

**Graduate House of Representatives**  
**Texas State University**



Alkek 310 – 1:00 PM  
Sixty-Fifth Session  
November 7th, 2025

**Graduate House of Representatives Meeting Minutes**

- I. **Call to Order** by House Leader Soomro at: 1:05pm.
- II. **Roll Call**
  - a. Present
    - i. Emily Gonzalez
    - ii. Lance Womack
    - iii. Angelica Orosco
    - iv. Maham Soomro
    - v. Morgan Smith
    - vi. Sara Hightower
    - vii. Prabish Khadka Chhetri
    - viii. Christian Mayen
    - ix. Olivia Brummett
    - x. Niraj Bag
  - b. Absent
    - i. Leah Rose (Excused)
    - ii. Juan Vanegas (Excused)
    - iii. Lipsa Karmacharya (Excused)
    - iv. Amandeep Kaur (Excused)
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
- IV. **Orders of the Day**
  - a. Appropriations for the Gradsgiving Event were deliberated and approved, resulting in an allocation of \$600 for catering and food expenses, and an additional \$200 for supplementary materials, as part of a negotiated compromise.
  - b. The second reading of the Graduate Electronic Submission Accessibility (GES) Act, recommending the adoption of LaTeX as an acceptable submission format for Vireo, was presented before the House and, having received no objections, was passed by unanimous consent of the representatives. The Act shall now be forwarded to the Student Body President for ratification.
- V. **Guest Speakers**
  - a. Dr. Duane Bruce, Student Involvement
    - i. Budget
      1. Student Body President and Vice President receive paid positions, the House asked about the House Leader also being compensated. Dr. Bruce suggested that this could be brought forward to Graduate College.
      2. Resolutions proposing an increase to the House budget should be accompanied by a recommendation identifying the prospective sources of the additional funds.
    - ii. Graduate Student Organizations
      1. Discussion revealed that there is only \$20,000 annually in the funding pool for all RSO.
      2. Graduate students receive the majority of STAR grant funding, which only has an annual pool of \$25,000.
      3. Dr. Bruce suggested that a Representative of the House could sit on the committee that oversees approving funding requests for student organizations.
    - iii. Invite House Leader to Executive Retreat

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1. Funding and budgetary decisions for Student Government, to include the House, are made by the Student Body President during the Executive Retreat every summer before the fall semester.
2. The Representatives resolved to amend the Code of Laws to require that invitations to attend proceedings must be sent to the House Leader.

iv. The Role of the House

1. All pieces of legislation are symbolic in nature and serve solely to express the opinion or recommendations of the student body. Legislation should be strategic and inherently cooperative, ensuring that support from relevant parties is obtained prior to passage.

**VI. Public Forum**

- a. No speakers from the Public

**VII. Reports**

a. **House Secretary's Report**

- i. Nothing

b. **House Parliamentarian's Report**

- i. Absent

c. **Committee Reports**

- i. Campus Life & Outreach

1. Absent

- ii. Finance

1. Planning is underway for a Hot Cocoa Event on the Quad, pending final approval of the event plans and budget.

- iii. Social Media and Communications

1. Absent

- iv. University Committee Reports

1. Student Senate

- a. Reported on new parking facilities opening in early December and the police chief's focus on parking
    - b. There will be support for on-campus students during winter break for picking up belongings.

2. Open Education Resources

- a. Reported that data from graduates is available but information from professors teaching graduate material is still needed.
    - b. Will email Dr. Giuffre to request needed information

3. SLCG

- a. Discussed campus well-being, focusing on mental and physical health, with participants expressing concern about recent incidents.

d. **Advisor's Report**

- i. 3MT Event was held that morning was well attended.
- ii. Deans have been contacted to provide new representatives to the House
- iii. Gradsgiving is eligible for free drinks that the university can provide
- iv. International Education Week event on external funding in Alkek on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

e. **House Leader's Report**

- i. It was announced that there are open leadership positions, including House Secretary, Chair of Social Media, and Chair of Campus Life and Outreach.
- ii. Representatives were encouraged to consider which roles they may be interested in pursuing.

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**VIII. Unfinished Business**

**IX. New Business**

**X. Questions**

- a. A question was raised regarding whether new legislation must be introduced under the “New Business” section of meetings. The House Leader clarified that this is not required, and such legislation may instead be added to the agenda for the following meeting.

**XI. Announcement**

**XII. Adjournment by House Leader at: 1:58pm.**