



Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly Meeting

June 19, 2019

STEPS 101

@LehighGSS

ingss@lehigh.edu

Agenda

- Unit Senators and Club Representatives
- Open Committee Positions
- External Affairs Update
- Parking Update
- Possible Changes to Department Coordinators
- Announcements
- Open Floor

Unit Senators and Club Representatives

Are you the unit senator for your department or club representative?

- Primary and Secondary Representatives
- Unit Senators: Have your graduate coordinator confirm!

Please let us know!

- Things may still be in flux right now, but please email us as soon as URs have been secured in order to make sure our records are updated. We don't want to lose information and have it impact clubs or departments.

ingss@lehigh.edu

2019-2020 GSS Budget Committee

Volunteer to join the Budget Committee!

One delegate needed from each college College of Business and Economics

E-mail GSS E-Board (ingss@lehigh.edu) or GSS Treasurer Sine Zungu (siz517@lehigh.edu)

- Still need one volunteer from College of Business for this Committee
 - One more meeting in the Summer

Open Committee Positions

University Appeals Committee

University Committee on Discipline

External Affairs Committee (3 needed)

Graduate Research Committee (1 needed)

LUGS 5k Committee

1. University Appeals & University Committee on Discipline: dealing with cases of plagiarism mainly
2. EAC: 3 people needed; if there's more interest that's okay. Email Zach (zna216) or ingss.
3. One person for GRC: Meets every other Tuesday to talk about affairs re: to research.
4. LUGS 5K Committee: Help organize or volunteer for the 5K, and we'll connect you.

External Affairs Update

- NLRB soon to make ruling on grad workers.
- Threat of sequestration--automatic spending cuts in Congress
- Student loans--grad students shoulder disproportionate burden
- US Visa fee increase of \$150

- Zach: National labor Relations Board is about to rule on grad student workers whether they will reverse the decision from Columbia that graduate student workers are not student workers of the university to form unions; NLRB is currently headed by anti-union members
- Sequestration: batch of spending cuts that will cut gov't spending down by billions of dollars; affect everything we rely on the federal govt for. Most likely won't happen, but don't assume. Cut from Pell Grants or Federal Aid Loans
- Department of Education did study on student loan debt; grad students share disproportionate student loan debt. We don't receive interest-free loans that undergrads get. Further confirmation of loan crisis that needs to be addressed
- State Dept. is increasing the Visa fee for international students up \$150 (roughly from \$250 to \$400); on top of continued rhetoric that is hostile to international students.

Parking Update

New permits available for sale, new regulations begin July 1st

Letter sent to administration outlining issues and proposing solutions

- Followed up by Beth Dolan

Meeting with Mark Ironside and engineers next week to discuss

- Additional concerns?

- New permits on sale for regulations on July 1
- We wrote a letter to Pat Farrell, Simon, Mark I., and outlines issues with the regulations and proposed solutions
 - Beth Dolan followed up on this
- Mark I will be meeting with us more in-depth next week.

Possible Changes to Dept. Coordinators

Proposal to centralize department coordinators in CAS

Plan was presented to dept. chairs and received heavy criticism

Currently under review and subject to change, unclear what will happen

- Centralize coordinators in CAS in one single space as a way to increase “efficiency” of their work
- Plan is tentative and under review, but changes will be made soon

Announcements

Suggestion/Concern Form

Send the E-Board feedback

What issues are you facing as a grad?

Submissions can be anonymous

<https://bitly.com/GSSsuggest>

<https://forms.gle/H45JrxGbjXb45qdh7>



<https://forms.gle/H45JrxGbjXb45qdh7>

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HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?

Working on a project you're pretty jazzed about?
Is your lab on the brink of something amazing?

GSS WANTS TO SHOW YOU OFF.

Our graduates students are doing great things.
The rest of the **Lehigh community needs to know about it.**

We'll send around an online form to fill out.
Tell us about yourself (or your team!), your project or
research, and send along some photos if you have them.
You can also tag [@lehighgss](#) and use the hashtag.

You may be featured on our
Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.
We'll periodically select students or teams for a complete
graduate student profile (and take your photo!).

#HWGOLEHIGH

Announcements

- Alex and Princess running Grad Student Summer Work Social Media Campaign
 - Please show off your amazing work!
 - Form will be sent out that explains your work. Include photos of the researcher or researcher at work. Post on Social Media and select a few folks to do a full profile and that will be on GSS website.
 - Please advertise and spread the word! Better representation we have for the work we do in summer. This is a way to help shed light for administrators on the constant work we do for Lehigh's research reputation.

Announcements

Graduate Student Ambassadors

- Interested in helping newly arriving graduate students?
- Be a Graduate Student Ambassador
- Orientation: Aug 19 - 24
- Sign-up here:

<https://forms.gle/ZCeHhYTW8smV1zMs8>



- <https://forms.gle/ZCeHhYTW8smV1zMs8>

Sign up for as much or as little as you'd like. Whatever schedule allows.

Announcements



South Mountain Hike

- Saturday, June 25, 2019
- 10am-2pm

- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQbVM9JFy5mfWgzP8HLxrCX6vq8QFj5INhMUsAHYxx7wwhsA/formrestricted>

NEVERMIND! Error on the flyer! This event has already happened.

Announcements: Community Events

21 JUN ¡Sabor! Latin Festival



28 JUN Blast Furnace Blues Festival VIP Pass



29 JUN Bourbon & BBQ



13 JUL SangriaFest SteelStacks



- Every weekend at the Levitt Pavilion at Steel Stacks; free concert from 7:30-9PM and then 9-11PM (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday?)
- Local or indie bands. Lot of dogs! :)

Open Floor



- Junior (Travel Grants Officer): we are improving the Travel Grants Application process → please help with clarifying what the actual department names are. The app. will be faster and more streamlined. Still processing TG apps.
- Parking at Saucon Village: required to buy a permit if they have a car. Nights/weekend they can park on campus (not during day). Don't have option to buy on campus day permit.
 - Problems with this:
 - (1) Most of the students do lab work and they may need to transfer materials from building to another. Sometimes material can go bad and might not work.
 - (2) Ongoing issue of pricing. Increase every year by \$50 last few years. In the past, Parking Services stopped increases in response to grad student anger, so what can we do now? Grad students are paying more for less. What is the benefit?
 - (3) Ten minute busses don't apply for the travel from Saucon Village to anywhere. It would take 30 minutes via bus to get to Whitaker versus 10 mins via car. Could there be an Express Bus directly from Saucon Village to necessary stops on campus? Ideally, GSS can get SV residents to have the day pass, but we can't guarantee that there will be price discount.
 - (4) There's no space to actually park after 4PM because Zoellner and Alumni and behind Whitaker are limited in this pass. Need clarity on whether Farrington Square applies for SV

- residents.
 - staff also being impacted in these decisions. In the same boat as GS.
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- With letters a few years ago, the grad student body complained and showed how Lehigh's price was exorbitantly higher than any other college in the surrounding area. It makes Lehigh look bad to have unaffordable prices. Should we think about this now?
 - What kind of services added to parking permit that justifies such a high price? For SV perspective, nothing has changed. What justifies this upped price?
 - Academic Break Parking: Farrell was surprised that GS can't park during break. He seemed receptive to the edit on that.
 - If you have anecdotes or stories, please email ingss! Admin. will be more receptive to stories that detail how research is negatively impacted.
 - Parking and Auxiliary Services are separate entities. Beth Dolan wants to propose upping the rent cost a little to cover parking for GS with cars on campus. Thoughts?
 - Junior: only textual-based messages aren't helpful in conveying the updates. Inaccessible for folks with various disabilities. Junior will work to make visual guides that display where people can park where (and with what prices) → infographic of all these ideas



Summer Meetings

July 19, 2019
August 7, 2019

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