

GSC General Body Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2021

I. President

- a. Guest speakers
 - i. Kelsea Best and Miguel Moravec
 1. Resolution
 - a. Transparency in research institute decision-making (TRID)
 - b. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GF70DD74iHtiGsUi3YDnj7KIF40YJ33hCMeuZw7zgP0/edit?usp=sharing>
 - c. VIEE closure suddenly
 - d. Article about it:
<https://vanderbilthustler.com/39065/featured/vanderbilt-institute-for-energy-and-environment-announces-closure-on-june-30/>
 - e. Didn't talk to any grad or faculty before closing it
 - f. Expresses concern entire research institutes
 - g. Asks admin to consider give 6 months of advance for discussion
 - h. Asks GSC to collect feedback by forming “a Research Institute Committee (RIC)” using Student Life Liaison
 - i. Does Divest, VGWU, and VIEE alumni support TRID
 2. Resolution discussed by GBM
 - a. There were staff layoffs
 3. Sent out to voting members to review along with link to vote
 4. Voting members have a week to review and vote in favor, against, or suggest changes to the resolution
 - ii. Elections will be held electronically
 - iii. Nominations will be open after this meeting until the next GBM
 1. Nomination link will be sent out through AnchorLink listserv. During nomination, you will be allowed to write a statement that will be included on the ballot
 2. Self-nominations are accepted, you can apply to multiple positions as well
 - iv. At May 6th GBM, candidates will be allowed to give brief statements
 - v. Polls will open after that GBM and will be open for a week
 - vi. Election is available to the GSC voting members
- b. GSC Exec Board Elections
 - i. Elections will be held electronically
 - ii. Nominations will be open after this meeting until the next GBM
 1. Nomination link will be sent out through AnchorLink listserv. During nomination, you will be allowed to write a statement that will be included on the ballot
 2. Self-nominations are accepted, you can apply to multiple positions as well
 - iii. At May 6th GBM, candidates will be allowed to give brief statements
 - iv. Polls will open after that GBM and will be open for a week
 - v. Election is available to the GSC voting members
- c. GSC Exec Board Positions
 - i. Can we make nominations public?
 - ii. President
 1. The President leads the Executive Board, runs General Body Meetings, and oversees all GSC activities. The President also

represents the GSC in a range of University level committees. The President also represents GSC in regular meetings with the Dean of the Graduate School and the Chancellor. The time commitment for the President is approximately ~10-15 hours per week, but varies based on activities and needs.

2. joshua.passantino@vanderbilt.edu

iii. Vice president

1. The Vice President is responsible for communicating with all of the Department GSC reps as well as confirming the list of representatives for the academic year. After each general body meeting, the Vice President summarizes the important information discussed in the meeting and shares the summary with the GSC Reps to share with their respective departments. Additionally, the Vice President aides the President when asked for assistance and assumes the responsibility of President if the President becomes unavailable.

2. carcia.s.carson@vanderbilt.edu

iv. Student life liaison

1. The Student Life Liaison is responsible for advocating for students in all areas of student life including mental health, mentorship, accommodations, etc. The SLL works closely with the Academic Life Coach to identify and address issues that may be impacting graduate student wellness. The SLL serves on a variety of University committees. The SLL works closely with the President in interacting with the Vanderbilt administration on behalf of graduate students. The SLL must be passionate about advocacy. The time commitment for the SLL is the second highest of the Executive Board positions (after the President), and is approximately ~5-10 hours per week, but may fluctuate based on need

2. annika.b.faucon@vanderbilt.edu

v. Academic Chairs

1. Academic Affairs Co-Chairs are responsible for putting on the annual 3 Minute Thesis Event, as well as screening and selecting the Monthly GSC Travel award winners and Poster award winners. The Poster award application validation process involve validating documentation of need, as well as conference poster acceptance. They can initiate any other initiatives that will benefit the academic success of Graduate Students. Student leadership award is a new added responsibility

2. Jessica.feller.1@vanderbilt.edu and bryant.o.best@Vanderbilt.Edu
- vi. Community Affairs Chairs
 1. The Community Affairs Co-Chairs oversee programming that involves interaction with the Vanderbilt or the greater Nashville community for service and/or other reasons. Historically, one of the main programs of the Community Affairs has been the Pen Pals with a Purpose program with local middle schools. Do dinner with doers program as well.
 2. alexandra.abu-shmais@Vanderbilt.Edu and dora.obodo@vanderbilt.edu
 - vii. Social Chairs
 1. The Social Chairs are in charge of planning large social events held by the GSC. In the past these events have included various Socials open to all graduate students, planning trivia nights, and planning tailgates. Organizing the events includes reserving the spaces, parking spots, CSOs & bartenders (for events that include alcohol), purchasing food and beverages and registering the event on Anchor Link and general publicizing.
 2. hannah.stephens@vanderbilt.edu and madeline.m.johnson@vanderbilt.edu
 - viii. Public relations chair
 1. The PR Chair oversees maintaining the GSC social media and growing awareness of the GSC among the Vanderbilt community
 2. sailee.karkhanis@Vanderbilt.Edu
 - ix. Treasurer
 1. The Treasurer is responsible for the continual update of the budgets of all the various committees of the GSC. The treasurer should ensure that every committee is spending within their allocated expenditure and doing so at a reasonable rate. The Treasurer is also responsible for submitting Graduate School Council Co-Sponsorship applications for a vote among the Executive Board of the GSC
 2. raunak.m.pillai@vanderbilt.edu
 - x. Secretary
 1. The Secretary is responsible for sending out the GSC's newsletter every month and for organizing both the General Body Meetings and the Executive Board Meetings. His or her main tasks consist of compiling newsletter items, preparing agendas, and ordering food
 2. sara.l.melow@vanderbilt.edu

- xi. Honor council president
 - 1. Responsible for receiving reports and appointing investigative committee. Chair honor council hearings and make sure bylaws are upheld. Work with VP to update and improve bylaws and honor council visibility.
 - 2. emma.r.guiberson@vanderbilt.edu
 - xii. Honor council vice president
 - 1. The Honor Council VP will assist the Honor Council President and serve as President during any absence of the President. The VP will preside as chair in the investigation panels
 - 2. nabil.saleh@Vanderbilt.Edu
 - d. Constitution amendments
 - i. Changes will be presented to the general body
 - ii. A vote will be had in favor or against the changes
 - iii. Full constitution can be found on the GSC AnchorLink page
 - e. Amendment 1 change
 - i. Departmental rep duties
 - ii. Passed 16/17 with 100%
 - f. Amendment 2 change
 - i. Descriptions of the current executive positions are added
 - ii. Passed 15/17 with 100%
 - iii. Does this mean all of the positions are permanent just adds the description
- II. Student Life Liaison
 - a. Nothing to report
- III. Academic Affairs
 - a. Travel Awards
 - i. Keep applying!
 - ii. Now used for virtual conference registration for up to \$500
 - iii. Must attend at least one GSC event to be eligible
 - iv. <https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/travel-funding-request/>
 - b. Poster printing awards
 - i. Up to \$100
 - ii. Apply here: <https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/poster-printing-funding-request/>
- IV. Community Affairs
 - a. Dinner with Doers
 - i. April 22nd 7:00-8:30 PM – virtual
 - ii. Travis Claybrooks: CEO of Raphah Institute – community reform through restorative justice/healing
- V. Social Affairs
 - a. Virtual Paint Night
 - i. Thanks for joining!

- ii. 197 people signed up!
 - iii. Keep an eye out for the next event!
 - b. Any ideas? Email: gsc_social@vanderbilt.edu
- VI. Public Relations
 - a. 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
 - iv. Please tag us in your stories and posts about events!
- VII. Treasurer
 - a. Co-sponsorship Requests
 - i. Up to \$500 for your ideas
 - ii. Co-sponsorships end this semester, so please plan to send in any requests ASAP
 - iii. Email: gsc_cosponsorships@vanderbilt.edu
 - iv. Visit <https://studentorg.vanderbilt.edu/gsc/cosponsorship/> for more info
- VIII. Secretary
 - a. Email Sara (sara.l.melow@vanderbilt.edu) newsletter information (once a month at beginning of month) for anything related to graduate students!
- IX. Honor Council
 - a. Nothing to report
 - b. Interested in serving in a future case? Email Emma Guiberson or Nabil Saleh
- X. Vice President
 - a. GSC department reps please send out emails to colleagues!
- XI. Questions/Concerns
 - a. Feel free to email at gsc@vanderbilt.edu
 - b. Civil and Environmental Engineering Q&A for student health insurance plan people
 - i. April 9th at 3 PM
 - ii. Please save the date for our graduate student health insurance Q&A with Dara Dixon and Kristy Miller from VUMC. Hopefully, we can answer all your questions about our health coverage and how to use your insurance. More details to follow! Tell your friends outside of CEE. All graduate students are welcome! Feel free to email me with any questions (oliver.stover@vanderbilt.edu)! Zoom link in newsletter