



GSS Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 5:30 pm
Student Union, Room 169

Meeting called to order by Elina Geut at 5:31pm; minutes recorded by Simon Rotzer

1. Opening Remarks

a. Call to Order (Elina Geut)

- i. When a senator wants to make motion, they have to be recognized by the senate chair; if you are recognized then you need to provide your voting number and name
- ii. There are some changes to the agenda:
 1. Not approving minutes from April
 2. New Guest Speaker
 3. External Committee confirmations

b. Attendance

- i. Taken via QR-code; alternatively: tiny.utk.edu/GSS2019Sep
- ii. Present: 65 out of 73 filled-senator positions – meeting has a quorum

2. Guest Speaker

a. Dr. Sara Bradberry, Assistant Dean, Director of Student Services

- i. First, thank you for having me;
- ii. Shares Dr. Thompsons regrets for not being here; she had a conflict of schedule; meeting with Chancellor; but sent notes
- iii. Main talking points
 1. What GSS is and what role it plays at UT
 - a. GSS represents the interest of all graduate and professional students; it serves as the voice of graduate and professional students; it partners with organizations and events: Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSAW); GSS Travel Awards; GSS Awards Ceremony (at the end of the year)
 - b. Additionally: programming; and GSS advocates for the establishment of policies and regulation regarding graduate programs
 - i. Senators should take their role seriously and listen to concerns of our constituents; serve as an advocate
 - c. Also, GSS works closely with the Graduate School

- i. If you ever need the Graduate School, the office is at Student Services Building 111; we are here to help, assist, and guide
 - 2. Any questions right now about the Graduate School or GSS?
 - a. Question (Derek Boyd): Will there be Professional Development Travel Awards again this year?
 - i. Answer (Dr. Bradberry): I will make a note and ask Dr. Thompson
 - b. Question (Jonathan Kubesch): Are there office hours we can use to stop by to talk about policies or ideas?
 - i. Answer (Dr. Bradberry):
 1. My office is always open
 2. If you want to meet with Dr. Thompson, email Millie Cheatham to set up a meeting; she can get you on the calendar
 3. I (Dr. Bradberry) have an open-door policy, so drop by or send an email (sbradbe1@utk.edu)
 4. Comment (David Willis): Sue Choi and I have office hours from 5:00PM to 8:00PM on Thursdays, so just email gss@utk.edu
 5. Comment (Dr. Bradberry): I am very glad to have you all on GSS this year and hope that you have a good year! Thank you!
3. President's Report
 - a. David Willis, GSS President
 - i. Graduate students are masochistic; we enjoy pain, but we bring immense and diverse value to university, and life; I am humbled and honored to be here; Walt Disney quote: "Keep moving forward!"; my goal is to go down new paths, to create connections to allow belongingness; when you do your undergraduate degree you connect, but as graduate students we live in ivory towers; I want to create connections for diverse conversations
 - ii. A couple of things
 1. Setting goals; my focus is on motivation; I will set myself goals
 - a. I want to Thank Cara Sulyok and Jack Ryan from last year; I want to keep the ship afloat; this job requires effort and to be engaged
 - b. I want to create more connections, belongingness, and resources; as the semester progresses you will get more emails
 - c. Transparency; I want to be able to see in and out
 - d. I believe in servant leadership, strife to be that

- e. Breaking down barriers; creating community inside our committees; the Senate, graduate students, community; different ways of figuring out how to rely on people
 - f. Care: for myself, family, friends, university, graduate students; doing that creates an avenue for me to talk about things
 - g. I want to create conversations; want to talk policy? Do it! Let's not be shy! We are leaders; we do not have to be alright with stuff; this is a leadership position; let's do something about what we can do something about
 - 2. According to the bylaws I need to talk about this: I represented GSS over the summer; Appeals Committee (1 meeting); Sexual Prevention Policy meeting; SPSF (Programming), Academic Programming, Academic Policy, Graduate Senate; served as a representative
 - 3. Last thing: annual fundraiser; I am new to GSS; how many people are new? – (show of hands) – good amount; in my former life I planned golf tournaments; we have an open position for the fundraiser chair; in the next meeting I want to have a dialogue on the fundraiser: what we want to do, who wants to take ownership; I want the committee to take charge and ownership; think long and hard about what we could do for our annual fundraiser
- iii. Sue Choi, Vice President
 - 1. This is my second year at GSS; glad to be back, it is exciting; if you are new you received an email; you would spend a minimum of 2 hours a month; maximum of 5 hours; this here counts; your presence shows commitment;
 - 2. Hope that you will push the 2-hour commitment to a 5-hour commitment
 - 3. Cara Sulyok and Jack Ryan last year focused a lot of representation; today this shows; we have a lot of people here tonight; we want to continue that, but also work on extension; not just showing up, but making it a two-way street between you and your constituents; we want to make sure that UT's theme of "mattering and belonging" will become an actual connection between this body and our constituents
 - 4. Comment (David Willis): I want to point out that Sue Choi took up so much slack; she is amazing, I owe her my life
- iv. Report from Nicholas Sarafolean on Travel Awards
 - 1. I am very casual today
 - 2. We just had fall travel award; we bumped it up; we received a ton of application; normally we have \$70000, now \$75000; 169 awards with \$466 on average; covers usually around 50% of the expenses;
 - 3. A huge thing: we work with the Graduate School to get more money; we just switched over to an all-digital system, but we

are always open to new suggestions, let us know!
gsstravel@utk.edu; catch me after the meeting, or feel free to chat with me

a. Question (Jonathan Kubesch): Have you sent out the emails yet?

i. Answer (David Willis): This is my objective for the next two days; they are coming

4. Confirmation of Appointments

a. Elina Geut, Senate Chair

i. Motion to appoint (Derek Boyd), second (Andrew Putt)

ii. Motion to appoint (Jonathan Kubesch), second (Andrew Putt)

b. Amanda Lake Heath, Treasurer

i. Motion to appoint (Andrew Putt), second (Jonathan Kubesch)

c. Alexander Carter, Technology Officer

i. Motion to appoint (Derek Boyd), second (Deb Acharyya)

d. Nicholas Sarafolean, Travel Awards Chair

i. Motion to appoint (Jonathan Kubesch), second (JoshuaWilliams)

e. Derek Boyd, Equity & Diversity Chair

i. Motion to appoint (Katharine Ryan), second (Suzanne Sawusch)

f. Joshua M. Williams, Programming and Events Chair

i. Motion to appoint (Andrew Putt), second (Wesley Lamberson)

g. Austin Boyd, Legislative and Steering Chair

i. Motion to appoint (Derek Boyd), second (Jonathan Kubesch)

5. Nomination of Executive Positions

a. Annual Fundraiser Chair

i. We need someone to step up; if you would like to be the chair of Annual Fundraiser, please make a motion;

ii. Postponed till the next meeting

b. Judiciary Committee (4 Justices)

i. Volunteers for the position were sought out

6. New Business (David Willis)

a. Setting Goals for the Year

i. It is important that you set goals and come up with a timetable; 3-5 goals; this way you take ownership and responsibility; to me that gives effort life it gives you the ability to really invest yourself ; we are not authoritative; we want you to have your own voice; want the Equality and Diversity Committee to stand up and talk stuff; we want Programming and Events to plan something we all want to go; I want these things to be part of the internal committees; this ownership holds a lot of promise

b. Calendar

i. Senate Meetings

1. October 15th on Tuesday; every meeting here in SU169, at 6PM; last meeting will be in April

2. Other meetings
 - a. Tuesday, October 15
 - b. Wednesday, November 13
 - c. Thursday, January 9
 - d. Wednesday, February 5
 - e. Wednesday, March 4
 - f. Tuesday, April 14
- ii. Senator Social
 1. We have lot of options; bring in people or other things; I brought flyers for a ping pong table; let's not make it a burden; let's get involvement; I want to get people excited
- c. Townhall
 - i. David Willis is responsible for the townhall; will happen in the spring; chance to have those hard conversations; bring in either an outside source or someone internal from UT; just wanted you to be informed about both things
- d. External Committees (Sue Choi)
 - i. Confirmation of External Committees
 - ii. They are a way for GSS to get involved with the bigger campus; we have a few people we need to confirm today; these people get to attend campus committees that talk about things that really happen on campus; there are some open positions; we will seek out more positions; if your schedule works out give it a shot; gets you involved on campus an do something for GSS
 1. Chancellor's Council for Diversity and Interculturalism
 - a. Candidate: Savannah Collins-Key
 - b. Motion to appoint (Derek Boyd); second (Katharine Ryan)
 2. Faculty Senate – Research Council
 - a. First Candidate: Zach Sims
 - b. Motion to appoint (Jonathan Kubesch); second (Derek Boyd)
 - c. Explanation:
 - i. Mostly focuses on coordinating research efforts across departments and
 - ii. Major focus right now: Oak Ridge Institute
 - d. Second Candidate: Kate Higgins
 - e. Motion to appoint (Grace Pakeltis), second (Stacie Beach)
 3. Comment (David Willis): Thank you both for stepping up on such short notice
 4. Graduate and Professional Student Development (GPSPD)
 - a. Candidate: C. Elizabeth O'Connell
 - b. Motion to appoint (Jonathan Kubesch); second (Andrew Putt)
 5. Graduate Council
 - a. First Candidate: David Willis

- b. Motion to appoint (Darcy Ayers); second (Laurie Ereddia)
 - c. Second Candidate: Sue Choi
 - d. Motion to appoint (Jonathan Kubesch), second (Wesley Lamberson)
 - 6. Technology Fee Advisory Board
 - a. Candidate: Simon Rotzer
 - b. Motion to appoint (Derek Boyd), second (Zarin Tasnim)
 - c. Explanation:
 - i. Focuses on all things Technology Fee
 - iii. Comments on External Committees (Sue Choi):
 - 1. Focus: communicative group, but discussing to reach out to more communities that do not have resources
 - 2. Big issue: collaboration; we want to know what we need what we can bring to them; they are there to be a direct route to the top of the university
 - 3. Comment (David Willis): Thank you for doing that Sue; if you have any questions or want to participate, just let us know
 - iv. Comment (Shahram Hatefi Hesari): I was thinking about the Annual Fundraiser Chair: nobody has volunteered; maybe people think it is hard; if it is hard, I would volunteer for the first one but only if somebody helps me out; volunteer for fundraiser;
 - 1. Comment (David Willis): thank you; that is awesome; we can leave this open; you all go home and think about it; then email me;
 - a. External committees are great for exposure and knowledge
 - b. First it was it was overwhelming; but now I cannot wait to go again; there will be more committees;
 - c. There is so much going on with hate-speech on the Rock, and they are forming a committee to deal with that
 - 2. Comment (Sue Choi): If you know a professor who chairs a committee ask them if they would need graduate student input
- 7. Internal Committee Meetings
 - a. Annual Fundraiser
 - b. Equality & Diversity
 - c. Legislation & Steering
 - d. Programming & Events
 - e. Travel Awards
- 8. Adjournment
 - a. Motion (Jonathan Kubesch); second (Katharine Ryan); meeting adjourned at 6:10PM

