

GSS December 1, 2016 Senate Meeting

16 senators present, 1 proxy.

Changing the format of the meetings to have senate decisions take place during the meetings

- Some decisions will still be made in the exec meeting, but most of the actions will take place in the senate meeting

Changes to constitution and bylaws—Chris Acuff, parliamentarian

- Codify with Articles of Cooperation
- Repeal Articles of Cooperation
- Adding Senate chair, treasurer, technology office and chair of the GSS
 - Create executive committee
- Steering committee → executive committee (see above)
- Student tribunal → judicial branch
- Gender specific language
- New committees:
 - Strategic planning committee
 - Assist with yearly transitions of exec members, committee chairs, and senators
 - Graduate student senate advisory committee
 - Still coming up with an appropriate name for this committee

Q: Any subliminal changes that were made?

A: NO, its simply codifying what we have been doing and what were doing already

Autonomy

- Currently, President, VP, and Sect are in the constitution
- Technology officer, Treasurer, and chair were in the Aoc
- PR officer and parliamentarian were created this year

3 Restructuring options

1. Small internal changes that would improve operations and help us grow
 - a. amending sections of constitution and bylaws
 - b. Creating or restricting positions and redefining roles
 - c. Minimum changes, easy to implement
2. Work with SGA to restructure the legislative and executive branches of SGA and GSS
 - a. Bicameral relationship
 - i. Bills etc must pass both chambers
 - ii. Means more meetings, more work
 - iii. Undergrads lose some power, take more work from us
 - b. Combined senate
 - i. 12-15 people on new senate
 - ii. make sure grad students interests aren't underrepresented
 - iii. more preferred from undergrads
3. Full autonomy “nuclear option”

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- a. Create our own student organization
- b. Separate from SGA
- c. Entails
 - i. New constitution and bylaws, to be approved by April
 - ii. Creating a budget and funding approved for next year
 - iii. Gaining recognition by UT's admin, Board of Trustees, and admin committees.
- d. Most work, but could be the biggest payoff

Q: Any concrete examples this semester of how we have been hindered by the current situation?

A: Student ticketing process, diversity issues, etc.; they pass bills without hearing from GSS