



Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly Meeting
September 18, 2019
Packard 416

@LehighGSS

ingss@lehigh.edu

Agenda

- Open Committee Positions
- Proposed Changes to Fiscal Governance
- Beth Dolan, Deputy Provost for Graduate Education
- External Affairs Update
- Announcements
- Open Floor

Open Committee Positions

University Committee on Discipline (2-3 needed)

University Appeals Committee (1 needed)

Education Policy for Undergraduates (1 needed)

Lehigh Environmental Advisory Group (LEAG) (1 needed)

Faculty Committee on Student Life (1 needed)

External Affairs Committee (3 needed)

LUGS 5k Committee

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Graduate Mental Health Committee

- UCD: Mainly working with disciplinary affairs in academics; deals with disciplinary issues; schedule is flexible and open to your schedule. Plagiarism and responses to incidents in Greek Life. Also faculty involved; need a student voice to represent what student body might feel
- UAC: appeals to disciplinary hearings
- EPG: Wednesdays in the afternoon; can Zoom into these meetings; curriculum for UGs and best optimize it
- GRC: Faculty committee discussing faculty and graduate research concerns. Important for grad students to speak for ourselves; behind the scenes look for graduate education and reviews of depts., policy, plans for research funding; Tuesdays 3:00-4:15
- EPU: Graduate student needed to help input on undergrad curriculum; meetings are some Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:15pm and zoom accessible
- LEAG: Request that we have a student on committee. Looks at sustainability on campus.
- FCSL: Administer bLUeprint Grants in addition to other items
- PAC: Appeals to parking citations; catered!
- EAC: 3 people (1 focused nat'l, 1 focused state, 1 focused local); meet once a month and discuss updates and develop a list of what policies GSS supports to have a quick response to larger issues impacting graduate education
 - Email Zach Arms (zna216@lehigh.edu)
- LUGS: Overseeing and organizing the LUGS 5K Race; work starts in October; head is Michael Mfarej
- DIC: Rebranding our image; focusing on improving equity for graduate

- students on campus
- GMHC: Focusing on advocating improvement to resources surrounding graduate wellness at LU

Proposed Changes to Fiscal Governance

- Clarifies the definition of a “graduate club” and standardizes language
- Establishes reliable methods of communication between the GSS E-board and clubs
 - Clubs must have an @lehigh.edu email that is passed on between E-board turnover
 - Clubs will fill out a monthly check-in form so that GSS can stay up to date on their activity
- Voting: Next GA Meeting (October 2nd)
- Link: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1h1PnIMgMCeR1v8FDvd9Ke-ITyEgizw_v

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1h1PnIMgMCeR1v8FDvd9Ke-ITyEgizw_v

- Many pieces of reorganization ; take a look through the edits above
- Come contact us on Eboard if you need assistance changing email to a “lehigh.edu” email

Beth Dolan

- Deputy Provost for Graduate Education

- Key question: How can the Deputy Provost for Graduate Education be helpful for you?
- Beth is one of 3 deputy provosts (Bob Flowers-Faculty, Jennifer Jensen-Academic, and Beth)
 - All have access to the provost
- We do not have a formal graduate school
 - GSS, GRC, Graduate Life, and Grad Education (4 quadrants of grad life at Lehigh)
- Position came out of a task force:
 - 4 areas of focus: Lehigh's reputation, visibility of grad programs, retention and capacity building, and recruitment & diversity

Reputation

- Proposal to CGS to expand Creative Scholars Institute
- Data
 - Lehigh is not collecting aggregate data: time to degree, length of program, etc.
 - Transparent Comm. of Data (look at [Duke Univ statistics](#) about grad students as example)
- Website and Promotional Material
 - Working with Kathleen to integrate grad life and education into the site

- Helpful for a viewer of the site that is a grad student
 - I.e. How does my insurance work? Flow chart of options.
- Council of Graduate Schools Presentation
- Interdisciplinary Program Growth

Visibility

- Every meeting Beth is in, she asks “what about grad students?”
 - Want to make this question more proactive for others; NOT in response to a lack of consideration
 - I.e. Parking, Alcohol Ban in Residences, and Health Insurance Options for Spouses and Dependents
 - Beth, Pat Farrell, and John Simon are discussing an exemption for grad students on the ban
 - The health insurance question is early stages but Beth is working towards this
- Engage Grad Alumni
- 100th anniversary of women grad student alumnae
 - 1st woman asked to apply to a Masters program in 1913
 - BoT never made a decision
 - By 1918, first 3 women were admitted
- Brand and Strategic Planning
- Presentations to BoTs

Recruitment and Diversity

- India Initiative (Cheryl Matherly)
 - Recruiting students from India
- GEM Consortium (Henry Odi)
 - Graduate Education for Minorities
 - Focused on STEM fields
 - Training: get down to basics on what Lehigh should provide
- Navy Contract (GAOs)
- Training Grants

Retention and Capacity Building

- Ali Erk, CCPD
 - What are the needs specifically?
 - Amazing Zoom suites where grad students can do their interviews
- Asst Dir for Graduate Writing Support, GLO
 - Thinking of various ways to expand things like dissertation boot camp
 - Workshops, tutoring, etc.
 - Hiring tutors to tutor in diff. fields to support writing goals
- Common Grad Ed and Life Space “a home for grad education on campus”
 - Make Packer House more of a home space or somewhere else
- Mentoring
 - Harassment Free Labs

- Aware of bullying and harassment problems
 - Working to address that
 - Mentor Collective
 - Program available to UGs starting last year
 - Starting in Summer, will be available to incomings GSs
 - Help with big and small items transitioning
 - Folks can select mentors based on identity, goals, field, etc.
 - Lehigh Connects
 - Sign up!
 - Platform run out of CCPD that can link to alum working in your industry
 - Signing up shows demand for mentorship
- Doctoral Student Funding
 - Ideal is:
 - 5 years of 12 months funding guaranteed
 - Fully paid health care premiums
 - Child care vouchers
 - Far from this, but how can we get closer?
 - What's the gap?
 - What do we need to do to close this gap?

Q&A

- Is there an effort to form an equivalent to a graduate school?
 - There was a grad school until 1995
 - Not clear why it dissolved
 - Might've been a move to decentralize
 - Faculty see the need for more centralized effort
 - Beth has not heard anyone talk about creating a graduate school, but haven't heard a no either
 - A student at the meeting noted that Penn State had a centralized grad school which seemed to alleviate a lot of concerns
- What difficulties or opportunities do you see in the provost search?
 - Lot of opportunity in terms of communicating to new provost how important graduate education is and how much GS contribute to life at Lehigh: service, teaching, AND research
 - I.e. Reply to a document to the candidates about the priorities and issues of grad students
 - Eugene is on search committee which can help field the questions to these candidates
 - Not sure grad student work has been at the center of the provost position given other responsibilities
- A student at the meeting noted downsides to a separate grad college at Drexel
 - The creation of a separate college may make the UG and GS divide

- worse (based on experience)
- Grad students may be part of UG clubs
- Does this create any inequity?
- By separating it, we might further alienate ourselves
- Beth replied that grad students wouldn't be removed from programs, but the center would be more administrative hub if it were to happen

- Mentorship: is it for all admitted students or for who are definitely coming?
 - Still figuring that out
 - Thinking for students who have been admitted and accepted
 - Help them acclimate
 - LU Diplomats (reach out to int'l accepted students)
 - Lot of students' deciding factor was that LU Diplomat
 - Could there be a collaboration with this club?

- How can grad students help Beth and Kathleen out with these initiatives?
 - Some college and departments may be a good model to spread out to other place
 - Making sure you're active and reporting back to your departments about what's going on

External Affairs Update

- Changes to International Student Visas
 - Fee Increase: from \$200-350 dollars
 - “Public Charge” potential rule change
 - As of 2018, new “Unlawful Presence” guidelines for F-2, J-2, and M-2 dependents, as well as international students.

- Zach was asked to provide more of a quick brief update on major changes in last two years impacting international students

- Few legal changes (or potential ones); more of it is more a change in tone and practice (not law change)

- Major legal changes:
 - Fee increase for visas from 200-350 dollars
 - Potential rule change: someone determined a public charge (defined as having a disability that requires medicaid or medicare, qualifying for food stamps, or other public aid programs) you may be not allowed in or kicked out of country
 - Update from old law from 1920s
 - Has not fully come through yet
 - New “unlawful presence” guidelines have come through
 - After Aug 9, 2018, anyone who is beyond their visa can be sentenced 10 year maximum reentry bar
 - Problem is grad students have to go back and get visas renewed right after they graduate
 - Strict on the accruing of this unlawful presence

- Smaller changes
 - New problematic rhetoric for graduate students from certain areas (i.e. China, Northern Africa)

- If you have specific questions for your own issues or friends, go to OISS (Office of International Students and Scholars)
 - They'll know the nuances of these moves
 - Various support services to handle the stress of these changes including: Counseling Center, peer groups, etc.

- Zach Couldn't find any information about tax changes for international students but will keep looking

ingss@lehigh.edu

Mentorship Cocktail Event



Do you have an amazing mentor?

Nominate them for an appreciation award and attend the:

MENTORSHIP APPRECIATION COCKTAIL PARTY

Friday, November 1, 2019

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Butz Gallery

Nominate by September 27!

<https://forms.gle/apCX9796Brmx8mJ28>



ingss@lehigh.edu

GSS Reception w/ President Simon



Friday, September 27th
6 - 7:30pm

Heavy hors 'd oeuvres and
beverages served

Spots are limited RSVP:
<https://forms.gle/eedCU4i6UMon6DUE8>

<https://forms.gle/eedCU4i6UMon6DUE8>

inwise@lehigh.edu
inprism@lehigh.edu

Graduate Student Halloween Party



Clubs: Interested in helping plan
or co-sponsoring?

Contact: WiSE or Prism

ingss@lehigh.edu



**STUDENT FITNESS
INTEREST PANEL**

Interest Meeting

WHERE
Sept. 19 @5:00pm in
Lamberton Hall

WE NEED...
1-2 representatives from your
organization to attend

OUR MISSION
Create a group to reassess
Lehigh students' fitness &
recreational needs and enact
change in these areas

**CAMPUS
ATHLETICS**
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

September 19 @pm
Lamberton Hall

Interest panel and open
discussion

CONNECT WITH GLO

Thanks for following our Facebook page!
We love having you here. 😊
Check out our Instagram and Twitter!



@lehighglo



We can also be reached by email:
gradlife@lehigh.edu
or come say hi at Packer House,
217 W. Packer Avenue!

gradlife@lehigh.edu

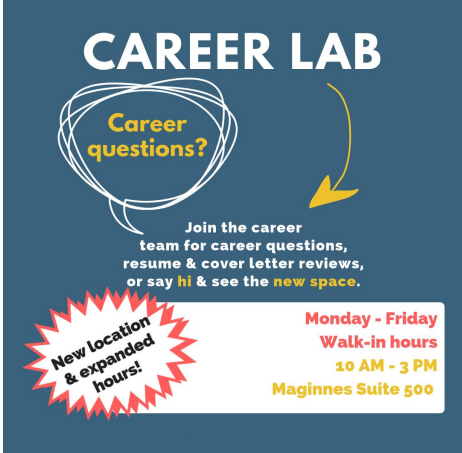
gradlife@lehigh.edu

Career Center Engagement Contest

Department contest sponsored by GLO!

Go to the Career Lab by Pacing Break!

Department with the largest number of grads wins a Fall-themed lunch!



CAREER LAB

Career questions?

Join the career team for career questions, resume & cover letter reviews, or say hi & see the new space.

New location & expanded hours!

Monday - Friday
Walk-in hours
10 AM - 3 PM
Maginnes Suite 500

ingss@lehigh.edu

GSS Wine & Cheese Event

Friday, October 4

7:00-8:30PM

Packer House

Will also offer “mocktail” options

Sign up will be sent out by end of the week



Wine and Screen: Kiki

September 20, 2019
Packer House
7pm



@Packer House

GRAD

**KARAOKE
NIGHT**



8-11pm

sas617@lehigh.edu

September 27 @ Packer House

Light Refreshments and beer will be served

Contact Info sas617

ingss@lehigh.edu

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>

Open Floor



- Two sets of sign-in sheets are now available at every meeting (one off to the left at the front of the room and one in the back right corner)
 - Use either sign in sheet depending on how long the line is getting



Next Meeting:

October 2, 2019

Brent Stringfellow, University Architect



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