



# The University of Texas at Tyler

## Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

- I. Call to Order 5:30pm**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of the Minutes**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>President Smith</b>	
<b>Vice President Bennett</b>	
<b>Secretary Dix</b>	
<b>Treasurer Luna</b>	
<b>Chief of Staff Peters</b>	
<b>Adan Govea</b>	
<b>Amelia McCain</b>	
<b>Amber McAdams</b>	
<b>Ashlyn Mattern</b>	
<b>Bee Black</b>	
<b>Ben Buchanan</b>	
<b>Brandon Scott</b>	
<b>Brennan McGinnis</b>	
<b>Bryce McQueary</b>	
<b>Christine Barrett</b>	
<b>Emily Helms</b>	
<b>JJ Rojas</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Jorian Khan</b>	
<b>Justin Vargas</b>	
<b>Kaylin Sheppard</b>	
<b>Kyna Holman</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Lisa Tran</b>	
<b>Macie Kirkby</b>	
<b>Maggie Manning</b>	
<b>McKenna Waller</b>	
<b>Tanner King</b>	
<b>Valerie McNamara</b>	<b>A (approved)</b>
<b>Aisha Price</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Asia Adams</b>	
<b>Anayeli Campo</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>JaMaya Gossett</b>	<b>A</b>



<b>Perpetual Kyei</b>	
<b>Emma Owulebaja</b>	
<b>Angelina Lezma</b>	
<b>Ronald Carnes III</b>	
<b>Erica Santee</b>	
<b>Macy Reed</b>	
<b>MD Milon Uldin</b>	
<b>Alexis Minick</b>	
<b>Peace Okeke</b>	
<b>Chief Justice: Chloe Burleson</b>	

IV. **Open Forum**

a. NONE

V. **Speaker's Podium**

a. **Becky McKay:** Super, I'm very delighted to be here. Thank you all for having me. I wanted to provide a brief update on the progress of the construction. Uh, they had promised me that things would go better this go around than last summer, and things were supposed to have been finished before the fall semester started. But of course, thanks being what they are with uh the construction and Tyler supply chain issues, etcetera. They are running far behind, and uh facilities, I believe, kind of tad, and not in their tail. And for the last few weeks we've had significant progress. I don't know how many of you all have been over lightly. They have finished. Lay in the carpet upstairs in the third floor. Former stacks area. That area is going to be turned into more space, like what is on the other side of that floor. Collaborative social study, which is, as you all know the most popular spot in the library. There are times when you can't find a place to sit. I'm aware of the demand for that kind of space. And thus, I pursued, getting a substantial amount of you two system money. It's called Puffier to fix up that space We carried so far three semi truckloads worth of unused out of here. They're going to the Internet, Archive, where they will be digitized and physically preserved. They also paid for that process, the shipping, the packaging uh the digitization. So that is it no cost to Ut Tower. So, the all done use books are gone. The print that we have retained is downstairs on the second floor, the new study rooms there in the corner of the third floor are almost finished. We got the white boards put up. Speaking of white boards. That reminds me. Senator McNamara came by yesterday from nursing, and we had a discussion about white boards. There will be ample moving white boards on that side of the third floor. there will be a nursing mother's room and added to the core of the building right there by the elevators, and what formerly used to be the big study rooms. They are going to be smaller study rooms, because the space was taken up for the nursing mother's room and the uh handicap of the accessible restrooms, stalls in the men's and women's room. In addition to that stuff, which is ongoing, they have just started a million dollar replacement for all the library air handlers that's not going to be visible to you. But the air handlers are from the beginning of this building, the late seventies or early eighties, and if we didn't have heating and air conditioning uh people would definitely notice it. So that is uh going on right now. The only interruption might be a need to turn off climate control, and if it was reason to, if it's free and cold, they won't do it, they'll postpone. So I hope that there is very limited interruption from that. Uh, we're



going to get new elevators that should be starting anytime. They'll be doing the elevators one at a time, so we will always have access uh for up and down on the elevators. They're also we're also going to put a new stair rail on the stairs. I don't know how many of you all have noticed being a young and fleet a foot generally. The stair rail is not at all functional, and to me it's a safety issue. It's to start for me since I walked in here in two thousand and nineteen. So, we're getting a new and functional, not to mention attractive uh stay or hand railing. It's going to be designed like the back stairs in the Pharmacy Building, which has the those. It's a cable system, and you can uh, and it's. It has a handle that you can hold on to, unlike that big chrome handle that we have here. And uh, as you turn the corner on the landing there, there'll be a handrail on the right-hand side for you to hold on to most people being right-handed. So that's what we have going on here in the library construction. Wise, I will welcome your input about the desired types of furniture. I will send out a survey of some kind to the student body, and I welcome your uh your input.

**Senator Khan:** Hello, I'm. Senator Colin from uh the East Engineering Center. I just wanted to thank you for visiting us today, and also uh, just give a big shout out to Miss Christine from the library who came to visit us this week, our engineering librarian. So, I just wanted to say, thank you guys again for sending her down here. It's always wonderful having visitors, and it's great to hear about the updates that are happening there on Maine. And again, just thank you so much for coming to talk and sending people down to see us.

**Becky McKay:** She's pretty extroverted as a librarians, because we are, uh as always delighted to serve. That's uh. That's our mission.

**Senator Mattern:** Hello! I was wondering if there's any way to have account meter at the library. There's a lot of people like people come like how many people are using the library at a specific time. I've heard a lot of people don't want to go if I don't know how many people are there, or anything like that?

**Becky McKay:** There's a company that sells that actually, I guess, where you can get online and see what spaces are available at the library. Yeah, Like the occupancy. Yeah, he's reached out to me, the guy who made that uh system. He had trouble finding a seat in the library where he went to undergrad, and so he developed a system where students could see kind of see the action at the library and see if chairs were available. The thing about that is, it costs money. Yes, what they have done to our money. Oh, we took a three point seven, five percent cut this last go around. Uh, you know that three percent raise that. Then all the staff on campus got to reach a minimum standard of thirty, two thousand seven hundred and sixty. You know where that came from. That came out of my resources budget. And libraries have inflation every year. Uh, you know what cost X last year cost X plus five this year, and we have a flat budget so routinely things are cut, and that we cut things based on what is being used, what is not being used? How much is it being used? What is the cost per use? Uh, I just cut something the other day to say seven thousand dollars, because I need a new authentication system, so that we can differentiate you all from the Health Science Center students because they have their own library over on the north campus. So uh, you know, there's nothing I love more than find



you all good stuff, but money is a real-world constraint, and I'd have to see how much that thing costs, and you know there's an opportunity cost. If I buy that, there's something else that I can't back. I'm hoping that the redoing that second half of the third floor will make you know It's a desirable space for you all. We're essentially doubling, you know. Most people like to sit on the third floor the fourth floor. I forgot to tell you all this. The fourth floor is not heavily used at all. Usually I go up there, and there's just a handful of people in that room and that jot room. It used to be bound journal stacks, and we got rid of those right as soon as I got here, that's all available digitally through jlf joint library facility that we participate with through your system and A&M system. uh, that's kind of the uh accommodations, the testing accommodations. People are going to move up there, the people who conduct testing for special needs people with the understanding that their carols for testing have it's like their little study rooms. They have carols with computers in them. There's going to be several of them. I'll let them move in here to share our space, to partner with them, with the understanding that when they were not testing that space would be available to you all for quiet study. So all through the late afternoon and into the two o'clock in the morning, when we close that space will be available for quiet study, because I know, for some smaller percentage of the population, quiet study is uh essential.

**Senator Minick:** Okay, to follow up on that question. Um, I understand that it requires money to provide resources for your students, However, is there a way to push for the real allocation of funds? Um. Assuming that the priority should be on the students, right? Um! And things like this is are causing an um an accessibility issue. Right? Um! And seeing the amount of money that UT Tyler is spending on other resources that may not be as beneficial to the student and their learning. Is there a possibility that we could push for the reallocation of funds to put towards the library?

**Becky McKay:** You all have plenty of stroke. I would love it if you would advocate for the library. We took a cut and the reality is, the resources go up in cost every year, and our money was reduced. So, you know I have any stroke. Go talk to Dr. Memorian and tell him you want the library to be better funded and not the library shouldn't be taking cuts. In fact, the library should be given an inflation allowance of five to seven to ten percent a year to keep up just at baseline, just to stay the same. We need a little bit more money every year.

**President Smith:** So, um my recommendation, as far as like uh student government's involvement in this can be, is that at the end of the year I've been thinking about maybe putting on an end of the year survey that um students would fill out hopefully. Um! And I was thinking of just having a meeting where we vote on what's kind of subject that we want to put in that survey as far as what they might want to see um, you know, on Campus um, and then based off of that recommendation and those results we can write a formal letter just recommending that um. These changes be made could be something that could potentially be put on that.

**Becky McKay:** Did you all see the comments from the last exit survey for grad students and undergrad? I just received them from the office of assessment Louann, Berman, and Tanya uh! I sent them around to all my staff because I was so delighted. Eighty percent of



grad students are using the electronic resources. Um. Most grad students are distance, of course, ninety-six or ninety-seven of the undergrads whose major interest is space. Our interests are approving of the space ninety, six to ninety-seven percent, and we got many, many glowing comments about specific staff members. Uh. It's unusual for people to be mentioned by name Vandy Dubris, Howard Rockwell, Michael Skinner, uh Christine Forche. We're all mentioned by name for the superb service that they provide. I'm extremely blessed to have such, you know, competent and service-oriented people. I was delighted. I shared the comments with all my staff. I was so pleased.

**VP Bennett:** Hello! This is Robert uh Bennett and Vice President. We talked um over the summer, I believe. Yes, uh so um. I know you talked a little bit about a couple plate uh that are in other areas of campus moving to the library if you can. Can you give us a little bit of insight into what other departments or specialties will be moving into the library, and where from?

**Becky McKay:** That's the only thing I have right now. Is the uh SAR. What does it stand for? A student? Access to what is what is our stand for? They do accessibility and resources. Yes, they're going to have, you know. They're real cramped over there, and the future UT Tyler is going to grow, and they uh they need more space, and I thought it was. It was a good partnership for the library. I'm. I'm not interested in athletics coming over here. You know I'm not interested in social functions coming over here. I'm interested in partnering with uh other departments to do academic things that provide academic support. So, I thought it was a good partnership so long as they would play nicely and not hog up that space, and not let you all use it when it would be sitting there empty overnight. We're open till two in the morning. So that's the only entity that's immediately coming over here. They are just starting to finalize the architectural drawings. They'll have to bid it out. I wouldn't think construction would even start until spring or summer next year at the earliest. That's the only people I'm aware that are coming in here. We also share the space with the Uh Turing people, the tutoring and advising people up on the fourth floor that will stay the same as far as I know. And uh, there's some marketing people uh videography people uh on the first floor. In addition to the canvas, the canvas support people and the print shop. So, the only new people I'm aware of coming over is the SAR Office.

**Senator McCain:** So, I sent that email just because I didn't want to have to explain what that was. And I also wasn't entirely sure, because I'm also trying to email somebody else like the budget and everything for that. So, I was just going to ask you privately if you wanted to meet with that. But we can talk about it now, if you want to. I was just gonna ask you about the rolling white boards.

**Becky McKay:** Well, actually students love the rolling white boards. I mean they're in constant use. Um! It's a way to learn. When you write out by hand it's a learning tool. People love them. I plan to get a dozen more for the other side. The uh there are um, I don't know. If you remember, there was a wall of glass white boards back in that far corner where they were, we now have new study rooms. There are now two walls of glass white boards in those study rooms and down on the other side. I think there's a pretty good size wall of white boards. It pays to buy quality in the library, because things are so



heavily used. The glass white boards are superior because they don't stain. They don't develop a ghost of in on the background, and that whiteboard paint stuff it doesn't work very well. It will stain and be ugly and gross, so it pays to buy good equipment, and good equipment is expensive. Each one of those white boards, those rolling white boards. Last time I bought them they were seven hundred dollars. They are now fifteen hundred dollars apiece.

**Senator Waller:** So earlier you were talking about soft seating, does that mean like beanbags or couches, and lie alternative study environments?

**Becky McKay:** Couches yes, bean bags, probably not so much. I don't think they would hold up very well. One of my dogs chewed up a net pillow. You know I'm talking about for the airplane, the neck. I'm still collecting them from my home. So, imagine the library. yeah, we'll buy some assortment of some soft furniture kind of to be determined. But It's been my observation that the soft furniture is not as heavily used as especially big tables. People love to pile in at a big table with a laptop and an iPad and a you know all your equipment with books and not pads, and this kind of spread out it's. It's my opinion. After thirty plus years in the library that the big tables are the most uh functional. But we'll have some where people can sit individually. Uh library interiors of Texas are the people I'm working with. On Monday I used to work at A&M those people did the second floor of the medical library at A. And M. And it is absolutely, stunningly gorgeous. So, I'm very impressed with their work, and I'll get another couple of uh vendor estimates of ideas, too, and we'll pick and choose what we think is best and most attractive.

**Senator Waller:** Yeah, absolutely. I am a psych major, and I have done a lot of research on, like neuro divergence students and the value of those alternative types of study spaces. So I just wanted to know if there's a room upstairs on the fourth floor. There's a possibility that we can make that a neuro divergent room study space that would work for people.

**VP Bennett:** So, I know you talk about what's currently going on with expanding in the third floor, and then you're going to go in with the elevators and the um stairs, and such is there any further plans After that that you can speak to us about?

**Becky McKay:** Yes, in the spring there'll be another opportunity for me to apply for another round of Puff Lear money. It might be useful for you all to know. This puff stands for permanent University Fund. That's the money that comes out of the West Texas oil field that's been designated for a UT System who gets two-thirds of the money and a and m system who gets one-third of the money There's a subset of that money called Lear library comma equipment comma rehabilitation, and repair so that subset of puff money can be used for specific things, including library, so I applied two years ago I applied again one year ago, and I will apply again this coming spring. What remains to be done that I want to do uh is to replace the brick tile floors throughout the library, and also to get us some new uh some new entry doors, and that'll be about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars that I will apply for in the spring.

**President Smith:** All right. Well, seeing none, Becky. Thank you so much for coming and speaking to us. I think we all appreciate it. We all love the library. So, this is very insightful for us all.



**Becky McKay:** Yeah, I appreciate it. I appreciate you all's interest, and I appreciate the opportunity to come and talk.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **b. President Smith**

All right. Um! So, we'll go ahead and move right along to officer reports. Um. So this past week uh we've mainly just been finalizing things with midnight breakfast and um! I'll announce this again. But um! Everybody that is here after the meeting is over. Please stay. We are going to go over rolls and everything for midnight breakfast. So but I'll say that again. So that way. It's just in your sense. Um. So that's what we've been working on um, and other than that. Um! I got to attend staff in it and introduce myself steps in. It is um a great group. Um have a great President Um, and I intend to invite them, I think, to our November third meeting. We'll have staff in it. President uh Christina Chapman, and hopefully, Faculty Senate President, Dr. Um. Harrison Harrison to Tong um, and that is mostly what I've been working on this week. Um! I'll go ahead and pass it off to Vice President Bennett.

#### **c. Vice-President Bennett**

Okay, Um. So I pretty much just been working with Landry making sure that we get everything together for a minute. Breakfast coming in to get um. We're trying to kind of just get in the finishing touches on it. I'm also getting. I already got the spaces reserved for the mid um the midterm election watch party. It will not be there in the UC Theater. It will be there in St. One hundred and twenty-seven. I think that will be a better space for us. Um. And Um, yeah, i'm sending the rest for committee reports.

#### **d. Secretary Dix**

Um what I've been working on actually collides a lot with my committee reports. So um. Robert created a photo circle which we're all going to join at the end of the meeting, so I was adding some photos to that um, particularly the Midnight Breakfast post that I've been making. I'm going to keep rounding those out, since you know it's next week, they're going to come out a little bit more frequently. Um, but like make posts and send them to me if you want to, and I was working on the minutes, and that's about it.

#### **e. Treasurer Luna**

Hello, everyone! Um, not much as always, uh, though I am looking forward to looking into the feature with, uh everything money wise, especially now that I am officially staying at you. Be Tyler, because I'm getting my Master's in Business Administration. So, one more semester, me being here at least as treasurer.

#### **f. Chief of Staff Peters**

There this past week I've been taking the feedback that you all gave last Thursday on the presentation um preparing for the discussion, we'll be having the future about the General Assembly time other than that. I've been getting ready for Midnight Breakfast, just like everyone else. So, for those of you have never experienced before midnight. Breakfast is chaotic fun and all the above. That's right. Yeah. And all returning Senators here can tell you that, too. So, yeah, um, all right. Moving on to committee reports.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **a. Events**



You're going to hear about it more later, but it's mostly just midnight breakfast that we discussed. Um stuff like stuff. A critter was ordered um decorations for it, and then um patriot productions involvement with the movie night tying into it.

**b. Communications**

We didn't meet. But um, I basically. Sent out like kind of a brief text of what I said in my officer reports about the photo circle and about um making posts.

**c. SGAC**

So, this week or yeah this week we actually only met with the National Society black engineers for a reimbursement. They only spent forty dollars uh they haven't set the receipt. So, we are going to go ahead and do that just because we already proved it. Um. But if they don't send the receipt. Then we can't do anything about it

**g. Rules**

We met this week, and we kind of went over some of you all feedback and different ideas. Um, about the presentation that we gave last week, and so we're looking at pulling some different statistics. Just set a few different things that y'all we're kind of concerned or interested in in learning more about. So we are getting that from the different academic advisors that have that information. And then we're going to work on a presentation with all of that information to discuss at our meeting in a couple of weeks,

**h. ESC**

We didn't meet this week, because we're putting out what time and eight, so it's going to be a Tuesday at four fifteen. So, if you still want to join

**i. GSA**

Nothing to report

**VI. Student Voice Reports - Student Body at Large**

**a. Freshman:**

Um, So there's nothing really big going on. I've been working with um, Senator McAdams for the issue at all um pressure, and there complain about um the laundry room just being not the best right now. So, we're working with that right now.

**b. Sophomore:**

The whole parking situation like they're ticketing up towards building one. There are people who have to park on the other side of the basketball courts to get into their apartments over by building one and all that. There is a lot of complaints about the RA's not knocking before they come into the apartments.

**c. Junior:**

Okay, So um. A lot of people are nervous for the chemistry exams, and a lot of people are a lot of students in the nursing building. They're um. They would like to see more water buttons in the nursing building and the engineering building, and everyone for breakfast.

**VII. d. Senior:**

Um, I think the only thing is, seniors. Um, just getting any hold on advising appointments for registration on November first, I believe is when it opens up for seniors. So, I think all advisors. Um, we're sending out emails this week to kind of let seniors and everybody really know that those hold on your accounts need to be taken care of, so that we can register um in just a couple of weeks.

**e. Graduate:**

**Nothing to report.**



## Old Business

**Nothing to add.**

## New Business

### **a. SGA Service Hours**

**President Smith:** All right. So um we kind of discuss this a little bit, an e board um, but and I kind of I guess I've already mentioned this a few times, but we will be um, there is a way. And again, I'm not actually completely sure on how to. But there is a way to uh delineate between service hours that you have at general or for other student organizations, and for student government. So, hat we will do is we're not clearly like. We don't have a clear understanding of what we might already go ahead and count as service hours um for um student government. So, I think what we will do is um. We are going every time we have an event. Um, especially if it's not mandatory. Um, ask us beforehand if you were interested in receiving service hours, and we will be able to tell you as an E board if it is going to account towards service, hours or not. Um, that goes for other events as well. I know that sounds super vague, but we honestly didn't have a lot of time to just sit down and nail out every event that's going to happen, and every service opportunity that's going to happen throughout the year, because they all haven't been planned. Yet. Exactly so. That's the reason being um. But I just wanted to see if you all had any questions about that, and I also wanted to open it up for potential discussion on what you might want the prize to be, because we would. If we're going to use SGA funds, we would have to vote on, what on? How much? If we have the money, and what the prize is going to be? My, So this is this is what I. This is I have a suggestion. Just so. I can throw you give you an idea of what I've been thinking. But there is a Jbl speaker that is a little clip. It's only like seventy bucks. Um! I got it out, Walmart myself that I have. I love it so that's the kind of gift I have in mind. We could look into getting a trophy. We want to incentivize service hours because it's important. Um. But we'll also have various service opportunities, and I know the other organizations will have various service opportunities throughout the year. Um, just make sure, if you are going to do those that you tell us beforehand that you're representing Sga in that you cannot have multiple hats on at that time. So it will be for Sga that you are representing them at that service opportunity or at that event. Um, because that is the caveat, because I know a ton of you are in a bunch of other organizations. Custom SGA sweater would be cool. You all are more than welcome to email me with any ideas you have.

### **b. New Senator Appointments**

**Let the record show that Emma Harlan and Kelsey Niet were voted into SGA by the Senate's unanimous votes.**

## Advisor Comments

**Nothing to add.**

## Announcements

**President Smith:** First one. Not a fun announcement, but it's an announcement. Um! So, we have uh an article in the Constitution. It's Article eight. Um. If I encourage you to go read it. But, um! That is the article that lays out some of our attendance expectations for Student Government.



So, if you have not known um, you are required to send an absence request at least forty advance of a meeting. So please do that. Uh We've been kind of lazy. I guess the E board has on enforcing that. So we're That's completely our fault to, so we just kind of want to say that we're going to be strictly enforcing this from now on. Just so that way. Nobody is blindsided, because that would be completely unfair to you all. Um! So, we wanted to provide you all this opportunity just to tell you. Um. In addition, we do want to add something for if you are on main campus, um, or if you um are going to be absent, that there's an option for you to attend via zoom um on that form. So if you are going to be out of town or um somewhere else. Then, uh, we'll have that option for you to attend to be a zoom. Have to tell us that um in addition to that I'm trying to make sure. I'm remembering everything. Um, I'm obviously not remembering everything. Um, just know that we will be, and I encourage you all, by the way, to go and read Article A. Just so that you all know what the process is and everything Um, some people don't really like Don't read it, but I encourage you people to put a lot of time and effort into that document, so I encourage you to read the full thing, but especially regard to plate um to show you all that you know about that attendance standard. Um! I can't think of anything else, so I will go ahead and move along to the next announcement. Um! Let me go ahead and share screen or This is a QR Code. This is for photo circle, and what photo circle is which you'll probably already know. I just found out about it today, but basically it's if you post a photo, or if you take a photo of something, and you're at like an SGA event or sponsoring an event where they have a table at an event, we want to have this picture so that we can post it on our social media, so that everybody knows how cool we are. Um! And that we are doing our part, and advocating for everybody, and being present at all university events. So, scan that QR code I think it works. I don't know um If it doesn't. I will be sending out the um link for it in the group after probably tomorrow. Yeah, Robert, go ahead and put it in the Group Me right now, alright, and then let me get back to the agenda. I have to stop and share screen a lot. Um also. Um Again, it's not on there, but I'm going to say it every week until it's done. Student Regent, Texas higher education. Coordinating Board applications, please apply. Um is very important that we have applicants for this. Um, because it is a very huge deal. Um and student government plays a vital role in helping choose who that's going to be. So, please please please apply um, other announcement by the way, that's not on there. Um if you were if you were interested in being on the advising ad hoc committee. Ashley Bill is right behind you, so she is going to be here after the meeting. Um! And those of you that were um have already mentioned that you all are going to be on the advising ad hoc committee. She just wanted to meet with you. Probably not super long, but just to kind of go over what things are gonna look like moving forward. Um! And so also, if you are, did not reach out to her if you expressed interest, but did not reach out, for she's right there, so she's happy to help.

### **Senator of the Week is Ben Buchanan!!**

**President Smith:** Senator Buchanan was nominated for being not only a great advocate, but also being very active in other student orgs, and being just an overall, go getter. So, we thank you for everything that you do, congratulations.

**Senator McNamara:** So another thing about service opportunities. Um: If anyone was here the previous semester. We did a house painting thing with path. I'm trying to get that together for nursing. But would you all be in favor of having another one for SGA. and keep submitting applicants. Keep nominating other senators, please. I love doing this. Make sure you get an SGA



shirt before you leave if you haven't already, you will be required to wear it at Midnight Breakfast. Main campus zoom attendees, reach out to me regarding your roles for Midnight Breakfast.

**Next Week**

Nothing to add.

**Adjournment**

**Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm.**