

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014

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

❖ **CALL TO ORDER**

❖ **ROLL**

- Senators absent
 - Danielle Sanok
 - Tiffany Saul – Sent Proxy, Michele Hammond
 - Robert Truka
 - Jonathan Lindsay
 - Dustin Mills
 - Rachel Fovargue – Sent Proxy, Christine Dumoulin
 - Robert Pivar
 - Robert Rennie
 - Brian Rider – Sent Proxy, Jackson Martin
 - Kendall Cannon
 - Julie Swafford
 - Jennie Byrd Haney
 - Chris Wilson – Sent Proxy, Andrew Smith
 - Hopelyn Clift
 - Timothy Estabrooks
 - Shannon Rosedale
 - Erik Johnson
 - Melissa Martin – Sent Proxy, Beau Whitsett
 - Ivonne Ramirez

❖ **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Approve Minutes from 11/6 → Minutes Approved
- Updates
 - SGA will vote on a new student representative to the Board of Trustees tomorrow.
 - Listserv settings will be altered to accommodate gmail users.

❖ **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Updates
 - Please check your representative information listed on the website to make sure that it is accurate.
 - Provide \$1 to Jeremy if you take some of the snacks.

❖ **INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Chair of Equity & Diversity Committee
 - There has been some discussion of whether there should be an ombudsman (or ombudsperson) for graduate students.
 - The committee is in the process of gathering information from bias.utk.edu to see what instances of bias are occurring and what information might be done about it.
- Chair of Communications & Outreach Committee
 - Orientation materials for new senators have been drafted but still need to be revised a bit.
 - The committee wants to add a video providing a brief encapsulation of the GSS

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- Chair of the Travel Awards Committee
 - The next Travel Awards Committee meeting will take place in January . At that time, awards for the spring semester will be made.
 - 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 started to attract some sponsors; it has actually proven easier to attract sponsors for the event than for Hodge's Library because McClung Museum is open to the general public.
 - An initial T-Shirt design has been created.
 - The Fun Run will take place on March 7th.

❖ **EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Research Council
 - Meetings frequently fail to meet quorum, hindering the ability to actually approve meeting minutes and accomplish basic tasks.
 - One topic of discussion was the opportunities to to engage in research and obtain graduate fellowships in industry.
- Graduate Council
 - Based on a recent vote, the development of experiential learning is now a significant objective.
 - There will be fellowship opportunities for graduate students who want to conduct research or teach courses related to experiential learning.
- Academic Council
 - Approved animal science and food science 5-year dual program
- Graduate Curriculum
 - A UTSI course was cut, but notably, there is no clear UTSI representation on this committee.

❖ **NEW BUSINESS**

- Residency Policy Changes
 - One senator proposed adding an appendix to explain what a “fair recalculation” of the out-of-state tuition rate would be.
 - **The bill was overwhelmingly approved** and will be put forward to the faculty senate.
 - Email suggestions for changes in the draft of the policy change to gssdiversityutk@gmail.com
- Call for topics → no new topics were put forward

❖ **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Upcoming events are listed below; meetings for next semester will likely take place in Claxton 206.
- Remember to RSVP for GSS events even if you cannot attend: failure to RSVP creates an impression that we do not care about these events.

❖ **ADJOURN**

❖ **COMMITTEE BREAKOUT**

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Upcoming Graduate Student Senate Meetings

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

Chancellor's Spring Luncheon – Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 11:45am (location TBD)
“Ice Cream” Social – TBD
Big Orange Adventure – Saturday, March 7 (locations and time TBD)
Town Hall Meeting – TBD