

**General Assembly Meeting**  
*Graduate and Professional Student Senate*  
11-30-23, 5-7PM

**Prior General Assembly Meeting**

11-30-23, 5-7PM, hybrid in the GLC MPR and over zoom

**In attendance**

Vice President | Yohan Sequeira

President | [Rachel Maizel](#)

Senators: 40 senators - 2 proxy

Quorum reached: YES

**General Notes**

- None

**Motions**

- Motion to have a panel discussion with SVPI:
  - 28 yes, 4 no, everyone else abstains
- Motion to approve the Mins from the past four meetings
  - ALL MINS APPROVED LETS GOOOOOOOO

**Exec Board Reports:**

**PROGRAMS**

- Fill out survey for symposium speaker

**EVENTS**

- End of semester party december 8th, free food and booze, it was fun so show up
- Make sure to come for free booze

**ADVOCACY**

- Planning the ombudsman conversation, have not received a lot of questions, please send the questions
- Types of questions:
  - When does the ombudsman come into the picture - when there is a power difference, or need for a mediation, there are many other hypothetical scenarios however there are many cases where students have gone to the ombudsman and it hasn't helped
  - The ombudsman is technically a neutral party, but often they are not neutral - lists exist of who would be a mandated reported and who is not
- SVPI

- SVPI has agreed to have a conversation with GPSS, but in a simpler way where questions are not lost in the conversation, so a similar list of questions can be sent to SVPI and a similar conversation can be had
- For SVCC this has basically not happened as well.
- When attending the committee, they focus on prevention, however they are trying to get out info on why sexual assault is bad (which is obvious)
- SVPI will have comprehensive goals after next semester, but we need something to hold SVPI to
- SVPI is quite hesitant to put any kind of goals on paper - what are the opinions
- Q: Even if we catch them not achieving their goals, how can we hold them accountable? Could we get more orgs involved and try and disband them? A: we can do this, but it may be difficult to gain leverage over them to get them to stop. Even if we say this is bogus and we failed, it will be difficult to stop.
- It's fairly clear that the way we got things to work was through protests and other ways
- When SVPI changed the name - seagal looked at the university and everything and looked at the pillars of the sexual violence part - prevention, response etc..it seems that grad students see that response is very weak, whereas seagal said that prevention was weak
- There were two other people who were looking at sexual violence on VT campus, but where are the reports
- Having an independent committee of experts that would talk about the facts would also be extremely helpful for holding SVPI accountable
- Getting through to the BOV - in order to do this kind of thing we need the facts and we need to go to the BOV
- How can we balance extending an olive branch and holding people accountable - not questioning results, but we are questioning what the final results that
- Q: what do we mean by tangible results, A: anything that we define as a minimum
- Lots of history going on - want to chat and get goals by start of next semester

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Put out flyers in buildings to get the climate and culture survey going
- We need 60% completion for the survey, so please send it out!!!

## Open commission/committee reports

- none

## *Old Business*

## *New Business:*

- CGPSA resolution

- Add seats to the table in CGPSA to add people to the committee so that there would be extra representation on CGPSA
- Please email Ranald to get involved with the resolution
- OPINIONS on shared governance
  - BOV wanted to poll people on how shared governance is going: we are generally going through the questions. (see the list of questions for the comments)

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ranald" followed by a stylized flourish.