GSS General Assembly Meeting

December 1st, 2021
Agenda

● Final GA of the Fall!
● Today’s Speaker: Chris Carter
● Evolving Concern Survey Pilot and Resources
● Winter Photo Contest
● End of Semester Check-In
● Announcements
● Open Floor
Carter’s office presents to government officials the interests of Lehigh community. They bring in the legislative force to further the interests of the community in higher education policy, student financial aid, immigration and international students affairs, campus safety issues, Title IX and sexual assault cases.

Current bills that Carter’s office is looking over are related to innovation and competitiveness issues in graduate studies, how certain fields are funded at federal level and industry, NSF graduate students mental health bill, an expansion of STEM mentorship program which will be an opportunity for more mentorship across the country.
Launching Over Winter Break...

- First iteration of the Resource Series (this is an evolving project, but expect it to roll out before the start of the Spring Semester)

- Evolving Concern Survey
  - Will launch **shortly!** [In the construction phase → pilot phase]
  - This will primarily be **broad** and will have sub-sections regarding pressing issues as they arise
  - Current topics you’d like to see included?

- **CLUBS**: Expect us to set up a meeting with a club representative to review the fiscal governance either over Winter Break or at the start of the Spring semester

- Topics that students would see included in the evolving Concern Survey:
  - Food Security
  - Healthcare for dependents
  - Adequate funding and cost of living analysis for graduate students
  - Parking and transportation
  - Generally health insurance and its cost
  - Childcare support
  - Accessibility issues
Winter Photo Contest

- Stay tuned for our winter photo contest!
- We will post several categories (e.g., Lehigh Around the World)
- We will select winners. Prizes will be awarded for the winner of each category & for best overall
- Pictures will be due at the beginning of the Spring semester
End of Semester Check-in

● As the fall semester wraps up, it’s important to check in regarding any developing or previously existing challenges grads are facing.

● Soliciting feedback:
  ○ What concerns were brought to light this semester?
  ○ Do you have any concerns as we transition to the spring?

● From the mid-survey, students mentioned needing more social life/stress-relief, shorter messaging from administration.

● Students reported that unvaccinated staff members who are not granted exemption are continuing to work on campus which is raising concerns for the students and putting them at risk. Kathleen will look into this to make sure the information relayed is correct and acted upon.

● Joan will take up with CRT regarding a potential Covid booster clinic on campus, their plans for entry/exit testing for Spring semester and Isolation protocol. She will ask clarification on if students need to upload the booster vaccination information to the HWC portal.
ANNOUNCEMENTS
University Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity Strategic Plan

- Any **concerns, suggestions, comments, or praises** about what the Strategic Plan includes or does not include? This could be anything from grammar and language to specific content and initiatives named across all sections.

- How do you see your individual needs as a graduate student fitting into the Strategic Plan? Do you feel represented?

- Are there any goals of the Expanding Student Access and Support section that should be considered a priority to address for graduate students? Are there any additional goals you would add?

- **Email Princess Neely (pon216) or Natania Lipp (nsl319) with remarks or submit about this or other DI&E concerns with our Anonymous Google Form!**

[Scan for Anonymous Google Form]
The University has decided that a COVID vaccine will be required this fall for all Lehigh undergraduate and graduate students participating in on-campus programs and activities. More information can be found here.
Writing Resources
Keep your writing momentum going!

Join GWS virtually each Monday from 4pm-6pm and Friday from 2pm-4pm and on one Saturday each month from 9am-5pm. 🎉

Links to Zoom rooms and registrations can be found on the events web page at go.lehigh.edu/gradwritingevents
Overcoming Writer’s Block

Yvonne Lee, Ph.D.
Director of Graduate Writing
Graduate Education & Life

career ready = life ready
Center for Career & Professional Development

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3NfjrGAZ6Y
Career Development Resources
Grads, do you need help with your writing, time management, productivity?

- Grad Writing Center - Monthly events
- Grad Connect Membership is free for all graduate students
- Programs include Dissertation Success, a 12-week program to get you writing, imposter syndrome, publishing tips, writer’s block, and mentoring among many others.

https://goo.gl/6pGfzi
Graduate Life Office - gradlife@lehigh.edu
Educational Talks/Conferences
Pride Center, Center for Gender Equity, & DI&E Committee
The pride center is committed to making each event and every one of our programs and initiatives accessible and inclusive. If you are planning to attend a program and have any accessibility needs or desires, please contact Mel Kitchen at mbk411@lehigh.edu in advance of the program for coordination.
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Center for Gender Equity

- Click here for the latest virtual events and news!
Graduate Life Office
Grads! Do you need a reimbursement from the Graduate Student Senate travel grants, your graduate club OR your department?

Find the details in the link below:

https://grad.lehigh.edu/financial-support/reimbursement
Grad Student Cookie and Cocoa Hour

Two locations!
Packer House Porch 2-3pm
Iacocca Siegel Lobby 3:30-4:30

Wednesday
Dec 8

Brought to you by the Graduate Life Office and Auxiliary Services
Farrington Square
LIGHT UP NIGHT
Thursday, December 2
4:30 - 6:00 pm

Cocoa + Cookies  Ornament Decorating  Give-aways  Holiday Music
Farrington Square lighting at 5:15 pm
Funding Opportunities
Greetings from the Graduate Student Senate!

In an effort to increase efficiency and reduce paper waste, the GSS Travel Grant application process is now electronic. Revised applications are available as a **PDF form (here)** to be completed electronically and submitted via email to GSSTravelGrants@lehigh.edu.

Please see our website to access the application and instructions for the new submission process: https://gradlife.web.lehigh.edu/node/170.

Any questions should be directed to the GSS Travel Grant Officer at GSSTravelGrants@lehigh.edu. Thank you for your help in making this transition!
Funding Opportunity: The Sustainable Initiative Grant

Grants of up to $2,000 are available to Lehigh students, faculty, and staff!

The Sustainable Initiative Grant is available to members of the Lehigh community for projects that contribute to sustainability on Lehigh’s campus and the surrounding area.

You can find more information about how to submit an application at:

https://sustainability.lehigh.edu/sig
Other Graduate Resources & Information
STITCHING CIRCLE

Bring any kind of creative project and join us!
Wednesday @ 7:00pm EST
In the CDE Lounge (CUC 207) or via Zoom.
Register at go.lehigh.edu/stitch

We want all our events to include everyone. Contact Kar at kmp27@lehigh.edu with questions.
OPEN FLOOR
GSS Meetings
Graduate Student Senate Meetings

Fall 2021 General Assembly Meeting dates
Every other Wednesday
12:10-1:00pm

September 1st
September 15th
September 29th
October 13th
October 27th
November 10th
December 1st

When we can meet in person, a pizza lunch is included at every meeting.