

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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What do Senate Committees Do?

Committees of five Senators perform the bulk of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) legislative duties. They bring actionable bills, resolutions, research, or other information to the rest of the Senate for discussion and voting.

Why Should I Join a Senate Committee?

Allocation increase: Volunteering to sit on a committee results in a substantial increase in your unit's Allocation for the year. Attend 80% of these committee meetings to earn the bonus.

Major resume builder: Sitting on a committee is a service to the school. Whether your future career is in academia or industry or somewhere in-between, demonstrating you can work with a team to accomplish a task for the greater good sets you apart.

How do I Join a Senate Committee?

You can self-nominate by completing the Committee Interest Form on HeelLife before the first Senate meeting (recommended) or on the floor of the first Senate meeting. You can self-nominate for more than one committee, but ultimately Senators can only serve on one committee.

Committee membership is confirmed at the first Senate meeting by a majority vote of the Senate. When the number of nominees for a committee exceeds available seats, candidates are given time to speak to their qualifications. Senators can vote for up to five (5) individuals, and those with the most votes will be confirmed.

What Happens Next?

Committee members meet after the end of the first Senate meeting to internally determine their Chair. Committee chairs receive a modest, personal stipend. During the academic year, chairs arrange for the business meetings of their committee, and they complete mid- and end-of-year reports. Committees typically meet about once per month.

What are the Senate Committees?

The GPSG has six standing committees that have the following duties and powers:

1. **Appropriations:** Receives and evaluates requests for money from graduate and professional student organizations to use budgeted funds and makes recommendations to the Senate regarding funding. [2-3 hours/month]
2. **Finance:** Considers all budgetary matters of GPSG (e.g., annual budget) including writing and reviewing financial legislation and law. They determine the rules for distributing funds and hear proposed changes to student fees. [2-3 hours/month]
3. **Travel Awards:** Receives and reviews applications for GPSG Travel Awards and makes recommendations to the Senate. [3-4 hours/month]
4. **Rules & Judiciary:** Authors or reviews and revises General Bills and Amendments to governing documents. They also interview nominees for Presidential appointments who require Senate confirmation and make recommendations. [3-4 hours/month]
5. **Oversight & Accountability:** Monitors appointed officers and agencies of the GPSG and Independent Agencies. They have the power to request documents or call individuals for interviews and recommend recalls, if necessary. [3-4 hours/month]
6. **State of Graduate & Professional Students (SoGAPS):** Authors or reviews and revises Resolutions (positional statements) on topics related to GAPS advocacy and outreach. Coordinates an annual open forum for students and supports Senators in their town hall responsibilities. [3-4 hours/month]

I still have questions, who do I contact?

Please reach out to Senior Vice President Elena Vidrascu (elena91@live.unc.edu) to learn more!