

The Graduate Student Society (TGSS) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Graduate Student Success Center, SMSU South – 2nd Floor

Format: Hybrid – In Person & Zoom

Attendance: 11 attendees

Attendees included Advisor Megan, TGSS executive members Michelle and Christina, and members Nubia, William, Pedro, Jesus, Kaylia, Marie, Ashkon, Nerllyn, and Stephanie

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting opened with introductions from all members in attendance. Members shared their names, academic backgrounds, and interests. This gave everyone an opportunity to network and learn more about one another.

2. Open TGSS Positions

The group discussed open positions that need to be filled to support TGSS activities and operations. Positions discussed included:

- Marketing Manager
- Social Media Manager
- Meeting Notetaker

Members interested in taking a more active role within the organization were encouraged to consider one of the available positions.

3. TGSS Expectations & Direction

Members discussed what they would like TGSS to provide during the 2026–2027 academic year. Suggestions included:

- Networking opportunities
- Social events
- Mentorship opportunities
- Professional development
- Health and wellness activities

- Graduate student resources
- Graduate student advocacy and concerns
- Opportunities to support undergraduate students

The group agreed to continue discussing which areas TGSS should prioritize throughout the academic year.

4. Meeting Schedule & Format

Members discussed preferred meeting days and times. **Tuesdays at 4:00 PM** worked best for the majority of attendees.

It was agreed that meetings would continue in a **hybrid format**, allowing students to participate either in person or through Zoom.

The group also discussed the possibility of occasionally holding meetings or activities off campus.

5. Off-Campus Meetings & Fundraising

The possibility of partnering with local businesses, such as **Panera**, was discussed.

These partnerships could provide opportunities to:

- Hold social gatherings off campus
- Support TGSS fundraising
- Provide members with additional networking opportunities

6. Communication Between Meetings

The group discussed creating a **GroupMe** for TGSS members.

The GroupMe would be used to:

- Share campus and graduate student information
- Ask questions
- Share resources
- Discuss events and activities
- Stay connected between scheduled meetings

7. Campus Resources

William was identified as a valuable campus resource and someone members can contact with questions regarding campus opportunities and services.

Christina, who works in the Graduate Student Success Center, was also identified as a resource for graduate student events, activities, and campus information.

8. Academic Advisor Updates – Megan Kinnally

Academic Advisor Megan Kinnally discussed ways graduate students can stay informed about campus events and opportunities, including options for students who do not regularly use social media.

Megan also discussed possible directions for TGSS and encouraged members to determine what they would like the organization to focus on.

She advised that TGSS has:

- Initial club funds available
- Access to one event space at no cost

Members were encouraged to begin developing ideas for events and activities.

Interactive social ideas such as riddles, scavenger hunts, and gift-card incentives were also discussed as possible ways to increase participation.

9. Potential Grad Fair Participation

Megan informed the group about the **Grad Fair scheduled for October 19, 2026**.

TGSS may have an opportunity to participate by hosting a table. The group agreed that participation, logistics, and volunteer needs would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Decisions / Agreements

- TGSS meetings will be held on **Tuesdays at 4:00 PM**.
- Meetings will continue to be offered both **in person and via Zoom**.
- A **TGSS GroupMe** will be created for communication between meetings.
- Members will continue exploring social, networking, mentorship, wellness, professional development, and fundraising opportunities.
- The next TGSS meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 4:00 PM**.

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party	Target	Status
Create TGSS GroupMe for member communication	TGSS Executive Team	Before next meeting	Open
Identify members interested in open TGSS positions	Executive Team / Members	Next meeting	Open
Develop ideas for use of the free event space and initial club funds	All Members	Next meeting	Open
Discuss possible October 19 Grad Fair participation and volunteers	TGSS	Sept. 29 meeting	Open
Explore networking, mentorship, wellness, social, and fundraising activities	All Members	Ongoing	Open

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 4:00 PM — In Person & Zoom