



## General Assembly Meeting

November 14, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Zoom meeting

### List of attendees

#### **GAPSA Executive Officers**

Nilima Mow (President)

Xiaorong (Sherry) Shan (Executive Vice President)

Aishwarya Bhondge (Vice President of Fairfax)

Asritha Lakshmi Bontu (Vice President of Science and Technology)

Aparna Shastri (Director of Communications)

#### **GAPSA Advisors**

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

Muna Hashem Al Taweel (GAPSA Advisor and GPA, Graduate Student Life)

#### **Program Representatives**

Applied Industrial and Organizational Psychology, MPS	Nora Bassa
Art History, MA	Lee Wilson
Arts Management, MA	Stephanie Concepcion
Athletic Training, MS	Lila Abu-saleh
Bioengineering, PhD	Likitha Raja
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, PhD	Emily Larson
Business, PhD	Bryan Timothy Sullivan
Civil and Infrastructure Engineering, PhD	Sumaiya Hussain

Climate Dynamics, PhD	Austin Reed
Computational Sciences and Informatics, PhD	Md Mahfuzur Rhaman
Computer Engineering, MS	Aijaz Ahmed Mohammed
Computer Science, MS	Tejnath Tummala
Computer Science, PhD	Dhiman Goswami
Creative Writing, MFA	Kale Beaton Connerty
Criminology, Law and Society, PhD	Hailey Khatchatourian
Cultural Studies, PhD	Luma Mousa
Digital Forensics, MS	Matteen Mahfooz
Economics, MA	Eelma Ahamed
Economics, PhD	Daniel Kelly
Education, PhD	Anjusha Kasetty Ramesh Kumar
Electrical and Computer Engineering, PhD	Fardifa Fathmiul Alam
English, MA	Ruth Nesbitt
Environmental Science & Public Policy, PhD	Nicole Firing
Health Informatics, MS	Shreeyukti Rana
Health Services Research, PhD	Dharmi Kalpesh Desai
History, PhD	Savannah Scott
Information Technology, PhD	Hadeel Elyazori
Interdisciplinary Studies, MA	Kristin Metzger
International Security, MA	Jacob Boggs
Linguistics, PhD	Joy Elizabet Y Liebl
Management, MS	Gabriela Nazario
Mathematics, MS	Nicholas Lear
Mathematics, PhD	Nathanial Fink-Humes
Neuroscience, PhD	Natalie Erickson
Physics and Astronomy, PhD	Anna Engelhardt
Political Science, MA	Kenneth Mack Blankenship
Public Administration Program, MPA	Phoebe Martenson
Public Health, PhD	Julia Mandeville
Public Policy, MPP	Ballaion Cadet Joram
Social Work, MSW	Arielle Gradney
Sociology, MA	Samuel Showalter
Sociology, PhD	Jeba Humayra
Statistical Science, MS	Tiffany Lin
Visual and Performing Arts, MFA	Steven Luu
Writing and Rhetoric, PhD	Kelby Gibson

**Guests**

Dr. Alyssa Bivins (*Senior Graduate Professional Development Program Coordinator*)

Saskia Campbell (Executive Director, University Career Services)

(Slide here)

- I. Welcome
- II. GA Representative Peer Connections (Breakout Rooms)
- III. Career & Professional Development

(Slide here)

**Guest Speaker 1:** Alyssa Bivins, Senior Graduate Professional Development Coordinator, Graduate Division

- Supports graduate students in **career, communication, and teaching development**.
- Offers **Individual Development Plans (IDPs)**, **1:1 consultation**, and **career goal setting**.
- **A2i Program**: connects students (esp. international) with alumni and industry. Seven workshops planned for academic year.
- **Communication Academy**: training for effective research communication.
- Promotes **certificates and travel research incentives (T.R.I.P.)** — [TRIP Funding Info](#).
- Research development, teaching skills, and graduate fellow opportunities:
  - [Communication Academy](#)
  - [GS Fellows](#)
  - [Teaching Skills](#)
  - [Teaching Development Badge](#)

(Slide here)

**Guest Speaker 2:** Saskia Campbell, Executive Director, Career Services

- Employers expect diverse skills; supports **Handshake**, **Interstride**, and **Patriot Connect**.
- Provides **industry and academic career resources**, workshops, and certificates.
  - [Handshake](#)
  - [Interstride \(International Jobs\)](#)
  - [Career Resources](#)
  - [Academic Careers](#)
  - [Google Career Certificates](#)
- Recommends joining workshops and alumni networking through **A2i** and department clubs.
- 86% positive career outcomes for Mason graduates.

## **Other Notes & Student Input:**

- Desire for more department-specific job prep (esp. Economics).
- Networking at small conferences helps career growth.
- Fellowship Office offers 1:1 consulting — Fellowships Office.
- Upcoming event: *Exploring Research Careers Outside Academia* (March).
- [International Job Search Workshop Recording \(Nov 2025\)](#).

## **IV. Communication / Teams Channel**

- Reminder to use Teams and to check for announcements, requests feedback & coordination.
- Channels: CHSS, COS, Schar, General Assembly.
- Recommended notification: **Banner + Feed for new posts/replies**.

## **V. Special Election Overview**

- *VP Mason Square* position open (Zayd Hamid stepped down effective October 31, 2025).
- Eligibility: enrolled in graduate or professional degree program through Spring 2026, good standing.
- **Deadline:** Application due Nov 24 → Election Dec 5 → Voting closes Dec 9.
- Special GA meeting called for Friday, December 5, 12:00-1:30PM. Opportunity to hear from candidates. Please make plans to attend.
- [Election Info](#)
- No proxies can vote.
- Contact GAPSA advisors with questions:
  - Muna Al Tawee – [maltawee@gmu.edu](mailto:maltawee@gmu.edu)
  - Dr. Julie Choe Kim – [ychoekim@gmu.edu](mailto:ychoekim@gmu.edu)

## **VI. GA Representatives' Expectations**

- Reviewed expectations for GA representatives.
- Attend all meetings or arrange proxies **48 hours in advance**.
- Collaborate with your campus VP on local issues.

## **VII. Updates**

- **Graduate Student Night at GMU vs Georgetown Women's Basketball Game:** Nov 14, 7 PM, EagleBank Arena.
- **Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference:** March 27.