

****PUBLIC NOTICE****



Graduate Student Council Assembly Meeting
Monday, April 8, 2024, 5:30pm-7:00pm
UNT Union 332, Senate Chambers

Pursuant to section 551.127, Texas Government Code, one or more council member or graduate student may attend this meeting remotely using videoconferencing technology.

REMOTE OPTION: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/85054362583>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a Regular Session of the Graduate Student Council Senate

A. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted in one motion. Should the Parliamentarian, a Senator, or the GSC President desire discussion of any item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

1. Approve the minutes of the March 18th, 2024, Senate meeting.

B. BUSINESS AGENDA

1. Discuss the GSC Summer Senate and accept volunteers

C. SENATE TRAINING

1. Discuss and review the Texas Open Meetings Act
2. Discuss the Texas Public Information Act
3. Discuss Robert's Rules of Order

D. SENATE COMMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The purpose of this section is to allow each Senator, the GSC President and the GSC Parliamentarian the opportunity to provide general updates and/or comments to GSC Senate Members, the public, and/or staff on any issues or future events. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, any GSC Senator, Director, or Executive Council Member may direct that an item be added as a business item to any future agenda.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Graduate Student Council Senate reserves the right to recess into closed session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters posted on this agenda, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071, "Consultation with Attorney" for the purpose of receiving legal advice.

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, ON EXECUTIVE
SESSION ITEMS**

ADJOURN

Posted on this 5th day of April 2024, on the Graduate Student Council website.

Lowell Johnson

Lowell Johnson

Parliamentarian

2023/2024 Graduate Student Council



**Graduate Student Council
Meeting minutes
Senate meeting
March 18, 2024
Virtual Session**

A quorum of the GSC Senate was seated and the meeting was opened by the GSC Parliamentarian at 5:30 PM.

New members Brittany Rivera, Julia Freund, Hannah Yohn, and Megan Barnes were introduced.

Consent agenda: Approved by general consent of the body.

Business items Item Discussion and Action taken:

Item #1, Discuss the new pay scale for T/A, T/F, and Graduate Assistants. No action taken.

Item #2, Discuss health insurance subsidies for graduate students. No action taken.

Item #3, Discuss the upcoming 2024-2025 GSC Executive election schedule and discussions concerning the new method of Senator selection by individual Colleges. No action taken.

No further business.

Senate Training

1. Discuss and review the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Meeting Adjourned March 18, 2024, at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lowell Johnson

Lowell Johnson, Parliamentarian
March 19th, 2024



Memo for discussion

April 5, 2024,

Most Esteemed GSC Senators,

Item #1 regards the Senate's ability, as allowed by the GSC Constitution and By-Laws, to meet over the summer months as "Summer Senate". The Summer Senate is allowed to have up to ten (10) members and has the legislative power to act in all matters of GSC business, with the exception of their Impeachment powers.

Typically, the Summer Senate is seated with the goal of working through often complex legislative situations. The Summer Senate will meet June 27th, July 23rd, and August 12th. All meetings will be virtual and meet for 1 hour. The June 27th meeting will be at 2 pm.

Best Regards,

Lowell Johnson

Lowell Johnson, MPA

GSC Parliamentarian

Teaching Fellow

PhD Candidate

Department of Public Administration

College of Health and Public Service

University of North Texas

Roberts Rules of Order – Simplified

Guiding Principles:

- Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.
- Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times. Only urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.
- Only one thing (motion) can be discussed at a time.

A **motion** is the topic under discussion (e.g., “I move that we add a coffee break to this meeting”). After being recognized by the president of the board, any member can introduce a motion when no other motion is on the table. A motion requires a second to be considered. If there is no second, the matter is not considered. Each motion must be disposed of (passed, defeated, tabled, referred to committee, or postponed indefinitely).

How to do things:

You want to bring up a new idea before the group.

After recognition by the president of the board, present your motion. A second is required for the motion to go to the floor for discussion, or consideration.

You want to change some of the wording in a motion under discussion.

After recognition by the president of the board, move to amend by

- adding words,
- striking words or
- striking and inserting words.

You like the idea of a motion being discussed, but you need to reword it beyond simple word changes.

Move to substitute your motion for the original motion. If it is seconded, discussion will continue on both motions and eventually the body will vote on which motion they prefer.

You want more study and/or investigation given to the idea being discussed.

Move to refer to a committee. Try to be specific as to the charge to the committee.

You want more time personally to study the proposal being discussed.

Move to postpone to a definite time or date.

You are tired of the current discussion.

Move to limit debate to a set period of time or to a set number of speakers. Requires a 2/3rds vote.

You have heard enough discussion.

Move to close the debate. Also referred to as calling the question. This cuts off discussion and brings the assembly to a vote on the pending question only. Requires a 2/3rds vote.

You want to postpone a motion until some later time.

Move to table the motion. The motion may be taken from the table after 1 item of business has been conducted. If the motion is not taken from the table by the end of the next meeting, it is dead. To kill a motion at the time it is tabled requires a 2/3rds vote. A majority is required to table a motion without killing it.

You believe the discussion has drifted away from the agenda and want to bring it back.
 “Call for orders of the day.”

You want to take a short break.
 Move to recess for a set period of time.

You want to end the meeting.
 Move to adjourn.

You are unsure the president of the board announced the results of a vote correctly.
 Without being recognized, call for a “division of the house.” A roll call vote will then be taken.

You are confused about a procedure being used and want clarification.
 Without recognition, call for "Point of Information" or "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry." The president of the board will ask you to state your question and will attempt to clarify the situation.

You have changed your mind about something that was voted on earlier in the meeting for which you were on the winning side.
 Move to reconsider. If the majority agrees, the motion comes back on the floor as though the vote had not occurred.

You want to change an action voted on at an earlier meeting.
 Move to rescind. If previous written notice is given, a simple majority is required. If no notice is given, a 2/3^{rds} vote is required.

Unanimous Consent:

If a matter is considered relatively minor or opposition is not expected, a call for unanimous consent may be requested. If the request is made by others, the president of the board will repeat the request and then pause for objections. If none are heard, the motion passes.

- **You may INTERRUPT a speaker for these reasons only:**
 - to get information about business –point of information to get information about rules– parliamentary inquiry
 - if you can't hear, safety reasons, comfort, etc. –question of privilege
 - if you see a breach of the rules –point of order
 - if you disagree with the president of the board’s ruling –appeal
 - if you disagree with a call for Unanimous Consent –object

Quick Reference					
	Must Be Seconded	Open for Discussion	Can be Amended	Vote Count Required to Pass	May Be Reconsidered or Rescinded
Main Motion	√	√	√	Majority	√
Amend Motion	√	√		Majority	√
Kill a Motion	√			Majority	√
Limit Debate	√		√	2/3 ^{rds}	√
Close Discussion	√			2/3 ^{rds}	√
Recess	√		√	Majority	
Adjourn (End meeting)	√			Majority	
Refer to Committee	√	√	√	Majority	√
Postpone to a later time	√	√	√	Majority	√
Table	√			Majority	
Postpone Indefinitely	√	√	√	Majority	√