

August 31, 2023

University of Tennessee, Knoxville Graduate and Professional Students,

This Open Letter on the 2023-2024 Graduate Student Senate Vision serves as an indicator of the priorities of the GSS Leadership. While the mission of the Graduate Student Senate is stated in the Bylaws, President Katherine Trubee, Vice President Hannah Thompson, and their executive team want to reaffirm their commitment to advocacy, community, and engagement (ACE) for graduate and professional students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Our vision is rooted in our commitment to shaping a brighter future for both graduate and professional students and our institution. Through collaboration and advocacy, we aspire to be a catalyst for meaningful conversations between students, staff, and UT leadership. Our goal is to establish an environment where increased communication and mutual accountability become the norm, underpinned by a culture of transparency and responsiveness.

Central to our mission is the dedication to promoting an environment where every student's perspective is not just acknowledged but actively considered. We recognize that students' well-being extends beyond the classroom, which is why we place strong emphasis on understanding ongoing challenges students face both on and off-campus. We also prioritize organizing and promoting highly engaging meetings and events that serve as platforms for building connections and nurturing a shared sense of purpose among our senators and the broader student community.

Finally, we are actively committed to supporting students' academic growth and development through initiatives like travel awards. Together, with your involvement and support, we can ensure that UT Knoxville is not only a place of academic excellence but also a vibrant and caring community that enriches the overall student experience.

Thank you, Graduate Student Senate Adopted by the Graduate Student Senate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville on the thirty-first of August in the year two thousand and twenty-three.

Samuel Affar

Senate Chair

The Graduate Student Senate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, President, does hereby  $[\![\chi]\!]$  approve /  $[\![\]]$  veto this resolution.

Katherine Trubee

President

Date

This letter is endorsed by the entire 2023-2024 Executive Committee of the Graduate Student Senate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Katherine Trubee President Vice President Samuel Affar Dale TeGantvoort Senate Chair Secretary Anirban Roy Jess Barfield Treasurer Technology Officer Valentina Gomez Jeronimo Silva **Communications Director** Legislative Steering Committee Chair Adaora Ede Anika Sarkar Programming and Events Committee Chair Equity and Diversity Committee Chair

Aritra Moulick

Judiciary Committee Chair

/ Taylor Baird Institutional Advocacy and Advisory Committee Chair

Aman Misra International Student Support Ad-Hoc Committee Chair