

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014

Jess Welch, President
Jeremy Auerbach, Vice-President
Trevor Hedberg, Secretary

❖ **CALL TO ORDER**

❖ **ROLL**

- Senators absent
 - Danielle Sanok
 - Robert Truka
 - Jonathan Lindsay
 - Matt Ascitutto
 - Jaime Call – Excused
 - Steven Jones – Sent Proxy
 - Samantha Bedsole
 - Kristen Anders
 - Dustin Mills
 - Corinne Tandy – Excused
 - Cory Vineyard – Sent Proxy
 - Molly Albin – Excused
 - Janna Caspersen – Excused
 - Stefan Hodges-Kluck – Sent Proxy
 - Jason Strickling
 - Shawn Ou
 - Michael Douty
 - Andrew Giminaro
 - Jennie Byrd Haney
 - Ali DeSantis
 - Chris Wilson
 - Sam Lookatch – Excused
 - Hopelyn Clift
 - Donghwan Yoon
 - Timothy Estabrooks – Excused
 - Shannon Rosedale
 - Kyle Letteney
 - Erik Johnson
 - Melissa Martin

❖ **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Approve Minutes → Minutes Approved
- Updates
 - We now have an official advisor for SGA: Abigail Brumfield.
 - All SGA Retreat this weekend on Saturday November 6th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 - By-laws have been sent to the constitution review committee and will be approved in the spring.
 - Thank-you notes were sent out to the administrators who went to the luncheon this semester. At the recent Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees said that there weren't many graduate

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student issues on the agenda because “graduate students cost money,” but one of the trustees wants to make graduate student issues an agenda item for the meeting in the spring.

❖ **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Updates
 - Jeremy Auerbach will organize our questions for next semester’s luncheon.
 - Jeremy proposed that each senator give a few dollars to a collective fund so that we could have refreshments at our meetings; this proposal was met with some tentative support.

❖ **INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Chair of Equity & Diversity Committee: **Katie Singer elected as the new chair**
 - Issues discussed: equal benefits, residency, and current support for graduate students
 - One issue that was not discussed but has been considered is whether there should be an ombudsman (or ombudsperson) for graduate students.
 - New email address: gssdiversity@gmail.com
- Chair of Communications & Outreach Committee
 - Initial draft of the orientation materials for new senators in GSS
 - Want to add an FAQ page for the graduate student senate website
- Chair of the Travel Awards Committee
 - No changes to the application process until next semester.
 - New email address: gsstravel@utk.edu
 - Travel Awards Workshop was held yesterday; program will be posted to the website soon.
 - Deadline for the spring semester travel awards applications: December 15th for the College of Arts & Sciences; December 29th for all other colleges
- Chair of the Fun Run Committee
 - The Fun Run has traditionally been done to support Hodges Library, but those affiliated with the library recently stated that they are not interested in having our support this year.
 - The Fun Run this year will be used to raise funds for McClung Museum.
 - The next step in the Fun Run is recruiting people to sponsor particular events and people to actually participate in the event.

❖ **EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Academic Assessment Council
 - Assess every academic program on the basis of some measurable criteria
 - Chair: Mary Albrecht
 - Recently converted to an online system and have spent most of the semester getting the faculty members acclimated to using the system.
 - Many senators were interested in learning about the measures of evaluation
- Advisory Committee on Student Organizations
 - This organization reviews the constitutions of student organizations.
- Commission for LGBT People
 - By 2016, a gender-neutral bathroom will be installed in one building on campus with the long-term goal of eventually putting one such bathroom in every building on campus.
 - Abel Howard runs the OUTgrads organization and would be interested in meeting with the Equity and Diversity Committee to see if there are goals that these groups jointly share.
- Committee for Women
 - Trying to get more lactation rooms on campus, since there are too few at present (particularly compared to other Top-25 schools).
 - STEM Committee for Women

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- This subcommittee is currently working to create an event that showcases graduate student research in STEM fields.
- Mallory Ladd is the contact person: mladd5@utk.edu
- Mallory is looking for people in STEM departments who can gather distribution information regarding men and women in their departments
- Sexual Assault Policy Committee
 - Important policy for Graduate Student Instructors: if you are in an authority position over an undergraduate student, and a student reports sexual misconduct to you, then you are obligated to report this information; you are not, however, required to report such information if it comes from a fellow graduate student.
- Faculty Senate Research Council
 - If you want to collaborate with the Graduate School of Medicine, contact Mitch Goldman.
- Graduate Curriculum Committee
 - A number of courses were dropped; others were changed.
 - It's difficult to get a course reinstated to the catalog once it is officially dropped.
- Residency Classification Committee
 - A meeting about the current residency policies is scheduled for December 3rd.
- Technology Advisory Board
 - Lynda.com went live this week; you can log in with your netid and take courses in various areas (e.g., web design, photography, 3d animation) for free.
 - Google will soon have unlimited storage for utk email addresses.
 - They are discussing whether to drop Blackboard Collaborate and replace it with Zoom; if they decide to drop Blackboard Collaborate, this change would probably take effect in January 2016.
 - We are allowed 10 wireless device registrations, but it is possible to de-register devices through the OIT website if you need more
- ❖ **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Call for topics
 - Residency Policy
 - For residency classification, nothing in the state requirements requires that you demonstrate an intent to live in Tennessee. Campuses are free to determine their own policies.
 - According to state law, you can regard your Tennessee home as your domicile so long as you are not listed as a dependent on someone else's tax forms and this person does not reside in Tennessee.
 - Gender Neutral Bathrooms
 - A proposal is on the books to make include gender-neutral/family style restrooms in new buildings being constructed on campus and to convert one bathroom to a gender-neutral/family style bathroom in every building that is renovated, leading to 75% completion by Spring 2019.
 - Suggestions for the funding from students who do not "Opt in" to giving a portion of their student fees to on-campus events and student organizations.
 - Provide funding for parking lot sensors (to detect how full the lots are)
 - Provide funding for additional fellowships or scholarships
 - Provide bike lanes for roads
 - Provide cover for all bus stops

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❖ **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- GSS listserv emails are now sent out on Tuesdays.
- Upcoming events
 - Applications for the Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center's Graduate Certification Program are due November 24th at 5:00 pm.
 - Commission for Blacks is hosting a workshop on retention on Saturday
 - Ferguson Report Forum: November 19th, 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Alumni Memorial Building.
 - The Trailblazer Series continues Friday November 7th at 12:30 pm in Hodges Library Auditorium; guest speaker Rita Geier
 - OUTstanding conference takes place Saturday November 8th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
 - See the list below for future GSS events.

❖ **ADJOURN**

❖ **COMMITTEE BREAKOUT**

Upcoming Graduate Student Senate Meetings

Monday, December 1, 2014 at 5:30pm in 206 Claxton
Monday, January 12, 2015 at 5:30pm (location TBD)
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 5:30pm (location TBD)
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 5:30pm (location TBD)
Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 5:30pm (location TBD)

Other Events

All SGA Retreat – Saturday, November 8, 2014 from 10am to 2pm in Old Panhellenic
Chancellor's Spring Luncheon – Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 11:45am (location TBD)
"Ice Cream" Social – TBD
Town Hall Meeting – TBD