

Commission on Student Affairs Minutes

March 4, 2021

3:30 PM

Zoom

Present: Victoria Dashevsky (presiding), Abby Patterson, Amanda Coleman, Anisha Hari, Ariana Guevara, Awad Abdelhalim, Cam Roberts, Camellia Pastore, Conrad Briles, Danielle Panico, Frank Shushok, Izzy Elfaki, Jennifer Pike, Jessica Nguyen, Kase Poling, Kayla Alward, Hanna Kuneyl, Lauren Surface, Maruf Hoque, Nathaniel Soss, Sara Wynkoop, Steve Matuszak, Susanna Rinehart, Tara Frank, Tim Lin

Absent with Notice: n/a

Absent: Ariana Labat, Grant Bommer, Jes Davis, Katherine Franz, Kimberly Smith, Miles Guth, Sabrina Sturgeon, Spencer Hamilton, Tahreem Alam

Guests: Gina Tamburro, James Bridgeforth, Kenlee Andreu, Lori Buchanan, Monica Hunter, Thomas Miller

Victoria Dashevsky called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. University Council and Commission Updates

a. University Council – No update

b. Academic Support Committee – No update

3. Old Business

None

4. New Business

A. Thomas Miller, Chair of Student Life Council, gave a presentation on Student Governance Task Force: Undergraduate Student Senate. Presentation **attached**.

B. Conversation on increased violence in anti-APIA Community – Jessica Nguyen

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to switch the order of New Business items 4b and 4c.

Lengthy discussion was had on how to hold the university accountable for the claims of unwavering support to the APIA student body given the statement that President Sands released in conjunction with Dr. Pratt-Clarke concerning the dramatic rise of anti-Asian violence across the nation. Link to the statement that Jessica shared can be found here: <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/05/president-inclusivevt-statement-may31.html>

After much discussion, it was decided that CSA would offer a resolution of support. This would in part urge the university to continue doing everything possible to make this the most inclusive place for everyone. Not only would it elevate the conversation and education that needs to take place, but it will also demonstrate that our entire university is committed and with the Asian American Community in solidarity, standing up together against hatred.

It was also brought forth that once the resolution is passed, three things could then happen: 1) Susanna could ask that Faculty Senate pass a resolution in support; 2) SGA could move forward offering a resolution of support, and 3) Jennifer Pike offered to bring this to the attention of Staff Senate. In addition, Sarah with SGA said she had already brought this to the attention of the Equity and Inclusion chair/committee.

Victoria shared that time sensitive resolutions only need one reading, so if it is well written, it can be presented at the next meeting two weeks from now and passed. Victoria offered to make an open Slack channel for the subcommittee resolution writing. It will be made public and anyone can join it. Before the end of the meeting there were already 31 team members.

Discussion was had pertaining to the recommendation of a possible University Community Meeting or Town Hall meeting. As that would bring together faculty, staff, and students, as this affects faculty members as well.

Jessica shared that the AASU Executive Board is currently working on facilitating a workshop on the continued violence. She also shared that a great resource is the Asian Cultural Engagement Center. Dr. Nina Ha makes sure resources are readily available for students.

C. Resolution to establish the graduate student budget board – Kase Poling

Resolution Number: GSA 2020/21 – 1R

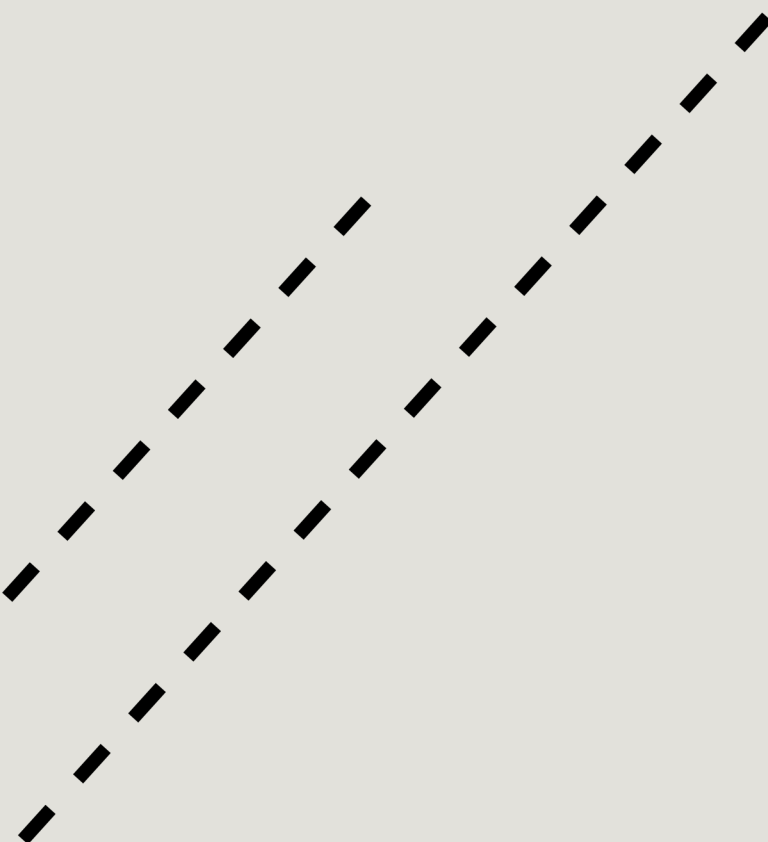
Resolution Name: Establish the Graduate Student Budget Board

Kase Poling presented the resolution for first reading. CSA is being asked to approve the creation of the Graduate Student Budget Board for a trial/pilot phase which will go begin March 2021 and go through August 2021.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:57pm.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 18th @ 3:30pm.



STUDENT GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Undergraduate Student Senate



Part 1 - Why are we here presenting?

- Consolidate independent student governance groups
 - This will create a robust student voice that has the infrastructure and training to best promote the wants and needs of the undergraduate student body
- Increase student participation in shared university governance
- Increase representation from numerous constituency and identity groups; this should be a truly representative body

Bottom line: We want to make USS accessible, approachable, and representative.

Part 2 - What is the fundamental work of USS?

Students are the most idealistic voice on-campus. Find the way to unleash that contribution.

USS Charge:

Undergraduate Student Senate shall be representative of the entire undergraduate student body and have the authority and responsibility to act on their behalf through legislative recommendations concerning campus life, academic and learning environment equity, student conduct, campus and infrastructure development, student health and wellness, institutional financial planning concerning student experiences (including the dissemination of a portion of the student activity fee to registered student organizations), matters of equity, inclusion, and access that affect student and campus environments, and the learning conditions of the undergraduate student body.

Further, USS shall have the opportunity to provide programs, services, and traditions that benefit the undergraduate student body. Comprised of undergraduate student leaders who are elected by their peers to represent and champion their needs, wants, and hopes for Virginia Tech.

Part 2 - What is the fundamental work of USS?

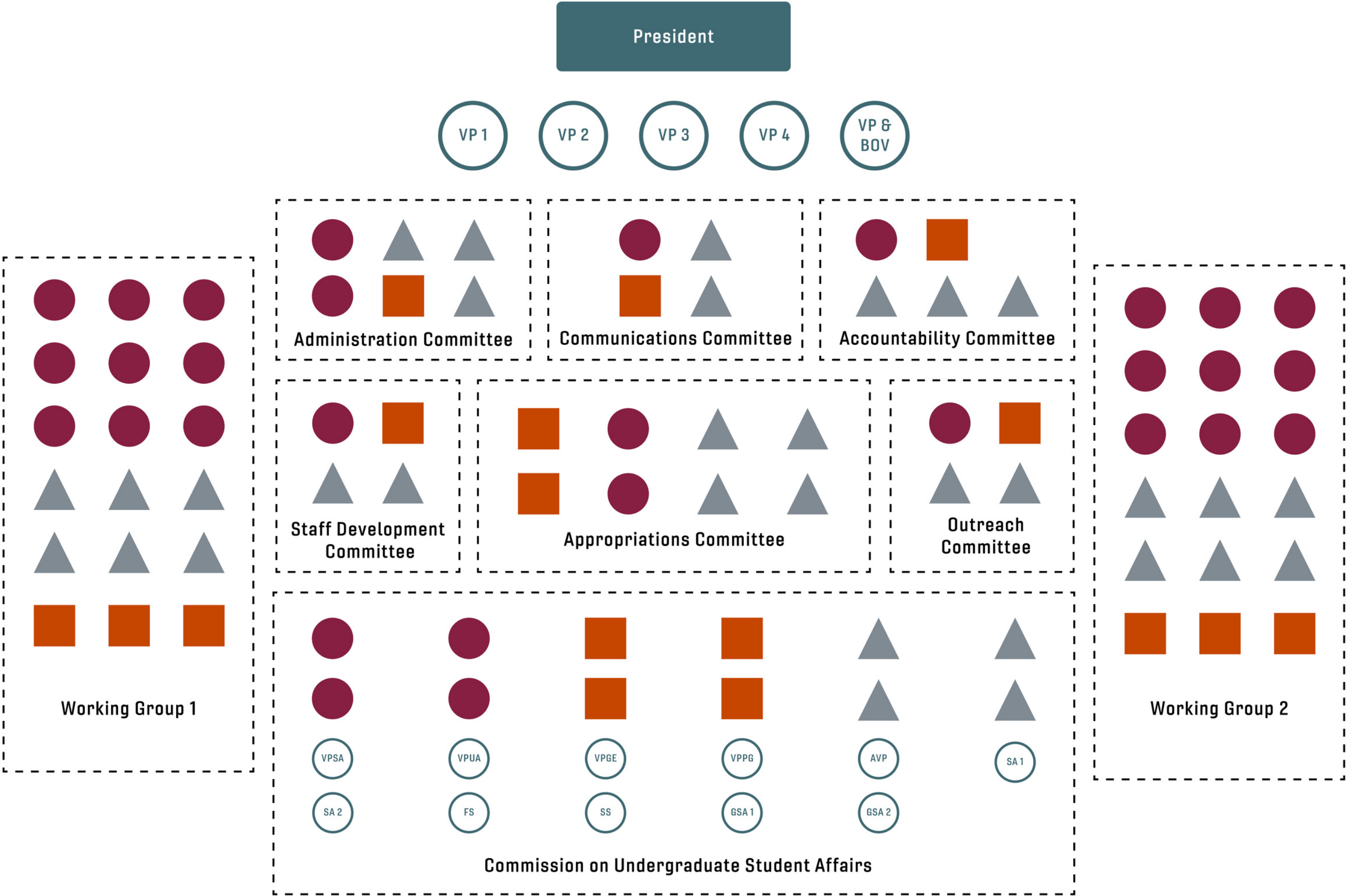
Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs (CUSA) Charge:

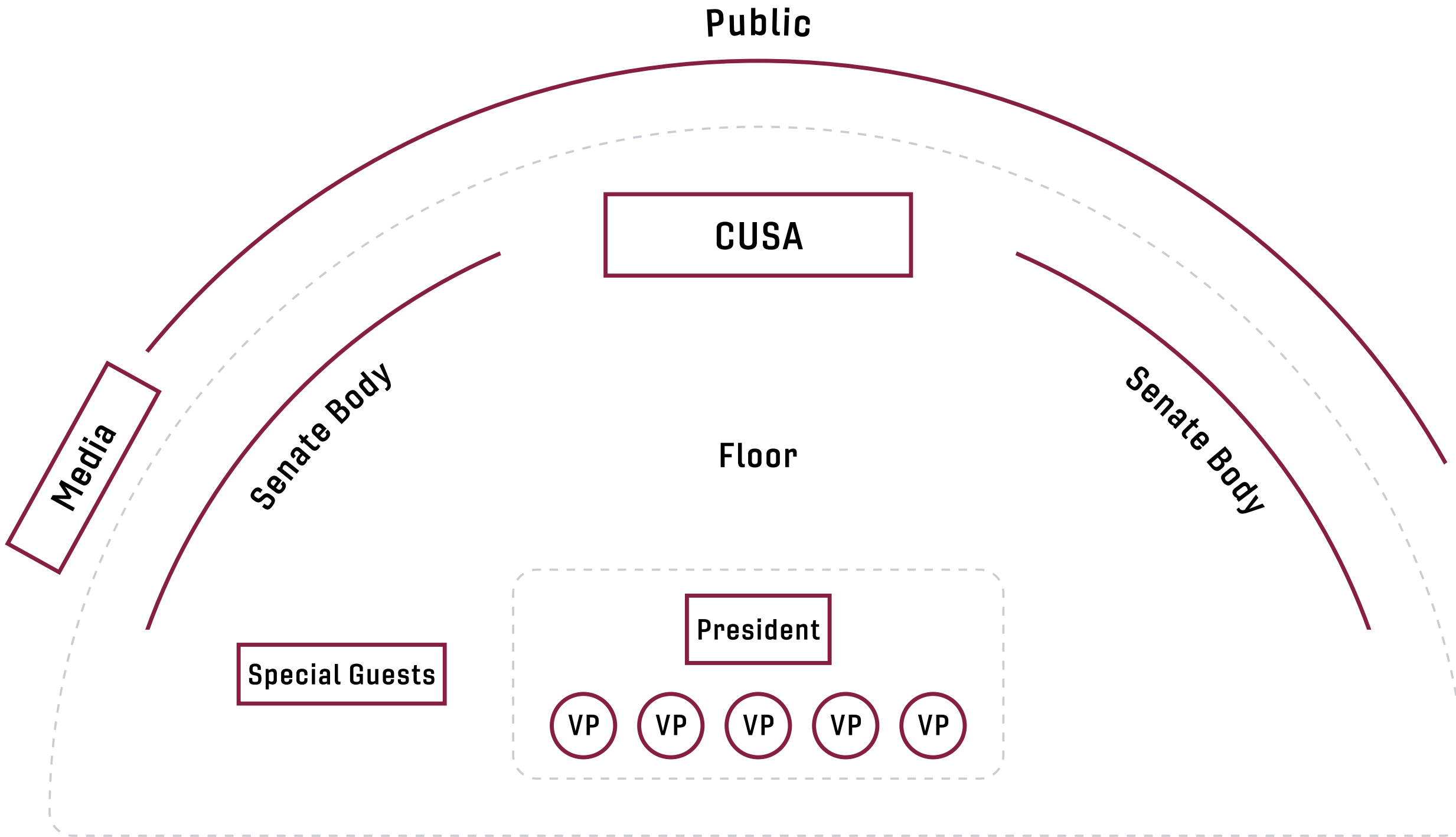
CUSA shall act as a repository of information, institutional history, and knowledge related to the navigation of the shared governance system at Virginia Tech. Comprised of **senior leaders** within the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS), CUSA **assists and mentors** USS members from the inception of an idea through its resolution in an effort to better the undergraduate student experience.

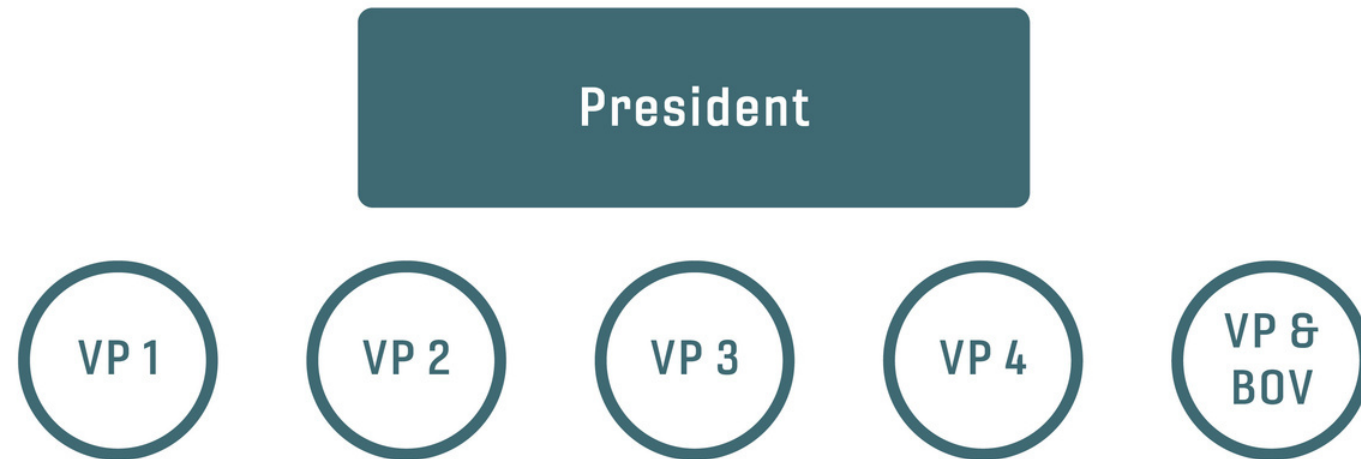
Part 3 - How we best feel this work can be done at VT

Note: This is a student organization that is a key part of shared university governance. It should not look just like faculty or staff senate nor should it look like any other student organization. This is a unique opportunity to build something new and robust.

- **Infrastructure (org structure)**
- Infrastructure (university presence/outreach)
- Infrastructure (processes)
- Infrastructure (administrative and programmatic work)







- President - President of the Senate

- VP 1 - Vice President for Issues and Policy (Mainly Legislative)

In Charge of:

- Working Group 1
- Working Group 2

- VP 2 - Vice President for Shared Governance (Mainly Legislative)

In Charge of:

- Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs

- VP 3 - Vice President for Administration

In Charge of:

- Accountability Committee
- Administration Committee
- Communications Committee (under Director of Communications*)
- Outreach Committee (under Director of Communications*)
- Staff Development Committee (under Director of Staff Development*)

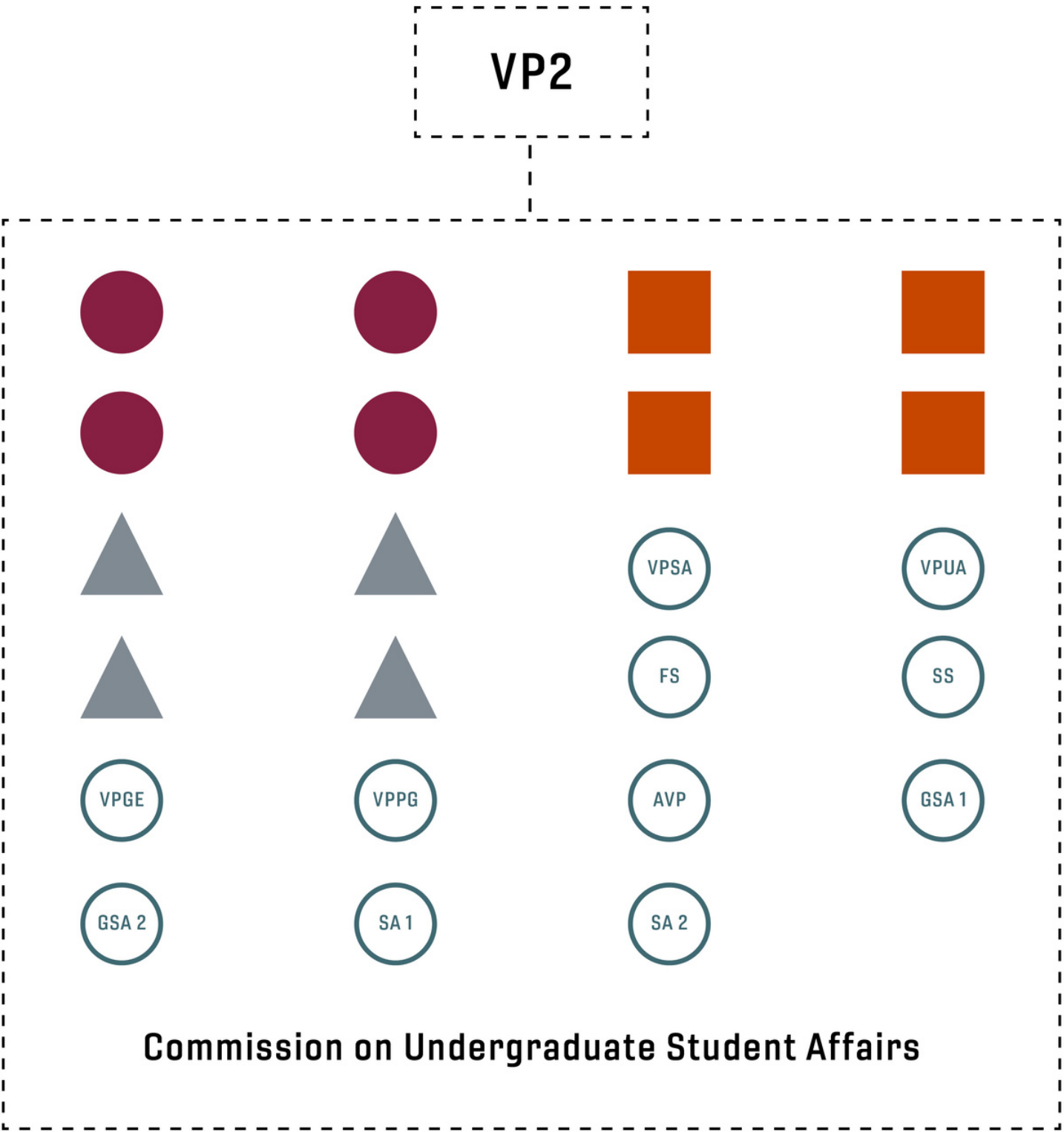
- VP 4 - Vice President for Finance

In Charge of:

- Appropriations Committee
- Hokie Effect (Under Director of Hokie Effect*)

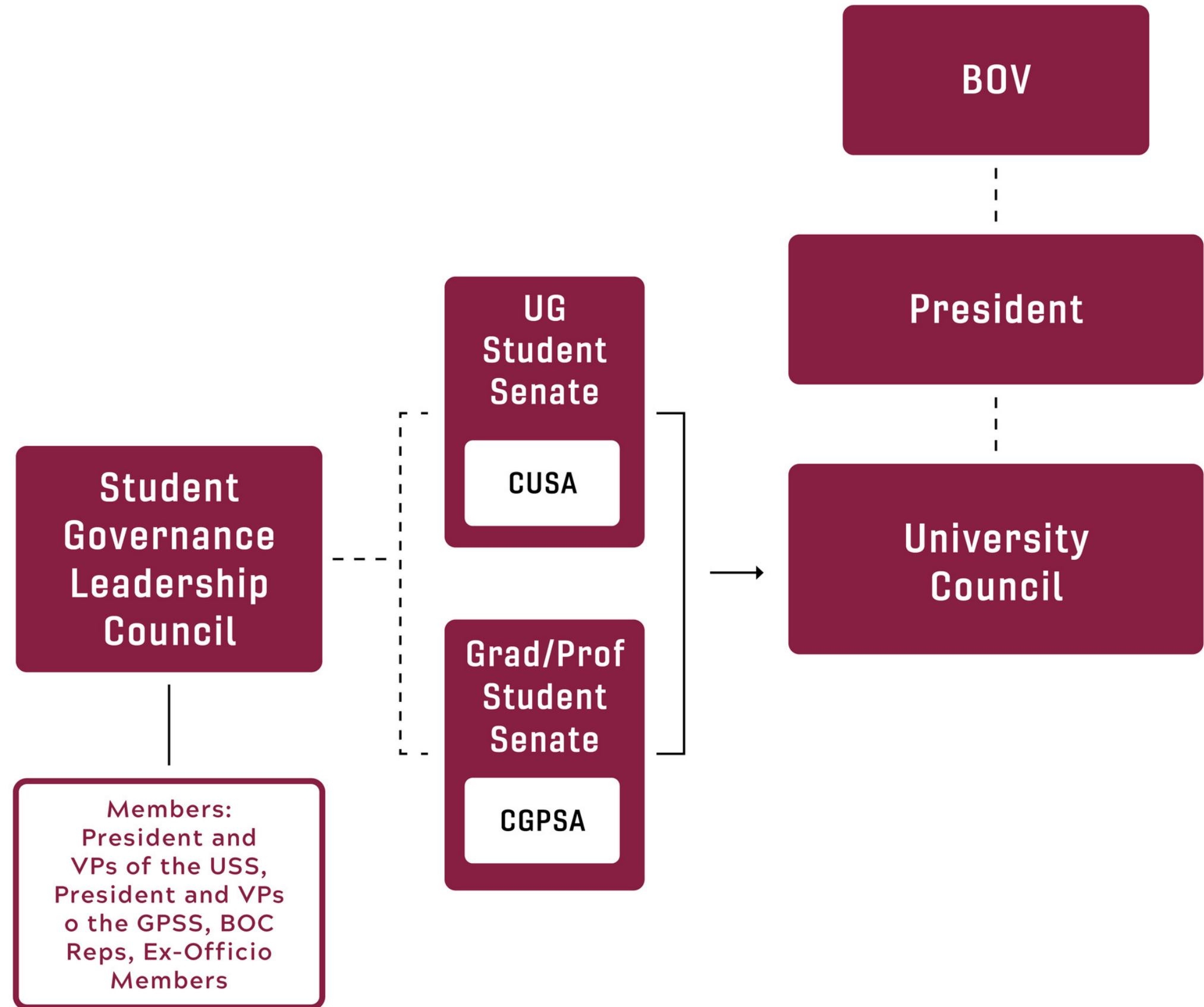
- VP & BOV - Vice President and Representative to the BOV

Selected by the BOV



- VPSA
Vice President for Student Affairs
- VPUA
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs (or designee)
- FS
Elected member from the Faculty Senate
- SS
Elected member from the Staff Senate
- VPGE
Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education (or designee)
- AVP
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Experience VT
- VPPG
Vice President for Policy and Governance
- GSA 1
Selected member from the Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- GSA 2
Selected member from the Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- SA 1
A/P Faculty from the Division of Student Affairs
- SA 2
A/P Faculty from the Division of Student Affairs

New Task Force Proposal



Part 4 - Our vision through video



https://youtu.be/ukdmTKm_caw

STUDENT GOVERNANCE TASK
FORCE PRESENTATION

We want to make USS accessible, approachable, and representative.

- Accessibility to the everyday student to create change and see that change become a reality.
- Clarity and transparency for students. Working with USS is clear, integrity driven, kind, and uncomplicated.
- Democratic; a core tenant to what the USS needs to be. This is ideal for creating a representative and equitable organization.

Part 5 - Transition Planning

To assist in the transition from SGA to the USS, undergraduate students are invited to apply to serve on a twelve-student “governance transition team” which will include the three interim executive officers of SGA. The initial focus of this group, in accordance with the recommendation of the Task Force on the Future of Student Governance, includes:

- Building the USS constitution and bylaws
- Building the position descriptions for each USS position
- Building the USS Election Code and Election processes

Part 5 - Transition Timeline

- Applications for the undergraduate transition team has been available since **Feb 17th**.
- Transition team selection will be complete by **March 8th**.
- Phasing out of the Student Government Association (SGA) as the formal voice of the undergraduate students in university governance will occur at the **conclusion of the Spring 2021** semester.
- During the **first week of October**, an election will be held for USS Officers.

STUDENT GOVERNANCE TASK
FORCE PRESENTATION

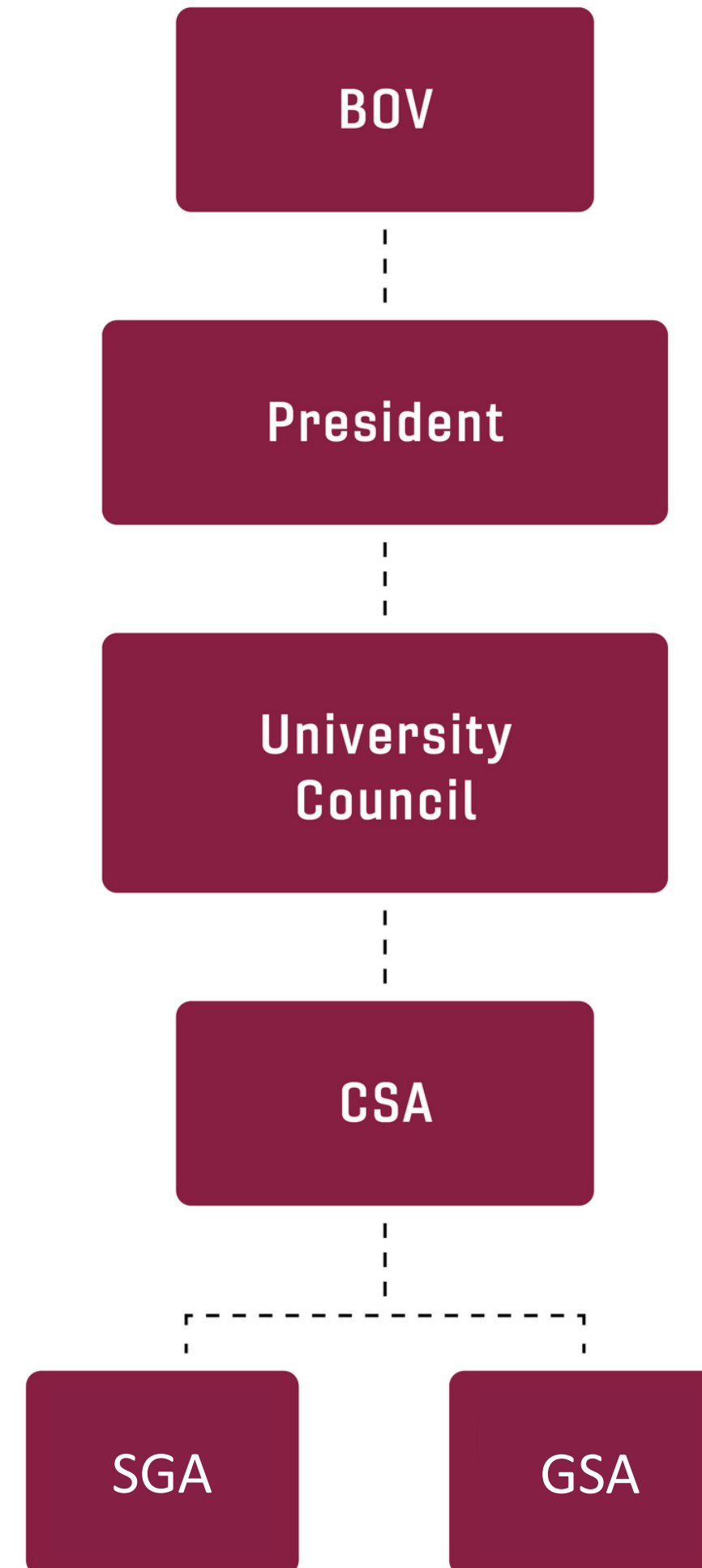
Task Force on the Future of Student Governance: Membership

- **Frank Shushok**
(Co-Chair), Vice President for Student Affairs
- **Kim O'Rourke**
(Co-Chair), Vice President for Policy & Governance,
Secretary to the Board of Visitors
- **Blake Barnhill**
Senior, Computer Science, (Past VP, SGA)
- **Monty Abbas**
Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering
(Past President, Faculty Senate)
- **Victoria Dashevsky**
Senior, Packaging Systems & Design
Chair, Commission on Student Affairs
- **Grant Boomer**
Senior, Finance & Management
Class President, 2021
- **Trichia Cadette**
Graduate Student in Arts Leadership
- **Monika Gibson**
Assistant Dean and Director for Student Services,
Graduate School
- **Maruf Hoque**
Graduate Student, Translational Biology, Medicine, and
Health
President, Graduate Student Assembly
- **Ennis McCrery**
Director for Student Conduct
(Former Graduate Representative to the Board of
Visitors)
- **Thomas Miller**
Senior, Sociology
Chair, Student Life Council
- **Rachel Spector**
Senior, Environmental Conservation and Society
- **Heather Wagoner**
Director of Student Engagement & Campus Life
- **James Bridgeforth**
Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and
ExperienceVT



Questions?

Current Organizational Chart and Legislative Process



President's Committee on Governance Proposal

