



PawPrints

December 2018

The Annual GSA TA Soiree is Here!



Calling all Teaching Assistants!

The Annual TA Soiree will be on **December 7th from 6 - 9 PM.**

Join us at **Raleigh Brewing Company** to celebrate the end of the semester! We will provide food and beverages. We encourage networking, but also enjoy this time to reflect

Ice Skating on LDOC!



Come join us for a fun night of ice skating on the Last-Day-of-Classes! The event is going to happen at the **Polar Ice House** in **Cary from 8 to 10 pm**. All the required equipment for the ice skating will be provided, but you might also want to bring some protective clothing for the cold temperature in the rink. The cost for the event will be **FREE** for NC State students (paid for by the GSA.) This is our last event before exams start, so you can have one last night of fun before you start your preparation for finals!

Join Us

December Call to Action (TWO PARTS!) Part 1

Write a *Public Comment* - A "How to" Guide

What is a *public comment*?

Executive agencies serve the American public. *Anyone* can **comment publicly** on a proposed policy for at least **30 days** before it is finalized, and agencies are required to respond to every single comment received. These *public comments* allow your voice to be heard early on, when policies can still be changed!

- Executive agencies are **not** elected bodies; this means public comments are essential to keep the policymaking process democratic.

How can I write a *public comment*?

You can easily search for, learn more about, and write your comment on **current proposed policies** at the **government regulations site**.

Effective comments will show sound reasoning, scientific evidence, and/or personal impacts. They will explain what you like and dislike about the proposal.

- *Make it personal*: Use your own words & stories so that your comment stands out.

- *Make it relevant:* Limit your comment to the proposed policy and any changes you want made.
- *Include facts:* Your comment should provide evidence such as personal stories or statistics. Use facts, not personal attacks.
- *Read examples:* We **compiled some examples** just for you!

More Information:

- You can find notices about new policy proposals at **government regulations site** or at the **Federal Register site**.
- We have collected **some guides** to help you use the **government regulations site**.
- For an overview of the notice and comment system check out **one of these links**.
- Want to improve your commenting? Read **this article**.

[Get started commenting!](#)

December Call to Action Part 2

International Students, We Want **Your Story**

Department of Homeland Security has proposed a **new rule** establishing "Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds." This directly affects international student applications for visas or change of status. Summary of the proposal may be found **HERE**; read our public comment on the policy **HERE**. We want to hear how this proposed policy might affect you and your families, so please help us by filling out a **short survey** about how this proposal may affect you or by **adding your signature** to the **comment!** Thanks for your help!

[Tell Your Story HERE](#)

[Read our comment on the "Public Charge" policy here!](#)

[Sign our "Public Charge" comment HERE](#)

Listen to an interview with GSA President Withrow

Find out:

- What social programming the GSA offers
- How the GSA supports students academically and financially
- What leadership and advocacy opportunities there are within the GSA
- And much more!



Legislative Snapshot!

This is a short summary of federal, state, and local policy or regulation changes from the previous month that are pertinent to grad students at NC State. If you are interested in helping contribute to the monthly Snapshot or would like to leave some feedback, email the **GSA VP-External Affairs**.

- **Midterm Elections Results**
 - **Federal:** The House of Representatives has flipped to Democrats (40 seat gain) while Republicans have strengthened their Senate majority (2 seat gain).
 - Read about the anticipated impacts of the midterms on **higher education** and **science policy**.
 - **State:** One House seat (NC-09) **remains uncalled**. In the NC state legislature, Republicans maintain control while Democrats have broken the GOP super-majority, **taking away** the legislature's ability to override gubernatorial vetoes.
 - Four out of six constitutional **amendments passed**, including the amendment **requiring photographic ID** to vote.
- **Department of Education unveils changes to Title IX**
 - The Dept. of Ed. has **proposed procedural changes** for campus sexual assault and sexual harassment disciplinary proceedings, designed to **balance the rights** of the victim and of the accused.
 - The **public comment period** for the Title IX proposal is open until January 28, 2019. Individuals wishing to submit a public comment can refer to the LASA Committee's **informational one-pager** on this subject.
- **Homeland Security proposes new "Public Charge" rule**
 - On October 10, the Trump Administration issued a **notice of proposed rulemaking** setting up grounds to deny immigrants admission into the U.S. based on "Public Charge grounds." The **public comment period** closes on December 10, 2018.
- **Update on DACA**
 - The Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals **upheld an injunction** against the dismantling of DACA -- the first time a federal court weighed in on the issue. The case moves **one step closer** to the Supreme Court.
- **Update on Potential Government Shutdown**
 - Congress has until Dec 7 to complete the appropriations process funding the federal government to avert a shutdown. The White House is **pressuring GOP lawmakers** to include funding for a border wall in the package.
- **Other Reports**
 - New bi-weekly **Legislative Letters**, 11-19-18, from the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS).

[Read the Full Report](#)

Want Something Featured in PawPrints?

Submit your events, news, or relevant piece of Graduate Student info. We would love to celebrate your achievements too. If you have won an award, let us know!

[Submit Here](#)

Feedback for GSA Executive Board

Do you have something that you want to tell the Graduate Student Association? What can GSA be doing to better assist graduate students at NC State? Is there an issue that needs fixing?

Let the GSA know by submitting anonymously through the link below!

[Tell GSA](#)

CONNECT WITH US!

