

Senate Meeting  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
5:30-7:00 pm

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order – 5:30
- II. Reading/Approval of Minutes
- III. Officer Reports – 5:32 – 5:42
  - a. President- Seth Ketron
  - b. VPAF- Giselle Greenidge
  - c. VPCM- Ricky Ferguson
  - d. Parliamentarian- Christian Doyle
- IV. Internal Committee Updates- 5:42 – 5:45
  - a. Performance, Oversight and Monitoring
    - i. Committee Rep
  - b. External Relations/Outreach
    - i. Committee Rep
  - c. Planning and Program Development
    - i. Committee Rep
- V. New Business
  - a. Bill F2016-5
    - i. Rachel Metras
  - b. Bill F2016-6
    - i. Rachel Metras
  - c. Bill F2016-7
    - i. Cynthia Lebel
  - d. Bill F2016-8
    - i. Michael Cotton
  - e. Grad Student Bill of Rights
    - i. Alvin Akibar
- VI. Open Floor
- VII. Adjourn



**Bill F2016-5**

**WHEREAS** any out of state student wishing to remain in Texas after graduation is eligible to apply for Texas Residency;

**WHEREAS** accurate and up-to-date information on obtaining residency is currently inaccessible to all UNT students;

**WHEREAS** accurate and up-to-date information on obtaining residency may be currently inaccessible to many UNT staff;

**WHEREAS** students are currently being accepted or denied residency on the basis of inaccurate information;

**LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the website for the Office of the Registrar (where policies on obtaining Texas residency are currently located) be updated to reflect current policies towards applying for Texas Residency.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Senator Rachel Metras

---

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

---

*Parliamentarian*

---

*Date*

**Presidential Action:**

- Vetoed
- Approved

---

*GSC President*

---

*Date*

---

*Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School*

---

*Date*



Bill F2016-6

WHEREAS to qualify for Texas Residency students must have "gainful employment in Texas";

WHEREAS "gainful employment" is defined as: "Employment intended to provide an income to a person or allow a person to avoid the expense of paying another person to perform the tasks (as in child care) that is sufficient to provide at least one-half of the individual's tuition, fees and living expenses as determined in keeping with the institution's student financial aid budget or that represents an average of at least twenty hours of employment per week. A person who is self-employed or who is living off his/her earnings may be considered gainfully employed for purposes of establishing residency, as may a person whose primary support is public assistance. Employment conditioned on student status, such as work study, the receipt of stipends, fellowships, or research or teaching assistantships does not constitute gainful employment";

WHEREAS many graduate students seek jobs at institutions, businesses or clinics founded by UNT professors and alumni to start gathering practical experience and enhance their education;

WHEREAS employment at institutions, businesses or clinics founded by UNT professors and alumni is not contingent on one's status as a graduate student;

WHEREAS any employee working at an institution, business, or clinic founded by UNT alumni or professors is still eligible to meet the requirement for gainful employment based on the current definition;

WHEREAS many graduate students in the Department of Behavior Analysis are currently being denied Texas residency due to employment at institutions, businesses, and clinics founded by UNT alumni or professors;

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the types of jobs that constitute "gainful employment" be expanded to explicitly include institutions, businesses, and clinics developed or founded by UNT alumni and professors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Senator Rachel Metras

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

Parliamentarian

Date

Presidential Action:

- Vetoed
Approved

GSC President

Date

Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School

Date

**Bill F2016-7**

**“Lebel-King’s Bill”**

**WHEREAS** The Tuition Benefit Program states in the Eligibility Criteria and Requirements that the students will be responsible to make payments for non-mandatory fees.

**WHEREAS** The Mandatory fees are defined as university-related services available to students.

**WHEREAS** The Non-Mandatory fees are not defined on the UNT student accounting website.

**WHEREAS** The Instructional Fees are defined on the student accounting website as laboratory fees and instructional fees, that for billing purposes those two categories are grouped together as one instructional fee, while those fees are billed separately on the students’ invoice in the “Details by Charge” Summary of tuition fees.

**WHEREAS** The Laboratory Fees are defined as only being applicable to courses which require students to register for a laboratory section, but are being charged for courses that do not require students to register for a laboratory section.

**WHEREAS** These may be easily remedied by the adoption or the following items,

**LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the following problems be immediately fixed by the University:

**The following alterations are to be made for the Non-Mandatory Fees:**

- Clearly define non-mandatory fees on the UNT accounting website.
- Clearly mentioned what is included in the non-mandatory fees.

**The following alterations are to be made for the Instructional Fees:**

- As mentioned on the UNT Student accounting website, be billed as one instructional fees.
- Review the definition of laboratory fees since previously defined as being only applicable to courses which require students to register for a laboratory section, since being charge for courses which do not require students to register for a laboratory section.
- TBP Should cover the non-mandatory fees as well since they are not defined as non-mandatory fees, which is the only fee category that are required to be paid by the students.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Senator Amith Reddy

(All work done by Cynthia Lebel & Skylar King)

---

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

---

*Parliamentarian*

---

*Date*

**Presidential Action:**

- Vetoed
- Approved

---

*GSC President*

---

*Date*

---

*Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School*

---

*Date*

**Bill F2016-8**

**WHEREAS** “The safety and well-being of our students, staff, faculty and visitors are of the utmost importance and at the forefront of what we do on a daily basis. The University of North Texas works persistently to reduce the risk and potential for crime and other hazardous situations.” (source: <http://clery.unt.edu/>);

**WHEREAS** many graduate students live within reasonable walking distance of campus but occasionally desire to visit their office during late hours;

**WHEREAS** from 2013-2015 there have been an average of one rape, one robbery, and six aggravated assaults reported per year that took place on or adjacent to campus but not in the on-campus residential facilities (source: <http://clery.unt.edu/>), and this report does not include any instances that occurred between the edge of campus and the nearby apartments and housing from which many students walk;

**WHEREAS** Parking and Transportation Services has been unable to provide a reasoned estimation of the contribution to costs made by after 10pm parking, and this contribution is seemingly negligible;

**WHEREAS** the new requirement to possess a UNT parking pass in order to park on campus after 10pm creates a financial incentive for our students to walk through potentially dangerous areas;

**LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the ability to park without a pass between 10:00pm and 7:00am should be reinstated.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Senators Sindhu Alla, Michael Cotton, and Karla Villarreal

---

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parliamentarian*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Presidential Action:**

- Vetoed  
 Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
*GSC President*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*



## Bill F2016-9

### Graduate Student Bill of Rights – University of North Texas

#### Rights

- I. A graduate student has the right to be respected as a person of merit and junior colleague upon gaining admission to a graduate program.
- II. Graduate students have the right to study and work in an environment free of: Exploitation, intimidation, harassment, and discrimination based on characteristics such as gender, race, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, family status, disability, requests for disability accommodation, religious or political affiliations, country of origin, and country of citizenship.
- III. Graduate students have a right to professionalism and reasonable confidentiality in their communications with professors.
  - a. A graduate student's performance or behavior should only be discussed for professional purposes and in a collegial manner.
  - b. Graduate students have a right to refuse to perform tasks if those tasks are not closely related to their academic or professional development program.
  - c. A student's vulnerability in having a lesser status and authority in the academic unit or lesser experience in the academic field of study should not be exploited to the personal advantage of faculty members.
  - d. Students should not be coerced into performing tasks in grievous excess of other students because of characteristics that are vulnerable to discrimination.
- IV. Graduate students have a right to academic freedom.
  - a. Graduate students, both inside and outside the classroom, have unrestricted liberty to question and test received wisdom and to put forward controversial and unpopular opinions.
  - b. The University has no right to curb the exercise of this freedom or to use it as grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal.
- V. Graduate students have a right to specific and concrete requirements for achieving an advanced degree.
  - a. These requirements should be communicated clearly to him or her upon entrance to the graduate program.
  - b. No changes to degree requirements should affect students previously accepted into the graduate program or academic focus except at the option of the student.
  - c. Prospective and currently enrolled graduate students have a right to know the "average and normative time to degree" within a specific graduate program.

- d. Graduate students have the right to an objective evaluation of their progress towards an advanced degree.
- VI. Graduate students should be given a fair opportunity to correct or remedy deficiencies in their academic performance.
- a. Evaluations should be objective, specific, and should be shared with the student within a reasonable period of time. Annual progress reports should be available to the student in writing.
  - b. The reasons for unsatisfactory performance on programmatic examinations should be stated clearly to the student in a written evaluation.
  - c. Any intent to dismiss a student from a graduate program for academic reasons must be preceded by specific, written performance information well in advance of actual dismissal.
- VII. Graduate students have a right to be informed of financial and resource support.
- a. Departments should provide an accurate description of availability and the likelihood of ongoing financial and resource support within their programs.
  - b. Prospective and currently enrolled graduate students should be provided a thorough description of the requirements and qualifications necessary for academic employment, training, and financial support within their departments and at the university.
- VIII. Graduate students who also hold positions as employees of the university deserve to be protected by the same rights inherent to those positions as other university employees.
- IX. Graduate students reserve the right to form and maintain a union.
- X. Graduate students have a right to share in fair governance of the University.
- a. The graduate student population reserves the right to form and maintain a governing body that is free from coercion.
  - b. Graduate students should have representatives on all campus-wide administrative committees that affect graduate students, with voting privileges where appropriate according to the guidelines of shared governance.
  - c. The graduate student representative body should be given charges to these committees once a year and be informed when new committees are formed.
  - d. All departments and graduate programs should include graduate student representatives in the decision-making process where appropriate.
- XI. Graduate students have a right to full-faith consultation and mediation if their rights are infringed upon.
- a. Students with grievances should be given the opportunity for full-faith consultation and mediation before actions are taken against them.
  - b. Students deserve to defend themselves at any hearings that may take place.

## **Responsibilities**



- I. Graduate Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner befitting academic colleagues in all educational activities.
  - a. Graduate students' behavior should be professional and a credit to themselves, their academic department, and the University as a whole.
- II. Graduate students have a responsibility to focus primarily on their academic career and apply energy toward the advanced degree within a customary amount of time, except when special circumstances apply.
- III. Graduate students have a responsibility to uphold ethical norms in research and scholarship, and to provide accurate and honest reporting of research results, research methodology, and scholarship.
- IV. Graduate students have a responsibility to participate in the campus community to the extent that each is able, and should leave the campus enriched in whatever ways possible.
  - a. To contribute to the academic development and the social environment of the department or program in which he or she is pursuing an advanced degree.
  - b. To contribute to the administration of the graduate program, student government, and the University.
- V. Graduate students have the responsibility to take the initiative in asking questions that promote their understanding of the academic requirements and the financial particulars of their specific graduate program.
- VI. Graduate students have the responsibility to take the initiative in engaging in actions to promote our own success
- VII. Graduate students have a responsibility to understand their role in the development of the relationship between faculty mentor and graduate student.
  - a. To have an awareness of the time constraints and other demands imposed on faculty members and program staff.
  - b. To communicate regularly with faculty mentors and advisors, especially in matters related to research and academic progress within the graduate program.