Lauren Surface

Director of Student Services

Dr. Kevin Edgar

Associate Dean, Graduate School

Graduate education at Virginia Tech (a global land grant university)

Kevin Edgar, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, pinch-hitting for

**Aimée M. Surprenant, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School
Professor, Department of Psychology**

@sgsdean @VTGradCommunity

Virginia Tech Graduate School

a space and place for graduate education

You as grad students play multiple roles in our community

○ Learner

○ Scholar pushing back frontiers, creating knowledge valuable to society

○ Teacher

○ Leader

GRADUATE SCHOOL
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Meaningful (?) Mottos:

Bucknell: *Universitas Bucnellensis*
Duke: *Eruditio et religio*
North Carolina State University: *Esse quam videri*

Virginia Tech: *Ut prosim*

Interdisciplinarity at VT

"Graduate Education in the 21st Century" published by National Academies of Science, Engineering, & Medicine, 2018

Students should seek opportunities to work in cross-disciplinary and cross-sector teams during their graduate education… and be incentivized by departments and faculty advisors to do so. Graduate programs and faculty should encourage and facilitate development of student teams within & across disciplines.

- **Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Programs (IGEPS)**
  Examples: Infectious diseases, Sustainable nanotechnology, Interfaces of global change…

- **Individualized Interdisciplinary PhD (IPhD) Programs**

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Interdisciplinary Impact

Tim Sands participated in semesterly gathering to celebrate VT interdisciplinary research & education at GLC, 2019

15+ IGEPs, > 300 students, > 270 faculty members
IPhD 12+, first graduate 2019

We support a climate of civility, sensitivity and mutual respect

Get out of your silo!

- VTGrATE
- Activities! Interest groups! See GS weekly newsletter
- Interdisciplinary research & education
- World class seminars
- Broad range of VT scholarship
- Blacksburg
- Beautiful Blue Ridge/Appalachian mountains, New River

VTGrATE = Academy for VT Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence

Office of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives

Connect lunches: Black, Women, Native/ Indigenous people, over 30, LGBTQ, Latino/a, FirstGen, Disability caucus and more

HBCU/MSI Research Summit

Office of Recruitment, Diversity and Inclusion (ORDI)
@VT_ORDI

National Academies again:

"Federal and state funding agencies should adapt funding criteria for institutions to ensure that all doctoral students they support—regardless of mechanism of support—are in programs that ensure that they develop, measure, and report these scientific and **professional competencies**."

Certificates
- Future Professoriate graduate certificate (700+)
- Inclusion and diversity graduate certificate
- Career professional graduate certificate

Curricular content beyond discipline

- Ethics and scholarly integrity
- Inclusion and diversity

Little Hokie™ Hangout: Cooperative Play Group

Little Hokie™ Hangout is a parent-run cooperative playgroup for children between

Babysitter Clearinghouse

The Graduate School's Babysitter Clearinghouse is a frequently updated list of qualified babysitters

Parent Support Group

Graduate students who are juggling family and their academic work meet monthly to discuss issues, connect with other parents, and

Welcome to the graduate community – pleased to have you at VT!

WELCOME TO VIRGINIA TECH

VT | STUDENT AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH

Support: Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office exists to offer care and support to students so they flourish

- Meet one-on-one for advocacy consultation
- Create action plans to resolve crisis
- Provide absence verifications for emergencies
- Coordinate access for the Market @ VT food security initiative
- Student Conduct and Title IX advising

Great place to start if you don't know where to go!

dos.vt.edu

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Support: Services for Students with Disabilities

SSD exists to create a campus climate in which all students with disabilities experience full access and inclusion in curricular and co-curricular opportunities

- Support Services:
  - *Classroom Accommodations*
  - *Housing Accommodations (for on-campus students)*
  - *Academic Relief/Suspension Appeal*
  - *Standardized Testing*
  - *Career Development*

ssd.vt.edu

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Support: Schiffert Health Center

Wellness and health services designed to promote the current and future well-being of our student-patients through the provision of nationally accredited health care to promote healthy lifestyles.

- Services:
  - Staff of doctors, nurse practitioners and physicians assistants
  - Women's clinic, travel clinic, allergy and immunization clinic, radiology, laboratory and pharmacy services
  - Majority of services covered by the student health fee

healthcenter.vt.edu

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Support: Cook Counseling Center

Cook Counseling Center seeks to provide a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment for all persons who seek our services.

- Support Services:
    - Individual counseling
    - Couples counseling
    - Emergency/after-hours support
    - Group counseling, workshops, and support groups
    - Psychiatry and medication management

ucc.vt.edu

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Current Mental Health Initiatives

In addition to individual and group counseling, and crisis response:

- Counselors embedded in each college

- Counseling partnership with Athletics and Cultural and Community Centers

- Peer Assistants for Learning

- Animal Assisted Therapy Program

- #VT Better Together

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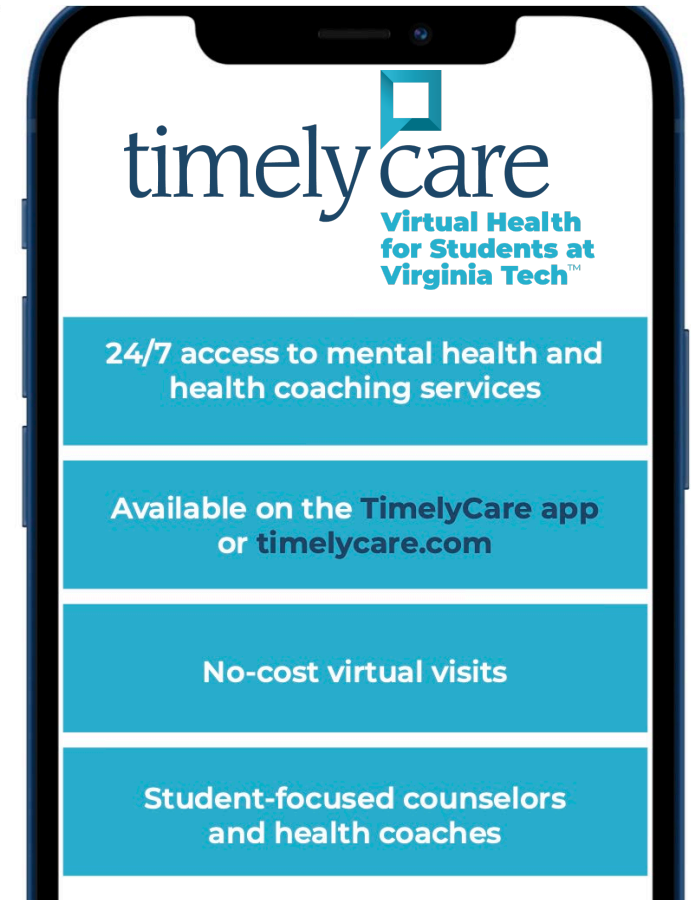
Current Mental Health Initiatives, contd.

Hokie Wellness provides:

- Resiliency workshops

- FEELS Peer Support Circle

- Koru and Campus Mindfulness practice

- Mental Health First Aid

- QPR (question, persuade, respond) suicide prevention training

- wellbeing.vt.edu site

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New Mental Health Initiative

- TimelyCare – new virtual program live for all students

- App-based and web-based virtual health

Support: Cultural and Community Centers

CCC exists to create conditions for underrepresented student success and to develop the cultural competency of every Virginia Tech student through...

- Advocacy
  - *Identity Welcome Receptions and Cultural Achievement Ceremonies*
  - *Bias Incident and Community Driven Response*
  - *Policy Review*

- Advising
  - *5 "umbrella" cultural organizations plus informal advising*

- Awareness
  - *History and Heritage Months, MLK Celebrations, Cultural Centers, Safe Zone*

ccc.vt.edu

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Student Responsibilty: Student Conduct

Student Conduct educates students about appropriate behavior and fosters a community for academic success

- HokieHandbook
  - *Student Code of Conduct*
  - *University Policies on Student Life*

studentconduct.vt.edu

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GO HOKIES!
HAVE A GREAT ORIENTATION

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Graduate Honor System

Upholding Academic Integrity

Ensuring Fairness and Equality
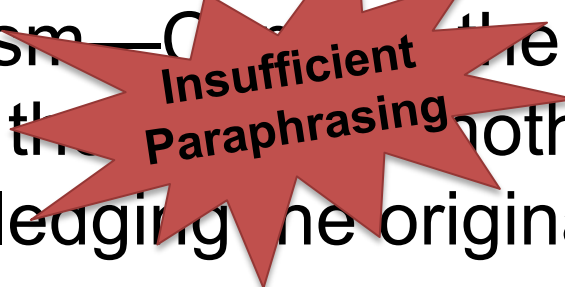
Graduate Honor Code

- The Graduate Honor Code establishes a standard of academic integrity
  - adherence to a set of values based on honesty with respect to the intellectual efforts of oneself and others.

- Requires that all graduate students exercise honesty and ethical behavior in all their academic pursuits here at Virginia Tech

Mission

- To promote honesty and ethical behavior in all academic pursuits
- To disseminate information concerning the Graduate Honor System
- To investigate all suspected violations of the Graduate Honor Code in an impartial, thorough, and unbiased manner
- To hear all cases involving academic infractions of the Graduate Honor Code brought before the System
- To assure the rights of all parties involved are protected and assure due process in all proceedings.
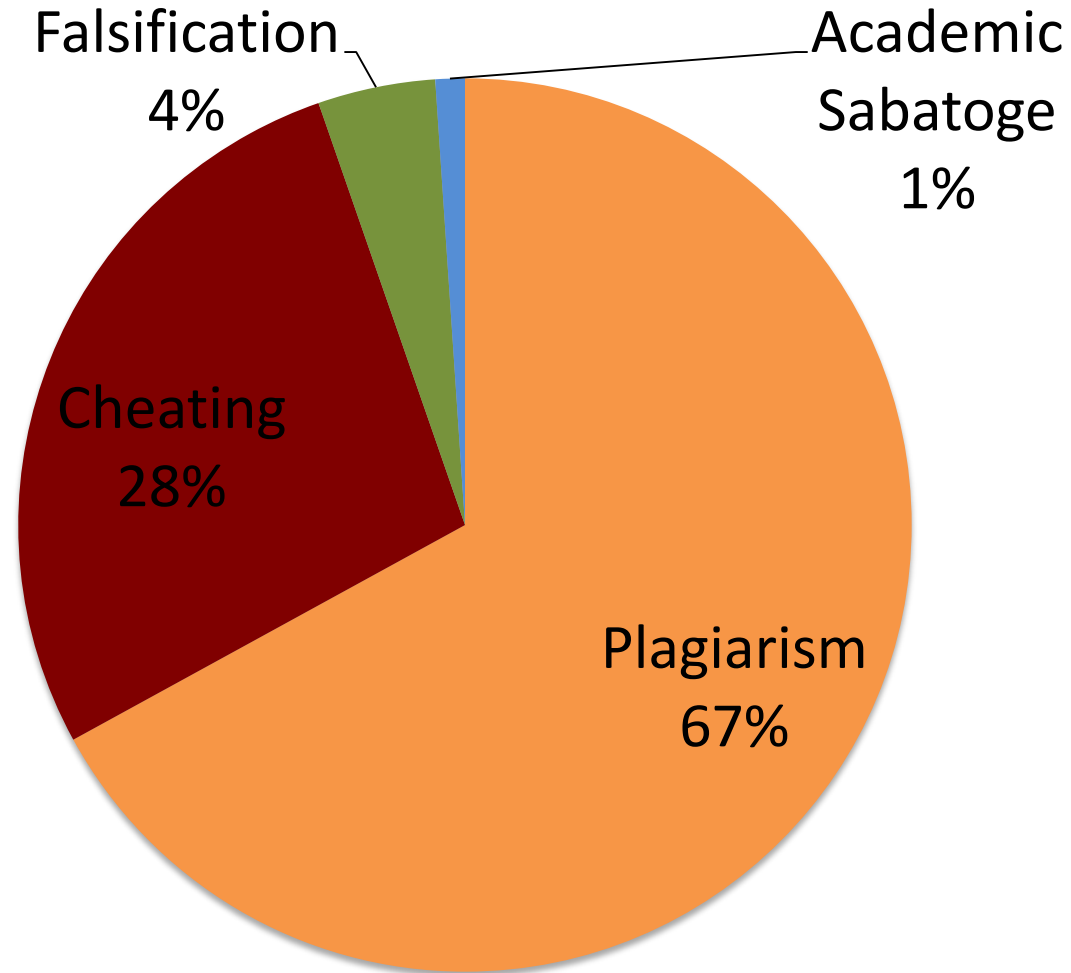
Types of Infractions

- Plagiarism—Copying the language, idea, or thought of another without acknowledging the original

- Cheating—giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid or unfair advantage

- Falsification—falsifying any aspect relevant to one's work

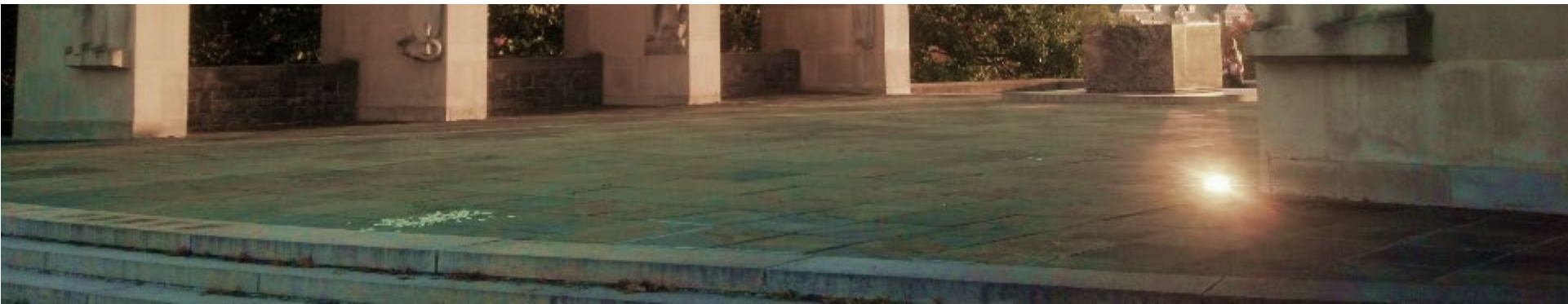- Academic Sabotage—purposeful vandalism directed against any academic endeavor or equipment

Insufficient Paraphrasing

Self-Plagiarism

Referred Charges since Fall 2013

Additional Resources

- Writing labs and tutorial services
  - **University Libraries Writing Center:** https://lib.vt.edu/spaces/writing-center.html
  - Indiana University – Bloomington Writing Tutorial Services
  - Purdue University Online Writing Lab
  - Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Writing and Humanistic Studies
  - University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Writing Center
- **iThenticate** as a learning opportunity
- **Ombudsperson**: http://www.graduate.ombudsman.vt.edu/
- **GRAD 5014: Academic Integrity & Plagiarism** (2 credit pass/fail)
- Consult **professors and advisors** in your area of graduate study

- For further information:
  - http://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/graduate-honor-system.html

- Any questions, or want to get involved? Please contact:
  - GHS Chair: Kayla Alward (ghs@vt.edu)
  - GHS Advisor: Monika Gibson (gibsonm@vt.edu)

Dr. Janice E. Austin

Assistant Dean
Director of Admissions and Academic Progress

Advising and Approvals

Admissions and Academic Progress Staff

Here for you from application through graduation!

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Policies and Academic Progress

Policies and procedures:

- *Graduate Catalog* online
- Departmental/program requirements
- Forms and deadlines

Examples

- Residency (in-state status)
- Course withdrawal
- Plan of study
- Change of program/academic level
- Exam requests
- Annual review
- And at the very end:

"Request to Admit Candidate to Final Exam"

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Exceptions and Approvals

Dr. Kevin Edgar & Dr. William Huckle
Associate Deans of the Graduate School

iThenticate

- Tool for verifying the originality of documents
- Available from first term of enrollment
- Required to thesis/dissertation submission to the Graduate School

www.graduateschool.vt.edu
   Menu dropdown → Academics → Using iThenticate

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Diversity and Inclusion Resources and Services

DR. SHERNITA LEE
ASSISTANT DEAN AND DIRECTOR

VT | GRADUATE SCHOOL VIRGINIA TECH.

DIVERSITY SCHOLARS

A program to support students in projects related to diversity, inclusion, and/or equity.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We coordinate events to create and affirm community for multiple graduate student identities.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT

New requirement for all graduate students recently passed through university governance.

Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies
Resolution 2017-18A
...olution to Incorporate an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Gra...
Education

Approved by Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies: April 18, 2018
Reviewed by Faculty Senate: April 25, 2018
First Reading by University Council: April 16, 2018
Second Reading by University Council: May 7, 2018
Approved by the President: May 7, 2018
Effective Date: Fall, 2019

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tech community strongly endorses a well-rounded educational experience for graduate students, and

WHEREAS, all graduate students and those associated with their education are expected to uphold t...
...nia Tech Principles of Community and the Graduate School's Expectations for Graduate Stu...

...vidual departments, colleges, and programs offer opportunities for...
...ograms that promote and strengthen their effectivenes...
...of a diverse and inclusive envi...

THRIVE

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Graduate Certificate in Inclusion and Diversity

Diverse Education, Leadership, Community Engagement, Interpersonal Relations

Admission Criteria
(open to all graduate students)

- Maintaining "good standing"

- Graduate certificate application form

Lead Instructional Faculty

- Dr. Aimee Surprenant
- Dr. Shernita Lee

Certificate Requirements
(9 total credit hours)

- **Required core course (3 credit hours)**
  GRAD 5214 Diversity and Inclusion in a Global Society

- **Elective courses (6 credit hours)**
  Two courses from approved list of courses from three themes: Education, Identity Development, and Social

For more information, please visit:
http://bit.ly/Inclusion_Diversity_Certificate

For questions, please contact us at: ORDI@VT.edu

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Diversity and Inclusion Resources

- ❑ Diversity Directors (college level)

- ❑ Office of Inclusion and Diversity

- ❑ Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS)

- ❑ Services for Students with Disabilities

- ❑ Dean of Students

- ❑ Office for Equity and Accessibility

- ❑ Ombudsman (Graduate/University level)

- ❑ NAACP (campus/regional)

- ❑ VT Engage: The Center for Leadership and Service Learning

- ❑ Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

- ❑ National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development

ORDI@vt.edu
120 Graduate Life Center

Twitter: @VT_ORDI

The Role of the Ombudsperson

Bryan Hanson, Ed.D.
Ombudsperson for the Graduate School

https://youtu.be/8HAOCECAsb0

Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)

Orientation Slides

Sign-in Link:
Voting Link:

GPSS@vt.edu | www.gpss.vt.edu

Shared Governance

The structure in which that the multitude of constituencies and groups at VT interact with each other and admin to make change at the University.

- Central Body is University Council (UC), which has many Commissions and Committees
- Also under UC are the Senates
  - Staff Senate
  - Faculty Senate
  - A/P Faculty Senate
  - Undergraduate Student Senate
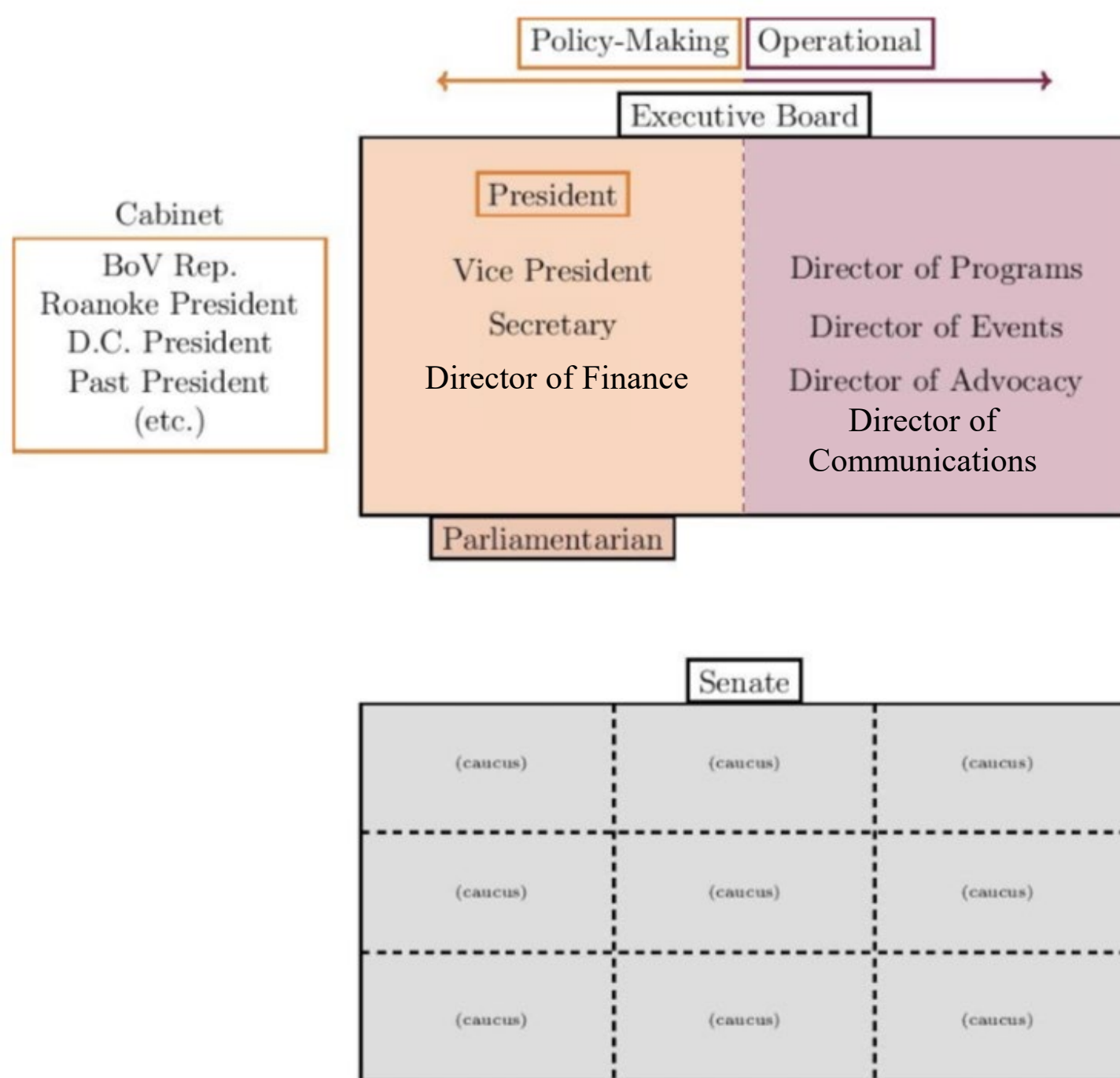 - Graduate and Professional Student Senate

GPSS

GPSS serves as a voice for all graduate students through both advocacy to the University as a whole and community-building for all our constituents.

- Bring together representatives from all departments for common issues and action
- Members sit on university commissions and committees to represent graduate student interests at all levels of the university
- Hosts events and programs for all graduate and professional students to provide academic and social support as well as build a shared community among graduate students

GPSS Structure

- Two Senators From Every Department
- Elected Executive Board
- Cabinet of All Graduate Leaders

Policy-Making | Operational

Executive Board

Cabinet

BoV Rep.
Roanoke President
D.C. President
Past President
(etc.)

President

Vice President

Secretary

Director of Finance

Director of Programs

Director of Events

Director of Advocacy

Director of Communications

Parliamentarian

Senate

(caucus)	(caucus)	(caucus)
(caucus)	(caucus)	(caucus)
(caucus)	(caucus)	(caucus)

GPSS Executive Board 22-23

- President: Ben Beiter
- Vice President: Chloe Robertson
- Director of Advocacy: Alice Fox
- Director of Finance: John Barbish
- Director of Programs: Cissy Ming
- Director of Communications: Noor Tasnim
- Director of Events: Yohan Sequeira
- Board of Visitors Student Rep: Anna Buhle

Senators

Senators are representatives from each department or program. These are students who

- Communicate with all the other members of their department and bring their issues and interests to Senate meetings for discussion and action.
- Attend all Senate Meetings (or send a proxy if unavailable)
- Participate in at least one Commission, Committee, or Taskforce

Events

Events:

- Senate Brewery Gatherings
- Meet The Dean Events
- Little Hokie Hand Me Down
- Beer and Wine Socials
- Spring Socials

Programs

Programs:

- GSBB → Funding for Graduate student groups
- Travel Fund Program → Funding for conference presentations (most popular)
- Cap & Gown Loan Program → PhD and master's robes
- Graduate Research Development Program (GRDP) → Student-run, merit-based research grants
- Graduate Research Symposium → Present your research to interdisciplinary audience. Prize money available

Internal Committees

Committees to conduct the daily workings of GPSS. Each is run by an exec board member

- Graduate Student Budget Board (GSBB)
- Committee on Judicial and Internal Affairs (assists the President and VP)
- Committee on Finance (assists exec board + Director of Finance)
- Programs Committee (Assists the Director of Programs)
- Events Committee (Assists the Director of Events)
- Communication Committee (Assists the Director of Communications)

Any student can be involved in committees, not just Senators!!

Ongoing Initiatives

- Living Wage Task Force → what should the future of grad student compensation look like?
- Reducing Fees.
- Affordable housing for low-income graduate students and families.
- Graduate student workload study.
- Refining graduate assistantship contract guidelines.
- Supporting formation of Graduate Student Organizations.

How to be involved

- Senate Meetings every other Thursday from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM starting January 19th
    - Everyone is welcome to attend Senate Sessions, but only delegates may vote.
    - All meetings after the first will be on zoom
- Strong focus on advocacy and inclusion of all grad students this year: Any grad student can submit comments on resolutions
- Communicate with your Senator to know about events and initiatives and to have your voices heard!
- Join our unofficial discord: https://discord.com/invite/KUWPh83uQg
- Check Website for more events: http://gpss.vt.edu/

Board of Visitors Rep – Anna Buhle

- 4th year VTC medical student in Roanoke

- Reports needs and successes of VT grad students to the BOV

- Help the board to keep graduate student concerns on their radar

- banna95@vt.edu

Shara Penermon

Equity and Title IX Investigator

Office of Equity and Accessibility

Lauren Surface

Director of Graduate Student Services

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Graduate Student Services

In the Graduate School/GLC:
- Seminars and workshops
- Social events
- Advising and advocacy
- Little Hokie Hangout
- SHIP (Support Hub of Inclusive Practices)
- Services in the GLC:
  - Cook Counseling
  - Writing Center
  - Career and Professional Development
  - Meeting room reservations
  - 24/7 access

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Graduate Student Services

Student Affairs:

- Clubs and organizations – gobblerconnect.vt.edu
- Rec Sports, BreakZone, VentureOut
- VTU entertainment
- Schiffert Health Center
- Cultural and Community Centers, and much more!

How to Stay Informed

- Weekly listserv posting on Mondays: glc-programs-g@vt.edu
- "GLC Weekly" posting on GLC website
- VT and Grad School online calendars of events
- GPSS social media
- Facebook: Virginia Tech GLC, Virginia Tech Graduate School
- Twitter: @VTGradCommunity
- Instagram: @vtgradcommunity

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Graduate Student Panel

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Raghav Gnanasambandam

- Ph.D. student in Industrial and Systems Engineering

- Graduate Student Ambassador

- Member of Graduate Academy for Teaching Excellence (GrATE)

- Enjoys hanging out with friends outside of the lab and window shopping

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Shreya Malhotra

- Master's student in Computer Science

- Secretary for Computer Science Graduate Student Council

- Passionate about software development and design

- Likes to play guitar and piano and hang out with dogs

Jatia Mills

- 3rd year Ph.D. student in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences (BMVS)

- President of the Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO)

- Diversity rep for the BMVS program and VT PREP student mentor

- Research focuses in the immune mechanism following a traumatic brain injury

Emily Tirrell

- 1st year Ph.D. student in Translational Biology, Medicine and Health (TBMH)

- Graduate student ambassador and Graduate School tour guide

- Research focuses on neural engineering work and how we can better understand the peripheral nervous system following a traumatic event

- Enjoys hiking, learning how to snowboard and going to local breweries

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Questions for the Panel?

Welcome to Virginia Tech!

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