

# GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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### 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 programs, standing committees who run programs and projects, and a President Pro Tempore who assists in leading the Senate. The GPSG Senate represents nearly 80 different units who each have 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. Units with senators in good standing at the end of the legislative session are allocated money for students to use for their students.

**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 funding student groups,
- 2) Enact change by voicing the concerns of constituents to UNC Leadership and hold administrators accountable,
- 3) Decide the future of student governance by confirming appointments to various GPSG Leadership positions, and
- 4) Enhance the Graduate and Professional Student experience by proposing amendments to GPSG Code and other governing documents.

### Why does representing my unit matter?

- 1) **Giving graduate and professional students a voice:** You will have a direct way to speak to the university about what changes you want to see on campus and connect your fellow students with the resources and opportunities that it provides.
- 2) **Funding opportunities for you and your constituents:** You get immediate access to pertinent information related to funding for 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?

The Senate typically meets 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. We will have a hybrid format, and Senators will have the option to attend meetings virtually.

### Sounds great! How do I become a GPSG Senator?

Thank you for your interest! Spring General Elections will take place on **Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** on HeelLife! To run, please fill out a candidacy declaration [form on the HeelLife](#) page for the Board of Elections so you can appear on your unit's ballot. Registration as a candidate opens on **Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** and closes on **Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**; however, write-in campaigns are also permitted on election day. Should you have any questions about elections, please refer to our website or contact the Board of Elections at [boe@unc.edu](mailto:boe@unc.edu).

### Is my unit up for election?

Some Units hold their elections in the Spring and some in the Fall. For a full list of which units are up for election, check out the GPSG HeelLife page for more information!

### I still have questions! Who can I contact?

For more information, please email GPSG Senior Vice President Katie Heath at [katiemh@unc.edu](mailto:katiemh@unc.edu).