



# **Graduate Student Senate**

**General Assembly Meeting**  
April 25, 2018

[ingss@lehigh.edu](mailto:ingss@lehigh.edu)

# Agenda

[ingss@lehigh.edu](mailto:ingss@lehigh.edu)

- GSS Statement on Trump Honorary Degree

## PIZZA BREAK

- Candidate Speeches
- Announcements
- Open Floor

## E-BOARD ONLINE VOTING: OPEN UNTIL 10PM

*Voting link will be sent to Unit Senators  
from all eligible Graduate Units*



## GSS Statement on Trump's Honorary Degree

### Background:

- February 2018
  - [Lehigh faculty urged BoT to rescind](#); if not, provide explanation
  - [Lehigh \(UG\) Student Senate XXX released statement](#) to support faculty motion
- March 2018: [BoT voted to take no action](#)
  - "...the Board reaffirmed the prior decision to take no action... The members of the Board are committed to doing what is in the best interests of the University as a whole, including most especially demonstrating openness to and respect for the broad views and perspectives of our many University constituencies. We reaffirm our core mission of educating students from around the globe to be future leaders of society.

### GSS Statement

- This meeting: Discussion of proposed statement
- Next meeting: Voting of Unit Senators on whether to approve

Link to faculty motion:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ApAXw1lhCRPJFG\\_QmEPXO15icqsA8ZJ-](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ApAXw1lhCRPJFG_QmEPXO15icqsA8ZJ-)

Link to Student Senate XXX referendum:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wj7s0Ctu8cbHA5k5TO2NJlg8QEY7rvHU>

Link to Trustees' statement: <https://www1.lehigh.edu/news/trustees-statement-on-faculty-motion-regarding-president-trumps-honorary-degree>

The statement does not address what the student senate and faculty have asked for. GSS wants to get some feedback from graduate students to have unit senators to vote next week.

## GSS Statement on Trump's Honorary Degree

### Relevant excerpt:

As campus conversations surrounding this issue proceeded, the Graduate Student Senate polled the entire graduate student body during the spring semesters of 2016 and 2017 to better understand the attitudes of Lehigh graduate students. Of the 813 graduate students who responded to these surveys, about 60% were in favor of rescinding the degree; conversely, about 30% of students were in favor of maintaining the degree.

In light of these results, as well as a majority vote from \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ attending and eligible Unit Senators on May 2, 2018: **We, the Graduate Student Senate, hereby voice concerns with Donald Trump's statements. We believe that they are neither consistent with Lehigh's Principles of Our Equitable Community, nor do they adhere to the standards expected of honorary degree recipients.**

**More importantly, we also echo the requests of the Lehigh Faculty and Student Senate XXX and strongly urge the Board of Trustees to provide a rationale to the Lehigh Community for their decision to take no action.** We believe that providing such an explanation will give the Lehigh Community a clearer picture of how the Board of Trustees views the relevance, impact, and reach of Lehigh's Principles of our Equitable Community.

Link to PROPOSED GSS STATEMENT:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1npvOJgiP3bjyCjtW\\_LN\\_xLw-rWONfG3JGMXYooWCspo/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1npvOJgiP3bjyCjtW_LN_xLw-rWONfG3JGMXYooWCspo/edit?usp=sharing)

Link to GSS Survey results 2016-2017:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=16hSIEPsn3esA1in9FCXv3MEfINy2o69y>

Why are we doing this?

- We want the BoT to clarify their statement
- It is important that the graduate student senate make a statement to show that graduate students are important member of the community

Things To Do?

- Endnote and point to specific statements
- Make a note of how many graduate students attend Lehigh
- Unit Senators should reach to the students and get their input before the vote on May 2.
- Clarify specifically how many responded to each poll.

## **GSS E-Board Election: Candidate Speeches**

- **Each candidate will have ~2 minutes to address the General Assembly**
- **General Assembly will have ~2 minutes to ask candidate questions**

## **GSS Executive Board: Candidates**

### **President**

- Iona Scully

### **Vice President**

- Bashir Sadat
- Greg Massara
- Deliya Kim

### **Historian**

- Caitlin Lindley

### **Secretary**

- Katherine Melo

### **Treasurer**

- James Carrigan

### **Communications**

- Princess Neely

### **Travel Grants**

- Eugene Rohrer
- James Carrigan

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## **Voting Closes at 10pm Tonight!**

**Voting link will be sent out immediately following the meeting**

**If you are your Unit Senator... don't forget!**

**If you are not your Unit Senator... remind them!**

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## Announcements

### **“The Struggle is Real” Chat Series on the challenges of grad school**

- Sunday 4/29, 6pm in Packer House: [RSVP REQUIRED](#)
- Free beer, free food

### **“Are you ready to CLIMB?” Rock Climbing @ Doylestown Rock Gym**

- Saturday, 4/28, 12pm-4pm
- \$5 Deposit Required to reserve your spot
- Space is limited! Contact [JEL315@LEHIGH.EDU](mailto:JEL315@LEHIGH.EDU)

### **Improv! Workshop on using improv in everyday life**

- ...to make decisions, to generate ideas, ANYTHING.
- Thursday, 4/26 (TOMORROW), 4pm-6:30pm, Iacocca E104
- Michelle Macau, NYC-based improv teacher
- Free registration, Free Food!

The Struggle is Real RSVP: <https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ba326493ad059cc81693303c2&id=43ea93b611&e=db0ba33d48>



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## Open Floor

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# Next Meeting: May 2, 2018

