Graduate Student Assembly
Fourth General Meeting

March 1, 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

• Reminder: presented about effect of rising cost of SHIP and low stipend amounts to Academic Senate at January meeting

• Met with Provost Musselman in February to discuss these issues

• Recommended next steps:
  - Compare average UTD stipend to similarly ranked institutions nationwide
    • Compare stipend of specific departments to similarly ranked institutions nationwide
  - Investigate solutions other universities, both within and outside UT System, have implemented to lower or cover costs of graduate student health insurance
  - Report back to Academic Senate, President Benson, Provost Musselman, and other stakeholders
GSA Updates

Becoming an Institutionally Recognized Governing Body

• Currently, GSA is a student organization
  • No required formal recognition by the university
  • Small budget
  • Must follow rules & regulations outlined by the SOC
• Becoming institutionally recognized governing body of graduate students
  • Formally recognized by the university as the go-to organization that represents graduate students
  • Guaranteed “seat at the table” for graduate students in various meetings, committees, etc.
  • Larger budget
  • Can expand the efforts and initiatives of GSA
• Expected to finalize over spring semester
GSA Updates
Public Relations & Outreach (PRO) Committee

• Website Development
  • Sourabh Choure
  • Samuel Okei
• Marketing
  • Rajkumar Gupta
  • Ekansh Gupta
• Graphic Design
  • Lakshmi Selvaraj
  • Mounika Kalindindi
Upcoming GSA Events

• Graduate Professional Development Series: Resumes, Cover Letters, and CVs
  • New date and time! March 8, 2021 2-3:30pm CST
  • register at http://utd.edu/t/6731
• Inside Graduate Student Life at UTD
  • March 12, 2021 8:30-10am CST
• Careers Abroad (Tips Regarding Job Applications Abroad)
  • March 23, 2021 12-1pm CST
• Graduate Professional Development Series: Interview Tips and Tricks
  • March 25, 2021 10-11am CST
• Diversity Seminar Series 3: Integrating Work and Well-Being
  • New date and time! March 25, 2021 11:30am-12:30pm CST
Research and Teaching Experience during COVID-19

Share your experience in a quick 5 minute survey

- Completely anonymous
- Deadline March 5, 2021 at 11:59 PM CST
- Teaching Experience Survey
  - utd.link/gsa_teaching_exp_survey
  - Summarized data to be shared with the Provost and Committee for Effective Teaching
- Research Experience Survey
  - utd.link/gsa_research_exp_survey
  - Summarized data to be shared with the Office of Research
- Research Continuity Town Hall to discuss common questions, concerns, etc. March 10, 2021 12-1pm CST
  - Teams Live Link: https://utd.link/ResearchContinuityTownHall

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and the Office of Research are hosting a Research Continuity Town Hall to respond to questions and concerns submitted by graduate students via the Graduate Research Experience Survey. This survey was intended for graduate students to provide their feedback on university research continuity efforts and COVID-19 resources by the Office of Research. This town hall will include representatives from the Office of Research, Office of Graduate Education, Emergency Management & Continuity Planning, COVID-19 Health Screening and Training Program, and GSA.

This event is open to the entire campus.
Get Involved with GSA!

- Executive Board elections for Academic Year 2021-2
  - Applications opening at the end of March
  - More information at the fifth general meeting (March 29 4:30-5:30pm CST)
- School Representative Positions opening after Executive Board selected
Coming Soon!

- GSA website! One-stop-shop for GSA updates, information, past and upcoming events, etc.
- Stay tuned for its launch later this month!
- Updated GSA constitution
  - New leadership positions, clearer outline
  - Vote on changes at next meeting - March 29 4:30-5:30pm CST
UTD COVID-19 Response Info

• UTD Free Proactive COVID-19 Testing
  • recommended for any person attending UTD campus in-person 2 or more days a week
  • email c19resource@utdallas.edu to opt-in
• University planning to return to in-person classes this fall
  • Message from Dean Gonzalez sent to Teaching and Research Assistants February 25
  • “The University’s priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty. I believe our track record on this matter speaks for itself. At this stage, we are taking into account decreasing cases of COVID-19 and increasing availability of effective vaccines to project a resumption of extensive in-person teaching and on-campus activities for the Fall 2021 semester. The University will continue to monitor the health situation as we move forward. If conditions are not appropriate to begin the fall semester in a pre-COVID status, we will adjust as necessary, always considering your health and safety first.”
Affected by the Texas Winter Storm?

- Any UTD personnel (students, staff, or faculty) whose living space was severely affected by the winter storm and is in need of temporary house can reach out to Dean Gonzalez directly
  - email jgonzal@utdallas.edu directly or reach out to GSA if you would like help getting in contact (use the survey at https://utd.link/askGSA or email gradstudentassembly@utdallas.edu)
- Comet Cupboard
  - Weekly food distributions
  - https://oue.utdallas.edu/cupboard for more information & email cupboard@utdallas.edu for questions
- Student Counseling Center
  - https://utdallas.edu/counseling/
  - Free virtual services for currently enrolled students - individual counseling, couple counseling, group counseling, workshops, psychiatric services, LGBTQ+ services, and more
Stay Connected with GSA!

@gsa_utdallas

UT Dallas Graduate Student Assembly
@gsautd

My Organizations →
Graduate Student Assembly

Comments, questions,
concerns, & more:
https://utd.link/askGSA

gradstudentassembly@utdallas.edu