Graduate Student Assembly
Third General Meeting

January 25, 2021 4:30-5:30pm CST
Overview of GSA

The GSA serves as a channel to advocate for graduate students at the University of Texas at Dallas through representation to university departments and organizations, through initiatives that improve the UT Dallas graduate student experience, and through events and programming that meet graduate students’ educational, professional, and social needs. All graduate students at UT Dallas are considered members.
GSA Updates

Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) & Graduate Student Stipends

• Presented about effect of rising SHIP costs and low graduate student stipends in Jan. Academic Senate meeting
  • Advocated for lower cost of SHIP, automatic $400 increase of graduate student stipends along with a yearly percentile increase to account for inflation
  • 100+ faculty, staff, and administration in attendance & presentation was well-received
• Met with President Benson in Dec. to discuss similar topics
  → planning to meet quarterly
• Upcoming meeting in Feb. with Provost Musselman to discuss these issues
GSA Updates

Representing Graduate Students

- Bylaws of 4 additional University-wide/Academic Senate Committees amended to specify GSA nominates graduate students
- Nominated Shannon Schaffer to the Police Oversight Committee & Kristen Platt to the Institutional Review Board
- Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) Committee bylaws updated to allow GSA President as official member
- Simplified path of how policy change occurs at UTD:
GSA Updates

Past Initiatives & Events

• Collaborated with Student Government to donate $1,200 worth of food to distribute to students over winter break through the Comet Cupboard
  • Check out the Comet Cupboard if you or another student you know is in need of food
• Advocated on behalf of graduate students in Academic Senate to amend the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Withdrawal, Credit/No Credit, Pass/Fail Policy
  • Held 3 information sessions with the Office of Graduate Education
    • https://covid.utdallas.edu/response/faq/#grades
Upcoming GSA Events

Diversity in Research Seminar Series

• Third seminar of the series titled “Integrating Work and Well-Being”
  • Feb. 4 11:30am-1pm CST
  • In collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement
Upcoming GSA Events

Graduate Professional Series in Collaboration with the Career Center

• Panel Discussion: Thursday, Feb. 4 4-5:30pm CST
• Resumes, Cover Letters, and CVs Workshop: Wednesday, Feb. 17 10-11:30am CST
• Interview Tips and Tricks: Tuesday, Feb. 23 11am-12pm CST
• Mock Interviews: Wednesday, April 14 TBD
Upcoming GSA Events

General Meetings

• GSA General Meetings the 4th Monday of every month from 4:30-5:30pm CST
  • Fourth General Meeting: Feb. 22
  • Fifth General Meeting: Mar. 29*
  • Sixth General Meeting: April 26

Check out the Comet Calendar listings: https://calendar.utdallas.edu/group/graduate_student_assembly

*5th Monday of the month to account for spring break
Get Involved with GSA!
Open Committee Positions

• Public Relations and Outreach (PRO) Committee
  • Last day to apply is this Friday, Jan. 29 at 11:59pm CST!
  • More information & application here → http://utd.edu/t/6716
• Graphic Design
• Website Development
• Marketing
Coming Soon!

• GSA website! One-stop-shop for GSA updates, information, past and upcoming events, etc.
• Stay tuned for its launch in February
• TA/RA experience during COVID-19 survey
  • Open forum discussion with Office of Research
• Updated GSA constitution
  • New leadership positions, clearer outline
• Executive board and school representative elections for academic year 2021-22 at the end of this semester
  • More information in later meetings
UTD COVID-19 Response Info

• MANDATORY daily health checks for EVERYONE
  • c19resource@utdallas.edu for any questions
  • “You may have noticed the University has seen an increase in positive COVID-19 cases. This is in part due to the Proactive Testing Program that has allowed the University to identify and quarantine asymptomatic individuals early, reducing the spread of COVID-19.” - C19 Coordinator, UT Dallas
Stay Connected with GSA!

@gsa_utdallas

UT Dallas Graduate Student Assembly @gsautd

My Organizations ➔ Graduate Student Assembly

Comments, questions, concerns, & more:
http://utd.edu/t/6450

gradstudentassembly@utdallas.edu

Website coming soon!