



What is GPSG Senate?

The Senate is the legislative arm of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG). It consists of the Senators who represent departments or graduate programs (termed “Representative Units”), standing committees to conduct business of GPSG, and a President Pro Tempore who assists in leading the Senate. The GPSG Senate represents nearly 80 different units. Every unit has a seat at the table during discussion and an equal vote.

What can I do as a GPSG Senator?

Senators are liaisons between GPSG and their unit. They function to voice the concerns of their constituents and to relay information regarding funding opportunities, events, and changes that are always happening on campus. Senators are encouraged to be actively involved during meetings by asking questions and participating in respectful debate. Senators in good standing at the end of the legislative session are rewarded monetary allocations for their unit!

Senators play a crucial role in drafting and voting on legislation, which can be used to:

- 1) Support Graduate and Professional Students via Travel Awards and Appropriations for student-led groups,
- 2) Voice the concerns of constituents to UNC Leadership and hold administrators accountable,
- 3) Propose amendments to GPSG Code and other governing documents, and
- 4) Form ad-hoc committees to work on issues you’re passionate to address.

Senators can serve on Standing Committees of the Senate. There are six [committees](#) that focus on the functioning of specific aspects of GPSG, from selecting recipients of financial awards, to reviewing appointments for GPSG leadership, to drafting legislation expressing the concerns of graduate and professional students. Not everyone is expected to serve on a committee, but it is a great resume builder and increases the end-of-year allocation for your unit!

Senators can self-nominate to be President Pro Tempore! The Pro Tempore assists the Senior Vice President in leading Senate, serves in an advisory capacity on committees, and aims to strengthen ties between the Executive Branch and Senate.

Why does representing my unit matter?

- 1) **Giving graduate and professional students a voice:** Your concerns are our concerns. The Executive Board wants to articulate the concerns of you and your constituents to the Graduate School, the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, and many others in UNC Leadership and beyond.
- 2) **Funding opportunities for you and your constituents:** Showing up to most meetings earns your unit money. Serving on a committee earns even more. Being present in the room gives you immediate access to pertinent information related to funding for individual conference or research travel, funding opportunities for extra-curricular events, and the time and place for all social programming.
- 3) **Leadership opportunities:** The Senate is the backbone of GPSG: *we cannot function without Senators!* It is much more than a line on a resume; you will have the opportunity to help enact changes that will better the lives of current and future graduate and professional students.

When does GPSG Senate meet?

Aside from the first Senate meeting on September 7th, meetings are typically the **first Tuesday** of each month from September through April. All meetings start at **5:30 PM** and we aim to finish by 7:30 PM.

Sounds great! How do I become a GPSG Senator?

Fall General Elections will take place on **Monday, August 29th** on Heel Life! To run, please fill out a [candidacy declaration form](#) so you can appear on your unit’s ballot. Registration as a candidate is due by **Wednesday, August 24th**, however, write-in campaigns are also permitted on election day.

Questions? Email the Board of Elections at boe@unc.edu or GPSG Senior VP Elena Vidrascu at elena91@live.unc.edu.



Scan here for the GPSG Website!

Learn more about our projects,
Senators, and Executive Board.