CALL TO ORDER

ROLL

Senators absent
- Danielle Sanok
- Robert Truka
- Jonathan Lindsay
- Matt Asciutto
- 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
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
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
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014

❖ 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