



# The University of Texas at Tyler

## Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

Name	Absent
President Smith	
Vice President Bennett	
Secretary Dix	
Treasurer Luna	
Chief of Staff Peters	
Adan Govea	
Amelia McCain	
Ashlyn Mattern	
Bee Black	
Ben Buchanan	
Brandon Scott	
Brennan McGinnis	
Bryce McQueary	A (approved)
Christine Barrett	
Emily Helms	A
Glen Beran	A
JJ Rojas	
Jorian Khan	
Justin Vargas	
Kaylin Sheppard	
Kyna Holman	
Lisa Tran	
Macie Kirkby	
Maggie Manning	
McKenna Waller	
Tanner King	
Valerie McNamara	
Chief Justice: Chloe Burleson	

- IV. Open Forum
  - a. Shelby Kipp came to speak to the Senate in regards to the Anchorsplash weeklong event being held by Delta Gamma.
- V. Speaker's Podium



a. **Executive Director of Advising, Ashley Bill, and Director of College Peer Partnerships, Joe Chhay**

**Ashley Bill:** Good evening everyone, I know I've worked with some of you over the years for those of you I haven't my name is Ashley Bill, and the Executive Director of Advising and Academic Onboarding for the University. So, over the years I have worked quite a bit with members of SGA, either as one-off meetings, as college-based meetings, or last year we were able to have one sort of bigger group meeting with a small committee that represented each of the colleges to talk about academic advising at UT Tyler, What's going well? what isn't? What are ways we can be improving things? What is it that you really want to see from your Academic Advisors? What is it that you really need them to be there for you? So, we took a lot of the information that we've gotten over the last couple of years. We've been able to really sort of design this new College peer partner program. As you all know, money is a little bit tight in certain areas. Enrollment is down at the University, so being able to fund new full-time positions for advisors is very difficult. What we were able to do, though, was find funding for what we call our college peer partners, and Joe, who were talking a little bit about that in just a little bit. But before we transition to that discussion, I did also want to say part of what we had. We've reached out. I've talked with President Smith. I would love to create an Ad Hoc advising committee from SGA, that I can come and meet with you all, whether it's every other week, once a month, whatever it is, so that we can hear about. Maybe the strengths, the struggles that you're going through, because unless I know what's going on, I'm not able to fix it. I'm not able to work with the colleges, and sometimes it's not an advising issue. It might be a registration issue which would be the Academic Department, or it could be the registrar's office that it all kind of gets lumped into advising, and the more direct contact I have with you, all the more I know what's going on, and the struggles that you're facing, the easier it is for me to try to identify who is the right person, the right department, to try to fix it. So, I know It's on your agenda later today to be able to talk about the Ad Hoc. Um if it's okay, I'd like to stay the whole time, and then if that group would like to meet after afterwards, tonight. I'm going to make myself available every at least every other Thursday night. So, after the at J meetings, I can meet with the Ad Hoc committee, and that way You're already here. We know you've already carved out this time. I've found childcare, and so we're able to make sure I can physically be here, and that way it's not quite as trying to find a common time for us all to meet in the typical eight to five time. One of the things that came out of my our recent discussions last year with SGA is that we need more help. We need more support for students when it comes to advising related talks, and while we were not able to identify enough funding to hire new, full time professional staff, we were able to do as find funding for student positions. And so, we're going to be able to hopefully kill two birds with one stone we're going to be able to provide our undergraduate students with more assistance, and we're also going to be able to provide more on-campus job opportunities for our students. Um, so, Joe Chhay, our newest Coordinator of Academic Success, is going to be overseeing this program. We've redesigned a position, a full-time position to be able to do this, because we believe so strongly that these college peer partners can be an incredibly valuable resource.



**Joe Chhay:** Well, everybody thanks for having me today. I just want to let you know this is a very exciting time, because this is something I've never experienced in a lot of colleges that I've been to that we can provide something support for someone, for undergraduates that don't necessarily know how to figure out what to do. It's their first time. They don't know how to just figure out their time management or knowing that you know who I talk to. This is where we're making the call with your partners, and we need your help to go out and find these people for each of these colleges, and it's going to be surrounded around their schedule. So, they're going to be able to go in at their need, because obviously school is the most important thing. It's a paid position, and it's twelve dollars an hour. So, I think that's pretty great, and they just we need people that are in their shoes. They are people that have gone through all of these situations, and just can empathize with whatever they're going through. And during this time of these last two years, with COVID and everything, they may be struggling. So, we definitely need your help to finding people that are Juniors and Seniors that have gone through these things that just need to figure out how to do these things. They're in the weeds. So please I'm. Here to enlist. I'm here to grab people. That's all I have for now.

**Ashley Bill:** So, these positions are all available on handshake, and Joe is right, we've had these positions posted now for almost two months. We've only hired one person because we've only had two people apply, and one of them wasn't qualified. And so, it's been very difficult for us to be able to find these students to come in. That's where we're asking for your help. Please talk to your constituents. If you yourselves are interested in a part time, position like this, it's nineteen and a half hours a week. And, as Joe was saying, at twelve dollars an hour. It's one of our higher paid student assistant physicians. So, if you could please reach out to your constituents, consider it yourself. We would love to be able to fill all these positions by the middle of October, so we can make sure that they are trained and ready to go. So, when registration opens in November, they are able to support their fellow students. So again, we ask for your help, and please reaching out to any of your friends and those who are today Junior; Seniors; good academic standing. If you have any questions, you can always reach out to Joe. I think if you don't mind, we can send in a follow up email President Smith with the contact information that can be passed out, and then I will be in the back, and I will stay through the end to talk with the advising Ads Hoc after the meeting is over. But again, we'd like to hear, are there any questions right now?

**Senator Govea:** I have a question about what marketing sharing strategy have you guys been utilizing to try to reach the students?

**Ashley Bill:** Sure, so we, of course, have posted it through handshake. We've asked all the colleges to reach out to the students who would need those needs, but we have no way of knowing if those colleges have actually done that. So, I'm not entirely sure if the colleges have reached out like we had hoped. We have reached out via email to every student who meets the criteria through email. But again, we know everyone is inundated with emails constantly. So, that's why we're really looking at different



strategies. Any ideas that you have, please share with Joe. He will be able to put those into action.

**Senator Vargas:** One of my questions was like, what are the requirements for this job like, what are you guys specifically looking for that'll qualify?

**Ashley Bill:** So, we're looking at students who have at least 60 credit hours, and who have been successful at UT Tyler, so they can't be a first semester transfer student or a first semester Freshman. So at least sixty credit hours with a 3.0 GPA. We want students who have been able to be academically successful to help share what has worked well with them, with students who might be struggling throughout the process. So, we're looking at about two college peer partners per college.

**Senator McNamara:** I'm trying to find the position on handshake right now. Just so I can see what it is like titled.

**Joe Chhay:** Yes, I just put them in per college, it is College Peer Partner.

**Senator Mattern:** How do they relate to like our advisors themselves? Would they be able to sign off on like meeting with our adviser? There's a hold and stuff like that. Would they be able to do that?

**Ashley Bill:** So, it's going to be trial and error and figuring out what works, and what does it so part of what we'll certainly be looking at is these individuals are going to be trained with the college that they support. Again. We'll have two college, two students for souls, two students for insight, and so they will go in. They'll work with those college advisors to say, Okay, when we get questions like this, what do we have the authority to do versus what do we need to help? Maybe make an appointment for that student with the academic advisor. They are to help streamline processes, and while these college peer partners might not be able to do everything, they're going to go through some pretty significant trainings, so they're going to have quite a bit of information. They'll be able to help in quite a few scenarios they won't be able to approve anything but what they can do. The question you asked about holds, for example, sometimes the Academic Advisors forget to release the hold once they've met with the students. They know it's done. These college peer partners can look at and see. Oh, they've met with them. They just forgot to do that step. I can release that for them, so that will be one of the things that they can certainly do.

**Senator Buchanan:** Hi! My name's Ben Buchanan and I was curious where the peer partners are going to be housed?

**Ashley Bill:** So, they're going to be housed on the fourth floor of the library. That's where the Department of Academic success is housed. So, we have. Ah, the person sitting right next to you also works in my office. We have a large work room, and That's where all the college peer partners will ultimately be housed.



**Senator Buchanan:** Okay, and then how would they communicate with advisors? Would it just be through email or like? How would they work it?

**Ashley Bill:** It's going to be a kind of combination, so part of it will likely have either weekly bi-weekly monthly meetings with the advising centers, because again, the life cycle of a semester it's going to change what the knowledge of your partners are going to be doing so, part of what they'll be doing is dependent on what the advisors are saying. Okay, this time of year midterms are coming up. We need to make sure we reach out to every student who got a D or an F as a midterm grade. We need to try to get those students in, because we want to be sure and try to try to help them before it's too late. Um versus when it comes to registration, maybe it's making sure that these students who haven't gotten an appointment set up yet. Let's reach out to them and make sure they get their comments to that advisor, or it could be the advisor has said, I've uploaded your degree plan, and to navigate, but the students having a hard time accessing it, let me help you do that we'll help you out to navigate. We'll download your degree plan. Make sure you've got access to everything you need, so very different as the lifecycle goes. So, some months and some weeks they'll have a lot more collaboration with the advisors, some will be a little bit less.

**Senator Buchanan:** So, would students be able to contact these peer partners, or would it be let's go to the advisors in the system?

**Ashley Bill:** No, the students will actually be able to contact your partners directly. So, part of what we've been talking about once we can have more than one hired, is being able to do basically office hours where students can come in just like faculty. We've got standard office hours that are available face to face as well as choosing. Students can make appointments with their college peer partner. They want to have a conversation about, how do you use your planner feature so that you know exactly what classes you're going to be taking every semester, and exactly when you're going to graduate. There's a lot of different ways these peer partners can help the students.

**Senator Buchanan:** And then how do you all plan to market that?

**Joe Chhay:** So, everything is going to be accessed through EAB navigate, and you're going to be able to go in there and make appointments, and it's going to show the academic advisor, and it's going to show their peer partner that was assigned to them, and then they're also going to show what their hours are. So that way you're able to open that up and make an appointment.

**Senator Vargas:** Hi again, um, for marketing purposes, have you all like considered about sending like a flyer to Student Engagement and having them posted them on the TV screens around, like the entire campus and stuff?

**Joe Chhay:** We are open to all suggestions like, this is so new that we are just trying to make sure and get everything out. That's why we are here, to get as much help as possible. I like the ideas.



**Senator McCain:** Hi! My name is Amelia McCain. Um, I was just going to say I don't know if you guys have done this yet, but have you all tried to post it on social media or anything yet, because that would probably be a really good way to get the word out to Student Body.

**Ashley Bill:** We have, but the Academic Success social media does not have a ton of followers, yet. We can forward you the post if you all would be willing to do that (share the post), we would greatly appreciate that!

**Senator Buchanan:** Have y'all talked to the Career Success Coaches at the colleges?

**Ashley Bill:** Not yet, that's one of the things that we will be looking at pretty quickly.

**Senator Holman:** So, you said that you'd be sending an email out to all students that are qualified what would be in the subject line of that email?

**Ashley Bill:** Oh, that's a good question. I'm not the one who sent out the original email. I'm not to be perfectly honest, I'm not sure what the subject line was. Do you have a recommendation when we send the next one out?

**Senator Holman:** Um, no! Because I just looked through my email, and I didn't see anything relating to it at all. And I um actually work part time at another community college that I graduated from doing exactly what you were talking about. I was a student worker before, and I still go in sometimes part time in and help in the Admissions office for the advisory office.

**Ashley Bill:** So, if you would write down [rchhay@uttler.edu](mailto:rchhay@uttler.edu), that's Joe's email address if you would like to email him, we would love to talk with you and schedule a time to meet. Thank you guys so much for having us, we really appreciate it, and any help you can give building this up, helping us to find more students to fill these positions. Have a great day!

**President Smith:** Thank y'all so much for coming!

## VI. Officer Reports

### a. **President Smith**

This past week I met with Josh and Kaylin and we were discussing UT SAC, because I will be leaving for that next Friday. If you don't know what UT SAC is, think of it as Student Government, but for the whole UT System. So, we'll be going down to Austin, and we'll be meeting with the other representatives, typically people from other Student Government's, as well. In addition to that, we have been working on getting everything ordered with the Fall Elections, making sure everyone is where they need to be. There's, I think, technically two spots left but now there is around five spots left for the different University Committees, so I will be reaching out to each of you individually. Some of them have already gotten filled but we need to continue to fill those, and like I've said one hundred times before, they're great ways to see a



different side of the University, to see the business side of the University, to see the procedural side of the University, is really eye-opening.

**b. Vice-President Bennett**

So, Constitution Day is tomorrow, and we have lunch from eleven to one we are giving out and we are giving out shirts, and we will also be giving out mini Constitutions and that will be in the UC Atrium. Then tomorrow night will be a movie, we are showing, National Treasure starring Nicolas Cage, so come for the popcorn and stay for Nicolas. That will be from six to eight and we will be giving out free popcorn and just have fun.

**c. Secretary Dix**

Hello! This week I have been keeping the Social Media updated as usual and posing for Constitution Day. National Hazing Prevention Week is next week, so just keep posting what I am posting and what events are happening. There is an event each day. The rest for me is in Committee reports.

**d. Treasurer Luna**

So, this week has been a pretty busy one. Ah, every week is always busy, but this one because I was preparing for Hispanic heritage month. Um, SGA related, though I actually have it written down. I was just updating the expenditure for Constitutional Constitution day once again, and then oh! from the recent SGAC approvals as well. Ah, I've also been going in and writing down like each specific item that they've gone, so we know, like why the event costs that much, and like why the orgs request that much So any feature People looking at it can know like, Oh, yeah, Midnight Breakfast costs four thousand dollars because of this, in this month.

**e. Chief of Staff Peters**

Yeah, so this past week I've been working on the fall elections, said I'm getting looked at. I've been working on getting that judicial board meeting on monthly.

**Committee Reports**

**a. Events**

**Senator Black:** We just talked about Constitution Day, it's tomorrow eleven to one, there's pizza, we're going to have Constitutions, some E-Board members will be dressed up in old timey costumes, and it's always funny. Come out if you can, and then we talked about decorations for Midnight Breakfast, which is Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 10pm. If you have any ideas for decorations, we are doing Halloween theme since it's the week of Halloween, so just reach out and let us know. We talked a little bit about the Midterm watch party, I don't remember what date that is, but we just talked about where we are putting it, I think he said either the PZ or the UC Theatre and we will let y'all know when we have more details, but that's about it.

**b. Communications**

**Senator Barrett:** So, the Communications Committee met today, and we talked a lot about Anti-Hazing Week which Chloe is making a Kahoot for which will be really fun. On top of that, we talked about the banner, and how we are going to do it and that we are all going to sign. So, basically, we are going to put that SGA doesn't support hazing and then all sign to show our involvement against hazing.

**President Smith:** So before you leave, if you can all sign the banner, because we are going to hang it in the UC.

**c. SGAC**



**Senator Mattern:** Okay, so the Woman of Math and Science just requested money for them to have another event. They are having a welcome back event and they wanted CiCi's (one of our vendors). They requested sixty-five dollars and that was approved, and then the Rolling Patriots Guild was approved for their character creation night for eighty five dollars and twenty eight cents.

**d. Rules**

**Senator Holman:** We met for the first time this past Monday at 5:30. We visited back some of the items in the past that we discussed from Rules Committee in the previous semester, and we also discussed a few new ideas, and we will maybe have a presentation within the next couple of months.

**e. ESC**

**Senator Kirkby:** So, we have It's like a annual or no a yearly thing. It's Arbor day. So that's going to be October the thirteenth. And um, we're also going to do it in long, long view campus and Palestine campus. Um. So yeah, make sure to come for that, and if you want to help out, just let me know I can shoot the lady an email.

**f. GSA**

Did not meet this week.

**VII. Student Voice Reports**

**a. Victory Village**

**Senator Mattern:** We had room checks this week. I had mine today, which I'm not sure, but my roommate has a cat, and we thought that if somebody's home it could be out, but apparently not. She failed because the cat was an in a kennel, or but we had people home, so I don't know. I understand you, that there's a lot of maintenance going on. That's pretty much it, I have been busy so.

**b. Ornelas Hall**

Nothing new to report.

**c. Liberty Landing**

**Senator Govea:** I had the excellent opportunity to meet with Andy Pettee and Chris and Christian today, Cameron Long was out, our Parent and Family Coordinator and she hosts this monthly parent talk with parents of students at the University, so I was able to participate in a conversation where they were just talking to the parents about what the housing expectation is and what the most commonly asked questions are, and just overall tending to student's parents. So, other than that, I really haven't had much to do. I heard the sidewalk is very close to being done. Spring applications open up on, I believe a month from now so if you have a friend who wants to live on campus and doesn't, that opens up in about a month. Watch those emails.

**Old Business**

Nothing to add.

**New Business**

**a. Advising Ad-Hoc Committee**

**Let the record show the Advising Ad-Hoc Committee was established by a unanimous vote.**

**b. Election results**



**Let the record show that President Smith put the Election results on the screen and further educated the Senate on where to find this information.**

**d. Fall Election Senator Swear-ins**

**Let the record show that the new Senators in attendance at the meeting, were sworn in.**

**Advisor Comments**

**Advisor Neaves:** I don't have a lot. It's super exciting. I think, you know, I've always enjoyed working with Ashley, she has consistently listened to the feedback from student government over the years, and I think the initiative that they're rolling out is an amazing opportunity. So, I do want to encourage you to go out, talk to your constituents, and encourage them to apply for those on-campus jobs. That is one of the highest paying jobs for the students. So hopefully I don't lose some of my student workers, but I think it's a valuable position on this campus. The students have for many years complained about advising, and this is the University's way that we're trying to address it, and I think that we definitely want to take advantage and utilize that resource and so, and to say, thank you. A lot of a lot of work goes into behind positions, and really making sure that we're trying to make it towards the best possible. So, super excited about that. Um I'm really excited about Constitution Day. It's the first time since I've been here. That is a full day of activities, and so I complement Robert and the Events Committee for really looking at how do we make this a day long activity? The shirts should be here tomorrow, and they're pretty nice shirts. Everybody loves free food, and so and I guess Nicholas Cage. I'm proud that SGAC is up and running. So that was a good update. Ah, a lot of student groups are starting to request their ah, some money. A lot of activities are occurring. I reported to faculty, at lunch today since August fifteenth there have been one hundred and eighty-four events, as of lunch there has been several more reported. Since August the fifteenth, there have been two thousand one hundred and fifteen individuals that have checked into at least one event. This is awesome. So, it makes me happy. A lot of activities happen on each of our campuses, and continuing, if you're involved in a group, continue to get all of that on, Engage and check in. And so, challenging the Events Committee to see what we can do to get Constitution Day down at the Houston campus, and then the last thing would be well, congratulations to all of our Senators. This was one of the earliest, all, and one of the largest Senates we are at. So, I continue to challenge the E-Board to continue to fill every seat. Tell your friends group. Yep. So if there are open seats that website will be updated soon. Um. Definitely. Look at where we can try to get some of ah more seats filled, so that way we're making sure that we're addressing all the concerns that are happening across the campus. So, any questions for me? There is the Hispanic Heritage kickoff event that's going on in the UC ballroom. There is a lot of food and so definitely go check that out. And there's going to be a lot of activities throughout the month, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage. All right keep up the good work, though.

**Announcements**

**President Smith:** So a few announcements, one of them obviously is Constitution Day. Go to it tomorrow if you can go. It is awesome that it's going to be a daylong event. So, a good job, um, and then make sure to stay afterwards to sign the banner, so that everybody knows that we're against hazing. Another thing I want to go ahead and announce to you all is the Career Success Conference is coming up and if you all haven't ever been to it, it's a big event. It's a great place to make connections, and really see what the world of business looks like. That will be October



twentieth. They're going to have over two hundred speakers, and then more than one hundred and fifty companies show up to that event, so it's a great way to kind of get yourself out there and put yourself into the job market right in college.

**Congratulations to Senator of the Week, Valerie McNamara!**

**President Smith:** Valerie was nominated because of the hard work that she did this summer with the nursing program and just standing out as a stellar senator, even when Student Government wasn't technically operating.

**Next Week**

Nothing to add.

**Adjournment**

**Senator Govea:** Motion to adjourn.

**Senator Vargas:** Seconded.

**Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:14pm.**