



GSS Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021

5:30 - 6:30 pm in Student Union 169 (and Zoom)

Senators Present: Refer to Appendix

Ex-Officio Members Present: Millie Turner Cheatham, Dixie Thompson

Opening Remarks

1. Call to Order - Chairperson George Fields
 - a. George called the meeting to order and banged the gavel.
2. Attendance - Chairperson George Fields/President Hunter Hammock
 - a. In order for your vote to count, you'll need to fill out the attendance google form.
 - b. If you're acting as a proxy, that would need to have been submitted beforehand.
 - c. We must be able to verify your identity using this system in order to secure attendance and voting.
 - d. Issues with permission that prevent accessing the google form can be resolved by logging in with your Net ID, personal accounts cannot be used. Click on learn more when the "do not have permission" screen appears and follow those steps to sign out of all other accounts and into UTK.
 - e. Technical issues, troubleshooting.
 - f. If we are having trouble with the virtual google form voting, we can go to a voice vote if needed.
 - g. Technical issues resolved. Mohamed confirms quorum.
3. On zoom, the microphone should be muted unless called upon to speak and should keep video on the entire time.
4. All senators must designate a proxy.
5. The chairperson recognized Hunter for the President's Report.

President's Report - Hunter Hammock

1. Thanks for being here today, we really appreciate your patience.
2. Current priorities of GSS leadership over the next month
 - a. Increasing social interaction
 - b. Encouraging student wellbeing -- mental/physical/emotional/financial
 - c. Keep our finger on the pulse so that any changes and any news come to us and can be addressed.
 - d. Purpose today to establish committees and committee chairs. Committees are the workhorses of the body. Exec team has been working behind the scenes to plan events and make a strategic plan. We hope to use the committees to help develop and help implement our shared plan.
 - e. Committee assignments will be coming soon, committee chairs are to be established before we fill those committee slots.
 - f. Each committee presents to the Senate body and that's where many ideas and activities come from throughout the year.
3. Pursuing some updates to bylaws to improve wording in the legislative committee.
4. Covid - how can we encourage student safety? Want to encourage students to get vaccinated.
5. Getting 100 percent participation, still have some departments underrepresented, this presents a major equality issue, hard to debate policy that impacts the different units across campus when not everyone is in the room at the same time. We want every department to have full representation.
6. General updates:
 - a. Chancellor gave flagship address this past week. Enthusiasm and strategic vision are really exciting. Looking forward to aligning GSS goals with strategic vision. Went over top 5 points of the strategic plan and wants to align GSS priorities with her strategic vision. Hopeful that we can use our committees to be successful not just at GSS level but college level.
 - b. Travel awards. In person travel awards for students presenting research at regional and national conferences. Looking to help students navigate this process, lots of information on GSS website.
 - c. Academic support award, for students experiencing financial difficulties. Can help with books, food, etc. Cap is \$200, encourage students to apply as early as possible.

7. Senator Information

- a. We are hopeful that we can continue meetings in person. Want to encourage in person attendance because of the improved networking potential. Make the most as a senator. But we understand that we have distance learners and some senators with health concerns or susceptible families, etc.
- b. We will send links the day of the meeting so that students who have health concerns or distance learners can attend. We will send them the day of, for security reasons.
- c. We will be in agreement with UTK policy and CDC recommendations. If they are conflicting, we will play it safe and stick with the policy that is safer. We want to be in person but do not want someone to risk their health or the health of their family just for the sake of being in person. Each person will have to make that decision for themselves. Also... please get the vaccine and encourage your constituents to get vaccinated so that we can continue in person classes and research on campus.
- d. Thank you for playing an important role in student representation and being a leader within your department and on campus.

8. Review of Senate Meeting Rules and Procedures

- a. Before we begin general discussions, I will briefly run through senate meeting rules and procedures.
- b. Robert's rules will be followed always, you must be recognized by the senate chair to speak. We encourage open discussion, but it must be constructive conversation.
- c. In person will be similar rules to previous years, but hybrid format introduces new challenges. We encourage in person participation, but want to make sure that all departments are represented equally (whether the senator is a distance learner or may have health concerns). And as stated before, we will provide zoom links for the year to senators that are not able to attend in person.
- d. Hunter concluded his remarks and thanked all of the senators for their hard work and dedication to the organization. He is honored to serve in this role and looks forward to developing and advocating for our strategic plan for the 2021-2022 academic year.

George Fields recognizes Vice President Al Sager for his report.

Vice President's Report - Mohamed Al Sager

1. Internal Committee Assignments and Procedures
 - a. We are in the process of completing committee assignments. We will provide everyone with one committee.
 - b. If you would like to serve on multiple committees you are welcome to do so, but you must officially register through us (gss2@utk.edu)
 - c. Once all chair seats are filled, you should receive an email from the chair of your committee.
 - d. Issues can be brought to GSS and assigned to committees to be addressed.
2. Thanks for patience as we deal with these voting technical issues. We will be doing a lot of voting today to fill committee chair slots.
3. Exec chose google form because it only allows access through UTK gmail which allows us to verify the source of the vote.
4. Voting Procedures
 - a. Exec board has discussed in depth, and Google forms will be used for a number of reasons
 - b. We can track UT Net ID, to verify votes from each senator, Central Authentication System
 - c. Proxies can be tracked this way as well
 - d. Voting number ensures each senator has one vote
 - e. Can be quickly drafted and administered
 - f. Verify Invalid votes
 - g. you must be logged in with your netID. you must notify us in writing in advance of the meeting if the proxy is voting for you. they must use their netID and put their name, and indicate they're a proxy. Not following this procedure will invalidate any voting and/or attendance submissions.

George Fields will direct new business.

- Lots of voting to do today.
- Will tell you the position, identify which QR code you'll be using. Hunter will offer his nomination and then we will be voting.

New Business

1. Confirmation of Executive Team (VOTE 1) ($\frac{2}{3}$ vote needed to pass)
 - a. Senate Chair - 28 (George Fields)
 - i. Per Hunter - purpose is to preside over GSS, nominated George.
 - b. 37 (Kat Capstick) moves to confirm, 26 (Igor Bernardi) seconds.
 - c. 47 (Catherine Warner) unable to access voting form. 70 (Davis Carter) went to troubleshoot.

- d. 12 (Nate Gibson) asked to confirm that Vote 1 includes multiple positions, Hunter confirmed.
 - e. Technology Officer - 85 (Samaneh Morovati)
 - i. Per Hunter - served as Technology Officer last year, in charge of addressing technical issues and updating website and online aspects.
 - f. Treasurer - 70 (Davis Carter)
 - i. Per Hunter - Keep to budgetary constraints of GSS, works with finance committee to establish spending.
 - g. Secretary - 37 (Kat Capstick)
 - i. Per Hunter - Records minutes, keeps copies of constitution and bylaws.
 - h. 53 (Caitlin Hensley) moves to confirm. 27 (Ben Thornberry) seconds.
 - i. George notifies that 49/55 voting members voted yes to confirm all of the above. All motions pass.
2. Confirmation of Judiciary Committee (VOTE 2) ($\frac{2}{3}$ vote needed to pass)
- a. GSS Justice #1 - 28 (George Fields)
 - b. Two primary justices, one alternate justice needed.
 - c. Judiciary Committee reviews legislation to ensure laws and bylaws are not in conflict with the GSS constitution.
 - d. Need three volunteers.
 - e. 47 (Catherine Warner) volunteers.
 - f. 9 (Elizabeth O'Connell) volunteers.
 - g. 29 (Jeremiah Muhammad) volunteers.
 - h. 37 (Kat Capstick) moves to vote. 78 (Kiki Kline) seconds.
 - i. George notifies that 49/55 voting members affirmed 28 (George Fields). 47 (Catherine Warner) received 45/55 yeses. 9 (Elizabeth O'Connell) received 45/55 yeses. 29 (Jeremiah Muhammad) received 45/55 yeses. All motions pass.
3. Confirmation of Internal Committee Chairs (VOTE 3) ($\frac{2}{3}$ vote needed to pass)
- a. Legislation and Steering - 26 (Igor Bernardi)
 - i. Per Hunter - Igor has GSS experience. Discussed numerous upgrades to the constitution to improve wording and make better equity. Steering committee reviews the constitution and bylaws to make changes for the better.
 - b. Equity and Diversity - 32 (Ashley Browning)
 - i. Per Hunter - Identifies and advocates for issues of diversity, inclusivity, and equity for grad students. On multiple committees across campus.

- c. 53 (Caitlin Hensley) moves to vote. 44 (BJ Armstead) seconds.
 - d. 26 (Igor Bernardi) received a unanimous 48/55 yes. 32 (Ashley Browning) received 47/55 yes. Both motions pass.
4. Reinstatement of Ad Hoc Committees, Confirmation of Chairs (VOTE 4)(2/3 vote needed to pass)
- a. Graduate Student Well-Being
 - i. Big success last year. Relevant this year.
 - b. Travel Awards - 68 (Kassie Hollabaugh)
 - i. Necessary to allocate and distribute funds for students
 - c. Programming and Events
 - i. Virtual and in person events will help students connect.
 - d. Graduate Student Senate Advisory Committee
 - i. Voting chair, nonvoting members, helps get student perspective. Hoping to get president and vice presidents from student orgs on this committee.
 - e. 3 (Brigid Ogden) volunteers as GSWB chair.
 - f. 45 (Leighton Chappell) volunteers as Programming and Events chair.
 - g. 44 (BJ Armstead) volunteers as GSSAC chair.
 - h. 53 (Caitlin Hensley) moves to vote. 26 (Igor Bernardi) seconds.
 - i. Reinstatement of GSWB 52/55 yeses. Reinstatement of GTAC 52/55 yeses. Reinstatement of Programming 52/55 yeses. Reinstatement of GSSAC 52/55 yeses.
 - j. Chair confirmations: 3 (Brigid Ogden) as GSWB committee chair 50/55 yeses. 68 (Kassie Hollabaugh) as TA committee chair 51/55 affirm. 45 (Leighton Chappell) as Program chair 52/55 yeses. 44 (BJ Armstead) as GSSAC chair 52/55 yeses. All motions pass.
5. External Committee Updates and Confirmations (VOTE 5)(1/2 vote needed to pass)***must have vote for each person and each position
- a. Meant to provide GSS representation in committees across campus. Would like for senators to have opportunities to serve across campus, updates will be sent out when positions open.
 - b. Chancellor's Council for Diversity and Interculturalism - 32 (Ashley Browning)
 - c. Graduate Council - Hunter and Mohamed (help provide grad student perspective).
 - d. Faculty Senate - Hunter and Mohamed
 - e. Tech Fee Advisory Board - 26 (Igor Bernardi) and Mohamed
 - i. Per Hunter - 26 (Igor Bernardi) served on this committee last year, Mohamed's background makes him a good fit.
 - f. Council for Women - 32 (Ashley Browning)

- i. Per Hunter - 32 (Ashley Browning's) work across campus qualifies her.
 - g. UTPD Advisory Council - Hunter Hammock
 - i. Intended to provide grad student perspective)
 - h. There will be a number of other appointments that will arise over the year, and I will send out those announcements as they come out. Please let 28 (George Fields) know if you have interest in getting further involved with external committees.
 - i. 69 (MelissaDein) moves to vote. 10 (Kaitlyn Guavey) seconds.
 - j. 32 (Ashley Browning) for CDI 50/55 yeses. Hunter for GC 52/55 yeses. Mohamed for GC 51/55 yese. Hunter for FS 52/55 yeses. Mohamed for FS 51/55 yeses. 26 (Igor Bernardi) for TFAB 53/55 yeses. Mohamed for TFAB 51/55 yeses. 32 (Ashley Browning) for CW 52/55 yeses. Hunter for UTPDAC 49/55 yeses. All motions pass.
- 6. Approval of Minutes from April 28th, 2021
 - a. 28 (George Fields) seeks motion to approve minutes as read. 53 (Caitlin Hensley) moves. 54 (Shannon Evanchec) seconds.
- 7. Approval of Minutes from August 30th, 2021
 - a. Attendance recorded at the end of those minutes. Any errors should be corrected now before the vote. 28 (George Fields) seeks motion to vote. 78 (Kiki Kline) moves. 47 (Catherine Warner) seconds.
- 8. Approval of April 28 minutes 46/55 yeses. Approval of August 30 minutes 49/55 yeses. Both motions pass.
- 9. Social and Professional Events and GSS Initiatives Discussion/Brainstorm
 - a. Open floor. Please say your voting number when you speak.
 - b. 53 (Caitlin Hensley) heard great things about the zoo event last year, and puts forth doing it again.
 - c. 33's (Rachel Darden) constituents find it important to talk about vaccines and vaccination education. Especially important for performers that people can safely gather.
 - d. 3's (Brigid Ogden) dept for professional development has been doing brown bag events with different faculty members discussing aspects of professional development. Open that to a graduate school level? Ask faculty from different departments to volunteer their time for lunches to discuss.
 - e. Dixie Thompson reminds the body that the UT calendar under GSPSD can search those events and get information.
 - f. Hunter notes the Dean of Students has a program for free lunch with a professor on campus, a great way to meet w faculty and discuss research, etc.

Adjournment

1. Closing Comments

- a. Hunter Hammock recognized. Really appreciate everyone's time, we had a voting marathon, but it's critical to get all positions confirmed by the end of our second meeting. Without confirmations the senate cannot move forward and the committees cannot effectively meet. Noted success with google forms on the back end. Thanks for representing depts. Look forward to seeing you next time.

2. Attendance

- a. Attendance is counted.
- b. Mohamed confirms that we've maintained quorum throughout the meeting.

3. Adjournment

- a. 28 (George Fields) notes we do have a quorum to close the meeting. At the end, we have t-shirts, pens etc to hand out. Exec will be around for any private discussions. Strategic plan being finalized, reach out if you want anything included.
- b. 53 (Caitlin Hensley) moves to close the meeting. 10 (Kaitlyn Guavey) seconds.
- c. All in favor say aye.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 27th, 2021 at 5:30 pm in SU 169

Appendix: Senator Attendance

GSS Session 2

09.23.21

| Department by College | Voting # | Name | Present |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|---------|
| Architecture | 1 | Rachel Crosslin | NO |
| Landscape Architecture | 2 | Mary Beth Robbins | YES |
| Anthropology | 3 | Brigid Ogden | YES |
| Anthropology | 4 | Jordan Schaefer | NO |
| Art | 5 | Alissa Walls | NO |
| Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology | 6 | Bethany Campbell | YES |
| Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology | 7 | Logan Dunn | YES |
| Chemistry | 8 | Trevor Wilson | YES |
| Chemistry | 9 | Elizabeth O'Connell | YES |
| Earth and Planetary Sciences | 10 | Kaitlyn Gauvey | YES |
| Ecology and Evolutionary Biology | 11 | Nicole Lussier | YES |
| Ecology and Evolutionary Biology | 12 | Nate Gibson | YES |
| English | 13 | James Shepard | YES |

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|------------------------------------------|----|-------------------|-----|
| English | 14 | Karen Norwood | YES |
| Geography | 15 | Victoria Haynes | YES |
| History | 16 | Jason Jonson | YES |
| Life Sciences | 17 | Alexandra Teodor | NO |
| Mathematics | 18 | Evan Habbershaw | YES |
| Mathematics | 19 | Johannas Krotz | YES |
| Microbiology | 20 | Sean Callahan | NO |
| Microbiology | 21 | -- | N/A |
| Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures | 22 | Sara Rico-Godoy | YES |
| Music | 23 | -- | N/A |
| Music | 24 | -- | N/A |
| Philosophy | 25 | Anne Merrill | YES |
| Physics and Astronomy | 26 | Igor Bernardi | YES |
| Physics and Astronomy | 27 | Ben Thornberry | YES |
| Political Science | 28 | George Fields | YES |
| Political Science | 29 | Jeremiah Muhammad | YES |
| Psychology | 30 | Jane Kim | YES |

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|-------------------------------------------|----|-------------------|-----|
| Psychology | 31 | Rebecca Skadberg | YES |
| Sociology | 32 | Ashley Browning | YES |
| Theatre | 33 | Rachel Darden | YES |
| Advertising & Public Relations | 34 | Dusty Bryan | YES |
| Communication and Information | 35 | Lily Joy Crosby | NO |
| Information Sciences | 36 | Jessica Barfield | YES |
| Information Sciences | 37 | Kat Capstick | YES |
| Journalism & Electronic Media | 38 | -- | N/A |
| Child and Family Studies | 39 | Cassie Sorrells | NO |
| Educational Leadership and Policy Studies | 40 | Jeana Partin | YES |
| Educational Leadership and Policy Studies | 41 | Zac Hyder | YES |
| Educational Psychology and Counseling | 42 | -- | N/A |
| Educational Psychology and Counseling | 43 | -- | N/A |
| Kinesiology, Recreation, & Sport Studies | 44 | BJ Armstead | YES |
| Kinesiology, Recreation, & Sport Studies | 45 | Leighton Chappell | YES |
| Nutrition | 46 | Anna Jackson | YES |
| Public Health | 47 | Catherine Warner | YES |

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| Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management | 48 | Eda Gokcecik | NO |
| Theory and Practice in Teacher Education | 49 | Arianna Banack | YES |
| Theory and Practice in Teacher Education | 50 | Jared Huisigh | YES |
| Accounting and Information Management | 51 | Jack Badger | YES |
| Accounting and Information Management | 52 | Alex Zukowski | YES |
| Business Administration | 53 | Caitlin Hensley | YES |
| Business Administration | 54 | Shannon Evanchec | YES |
| Business Analytics and Statistics | 55 | -- | N/A |
| Economics | 56 | Richard Beem | YES |
| Finance | 57 | -- | N/A |
| Management & Entrepreneurship | 58 | -- | N/A |
| Marketing | 59 | -- | N/A |
| Marketing | 60 | -- | N/A |
| Supply Chain Management | 61 | -- | N/A |
| Supply Chain Management | 62 | -- | N/A |
| Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications | 63 | Alexis Clark | NO |
| Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications | 64 | -- | N/A |

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|-------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------|-----|
| Agricultural & Resource Economics | 65 | Mary Marks | YES |
| Animal Science | 66 | Alison Pfau | YES |
| Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science | 67 | Alexis Gillmore | YES |
| Entomology & Plant Pathology | 68 | Kassie Hollabaugh | YES |
| Food Science | 69 | Melissa Dein | YES |
| Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries | 70 | Davis Carter | YES |
| Plant Sciences | 71 | Devon Carroll | YES |
| Cent/Interdisc Rsrch Grad Edu (Bredesen Center) | 72 | Dustin Gilmer | YES |
| Cent/Interdisc Rsrch Grad Edu (Bredesen Center) | 73 | Isis Fukai | YES |
| Law | 74 | Mac Hazlerig | YES |
| Law | 75 | Gina Tanaskoski | YES |
| Nursing | 76 | -- | N/A |
| Nursing | 77 | -- | N/A |
| Social Work | 78 | Aritra Moulick | YES |
| Social Work | 79 | Lindsey Collier | YES |
| Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering | 80 | Alex Horton | NO |
| Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering | 81 | Austin Conte | YES |

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|---------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|-----|
| Civil & Environmental Engineering | 82 | Amin Mohammdnazar | NO |
| Civil & Environmental Engineering | 83 | Iman Mahdinia | NO |
| Electrical Engineering & Computer Science | 84 | -- | N/A |
| Electrical Engineering & Computer Science | 85 | Samaneh Morovati | YES |
| Industrial & Systems Engineering | 86 | Samuel Trevino Martinez | NO |
| Industrial & Systems Engineering | 87 | -- | N/A |
| Materials Science & Engineering | 88 | Grace Pakeltis | NO |
| Materials Science & Engineering | 89 | Kate Higgins | NO |
| Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering | 90 | Jenny Patel | NO |
| Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering | 91 | Ashley Rice | NO |
| Nuclear Engineering | 92 | Evan Williams | YES |
| Nuclear Engineering | 93 | -- | N/A |
| Comparative and Experimental Medicine | 94 | Wesley Sheley | YES |
| Comparative and Experimental Medicine | 95 | Lufuno Phophi | YES |