



GSS Session 3 Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 27, 2022, 5:30 pm

Student Union, Room 169

Opening Remarks

5:35 [Zane Smith, Chair] GSS Session 3 Meeting Called to Order

- [Katherine Trubee, Technology Officer & Karen Norwood, Secretary] Attendance
- [Zane Smith, Chair] Review of Agenda
- [Zane Smith, Chair] Opening of Senate Floor for Public Comment
 - *Members of the public may address GSS members on any item appearing on this posted agenda or matters impacting students.*
 - No public comments brought forward.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes from 09/28/22
 - Comments or changes: No additional comments
 - Senator #90 motions to approve the minutes from 09/28/2022
 - Senator #80 seconds
 - Voice vote:
 - Unanimous vote for “Yes” (no voice votes for “No” or “Abstain”)
 - **Minutes for 9/28/2022 are approved.**

Guest Speakers – Johanna Ramb, Basic Needs Coordinator

- Johanna Ramb (she/her), Coordinator of Basic Needs & oversees the Big Orange Pantry in Greve Hall 006 [Jramb@vols.utk.edu]
- Basic Needs is a fairly new department.
The Program Director of Basic Needs is Blake Weiss, the Coordinator of Basic Needs is Johanna Ramb, and two of the main services they offer students on campus are the Big Orange Pantry and Smokey’s Closet. These services are currently in two different

locations on campus, but in the future, they hope to have everything in the same location as well as expand their team.

- Most recognized Basic Needs services:
 - **Big Orange Pantry**
 - Greve Hall 006; Instagram: @bigorangepantry
 - Open 4 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday)
Hours: 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm
 - Work in collaboration with the culinary institute where they gather all the unused food around campus to make ready-to-go meals for students
 - **Smokey's Closet**
 - SU 376C (next to the Pride Center), Instagram: @smokeyscloset
 - hours are mostly by appointment (email them to make an appointment)
 - Professional attire for men, women, and non-binary people
 - Includes professional garments, shoes, belts, accessories, etc...
 - Directly overseen by Blake Weiss, Program Director of Basic Needs
 - **UT to West TN**
 - Initiative with 2 charter buses (about 156 seats) to bring students roundtrip to and from West TN 3 times a year for breaks (Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break)
 - Must sign up; \$55 round trip
 - Meet in front of Hess Hall the morning of the trip
 - Goes from Knoxville to Jackson, Memphis, and Nashville
 - **Big Orange Meal Share & Meal Plan Scholarship**
 - **Big Orange Meal Share**
 - Temporary food assistance for students that provides 5, 10, or 20 meal swipes
 - By application on the Dean of Students website
 - 70% of the applications come from graduate students
 - **Meal Plan Scholarship**
 - Covers the entire meal plan for a full year for students with financial insecurity
 - Any students (undergrads and graduate) can apply
 - Last year they gave out 7 total meal plan scholarships; this year they gave out 12
 - Contact Information
 - Emails:
 - bigorangepantry@utk.edu
 - smokeyscloset@utk.edu
 - Websites:
 - Dos.utk.edu

- Basic Needs website coming soon

○ **Question from Senator #16:**

What did you mean by having a central hub?

Answer from Johanna:

We're hoping to have a website with everything underneath it at once, but also a physical location where we are hoping to move all services to a single physical location including the pantry, closet, and other services. Ideally, in the future, they will be in the same building and on the same floor.

○ **Question from Senator #17:**

I heard you talk about food and clothes and transport home on breaks... Are there any other student needs that are kind of in your purview, or that you might expand to be interested in?

Answer from Johanna:

Yes, we're really interested in housing, as I'm sure, everyone knows Knoxville has zero housing available, and, especially our students, are running out of housing options. We're working with UTK Housing right now to kind of figure out how we want to make that look. They handle a lot of those complaints, requests, and all that kind of stuff through them right now, and they're hoping maybe that will expand to a third person in their office.

Blake, my program director, he takes on a lot of case bases. So we work really hand in hand with 974-HELP, if any of their students are calling that phone number or reaching out for food there.

Just talking about insecurity as a whole, whether that's food or housing, we have actually a large population of our students, and when I say large, I want to say, like, maybe 1-2% of all students are actually living in their cars, especially this year, and they actually don't think that they are food insecure. They don't reach out because they prefer that the resources that we have go to others. So the other piece that we're hoping to expand to is more outreach, and maybe just explaining what insecurity as a whole means because we don't want students who might actually need our services not asking for our services.

We don't want you to be at the bottom of the barrel before you reach out. We are hoping one day to do more with housing, and then also maybe have a designated outreach person, and then that'll also help us maybe do some more tabling, and that kind of stuff out there, because, between just Blake and I, we can't be several places at once. So more people added to our team, I think as well.

○ **Question from Senator #106:**

Do you all take donations?

Answer from Johanna:

Most of our food comes via food donations and some purchases from Second Harvest. We also get a lot of our canned items from food drives on campus. We

are reaching out to local farms to see if we can get a larger amount of food in the pantry because the needs outweigh what is available (by Thursdays it is pretty bare). We also accept donations from students and staff as well. Parking and Transportation is also doing a drive where 5 canned food items can go to waiving a Parking ticket.

○ **Question from Senator #43:**

Have you considered community gardening and green space as a way to incorporate food generation for campus?

Answer from Johanna:

Yes, absolutely – actually, everything that's grown in the Food Lab/Grow Lab is actually all donated straight to the Big Orange Pantry, so we have that small collaboration there that everything that they grow goes right to us. We also currently have an assessment piece going on with Sustainability, and they're going through what we need, what things we're throwing out, that kind of base to the bare bones of things so that we can know where to start. So for a lot of this stuff, we're just getting the ball rolling on things.

Our emails are very wide open -- If y'all have direct contacts with sustainability and those kind of partnerships, we would love to hear from you and make those contacts as we're really trying to get people more involved in food insecurity. So if you know anybody personally, I would love it, but currently I know we do have the Grow Lab that they grow items for us. We've been reaching out to other community gardens that are happening as well.

○ **Question from Senator# 24:**

I was wondering if collaboration means you can only collaborate with on-campus resources, or if are you able to collaborate with resources off campus like restaurants, etc?

Answer from Johanna:

Yes, I believe we are able to work with off-campus organizations and entities. I think restaurants are a great resource we haven't quite tapped into yet. We get a lot of things from places like the local Starbucks, especially the one on the strip. I know a lot of those kind of corporations have specific guidelines that we probably have to go through corporate headquarters for them to give us food, because a lot of places are told that they have to throw unused or leftover food out directly.

The only issues with restaurants are if they have specific rules and regulations regarding that, so there might be some hoops with the jump through there.

Second Harvest gets all of its items from Targets, Krogers, Food City's, and Walmarts in the area, so they hit those four main focal points for us.

We also then actually have a designated driver, and he picks out the items that we need. So he goes to the entire warehouse, and he picks and chooses what he thinks that we will need as an agency. They're really good in keeping in mind that our services are mostly for college students, so they're really good at like not picking appropriate items. It is really helpful having that outlet, because I feel like we

would get really overwhelmed if we had to pick up and work directly with the major food outlets on our own without Second Harvest.

So we do have that one resource with Second Harvest, but we're actually trying to reach out more. We're starting small and going outwards - such as maybe starting with any restaurants on the strip to kind of help us.

○ **Question from Senator #11:**

What kind of help are you looking for other than donations?

Answer from Johanna:

Yes, people-wise: We have a federal work study open. We currently have one student manager through that. We are also opening up to pracs both in collaboration with social work but also people all over campus.

We're also in the middle of putting up for Human Resources position. It will be a \$9 an hour paid job to help staff the pantry and the closet. also hoping to add more people via internships and prac students; hopefully looking to add a third coordinator position as well.

Our internships are not paid by us. Federal Work Study is paid through the Federal Work Study Program. Practices, I believe, just get their five hours, six hours signed off on, so they are not paid, but it goes towards their graduation that they need. And then the nine dollars an hour position will definitely get paid, and that will just be like a normal student job, not limited to like freshman, sophomore, or anything like that.

We also are looking to get more funds directly towards us. We're looking for donors at the moment with like really, really, really big bags. We're hoping that they can stream maybe some more money into more student positions in general.

Thank you!

President's Report

6:02 [George Fields, GSS President] President's Report

- Homecoming week was a success for the organization, as we were able to get our organization's name and social media handles out there at three events and a group of Senators were able to come together for some lively trivia, as well as for the Parade.
- The goal of our participation in Homecoming was to engage with the campus community and to conduct outreach so graduate and professional students know about us and can begin to see us as a resource. To that end, we succeeded.
- We also jointly hosted a Town Hall with the SGA and university administrators, including Dean Thompson, Dean Hughes, and Vice Chancellor Cuevas.
 - the two main points that received several questions each were the visibility of and equity for LGBTQ+ individuals on campus, as well as the common issue today: housing.
 - Other topics of discussion included graduate student compensation and parking.

- Since housing was by far the most discussed topic at the Town Hall, it serves as a nice segue into what the GSS has been working on since the last Senate Session on September 28.

- **Housing**
 - The GSS passed a resolution in May formally asking the university to commission a task force with the goal of evaluating the graduate housing situation in Knoxville and to provide recommendations to the administration regarding what housing options appeal to graduate students.

 - That task force was commissioned and is moving forward with the goal of providing a recommendation to the university by Thanksgiving.

 - With any task force, information is key to success. We need to get a good idea of what graduate students are experiencing and what they are looking for in terms of housing.

 - Tomorrow or Monday, you will receive a survey intended for as many graduate students as possible.
 - It is imperative that you yourselves fill it out, but also more importantly that you circulate it to your constituents and encourage them to complete it.
 - The more data we can gather, the better recommendations we can make.
 - Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the task force or survey.

- **Committee Reports**
 - Travel Awards Committee
 - awarded 94 travel awards to students this last cycle, with the average being \$500.
 - The goal set by this committee is to award a total of 500 awards before the end of the academic year. They are well on their way to meeting that goal.
 - **The next travel award deadline is November 1**, so please convey that deadline and reinforce the benefit to graduate students in your department.

 - Programming and Events Committee
 - Took point in planning the Town Hall
 - Are currently taking the lead in planning the GSS Senator Retreat on November 15 after the Senate Session.
 - Furthermore, we are looking forward to facilitating events during the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 14-18).

 - The Legislative and Steering Committee
 - Working on finalizing the resolution guide meant to assist Senators with drafting resolutions before bringing them to the Senate.

- They are also working on new amendments to the Bylaws, the details of which will be shared as that process begins within the next few weeks. Look for updates on that at the next Session.
 - The Judiciary Committee
 - also addressing the Bylaws, taking point on updating current provisions of the Bylaws. These include:
 - updating the language around ad hoc committees
 - clarifying minor provisions throughout the document
 - The Advisory Committee
 - has been active in creating a sense of community across campus via graduate student organizations.
 - Their goal is to contact and communicate with all departmental and campus-wide graduate students organizations on campus within the next couple of months.
 - From there, getting information out to graduate and professional students will be easier via organizations, in addition to the reporting individual Senators do themselves.
- **Attendance & Participation**
 - Now that we are well into the semester and we have now had three Senate Sessions, this is the time to take stock on how things are running and to make improvements.
 - **Attendance to Senate sessions is required** and that when attendance is not possible a proxy should be appointed. My reiterations of this are based in the Bylaws and the requirement of Senators that they attend.
 - Once a Senator has missed two sessions without communicating a valid reason, they are at immediate risk of being removed from the Senate. This is not something that anyone wants, despite the Bylaws being clear on it.
 - I am requiring all Senators to appoint a proxy before the November 15 Session.
 - This process entails each of you finding someone in your department or academic unit who can attend the sessions if you can't.
 - Sending their names and emails to gss@utk.edu ensures we have that on record so that if you need to miss, we can communicate with your proxy and can forward them meeting materials, including the agenda.
 - This requirement is there to ensure the expectations our fellow students set for us are met by having us here and active in the organization.
- **Looking Forward**
 - **We will have the leadership team from the Student Health Center, including its Director, Dr. Spencer Gregg, here at the November 15 Session to answer questions and clarify policy surrounding graduate healthcare.**
 - They aim to have the information to answer your questions ready when they attend.

- To that end, we will be sharing a short survey tomorrow that will be the mechanism through which you can submit a question for them to address.
 - Questions will be grouped together and will form the basis of their informative presentation.
 - The deadline to submit questions via this form will be Friday, November 4th.
 - Let us know if you have any questions or concerns about this.
- Questions
 - **Question from Senator #43:**
Can we get the info to share with our constituents/departments as a document attachment instead of a forwarded email?

Answer from George:

For the Housing Survey, it will simply be a link to a google form, so that is just a link to share. Same thing for the other survey.

- **Question from Senator #91:**
Are there any updates about the external committees?

Answer from George:

Yes that's later on in the agenda. We received several applications for those, and they will primarily be handled at the November 15th Session. We will talk more about this later in the meeting.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business

6:16 [George Fields, GSS President]

Action: Executive Committee Nominee Confirmations

The Senate will consider the following Senators for leadership positions within GSS for the rest of the GSS year:

- GSS Advisory Committee Chair: Breanna Schaeffer
- **Vote to Confirm Executive Committee Nomination:**
 - Senator #72 motions to approve the executive committee nomination
 - Senator #99 seconds
 - **With over 2/3 majority vote “Yes”, the executive committee nomination is confirmed.**

****6:26 [Zane Smith, Chair] Discussion: Institutional Advocacy Resolution on Protecting Parenting Scholars**

Tabatha Rainwater, Institutional Advocacy Chair, will lead discussion on an upcoming resolution.

1. I am Tabitha Rainwater, the Chair for the Institutional Advocacy Committee within the Graduate Student Senate. I am a third-year doctoral student in Theory and Practice and Teacher Education, and I am a mother to three children.
2. In the Spring of 2022, I was kicked out of class because I brought my daughter with me. My primary emergency backup childcare was in the hospital. My secondary source of childcare was not in town. This was an in-person graduate level class with attendance required, and zoom was not an option. My daughter made small talk with my classmates prior to class- as an extrovert, she loves meeting new people.
3. Shortly after the professor arrived, we were kicked out of class due to my daughter's presence.
My professor stated there was a policy against bringing children to class. They were adamant that they were following a policy.
4. Since that March, I have met with many offices at varying levels within our institution. I am very grateful to these offices on campus for their support then, and their ongoing support. I now know there is **no such policy**.
5. This lack of policy in regards to parenting students at the University of Tennessee is what has led me here today. There is a better, softer way.
6. The Institutional Advocacy Committee hope to share a bill titled "Protecting Parenting Students" with you today. Collectively, we have written the following:
 - A study done in 2016 found that 12 percent of graduate students were classified as parenting students.
 - Acknowledgment of students' needs have started to surface with more progressive institutions. Specifically, the universities of Michigan, Ohio State, and UC Berkeley have pioneered policies and programs addressing some of the pitfalls student parents face as both students and employees of the university.
 - Examples of policy that could be utilized at UTK include efforts to network students with similar needs. For example, an email group that was formed to connect all student parents. Moreover, a student parent organization was formed to give those in need more access to resources. In addition, a student parent center was started to again increase access to resources, as well as help individuals network.
 - These are some of the more attainable efforts that UTK could implement with little investment or personnel. Striving towards a more ideal model of resources such as: student family housing, early child education, child study centers, family and community health centers, and breastfeeding support programs.
 - While a number of the previously listed aid items are not obtainable in the short term the goal of this initiative is to simply start a conversation. It is the hope of this committee to provoke thought, and in turn provide an avenue of action for the simpler support options.

- A plethora of notable universities have various forms of policies protecting and supporting graduate students that are parents. At the University of California, Berkeley, in Section F6 of the Introduction to the Guide to Graduate Policy, graduate students who have substantial parenting responsibilities are entitled to additional time to meet requirements of the program, like dissertations and qualifying and preliminary exams. *Substantial parenting responsibilities* are defined as care for newly born or adopted children, childbirth, pregnancy, care for a sick child, and other substantial situations involving a child.
A student who is a woman expecting to give birth soon may also be guaranteed a time period of six weeks to be excused without the loss of financial support. In addition, she may also take two weeks of unpaid leave after the birth for bonding. If the woman decides to take a leave of absence because of pregnancy, she is guaranteed one year before returning, which may be extended another year dependent upon medical reasoning.
- At the University of Washington, The Childcare Assistance Program works to aid the Seattle Campus students in paying for licensed childcare for the student's child(ren) aged newborn to twelve years old.
- At the Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan, a full-time student having parenting responsibilities of a newborn or a newly adopted child under the age of six is protected in various facets under The Graduate Student Parental Accommodation Policy.
 1. Following a birth or eligible adoption, a parent is granted up to six weeks (eight weeks if the parent gave birth) of accommodation, where they are still considered a full-time student, but has modified expectations and deadlines.
 2. Graduate student research assistants continue to receive their salary, stipend, and benefits they receive as a Graduate student Research Assistant. This is paid for via the Parental Accommodation Fund for the Graduate School.
 3. Fellowships from the university will continue to be paid out regularly during the period allotted, and any external fellowship that suspends benefits will be supplemented by the Parental Accommodation Fund during this time.
- As the Institutional Advocacy Committee in the University of Tennessee, we share these resources with you to cast light on what has been done in other institutions with hopes of sparking the conversation of change.
- Our university currently has policy in place for parental leave for new births and adoptions.
 1. In such cases, 9-month and long-term employees are eligible for 6 weeks of paid parental leave as long as they have been on UT's payroll for 12 months.
 2. This presents 2 problems for Graduate Students who hold Teaching and Research Assistant positions:
 - Currently, this policy is written only for employees of the University who hold positions of 75% time or higher. Varying graduate assistantships fail to meet this benchmark, at only 50%

positions. Therefore, there is currently no policy in place for parental leave for Graduate Students. While we celebrate in solidarity with Lectures and Non-Tenured track folks for just winning the right to paid maternity leave, we are concerned that graduate students have been overlooked.

- Another potential concern for Graduate, and even Undergraduate students, is the University's Grade Mode Change Policy. Our policy was instituted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the extenuating circumstances covered by the policy are COVID-19-related. There is an "Other" category in which parenting students might be able to use if their caregiving responsibilities interfere with their coursework. Given the spirit of the language of the current policy, it seems that the intent and concern for the policy on grade mode changes really is only interested in COVID-19 related circumstances.
- The University of Tennessee currently offers a childcare center, The Early Learning Center. They offer a safe developmentally appropriate environment for young children. Due to their exemplar model, there are very few openings, their competitive waitlist is over a year long, and the cost of their childcare services range from \$900 - \$1300 per month.
- The most recent climate survey that we were able to find indicated that only 6% of all students who responded are caregivers. Noteworthy, sixteen percent of all graduate students are parents. 8% have children under the age 5, 8% have children ages 6-18, 3% have children older than 18, and 2% of students have a senior parent they are giving care to.
- In 2018 a climate survey respondent reported, "I have seriously considered taking time away from school because of the huge lack of resources available to students with children and the negative climate towards students with children." In all, only 4500 students responded to this survey, or, 10%.
- Prior research on campus climate has focused on the experiences of faculty, staff, and students associated with historically underserved social/community/affinity groups (e.g., women, People of Color, people with disabilities, first-generation students, veterans). Several groups at UTK indicated that they were less comfortable than their majority counterparts with the climates of the campus, workplace, and classroom.
- According to the Institute for women's policy research from the Center on Equity in Higher Education, institutions in the state of Tennessee should:
 1. Remove obstacles to parents' educational progress in college policies, such as allowing makeups for absences due to child illness and building campus environments that embrace and acknowledge student families.
 2. Collect and report data on students' parent status and educational outcomes to inform the design and implementation of interventions to increase completion rates among student parents.
 3. Invest in supportive services—such as affordable, campus-based childcare services, holistic case management, and programs that provide targeted

support and information to students with children —that can help parenting students persist in and complete college

- I am asking that our Senate consider “Protecting Parenting students” bill with the following language:

The Graduate Student Senate will advocate with the University of Tennessee for the following short-term goals:

1. Remove obstacles to parents’ educational progress in college policies, such as allowing makeups for absences due to child illness and building campus environments that embrace and acknowledge student families.
2. Collect and report data on students’ parent status and educational outcomes to inform the design and implementation of interventions to increase completion rates among student parents.

And will work collaboratively for long term goals such as, but not limited to:

3. Invest in supportive services—such as affordable, campus-based childcare services, holistic case management, and programs that provide targeted support and information to students with children —that can help parenting students persist in and complete college.

Immediate action in collaboration with the Student Government Association will address creating a university syllabus statement for parenting students with a soft, voluntary implementation in Spring of 2023.

- What happened to me, with my daughter, doesn’t have to be in vain. Instead of asking why this injustice happened, we should ask these questions: What makes this inequity sustained? How can we prevent this from happening to future parenting students?
Please stand with me in passing our “Protecting Parenting Students” bill.

- **Question from Senator #24:**

Have you gone further to discuss with the university board about what types of resources we have to come up with to make childcare services possible either next semester or next school year? And what would be the timeline for that?

Answer from Tabitha:

In our bill it is stated as a long-term goal because I hope to have that meeting soon to see what those resources are, and I am aware that the University typically has strategic plans of multiple years, so it may be that parenting students are not on the radar at all, which is the reason why that was a long-term goal of the bill without a specific date.

Follow-Up Comment from Dean Thompson:

Let me add – we also don’t have childcare for faculty and staff, so it is a missing part of our community.

- **Comment from Tabitha:**

Senator 41 from the Executive Committee stated that we will have a form or survey sent out for the GSS for anyone who has questions or concerns.

- **Question from Senator #71:**

Can we also get the text of the language of the bill as it is written?

Answer from George:

Yes. Just to reiterate, the timeline for this resolution to go for the Senate is November 15th, our last session for the fall semester. That being said to the point made by Senator #4 having to do with a survey being sent out to gauge our concerns and your questions, so that they can be considered and integrated into the resolution to garner support - that will be going out very soon, which will probably end up in one of the emails that I send out within the next day or two. And then the bill text, to Senator #71's point, will be sent out prior.

6:43 [Zane Smith, Chair] Discussion: Slack and Internal Organizational Communication

[Leighton Chappell, GSS Vice President]

- GSS has been utilizing Slack for communications in addition to email communication.
- Slack allows committee chairs the ability to communicate efficiently with their committee members especially time-sensitive matters and scheduling.
- It is important that senators have Slack, have their notifications turned on, and are active in communication and participating with their committees.
- Please meet with me after the meeting if you have questions or if you need help setting it up and I am happy to help you set that up.

Questions:

- **Question from Senator #75:**

So Slack is meant to be used as a point of communication for messaging between Senators and their committee – not overall communication from GSS as a whole?

Answer from Leighton:

Yes, it is supposed to be a texting option between you and your committee to respond to time-sensitive matters; and also used as a general channel to share surveys and links like that. That's it.

6:48 [George Fields, Pres.] Discussion: External Committee Review

GSS President, George T. Fields will review the Committees, Councils, and Boards on campus that need graduate student representation.

- External Committees are our opportunity to expand out outreach, mainly in the form of advocacy for our fellow graduate students within the broader campus community.

- The external committees form is still active.
- So far, we've received 9 applications.
- Only position not applied for is the Tech Fee Advisory Board.
 - The Tech Fee Advisory Board determines where all the technology fees that we pay as part of our "tuition & fees" go.
 - The tech fees add up to several million dollars, so this is extremely important.
 - There are two positions on that, so if you are interested, please let us know.
- We are also looking to fill a few committee positions that we don't have defined quite yet, but that will be updated soon. We need to guarantee that we can have graduate student representation on these external committees.
 - One that is for sure is the Space Committee that looks at unused space on campus.
 - It is extremely impactful, especially as we talk about graduate student office space.

6:51 [Zane Smith, Chair] Discussion: Open Floor

Senators may bring up any topic of their choice to share information, start a conversation, or ask questions.

- **Senator #7**
Last meeting we talked about the division of the colleges – are there any updates regarding that?

Answer from George:

The Arts and Sciences restructuring – we were told the impact to graduate students will be minimal as all the educational units will still be existing. I have discussed with the provost that graduate students want to be a part of these conversations and discussions. In terms of updates, the decision has been made and since then they've been seeking some sort of Strategic Planning under RJ Hinde who is serving as the interim. We are hoping to have more updates at the November 15th Session.

- **Senator #16**
What is the update in terms of needs for space allocation for the departments and services being disrupted due to demolition of 3 buildings on campus. I know that in the history department that at least 50% of the faculty are losing their office space – and that percentage does not include our lecturers, the post-docs, or graduate teaching assistants – and I am trying to figure out how is this even viable without leading to FERPA violations.

Answer from Dean Thompson:

All of the latest updates are on the [website](#). All the communications are going to the leaders of the units who are going to be affected. And so, if you have questions, I recommend that you go directly to those leaders in those units. Um, I don't know that all the decisions have been made about where people will go. I think those are ongoing discussions, but I think I remember that no demolition is going to be taking place until

they have solutions, for where people are going to go. So I would say stay tuned, and know that the University recognizes the concerns

Follow-Up Response from George:

And in conjunction with that advice about checking the website and staying up to date on any updates, I will check with the admin to see if there's any updates that haven't been published yet. That may be um coming down the pipeline. Based on our conversation, I want to say back in August, I will check with the admin to see if there are any updates that have been made that haven't made it to the website yet. There are concerns about SDS as well as other departments. In terms of communications with the administration, not to me, but just general communications - there's been a commitment that those offices will not be affected in terms of their day-to-day operation. So that's an update that I can provide. Now it's not very concrete, but I'll follow up and see if there is any additional information since that announcement has been made public.

▪ **Question from Senator #26 (Chris Howard – proxy senator):**

I appreciate the bus service going to IJAMS, but can we work on getting benches at every bus stop? It is something where I ran into an issue where I need to sit down, and the bus I missed me because it didn't think that I was there.

Answer from George:

As you asked that question, our Legislative Steering Chair just looked at me and smiled because that's one of the things we've been actively trying to address in terms of accessibility on campus. So, as we've mentioned a few times, there are several buildings on campus, especially with the older buildings, that have severe accessibility issues, and the university's aware of that. But my obvious concern is how quickly are we going to become ADA compliant with those and make them accessible. So in that light, one of the initiatives (that I'm pretty sure Legislative Steering is spearheading) is just doing a simple assessment of UTK bus stops. It's something that isn't something that is only utilized only by students. It is also used by the public, and if we want to be an accessible campus, that's a good starting point. In terms of providing proper lighting for safety and benches for being able to sit down because the wait times can vary, especially as traffic comes into the equation - and also coverings to be shielded from the elements. So that's a start of our accessibility push and we'll move on into campus buildings as that goes on.

Announcements / Member's Privilege

Senators may share out any information to the group. This could include announcing any of the following: upcoming events in their department, GSO, or anywhere on campus, sharing a deadline for a grant or scholarship, raising awareness about a new or underused resource on campus, etc.

- **Comment from Senator #15**

The Department of Geography and Sustainability is hosting an academic conference. It's open for everyone who wants to come and present their work that they're working. The deadline for abstracts is December 8th, but if you want to start working on it, you're welcome to send it in early. The conference date is February 9th and 10th, and it will be held in the Student Union. I'll send out the CFP and deadlines via email.

Adjournment

- Zane Smith [Chair] asks for a motion & a second to adjourn this meeting.
 - Senator #10 motions to adjourn the meeting.
 - Senator #72 seconds the motion.

7:02 [Zane Smith, Chair] GSS Session 3 Meeting is officially adjourned

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5:30 pm in SU 169

Upcoming Events

- **GSS Senator Retreat: Tuesday, November 15, 2022**

Appendix 1 – Senate Meeting Attendance

Department by College	Voting Number	Name	Present
Architecture	1	<u>Kay Kriegel</u>	N
Architecture	2	<u>Rachel Paganelli</u>	Y
Landscape Architecture	3	<u>Carl Carlton</u>	Y
Anthropology	4	<u>Brianna Gardner</u>	Y
Anthropology	5	<u>Tatianna Griffin</u>	N
Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology	6	<u>Lauren Walden</u>	Y
Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology	7	<u>Morgan House</u>	Y
Chemistry	8	<u>Trevor Wilson</u>	N
Chemistry	9	<u>Elizabeth Crumley</u>	Y
Earth and Planetary Sciences	10	<u>Chance Sturup</u>	Y
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	11	<u>Hope Ferguson</u>	Y
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	12	<u>Morgan Fleming</u>	Y
English	13	<u>Kate Wright</u>	Y
English	14	<u>Karen Norwood</u>	Y
Geography	15	<u>Kayla Rouhlac</u>	Y
History	16	<u>Stacie Beach</u>	Y
Life Sciences	17	<u>Megan Elliott</u>	Y
Mathematics	18	<u>Eli Brooks</u>	Y
Mathematics	19	<u>Shannon Hall</u>	Y
Microbiology	20	<u>Sayali Mulay</u>	N
Microbiology	21	<u>Diana Ramirez</u>	N
Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures	22	<u>Morgan Schneider</u>	Y
Music	23	<u>Sarah Buzalewski</u>	Y
Music	24	<u>Alexis Kilgore</u>	Y
Philosophy	25	<u>Francis Nyamekeh</u>	N
Physics and Astronomy	26	<u>Tanner Mengel</u>	Y
Physics and Astronomy	27	<u>Debshikha Banerjee</u>	Y
Political Science	28	<u>Katherine Trubee</u>	Y
Political Science	29	<u>Hannah Flannery</u>	Y
Psychology	30	<u>Golnaz Forouzandehfar</u>	N
Psychology	31	<u>Ian Warren</u>	Y

School of Art	32	—	—
Sociology	33	<u>Zaina Shams</u>	N
Theatre	34	—	—
Advertising & Public Relations	35	<u>Josh Shockley</u>	Y
Communication and Information	36	<u>Winston Roberts</u>	Y
Communication and Information	37	<u>Jessica Barfield</u>	Y
Information Sciences	38	<u>Francesca Watkins</u>	Y
Information Sciences	39	<u>Dusty Bryan</u>	N
Journalism & Electronic Media	40	<u>Aman Misra</u>	Y
Child and Family Studies	41	<u>Hannah Thompson</u>	Y
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies	42	<u>Emily Ballesteros</u>	Y
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies	43	<u>Nathan Vann</u>	Y
Educational Psychology and Counseling	44	<u>Taylor Baird</u>	—
Educational Psychology and Counseling	45	—	—
Kinesiology, Recreation, & Sport Studies	46	<u>Emily Mayfield</u>	Y
Kinesiology, Recreation, & Sport Studies	47	<u>Austin Jackson</u>	Y
Nutrition	48	<u>Nick Gill</u>	N
Public Health	49	<u>Catherine Warner</u>	Y
Public Health	50	<u>Sandra Wairimu</u>	N
Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management	51	<u>Michelle Von Geis</u>	N
Theory and Practice in Teacher Education	52	<u>Tabatha Rainwater</u>	Y
Theory and Practice in Teacher Education	53	<u>Amanda Carter</u>	Y
Accounting and Information Management	54	Jazmin Campuzano (Proxy)	Y
Accounting and Information Management	55	<u>Kainat Bhayani</u>	Y
Business Analytics and Statistics	56	—	—

Business Analytics and Statistics	57	—	—
Economics	58	<u>Ivan Anich</u>	Y
Finance	59	—	—
Management & Entrepreneurship	60	<u>Katie Layton</u>	N
Management & Entrepreneurship	61	<u>Tan Kim</u>	N
Marketing	62	—	—
Supply Chain Management	63	—	—
Supply Chain Management	64	—	—
MBA – Working Professionals	65	—	—
MBA – Working Professionals	66	—	—
Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications	67	<u>Samuel T. Monarch</u>	Y
Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications	68	<u>Emoni White</u>	N
Agricultural & Resource Economics	69	<u>Bishal Bista</u>	N
Animal Science	70	<u>Jake Watts</u>	Y
Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science	71	<u>Alexis Gillmore</u>	Y
Entomology & Plant Pathology	72	<u>Kassie Hollabaugh</u>	Y
Food Science	73	<u>Fernando Rivera</u>	Y
Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	74	<u>Joe DeMarchi</u>	Y
Plant Sciences	75	<u>Kollin Johnson</u>	Y
Cent/Interdisc Rsrch Grad Edu (Bredesen Center)	76	<u>Adedasola Ademola</u>	Y
Cent/Interdisc Rsrch Grad Edu (Bredesen Center)	77	<u>Sara Sultan</u>	N
Comparative and Experimental Medicine	78	<u>Lufuno Phophi</u>	Y
Law	79	<u>Jake Gray</u>	N
Law	80	<u>Ronald Young</u>	Y
Nursing	81	<u>Jeanne Bernier</u>	N
Nursing	82	<u>Adaora Ede</u>	Y

Social Work – Distance Education	83	<u>Marlon Wade</u>	N
Social Work – Distance Education	84	<u>Suelynn Hartness</u>	N
Social Work – Nashville	85	<u>Marguerite Braun</u>	Y
Social Work – Nashville	86	<u>Alissa White</u>	Y
Social Work – Knoxville	87	<u>Kristin (Nicole) Wiggs</u>	Y
Social Work – Knoxville	88	<u>Aritra Moulick</u>	Y
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	89	<u>Austin Conte</u>	Y
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	90	<u>Rohit Ghanta</u>	Y
Civil & Environmental Engineering	91	<u>Mohammed Elbushra Elsheikh Elnur</u>	Y
Civil & Environmental Engineering	92	<u>Vivek Chawla</u>	N
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science	93	<u>Mojtaba Dezvarei</u>	N
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science	94	<u>Francisco Zelaya</u>	Y
Industrial & Systems Engineering	95	<u>Samuel Affar</u>	Y
Industrial & Systems Engineering	96	—	—
Materials Science & Engineering	97	<u>Zane Smith</u>	Y
Materials Science & Engineering	98	<u>Max Neveau</u>	Y
Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering	99	<u>Anirban Roy</u>	Y
Mechanical, Aerospace & Biomedical Engineering	100	<u>Breanna Schaeffer</u>	Y
Nuclear Engineering	101	<u>Emily Hutchins</u>	Y
Nuclear Engineering	102	<u>Evan Williams</u>	Y
Space Institute	103	<u>Kyle Ackermann</u>	Y
Space Institute	104	—	—
Veterinary Medicine	105	<u>Allison Coyle</u>	Y
Veterinary Medicine	106	<u>Nicole Harris</u>	Y

Appendix 2 – Visual Aid from Meeting (below)

Graduate Student Senate

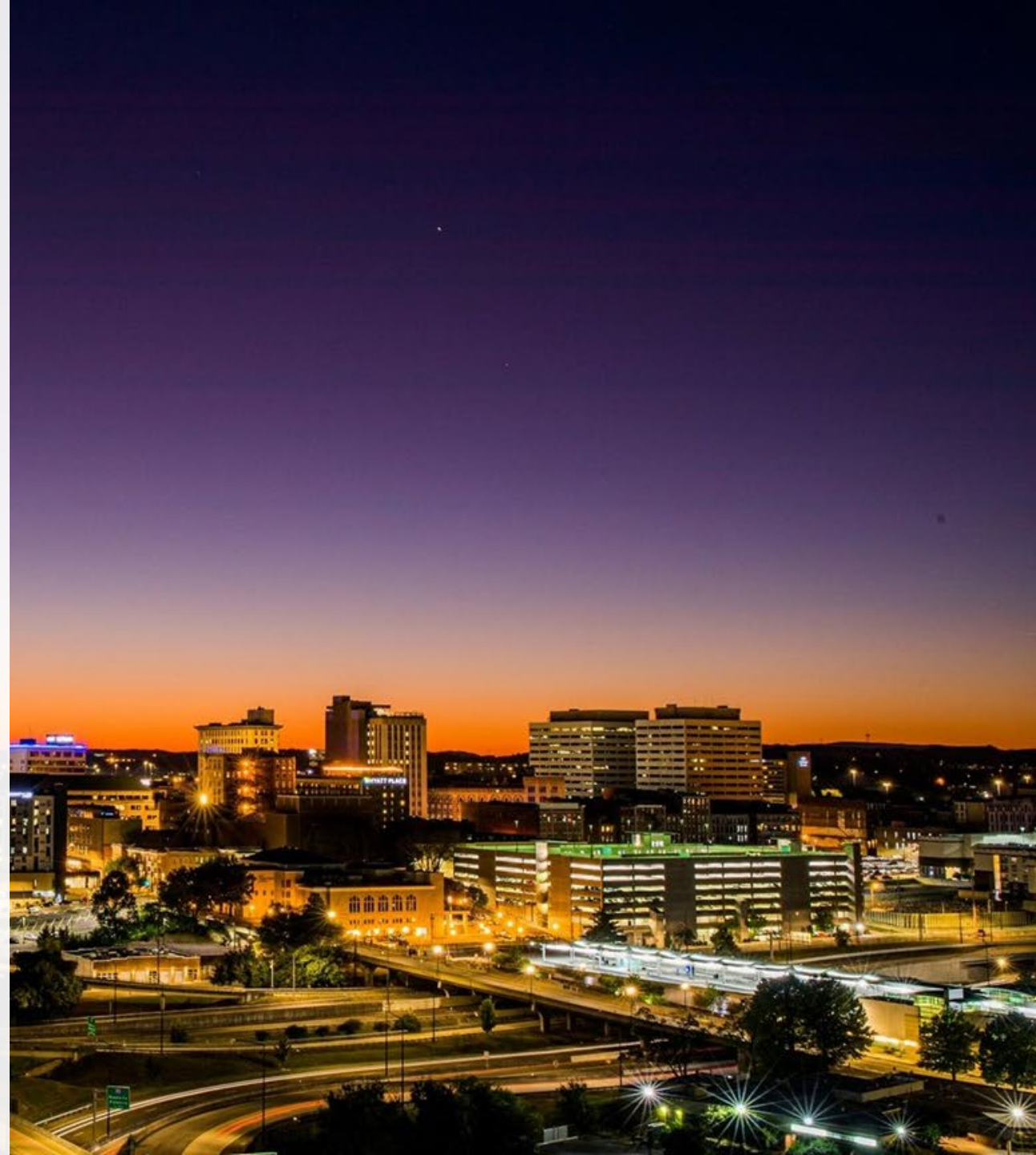
Session 3
October 27, 2022



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE



GRADUATE
STUDENT
SENATE



Agenda

Session Opening

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Review of Agenda
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of Minutes

6. Guest Speakers

- A. Johanna Ramb, Basic Needs Coordinator

7. President's Report

8. Unfinished Business

- A. N/A

9. New Business

- A. Executive Committee Nominee Confirmations
- B. Discussion: Institutional Advocacy on Protecting Parenting Scholars
- C. Discussion: Slack and Committee Communication
- D. Discussion: External Committee Review
- E. Discussion: Open Floor

10. Announcements/Member's Privilege

11. Adjournment

Scheduled Guest Speaker

Johanna Ramb
Basic Needs Coordinator

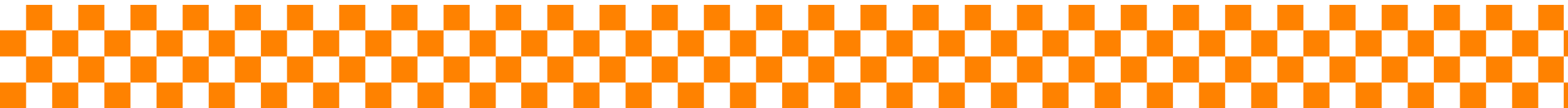
WELCOME TO THE VOLUNTEER FAMILY

University of Tennessee- Basic Needs



Introductions

Johanna Ramb
Coordinator of Basic Needs
and oversees the Big Orange Pantry
Greve Hall 006
Jramb@vols.utk.edu



Basic Needs Team



PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF BASIC NEEDS

Blake Weiss

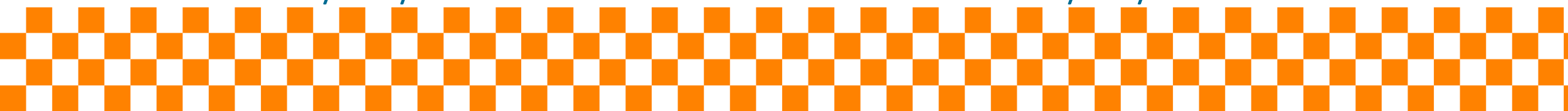
he/him/his



COORDINATOR OF BASIC NEEDS

Johanna Ramb

she/her/hers



Dean of Students Initiatives

Basic Needs



Blg Orange Pantry



Smokey's Closet

WANT TO LEARN MORE? VISIT dos.utk.edu



Dean of Students Initiatives

Basic Needs

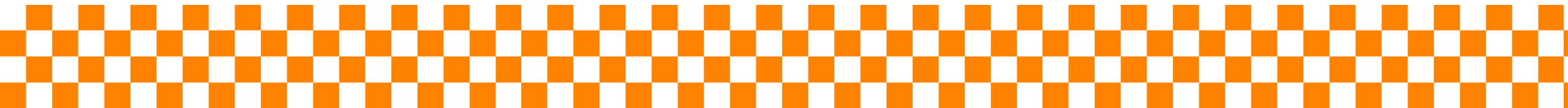


UT to West TN



Big Orange Meal Share and Meal
Plan Scholarship

WANT TO LEARN MORE? VISIT dos.utk.edu



Connect with Us!

Office Location + Big Orange Pantry

006 Greve Hall

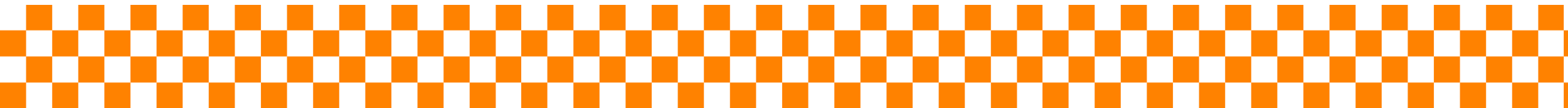
Smokey's Closet

Student Union 376C

(Next to the Pride Center)

@bigorangepantry

@smokeyscloset



Connect with Us!

Emails:

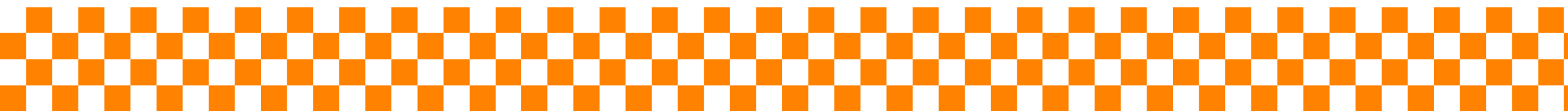
bigorangepantry@utk.edu

smokeyscloset@utk.edu

Important Websites:

[Dos.utk.edu](https://dos.utk.edu)

Basic Needs Website coming soon!



Thank You!

Johanna Ramb
Coordinator of Basic Needs
Greve Hall 006
Jramb@vols.utk.edu
Office Number: 865-974-1832



President's Report

Recent Events
Housing Insecurity
Committee Reports
Attendance and Participation
Looking Forward

Executive Committee Nominee Confirmations

Graduate Student Senator Advisory Committee Chair
Breanna Schaeffer

Discussion: Institutional Advocacy Resolution on Protecting Parenting Scholars

Tabatha Rainwater
Institutional Advocacy Chair

Discussion: Slack and Committee Communication

Leighton Chappell
GSS Vice President

Discussion: External Committee Review

George T. Fields
GSS President

Discussion: Open Floor

- What needs are not being met on campus?
- What can the GSS be doing better to recognize and meet needs?
- What can GSS leadership do to facilitate Senator involvement?



Adjournment

Final Attendance

Refreshments are at the back of the room!

Next: 11/15, SU 169 @ 5:30PM