

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



**Graduate Student Council Assembly Meeting**

**Monday, September 11, 2023, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**UNT Union, Room 381**

**1155 Union Cir, Denton, TX 76203**

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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:** <https://unt.zoom.us/j/88198650030>

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

**B. CALL TO ORDER**

**C. 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 July 10, 2023, Senate meeting.
2. Approve the minutes of the July 27, 2023, Senate workshop session.

**D. BUSINESS AGENDA**

1. Discuss and act on GSC Senate Resolution 23-001
2. Discuss and act on GSC Senate Resolution 23-002
3. Review a Senator's responsibilities to the GSC, including meeting attendance and office staffing.

**E. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The purpose of this section is to allow each Standing Committee chair or respective VP to provide general updates and/or comments to fellow Council Members, the public, and/or staff on any issues or future events.

**F. 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.

**G. EXECUTIVE SESSION\*\***

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

**I. ADJOURN**

\*\*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.

Posted on this 8th day of September 2023, at 5:00 P.M., on the Graduate Student Council website.

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Lowell Johnson  
Parliamentarian  
2022/2023 Graduate Student Council



**Graduate Student Council  
Meeting minutes  
Summer Senate meeting  
July 10, 2023  
UNT Union, Room 381**

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**Attendance:** (Non-Voting) GSC President Sri Lakshmi Thanuja Beeram, GSC Vice President of Administration Vikas Burgupally, GSC Vice President of Programming Dasari Naren Surya Tanju, GSC Vice President of Communications Divi Sai Charan, GSC Parliamentarian Lowell Johnson, and Director of Legislative Affairs Vesta Stacy, Director of External and Internal Relations Ryan Duncan

(Voting) Sen. Sravan Kumar Reddy, Sen. Saipriya Muvvala, Sen. Sai Kumar Akkena, Sen. Sravya Uppala, Sen. Eyobed Astatke, Sen. Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez

**Training:** Basic Robert's Rules of Order reviewed and discussed.

**Discussion and Action taken:**

**Agenda item 1:** No discussion on the proposed Constitution and By-Laws updates.

**Action:** Motion and second to vote presented by the Parliamentarian, as a consent item.

Results: Yes votes: six (6)  
No votes: zero (6)

**Motion carries and the Updated Constitution and By-Laws were passed.**

No further business.

**Meeting Adjourned July 10, 2023, at 5:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lowell Johnson, Parliamentarian  
July 6, 2023



**Graduate Student Council**  
**Meeting minutes**  
**Summer Senate Workshop meeting**  
**July 27, 2023**  
**Virtual meeting**

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**Attendance:** (Non-Voting) GSC Parliamentarian Lowell Johnson, GSC Advisor, Dr. Denise Baxter  
(Voting) Sen. Sravan Kumar Reddy, Sen. Celeste Ortega-Rodriguez, Sen. Olubusola Areo

**Training:** Legislative tools available to the GSC Senate.

**Meeting time:** 2:00 pm – 3 pm.

**Discussion:** A review of legislative actions available to the GSC Senate was presented. A specific discussion concerning Legislative Resolutions was held. GSC Resolution 23-001 was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lowell Johnson, Parliamentarian  
July 27, 2023



## **Graduate Student Council (GSC) Bill 23-001**

Resolution Backing President Neal Smatresk's Advocacy for Enhanced Dietary Options and Dining Availability at the University of North Texas (UNT) Discovery Park

**WHEREAS** the University of North Texas (UNT) Discovery Park location boasts a student enrollment exceeding 10,000, and

**WHEREAS** the current dearth of diverse and diet-specific culinary choices for UNT students frequenting the Discovery Park triggers concerns about nutritional well-being, and

**WHEREAS** the operational hours of UNT's dining facilities at the Discovery Park site fall short, closing prior to the conclusion of afternoon and evening classes, and

**WHEREAS** UNT takes pride in its commitment to exemplary dining services, encompassing a variety of dietary preferences, and

**WHEREAS** University President Neal Smatresk has called upon Dr. Elizabeth With, the UNT Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, to collaborate on a satisfactory resolution addressing the food service challenges at the Discovery Park location.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Graduate Student Council Senate (GSC) at the University of North Texas:

Section 1: The UNT GSC wholeheartedly supports the UNT President's directive, advocating for expanded dining services and a more extensive array of dining options catering to students attending classes at the UNT Discovery Park.

Section 2: The financial responsibility for enhancing dining services shall rest with UNT, without any pricing or Student Service Fee escalation.

Section 3: The proposed enhancements shall be implemented promptly to ensure a swift resolution.

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify:

1. That I am the duly elected and acting [role] of Graduate Student Council (GSC); and
2. That the foregoing constitutes a Resolution of the Senate of said organization, as duly adopted at a meeting of the GSC Senate thereof, held on the 11th day of September 2023.

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Kumar Akkena

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Olubusola Areo

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Sravan Kumar Reddy Duvvuru

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Laxmi Sruthi Susarla

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Sravya Uppala

I, the advisor to the 2023/2024 Graduate Student Council, do hereby acknowledge this resolution.

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Denise Amy Baxter, PhD



## **Graduate Student Council (GSC) Bill 23-002**

A Resolution in Support of the University of North Texas 2024 Student Services Fee Allocation to the Graduate Student Council.

**WHEREAS** The University of North Texas (UNT) Graduate Student Council (GSC) was created to represent the interests of the graduate student population attending the university and,

**WHEREAS** UNT collects Student Services Fees (SSF) from the graduate student population to fund GSC activities, scholarships, and support graduate student travel for educational purposes and,

**WHEREAS** the SSF is allocated to the GSC by the Student Services Fee Advisory Committee.

Therefore, let it be Resolved by the Graduate Student Council Senate at the University of North Texas:

Section 1: The GSC Senate hereby approves the SSF allocation of \$66,039.59 to fund GSC programs for the Fiscal Year 2024.

Section 2: The GSC Senate hereby directs the GSC Executive Team to create and maintain a proper and complete budget and report of all monies spent from the FY 2024 allocation of Student Service Fees to the GSC by the Student Services Fee Advisory Committee.

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Thanuja Beeram, 2023/2023 GSC President

I, the advisor to the 2023/2024 Graduate Student Council, do hereby acknowledge this resolution.

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Denise Amy Baxter, PhD

8/15/23

**Graduate Student Council-142000/200/880002/500 & 630/14250**

Graduate Student Council President

The Student Service Fee Advisory Committee met March 24, 2023, to deliberate and make allocation recommendations for all SSF budget requests received. Each request has been evaluated and allocations have been made according to the priorities set forth by the committee. The committee, the VP for Student Affairs, and President Smatresk, have approved the following, pending final approval by the Board of Regents in August 2023:

- D5031-Hourly Wages: \$26,880.00
- D5050-Payroll Related Costs: \$537.60
- D5101-Professional Fees & Svcs: \$1,731.20
- D5251-Travel: \$5,000.00
- D5301-Materials & Supplies Exp: \$9,265.79
- D5360-Rental Exp-Non-Cap: \$1,000.00
- D5371-Printing & Reproduction: \$425.00
- D5461-Scholarships & Financial Aid: \$20,000.00
- D5501-Other Operating Exp: \$1,200.00

**Total SSF Allocation: \$66,039.59**

Please plan to provide an itemized budget and keep accurate records of activities to be presented at the next round of SSF hearings in January 2024. This information will help the committee to identify the successes and assess the programming that has taken place in your unit during the last budget cycle.

The SSF Committee, composed of 7 students, 1 faculty member, and 1 staff member, has worked diligently to allocate funding to departments and organizations benefiting students. If you have any questions regarding this letter or anything else SSF related, please contact Kassie Grubbs at 940-565-4924.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth With, Ed.D.  
VP for Student Affairs



Duties and Responsibilities of  
GSC Senators

Taken from the GSC By-Laws, Article 5, Section 2:

**Section 2: Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

- A. Provide an official channel of communication between the Graduate Student Council and the Department or College represented by the Senator.
- B. Represent graduate students in their academic Department or College by communicating issues relevant to and advocating for those students.
- C. Attend all scheduled meetings of the Graduate Student Council Senate.
- D. Serve on at least one external committee representing the graduate student perspective of university life.
- E. Chair or serve on at least one GSC Standing Committee.
- F. Expected to spend an average of at least 1 hour per week in the GSC office to be available for constituents and the larger graduate student body.