

General Senate Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 13 , 2017 | 4 - 6 PM

Attendance:

Senators

Esther	Ajayi-Lowo	Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies, PhD	Denton
Torrey	Alexis	Nutrition and Food Sciences, MS	Houston
Saja	Bukhari	Nutrition and Food Sciences, MS	Houston
Shannon	Combest	Nutrition and Food Sciences, PhD	Denton
Sri	Chennapragada	Kinesiology, PhD	Denton
Kyndal	DeBruin	Sociology, MS	Denton
Collin	Elendt	Nutrition, MS	Denton
Emily	Elizondo	Mathematics, MS	Denton
Betsey	Gravatt	Art, MFA	Denton
Nicholas	Levine	Kinesiology, PhD	Denton
Sukhbir Kaur	Lulla	Biology, Molecular, PHD	Denton
Claudia	Pacheco Orcasitas	Dance, MFA	Denton
Jeannine	Rios	Health Studies, PhD	Denton
Naimi	Shah	Kinesiology, MS	Denton
Edward	Steffek	Special Education, PhD	Denton
Kathy	Tbaba	Nursing, PNP	Dallas

Visitors

Kevin Crusier, Government Relations

Meeting Minutes:

Time	Speaker	Topics Discussed/Points Spoken
4:03 PM	Shannon Combest, President	Welcomed the gathering. Introduced Kevin Crusier
4:04 PM	Kevin Crusier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gave an overview of TA salaries and where the money comes from. He specifically addressed the Higher Ed. education PUF fund that has an endowment for UT and Texas A&M campuses.• GA salaries are a % of the annual budget of the university. Therefore if a university brings in more revenue, higher salaries can be offered.• His main take- away was to get to know your state and local representatives.• And do not wait until the primaries to vote. The most important elections occur in March.• Kevin can be contacted through TWU website.
4:30 PM	Shannon Combest - update for Dr. Kapinis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Kapinis was not able to attend the meeting due to illness.• Shannon gave an overview on the rules of GA (Master's 4 years and Doctoral 6 years). She also mentioned that the department has discretion over wanting to keep a GA longer (they can make exceptions).• Discussion ensued about this topic with many diverse views. Landing on the need to push for more years for students who pursue both a Master's and PhD at TWU and are allowed GA reassignment for a combined 6 years.• Sukbhir will meet with the Graduate Council (Faculty led) and agreed to bring up the issue if students give her specific topics they want her to address.

<p>4:45 PM</p>	<p>Shannon Combest, President</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gave an update on Dr. LeFore and the need to stay in communication with him to keep him updated on events. He really appreciated the newsletter Shannon sent him. ● Discussed the budget with two main points: 1. Spreading out the amounts for each campus for activities at all three campuses (Denton, Houston, & Dallas). Discussed the events to date, Houston had one, Dallas to have one on 12/7 focusing on Linked in resources and increasing visibility. Denton to have an event/dinner next month. ● Second point about the budget was the Pioneering Spirit Awards (PSA), bulk of budget usually goes towards food. We have decorations from last year so will not incur those costs again. ● General Assembly Meetings for the Spring have not been set yet.
	<p>Jeannine, President-Elect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gave an overview on UNT GSC meeting. It was a great way to stay connected to other GSC organizations; to see how we can improve ours by sharing ideas and learning from others. They spend time and energy working with other established organizations on their campus as well and co-sponsoring events. We learned that we are on the right track. ● Discussed fringe benefits and what was learned from HR department. A discussion ensued about student insurance and the benefits and challenges of this insurance. Fringe benefit were said to be costly, but had some benefits as well, such as being able to add a significant other. Now we are covered through United Health Care, comments included the high expense for basic health insurance.
<p>5:10 PM</p>	<p>Nick, VP Advocacy and Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gave a quick update due to time constraints. ● GA wages are always on his mind. Looking for ways to increase them. ● He will continue to look for ways to increase recycling on campus as well. ● Looking into ways to partner with community businesses to raise money. Local food establishments who give back a certain % of business to our organization if we promote them for a specific night.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick is very interested in GSC hosting a de-stress event on campus, where we can enjoy food, therapy dogs, chair massages etc... Will look to partner with the counseling department. Suggestion to hold this during the week of GS appreciation week here on campus (April 9-13th), we could supplement their event.
5:15	Shannon gave an update for Geetha (VP of Excellence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She discussed the upcoming need for two committees for the PSA. One to assist with application and the administrative end. The other to assist with the actual banquet set up, food, decorations etc..
5:20 PM	Sri, VP Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the community survey and the need to make it as objective as possible. She passed out a sample for us to fill out and return to her. • Gave a dining committee update, the main topic was how to address food insecurity issues on campus. Also, inclusion regarding dietary needs. • Discussed the community survey and the need to meet in groups according respective Colleges and discuss who would take the lead on organizing a meeting with our department chair. We all broke up into groups and figured out who would take the lead.
6:05 PM	Shannon Combest	Adjourned the meeting

Senator Action Items:

- Denton and Dallas Senators need to fill out doodle poll for end of semester dinner.
- Each GSC Senator who was chosen to set up the meeting with your department chair will need to organize that meeting. Find out what time senators can meet to coordinate with their department on dates etc.
- Shannon to send budget sheets to Houston & Dallas.
- Houston to send activity ideas for the Spring to Shannon to review.