

# General Senate Assembly Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2017 | 4 - 6 PM

## Attendance:

### Senators

Esther	Ajayi-Lowo	Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies, PHD	Denton
Torrey	Alexis	Nutrition and Food Sciences, MS	Houston
Shannon	Combest	Nutrition and Food Sciences, PHD	Denton
Kyndal	DeBruin	Sociology, MS	Denton
Frances	Dinwoodie	Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies, MA	Denton
Tamra	Dollar	Reading, PHD	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
Saro	Ntagha	School of Management, EMBA	Houston (Conference Phone Call)
Claudia	Pacheco Orcasitas	Dance, MFA	Denton
Geetha	Ravindranathan	Biology, MS	Denton
Naimi	Shah	Kinesiology, MS	Denton
Edward	Steffek	Special Education, PhD	Denton
Kathy	Tbaba	Nursing, PNP	Dallas

### Visitors

Michelle Reeves, Office of Civility and Community Standards

Dr. Kapinus, Dean of Graduate School

## Meeting Minutes:

Time	Speaker	Topics Discussed/Points Spoken
4:03 PM	Shannon Combest, President	Welcomed the gathering. Introduced Michelle Reeves
4:04 PM	Michelle Reeves, Interim Director of Civility and Community Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Gave an overview of the functions of Office of Civility. The deal with Code of Conduct and academic integrity.</li><li>● The office of Civility wants to align with GSC to help Graduate students be aware of TWU Code of Conduct.</li><li>● This Fall and Spring, they are working on re-creating the Student Handbook and would like feedback from a sub-committee of GSC.</li><li>● <i>Shannon Combest asked everyone in attendance if this was something the GSC would be interested in and everyone unanimously agreed that it would be of great interest.</i></li></ul>
4:30 PM	Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Dean of Graduate School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Introduced the idea of a Graduate School Newsletter.</li><li>● The Newsletter will be a monthly sent out to the students via email</li><li>● Asked those in attendance what they would like to see in it.</li><li>● Many of the senators gave some great ideas for the Newsletter</li><li>● She also wanted ideas on how to increase her visibility on campus. The senators had some great suggestions for the same.</li></ul>

<p>4:45 PM</p>	<p>Shannon Combest, President</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trained those in attendance on Risk Management</li> <li>● <i>Everyone present signed the sheet saying they were trained</i></li> <li>● The changes made to the constitution were pointed out and explained</li> <li>● <i>Everyone present voted in favor of the changes made to the constitution</i></li> <li>● <i>Everyone present voted anonymously for pending leadership positions</i></li> <li>● She notified everyone present that if positions become vacant in future, there will be another election.</li> <li>● She also notified us that Ad-hoc committees can now be formed. The opportunity will be presented at General Assembly meetings and interested people can sign-up.</li> </ul>
	<p>Cathy, Dallas Senator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Since Ais, Dallas campus Chair was absent, Shannon and Cathy gave updates on Ais' work in the past month</li> <li>● Had a table at the Student Organization fair and majority of the students that came were undergraduate.</li> <li>● <i>Overall, the event was a win because GSC's visibility on Dallas campus has increased.</i></li> <li>● Currently, they are working on PDS-like workshops in Dallas campus</li> <li>● First workshop will be on LinkedIn. Details are being sorted out.</li> </ul>
	<p>Saro &amp; Tori, Houston Chair and Senator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meet the Dean event was a casual, two-hour long event.</li> <li>● <i>Students enjoyed the personal interaction with the Dean. GSC's visibility increased.</i></li> <li>● Issues like timing of event and advertising of events are being worked on,</li> </ul>

5:10 PM	Geetha Ravindranathan, VP, Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talked about PDS-1 outcomes: turn-out was low but information was well received</li> <li>• Invited the Senators to PDS-2</li> <li>• Talked about the problems faced in processing the PSA related documents. Working with Scholarship manager to develop a better system</li> <li>• Ad-hoc committee will be created for the PSA event</li> </ul>
5:15	Esther	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Sri to develop an online poll for Graduate Students to collect feedback</li> </ul>
5:20 PM	Shannon Combest, President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talked about Dr. LeFlore and his contributions to GSC.</li> <li>• <i>Everyone in attendance signed a 'Thank you' not for Dr. Leflore</i></li> <li>• Talked about a promotional video that will be created for GSC in collaboration with the Graduate School and Marketing.</li> <li>• Senator Spotlight: Sukhbir Kaur for her Young Investigator Travel Award sponsored by American Pain Society</li> </ul>
5:35 PM	Nick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kinesiology and Health Science Departments are merging</li> <li>• Met with the Interim Dean of Kinesiology Department to discuss the formation of a Graduate Student Association that focuses on getting a livable wage.</li> <li>• Shannon suggested he meet with Cody Jackson to help with the living wage cause</li> </ul>
5:50 PM	Esther & Frankie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had discussions with interim Chair of MWGS department regarding funding for graduate students and living wages</li> </ul>
6:00 PM	Shannon Combest	Adjourned the meeting

### **Senator Action Items:**

- **Fill out Know Your Senator Google form for Sukhbir (Social Media Chair) AND provide professional photograph of yourself in “your element” - teaching, lab, classroom, on campus office, etc.**

- Provide any additional ideas for the Graduate School newsletter to Shannon or Dr. Kapinus
- Provide Dr. Kapinus with ideas for her to increase her involvement/visibility on campus to grad students
- Set up initial meeting with your Department Chair or set up follow up meetings to discuss GSC updates/progress reports