

# \*\*\*\*PUBLIC NOTICE\*\*\*\*



## Graduate Student Council Senate Assembly

Monday, November 11, 2024, 5:30pm-7:30pm

~~Union Senate Chambers (Union 332)~~

RELOCATED: Union 341A

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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: Zoom Meeting ID: 853 2010 9984

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

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. WELCOME TO NEW GSC VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (VPAF)**

**C. VPAF OATH**

**D. WELCOME TO NEW GSC SENATORS**

1. Diksha Diksha, College of Health and Public Service
2. Taylor Day, College of Science
3. Vaishnavi Kandyam, College of Information
4. Ziyad Alghamdi, College of Information
5. Dami (Oluwadamilar) Bamgbose, College of Health and Public Service
6. Amal Alshehri, College of Engineering
7. Fahi (Fahimul) Chowdhury, College of Engineering
8. Usama bin Faheem, College of Engineering
9. Krithika Reddy, College of Engineering
10. Hamza Ahmed, College of Engineering
11. Sujitha Darsi, College of Engineering

**E. NEW SENATOR OATHS**

**F. 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 October 14, 2024 Senate Meeting
2. Approve the minutes of the October 25, 2024 Senate/VPAF Training.
3. Approve the minutes of the November 5, 2024 Senate Training.
4. Approve the signed AY 2024-2025 MOU agreement between GSC and SGA.

**G. UNT PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

1. UNT Presidential address by Dr. Harrison Keller to the GSC Senate.

**H. EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

1. GSC Presidential address to the Senate regarding internal UNT updates.
2. GSC Parliamentarian resignation address.
3. GSC VPPO report on GSC t-shirts and 3MT competition.

**I. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Report from the GSC Senator Chair for the Planning and Programming Development Committee updates to the senate.

**J. BUSINESS AGENDA**

1. Discussion and action involving GSC involvement in the SGA's transportation referendum/initiative: "Your Buses, Your Say".
2. Discussion concerning GSC t-shirts for remote Senators.
3. Discussion concerning GSC Senator badges.
4. Action involving new GSC Parliamentarian nomination

**K. UPDATES, 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.

**L. 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**

**M. ADJOURN**

Posted on this 8th day of November 2024, on the Graduate Student Council website.



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Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez  
Parliamentarian  
2024/2025 Graduate Student Council



**Graduate Student Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Senate Meeting  
October 14, 2024  
UNT Union 341  
Zoom Meeting ID: 853 2010 9984**

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**Attendance:**

- Executive: Bala Kilaru (Pres), Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez (Parl), Keerthi Vanga (VPCM), Lowell Johnson (D-LA)
- Senators: Sam Rahimzadeh, Julia Freund, Bisola Adeyemi, Brittany Rivera, Zachary Gilbertson, Radhika Bansal, Nicole Peterson, Rajiv Adusumalli, Krislyn Massey, Saide Mahama, Dyan Knapp, Sam Sandlin, Heriberto Ramirez, Brendan McGrath
- Public: Taylor Day
- Faculty Advisor: Dr. Joseph Oppong

**A quorum of the GSC Senate was seated and the meeting was opened by the GSC Parliamentarian at 5:37 PM.**

**Welcome to New Faculty Advisor Dr. Joseph Oppong**

**Welcome to New Senators**

**New Senator Oaths**

**Consent Agenda:**

- **Items # 1** concerned the approval of minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting. **Minutes approved by the consent of the Senate body.**

**Executive Report**

- **Items # 1** concerned the GSC Presidential address to the Senate regarding communication with UNT President Keller. GSC President Kilaru provided comments on Student Services Fee updates, mental health fees, transportation concerns, operating hours of food services at Discovery Park. President Kilaru provided updates on GSC affiliated committee assignments and update on the VPAF runoff election date.

**Business Agenda:**

- **Item #1, 3 Minute Thesis presentation by Dr. Oppong and discussion on how GSC Senators can share this information with their constituents.** Item read into the record by the GSC Parliamentarian. Presentation provided by Dr. Oppong. Discussion

concerning communication with graduate students by Senators Massey, Peterson, Adeyemi, Knapp, Rivera, Sandlin, Mahama, Rahimzadeh, Freund, McGrath, and Dr. Oppong. **No further action at this time.**

- **Item #2, Discussion involving GSC involvement regarding SGA's transportation initiative: "Your Buses, Your Say".** Item read into the record by the GSC Parliamentarian. Updates from GSC Parliamentarian, Director of Legislative Affairs, and GSC President. Discussion concerning involvement by Senators Sandlin, Petersen, Massey, Rivera, Adeyemi, Knapp, McGrath, Adusumalli, and Dr. Oppong. **GSC Senate request additional information from SGA before acting on involvement.**
- **Item #3, Discussion and action involving monthly Town Hall collaborations with SGA for Senator engagement.** Item read into the record by the GSC Parliamentarian. Discussion concerning Town Hall collaborations by Senators Peterson, Massey, Adeyemi. Motion to host a monthly Town Hall with SGA made by Senator Massey. Motion seconded by Senator Rivera. **Motion passed by a majority vote of the Senate.** Senator Massey will create an availability calendar to determine the best time of the month to have the Town Hall.

#### **Senate Comments & Future Agenda Items**

- Announcement on standing committee updates provided by GSC Parliamentarian.
- No agenda items suggested.

No further business.

**Senate meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM on October 14, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,



Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, Parliamentarian  
October 19, 2024



**Graduate Student Council  
Meeting minutes  
Senate / VPAF Training Meeting  
October 25, 2024  
Zoom Meeting ID: 840 2530 9884**

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**Training began at 4:05 PM on October 25, 2024.**

**Attendance:**

(Executive) Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez – Parliamentarian, Aravind Chitiprolu – VPAF

(Senators) Taylor Day

**Training agenda:**

Item #1, Introduction to the GSC branches.

Item #2, Training addressed GSC procedures and requirements regarding the Texas Open Meetings Act and Texas Public Information Act.

Item #3, Training included the motions of a mock senate meeting with a mock agenda to practice Robert's Rules of Order protocol.

Item #4, Floor was open for Q&A. Questions answered.

No further business.

**Training adjourned at 4:57 PM on October 25, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez".

Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, Parliamentarian  
November 7, 2024



**Graduate Student Council  
Meeting minutes  
Senate Training Meeting  
November 5, 2024  
Zoom Meeting ID: 828 5291 1653**

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**Training began at 2:32 PM on November 5, 2024.**

**Attendance:**

(Executive) Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez - Parliamentarian

(Senators) Hamza Ahmed, Krithika Reddy, Sujtha Darsi, Amal Alshehri, Dami Bamgbose, Usama bin Faheem, Fahi Chowdhury

**Training agenda:**

Item #1, Introduction to the GSC branches.

Item #2, Training addressed GSC procedures and requirements regarding the Texas Open Meetings Act and Texas Public Information Act.

Item #3, Training included the motions of a mock senate meeting with a mock agenda to practice Robert's Rules of Order protocol.

Item #4, Floor was open for Q&A. Questions answered.

No further business.

**Training adjourned at 3:24 PM on November 5, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez".

Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, Parliamentarian  
November 5, 2024

## **Memorandum of Understanding On Student Body Referendum Process**

Ballot referenda for any legal purpose may be proposed by a two-thirds simple majority vote in each of the Graduate Student Council Senate and the Student Government Association Senate, or by a verifiable petition<sup>1</sup> of 5% of the members of the Student Body.

A referendum will pass if it meets the following criteria:

- **A simple majority (more than 50%) of undergraduate and graduate votes combined.**
- **All proposed referenda must be submitted at least 4 weeks from the start of the semester and at least 4 weeks prior to the end of the semester.**

<sup>1</sup> The SGA and GSC advisors must oversee the petition verification process.

#### Definitions:

- *Conference Committee* refers to a committee established by both the GSC and SGA Executive leadership. The committee will include equal representation from each organization. The committee's sole purpose is to provide guidance to the student government leadership concerning referenda, either student presented or generated by the leadership bodies that affects the student body of UNT.
- GSC refers to the Graduate Student Council, as established by UNT policy in 1968 and through a student referendum in 2015.
- *Inoperative* refers to a situation where one of the student government organizations fails to form the necessary governmental legislative branches and act as the official representatives of their respective undergraduate or graduate student bodies.
- SGA refers to the Student Government Association, as established by UNT policy in 1948.

#### Key Provisions:

- The SGA/GSC Conference Committee will serve as a failsafe auxiliary committee who only convenes in the event the GSC and SGA leadership cannot come to terms with the writing, wording, or intent of any given referendum.
- Any SGA or GSC Constitutional changes may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- Fees that would be assessed to only one of the student bodies (undergrad or grad) may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- Issues only affecting one of the student bodies may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- If the Student Government Association or Graduate Student Council decides the issue affects the entire student body, the issue goes through the process outlined below.
- All other referenda must go through the process outlined in the chart below.



## Process for Non-Constitutional Referendum Proposals

The issue is discussed between the SGA President, SGA Vice President, GSC President, and GSC VP of Administration & Finance.

The phrasing and terminology of the referendum are authored by either SGA or GSC and revised and edited by the opposite body.

1. If the leadership of both bodies agrees with the referendum wording, the referendum is presented to the SGA and GSC Senates for approval.
2. If the leadership of both bodies does not agree with the referendum wording, they must present it to the SGA/GSC Conference Committee within 24 hours for further deliberation. It must then be represented to the SGA and GSC Leadership within 5 business days.
3. If the referendum is approved through SGA and GSC senates, the referendum is proposed to the University of North Texas Student Body.
4. If the referendum is approved through only one senate, it must be presented to the SGA/GSC conference committee.
5. For the referendum to pass, it must receive a simple majority (more than 50%) of undergraduate and graduate votes combined. If it does not receive more than 50% of the votes, it fails.
6. If either governing body's Senate or Election Board is inoperative, the referendum can continue. The operating governing body will function as the representative body for the entirety of UNT students.

### **Process for Referendum Party Complaints**

1. In the event of a violation of the election/ referendum party code, a complaint shall be submitted to the Election Board Commissioners of SGA and GSC.
2. The SGA Election Board Commissioner and the GSC Election Board Commissioner will work to schedule a hearing, and hold said hearing within 72 hours from the time the complaint was submitted.
3. The SGA and GSC Election Boards shall meet in conjunction, with two (2) members of the GSC Election Board and three (3) members of the SGA Election Board. Quorum for this meeting shall be no less than five (5) members of the combined SGA and GSC Election Boards.
4. The SGA and GSC Election Board Commissioners will work together to compile and release the meeting minutes from the hearing to both the SGA and GSC websites.

### **Structure of the SGA/GSC Conference Committee**

1. The SGA/GSC Conference Committee shall consist of (4) four delegates directly appointed by the SGA President and GSC President.
  - a. Two delegates appointed by SGA President
  - b. Two delegates appointed by GSC President
2. The role of the SGA/GSC Conference Committee is to deliberate and amend any referenda
  - a. Should the SGA and GSC Leadership not be able to come to an agreement with the referendum wording.
  - b. Should the proposed referendum be sent to the SGA/GSC Conference Committee by the SGA or GSC senates.

### Amending this Document

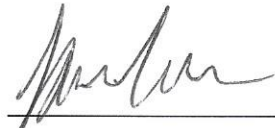
1. This document must be reviewed and renewed by the SGA and GSC leadership annually.
2. To amend this document, the SGA and GSC leadership must first discuss the proposed amendments.
3. Once the amendments have been created and agreed upon by both leaderships, this document must be presented and approved by both the SGA and GSC senates at the beginning of each fall semester.



SGA President



GSC President



SGA Vice President



GSC VP of Administration & Finance



November 7, 2024

Most Esteemed GSC Senators,

Item #1 on the agenda is a request for discussion and action on SGA's transportation initiative: "Your Buses, Your Say".

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez".

**Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, M.S.**  
Parliamentarian | Graduate Student Council  
Ph.D. Student  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas



November 7, 2024

Most Esteemed GSC Senators,

Item #2 on the discussion of GSC Senator t-shirts for remote Senators.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez".

**Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, M.S.**  
Parliamentarian | Graduate Student Council  
Ph.D. Student  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas



November 7, 2024

Most Esteemed GSC Senators,

Item #3 on the discussion of GSC Senator badges following the recent Planning and Programming Development Committee.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez".

**Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, M.S.**  
Parliamentarian | Graduate Student Council  
Ph.D. Student  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas



November 7, 2024

Most Esteemed GSC Senators,

Item #4 concerns the approval of Lowell Johnson as the new GSC Parliamentarian, effective December 7, 2024.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez".

**Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, M.S.**  
Parliamentarian | Graduate Student Council  
Ph.D. Student  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of North Texas