

University of Vermont Graduate Student Senate
Resolution No.: Resolution 2025-XX.XX
Date: 09/30/2025

Title: Resolution to Establish a Public Commenting Period for All Graduate Student Senate Resolutions

Description:

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) represents graduate students across colleges at UVM through elected Senators. While Senators carry the responsibility of voicing the concerns and positions of their constituents, graduate students who did not vote for their Senator, or who may not regularly communicate with them, often lack a direct means to engage in ongoing Senate deliberations. This resolution proposes that every resolution under consideration by the Senate be made available for a public commenting period prior to a vote, thereby informing the graduate student body and enabling them to express their opinions, whether in agreement or dissent, with their Senator's stance.

Whereas the Graduate Student Senate exists to represent and advocate for the entire graduate student body at UVM,

Whereas democratic engagement is strengthened when all graduate students, not only those directly engaged with their Senators, have the opportunity to be informed of and comment on resolutions under Senate consideration,

Whereas the current process does not provide a structured mechanism for the broader graduate community to provide feedback before Senate votes,

Whereas instituting a public commenting period would (1) inform the graduate student body about issues under Senate consideration, and (2) provide Senators with input from constituents who may disagree with their position or who may otherwise be underrepresented,

Whereas public comments will be collected via a secure UVM Forms Survey, requiring a valid uvm.edu email address,

Whereas the Communication Director will be responsible for creating and disseminating the comment form, with assistance from the Senator or Executive Council member sponsoring the resolution, who will help collate and present all comments received to the Senate,

Be it resolved that the Graduate Student Senate will implement a public commenting period for every resolution brought before the Senate, with the following provisions:

- A comment form will be made available at least one week prior to the scheduled Senate vote.
- Graduate students will be informed of the resolution and the open commenting form via an email announcement from the Communication Director/ Graduate Student Senate.
- Comments will close **24 hours before the Senate meeting**, allowing the sponsoring Senator or Executive Council member to collate responses.
- A summary of the comments will be presented at the Senate meeting prior to voting.

Adopted by the Graduate Student Senate on:

Signature:

X Chhayank Srivastava