



GSS Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 24, 2022 5:30 pm
Student Union, Room 169

Senators Present: Refer to Appendix

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

Opening Remarks - George Fields

1. Call to Order
 - a. Hello everyone and welcome to our sixth senate session of the 2021-2022 academic year. Thank you for being here today.
 - b. We have some exciting bylaw and constitution changes to go through, at least 30 senators have contributed.
 - c. We have some confirmations to do today as well.
 - d. Raise your hand if you wish to be acknowledged. For those on zoom, please raise your hand and one of the moderators will notify me so I can acknowledge you. Once you have the floor, you may speak. Always introduce yourself with your name and voting number so that we can make note in the meeting minutes.
 - e. If you're having tech problems in the zoom, let one of us now.
2. Attendance
 - a. Online, please follow the QR code for attendance and people in person will sign in on the sign in sheet.
 - b. Quorum verified.
3. Introducing Dr Frank Cuevas, Vice Chancellor for Student life to give some remarks.
 - a. Wanted to come in and let you know we're very appreciative for you and the work you do, whether it be in a classroom, research, or in courses.

- b. We are always wanting to support our graduate students and graduate student families.
 - i. Discussing housing for graduate students and international students.
 - ii. Considering partnering with private housing companies to provide housing at an average rate for Knoxville.
 - c. Hunter is a good conduit to bring concerns to me, as well as Dr. Dixie Thompson. They are both strong advocates for graduate students.
 - i. We know the needs of graduate students are different than undergrads.
 - ii. Currently holding a grad student fair in the building, with a number of students we are recruiting.
 - d. We really want to get a sense of what graduate student concerns are and address those.
 - e. GPSAW coming up
 - f. Milkshake Monday focused on grad students coming up
 - g. Appreciate your work, I have been in your shoes, it's hard but necessary work to keep this operation running.
4. Now I will reintroduce our President, Hunter Hammock, for the President's Report.

President's Report - Hunter Hammock

- 1. Hello everyone. Thank you for being here.
- 2. I am thankful for your participation and support.
 - a. We're grateful to have you serving the graduate student body.
- 3. Today we will be focusing on the Bylaws and Constitution
 - a. Biggest update we have is the constitution and bylaws revisions. We have spent countless hours working on the document, exec committee, legislative steering, and over 30 senators have provided edits and suggestions as we have crafted this document.
 - i. George has put in an extraordinary amount of work. He will provide the details of the document and the proposed updates.
 - ii. I feel that this document is in excellent shape. The majority of updates include grammar and syntax, removal of old verbiage. A handful of key updates that were much needed and will serve GSS well. Looking forward to George's presentation.
- 4. Senator survey is forthcoming and will greatly assist as we finish up resolutions drafts.

- a. Because of our unique and dynamic situation this semester, we will be sending out another senator survey to help us further identify common issues that continue to plague our students, as well as uncover new issues that may have arisen within the last few months.
 - b. This will also be an opportunity to introduce any new ideas, as we will begin to introduce a number of resolutions over the next few weeks.
 - c. Dean Thompson survey for student's along the same vein.
5. Planning an awards ceremony for GPSAW week, a great way to recognize and appreciate our hard-working students. Nominations and details are forthcoming. We will begin promoting the event in the next week or two.
 - a. April 6th at 5:30 at Tennessee Terrace at Neyland Stadium.
6. 5K river run/walk fundraiser for the GSS event fund and Big Orange Pantry.
 - a. April 9th at 10am at Cherokee park.
 - b. We encourage all UT faculty/staff/students and Knoxville community members to join and participate.
 - c. 30 dollar registration and we ask that you bring food or other "food bank" based items that can be donated to the pantry.
7. Our committees are working on resolutions regarding issues important to our senators, including for stipends, mental health, UTK providing students PReP medication for HIV prevention, 360 advisor feedback, and a handful of other issues.
8. Priority on connecting with the faculty senate and SGA moving into next year, we would like to assign reps to each group to facilitate communication and coordination.
9. Town hall planning in the works, details forthcoming.
10. Travel awards and academic support awards still available, please take advantage of these opportunities. Market these to your department.
11. Equity and Diversity will be hosting professional more development, we heard great things from the salary negotiation seminar. Working with faculty senate and SGA on coordinating efforts.
12. Looking to make connections with other SEC university student governments to learn and share.
13. Recruitment has been going well, still adding numbers, high rate of turnover as each department has different terms of service for senators.
 - a. We are going to focus on recruitment for the next year moving into the upcoming months.
14. One last comment, when Mohamed and I were elected, we knew that social connection and stipends were high on the list of priorities.
 - a. We quickly found out that our major calling was to set up GSS for success for many years to come. For the next 5, 10, 15, 20 years.

- b. The timing is perfect to pass our amendments for constitution/bylaws, and we are in the final stages of the GSS coordinator search process, so they will be established before we leave office and we can provide GSS a strong footing for the next set of leaders. And set GSS up for success for many years to come.
 - c. Elections are drawing close, and if you are considering running for office, I highly encourage you to come talk with us about the process and details about the available positions. It is a major time commitment but very rewarding to help our fellow students.
15. Overall, great news from GSS. Things are going smoothly and I am very happy with the progress we've been able to achieve.
- a. Looking forward to finishing up the spring semester and setting up GSS for continued success.
 - b. I am so proud of all that our senators and committees have been able to accomplish over the past few months.
 - c. I want to give a heartfelt thank you for your service. All of the graduate and professional students are grateful for the work we have done.
 - d. For the sake of time, we will now move straight into voting. We will have time for additional discussions once the voting concludes.

New Business

1. Confirmation Votes
 - a. Votes to confirm November and January minutes
 - i. November
 1. 37 moved to vote
 2. 3 seconded
 - ii. January
 1. 3 moved to vote
 2. 22 seconded
 - iii. Votes
 1. 40/42 members voting to approve November
 2. 40/41 to approve January
 - b. Confirming new Equity and Diversity Committee Chair
 - i. Grateful for Ashley's work
 - ii. Nominate Lufuno Phophi for new chair
 - iii. 37 moves to approve
 - iv. 68 seconds
 - v. 41/46 votes to confirm
2. Constitution and Bylaws
 - a. Updates

- i. Two weeks ago, on February 10th we held a special session to review bylaws and constitution changes to go over changes
 - ii. For a week, documents were open to suggestions over email
 - iii. We have integrated as many suggestions as possible
 - iv. Final documents were sent out Thursday, February 17th
 - v. Any questions before we begin voting?
- 3. Vote to Table
 - a. 26 moves to table the vote on Constitution changes until the next session
 - i. 37 seconds
 - ii. 46/60 members voting in the affirmative, $\frac{3}{4}$ threshold met
 - b. 68 moves to table the vote on the Bylaws until the next session
 - i. 69 seconds
 - ii. 47/60 members voting in the affirmative, $\frac{2}{3}$ threshold met
 - c. At the March session, we will take a final vote to confirm these changes
- 4. Open Floor for Updates
 - a. Igor Bernardi 26, update from Legislation and Steering Committee
 - i. Advisor 360 proposal is in late stages
 - 1. Thank you to everyone who has worked on it, especially Senators Isis Fukai and Karen Norwood
 - ii. Parking during games
 - 1. For grad students to park on campus during game days, you'll need a pass from your advisor
 - 2. Thanks especially to Senator Wesley Sheley
 - 3. Please pass this along to your respective departments.
 - iii. Progress in other task force groups
 - 1. Mobility, particularly old buildings
 - 2. Temperatures in offices on campus
 - a. As a result of contacting and reaching out to leadership, those issues have been reported to be resolved from the complainants that we have gotten. Glad that the administration and facilities services were responsive to solve these issues!
 - iv. Graduate Student Time Off
 - 1. Emergency needs that require time off
 - a. Some have not been addressed and approved by some departments, so we are working to address that.
 - b. Davis Carter 70, regarding 5K
 - i. Online registration available
 - ii. Last GPSAW event

- iii. April 9 at Cherokee Farms
- iv. Please spread the word, we have flyers for you to post on campus
- v. If you register, you get a free shirt, logo shown on flyers

Adjournment

1. Attendance
 - a. Quorum confirmed
2. Dean Thompson closing remarks
 - a. Hope everyone is having a good semester, a few weeks until Spring Break!
 - b. In Fall of 2020, in the midst of COVID without vaccines, I did a survey of graduate and professional students
 - c. Want to send that survey out again to get a snapshot of how people are doing with stress, it's three questions so very simple.
 - d. That'll be coming your way before Spring Break.
 - e. Thanks to everyone who worked on the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - f. Thanks to all of you.
 - g. Go Lady Vols (for basketball game tonight)
3. Adjournment
 - a. 95 moves to adjourn
 - b. 68 seconds

Minutes Recorded by Secretary Kat Capstick

Next Meeting: Wed, March 30th, 2022 in SU 169 at 5:30

Appendix: Senator Attendance

GSS Session 6

02.24.22

Department by College	Voting #	Name	Present
Architecture	1	Sarah Kenney	YES
Landscape Architecture	2	Katherine Hill	YES
Anthropology	3	Brigid Ogden	NO
Anthropology	4	Jason Schaefer	YES
Art	5	--	N/A
Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology	6	Justin McDuffie	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	NO
English	14	Karen Norwood	YES
Geography	15	Victoria Haynes	YES
History	16	Jason Jonson	YES
Life Sciences	17	--	N/A
Mathematics	18	Evan Habbershaw	YES
Mathematics	19	Johannas Krotz	YES

Microbiology	20	--	N/A
Microbiology	21	--	N/A
Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures	22	Sara Rico-Godoy	YES
Music	23	Tracy Clark	NO
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	Caitlin Goff	YES
Psychology	30	Jane Kim	YES
Psychology	31	Rebecca Skadberg	YES
Sociology	32	Rossana Diaz	YES
Theatre	33	Rachel Darden	YES
Advertising & Public Relations	34	Dusty Bryan	YES
Communication and Information	35	--	N/A
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	NO
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	NO
Public Health	47	Catherine Warner	YES
Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management	48	Youngdeok Lee	NO
Theory and Practice in Teacher Education	49	Arianna Banack	NO
Theory and Practice in Teacher Education	50	Jared Huisinh	NO
Accounting and Information Management	51	Jack Badger	YES
Accounting and Information Management	52	Alex Zukowski	YES
Business Administration	53	Joseph Moulden	YES
Business Administration	54	Abigail Ritch	YES
Business Analytics and Statistics	55	--	N/A
Economics	56	Richard Beem	YES
Finance	57	--	N/A
Management & Entrepreneurship	58	--	N/A
Marketing	59	Melissa Baucum	NO
Marketing	60	--	N/A
Supply Chain Management	61	Thu Trang Hoang	NO
Supply Chain Management	62	--	N/A
Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications	63	--	N/A
Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications	64	--	N/A
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 Carrol	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	NO
Nursing	76	Elliot Loughran	NO
Nursing	77	Courtland Kuntz	NO
Social Work	78	Aritra Moulick	YES
Social Work	79	Dorothy Wallis	YES
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	80	--	N/A
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	81	Austin Conte	YES
Civil & Environmental Engineering	82	Mohammad Safaritaherkhani	NO
Civil & Environmental Engineering	83	Nastaran Moradloo	NO
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science	84	Manu Rathore	YES
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science	85	Samaneh Morovati	YES
Industrial & Systems Engineering	86	Ebrahim Sharifnia	YES
Industrial & Systems Engineering	87	--	N/A
Materials Science & Engineering	88	--	N/A
Materials Science & Engineering	89	--	N/A

Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering	90	--	N/A
Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering	91	--	N/A
Nuclear Engineering	92	Christian Young	YES
Nuclear Engineering	93	Evan Williams	YES
Comparative and Experimental Medicine	94	Ana Towe	YES
Comparative and Experimental Medicine	95	Lufuno Phophi	YES