

General Senate Assembly Meeting Minutes

September 11, 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
Frances	Dinwoodie	Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies, MA	Denton
Tamra	Dollar	Reading, PHD	Denton
Emily	Elizondo	Mathematics, MS	Denton
Nicholas	Levine	Kinesiology, PHD	Denton
Sukhbir Kaur	Lulla	Biology, Molecular, PHD	Denton
Saro	Ntagha	School of Management, EMBA	Houton
Claudia	Pacheco Orcasitas	Dance, MFA	Denton
Geetha	Ravindranathan	Biology, MS	Denton
Jeannine	Rios	Health Studies, PHD	Denton
Naimi	Shah	Kinesiology, MS	Denton

Visitors

Laura Beck, Office of Civility and Community Standards

Dr. Kapinus, Dean of Graduate School

Korie Hawkins, Admissions

Kyle Voyles, Interim Director of Center for Student Development

Meeting Minutes:

Time	Speaker	Topics Discussed/Points Spoken
4:07 PM	Shannon Combest	Welcomed the gathering. Senator introductions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two advisors for the Graduate Student Council Requested the Dean to talk about her vision, to talk on 'demystifying the graduate school'.
4:16 PM	Dr. Kapinus, Graduate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke about her work at Ball State University

	School	<p>in two top leadership roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passionate about graduate education. • Recognizes that the graduate student population is a third of the student body. • Highlighted how TWU has some strong programs. • Emphasized on working to increase the presence of first-generation college goers at TWU. • Expressed an interest to be interactive with the graduate students as much as possible. • Encouraged Senators to talk about “How did Graduate School get on your radar?”
4:34 PM	Laura Beck, Office of Civility & Community Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained Peer Educators: Sophomores or higher classification of students can apply for these roles. To build a community of students on campus to be able to communicate about social issues, train them on using the free speech areas. • Explained the role of Peer Council: Students who can guide others in the Code of Conduct Process when students get accused of academic malpractice or other issues. • Answered questions from Senators on time commitment for the roles. • Shared information on the DACA session.
4:47 PM	Shannon Combest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained what efforts are on for advertising about GSC. Explained the status of the website design and hosting of GSC’s new website. • Currently Senators only represent 30% of the departments. Emphasized on making the recruitment process stronger. • Shared a contact list of current senators. • Spoke about vacant positions in the council. • Highlighted the events for Fall 2017 and explained the use of Sign Up Genius for recruiting volunteers for the events • Detailed the first two Professional Development Series workshops for Fall 2017. • Emphasized on engaging the 100% online students for attending PDS. • Mentioned information from the Committee she is currently sitting in for. (Master Steering Committee).
	Sri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned contacting Department Chairs to have higher engagement/attendance for workshops. Example: Department Chairs sending out emails to students within their departments.

	Nick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned the lack of Graduate Student Housing.
5:18 PM	Geetha Ravindranathan, VP, Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained her work for PDS and spoke about increasing graduate student participation in these events.
5:22	Sri Chennapragada, VP Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal is to communicate with College Deans so that GSC can get on their radars. • Set up the communication channel between Deans' offices and Department Chairs to increase Senator Recruitment. • TWU Dining Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asked questions on 'togo' packaging that can be eco-friendly, food waste management. ○ Suggested automation for ordering and picking food (An app for placing advance order). ○ Explained the plate cost variations that may impact pricing in future (especially in the dining hall meals). ○ Meal plan roll over at the end of the semester. • Will make a Google Form to get input from Senators about what they want the Dining Committee to hear.
5:33 PM	Shannon Combest for Aiswarya Chidambaram, Dallas Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the recruitment and student engagement for Dallas campus. • Key goal is to identify the needs of this campus • Setting up the Dallas committee (in-progress).
5:35 PM	Saro, Houston Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to get the word out • Recruit Senators (about 2) • Identify areas of advocacy that can be made priorities • Will be coordinating with Student Life in Houston
5:44 PM	Esther	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended new graduate student orientation and spoke about the GSC and how students can be involved in different capacities. • Sri added a comment on how Esther and Sri want to collaborate and conduct a needs survey for International Graduate Students at TWU.
5:50 PM	Kyle Voyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the Senators and expressed support to the council.
6:00 PM	Meeting Ended	

Senator Action Items:

The following items are of list of to-dos for senators to complete prior to October 9th General Assembly Meeting.

1. Meeting with Department Chair for monthly regular meetings. Meet and Greet concept to introduce Chair to GSC, who we are, what we do, and how we can help support the department. Also determine how our events/programs such as September 28th PDS Workshop: "Fighting the Imposter Syndrome in Graduate School" can be best promoted to graduate students in your department. Can our emails be forwarded to the grad student departmental listserve through the administrative assistant?
2. Sign Up Genius - please sign up to volunteer with current GSC events: Graduate and Professional Fair, PDS Workshops, etc.
3. Follow GSC's social media accounts: facebook, twitter, instagram
4. Let students know we have a formal TWU website coming, but it's in the review and development phases. We are hoping to launch within the next month or two.
5. If interested in any of our leadership positions (VP Advocacy & Sustainability, PDS Chair, Social Media Chair) and you didn't provide that information on the meeting attendance sheet, please email gscounciltwu@gmail.com
6. Save the Dates:
 - a. October General Assembly Meeting - Monday, October 9th (4-6pm)
 - b. Pioneering Spirit Awards Banquet (GSC's largest event of the year) - Friday, April 6 (6-8pm)