

Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly Meeting

April 22, 2020

<https://lehigh.zoom.us/j/4639869736>



ingss@lehigh.edu

Agenda

- Elections
- Announcements
- Open Floor

Election Procedures

Each candidate will make a short speech

Following each speech, the GA can ask the candidate questions

After the meeting, Unit Senators will be emailed the ballot and have until 10pm to vote

New E-Board will be announced tomorrow

- Candidates will have between 2-5 minutes to speak
- 3 minutes of question and answer
- Ballot will go out to all senators
- Oner and Sara are record keepers

President - Jessica Joseph



- Currently serving as Vice President
- 3rd year Ph.D. student in Psychology
- Thanks to Kathleen, Amy, Beth for their support this year
- First goal: aiding GLO office during a challenging time
 - Continuing momentum of the work in GSS
 - Working with advocates like Beth Dolan
- End goal: admin to come to us to ask for what we need
- Also want to focus on mental health and prioritize
 - Get the mental health committee back on track
 - Thanks to Sara and Natania for their work on gathering resources
- Want to work with e-board and advocates to improve all aspects : relationships, housing, parking, mental health, etc.
- Produce GSS essential that experiences are productive, meaningful, and *enjoyable*
- Being at GSS meetings is highlight of my week

Q&A

No questions

Vice President - Kadia Hylton-Fraser



- Kadia (pronounce with a long “A”)
- 2nd year Educational Leadership Ph.D.
- Fulbright Scholar from Jamaica
- If elected:
 - Focus on the status of international students
 - COVID-19 amplifies these particular issues
 - Working arrangements, what is required to work on campus, etc.
 - Continue to advocate with OISS and make sure the disconnect between faculty and student knowledge is addressed
 - For international students, the info. is scattered around campus
- Last semester I was part of the Diversity Community in College of Ed.
 - Hosted town hall that highlighted issues students faced
- Highlighting the essential status of grad students (univ does not run without us)
- Support Pres, work with E Board, and highlight those issues

Q&A

No questions

Vice President - Matšela Z. Matšela



- Fulbright Scholar from South Africa
- Worked as a trader with international bank
- Why Vice President?
 - Critical role because the VP serves across the entirety of the E Board
- 1st year Graduate Student
- Serves as rep for Lehigh at the UN
- Particular interest in and focus on first-year international students and the issues they face
- Networked with many people and communities in my time here so far
- Interest in helping people
- Certain issues that might inhibit full participation in campus community
- Want to be a part of a team that is helping people to achieve their dreams

Q&A

No questions

Secretary - Teresa Rosenberger



- 1st year Counseling Psych Ph.D. Program
- This would be my first involvement with GSS e-board
- Got involved this last semester
- First step to learn more about GSS and grow involvement in this community
- Less of a speech-giving and more of a listening-driven person
- Listened to the first three speeches to see what their goals and want to replicate this dynamic as secretary
 - Noticed:
 - Need for community building
 - need to elevate graduate student voice
 - a focus on mental health
- Want to help reduce barriers in communication, esp. During COVID-19

Q&A

No questions

Travel Grants - Alexandra Sackett



- Serve currently as Historian
- This helped me see the needs of the TG position first hand
- Want to make the application process even more seamless and protect the changes that have recently been made
- User survey to gather info. on how the application is so far and what changes need to be made
- Value the chance to fight for graduate voices now more than ever

Q&A

No questions

Treasurer - Sine Zungu



- Currently serving as Treasurer
- 3rd year Ph.D. student in Psychology
- I appreciated what I learned in the E-board, including the chance to set up the Funding Committee and allocate funds for the clubs and Travel Grants Officer
- Interested in service even beyond the position:
 - Current GA at the Pride Center; President of grad club PRISM
 - PRISM helped host the Halloween party back to October
 - Ongoing virtual buddies initiative
- Goal: want to revisit the fiscal governance to make it reflect the current ideals and needs of the Senate
- Instituted financial practices and wants to solidify and concretize them
- Could be financial consequences for grad student events with COVID-19 and want to help create new opportunities for funding
- Love team dynamic with others who are invested in the community

Q&A

No questions

Communications - Winnie Gu



- 1st Year MA in College of Ed
- Dual cert in Elem/Sec Educ
- Was undergrad for four years and now grad for one year
- Previous experience includes:
 - International Admissions Intern
 - Make YouTube Global Lehigh channel
 - In charge of Lehigh Univ Diplomats to reach out to international students
 - Created new website and communication
 - Art and architecture background gives me skill to communicate visually
 - Grad rep on the Faculty Committee on Global Affairs
 - Ambassador College Ed Student Advisory Board
 - GA in Office of ISS
 - Work with offices and depts to promote student orgs and make decisions on advertising certain events
- Create web comics
- Familiar with social media, email, etc.
- Create a consistent theme for SM especially on Instagram
- Need for branding
- Want more representation for graduate students

Q&A

No questions

Communications - Kadia Hylton-Fraser



- Work with international conferences to communicate clearly
- Getting correct communication out to students is a priority
- Making sure students feel supported and included through consistent communication
- One goal would be to streamline the efforts to make sure grad students are engaged with GSS and with community more broadly
- Feel the efforts are being made, but we can continue to engage students and make them feel a part of the community

Q&A

- Q: We feel the efforts, but the knowledge of these measures feels scattered (left hand is not talking to the right hand). Are you discussing creating more central communication?
- A: Yes. Different offices have different mandates, but we need to figure out a way to streamline all of these resources and not become over saturated or overwhelmed.

Historian - Ben Davis



- Happy 50th Anniversary of Earth Day!
- Third year Ph.D. - Unit Rep for Material Sciences Dept.
- Takes this communication very seriously
 - Emails students after every meeting with highlights from GA meetings
- Previous Experience with the Sustainability Committee
- Can be flexible with schedule to attend important events
- Outreach for record company and research sets me up for documentation, organization, etc.
- Want to gather input from the student body to determine how we can make web information more concise and up to date
- Extending professional and personal networks

Q&A

No questions

Historian - Winnie Gu



- See notes from Communication Officer above
- Active throughout undergrad
- Understanding of campus culture and resources
- Experience with checking policy documents and organize website
- Experience taking photos and marketing clubs and journals through the work the Historian would do
- Put knowledge from five years into practice

Q&A

No questions

External Affairs - Annie Sanchez



- 3rd year Ph.D. student in Biological Sciences
- Advocacy very important to me
- Interested because as a scientist, we need more representation in government
- Want to advocate for Lehigh and grad students
- Continue the momentum of Zach in the position
- Also I would like to expand the position to create a committee and have multiple people researching topics passionate to them
 - i.e. International student research immigration laws
- Need to keep track of issues and what is available and what is changing
- Overall goal: get more people involved and interested

Q&A

- Q. What issues are you interested in currently?
- A. STEM data research and legislation regarding COVID-19

ingss@lehigh.edu

Information Pages for Graduate Students

Graduate Life Office Homepage:

<https://gradlife.web.lehigh.edu/>

Graduate Student COVID-19 Information Page:

<https://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/organization/graduate>

ingss@lehigh.edu

Mental Health Resources

Counseling Center access is still available via Zoom or phone

After hours counselor always available.

Dial **(610)758-3880**, select “0” on the keypad

Referrals- we are working on a list to share with everyone!

Keep up to date:

<https://studentaffairs.lehigh.edu/content/covid-19-counseling-psychological-services-updates>

Mental Health - Self-Care



<https://tinyurl.com/LehighSelfCare>

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pdoAf-MkxeOB8pAM4qGge4TagEryIDXJzjiaoDCM7pY/edit?usp=sharing>

- Natania and Sara have put together this self care guide

Anything Mentionable is Manageable

Informal Peer Led
Destress Group

Fridays

12-1pm

"Anything Mentionable is Manageable"

Super informal, counseling psych peer led, de-stress group.

**Fridays
12-1pm**

We, Sara Beachy and Natania Lipp, are two students in the counseling psychology program. We wanted to facilitate a peer-led support group for graduate students that focuses on exchanging ideas about coping skills, brainstorming activities that may reduce stress and anxiety, and talking about how to maintain community during this time. These groups will be super informal, just a way to check in with each other and share this experience!

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/e3jmaP8uTVUk6IW2A>
Where: On zoom, we will send you a link!

[Sign up for more information.](#)

With Sara Beachy and Natania Lipp

- Link is same for every session
- Jump in and out whenever you can. Informal check ins that allow for more depth to discuss the difficulties and successes navigating COVID-19
- Running indefinitely (most likely will continue into the Summer)

gradlife@lehigh.edu

GLO Virtual Events

Add GLO's Virtual Event Calendar!

<https://tinyurl.com/GLOVirtualEvents>

Any other ideas? Let us know!



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alison.erk@lehigh.edu

Access the Career Center Virtually

Remote Career Lab (via Zoom)

Monday - Friday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Coaching Appointments (Phone/Zoom)

Schedule an appointment on Handshake

More Info:

<https://careercenter.lehigh.edu/content/working-virtually-career-center>

Graduate Students Meet Your Career Coach at Remote Career Lab

Friday, April 17 and Friday, April 24 from 10 am to 3 pm



Ali Erk, MEd
Graduate Student
Career Coach
COE, CAS, RCEAS

Ask quick questions.
Get help with career tasks.
No appointment needed!

Visit the Handshake events tab to access the Zoom link
for Remote Career Lab to join
career staff Monday - Friday 10 am to 3 pm

- Pop in! You don't need to make an appointment.

alison.erk@lehigh.edu

Virtual Tuesdays @ 10

Tuesday, April 28th
10am - 11am

Meet Your Graduate Career Coach!

Learn about resources!
Ask career-related questions!



Featuring our Guest Star:
Ali Erk on April 28

Virtual Networking

**VIRTUAL
TUESDAYS@
10**

Meet Your Graduate Career Coach!

*Learn about available resources
*Ask career-related questions

<https://lehigh.zoom.us/j/599516949> GLO

- Additional Event next week: **Thursday, Apr 29 @ 12PM noon**
- High Impact Strategies if Plans have changed
- Look for email!

GSS Logo Competition Finalists



The E-board voted on three finalists.
Now, we turn the vote back to you!

Let us know which design you think should be the official logo for the Graduate Student Senate here:
<https://forms.gle/3Naw6GspwW8Xr8ECA>

Voting closes April 26!
Creator of the winning design will receive \$150, and their logo design will inspire the official logo of GSS!

Prorated Parking Reimbursements

Refunds will be deposited into your Bursar's account and then a check will be mailed to your home address (in Banner)

1. Check to make sure your address in Banner is up to date
2. If your college/department pays your tuition, call the Bursar's Office to make sure that you receive your refund (may accidentally be applied to your tuition balance)

This is a manual process, please be patient as it will take time

- The refund, in some cases, has gone to offset the cost of tuition that was paid by a college or grant.
 - In other words, the students paid for parking but the refund might be going to the college or grant
 - If this is the case, the students should contact their department ASAP and the Bursar's Office and have their LIN ready. Someone will look at their account and if they fall into this category, the Bursar's Office will mail a check the home address that is in Banner.
- Please make sure your address is correct in Banner in order to receive your check!
- Do students have to contact the Bursar's office first, or is this automatic?
 - Students should get their check in the mail automatically
 - Only need to reach out Bursar if there is an outstanding balance

Campus Climate Diversity & Equity Survey

- Takes 10-15 minutes to complete (responses are **anonymous**)
- Helps leadership assess Lehigh's climate and support for diversity & equity initiatives
- May be randomly selected to win:
 - \$100 Amazon gift card
 - One of two \$50 Amazon gift cards
 - One of ten \$20 Amazon gift cards
- To access the survey, check your emails from **Monday, April 13** from Donald Outing, Vice President for Equity & Community

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



- Thanks from Kathleen for folks running for GSS E board positions
- Thank you to the outgoing e board
- Wanted to create an afternoon writing retreat but timing is off (wait until after classes are over) - People are interested
- Normally, don't do TUES @ 10 or Women's Group during the Summer. Do folks want this?
 - Mixed reactions. Maybe make this once or twice a month
 - GLO Guides will be available over the Summer as well
- Q. Is Packer House being renovated over the Summer?
 - So much is up in the air.
 - Plan will continue with first floor residents to find other places to live. Move out date is pushed back to July 1.
 - Hired new staff.
 - Chances are first floor won't be renovated but will be used for office space



Next Meeting:

April 29, 2020

Don Outing



<https://lehigh.zoom.us/j/4639869736>

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Thank you from the 2019-2020 E-Board! We are so grateful for the Graduate Student Community at Lehigh. Congratulations to whomever is elected for the 2020-2021 E-board!