



Reps Meeting | [Remote Meeting](#) | February 3rd, 2021

2020-2021 GSA Officers

President: Josh Gyory | gsa-president@andrew.cmu.edu

VP of Academic Affairs: Kristen Allen | gsa-VPaa@andrew.cmu.edu

VP of Campus Affairs: Adam Stein | gsa-VPca@andrew.cmu.edu

VP of External Affairs: Divyansh Kaushik | gsa-VPea@andrew.cmu.edu

VP of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Satvika Neti | gsa-VPedi@andrew.cmu.edu

VP of Finance: Gary Wilkins | gsa-VPfinance@andrew.cmu.edu

VP of Graduate Student Life: Maggie McGrann | gsa-VPsocial@andrew.cmu.edu

VP of Internal Affairs: Santiago Carrasquilla | gsa-VPia@andrew.cmu.edu

Links: [Slides](#) | [Special Allocations](#)

5:00 pm **Welcome & Introductions**

5:05 pm **GSA President & Vice President Announcements | GSA Executive Board**
Notifications and updates on GSA Exec initiatives.

- **General Announcements:**
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration
 - University Lecture Series: A Conversation with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
 - Wednesday, Feb. 10 | 5 pm | Register [here](#)
 - Review of University Policy on Examinations
 - The University is conducting a review of the current Examination Policy which can be found here:
<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/examination-policies.html>
 - Seeking graduate students who would like to offer their perspectives, ideas, and insights on the current examination policy as well as those who may be interested in participating in the review process.
 - If you are interested in participating or learning more about the project, please email: VPE@andrew.cmu.edu as soon as possible.
 - Representatives from the Policy Review Working Group have also requested time to engage with GSA on this topic at next month's meeting.
 - Unpack U Funding
 - Provides funding, support, mentorship, and amplification to passionate leaders with bold ideas to make Pittsburgh and the world a happier place
 - Pitch any project, at any stage, of any size
 - Funding ranges from \$250 to \$2,500 as starting point
 - Application form found [here](#)
- External Affairs
 - Join one of the four action teams: Community, Development, Mobility, and Infrastructure to give your input in the future of Oakland
 - The last stage of the planning process will begin in a few months.



- Provide your feedback at engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland
- We met with the Biden-Harris transition in December and January.
 - Shared our priorities with the OSTP, Department of Education, Department of State, and Department of Homeland Security teams.
 - Actively engaging with the administration and congressional leadership.
- Reach out to me at gsa-vpea@andrew.cmu.edu if you'd like to help with our efforts.
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
 - Complete the EDI Survey: [Here](#)
- Internal Affairs
 - Reminder to complete both the Reps Survey and optional Reps Demographics Survey
 - Both found on the Reps Slack
 - In the works of creating a Communications page in the GSA website where all emails to the grad student community will be archived and accessed
- Campus Affairs
 - Parking passes are available, including 3-day passes
 - Tartan Testing Shuttle -> [Here](#)
 - CMU Shuttle Information and tracker -> [Here](#)
 - Including new Squirrel Hill shuttle and Tartan Testing shuttle
 - CMU organized child care and support services -> [Here](#)
- [Special Allocations](#) (for details see slides)
 - International Film Festival
 - Submitted a proposal to compensate for a sponsor who dropped out. While filmmakers are no longer traveling to the festival, re COVID, the organizers have had to rely on their student staff to a much greater extent in order to facilitate innovative adaptations such as hosting the films online and virtually, requiring them to turn some of their previously unpaid positions into paid ones.
 - Requested: \$5,000 | Recommended \$5,000

5:15 pm Confirmation of GSA Partner & Family Advocate | Josh Gyory
Presentation of the nominee and confirmation vote.

- This advocate is advised by the VP of Campus Affairs
- Timeline
 - Jan 12th: Call for Advocates
 - Jan 20th: Reminder of Call
 - Jan 22nd: Nominations form closed
 - Jan 25th - 29th: Interviews with Executive Board Members
 - Feb 1st: Selected Advocates were notified
- Duties of the Role:
 - To curate a weekly email detailing free family-friendly weekend events in Pittsburgh



- To advise key members of the University administration and committees on the interest of graduate student families
- To participate in outreach efforts to partners and families of graduate students
- To act as primary point of contact for family -related issues as they arise
- *The GSA Executive Board Recommends:*
 - *Regan Kubicek - PhD Candidate in Mech. E.*
 - *McKenna McCall - PhD Candidate in ECE*
- *Vote passes: 54|0|0 (Yes|No|Abstain)*

5:35 pm Elections Board Ratification | Govind Menon - Student Body President
Presentation of elections board and ratification vote.

- Board Members
 - Manisha Mukherjee (mmukherj) - PhD Student
 - Grace Brueggmen (gbrueggm) - Masters Student
 - Teddy Warner (tcwarner)* - 4th Year Undergraduate
 - Seoyoon Moon (seoyoonm) - 2nd Year Undergraduate
 - Alexandra Reyes (areyes2) - 1st Year Undergraduate
 - Kevin Fang (kevinfan) - 1st Year Undergraduate
 - **Chief Technical Officer:** Jayden Tan (Student Government's CTO)
- Timeline
 - **February 14 (11:59 PM ET):** *Petitions Open*
 - **March 5 (11:59 PM ET):** *Petitions Close*
 - **Week of March 8 (To be Scheduled with Candidates):** *Rules Meeting*
 - **March 19 (11:59 PM ET):** *Platforms Due*
 - **April 1 (12:00 PM ET) - April 6 (12:00 PM ET) :** *Election Open*
 - **April 6 (8:00 - 10:00 PM ET):** *End of Election Meeting*
 - **April 7 (5:00 PM ET):** *Ratification*

5:40 pm Sustainability Initiatives | Alex Hiniker - Executive Fellow for Sustainability Initiatives (Refer to the slides for more information)
Update on sustainability initiatives at Carnegie Mellon, followed by Q & A

- Sustainable Development Goals
 - These were agreed by several countries around the world in sept 2015
 - Several other entities (universities, cities, companies..) that have also sign-up to achieve these goals
- CMU Sustainability Steering Committee
 - [David Dzombak](#), University Professor and Department Head, Civil and Environmental Engineering
 - [Steven Guenther](#), University Engineer and Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management and Campus Services
 - [Alexandra Hiniker](#), Executive Fellow for Sustainability Initiatives
 - [Sarah Mendelson](#), Distinguished Service Professor Of Public Policy and Head Of Heinz College In Washington, DC
- CMU Advisory Council



- [Nina Baird](#), School of Architecture, College of Fine Arts
- [Joe Brauch](#), Undergraduate Student Senate
- Sven Burke, Graduate Student Assembly
- [Don Coffelt](#), Facilities Management and Campus Services
- [Neil Donahue](#), Steinbrenner Institute, Mellon College of Science, College of Engineering
- Rayid Ghani, Machine Learning Department, School of Computer Science and Heinz College
- [Georgia Giatras](#), Office of the Provost
- [Lauren Henry](#), Senior Director, Alumni and Constituent Engagement
- [Barbara Kviz](#), Staff Council
- [Vivian Loftness](#), School of Architecture, College of Fine Arts
- [Nick Muller](#), Tepper School of Business, College of Engineering
- [Dan Nagin](#), Heinz College
- Kathryn Posko, Heinz College graduate student
- [Elizabeth "Lib" Rosemeyer](#), Office of Title IX Initiatives
- Edmund Russell, Professor of History, Dietrich College
- [Peter Scupelli](#), School of Design, College of Fine Arts
- [Liz Vaughan](#), Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Director of SLICE
- [Anna Siefken](#), Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation
- [Rick Siger](#), Office of the President
- [M. Shernell Smith](#), Executive Director of the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion
- [Adam Stein](#), VP of Campus Affairs
- [Madeleine Timko](#), Director of Sustainability, Presidents Cabinet
- [Sakena Washington](#), Office of the Provost
- [Keith Webster](#), University Libraries
- There is a misconception that sustainability goes around only recycling
- Sustainable Development Goals:
 - No Poverty | Zero Hunger | Good Health and Well-Being | Quality Education | Gender Equality | Clean Water and Sanitation | Affordable and Clean Energy | Decent Work and Economic Growth | Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure | Reduced Inequalities | Sustainable Cities and Communities | Responsible Consumption and Production | Climate Action | Life Below Water | Life on Land | Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions | Partnerships for the Goals
- GSA Sustainability Activities with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals:
 - No Poverty | Zero Hunger | Good Health and Well-Being | Quality Education | Gender Equality | Decent Work and Economic Growth | Reduced Inequalities | Sustainable Cities and Communities | Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions | Partnership for the Goals
 - No Poverty, (complete afterwards)
 - The goals can not be completed without the others. These are depended on one another



- Concrete examples for GSA
 - Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
 - Develop and effectively promote mental health workshops for graduate students
 - Promote mental health and counseling
 - Build stronger peer support network for graduate students
 - Provide more free Group–X classes for graduate students
 - Train the GSA Board on healthy work-life balance
 - Benchmark financial support given to graduate students across CMU for health insurance
 - Inform graduate students on healthcare and insurance
 - Provide affordable student health insurance plans with dependent coverage
 - Goals 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
 - Improve international student experience
 - Advocate for increased resources and support for graduate students of diverse backgrounds, identities, and capabilities
 - Recruit graduate students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines for best representation
 - Train the GSA Board on bias training *
 - Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
 - Allow more feedback on GSA
 - Train the GSA Board on planning and communication *
 - Establish Best Practices Guide for election of GSA Representatives
 - Formalize the “New Representatives Workshop”
 - Set up regular one-on-one meetings with Advisory Board members
 - Include GSA Advisory Board in transition of Executives
 - Manage relationships with GSA Executive board and Representative alumni
 - Distribute Executive board workload as evenly and fairly as possible
 - Create more opportunities for Representatives to build community
 - Seek graduate student involvement in government policy and advocacy efforts
- Sustainability on campus
 - Voluntary University Review <[Here](#)>
 - Published Sept 16, 2020
 - Education: Courses as a sample
 - Research: Publications
 - Practice: Campus Climate report, presidents confronting racism memo
 - Zoom exercise to hear from students, faculty, and staff
 - Next Steps
- We are looking to have more students in the Council I <sustainability@cmu.edu>



- Q/A
 - Reps question: Thank for the presentation. These goals are broad, and the impetus is climate change and combating climate change. It is a stark when we see what we are trying to accomplish and we encounter things like really bad air quality, or how old and inefficient the heating is on campus. How does CMU stand or combat these stark differences?
 - Maybe climate action is a major reason these were discussed. There are also major inequities around the world. We talk about the small activities that the Goals also outlined in the CMU report
 - Question: Are you doing the Zoom Rooms again this semester?
 - Yes we are. We are planning on having one this semester
- Reach out to the sustainability committee <sustainability@cmu.edu>

6:05 pm Tartan Testing & Vaccinations | Maureen Dasey-Morales - Associate Vice President for Community Health and Well-Being & **Michael McQuade** - Vice President for Research, President's Office (See Slides for more Information)
Situational update and high level vaccine planning, followed by Q & A

- Also in attendance: Gina Casalegno, Melanie Lucht, Christine Andrews
- The overall case count in the county has stabilized and decreasing.
- As a campus we are in the restrictive campus services posture
 - Past week 14 student, 4 faculty/staff/visitor, tested positive
 - If someone lives off campus, they are categorized as “on-campus” if they spend 15 min or more on campus
- Overall testing numbers (Jan 30th)
 - Fall Semester Arrival Testing: 5,686 students | 34 Positive Results
 - Asymptomatic Testing (9/20-12/23): 7,527 students | 26 Positive Result
 - Tartan Testing (12/29 - 1/22): 5,720 Tests Given | 10 Positive Results
 - Symptomatic Testing: 465 students | 42 Positive Results
 - Total Positive CMU COVID Cases (March 2020 = Jan 2021)
 - 327 Pos. Results Since March 2020 (189 Student, 138 Staff/Faculty)
 - 85 on campus, 242 off campus
 - 189 students (41 were on campus, 148 were off campus)
 - 138 faculty and staff (44 were on campus, 94 were off campus)
- Fall semester recap
 - University min. Requirement: wash hands, physical distance, wear mask, daily self assessment
 - Remote instruction + hybrid delivery
 - At arrival quarantine
 - Student Wellness kits; touchdown spaces
- Current PA Vaccine Priority Phases (Refer to [slide](#))
 - These phases will shift from time to time and sometimes without warning
 - Phase in 1A corresponds to 35% of county residents
 - Question: Applicability of phase 1B for education. Does this cover TAs?



- Yes. As long as they are having in person instruction
 - Question followup: In what phase would TA that are doing remote teaching fall in?
 - You would fall in phase 2 unless you have other markers
- Vaccine Update
 - CMU registered as a Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) with the Allegheny County Health Department in Fall 2019. POD's are non-medical sites that have been pre-planned to be used for Mass Pharmaceutical Dispensing or Vaccination
 - This does not necessarily mean that we will be approved or activated
 - At this point the state has not indicated if CMU will receive vaccines
 - The type of vaccine is determined by availability
 - To mandate vaccinations is still a point of discussion because vaccines have been Authorized for Emergency Use and not Approve
 - Univ. Health Services has also registered as a COVID-19 vaccine provides and will submit vaccine data to the PA Data Bank if approved
 - POD activation planning is well underway, but it remains unclear as to when or if CMU will be allowed to receive vaccine supply and proceed
 - If activated, CMU will follow the phasing guidelines put forth by the Commonwealth of PA
 - Type/band of vaccine used will be determined by availability and allotment from the Commonwealth
 - Supplied continue to be low across the county. Allegheny County is still in Phase 1A of Vaccination Process as defined by the CDC and the Commonwealth. Currently it is estimated that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the county's population meets criteria for phase 1A
 - Risk mitigation protocol will continue to apply after receiving the vaccine, including testing, quarantine after a close contact and isolation if testing positive. You should also continue to wear a facial covering when in public, adhere to physical distancing, and regularly wash your hands
 - Expect frequent changes to plans
- Tartan Testing
 - Part of CMU's Integrated COVID-19 response
 - Routine asymptomatic testing at scale for students, faculty, staff, affiliated on-campus contract staff and approved collaborating visitors
 - Using Open-source version of the Yale SalivaDirect PCR test
 - Ramping up to 10,000 individuals with weekly access
 - Expect those coming to campus to be tested weekly

 - Number are low, not because of our testing but because people are following guidelines
 - Procedure:
 - Check-in in Danford Lounge
 - Staff has been trained



- You are given a Kit
 - Walk over to East Campus Garage
 - This was selected because there is good air circulation
 - On Feb 3, over 1000 tests
 - Testing
 - Use of qPCR to analyse samples
- Expectations to participate
 - A
- Testing during modified arrival quarantine
 - A
- Appointments
 - This week we send out ~5000 appointments
 - Discolored samples will not work in test
 - Need clean saliva samples. If samples are gunky, the system won't process the sample
 - The sooner these are scheduled, the more options among slots
 - DO NOT eat, drink, smoke, brush teeth or chew gum during the 60 minutes prior to appointment
 - DO drink a small amount of water 10 minutes prior to appointment
 - Bring CMU ID and QR code of appointment (Phone or print out)
- Lessons Learned/Going Forward
 - Simplify invitations
 - More visual information: signs, signs, sign
 - Continued to reduce "Test Not Performed"
 - Increased messaging about preparation
 - Closer supervisions and rejection at sample generation
 - Additional lab process options
 - Current bottleneck is intake staffing to get to 10,000
 - Continues upgrade to processes and quality control procedures in the lab
- Participation in Tartan Testing (refer to [slide](#))
 - All faculty, staff, and students planning to be on campus each week are expected to complete one asymptomatic COVID 19 test weekly through Tartan Testing
 - If you come to campus occasionally, you are expected to test during the week you will be on campus
 - If you are not coming to campus, you are not expected to participate in Tartan Testing; however, the opportunity to obtain a test is available
 - Being vaccinated does not exempt you from testing if you plan to participate in on-campus activities
- Testing during Modified Arrival Quarantine
 - If you arrived recently, you are expected to quarantine first
 - You may get a test through Tartan Testing; however, wait until at least 4 days after you have arrived



- If you receive a negative result, you are still expected to finish your quarantine
- Tartan Testing Shuttle
 - 2 shuttle routes - Each will take ~45 minutes and 11 people max
 - Shuttle stops
 - 6555 Penn Ave
 - Bakery Square (Across street from shuttle stop)
 - National Robotics Engineering Center
 - 300 S Craig Street, near Mellon Institute (main entrance at escort stop sign)
 - Pittsburgh Technology Center on Second Ave.
 - Mill 19 at Hazelwood Green (middle entrance on Lytle Street at the crosswalk)
- Q&A:
 - Question: When we go to pick the test tube inside the CUC. Why is there no way to get the tubes outside?
 - We wanted to be sure that the testing staff was not outside more than they needed to be outside
 - We wanted to have maximum room for the spitting part
 - Question: Is the intake staff being vaccinated? Maybe to increase volunteered people coming in?
 - Yes the intake received one vaccination and the lab staff?
 - Question: Doesn't CMU already mandate several vaccinations before heading to campus?
 - The difference is that this vaccine is not FDA approved compared to other vaccines that are already FDA approved
 - Question: A typical TA is not an instructor of record. Will all TA instructing in person receive a vaccine?
 - We are hopeful that the county will allow for this.
 - Question: Are there plans to open another testing facility? This is far from the Mellon facility
 - Currently no, but that is why we have integrated the shuttle bus
 - Question: I noticed we have a 50% invitation acceptance rate, are there thoughts on how to increase this acceptance?
 - We are sending the invitation to people that we know are not coming to campus
 - Question: What about antibody testing to students?
 - Christine Andrews: The role of antibody testing is not really clear or how we are going to use it. Right now there is no plan to use antibody testing in our approach to this
 - What is the percentage of "Test not performed" results?



- We have been as high as 15% and we are getting better at identifying samples that will not work before these are tested. Working towards decreasing this
- Question: Are there extra ideas to allow students that have had “test no performed” to get a test?
 - The observers have been better trained to detect samples that will be “Not tested”
- Question (From Chat): would the cost of the vaccine be covered by the student health services?
 - The vaccine is free
-

6:35 pm REPS Spotlight | Helen Zhou, Simin Liu, Rishi Veerapaneni
Presentation from SCS Students on Coffee Chat Program

- SCS PhD Coffee Chats - Overview
 - Goal: to encourage spontaneous connection, friendship, and mentoring throughout SCC
 - Started in Fall 2020 by SCS Social Connectedness Working Group
 - ~300 responses across six rounds, with participants from all 7 schools in SCS
 - > 40% of participants in first year PhD
 - Four components:
 - Solicitation email
 - Matching form
 - Matching algorithm
 - Matching email
 - Solicitation email (Refer to [slide](#))
 - Matching Form
 - Basic Survey: Name & pronouns, email, department, year
 - Availability
 - Other: Group size preference, interaction type
 - Matching algorithm
 - Algorithm can be found [here](#) with a plain english description [here](#)
 - Greedy Score algorithm which uses a scoring function for each pair of individuals
 - Greater match in hobbies/research interest/etc → higher score
 - Matching email (Refer to [slide](#))
 - General Feedback
 - including a **short introduction** of participants in the email, including pronouns, year, department, etc.
 - suggest **ice-breaker activities**
 - give guidelines to ensure proper **social distancing**
 - ask participants to **confirm times with each other**
 - allow participants to list people who they **don't want to be matched with**



- **group size:** some people prefer small groups, while some prefer large groups
- after the form closes on Thursday, **send out pairings by Saturday** so they have time to coordinate in case they want to meet on Monday
- **allow logistics to not play a factor** in matching (i.e. some may want to work out a time on their own)
- provide **specific multiple choices for hobbies**
- CMU-level Grad Student Coffee Chats
 - Motivation:
 - Pandemic state likely to continue. Students lack 1-1/small group interaction opportunities
 - Encourage interdisciplinary mingling
 - What in the new form
 - Info about yourself:
 - Info about who you want to meet
 - Logistics
 - What to talk about
 - Examples to use CC
 - Socializing with different majors
 - Socializing within your major
 - Interdisciplinary research or other kinds of collaborations (i.e. ML x Biology, Theatre x Robotics)
 - Finding a running buddy
 - Get advice from an older student
 - And many more
 - Where do GSA Reps come in?
 - Advertising this to your program via email (once every 3 weeks)
 - Tell people about it (word-of-mouth)
 - Feedback @ grad-coffee-chats@andrew.cmu.edu:
 - Other questions for the form to make a better match?
 - Frequency of CC?
 - What works about this program, what doesn't?
 - Etc.
 - Spin off Coffee Chats to your own department
 - Can customize form: i.e. add mentorship option, etc.
 - We can help w/ code!

6:40 pm **Open Floor**

6:45 pm **Adjourn**

NEXT MEETING: March 3rd, 2021

Look out for each other. Stay engaged. Stay safe.

**Are you a new rep?**

Are you feeling lost in the meeting or confused by all the GSA emails and wish someone would tell you what is going on? If so, please contact Vice President of Internal Affairs, Santiago Carrasquilla, at gsa-VPia@andrew.cmu.edu to get caught up on GSA's current work!

Are you filling in for someone?

Here are the things you need to know/do:

1. You are a voting member of GSA today. If we take votes, you need to vote in place of the rep you are replacing so that we have a quorum. Your options are "Yes," "No," and "Abstain." We ask that you only abstain if you have a conflict of interest with the vote, not because you are unsure.
2. Can you get food at the meeting? Yes, of course!
3. After the meeting, get in touch with the rep you replaced and inform them of any significant news.

Event Accessibility:

GSA strives to make our events accessible to all graduate students and their guests. If you or your guest(s) need special accommodations for a disability, dietary restrictions, or other reasons, please email us at gsa@cmu.edu as soon as possible. We will do our best to accommodate your request and make arrangements before the event."

Zoom meeting information:**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://cmu.zoom.us/j/98143620197>