

Parental leave policy for graduate students is being finalized. There are a few more details that are being figured out. Once the policy is final, it will be sent out publicly.

There will be changes to the graduate student curriculum. Starting in Fall 2020, “Special Topics” courses that are 200-level (i.e. 295) will no longer be approved for graduate credit. Graduate College will also be examining rest of the 200-level courses that are approved for graduate credit in order to ensure that the syllabi contains clear distinction between undergraduate and graduate student requirements in line with NECHE requirements.

Graduate College will be establishing a “graduate mentor award”. Any graduate students that would like to be involved with establishing the award should reach out to gradcoll@uvm.edu

Executive Board Updates

President: Jessica Bocanegra

General Updates

There will be a three-part workshop for bias training in April.

UVM Rally Cat Cupboard will be opening in February.

There will be two new nursing mothers’ pods. They will be located in STEM and Athletics buildings.

UVM will be inquiring about the GMT Board representative process.

Vice President: Avery Rasmussen

General Updates

Graduate student nominations have been reopened for the President’s Commission on Inclusive Excellence (PCIE). If you have a passion for inclusive excellence, equity, justice and interested in effecting change by directly advising the President on these issues, apply to serve on the President’s Commission for Inclusive Excellence. Application information and additional details were sent out in the GSS Newsletter and can also be found in go.uvm.edu/pcie.

Communications Director: Kevin Fischer

General Updates

Student Engagement Committee (formerly Student Worker’s Engagement Committee) will help Communications Director advertise and disperse news and information about upcoming events. This is not limited to Student Engagement Committee. **Senators**: please help share as well!

Feedback to Communications Director:

Are your constituents aware of our events? General feelings about events, GSS? Any ideas on how to better spread the word? Social media posts, e-mails adequate? Too many puns? Any feedback (comments, criticism, etc.) welcomed, especially constructive criticism! Don’t be shy!

Grads Give Back (GGB) Updates – Michelle DiPinto

2019 Highlights

Over **1,300 pounds** of potatoes were gleaned at Barber Farm in Jericho to be used as fresh produce at local food banks.

16,362 meals were packaged for the commodity supplemental food program at the Vermont Food Bank.

7,850 pounds of produce was sorted at the Vermont Food Bank.

This semester we are trying something new with a friendly competition! When you and at least one other grad student give back at any service event in VT and submit a photo and a blurb

Clubs with a representative present: IRSA, CMC