



# Graduate Student Senate

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O H I O U N I V E R S I T Y

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# Graduate Student Senate Information

The Ohio University Graduate Student Senate (GSS) is the official representative body of and for OU graduate students. Since 1954, it has existed to provide graduate students with tools, services, and opportunities otherwise not available. We meet every other Monday in the Walter Hall Governance Room for general body meetings. The first meeting of the year will be Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. To apply for vacant positions, please see the application in this packet or log on to our website at [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss).

GSS is structured as follows:

**1. Executive Officers:** President, Vice President for Committees and Legislative Affairs, Vice President for Communications, Vice President for Administration and Finance/Treasurer  
*- elected, vote in general body meetings*

**2. Executive Staff:** Parliamentarian, Secretary  
*- appointed*

**3. Commissioners:** LGBT Affairs, Women's Affairs, International Affairs, Minority/Professional Affairs, Black Affairs  
*- appointed, vote in general body meetings*

**4. College Senators:** There is a Senator for every college, including the Center for International Studies and the Individual Interdisciplinary Program  
*- elected, vote in general body meetings*

**5. Department Senators:** There is a Senator for most graduate departments.  
*- appointed, vote in general body meetings, but will not be part of quorum*

**5. GSS Committees:** Grant Review, Policy and Procedures, Communications, Budget and Finance, TOEFL/OPIE, Printing, Grant Revision  
*- committees serve to aid in internal operations and administration of GSS*

**6. OU Standing Committees:** Committee on Committees, Council of Student Leaders, Graduate Council, Intercollegiate Athletics, Research, Post Publishing Board, Kennedy Lecture Series, Active Teaching and Learning, Parking and Vehicle Violation, AQIP, University Curriculum Council, Institutional Review Board, Budget Policy Council, Energy and Ecology  
*- members of Graduate Student Senate are permitted to sit on these University Standing Committees*

**\* OU students and the public are welcome to attend all GSS General Body meetings in the Walter Hall Governance Room. Visit [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss) for more details.**

# What does Graduate Student Senate Do?

Every two weeks during fall, winter, and spring quarters, GSS meets in the Walter Hall Governance Room for general body meetings. At these meetings, all elected and appointed members of GSS attend. The public is also welcome.

During a general body meeting, GSS members discuss issues that Senators, committees, and commissions have been working on, as well as student and community issues relevant to graduate students. Occasionally, members of the OU administration or other campus and community organizations will attend GSS meetings to inform us of important legislation, news, or general issues.

The GSS executives are there to oversee GSS and to represent the organization to the university and community. GSS commissioners exist to represent specific constituencies of OU, such as international, minority, or LGBT students. GSS committees perform the internal duties of GSS, including overseeing rules, conduct, discipline, as well as the administration of GSS travel and research grants.

The GSS Travel and Research Grant program is one of the most important features of our organization. Every year, many graduate students receive hundreds of dollars from GSS to assist in scholarly or professional development. For example, a graduate student could apply for a \$500 research grant to assist in his or her research of Appalachian agriculture. Another student could apply for a \$500 travel grant to assist with expenses of traveling to a National Conference of Anthropology.

During every GSS meeting, members vote on resolutions. Resolutions are official statements of our organization that often deal with internal issues, such as appointments of new senators, or external issues, such as taking a stand on bills in the Ohio legislature. Many resolutions also deal with campus issues, such as library printing fees or graduate healthcare coverage.

GSS also hosts many informational seminars or programs throughout the year. In the past, GSS has held resume and employment training seminars, as well as graduate program fairs.

# What exactly does a GSS Senator do every week?

It's really up to your personal preference. Some Senators, including executives and committee chairpersons, spend over 10 hours a week meeting with university officials, attending GSS meetings and functions, and conducting research.

Other Senators, such as department representatives or college senators, often spend much less time every week. A typical week for a Political Science department representative could be:

- 20 minute meeting with the Department of Political Science faculty chair
- 1 hour long GSS general body meeting
- 2 hours of meeting in a commission or GSS committee
- 2 hours of meeting in a university standing committee

General body meetings are held in the Governance Room in Walter Hall (possibly the coolest meeting room on campus).



Walter Hall



Governance Room

The GSS office is also a place where member of Graduate Student Senate may spend a lot of time. The 2-room office is located in Lindley Hall, room 218. Although we do not have regular office hours, there are GSS members in the office throughout the day to assist you. If no one is there, you may fill out a comment form on the door and we will get back to you quickly.



Lindley Hall, where the GSS office is located.

# Why joining GSS is important

Decisions are made at OU every day that affect graduate students. Subtle changes, such as increasing library printing fees, or major changes, such as changing healthcare options can occur without graduate student input. Graduate Student Senate exists to make sure that our voice is always heard when major decisions are being made.

GSS voices its opinion to OU in two major ways: resolutions and through feedback at meetings. As previously mentioned, every month GSS will pass resolutions relating to campus issues. These resolutions are sent to many members of the OU administration, as well as campus organizations. But most importantly, members of GSS are invited to sit on **university standing committees**.

University standing committees are what turn the wheels at our university. Many major decisions are made by these various committees, which are staffed by students, faculty, and community members. Below is a list of all standing committees at OU:

- \* Baker Fund
- \* Committee on Committees
- \* Ecology and Energy Conservation
- \* Enrollment Management Advisory Committee
- \* General Education Council
- \* **Graduate Council**
- \* Greek Life
- \* Honorary Degree
- \* Institutional Review Board for Review of Research Involving Human Subjects
- \* Intercollegiate Athletics
- \* Kennedy Lecture
- \* Library
- \* Parking and Vehicle Violation
- \* Policy and Procedure Review
- \* Post Publishing Board
- \* Radiation Safety
- \* Research
- \* Council for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- \* Science Fair
- \* Student Code of Conduct: Review and Standards
- \* University Curriculum Council
- \* University International Council

The **Graduate Council** reviews, coordinates, and serves as an advocate for graduate education at Ohio University. The council has both advisory and policy making responsibilities for graduate education. The council initiates, reviews, and recommends university-wide policy and new directions for graduate education.

The Graduate Council recommends to the University Curriculum Council the initiation, implementation, and elimination of graduate programs and degrees at Ohio University. Other recommendations by the council go through the Provost to the President for final approval.

# How to Apply for vacant positions for 2005-2006



218 Lindley Hall, Athens, OH 45701  
www.ohio.edu/~gss  
740.593.1899  
gss@ohio.edu

To: Prospective Member of OU Graduate Student Senate  
From: Mark M. Mecum, President, OU Graduate Student Senate  
Date: August 29, 2005  
**RE: Application for Membership**

Dear Prospective Senator:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Senator for the 2005-2006 academic year! To be eligible for a Senator position, you must be a full-time graduate student at the Athens main campus and be in good academic standing.

The GSS exists to act as the official representative body of graduate students enrolled at Ohio University. To this end, we aim to represent the voice of the graduate student body and to recommend actions to the University, community, and other governing bodies. Importantly, the GSS strives to keep the graduate student body informed of issues relevant to its welfare. We receive student complaints, investigate problems or concerns, and work toward their timely resolution. Other important tasks of GSS include providing academic and administrative programs, service opportunities, and community activities for the graduate student body, University, and the Athens community. This year we are excited to begin working with the Ohio University Student Senate, International Student Union, Student Renters Union, and other organizations on projects, issues, and activities important to all students at Ohio University.

Below you will find an official application form which needs to be completed and returned back the GSS office as soon as possible. Thank you again for your interest and we look forward to working with you soon! Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark M. Mecum  
President,  
Ohio University Graduate Student Senate  
mm303901@ohio.edu  
740.707.7764 cell

P.S. This application is also available at our website at [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss)



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE OU GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**

1. Please answer the questions below and *either* email or mail this form to GSS at: [gss@ohio.edu](mailto:gss@ohio.edu) or Graduate Student Senate, 217 Lindley Hall, Athens, OH, 45701.
2. Please attach a resume if applying for an executive position. Resumes are optional for all other applications.
3. For descriptions of each position's duty, please view our constitution by logging on to: [www.ohio.edu/~gss](http://www.ohio.edu/~gss) and clicking on "GSS Info."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Campus Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Campus Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
College

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position(s) Sought *(Full list on the next page)*

- Have you been involved with campus organizations at OU or other schools? If so, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Have you been involved with GSS or student government in the past? If so, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Are you currently or were you formerly a TA/GA at Ohio University or another university? If so, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## STRUCTURE OF GSS FOR 2005-2006

Department Representatives		
<p><b>College of Arts and Sciences</b>            Biological Sciences            Chemistry            Economics            English Language and Literature            Environmental and Plant Biology            Environmental Studies            Geography            Geological Sciences            History            Linguistics            Mathematics            Molecular and Cellular Biology            Philosophy            Physics            Political Science            Psychology            Social Work            Sociology</p> <p><b>College of Business</b>            Accounting            Business</p> <p><b>College of Communication</b>            Communication Studies            Journalism            Telecommunications            Visual Communications            Communication Network</p>	<p><b>College of Education</b>            Counseling and Higher Education            Cultural Studies in Education            Educational Paraprofessional Programs (includes the following)  <i>Educational Administration</i>  <i>Educational Research and Eval.</i>  <i>Technology in Education</i>  <i>Curriculum and Instruction</i>  <i>Elementary Education</i>  <i>Math Education</i>  <i>Middle Child Education</i>  <i>Reading and Language Arts</i>  <i>Reading Education</i>  <i>Secondary Education</i>  <i>Special Education</i>  <i>Social Studies</i>  <i>Supervision</i>  <i>Teaching the Talented and Gifted</i></p> <p><b>Russ College of Engineering and Technology</b>            Chemical Engineering            Civil Engineering            Electrical Engineering and Computer Science            Industrial and Manufacturing Systems            Engineering            Integrated Engineering            Mechanical Engineering</p>	<p><b>College of Fine Arts</b>            Art            Comparative Arts            Film            Music            Theatre</p> <p><b>College of Health and Human Services</b>            Health Administration (includes the following)  <i>Health Sciences</i>  <i>Physical Therapy</i>            Hearing and Speech Sciences            Human and Consumer Sciences            Recreation and Sport Sciences</p> <p><b>Center for International Studies</b>            African Studies            Communication and Development Studies            Development Studies            Latin American Studies            Southeast Asian Studies</p> <p><b>Individual Interdisciplinary Program</b></p> <p><b>College of Osteopathic Medicine</b></p>
College Senators	Commissioners	Executives
College of Arts and Sciences College of Business College of Communication College of Education Russ College of Engineering and Technology College of Fine Arts College of Health and Human Services Center for International Studies Individual Interdisciplinary Program College of Osteopathic Medicine	LGBT Women's International Minority/Professional Black	President Vice President for Committees and Legislative Affairs Vice President for Communication Treasurer



**Graduate Student Senate**

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

[WWW.OHIO.EDU/~GSS](http://WWW.OHIO.EDU/~GSS)



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