CALL TO ORDER

ROLL

Senators Absent:
- Danielle Sanok
- Randi Black
- Robert Truka
- Kelsey Stephenson
- Kay Leigh Farley
- Jonathan Lindsay/Kate Abrahamsson
- Matt Asciutto
- Candace Wilson
- Steven Jones
- Kristen Anders
- Dustin Mills
- Corinne Tandy/Matt Riley
- Robert Pivar
- Janna Caspersen
- Taylor Hixson
- Jackson Martin
- Jason Strickling
- John Salasin
- Andrew Giminaro
- Jennie Byrd Haney
- Nick Sirica
- Sam Lookatch
- Donghwan Yoon
- Timothy Estabrooks
- Kyle Letteney
- Erik Johnson
- Drew Drake

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Approve Minutes → Minutes for 2/3 approved
- Updates
  - Recap of the luncheon
    - Fairly well-attended by both students and faculty
    - The chancellor delivered a presentation on the competitiveness of UT’s graduate student stipends; broadly speaking, stipends are not competitive with schools in the top-25 aspiration group.
    - The presentation on the graduate student stipends is available on the UT Board of Trustees website.
    - $1 million has been put into a fund to improve graduate student stipends.
Allie Rhinehart pressed the administration on the current IRB policies; faculty and administrators recognize that this is a serious problem (for students, faculty, and administration).

Bylaw Changes
- Updates to the bylaws are almost finished.
- The penultimate draft will be circulated to members of GSS.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- Updates
  - Milestone review committee report
    - There is some debate about whether a goal to become a “top 25” institution is laudable, since a failure to make that mark will look bad in the public eye.
    - The goal is to get into the top 25 peer institutions, which is a different ranking system than, for example, the US & World News Rankings.

INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Chair of Equity & Diversity Committee
  - Dean of Students Office currently fills the role of Ombudsmen, though not in quite the same way as what a legitimate ombudsmen would provide.
  - Next week, this committee will discuss equity in the process of how travel awards are allocated.
- Chair of Communications & Outreach Committee
  - GSS Social was cancelled because of a blizzard, but there will be another one scheduled.
  - Think about who might replace you if you won’t be able to serve on GSS next year.
- Chair of the Travel Awards Committee
  - Retroactive applications are now called “short-notice” applications.
  - Travel awards are now both needs-based and merit-based.
  - The online system for applying for travel awards is still in progress; applications – whether online or in the “classic” paper format – will be available within the next two weeks.
- Chair of the Fun Run Committee
  - Fun Run is this Saturday.
  - This year’s Fun Run features twice as many events as last year’s Fun Run.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Updates
  - Commission for Women
    - Most sexual assault incidents revolve around drinking, but despite the messages to avoid drinking, it occurs on campus in excess nearly every Saturday of the fall semester.
    - The Lady Vols brand has been under discussion because only the basketball team has been allowed to keep the Lady Vols brand.
  - Student Programming Allocation Committee
    - Regarding Sex Week, SEAT applied for 40% of the total funds that were available and received 15% of the total funds available.
    - Many student organizations received no funding at all, and SEAT got the second-most funding of any student organization.
    - SEAT’s allegations regarding discrimination with respect to what groups were funded have not withstood critical scrutiny.
This is the first year that this allocation process has been in place, so the process may undergo some minor changes before next year.

- Technology Advisory Board
  - Linda.com continues to gather more users.
  - Atlas TI is being dropped because it is not worth what it currently costs; it is being replaced by NVivo.

- Sexual Assault Taskforce
  - New policy on sexual assault was approved by the task force.
  - SAIS process is going to be reviewed at the end of the year, but the committee has not discussed this yet.

- NEW BUSINESS
  - Ombudsmen Presentation
    - Ombudsmen = someone who plays a mediatory role in helping students resolve issues or complaints with the university
      - Does not change policies on his/her own
      - Does not replace appeal processes
    - Students do not have access to this service presently, but staff and faculty members have two ombudsmen that they can consult.
    - Other schools in the top-25 peer aspiration group provide this service to their graduate students.
  - Call for Topics

- ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - Upcoming events

- ADJOURN

- COMMITTEE BREAKOUT

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**Upcoming Graduate Student Senate Meetings**

Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 5:30pm (Claxton 206 tentative)

**Other Events**

Big Orange Adventure – Saturday, March 7 at 9am (Circle Park)
Town Hall Meeting – **Monday, April 6** at 5:30pm (Baker Center)
“Ice Cream” Social – **Wednesday, April 8** at 7pm (Cool Beans)
Travel Awards Workshop – **Tuesday, April 7** at 5:30pm (UC 221)