

Graduate Student Senate
Town Hall #1 – October 4, 2023

1. Greetings and Exec Team Introductions
2. What is the GSS
 - The Graduate Student Senate is a graduate student run governing body.
 - The Executive Committee is here to support the academic well-being of the entire graduate student body at Villanova University
3. Upcoming Events!
 - Graduate Student Peer Mentorship Kick-Off Event
 - o When: October 6th, at 3:00 pm
 - o Where: Garey Hall Room 31 (alumni event room)
 - Graduate Student Happy Hour
 - o Join your fellow graduate students for food and drinks
 - o When/where: keep a look out for more details from the Grad Central Newsletter
 - Villanova Special Olympics
 - o Volunteers needed!
 - o When: Saturday November 4th, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday November 5th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
4. Connect with the Graduate Student Senate
 - Join the Graduate Student GroupMe:
https://groupme.com/join_group/95612724/Iri2tiqP
 - Follow the GSS Villanova Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/gssvillanova/>
5. Thank you to the Graduate Community
 - Special thanks to everyone who came to the Graduate Student Happy Hour and Day of Service Participants
6. Announcement – The Graduate Center is Moving
 - The Graduate Center will be relocating from West Campus to Vasey Hall on November 3rd
 - It will be located on G13 in Vasey Hall
 - The new center will be accessible only to Graduate Students
 - The center will be open 24/7
7. Survey Results
 - Overall, the results are positive
 - The survey results revealed that graduate students are most interested in
 - o More graduate student events
 - o Graduate student housing
 - o Campus dining
 - o Improved career services
8. Question and Answer portion!
 - Further discussion on survey results
 - o Inquiries into parking.
 - Definitely an issue
 - University is taking in our complaints

- Graduate Student Housing
 - Heavy interest in Graduate Student Housing
 - The University is looking at Cabrini for possible solutions
 - Student to GSS pipeline to voice concerns about housing
- Things were good. Always room for improvement.
- GSS has committees that students can join. Reach out to GSS if you are interested!!
So far:
 1. Philanthropy committee
 2. Social events committee
 3. Budgeting committee
 4. International Students committee
 5. Diversity & Inclusion committee
 6. Academic Standing committee
- Questions about Senator expectations
 - Asking for availability. Not solidified so far on date, but general time commitment will be one meeting a month on zoom.
 - Senators should be a support system for their constituents. If members of a college have concerns, go to your senator so that your senator can bring it up to GSS. Once GSS knows, then they can get in contact with key people who can make a change to the issue.
- Do graduate students have access to Farlay's gym?
 - Not sure yet.
- What is the nature of the involvement for volunteers at the special Olympics
 - Facilitating with the logistics
 - Just general volunteer to help with the event!
- Faculty has a Faculty Congress, will GSS work in conjunction with the Faculty Congress?
 - At this moment, there are academic policy committees.
 - Expectations of a senator is to go and represent a program to GSS.
 - Collaboration with Faculty Congress is a possibility and will be assessed if there is an occasion that necessitates a collaboration.
- FYI: Writing Center
 - The writing center is geared to the undergraduate community. It would be helpful if there were Graduate Student elements as well since a lot of students have not been writing while they were out of school.