NATURAL SCIENCES COUNCIL

Advocacy Workshop

Name tags at the front!
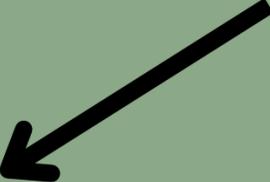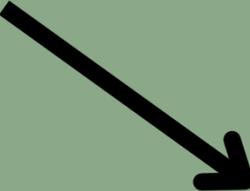*NSC - Green*
Prospective Members - Orange

CNS Administration

UT Senate

NSC

Student Governmental Organization (SGO)

"The liaison between the students and the faculty in the College of Natural Sciences"

Committees

Legislation	*Student Access*	*Community Involvement*	*Catalyst*
Student-Faculty	*Academic Affairs*	*Public Relations*	*Internal Relations*

Agenda

Types of Initiatives

Legislation

Catalyst

Events

Takeaways

Meet & Greet

Problem Engagement Pyramid

Committed

Critical
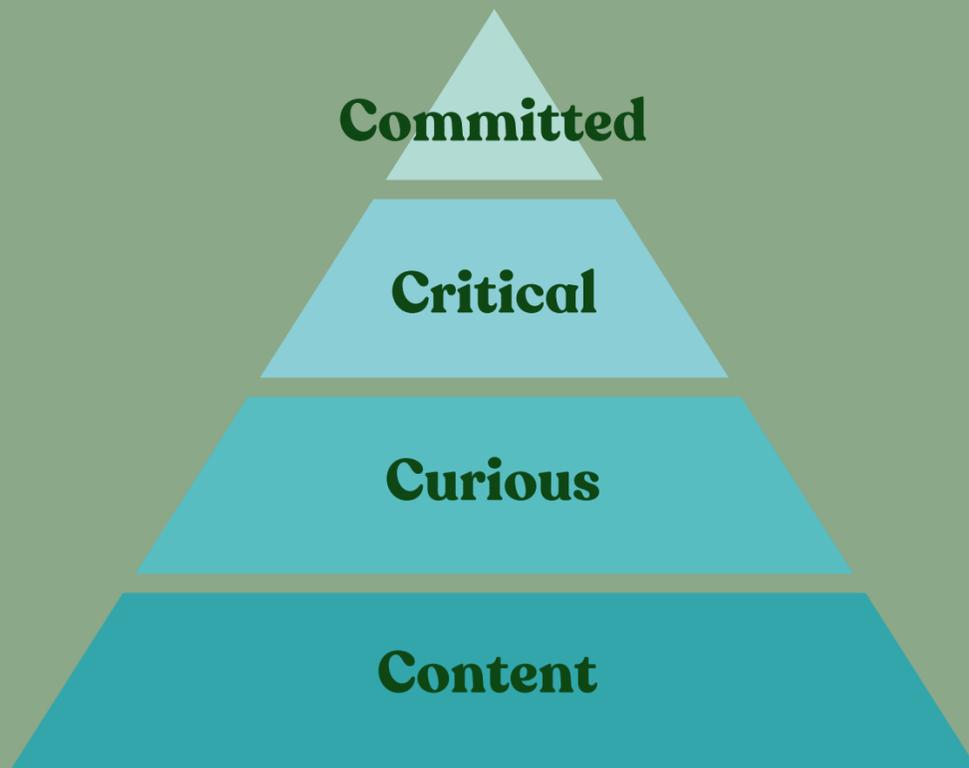
Curious

Content

- Content – Accepting the Status Quo
  - Members who are comfortable with current conditions and assume challenges are inevitable.
  - Example: Students who notice inconveniences but think, "That's just how it is."
- Curious – Asking Questions and Seeking Context
  - Members who begin to question how systems work and why problems exist.
  - Example: Asking, "Why is advising so limited?" or "How are courses assigned?"
- Critical – Diagnosing Problems and Root Causes
  - Members who analyze patterns, identify issues, and clearly define the problem.
  - Example: Recognizing recurring barriers in course access, advising gaps, or resource visibility.
- Committed – Creating and Acting on Solutions
  - Members who design solutions, take ownership, and implement change through collaboration and action.
  - Example: Launching initiatives, organizing events, and building partnerships that create measurable impact.

Types of Projects

Legislation

Catalyst

Events

Policy

What is Policy?

**Main Purpose: It's how we advocate to improve campus policies impacting student life.**

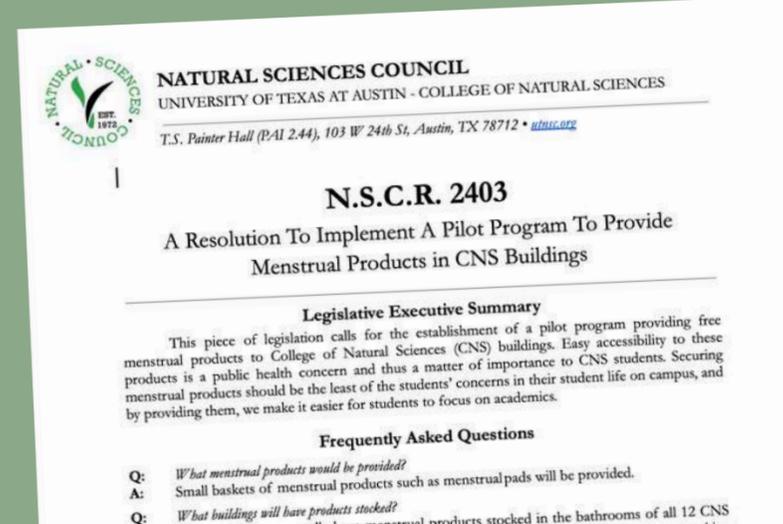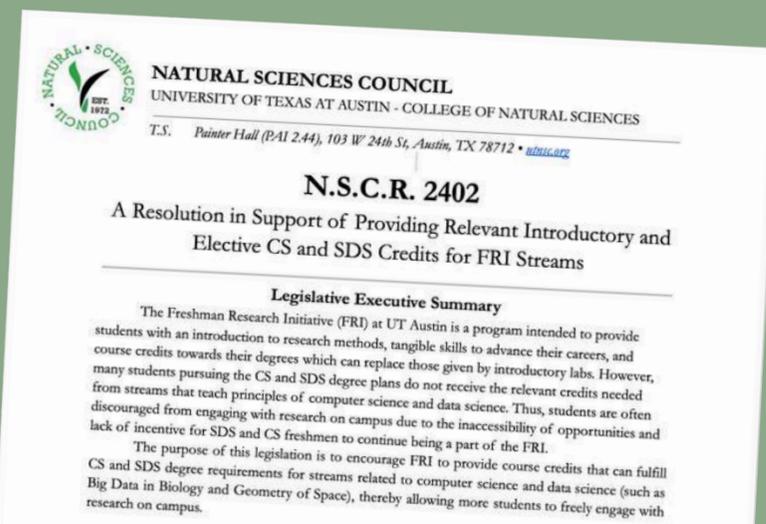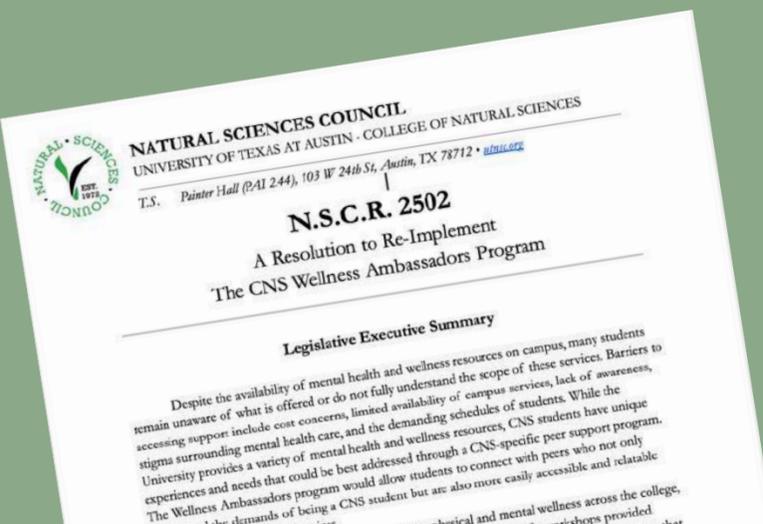## Advocacy

At its core, policy:

- **Identifies challenges** faced by students college-wide
- Proposes a **long-term solution**
- Demonstrates **student support** for change

Formal Proposal

On a broader level, policy:

- **Formalizes agreements** with administration
- Establishes a **timeline for implementation**

Examples of Passed Legislation
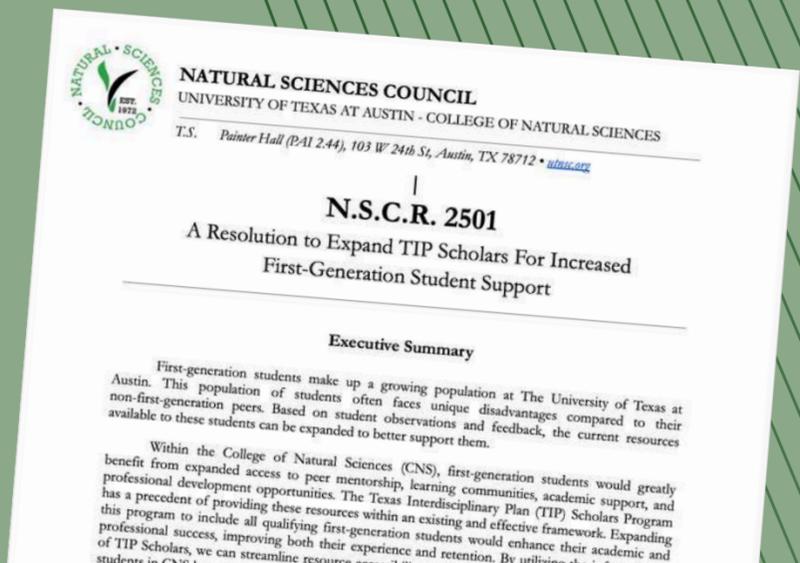
Who Works on Policy?

There are two main parts of the policy process, each involving different groups of people.

Voting on Policy

- Typically a two-week process carried out by **NSC members**
- Each of **~50 NSC members** represents the voices of about **300 CNS students each**

Writing Policy

- Most legislation is written by NSC
- HOWEVER - writing legislation is **open to all students**, not just NSC members!
- This ensures policy **reflects diverse experiences** and surfaces **issues that may otherwise be overlooked**

Policy Process

Ideation

- Identify a **student issue** you care about
- Use **personal experience, peer conversations, and campus discourse** to spot gaps
- Keep the issue **specific and actionable**
- Confirm it falls within **NSC's scope** (student life & academic affairs)

Research

- Come up with **solutions** by researching **precedents** at UT or other universities
- Assess **student support** for proposed solutions through surveys
- Evaluate **feasibility** by consulting **administration**

Write

- Write **legislation** once you have student and administrative support
- Clearly define the **problem** and those **impacted**
- Detail the **proposed solution** and how it will **address the issue**
- Include **implementation timelines** to guide action

Present

- **Submit legislation** for review once it's complete
- Allow it to be **voted on** by NSC or the relevant body
- Once approved, the policy is **officially passed** and ready for implementation!
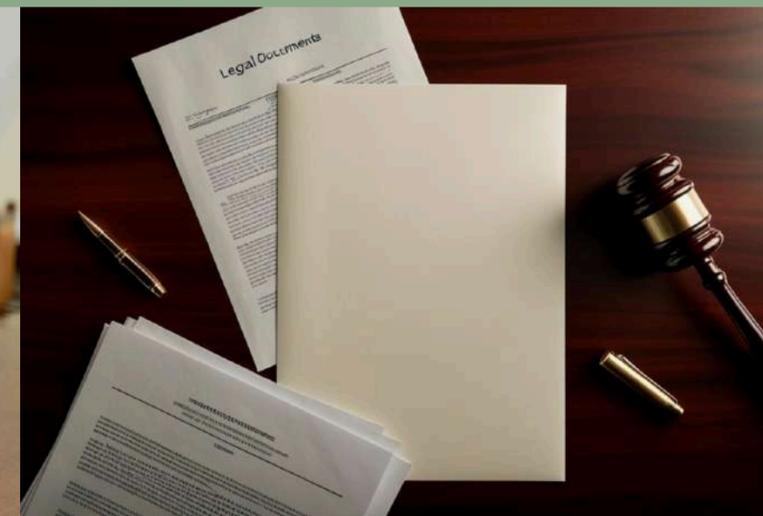
How Can I Get Involved?

- Get in touch with me!
  - nsc.senate.representative@gmail.com
- Fill out our surveys whenever you see us tabling on campus

Legislation Guide

Catalyst

CATALYST

KEY PURPOSE: A student-run magazine at the intersection of CNS student voices, science, and creativity.

Student Spotlights & Stories

- Share personal narratives, interviews, op-eds, and reflections from students across CNS
- Write for columns like include *Beyond the Beaker, Love in CNS, and Human Beans* to explore identity, ambition, and student life

Idea to Inquiry
where writing begins

- Pitch-driven pieces, questions students are wrestling with
- Early investigations, "why this matters," reflections
- Conduct interviews and find relevant stories
- BTS looks, anecdotes, unique experiences

Drafts to Revisions
the messy middle

- Personal essays, op-eds, adapting interviews and anecdotes
- Annotated drafts and reflections on revisions
- What changed between first draft and final piece
- Goal of your writing

Pubs to Impact
article goes live

- Advocacy pieces, poetry, faculty interviews, student stories and highlights
- Reader responses, follow-ups, impact reflection
- Committee discussions and return to drawing board!

Brave New World: The Science that Controls Us

From Austin Skies To West Texas

Dorm Days Are Over: Guide to a Sustainable Apartment

Microtrends, Major Impact

Events

Events

Identify a need

Figure out Solution

Draft Proposal

Logistics

Let Students Know

Run the Event!

- Look at student feedback to determine what could benefit students
- Food for Thought

- What would a potential event look like?

- Write up all the details to present to admin

- Time, Date, Location

- PR committee creates graphics and posts about the event

Past Events

Student-Faculty Luncheon

- Identified need for more opportunities to interact with professors
- Set up a lunch where students could talk to professors over lunch

Day of Service

- Identified need for community-building events
- Created a large scale Day of Service where CNS students could volunteer together
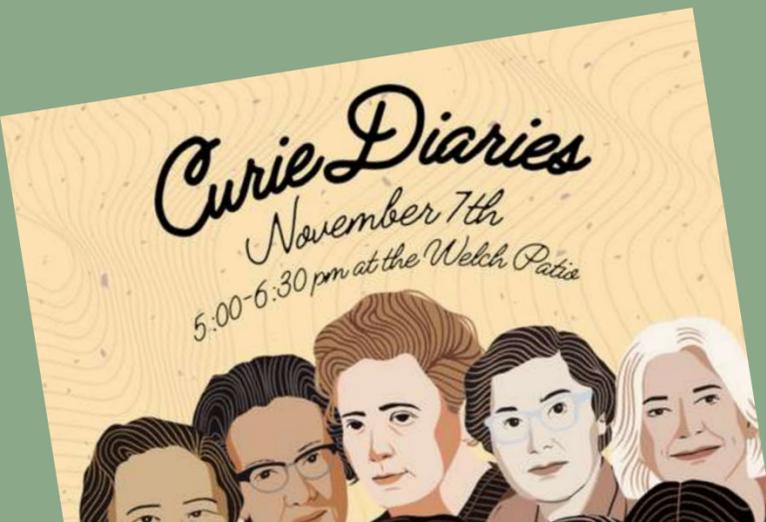
Takeaways

- **Process of creating legislation, articles, events**

- How can you get involved outside of NSC?

- What projects have been created in NSC?

RECRUITMENT TIMELINE

1/14
Info Session + M&G 1

Learn about NSC!

1/20
Info Session + M&G 2

Another opportunity to learn more about NSC!

1/21
Advocacy Workshop

Learn how NSC creates projects that support CNS students

1/22
Interview Workshop

Learn about the interview process and practice with some of our general members.

1/23
Trivia Night

Get to know NSC members by playing a fun trivia game!

1/26
Open GM

Join us at our General Meeting to see what a day looks like in NSC.

1/27
H(app)y Hour

Get last minute pointers from general members on your application

1/28
APP DEADLINE!

@ 5PM !!!

2/1
Email

Look out for an email regarding your written application decision.

2/2-2/6
Interviews

QUESTIONS?

Sign In Form

MEET & GREET

MEET & GREET

Get into pairs! (one green and one orange)

What committee are you a part of?

Have you worked on any projects recently?

What areas of advocacy have you been interested in?

How was this project put together?

Are there any events/articles/legislation that you

might be interested in working on?

Questions?
Email **nsc.vice.president@gmail.com**
Fall 2025