

Graduate Student Council

General Body Meeting Minutes

3 September 2020

Zoom

6-7 PM

President – Josh Passantino

- Welcome
- Officer introductions
- Good news

Kate Brooks – Career Center

- <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/career/>
- Graduate Services absorbed by Career Center
- Hiring two new coaches dedicated to graduate students
- Hiring employer relations staff
- For resources: go to the career center website – log into DoreWays, left column, resources; Career Shift, databases for jobs and internships, search for Vandy alumni at different employers
- Can also make appointment on website
- Idea for them: med school did something called Beyond The Lab (academia, industry, etc.) where people did videos describing process of finding job and their positions
- Reason for reorganization: Ruth Schemmer retired and since the Career Center is better equipped with a larger staff, they took graduate career development over

Graduate Workers United – Maya Krause and Holly Longair

- Independent group of full-time grad students dedicated to form a labor union for grad students at Vandy
- Want a formal employment contract
- Previous work: Mental health bill of rights (GSC) put into effect – featured in Nature, Buttrick workspace move, COVID-19 Response – degree and timeline extension (covid-19 and mental health),
- Want to help? Join organizing committee – meet every Thursday at 5 PM via Google Meet
- Become departmental liaison – represent your department in GWU
- Twitter/Instagram: @VandyGradUnion
- Website: vandygwu.com
- Email: vandygraduateworkers@gmail.com

Goals of 2020-2021

- Continue advocating and supporting students during COVID-19
- Listening sessions if needed
- Work with the Office of Inclusive Excellence to promote inclusivity and equality
- Search Committee for new Dean of the Graduate School
 - Input and feedback from graduate students
- Work with the Career Center to improve graduate career services

Academic Affairs – Bryant Best and Jessica Feller

- Gsc_academic@vanderbilt.edu
- 3 Minute Thesis
 - March 4-5, 2021
 - Likely virtual event
 - Currently looking for judges so please suggest; can be anyone from around the world since it will be virtual
- Email Jessica.feller.1@vanderbilt.edu or Bryant.o.best@vanderbilt.edu

Community Affairs – Alexandra Abu-Shmais and Dora Adobo

- Gsc_community@vanderbilt.edu
- Pen Pals with a Purpose
 - Virtual letter exchange with middle schoolers and grad students
 - Restarting in October
 - Email them or join anchor link if you are interested
- Dinners with community leaders
 - 1 event this semester in late October/early November
 - Virtual meet-up with member of community doing social justice
 - 10-15 people each
 - More details to come
 - Is there someone in the community you want? Email them!
- Peer Accountability Collaborative Experience (P.A.C.E.) –
 - Purpose: fortify the Vanderbilt graduate community through support, discussion, collaboration, and accountability across schools and programs
 - Low-stakes/high-value opportunity for connection
 - Semester-long commitment with rolling admissions
 - Workshops on SMART goals, achievement, boundaries, priorities, and more with Stacey Satchell
 - Form coming out later

Treasurer – Raunak Pillai

- Gsc_cosponsorships@vanderbilt.edu
- Opportunities to receive funding for activities and projects up to \$500
- Visit <https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/cosponsorship/> for more info

Vice President – Carcia Carson

- Cooperation with GSC departmental representatives
- Interested in being a departmental rep? Email her!
- Questions/concerns? Email her or Josh!
- gsc@vanderbilt.edu

Public Relations – Sailee Karkhanis

- Join on social media!

Secretary – Sara Melow

- Opportunities for including information in the monthly newsletter
- Sara.l.melow@vanderbilt.edu

Social Affairs – Maddie Johnson and Hannah Stephens

- Gsc_social@vanderbilt.edu
- Trying to find ways to maximize mingling while remaining virtual
- Nashville is now on "modified Phase 2" of reopening, as of Sept. 1st (there's hope!) but Vanderbilt is still more strict
- For now, **all events will be strictly virtual**. If, in the future, there is a way to safely gather small groups per university guidelines, we will pursue those options!
- STAY TUNED!
- Any ideas? Email them!
- Email Madeline.m.johnson@vanderbilt.edu or Hannah.stephens@vanderbilt.edu with ideas

Student Life Liaison – Annika Faucon

- You bring us your concerns
 - **in person (e.g. at meetings, listening sessions)**
 - **feedback cards at GSC events**
 - **emails (gsc@vanderbilt.edu, annika.b.faucon@vanderbilt.edu)**
- Recruit a team of students for investigation and learn more about the scope of the concern
- Draft a proposal containing solutions
- Contact the appropriate administrator to facilitate change
- Mental health and wellness
- Graduate student concerns
- Graduate Life Coach (Stacey Satchell) – Stacey.satchell@vanderbilt.edu,
@VUGradLife, Alumni Hall 010,
<https://gradschool.vanderbilt.edu/gradlife/index.php>
 - Individual coaching and group programming
 - Navigating academic relationships
 - Advocates for graduate student and postdoc needs within the university
 - Psychology of peak performance workshop series and critical conversations workshop series you can sign up for

Honor Council – Emma Guiberson (president) and Nabil Saleh (vice president)

- Looking for three Core Members
 - Serve on panel hearings / assist procedural requirements
 - Serve until September 1st of following year
 - Representation across academic disciplines wanted
 - Appointed by president of Graduate Honor Council
 - Voted in by GSC
- Just want to be involved if a case arises?
 - Join our contact list
- Email **emma.r.guiberson@vanderbilt.edu** or **nabil.saleh@vanderbilt.edu**

Questions or Concerns

- Ideas for Social
 - Conference – open source, appearance of poKemon game, close proximity, join zoom call, easily wander in and out, Gather.Town
 - Jackbox.tv
 - Talent show - dressed up, piano, singing, karate, dance, sign up, 10-20
 - Pet meet-ups
- Want us to bring up anything to administration, please reach out
- Next meeting is October 1, 2020