



Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly Meeting
November 28, 2018
Neville 001

@LehighGSS

ingss@lehigh.edu

Agenda

- Quick Announcements
- President John Simon and Provost Pat Farrell
- Open Floor



GSS presents the 2018:

Winter Photo Contest!

Categories:

1. Lehigh Pride
2. Picture Perfect
3. Lehigh around the world

\$50 gift card!

Prize for each category & for best overall photo!

RULES

- Submissions due Jan. 31st
- 1 submission per category per person
- Email submissions to cal416@lehigh.edu
- lastname.category
- E.g., "Lindley.LeachPride.jpg"

Announcements

ingss@lehigh.edu

Announcements



NYC TRIP!

OISS provides the transportation.
YOU just have fun!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST
BUS LEAVES AT 10 AM AT
PACKER BUS STOP

Stop by at OISS and sign up with
\$5 deposit before **Nov 26th!**



ingss@lehigh.edu

Announcements



FRIDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 5 PM - 10PM

SNOW TUBING AT CAMELBACK MNT

VAN LEAVES PACKER HOUSE AT 5 PM
Bring \$25 Deposit to GLO by 12/6

Questions? cmw418@lehigh.edu or 201-803-0994

ingss@lehigh.edu

De-Stress - 25 minute Table Massages

Tuesday, December 11,

10am-3pm, \$20

at Packer House!

Privacy is paramount!

Come enjoy a relaxing back massage at Packer House.

Hear the soothing music,

feel the tension leave your shoulders, neck and back.

Lori will massage away your stress

from finals, project completion and proposals!

Remember, these are not chair massages!

Limited Availability, pay your
\$20 cash at GLO

Sign up here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/utYS6eAVdbMfzQW2>

Brought to you by GLO



Announcements

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Lehigh Women's Network Social
December 12 2018 12 pm - 2 pm
Roemmele Global Commons
Food and Drink Provided

If you are an individual with a disability and need accommodations in order to participate in this event, please contact Tess at tmp218@lehigh.edu in advance

Announcements

President John Simon and Provost Pat Farrell

- Provost Pat Farrell and John Simon
 - Big picture for grad students- we're in the beginning of the journey to increase grad student population by \$500.
 - Growing grad students is different as we need to make our research that we do and advertise it, collaborate with faculty projects
 - Funding and housing are issues as well that are important
 - The character of grad programs is important
 - We are planning on making a new position- Vice Deputy Provost of Graduate Students
 - Focus will be on how to improve the experience of grad students on campus, as we focus on our work, across grad programs
 - A committee has been formed, and interviews are being conducted currently, from current Lehigh Faculty
 - The foci that grad students have made known will be part of this person's CV
 - They will not be able to do everything all at once, but by having someone focusing on grad students needs might help to improve grad student conditions
 - One area- how do we diversify the grad student population?
 - This is good for Lehigh and so we are interested in this.

- Needs to be done ACROSS programs, not just in specific labs
 - We grad students will be asked to assist with this.
- President John Simon
 - Met with the undergrad students yesterday and we know that we will not be talking about similar concerns today.
 - Generally universities have focused on the undergraduate population
 - You as grad students are in a unique position where you are not jsu students, but also not faculty members, which you don't want to be seen as because you are studying what is interesting to you.
 - Some of you are here for one or two years in a masters program and others are here from 4-x years finishing your Ph.D.s
 - The new position, vice deputy provost of graduate students is something that is important
 - In other universities, there are deans of graduate students that advocate with all the other deans to try and ask for money
 - There are specific universities, like Emory, that have enormous budgets, but normally, graduate deans have no budget.
 - Provost Pat Farrell gets to make decisions about funding and other resources, and so having someone work directly with the provost is extremely important
 - Impact of Graduate students
 - The work that we do directly impacts Lehigh's reputation, as we are what gives the university its name.
 - Every issue that is going on at the university is not directly related to path to prominence
 - These are steps that we are taking to improve Lehigh, and the one that is important to grad students is improving the city of Bethlehem.
 - As housing needs for graduate students are different than undergraduates
 - There are apartments that are in the works for the city of Bethlehem, but we don't know if graduate students want to live here and what price point is actually going to work with graduate students
- Q & A
 - How can we consider inclusion better for grad students as advisers do not encourage us to get involved or included within the Lehigh community?
 - As your faculty got through their programs the way that they did, it is hard to get them to change overnight.
 - Most faculty though, work with graduate students and undergraduate students and so it's hard to imagine that they

- would treat one group one way and the other group the other way
 - The way to make change though is to change the expectation across programs and the university to expect inclusion of grad students into Lehigh.
- Graduate education in general- from department to department, how much teaching time we do is different per department, some professors use their TAs as glorified graders, and I feel like i'm not getting the teaching experience that I need.
 - What response do you get from your program when you talk to them about that?
 - Hopefully the new deputy provost can help to change this by having advisors have the conversation with you about what your goals are for when you graduate the program
 - Your adviser needs to be the one to ask questions and set you up to get the job you want.
 - There is always an imbalance according to the programs as graduate students teaching, either grad students teach all the classes or only tenured faculty teach the classes
 - This is an issue that changes per the perception of the institution
- Housing- housing on third and fourth streets on 3rd and 4th st, it concerns me as someone who grew up here and lived here, as it completely changes the area for the people who actually live here. I fear that this is changing the fabric of lehigh for the community and generations of people who live here.
 - housing that has been done has not been in the name of lehigh, if it was, it would have been considered differently. But developers own those blocks and residents can have a voice through city council
 - We don't want to see that hegemony is being done in the name of Lehigh, that would be very bad and not something like we would like.
 - As well, people would not develop here because the developers will not make their money back, 6 or 7 years ago, now that is changing, which is good.
- I live by myself off of my graduate student housing and currently spend 50% of my stipend to live where I currently live, and so if I lived in these buildings, I would not be able to afford food. As such, we don't currently make enough to live off of, and living with people with our graduate student schedules makes things very differently...
 - We would be very interested in what price point you can afford as the housing people want graduate students and young professionals to live there, but you can't live there until we know what you can actively afford.

- How is path to prominence going to account for the volume of new students, which will increase the load on faculty as well as graduate students research and teaching loads?
 - We could change how grad students are funded, where grad students are able to be funded one year as TAs, but other times as RAs so they can get experience doing all parts your professional identities
 - To do this, we have to work with the departments and the funded work to be able to help navigate this change
 - We want to make these changes through advisors to help mentor you through this.
 - The financial part will go through the departments
 - The deputy provost can hopefully help to clarify this and help set up the paths that you take as graduate students to get through these programs
- There is an increase of graduate students being talked about being brought to Lehigh, I am concerned as grad students current stipends are very low and the cost of living here is very expensive and I was just wondering how we are planning on addressing that for new and current students?
 - Graduate students will be brought in according to the grants the faculty have and fellowships that we can have from donors as graduate student stipends cannot come from undergraduate tuition.
 - Perhaps a new study comparing graduate student stipends to other universities to see where we lie in how we are paying our graduate students needs to be done, as it hasn't been done in a few years to see if we need to change what stipends we are paying our graduate students.
- Was the community asked about South Side for changes being made to the landscape in relation to parking?
 - Yes they were, there was clearly a miscommunication on this, there were many communications and meetings that we attended about this.
 - Odd that it was not communicated to you during parkins meetings but the SouthSide community was consulted and they can have their views considered by contacting local government.

Open Floor



- The meeting went over and we did not open the floor during this meeting.



Next Meeting:

January 30, 2019
See You Next Year!

@LehighGSS

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