

Graduate Student Senate Minutes  
November 17, 2011

I. Roll, Approval of the Minutes, Committee Sign-ups

II. President's Report

1. GSS Spring Elections: The SGA Election Packet is in the process of being passed by the undergraduate Student Senate. As has been our goal, we're working on making the process for electing president and vice-president of GSS more accessible, visible and transparent. Please consider running and encourage your colleagues to consider becoming a candidate. Graduate students can run as independent candidates or as a party (president and vice-president). Remember that GSS representatives are selected from within their department rather than during the SGA election.
2. We are in the process of preparing for the Love Your Libraries 5K run on March 3.
3. A graduate student is now on the UT Safety Committee. Many thanks to Clark Milner for keeping us updated on current safety questions and issues.

III. Vice-President's Report

1. Will Gibbons attended the Board of Trustees meeting the first week of November. It was a good opportunity to make GSS more visible within the UT system.
2. Networking Weekend: Will also attended UT SGA Networking Weekend for representatives from each of the UT system campuses. Although the event focused more on undergraduate issues, GSS was glad to participate.

IV. Luncheon and Town Hall Debriefing

1. Both the Chancellor's Luncheon and the Graduate Student Town Hall went very well – thank you to all the graduate students who attended! Among the issues discussed were family/medical leave, residency requirements, and safety on campus. The Graduate School is considering a permanent Family/Medical leave plan. Currently, any leave allowances are determined on a case-by-case basis. Regarding residency requirements, the current practice is actually a legislative decision, which means that the university cannot change the way they approach in-state and out-of-state classification. It would take a strong lobby effort to change the current practice. It might be useful to study how peer institutions (namely, top 25 institutions) handle residency classifications and what financial effects those decisions have on states.
2. Parking issues. Lot 9 is set to close soon due to construction and will be replaced with a garage. Many dedicated lots will be shifted around campus during the process of building the new garage at Lot 9 and the new Student Union (in addition to construction at other locations on campus). One solution might be that when Stokely Athletics Center is torn down, it might be turned into a temporary surface lot. Other temporary lots are will be created. Note further that the bus and trolley routes are also being evaluated to accommodate these changes.

V. Spring Meetings

1. The GSS will meet four times in the spring (dates TBA), probably on staggered days of the week again to accommodate teaching and class schedules, but always at 5:30.

VI. Look for a GSS social event to be planned for the end of the semester. GSS is also looking to host a screening of PhD Comics in the spring.

VII. Committee Meeting Break-outs

VIII. Adjourn