



Natural Sciences Council Info Session



Spring 2024

What does NSC do?

Advocacy

Outreach

Student-Faculty Relations

Improving Student Experience

Community Building

ADVOCACY



NATURAL SCIENCES COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN - COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

T.S. Painter Hall (D-All 2.44), 103 W 24th St, Austin, TX 78712 • nscs.org

N.S.C.R. 2201

Implementing a Peer Advising Program for Students in the College of Natural Sciences During New Student Orientation

Legislative Executive Summary

Current students offer a unique perspective on the first-year experience that CNS academic advisors may not be able to provide. Many incoming freshmen and transfer students lack contact with current students at UT that can offer information and advice that would likely aid them in course selection and registration for their first semester at UT. The implementation of a peer advising program during orientation will provide incoming students with a formalized time and space to gain insight on the new student experience and recommendations regarding academic matters, from students who have undertaken or are currently undertaking a similar course of study. The purpose of this piece of legislation is to establish a framework for the creation of a peer advising program within the College of Natural Sciences during New Student Orientation. The implementation of the program is essential to improving access to resources pertaining to course selection, registration, and undergraduate degree planning for incoming students within the College of Natural Sciences.



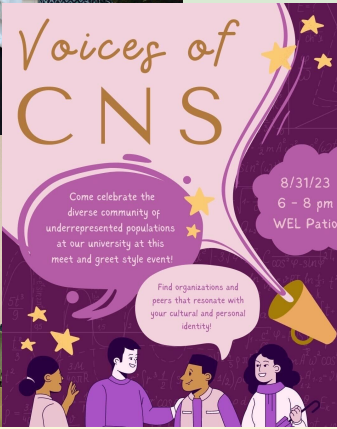
Legislative Deep Dive

A Resolution to Require Faculty within the College of Natural Sciences to Complete the Allies in Action Program



Legislation

- **Allies in Action Legislation**
 - Passed legislation to require CNS Faculty to complete the Allies in Action program through the GSC. Read more [here!](#)
- **Student Infrastructure Committee**
 - Gather student representatives to discuss CNS building renovations with administration
- **CNS Wellness Center**
 - Mandates NSC's involvement in developing the *new* CNS Wellness Center through data analysis, community advocacy, and discussion with faculty and staff
- **Introducing a Music Minor**
 - Currently collaborating with the Fine Arts Council to introduce a Music minor for non-Music majors across the university.
- **Integrating Social Justice Curriculum into Courses**
 - Working with CNS faculty to discuss introducing more social justice and ethics curriculum into courses.



NSC Event Planning Guide



Providing a safe and inclusive environment is a critical part of any event. This protects the rights of our peers and encourages better learning and collaboration. As UT President Jay Hartzell said, "UT can be a world-class university only if we embrace the ideas and perspectives of a truly diverse set of talented people — of every background, race and life experience." Included in this document are guidelines that will allow you to be respectful to all of your peers and make your events inclusive for everyone.

Student Access

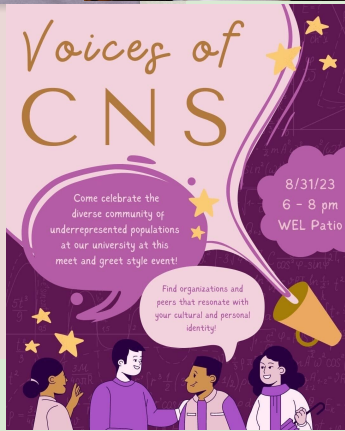
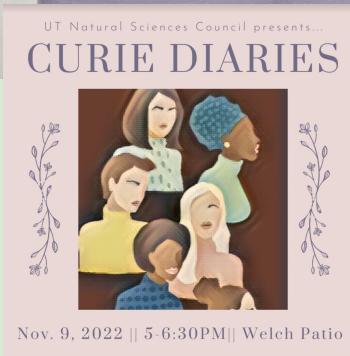
- **Voices of CNS**
 - This event is designed to connect CNS students to clubs and organizations that resonate with them, with a focus on underrepresented identities. We also want to gather feedback about how to better serve the CNS student population and what initiatives we can jumpstart.
- **Event Planning Guide**
 - With help from the MEC, GSC, and DSAC we were able to create an event planning guide to help everyone feel included during events.
- **Imposter Syndrome Roundtable**
 - This event is designed to connect students and faculty together to have productive conversation

OUTREACH



Public Relations

- **Demographic spotlights**
 - Project that advocates for the inclusion of underrepresented groups in CNS and STEM
- **Legislative deep dives**
 - Showcasing our advocacy by highlighting the impact of our legislation and member initiatives
- **Resources & Guides**
 - Provided Voting Guides during Election Season and promote resources for CNS students
- **Merch, Graphics, and Social Media**
 - Create promotional materials for recruitment, events, and initiatives
- **Natural Sciences Week**
 - Design promotion materials for CNS students to learn about what this week has to offer





Community Involvement

- Internal Service Projects
 - Young Scientists
 - Product Drives
 - CNS Day of Service
- On Campus Involvement
 - Longhorn Halloween
 - Partial Eclipse Celebration
 - CNS Outpost
 - UT Microfarm
- We aim to connect with the student body , volunteer with the greater Austin community, and fight inequity within the path to STEM education.

STUDENT-FACULTY RELATIONS

Student-Faculty

- **Student-Faculty Luncheons/Chats**

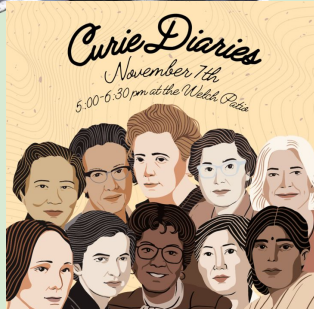
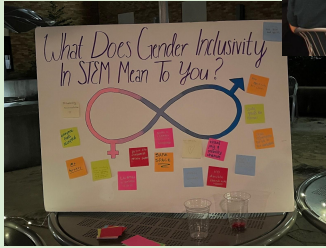
- Informal spaces for professors and students to discuss a variety of academic topics or talk about their interests (over refreshments or a free lunch!!)

- **Curie Diaries**

- Annual event celebrating faculty that identify as women or non-binary, providing a space for collaboration, networking and promoting inclusivity

- **Faculty-Staff Appreciation Banquet**

- Large banquet held for all faculty and staff in CNS, honoring winners of the student-run awards ceremony

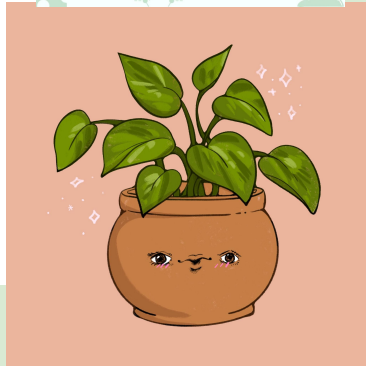


IMPROVING CNS STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Academic Affairs

- **CNS Connections**
 - Event that provides CNS students with the opportunity to network with companies in the Austin area
- **Alumni Panel**
 - Event that allows current students to learn about alumni career paths and post-grad lives
- **Pre-Professional Opportunities Database**
- **Professional development resource guides and Accessible Media**
- **Room for ideas including scholarships, professional partnerships, and networking!**



Catalyst

CATLYST

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT-RUN PUBLICATION OF CNS

- **Student Guides**
 - Comprehensive and detailed guides for students looking to enrich their pre-professional journey (i.e. FRI Guide, Law School Guide, and Pre-Medicine Guide).
- **Creative Contest**
 - This contest bridges the worlds of science and art. It features student-submitted creative pieces that span the different forms of art.
- **Stories, Comics, and Videos**
 - Student-produced articles, videos, comics, and art as part of the 'heart and soul' of the magazine (i.e. Beyond the Beaker, Love in CNS, Human Beans).

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Internal Relations

- **Mentorship**
 - Each new member is matched with a mentor that provides guidance, advice, and support as you navigate your NSC experience
 - **Strengthening Connections**
 - Host socials and gatherings between council-members and other councils to foster community both formally and informally
 - **Other Year-Round Socials:**
 - Committee Cup
 - Field Day
 - Star Party
 - BachelorX
 - End of year Banquet
 - Gain experience in successful event planning
 - Promote a sense of NSC camaraderie and community through meaningful initiatives
-



External Relations

- **Inter-Council Events**
 - Broomball, Field Day, Mixer Socials
- **Natural Sciences Week**
 - Annual initiative in which NSC hosts daily events for the entirety of CNS
 - Committees work together and with the college to plan events
- **Admin/Faculty Visibility**
 - Access to CNS administration
 - Relationships with professors and department chairs



MEMBER EXPERIENCE



Your general time commitment:

It is what you make of it

- General Meetings
- Committee Work
- Committee Socials
- Council-wide Socials
- Internal/external events

General Meetings are MANDATORY. These are on Mondays from
5-6 pm.

We operate on a point system. However, there are lots more opportunities than required points so you can attend what fits your schedule.

What can you get out of this organization?

- **Leadership**
 - Executive board
 - Lead your own project/initiative
 - Committee initiative leads
- **Community**
 - Friends, peers, classmates, mentors, study buddies, roommates
- **Platform for Change**
 - We have the platform and resources to help fuel your passion project
- **And much more: Professional Resources, Admin Visibility, Service**



What is the new member experience like in NSC?



- New Member Retreat
- Lead your own project
 - Each new member class works together to put an idea into action!
- Class bonding
- Mentorship
- Get involved with your committee
 - Members can rank committee preferences and will be sorted after acceptance! You have the choice to change committees every semester

The must-knows about us

- GMs are every Monday from 5-6pm (*mandatory*)
- We operate on a points period system
- ANYBODY can write legislation
- Dues are \$20 per semester
- Every NSC member has voting power for legislation
- Inter-committee collaboration is huge!



General Member Testimonies

Sign-In Form and Upcoming Events



**Recruitment events are not mandatory, but highly encouraged. Attendance at events has no stake in your acceptance into NSC.*

Thurs, Jan 18 | Info Session 1 - POB 2.302

Tues, Jan 23 | Meet & Greet 1 - NHB 1.720

Wed, Jan 24 | Info Session 2 - POB 2.302

Mon, Jan 29 | Meet & Greet 2 - WEL 2.246

Wed, Jan 31 | H(app)y Hour - POB 2.402

**all events are at 6pm CST unless otherwise indicated*

Thurs, Feb 1st -- APPS DUE! @5pm CST (not 11:59pm!)

You can find our application at utnsc.org/apply

