

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

John Keny, President

Nathan Meek, Vice-President

- **CALL TO ORDER**

- **GUESTS**

- Dean Shivers
- Introduction and Welcome to Senators
- Ombudsman Bill and Update from the Chancellor
 - Office of the Dean of Students will receive international training for Ombudsman

- **INTRODUCTION of SENATORS**

- Senators Present (Proxy:P) :

John Dugger (P)	Naomi Rinehold
Ivonne Ramirez (P)	Chris Acuff
Herb Piercy (P)	Kyle Brazil
Jenny Onley	Elizabeth Conner (P)
Jackson Martin	Savannah Hawkins
Erika Panek	Grant Daivs
Kerry Cannity (P)	Melissa Martin
Sun-Hwa Kim	Tam'ra-Kay Francis
Ran Huang	Katie Williams
John Salasin	Matthew Kerr
Kelsey Stephenson	Corinne Tandy
Taylor Hixson	Mostafa Ghafoor
Audrea Pesley	Jing Li (P)
Lydia Walker	Anne Turner
Brittany Pol	Kelly Rooker

- **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Welcome to GSS
- Role as Senators
- Updates
 - o Parking
 - o Gender Neutral Pronouns
 - o Vol Walk and Talks
 - o Visiting Departments
 - o PhD Movie
 - o Finance Presentation

- **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Welcome to GSS, Introduction

- **COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

- Secretary : Elizabeth C. Conner
- Chair of Equity & Diversity Committee: Jenny Onley
- Chair of Communications & Outreach Committee: Savannah Hawkins
- Chair of the Travel Awards Committee: Kelly Rooker
- Chair of the Fun Run Committee: Mostafa Ghafoor

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

- Administrative Committees
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Graduate students can only apply to 1 UT program per term. This is detrimental to the university in recruiting graduate students. This applies to those who might apply to several programs within one department such as Psychology or Engineering.
 - Parking issues are more prevalent than ever. Graduate students cannot find parking and have brought up the idea of reclassifying graduate students as staff since most graduate students teach classes. Game day parking is also still an issue.
 - The UT Bookstore rental policy requires graduate students to return their textbooks well in advance of final exams. Obviously this is an issue to those who cannot afford textbooks and must rent. Contact for pursuing this issue: gramdavi@vols.utk.edu.
 - International Graduate Students who take an internship or job position over the summer are required to fill out a leave of absence and in some cases still required to pay full tuition. This leaves the graduate student with extremely large bills and no support while trying to pursue a job. Contact Mostafa Ghafoor, mghafoor@vols.utk.edu for details with this issue.
 - The Department of Psychology has been experiencing funding issues recently. It appears that funding was striped without notification to the Psychology graduate students and these students were not given significant time to apply for financial aid. Therefore, most of these students are now on financial aid probation which last 4 years.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - Upcoming events
- **ADJOURN**

Upcoming Graduate Student Senate Meetings

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 5:30pm (location TBD)

Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 5:30pm (location TBD)

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 5:30pm (location TBD) (Tentative)

Other Events

Chancellor's Fall Luncheon – Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 11:45pm in Black Cultural Center