

# The GPSG Senate

## WHAT IS THE GPSG SENATE?

The GPSG Senate is the legislative branch of the graduate and professional student government, consisting of representatives from 75 different Representative Units (departments/programs). The Senate performs a range of duties, from approving how fees are spent to expressing the views of the student body on many issues.

## WHAT DOES YOUR SENATOR DO?

Your Senator(s) represent your department/program's interests in the GPSG Senate, casting your Unit's vote on all issues. In that role, they agree to...

### (1) Act as a Liaison between The GPSG and their Unit

They will communicate the GPSG's endeavors to their constituents and represent their constituents' needs and views to the GPSG.

### (2) Attend the meetings of the GPSG Senate

### (3) Serve on a Senate Committee, and

Not all Senate members have to serve on a Committee, but Committee service has a significant impact on student governance and is recognized by an increased financial award to your department at the end of the academic year.

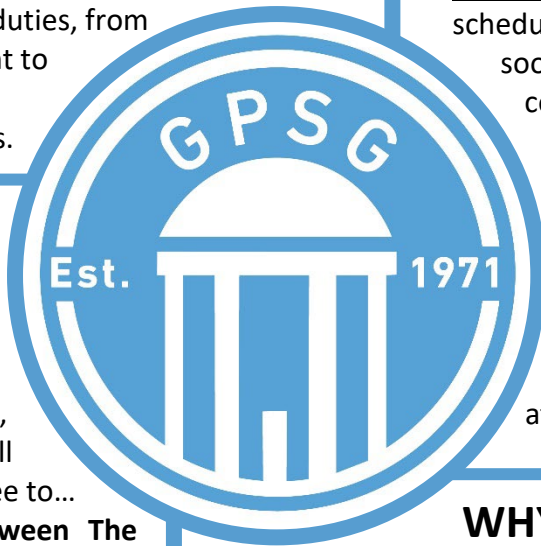
### (4) Uphold the rules and laws of the organization and University

## WHAT IS A CO-SENATOR?

Because we recognize that our Senators may not be able to make it to all meetings, we allow co-Senators. Each unit may elect up to **TWO** Senators (voting is by Unit, not by Senator). Whether or not to elect co-Senators is a Unit's choice, so inquire if your Unit is using co-Senators.

## SENATE MEETINGS

Recognizing graduate school is demanding on all our time, the GPSG Senate meets only once a month. Meetings are usually the **second Tuesday of each month September through April**. The meetings are scheduled for **5:30pm** and begin as soon as a quorum is present. Meetings usually consist of an open forum, reports from the Executive Branch, reports from the Committees, discussion and voting on business (bills and resolutions), and a guest speaker on University-related issues. We typically try to end the meeting within two hours. We also provide dinner for all Senators and a hybrid option for those that are unable to attend in person.



## WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

In graduate school, we tend to be separated from other students by our departments and programs. One of the roles The GPSG plays is uniting the graduate and professional student voices to address issues that affect all of us. The Senate is the main place where this discussion happens, as every department or program has a seat at the table and equal vote. By working in the Senate, you not only represent the interests of your own community, but you also impact the wider graduate and professional student community by contributing to the advocacy and discussion surrounding issues that affect us most. For example, The GPSG has recently passed a Graduate and Professional Student Bill of Rights to define the rights that students have at UNC. Likewise, we come together on socio-political issues that impact our community and advocate with our local, state, and federal for positive change.

## WANT TO REPRESENT YOUR UNIT?

Fall General Elections for the GPSG Senate are occurring on **Wednesday, September 4** on the [HeelLife.unc.edu website](http://HeelLife.unc.edu). Most of our Unit seats are up for election. You can find a list of vacancies on [our website](#). If you are interested in appearing on your Unit's ballot, please complete a [Candidate Registration Form](#) by **Friday, August 30**. If you miss the cutoff date, a write-in option will be available on the ballot.

## QUESTIONS?

Email the GPSG Vice President at [gpsg\\_seniorvp@unc.edu](mailto:gpsg_seniorvp@unc.edu)