

GSC General Body Meeting Minutes – Nov. 5, 2020

I. President

- a. Search for Dean/New Provost of Grad School
 - i. Should be announced before the end of the calendar year
- b. Administration is aware of concerns revolving around Thanksgiving and the quarantine requirements by some departments
- c. Student health insurance covers COVID-19 testing from any medical provider through Jan. 20, 2021
 - i. Covers COVID-19 treatment from in-network providers through December 31, 2020; deductible and co-pay required for out of network
 - ii. COVID-19 digital townhall with Graduate Workers United on Nov. 18th 6-7:30 PM. If interested, email vandygraduateworkers@gmail.com
- d. Guest Speakers at GBM
 - i. NAGPS – National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
 1. Brad Sommer
 - a. Student-run and directed non-profit – members all over the country
 - b. Deals with higher education issues and policy
 - c. Build resources for grad students
 - d. Benefits – car rental, insurance, apps, member benefit portal
 - e. Resources from other schools as well
 - f. Membership packet to be distributed later
 - g. Access benefits – by using code or use Vandy email to log in
 - h. president@nagps.org if you want to contact Brad
 - i. National and regional board positions available
 - ii. Undergrad immersion program
 - a. Carolyn Floyd – Carolyn.floyd@vanderbilt.edu
 - b. <https://vanderbilt.edu/immersion/>
 - c. Can follow up with her later if you want
 - d. Undergrad degree requirement
 - e. Must have immersion faculty advisor for the project
 - f. Takes students out of classroom to incorporate experiential learning like research
 - g. Portal for immersion on homepage, opportunities database, job board for the undergrads to join grad students in what you need help with
 - h. <http://vanderbi.lt/immersion-opportunity-proposal>

- i. Student group – Vanderbilt undergrad research journal is being brought back, publish this year, want grad student mentors, experience running journal, how to review articles,
 - i. If interested, email Carolyn!
 - j. Graduate student involvement – mentorship
 - k. Lack of engineering on grad student panel – help undergrads understand research in stem. If interested, email her!
- iii. Miguel Moravec, Brad Davidson, and Natalie Pak
 - 1. Resolution on sustainable investments at Vanderbilt
 - 2. Divest in fossil fuels
 - 3. Hotter, wetter, extreme weather, resource threats – global warming
 - 4. ~\$300,000,000 invested in natural resources including oil and gas for Vandy
 - 5. Nature communications – Nashville in 2080 will be 14 degrees hotter, 23% rainier and we will be like Mobile, Alabama
 - 6. Vandy divests from “Land Grab” in Africa
 - 7. Likely will not suffer from divestment and could profit from reinvestment
 - 8. A lot of university and abroad committed to full divestment and partial divestment
 - a. University of California, Cornell, Boston, Yale, Columbia, Stanford
 - 9. +\$11,000,000,000,000 divested previously
 - 10. 800 students agree that Vandy should Divest Fossil Fuels (Divest VU)
 - 11. Faculty, alumni, and undergrad governing body are on board as well
 - 12. Undergrad gov’t passed two bills unanimously supporting fossil fuels divestment
 - 13. Non-binding resolution and nearly carbon copy of the undergrad gov’t body
 - 14. Resolution
 - a. Freeze new fossil fuel investments
 - b. Divest existing f.f. investments
 - c. Reinvest in renewables
 - d. Recognizes Fossil Free SEC and DivestVU
 - e. No carbon offsets

- f. Resolution: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iPdEpv-15KY6F8Sr2ecyGYp7O3fXMN4QrWC_XQMBTUs/edit

15. Questions? Email them.

16. Send out vote later on this week to voting members (GSC exec board and departmental reps) – give a week to vote

II. Student Life Liaison

a. New/Expecting Parent Group

- i. Self-directed group of students who are trying to conceive, currently pregnant, adopting, or have toddlers
- ii. Primarily provides space for students to seek and give support
- iii. Experts will be invited to provide information on issues such as health insurance, parental leave, childcare, family, self-care practices, job market navigation, etc.
- iv. Sign up here:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OX9aur7js0q0UGf6gPrsrTMM2suQyzIEvRyRgebidnlUMkNNUFZOMUIUVFdZUTRYVEJXSjlQUTRENY4u>

b. PACE

- i. Webpage is active
- ii. Workshops with Stacey Satchell

III. Academic Affairs

a. Travel Awards

- i. Now used for virtual conference registration
- ii. Spread word through department reps
- iii. Must attend at least one GSC to be eligible
- iv. <https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/travel-funding-request/>

b. 3MT

- i. March 4, 2021
- ii. Going ahead with virtual format
- iii. Still searching for judges
 - 1. Any ideas?
 - 2. Faculty members or anyone, alumni, industry since it is virtual
 - 3. Email Jessica.feller.1@vanderbilt.edu or Bryant.o.best@vanderbilt.edu

IV. Community Affairs

a. Pen Pals

- i. Grad student letters have been sent
- ii. Return letters TBD – class changes have impeded return letter retrieval
 - 1. Updates will be given as we get them

b. Dinner with Doers

- i. Invited guest Martesha Johnson: Chief Public Defender of Nashville
 - 1. 1st African-American and 2nd woman to be elected to her position

- 2. Professor at Vanderbilt Law
 - ii. Date TBD
 - iii. Partnering with local Nashville restaurant
- V. Social Affairs
 - a. Gather.town went great!
 - i. Thank you to those who came!
 - ii. Prizes to come for raffles
 - b. Virtual social event for November
 - i. International culture themed trivia – Geeks Who Drink
 - ii. Games conducted via Twitch
 - iii. Last Thursday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 19th) at 7 PM
 - iv. Prizes for team who wins
 - v. Sign up here: bit.ly/gsc trivia by Friday at midnight
 - vi. Questions? Gsc_social@vanderbilt.edu
- VI. Public Relations
 - a. Sailee can't attend the GSC executive board meetings this semester
 - b. Please follow, share and like the pages on all the various platforms.
 - i. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VandyGSC>
 - ii. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VandyGSC>
 - iii. Instagram: [vu_graduate_student_council](https://www.instagram.com/vu_graduate_student_council)
 - iv. Please tag us in your stories and posts about events!
- VII. Treasurer
 - a. Reviewing budget
 - i. Up to \$500 for your ideas
 - ii. Email: gsc_cosponsorships@vanderbilt.edu
 - iii. Visit <https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/cosponsorship/> for more info
- VIII. Secretary
 - a. Newsletter information (once a month at beginning of month)
 - b. Email me: sara.l.melow@vanderbilt.edu
- IX. Honor Council
- X. Vice President
 - a. Department reps – if you are not getting emails, please email Carcia Carson
- XI. Questions/Concerns
 - a. Covid – department by department policies
 - b. Meeting Video Link:
 - <https://vanderbilt.box.com/s/o9tv7a996iommey6dgvv1o5162e9je9>