

Graduate Student Senate Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:00 pm

Liberman Graduate Center (DUC 300)

Meeting Agenda

Welcome dinner and drinks for senators and executive board start at 6:30 pm.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introduction to GSS, Executive Board introductions
- III. Introductions by department senators
- IV. Remarks by Dean William Tate, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education
 - a. Dean Tate was able to visit the Welcome BBQ and promises to give more money for the bbq next year!
 - b. Based on our suggestions last year, they are working on a plan to add graduate students to the Bearly Drivers program!
 - c. Question: Can you tell us anything more about the armed robberies and Wash Us plan
 - i. Dean Tate is trying to balance policing with not feeling militaristic.
 - ii. There will be a focus group around safety for grad students.
 - iii. **Shoot Dean Tate an email if you are interested in being in the focus group: wtate@wustl.edu**
 - d. Question: Are there any suggestions that students can do to get 6th year funding?
 - i. Some departments had a choice between a 5-year and 6-year program.
 - ii. If a faculty member tells you you have a 6th year, verbal contracts hold. If they say that, and they don't cover, talk to Dean Tate! He will hold them accountable.
 - iii. Students need to be able to talk to their advisors, etc about whether the funding will actually be available for a 6th year prior to agreeing to projects, or find a new project.
 - iv. Average time to PhD is 5.5 years (across the country).
 - v. Dean Tate is working on it.
 - e. Question: Has there been a discussion to move conference funding to not being reimbursement-based?
 - i. Graduate School has removed themselves from the process and the funding is with the department.
 - ii. There may be a tax liability issue
 - iii. Some departments have the ability to use their procurement card (pro-card)
- V. Update on communication
 - a. Invited to Slack for GSS
 - i. Place for committees to work together, directly message eboard, facilitate work
 - b. Spam departments with events and minutes
 - i. Trying to mimic GPC, get an email list of all A&S grad students. Working on a proposal with Dean Tate. Bimonthly newsletter, limited to GSS business and announcements
 - ii. Amanda to send things to senators and senators will send out to departments bi-monthly.
- VI. GSS Committee introductions:
 - a. **Committee Chairs** - responsibilities and duties as committee chairs
 - b. **Diversity and Advocacy Committee**
Communicate and advocate for inclusion of graduate student voices to discussions on campus about diversity and inclusiveness.
 - c. **Graduate Professional Council (GPC) Liaison (2)**
Attend the GPC meetings, interact and serve on GPC committees and engage Arts & Sciences graduate students at GPC events and programming.. Voting representatives of GPC.
 - d. **Graduate Research Symposium Committee**
Organize one of the GSS' signature annual events: graduate and professional students present research posters to a broad audience and receive feedback on their presentations, including cash prize awards.

Graduate Student Senate Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:00 pm
Liberman Graduate Center (DUC 300)

- e. **Graduate Student Health Committee**
Address any issues relating to graduate student health: mental health, physical, campus facility use. Attend monthly Graduate Student Health Advisory Committee (GSHAC) meetings to voice graduate student concerns.
 - f. **Legislative Concerns Committee**
Organize workshops to inform and engage graduate students about legislative and government actions pertinent to academia and graduate students. Coordinate with GPC for NAGPS events.
 - g. **Library Advisory Liaison**
Attend library advisory meetings (3 per semester) to advocate for graduate student needs in WashU libraries.
 - h. **Off-Campus Housing Committee**
Address issues relating to graduate student housing needs through WashU-operated Quadrangle and in the greater St. Louis community.
 - i. **Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards Committee**
Organize one of the GSS' signature events: an opportunity for students to nominate and recognize influential mentors and staff; recipients of the award are recognized in an annual ceremony.
 - j. **Professional Development Committee**
Organize events in conjunction with the Writing Center and GradCareers to help graduate students develop professional skills and explore career opportunities.
 - k. **Committee on Interpersonal and Sexual Violence Prevention Through Advocacy**
Raise awareness about the unique and specific needs of graduate students at WU concerning sexual assault, harassment, and relationship and intimate partner violence.
 - l. **Strategic Action Plan Editing Group**
Compile and edit the annual Graduate Student Senate Strategic Action Plan with input from committee chairs, which will be presented to the Graduate School as GSS' long-term vision and goals.
 - m. **Teaching Center Advisory Council Liaison**
Liaisons to the Teaching Center's Graduate Student Advisory Council. Members organize monthly Graduate Teaching and Learning Community events.
- VII. Committee sign-up time – sign-up sheets available on each table. We suggest signing up for 1 to 2 committees at this time.
- a. All graduate students may serve on committees, even if they are not GSS senators!
 - b. If you are interested in serving on more than 2 committees, please email gss@wustl.edu for approval
- VIII. New business
- a. Diversity and Advocacy Committee
 - i. Chair of the Diversity and Advocacy Committee last year suggested that there is a lot of overlap between the newly formed GPAC and our committee
 - ii. Proposal is to transform the D&A Committee to a liaison role to GPAC (1-2 members).
 - iii. All students are welcome to join GPAC, whether or not they are the official liaison: gpac.wustl.edu
 - iv. GPAC has a direct line to the Dean of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. Potential for larger and broader changes.
 - v. Proposal to still have a "liaison role" that is rotated from the GSS Diversity and Advocacy Committee.
 - vi. Question: Would we lose the funding?
 - 1. No, it would be still a part of the GSS pot and GPAC has it's own funding. We would still be able to "co-sponsor".
 - vii. If you are still interested in the activities, there is an ability to join GPAC.
 - b. VP of Programming
 - i. Election will be the next regular meeting

**Graduate Student Senate Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7:00 pm
Lieberman Graduate Center (DUC 300)**

- ii. Nominations will submit themselves to Rebecca and Thomas (emails below) stating you are interested
- c. Prasanthi Ramakrishnan (Senator from Economics) is wondering if other senators have also had issues with 6th year department funding.
 - i. If you have ideas or suggestions with this issue, please email her to discuss: p.ramakrishnan@wustl.edu
- d. If you are interested as a voting member for GPAC (2 needed from Art & Sciences):
 - i. Meetings are once a month. Organizes speaker's and, workshop series
 - ii. Applications: GPAC.wustl.edu
- e. GPC hosting the Night at the Cardinals event
 - i. Next Monday, Sept 16th 6:45pm
 - ii. Tickets are \$20 for grad students commerce.cahsnet.com/liberman
 - iii. Includes pre-game mixer @ BBQ Saloon (food and drinks! Nacho bar!) 4900 Laclede Ave

IX. Adjournment

If you ever cannot attend one of the GSS Monthly Meetings, please send a replacement from your department to attend in your place.

If you wish to be placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting, please contact our VP of Communications Amanda Price (acprice@wustl.edu). The GSS welcomes and encourages participation in its discussions. If you have an issue that you would like the entire senate to discuss, please feel free to bring it to our attention.

Calendar

- October 1* **GSS Monthly Meeting**
7-8 pm @ Lieberman Graduate Center
- November 5* **GSS Monthly Meeting**
7-8 pm @ Lieberman Graduate Center
- December 3* **GSS Monthly Meeting**
7-8 pm @ Lieberman Graduate Center

2019-20 Graduate Student Senate Executive Board

Thomas Howard – Co-President
Rebecca Jordan – Co-President
Amanda Price – Vice President of Communications
Mark Sellers – Vice President of Finance

Contact

thomas.howard@wustl.edu
rebecca.jordan@wustl.edu
acprice@wustl.edu
mark.e.sellers@wustl.edu

GSS Website: gss.wustl.edu GSS WUGO: grouporganizer.wustl.edu/organization/gss
Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: @GSSwustl GPC Website: gpc.wustl.edu
Lieberman Graduate Center: graduateschool.wustl.edu/liberman-center