

# MINUTES

## COMMISSION ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

Thursday, January 27 @ 3:30pm

Zoom Only: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83615806094>

**Present:** Ainsley Cragin, Ariana Guevara, Ashlyn Top, Caroline Lohr, Danielle Panico, Ennis McCrery, Frank Shushok, Jack Leff, Jalen Neal, Jen Pike, Keri Friedman, Kimberly Smith, Lauren Surface, Monica Nguyen, Morgan Salvato, Paolo Fermin, Phil Miskovic, Prince Wang, Shaga Navabpour, Sidney Stearns, Susanna Rinehart, Tamara Cherry-Clark, Terri Pecora

**Absent with Notice:** n/a

**Absent:** Alice Fox, Amanda Coleman, Benjamin Janosy, Ege Onar, Emma Rosman, Graham Anderson-Johnson, Justin Ratcliffe, Kamla Al Amri, Michael Chin, Noor Hunt, Senija Davis

**Guests:** April Myers, Heather Wagoner, James Bridgeforth, Juwan Jacobs

Ariana Guevara called the meeting to order at 3:36pm. A quorum was present.

### 1) Attendance

- a. Ariana asked members for issues to which they would like to learn more about at a future CSA meeting. Concerns discussed included:
  - General decline in overall academic performance of some students; as well as a decline in particular subjects.
  - UCSO Community
  - Lack of accessibility throughout campus
  - Transparency between administration and student cooperatives about what admin are doing on behalf students and for students to be updated
  - Sexual violence and how various subcommittees can better interact and engage with students

### 2) Adoption of Agenda

- A motion was made, and seconded, to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

### 3) Plans for Spring 2022 CSA Meetings

- a. In-Person Meetings
  - o Ariana shared that the preference for spring semester CSA meetings would be they are held in person. She justified her recommendation by stating when meetings are held in person: members pay attention more closely; are more engaged; and are more likely to retain what is being discussed. Members were reminded if they have conflicts and are unable to attend meetings they are encouraged to get a proxy to attend on their behalf.
  - o Partnering with Ariana, Dr. Heather Wagoner shared that throughout the fall semester, attendance was not at all consistent. She went onto say they are looking for consistent advocacy from all CSA members due to the importance of their seat on this commission, and the importance of making their voice heard. She reminded members that it is important to make a serious commitment to CSA, to one another, and especially to the constituencies. Heather then opened up the floor for members to have a discussion and best decide how to make this happen, so they can work together this semester.

- Ariana shared that KN95 masks would be made available to anyone attending in person. In addition, she shared that reservations for the rest of the meetings were scheduled for a larger room at the Graduate Life Center, so that everyone could be spread out and socially distance.
- Discussion was had of pros and cons of in-person vs. virtual meetings for Spring 2022.
  - A vote was taken whether members preferred 1) all in person meetings or 2) all hybrid meetings. The majority of members voted in person.
- b. Leadership Lessons with CSA Faculty and Staff members
  - Ariana posed a question to the CSA Faculty and Staff members. She asked if at the next one or two meetings, if anyone would be interested in giving a brief a 5 to 10-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A. Presenters will describe their role at Virginia Tech, share their experiences, lessons learned in their leadership roles, and what recommendations they have for student leaders.
    - Any faculty or staff members interested in presenting are asked to email Ariana ([ariana@vt.edu](mailto:ariana@vt.edu)). Questions and prompts for the presentation will be emailed.
    - Members of CSA were asked if they have any particular questions they would like answered, to please email Ariana.
- c. Guest speakers on topics that matter to you
  - Ariana shared the idea of CSA bringing future guest speakers to meetings. Ideas shared were:
    - Frank Shushok
    - Cultural and Community Centers Advisor
    - Parking Services Representative or Dining Services Representative
    - Professor
  - Ariana opened up the floor asking for recommendations of what they would like to see or learn moving forward. Recommendations were made for the following:
    - Instruction of virtual learning tips and tricks to stay be engaged when learning virtually; along with tips when transitioning from virtual learning back to in person
    - With the new building being built by NCB, which is a new dining hall (Hitt Hall), and new classroom spaces – it was recommended that Hitt Hall planning team, or construction member could come and speak to what it will consist of, followed by a Q&A.
    - Campus Sustainability - improvements we are making, or options we have coming up in the future; Climate Action Commitment
- d. Consistent updates on the CSA and SBB transition to USS
  - At each future meeting there will be an explanation of all things related to Student Budget Board. This includes:
    - How SBB is going
    - What is happening with SBB money
    - Where is SBB money being allocated
    - Who much SBB money has been used
    - How much SBB money is left in the pot
    - How all of this will align with the Undergraduate Student Senate

#### 4) CSA Announcements

- a. UCSO constitutions check for VT's non-discrimination clause
  - Ariana asked all University Chartered Student Organization representatives to review their constitutions and bylaws. She reminded members if they wanted changes to be made to be sure to bring it up to CSA in a timely manner. All changes require a first reading, a second reading, and voting. If you are contemplating changes, please reach out to Ariana so the agenda will be updated accordingly.

- Ariana shared that she and Heather will soon be providing more information regarding the non-discrimination clause and what needs to be included within each constitution to go along with VT and USS policies.

## 5) University Council and Commission Updates

- a. University Council Update
  - 1:05 Chairs commission meeting on Friday, that Heather will be attending on behalf of Ariana. She will be sharing a few of the goals of CSA with UC.
  - The first UC meeting is February 7.
- b. Academic Support Committee Update
  - No updates

## 6) Student Budget Board Updates

- Ariana presented an update as to the State of Student Budget Board. See attached.

## 7) USS Updates

- Ainsley and Caroline shared an update as to what USS (Undergraduate Student Senate) is and what they do.
  - The senate body is comprised of elected individuals tasked to communicate with their designated constituencies to support the diverse interests of groups and organizations across campus.
  - The first senate meeting was held Tuesday, January 25, 2022; 21 new senators were inaugurated.
  - USS is looking for new ways to become more accessible to all students; they are actively working each day to be the unified voice of the undergraduate student body, by listening, advocating, and supporting students representing the needs and interests brought forth on daily basis.
  - If anyone on CSA knows of anyone who would be interested in being a senator, please reach out to Ainsley or Caroline for details.

## 8) Old Business

- No old business.

## 9) New Business

- a. GPSS Resolution 2021-22I - Resolution to Establish Virginia Tech as a Sanctuary Campus and Expand Protections for Undocumented Students
- b. GPSS Resolution 2021-22J – Resolution to Expand Protections for International Students and Establish a Bridge Fund
  - Jack presented the above resolutions for discussion, and entered a motion for them to be added to the agenda for a first reading on February 17. A motion was made, and seconded. The motion passed.

## 10) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made; seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 17, 2022 @ 3:30pm

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Let the record show we did not have quorum for the December 2, 2021 meeting, and therefore no official business was conducted.

# State of SBB

The "State of SBB" is a complete overview of the current snapshot of Student Budget Board related metrics. The purpose of the infographic is to inform on SBB's current state and to provide transparent numbers to CSA.

## Data 1

Data is collected from... Aug 1st to Jan 26th

## Data 2

### Appropriation Flow

\$600k → \$522k → ~\$390k

Appropriated  
to all RSOs

Appropriated  
to SBB RSOs

Amount  
Funded (SBB)



~75%  
of SBB RSO funds  
have been given  
out to orgs

## Data 3

244

Total Requests

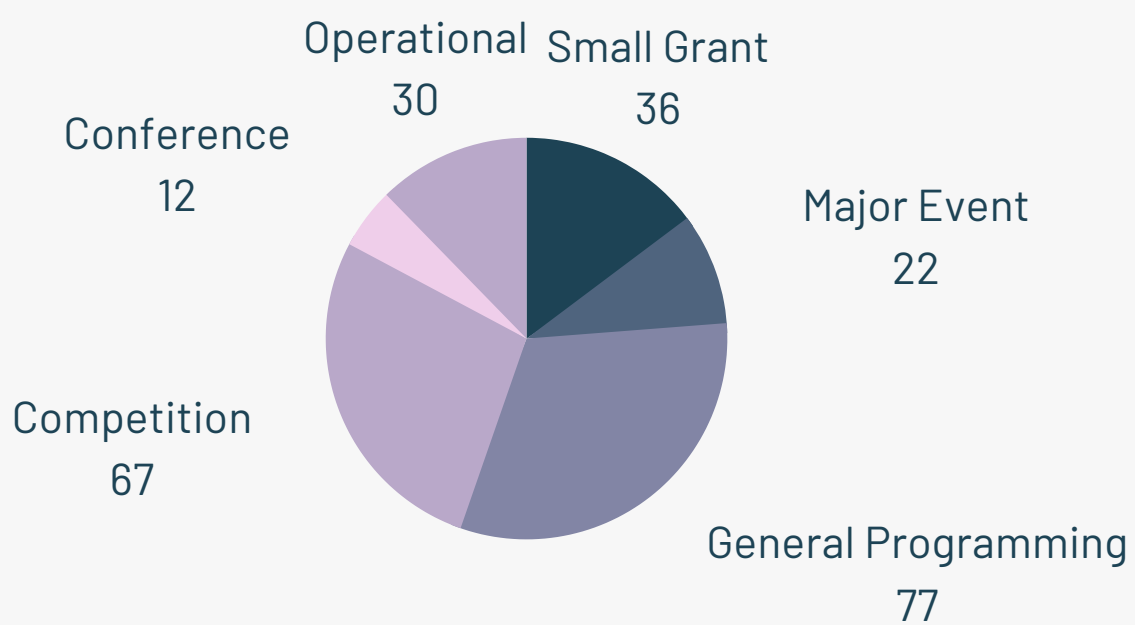
## Data 4

147

Unique Organizations

## Data 5

### Breakdown by Funding Category



### Conclusion

Overall, the Student Budget Board is funding a large number of unique organizations, reviewing a myriad of requests, and is on track for the "amount funded" yearly projections.

CREATED BY

Alec Bradfield on Behalf of the Student Budget Board



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**Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
 GPSS Resolution 2021-22I**

**Resolution to Establish Virginia Tech as a Sanctuary Campus and Expand Protections for Undocumented Students**

First Reading by GPSS:	Sept. 9th, 2021
Second Reading by GPSS:	Sept 23rd, 2021
First Reading by Commission	date
Staff Senate Review:	date
Faculty Senate Review:	date
Undergraduate Student Senate Review:	date
Approved by Commission	date
First Reading by University Council:	date
Approved by University Council:	date
Approval by University President:	date
Approved by Board of Visitors:	date
Effective:	upon approval

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech is committed to non-discrimination of members of the Virginia Tech community, privacy, and providing protection to the members of the Virginia Tech community under the law; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech affirms and celebrates the diversity and values that all students grant the university, regardless of residency status; and

**WHEREAS**, undocumented students are not granted the same level of protections that documented and domestic students are given; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech recognizes that there has been an increasing number of ICE raids and divisive police tactics on undocumented communities (see Appendix 1); and

**WHEREAS**, undocumented students miss school and work for fear of deportation and often do not report crimes because they fear deportation; and

**WHEREAS**, in a letter to President Timothy Sands (see Appendix 2), students have expressed their desires to have Virginia Tech offer protections to undocumented and international students in the form of creating a sanctuary campus; and

**WHEREAS**, a large number of universities, colleges, cities, and towns in the United States have become sanctuary campuses and offered sanctuary to undocumented students; and

**WHEREAS**, ICE employees recognize the potential risks in detaining and deporting college students and has put out internal memos discouraging it (Appendix 3); and

**WHEREAS**, changing federal administrations and ICE leadership means that there is an inconsistent and uncertain implementation of protections and we are calling for more stable and consistent protections for undocumented students; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Virginia Tech becomes designated a sanctuary campus that will offer stable and consistent protection to undocumented (and documented) international students by not cooperating with ICE in deporting any member of our community in any capacity permitted by law. Additionally, the university will not recruit employees for ICE or distribute any recruiting materials, will not invite ICE agents into classrooms or campus buildings under any context, and will similarly not distribute recruitment materials for companies that work closely with ICE. Additionally, this resolution supports the work proposed in GPSS 2021-2022J and seeks to expand protections for all international students by ensuring that undocumented students are shielded regardless of threats from federal, state, or local officials who might jeopardize their education at Virginia Tech.

#### **Appendix 1: Proliferation of ICE Raids**

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/workersrights/worksites-raids/>

<https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/raids/>

<https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2020/09/10002503/ice-raids-la-new-york-texas-covid-19-increase>

#### **Appendix 2: Letter Calling for Sanctuary Campus Status**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddynwsc0e-wVFpT2TPSFzxFb3CSeCh0pS05eYtVv4clXeBQ/viewform?c=0&w=1>

In addition to this, several faculty members work specifically on the college experience of undocumented students and offer valuable insight on how to better support them. See:

- Ovink, Sarah M. 2014. "‘They Always Call Me an Investment:’ Gender and Latino/a College Pathways." *Gender and Society* 28(2): 265-88.
- Ovink, Sarah M. and Demetra Kalogrides. 2015. "No Place Like Home? Familism and Latino/a-White Differences in College Pathways." *Social Science Research*, Volume 52:219-235. Available online: <http://authors.elsevier.com/a/1Qb5n.17Ro8eCV>

Additionally, Virginia Tech has developed the Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies that further investigates the higher education experiences of undocumented and immigrant students. Their political expertise is also valuable for ensuring that we are ethical in our protections for students, link:

<https://liberalarts.vt.edu/news/articles/2020/12/crmds-2020.html>

The Chronicle of Higher Education also has considered how we can support undocumented schools on numerous occasions, including discussions of sanctuary campus status. See: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/could-colleges-become-sanctuaries-for-undocumented-immigrants/> for just one example among many.

### **Appendix 3: ICE internal documents**

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/secure-communities/pdf/prosecutorial-discretion-memo.pdf>

These two documents internal to ICE demonstrate some of the recognized risks with detaining and deporting undocumented college students. However, this should not be taken as evidence that ICE is effective at self-management because this is subject to change depending on administration and they will often ignore these best practices.

While not directly applicable, this famous example of ICE setting up a fake university to entrap undocumented college students demonstrates the necessity for establishing Virginia Tech as a sanctuary campus to protect students:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2019/11/27/ice-set-up-fake-university-then-arrested-people-it-gave-student-visas/>

Furthermore, this article details some fears about rescinding protections and demonstrates why expanding protections is crucial:

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/01/sanctuary-campus-college-dreamers-deportation/>



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**Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
 GPSS Resolution 2021-22J**

**Resolution to Expand Protections for International Students and Establish a Bridge Fund**

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Approved by Board of Visitors:	date
Effective:	upon approval

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech is committed to non-discrimination of members of the Virginia Tech community, privacy, and providing protection to the members of the Virginia Tech community under the law; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech affirms and celebrates the diversity and values that international students and members of their communities add to Virginia Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, international students are not granted the same level of protections that domestic students are given; and

**WHEREAS**, this was made clear during the Trump presidency when international students from Muslim majority countries were specifically targeted for retribution and made precarious (see Appendix 1); and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has not only limited travel between countries, putting international students at risk, it has also proliferated hate crimes against Asian students in our community causing racial harm; and

**WHEREAS**, documented students have a limited amount of time between graduation and/or leaving the university to find a job, which creates unique challenges and financial insecurities; and



**WHEREAS**, having a financial safety net would be helpful in ameliorating many of these issues resulting from fiscal precarity; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that a bridge fund is created specifically to serve as a flexible safety net for those international students whose contracts fall through or who otherwise need financial support to continue prospering at Virginia Tech. This bridge fund will be managed by a relevant office, work closely with Cranwell to ensure international student's needs are met, and will operate by procedures they internally develop in conjunction with the international student community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the university establish a working group to develop concrete policies to protect students from changes in federal and state administrations that put international students at risk and that we do what we can within the extent of the law to shield our international students from political retaliation and racial violence. This should be done in cooperation with both undocumented and documented international students who will comprise the stakeholder portion (see: GPSS 2021-2022A) of any working groups formed should this resolution be accepted. This working group should regularly evaluate Virginia Tech's policies and make recommendations for how to best secure the flourishing of our international student community regardless of their documentation status.

## **Appendix 1: Threats to International Students**

How Trump's travel ban hurt Muslim students specifically:

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/trumps-travel-ban-leaves-students-stranded-and-colleges-scrambling-to-help/>

How Trump's rhetoric hurt immigrants in schools:

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2017/trump-effect>

And furthermore how Trump stoked White Supremacist resentment of Immigrants:

<https://www.splcenter.org/20170427/100-days-trumps-america> and

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/18/white-nationalist-hate-groups-southern-poverty-law-center>

Anti-Asian hate and the COVID-19 pandemic:

- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32837171/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32837158/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34092991/>
- <http://signsjournal.org/covid/chen/>

Community Responses: <https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2021/04/unirel-APIIDA-townhall-2021.html> and [https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/index/VT\\_UCOR.html#select=4](https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/index/VT_UCOR.html#select=4)