**GSS December 1, 2016 Senate Meeting**

16 senators present, 1 proxy.

Changing the format of the meetings to have senate decisions take place during the meetings

- Some decisions will still be made in the exec meeting, but most of the actions will take place in the senate meeting

Changes to constitution and bylaws—Chris Acuff, parliamentarian

- Codify with Articles of Cooperation
- Repeal Articles of Cooperation
- Adding Senate chair, treasurer, technology office and chair of the GSS
  - Create executive committee
- Steering committee → executive committee (see above)
- Student tribunal → judicial branch
- Gender specific language
- New committees:
  - Strategic planning committee
    ▪ Assist with yearly transitions of exec members, committee chairs, and senators
  - Graduate student senate advisory committee
    ▪ Still coming up with an appropriate name for this committee

Q: Any subliminal changes that were made?

A: NO, its simply codifying what we have been doing and what were doing already

**Autonomy**

- Currently, President, VP, and Sect are in the constitution
- Technology officer, Treasurer, and chair were in the Aoc
- PR officer and parliamentarian were created this year

**3 Restructuring options**

1. Small internal changes that would improve operations and help us grow
   a. amending sections of constitution and bylaws
   b. Creating or restricting positions and redefining roles
   c. Minimum changes, easy to implement
2. Work with SGA to restructure the legislative and executive branches of SGA and GSS
   a. Bicameral relationship
      i. Bills etc must pass both chambers
      ii. Means more meetings, more work
      iii. Undergrads lose some power, take more work from us
   b. Combined senate
      i. 12-15 people on new senate
      ii. make sure grad students interests aren’t underrepresented
      iii. more preferred from undergrads
3. Full autonomy “nuclear option”
GSS December 1, 2016 Senate Meeting

a. Create our own student organization
b. Separate from SGA
c. Entails
   i. New constitution and bylaws, to be approved by April
   ii. Creating a budget and funding approved for next year
   iii. Gaining recognition by UT’s admin, Board of Trustees, and admin committees.
d. Most work, but could be the biggest payoff

Q: Any concrete examples this semester of how we have been hindered by the current situation?
A: Student ticketing process, diversity issues, etc.; they pass bills without hearing from GSS