events:

- Earth System Observations & Modeling Graduate Symposium: April 11
 - Shared by Austin Reed. Register at <https://sites.google.com/view/gmuesomsym/2025-registration?authuser=0>
- Symposium on Healthcare: April 26 | 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM | Mason Square
 - Shared by Shelby Morrow. Email smorrow8@gmu.edu with questions. Can also attend virtually. Register at https://chhs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3xbwvBcgDn8oHSm.
- Civil Rights Law Journal Spring Symposium: March 25
 - Shared by Jaclyn Jones. Information: <https://www.law.gmu.edu/events/2025/03/crlj-spring-symposium>

GAPSA Executive Officer Elections (2025)

- Timeline
 - Applications Due: April 6, 2025 | 11:55 PM
 - Review Period: April 7–11
 - Candidate Announcements & Campaigning: April 14–24
 - Meet the Candidates Event: April 18
 - Voting Period: April 22 (opens 12:00 AM) – April 24 (closes 11:55 PM)
 - Results Announced: April 28
 - Transition Meeting/Retreat: May 9
- If you have interest or any questions, Carolyn and Julie will be available after the meeting, or contact us via email (gapsa@gmu.edu or ychoekim@gmu.edu).

Open Positions:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Vice President, Fairfax Campus
- Vice President, Mason Square (Arlington) Campus
- Vice President, Science and Technology Campus
- Director of Communications

Doctoral Hooding Update

- Thank you to everyone who completed the Google Form regarding potential changes to the doctoral hooding process.
- There was a unanimous response of “Yes”—everyone expressed interest in seeing changes.
- Suggestions for next steps included:
 - Launching a petition

- Updating the open letter
 - Drafting a GAPSA resolution
- A meeting will be held with Dr. Laurance Bray and Provost Jim Antony to discuss possible actions moving forward.