

IMPACT

Fall 2025

REPORT

Natural Sciences Council



A MESSAGE FROM OUR

president



This semester marked a turning point for the Natural Sciences Council—a period of intentional regrowth, deeper engagement with students, and strengthened internal and external presence across the College of Natural Sciences. With a renewed focus on rebuilding internal culture and centering the student experience, NSC has laid a strong foundation for sustained impact in the semesters ahead.

Throughout Fall 2025, NSC expanded its programming, strengthened advocacy efforts, and deepened community engagement. We increased our visibility across CNS, enhanced representation of diverse student voices, and worked closely with college leadership to ensure that student needs and concerns remained at the forefront of decision-making. These efforts resulted in measurable progress across programming, service, and representation, reflecting our commitment to meaningful, student-driven action.

As we move forward, NSC is stronger, more connected, and increasingly intentional in its mission. By fostering collaboration, amplifying student voices, and prioritizing inclusivity, we have contributed to a more engaged and supportive CNS community and set the stage for continued growth and impact.

None of this work would be possible without the continued support, guidance, and partnership of our CNS administration, especially Elizabeth Morgan and Arturo Compean Jr. We are grateful for their commitment to student leadership and shared dedication to advancing the well-being and success of the CNS community.

*Best,
Mercy Okougbo*

STRENGTHENING REPRESENTATION AND VISIBILITY

- Achieved full representation of all CNS majors in the council while recruiting 19 new members across majors and academic years.
- Expanded social media reach to over 3,000 followers, using platforms to highlight member-led initiatives through the Legislation Series and promotion of CNS resources.
- Represented the council at major CNS events, including First-Gen Celebration, Gone to CNS, CNS Connections, and Advisory Council meetings, strengthening student engagement with administration.
- Launched the Legislation Series through social media reels highlighting member-led initiatives and passed legislation
- Resource Awareness Campaign: Leveraged social media platforms to promote CNS academic, wellness, and professional development resources to students

100%
REPRESENTATION OF
CNS MAJORS

+3.4K
SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

ADVOCACY

This semester, NSC worked on events and projects to advance academic support for students

- **Reflection Space:** Passed N.S.C.B. 2505: A Resolution to implement a reflection space in Painter Hall's CNS Wellness Center
- **Registration Transparency:** Working to standardize registration information across departments and advising centers to improve clarity and access
- **Wellness Ambassadors Program:** Collaborating with the CNS Wellness Center to provide peer support and wellness training for students
- **Expansion of Home to Texas Program:** Exploring the integration of STEM-based community internships into the Home to Texas program to enable CNS students to gain hands-on, field-relevant experience while supporting development in their home communities

ADVOCACY- CONT'D

- **CNS Connections:** Student-run networking fair designed to connect CNS students with peers, organizations, and academic opportunities



- **Collaborating with the Health Professions Office (HPO)** to provide updated information on dual-degree pathways in medicine and ethics testing requirements
- **Physics Prerequisite Sequence Revision:** Initiated a proposal to revise the physics prerequisite sequence in collaboration with the Department of Physics
- **Advising Improvement Initiative:** Working with CNS administration to identify gaps and implement improvements in academic advising infrastructure
- **Support for Pre-Health Credentials:** Collaborating with the Health Professions Office and relevant CNS departments to expand access to credentialing resources, preparation materials, and guidance for pre-health students
- **Resource Roundup: Wellness and resource fair** focused on promoting academic, mental health, and social support services for CNS students



- **Expansion of Career Internship Fund:** Working to expand the Career Internship Fund to increase financial support for CNS students pursuing unpaid or underpaid experiential learning opportunities
- **Health Resources Mapping:** Feedback-informed project assessing gaps in existing university resource maps to improve student wellness, accessibility, and navigation of health-related services
- **Interactive Degree Audit (IDA) for Double Majors:** Working to improve systems and guidance for degree planning among double majors through clearer IDA processes and administrative support

VOLUNTEERISM IN ACTION

NSC continued its commitment to service and outreach

West Campus Food Distribution: Service track that coordinates weekly food distribution efforts to address food insecurity among students and West Campus residents



- **Young Scientists Program:** Service track providing science outreach and hands-on learning experiences for Austin-area youth to promote early interest in STEM
- **Day of Service:** Hosting a semesterly, college-wide volunteer day to foster a culture of service and community engagement within CNS



- **Service Database:** Creating a centralized hub for CNS-approved volunteering and service opportunities to streamline student engagement



STEM Nights: Fostering interest in STEM through community demonstrations and interactive activities hosted at the Long Community Center and Sommer Elementary School



CENTERING STUDENT VOICES



Food 4 Thought

This semester, NSC implemented a fully structured biweekly Food for Thought schedule, expanding table locations to engage a broad and diverse cross-section of CNS students. Projects and events were directly informed by student feedback collected at F4T, ensuring that initiatives reflect the needs and interests of CNS students.

- Tabled in Welch, Gearing, Gates–Dell Complex, and the Physics, Math, and Astronomy Buildings to connect with students on a biweekly basis
- Surveyed over 200 students in one week to better understand their goals, college experience, and needs.
- Refined F4T questions to generate more targeted, actionable insights.
- Leveraged student feedback to directly inform NSC recommendations for the CNS Strategic Plan and to shape new events, health resource mapping, advising recommendations, and legislative initiatives.



FEATURED EVENT

student-faculty trivia night



Based on student feedback, NSC hosted its first-ever Student-Faculty Trivia Night, bringing together students and professors for an evening of friendly competition, teamwork, and laughter. The event encouraged collaboration across classrooms and departments, allowing participants to connect, share knowledge, and build stronger relationships in a fun and engaging environment

COUNCIL CULTURE

fostering connections



- Hosted a variety of events, including Derby, Mentor–Mentee socials, Friendsgiving, Broomball, Arts & Crafts Night, Committee Cup, and Bachelor X, to foster community and engagement within the council.
- Increased awareness of UT-wide issues among council members, including the UT Compact, advising infrastructure, and Senate engagement.
- Launched NSC Derby, a semester-long internal competition, to promote social participation and interaction within the council.
- Strengthened internal coordination and outreach across all NSC events and initiatives, improving communication and execution.
- Raised general meeting attendance to 96%, enhancing cohesion and encouraging active member participation.

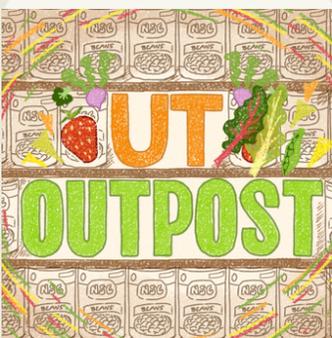


stronger internal systems

- Revised the demerit and points systems to better recognize member initiative, accountability, and engagement
- Streamlined administrative processes, including intent-to-return forms, accommodation requests, and membership communications
- Improved recruitment workflows, census data collection, and event tracking to support more efficient and data-informed operations
- Updated the organization's website and refined digital systems for attendance tracking and engagement monitoring
- Achieved **96% General Meeting attendance** by strengthening communication, consistency, and organizational expectations

CATALYST

NSC's official publication published 12 articles this semester, including pieces on academic pressure, apartments, UT culture, and student experiences.



A UT STUDENT'S
GUIDE TO GROCERIES
AND SUPPORT



DORM DAYS ARE
OVER: GUIDE TO A
SUSTAINABLE
APARTMENT



FROM AUSTIN SKIES
TO WEST TEXAS



MICROTRENDS,
MAJOR IMPACT



BRAVE NEW
WORLD: THE
SCIENCE THAT
CONTROLS US



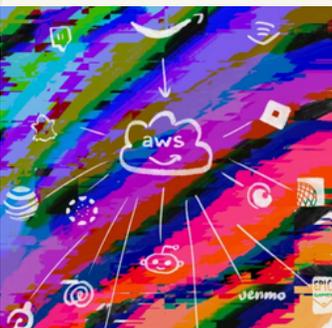
AN OVERLY
NORMALIZED CYCLE



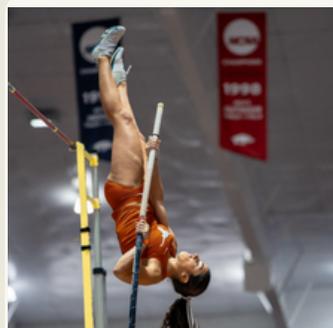
CANVA FOR CNS



DEEP IN THE HEART
OF TEXAS



THE HIDDEN HANDS
OF THE INTERNET



THE PURSUIT OF
PASSIONS



TIS THE SEASON



STANDING OUT
WITHOUT
STRESSING OUT

FALL 2025

Membership

- **Executive Board:** Mercy Okougbody (President), Rahul Karthik (Vice President), Luke Ruiz (Financial Director), Kim Heineken (Membership Director), Vishal Kantharaju (Senate Representative), Melany Hernandez (Academic Affairs Chair), Daniel Song (Catalyst Chair), Akansha Bojjam (Community Involvement), Roman Lago (Internal Relations Chair), Aditi Chawla (Legislative Chair), Sravya Gullapalli (Public Relations Chair), Audrey Rovillain (Student Access Chair), Anish Baktha (Student Engagement Chair), Adanna Onyeka (Outreach Coordinator), Juhi Malwade (Technology Coordinator)
- **Academic Affairs:** Katie Gaston, Neena Varanasi, Riya Addula, Michael Ogu, Raphael Ossa, Rona Ismael, Diya Deepak, Seoyoung Lee, Melody Dehghan, Taha Asghar-Ali
- **Catalyst:** Brina Patel, Prisha Desai, Arushi Nath, Maya Murali, Sidnee Bell, Kayla Hoang, Ethan Trejo
- **Community Involvement:** Vivian Zhang, Sharon Guo, Tejal Naik, Naviya Ravi, Adya Das, Sanjay Krishna, Rashid Ahmad, Anika Raybarman
- **Internal Affairs:** Margot Heltzel, Lauren Lauer, Gabriella Gonzalez, Aiden Facundo
- **Legislation:** Amanda Mortensen, Hibba Mansoor, Sanika Bedse, Sai Kolluru, Shashank Shah, Khanh Hoang, Luciana Garcia, Krish Khosla
- **Public Relations:** Hrishita Das, Xixi Hillman, Liam Slater, Rayaam Hameed
- **Student Faculty:** Nancy Kwak, Krupa Rathi, Poojitha Diggikar, Seya Lee, Kethana Uppalapati, Tyson Huynh, Syed Akbar, Tanisha Parikh
- **Student Access:** Somya Krishna, Maheen Farooqui, Shandeep Karthikeyan, Shreemayi Undavalli, Audrey Chu, Snigdha Patlola, Riley Jones, Sophia Pokorney

THANK YOU ALL FOR A GREAT SEMESTER!