

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

JANUARY 29, 2013

5:30 P.M. – LAW BUILDING ROOM 132

Martin P. Walker, GSS President
Damien Pitts, GSS Vice-President
Robert Truka, GSS Secretary

- **CALL TO ORDER**
- **ROLL of SENATORS**
- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
 - Using GO.utk for voting
 - We want to explore using Collegiate Link and the GO system for GSS voting. We need to test it and determine the rules for it's use.
 - It would allow for more members of the GSS to vote since it is hard to always have all GSS members present at meetings.
 - SGA Elections (GSS officers and Board of Trustees member)
 - This includes the GSS and Board of Trustees positions
 - We want there to be a better turn out of graduate students!
 - Candidates **MUST** fill out all appropriate paperwork before the deadlines. Please go to gss.utk.edu for more information and to download the election packet
 - Leave of Absence
 - The LOA policy is moving along. We are down to final revisions before it is presented to the Graduate Council for a vote. The policy will not be added to the Graduate Catalog until it passes the Graduate Council.
- **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
 - SGA Undergraduate Senate Report
 - Student@Tennessee
 - We are working with the newsletter student@Tennessee to include a new graduate student section and to start making the publication more graduate student friendly.
- **INTERNAL COMMITTEES**
 - Communications and Outreach Report
 - Work on getting contacts information for departments that do not have a representative
 - Equity and Diversity Report
 - Student Fees are going to be a HOT issue this spring in the state legislature
 - Fun Run Report
 - The Fun Run is now being called "The Big Orange Adventure" and will be held in April. The event is going to follow the format of a scavenger hunt and will include many differet prizes and team events.
 - Travel Awards Report
 - We awarded more than \$90,000 in travel money this Spring cycle. All the letters have gone out and we are looking forward to the upcoming (in April) Travel Awards Workshop.
- **NEW BUSINESS?**
 - Guest Speakers for the Townhall and Spring Meetings
 - We are in planning mode for the Town Hall coming up in March and we want suggestions for the speakers. Please contact Martin at gss@utk.edu

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS?**
 - Monthly meeting times and updated schedule
 - Initially we were going to schedule the meetings on Wednesday, but due to both scheduling conflicts and emails from GSS reps we will be splitting the meetings between Wednesdays and Thursdays
- **ADJOURN**
- **COMMITTEE BREAKOUT (IF REQUESTED BY CHAIR OR PRESIDENT)**

Upcoming Graduate Student Senate Meetings

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. (TBD)

Other Events

GSS Townhall, Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 5:30 PM (UC, Shiloh Room)

GSS Travel Awards Workshop, Wednesday, April 12, 2014 (UC, Hermitage Room)