

Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly Meeting

April 29, 2020

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



ingss@lehigh.edu

GSS Executive Board Election Results

President: **Jess Joseph**

Vice President: **Kadia Hylton-Fraser**

Secretary: **Teresa Rosenberger**

Treasurer: **Sine Zungu**

Communications Officer: **Winnie Gu**

Travel Grants Officer: **Alexandra Sackett**

Historian: **Ben Davis**

External Affairs Officer: **Annie Sanchez**

Agenda

- Don Outing - Vice President for Equity and Community
- Announcements
- Open Floor

Don Outing - Vice President for Equity and Community

- Chief Diversity Officer; Primary Advisor to the President on all matters pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- His office is in the middle of a diversity and equity survey
 - This has gone out to all employees at the university
 - About 90% of students have opened; 7% have completed it
 - About 30% of employees
 - Takes 10-15 minutes to complete
 - Serves as a key tool to identify resources and inform strategy
 - Please take the survey and get everybody you know to take the survey!
 - Also, drawing for \$100 Amazon gift card, 2 \$50 gift cards, and 10 \$20 gift cards
 - “Take the survey. Win some money. Make a difference.”
 - The link to the survey is a personal link (sent April 13th), in students’ Lehigh email
- Q&A - what would you like to know about?
 - Question: Graduate students are wondering about summer funding and opportunities. Have you heard anything about opportunities (assistantships, off-campus) where students can look?
 - Answer from Don Outing: Beth Dolan and a group have been meeting to figure this out. There has been a hiring freeze. The institution’s priority is to maintain stability in the employee and student job pool. Our goal is to not have to lay off or furlough

- anyone, nor to reduce pay. The hiring freeze serves this purpose. Freezing *spending* allows the university to direct funds toward pay (for professional and student staff).
 - As far as new opportunities - there won't be any. People that have been a GA in a particular area - the university is submitting exception to policy to get those GAships funded. So far this hasn't been an issue; it has only been an issue where offices are trying to create a new GAship or new opportunities.
 - The university is working to fund all *current* students and all *current* GAships.
- Answer from Kathleen Hutnik: There is now another layer that employers are having to go through to get approval for funding positions.
 - CCPD, GLO, Alison Erk, are working to find on-campus, short-term remote opportunities for graduate students. This likely won't be a lot of money, but may be something to provide short-term funding.
 - They will be appealing to all offices on campus to create some short-term, smaller jobs. For example, GLO didn't use all their funds in the fall.
 - They also are reaching out to alums to see if they can come up with any other short-term jobs.
 - May hear some more about this in a week.
- Answer from Don Outing: Serving on a team that is looking at redirecting funding toward opportunities.
 - Since the university has had to go to remote, they have had to refund millions of dollars in spending for residential life, as well as dining facilities. To that end, they have had to find ways to redirect funds to cover that lost revenue - again, with the goal of keeping everyone that is currently employed, employed, as well as maintaining fiduciary stability within the system.
 - Some requests to redirect funds for employment have been denied.
 - All this to say, **if you are a current employee at the student, and it's just about renewing your position, that will almost definitely (95-99%) will hold up.**
 - **If this is about a new position, there is some chance that it will not get funded.**
- Answer from Kathleen Hutnik: Graduate student needs survey
 - One third of students said their summer plans haven't changed
 - One third said their plans have changed, but they have a parent or a partner that they can rely on for support

- About 50 students said that they don't know what they're going to do.
 - Answer from Alison Erk: Check job boards and remote resources in Handshake.
- Question: What are your hopes, in terms of expanding programming for diversity and inclusion, not just for graduate students, but for the campus in general? And, what challenges have you encountered initially?
 - Answer from Don Outing: Has been in the position for about three years. The challenges initially were characteristic of challenges he has encountered working at other PWIs, where the majority of students are affluent/white.
 - Typical problems that you encounter at these institutions - underrepresented students don't feel a sense of belonging; these students encounter more microaggressions.
 - Lehigh also has isolated communities - Greek life, athletic life, students without a real community.
 - Since coming on board, Don Outing thinks they have built a pretty strong team - from 1 person to 24.
 - Dedicated to creating and sustaining an environment where everybody feels that they belong.
 - A lot of the growth has to do with the individuals that are a part of the team; a lot also has to do with the student body, as they shown commitment to creating this environment
 - 2020 was declared as "the year of shared responsibility"; Outing has seen this in students and faculty
 - Programming, support structures etc. go along with this, but the big focus is on inclusion, and that is where they continue to move
 - One of the great things about being part of the leadership team at Lehigh is that DEI is a core component of the assessment process, which starts with Lehigh leadership (president, provost, VPs). Outing feels that he is not always the one having to bring up issues of equity; it is a core value and core component of decision-making.
- Question: What is Lehigh doing to support students who may not have access to internet right now?
 - Answer from Don Outing: He serves on a committee with Dr. Roy in BASD (district superintendent); they look at inequities related to quality internet.
 - When they went remote, one of the first questions was, "How will we support students who don't have access?" Increased

- funding for loaner laptops.
 - What about people going to places where they are in a WiFi desert?
 - The Dean of Students reached out to them, asked them to fill out an application, and the university sent them home with hotspots that the university is paying for
 - If people are still having trouble getting access, please reach out
- Comment: There is an overwhelming number of resources right now, and students are concerned about missing important information, especially if there are problems with WiFi. It would be helpful if, at the university level, all of the important information was housed in 1-3 resources.
 - Answer from Don Outing: Lehigh is trying to do this for every group; for example, there are pages of FAQs for graduate students. The University has been trying to create a one-stop place where students can go for answers. University Communications and Public Affairs are working towards this as well.

ingss@lehigh.edu

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
LOGO COMPETITION
WINNER



PRATHMESH
PAWAR
OUT OF OVER 100 VOTES

We will be basing our logo off of this, possibly with some small changes.

Budget Committee

- Meets at least once in the summer to determine the GSS operating budget as well as the budgets for all graduate clubs
- One delegate from each of the four colleges needed!

Sine Zungu (treasurer):

- Before we can start allocating funds, we need to create a budget committee.
 - This funding is for travel grants, general grad activities, and clubs
- The committee will include Sine, and one representative from each college.
 - It is a short committee; it usually meets once a year to allocate the funds
 - If there are any other situations that require the budget committee to make a decision, they usually meet via email
- If you are interested in signing up, please send an email to ingss@lehigh.edu, or to Sine.

Please consider signing up!

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>

Checking In With Grads

GLO will be sending out a survey very soon to see how grads are doing!

Please take a few minutes to fill it out and encourage others in your department to do the same - we want to hear from you!

An email was sent out two weeks ago that was to undergrads; graduate students felt that this was not representative.

- A survey will be sent out that is specific to graduate students
- Let people know that the survey is really important

Kathleen Hutnik:

- The survey is waiting for some final input on questions; the goal is to get the survey out possibly tomorrow
- The survey should only take 5 minutes to complete
- Please fill out and talk to constituents in your departments
- The GLO staff is really small, they need to prioritize where they will focus, so they desperately need input

Sara Beachy:

- Planning to email entire constituency, as well as text peers within her program

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)

Natania Lipp:

- Very informal; chance to chat, connect, talk about what has been useful
- The group takes a different structure every week
- Will be held every Friday until further notice
- Fill out the RSVP to get the link; the link is the same every week
 - This lets them know who is coming and what they would like to get out of it

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>



The image shows a collage of various job listings and advertisements. A red circle highlights the word "CAREERS" in one of the listings. A yellow sticky note with the text "SKILLS WANTED!!" is placed over the collage. Below the collage, there is a text box with the following content:

**Change of plans?
No internship?**

5 ways to maximize your summer

Thursday, April 30, 12 - 1pm
Join the webinar: go to events on Handshake for the zoom link

Center for Career & Professional Development

Aly Erk (Career Center):

- There are resources on Handshake, including COVID-19 remote opportunities
- Webinar tomorrow, 4/30 - how to develop skills, pivot, continue to advance and move forward with career planning

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

- If you haven't received yours yet, reach out to Parking Services

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

CHEERS!
to the end of the semester

FRIDAY, MAY 1ST @ 5 PM

Celebrate the end of the semester with GLO! We will have a brief cheers with the beverage of your choosing over zoom and reflect on our favorite Lehigh memories.

ingrador@lehigh.edu

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



Sine Zungu (treasurer):

- Pride Center is still running virtual buddies program
- Meet, check in on each other, and play games on House Party
- Flyers should be up on Weekly Buzz chain; link to sign up or sign in is on that flyer

Winnie Gu (communications):

- OSS is having their last virtual lounge tomorrow, 4/30, from 10-11
- The link is in this week's newsletter



See you in the summer!

@LehighGSSJ

ingss@lehigh.edu