



The University of Texas at Tyler

Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, September 22nd, 2022

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

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



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

IV. Open Forum

a. NONE

V. Speaker's Podium

a. **Director of Annual Giving, Gina Jones**

Gina Jones: I work in Advancement. I'm over Annual Giving. I'm going to throw out a couple of words, if you know. If you truly know what they mean, I want you to raise your hand. If you don't, it is totally okay, "annual giving," kind of self-explanatory. "Advancement." "Philanthropy." "Alumni." Nobody says I am going to go to college and learn how to raise money, nobody says that, nobody wants to do it, but it is necessary, and all of us have literally fallen into our jobs. I worked in the travel industry, and then I was a professional organizer, and then my husband and I decided to start a nonprofit for foster kids when we had foster kids, and that led me to the united way of Smith County, which is fantastic, and that's where I fell into raising money. So, I don't love to ask for money, but I love to fill a need that's out there. And, you know, you guys are actually sitting in a classroom in a building right now paid for by a guy who sells chicken and steak. Did you know that, John Soules? People like that understand that colleges aren't fully funded by the, you know, by the State of Texas. There are special things that we need money, for from the very low things which are like, I'm over smaller gifts, smaller annual gifts, things to pay for that as a Student emergency fund you guys had during COVID, the Food Bank, some scholarships, research that needs to be done, or like lab equipment, some of those like smaller. So, I raise unrestricted funds, which means they can kind of go at the Dean's discretion. I specifically raise this money through alumni, and we haven't done a really good job of that in the past several years. So, we're working on, we have a new Senior VP, who is fantastic in advancement, and I'm going to work on changing that. So, it's never about the money, it's always about the amount of alumni, the percentage of alumni that give, we actually can get some grants if our if we have decent alumni giving, now our alumni aren't giving because nobody has asked them to in several years. It's been kind of hit or miss from our department. I've been in this position for almost a year, and I decided to talk to Josh about this, I have to start with students. How many are Freshman in here? Sophomores? Junior? Senior? Cool. Okay. So, you seniors, and any of you decides freshmen because my son's a freshman here, too. So, did you guys ever hear about giving back about donating to UT Tyler. Okay, cool. We do not have a group of students who kind of helps us do that. So that is one of the things that I'm going to try to implement in February. I'm going to have a



philanthropy week. It's going to be just kind of a base knowledge about what philanthropy is, how you can get involved. Why you should get involved. I don't know what this new student group is going to be, but we've kind of been talking about it, and we're going to get there. One thing that I would love to have You guys help with every. You probably know this every Tuesday after Thanksgiving is giving Tuesday. You've got, you know, big uh Black Friday. You've got Cyber Monday, and then you've got giving Tuesday, and it's a really successful event. And so, I have three student workers that work for me in the call center. So, we actually call alumni, and several of them hang up on us. But it's okay. So, my student workers are going to help me with this year's Giving Tuesday, and what I really, really need is like ten or fifteen of you to volunteer to just be influencers and just share. So I'll give you everything you need. I'm going to give you the link, for you know the post for Facebook or Instagram. We don't really use Twitter, looking into Tik Tok. And actually, I'd like to get your opinion on that. What do you guys think about sharing stuff like this on Tik Tok? You think it would work because I mean we are not. I don't know if you know this. We're not a Twitter town. But I'm pondering the idea of Tik Tok, we'll see. So, if I could get ten or fifteen of you that would be willing to basically it's peer-to-peer fundraising. So that's you asking your friends asking your friends to ask of their friends. You guys can reach all the people that I can outreach, so I would love to have some volunteers. With that, I'm also going to work on, we're going to work on a spring, our Senior Gift. So, and it's going to, it's going to be a really small gift. It's going to be twenty dollars and twenty-three cents. Anybody making that connection? So we would like to have competition between, you know the years, and it also just kind of gets you ready, and in the mood for giving like, we don't ask our alumni ten years out to give very much. You guys are starting your careers. You're working your way up. You're having babies. You guys don't have the means to give um. We would love to see everybody be a John Soules. That'd be fabulous. Um, but money helps. But really, it's the it's being able to stay in touch with you in the Alumni Office. We want to know what you guys are doing, what's exciting, what's going on in your life? We had one alumni that was on. It was Dancing with the Stars. Shall see that she was on some show. It was pretty cool, and we've got lots of alumni that have created things, and invented things, and our CEO's and that sort of thing, and we don't ever get to hear those stories. So, part of the philanthropy week we will just be to kind of educate students on what we do. Why, we do it, and you guys know that when you do graduate you still have a lot of resources available to you through them. Okay, who told you all this? Swoop Camp? Oh good, that means you guys stopped by the table. Okay, so that's kind of it. I just want you to know what I do. Why, I do it and try to get you involved. So, a lot of people don't know about the resources a lot of people that have been out, you know we're fifty years old. So, our first graduating class was in seventy, four. And so, you know, talking to donors in these different groups is a little bit challenging. I actually learned that people your age actually don't want to be texted. And I thought that's weird. Is that true? Do you not want it. Would you rather me call you? I know. So that is the research, and I cannot. I was like, no, I don't buy it because don't, I mean I. My kids are grown, and I'm like don't call me, just text me and we'll deal with it that way. So, I would love to hear ideas like, I said, nobody falls into this field, but some of you have skills that are probably going to lay in you. At least somebody in this room is going to find themselves in fundraising. **(Inaudible**



question) So, okay. So, a banquet that's kind of that's hit or miss, because a lot of people don't want to know that their donations are going to throw a big party, so that kind of falls on the alumni. So, it's myself, and then Francine Dur is the director of um Alumni Engagement. That kind of falls in her category is getting kind of reaching you guys and getting in contact with you. Now, the mailer that I sent out you probably got. Did you get a letter in the mail that was written by your predecessor KC? Did you get that letter in May? So, I did a huge letter mail out, and I had KC right? The Yeah. So that had her story. So, we do incorporate that. But I've only been here a year and believe it or not, it takes forever to do anything around here, so I have, like a couple of, I'm working on mailer for the fall. Um, I need to send out more emails. But what medium would you want to receive that stuff in an email that still work? And then we have a not so successful Facebook page. So, if you guys have ideas, we're working through how to get more engagement on there. But Covid kind of messed a lot of things up, but we at the icehouse across the street. We used to have alumni nights, and we are going to continue this. Actually, we're going to start reaching out to other cities in the country that have a population of our alumni, and like there's weird places that have, like Massachusetts that have a bunch of our alumni. We're going to go there and have these nights, but the ones that are here in Tyler. Um! They're designed for you guys. We offer, you know, drinks and snacks, and it's a good time for you to network. And so, and me, you know, because you never know. I'm always trying to tell my eighteen-year-old who knows everything. You never know who you're going to meet, what connection you're going to make, and you know, it really is about who you know, so it doesn't hurt.

President Smith: Is there any sort of effort that has been made to reach out to alumni from distance campuses?

Gina Jones: Actually, I do not know that. I will get some info on that they are in my database. So, they are hearing from me as well. We really haven't done that much activity-wise. We haven't done that here or at the remote campuses, but they are getting, they are seeing everything that's being sent out because they're part of the system. We have about 46,900 alumni.

Treasurer Luna: Hi Gina! My name is Beverly and I just want to let you know that I want to be a John Soules, and for reassurance, I am sure there are students that want to help out in some of that. So, once I hit bank, you'll hear.

Gina Jones: Awesome, Okay, great. But really, I look forward to it. I look forward to it. Um, do you guys, do you? How did your parents give? Did you? I got to be honest. I didn't really know anything about this. I was married and didn't Really, I just never thought about giving back. I wasn't raising a wealthy family. I was in the military, so I didn't make any money, and it really, I had to see something that was the spark for me, and it was the foster care system that really caused me to go. Oh, I should probably be helping out in some past. So, have you guys had that experience, because I think everybody has it, and you either you either push it aside and you never pursue it, or it just kind of grabs your heart. So has anybody had an experience yet where they think, wow, I really want to give back at some point? If not, it's. Okay, you'll get



there. I was married. And yeah, any other questions? Who wants to help me with the peer-to-peer fundraising for November? Can we make a list?

Senator Holman: I was just wondering, does a person have to specifically be alumni to donate?

Gina Jones: No, not at all, alumni and friends. So, I don't think John Soules is an alumni so, anybody who wants to be friends with us and give us money for a worthy cause. We're all about that. Thank you, guys, I'm so glad to see you guys involved in something like this.

President Smith: Thank you for coming, seriously, I appreciate it.

VI. Officer Reports

a. **President Smith**

So, this past week, as with last week tomorrow, I am leaving to go to UTSSAC, down in Austin. I'll be gone tomorrow and Saturday, and um on top of that I actually did want to show you something. Um, Chloe, our Secretary, is not able to be here. But um, let me hold on, go ahead and share a screen. So, she made a form section on the SGA Website, so that way if you want an easier way to access Patriot's Engage and Access the forms, you can go to our website, fill out the Absence Request form and the Senator of the Week form. I am also going to work on maybe having a form for students to submit questions, concerns, complaints potentially. Not everybody uses the SGA email for that, so it's just another form to do that, and it's an easy way to direct somebody there, so if you have a QR code you can just have them go directly to the SGA website and they can fill that out.

b. **Vice-President Bennett**

So, who all went to Constitution Day last week? I wish there was more. So, it was different than what we have done in the past we had kind of an all day thing, we had lunch, and had a Kahoot going on throughout the day and it was really great. We got rid of all of the shirts and pocket Constitutions within the first hour and that was really great. And then this week I've been um talking with different people around the University, but most notably the UC. To help to get help with them, for been at breakfast to make it bigger than what we've done in the past, and so stay tuned.

c. **Secretary Dix**

Not in attendance.

d. **Treasurer Luna**

Hello! So not much this week. I did ask Chloe to update the itemized list on the website (that has been updated), so it would include um the links to items, just to make it easier on our side whenever they turn that in um. And Then I also picked up items for Women in Math and Science who have their event tonight from OIP, and also the Rolling Patriots Guild (inaudible). We didn't have SGAC this week, either, but I did get everything ready for next week with the Society of Automotive Engineers.

e. **Chief of Staff Peters**

So, I've been working on getting the Judicial Board active again, and I've set a meeting time for them, and I've been looking at the Constitution for ways to improve it for Rules Committee.



Committee Reports

a. Events

Senator Vargas: So, we didn't really talk overly a whole lot about Midnight Breakfast this time around, and we've also just talked about decorations. We did talk about getting like Halloween decorations to decorate the UC and stuff. Then we also started talking about the design, for, like banner, we were going to have put up for midnight breakfast. We were going to have two separate banners. One was going to be. What was it in the met? And then the other one was the face painting by ZETA, and then there were a couple of other funky ideas that we had, like Brennan was talking about getting inflatable pumpkin to put up in the UC.

b. Communications

Did not meet this week.

c. SGAC

Did not meet this week.

e. Rules

Senator Holman: We just narrowed down a few things that we wanted to work on, and we try to figure out what was more important what we wanted to work on first. We also reviewed the Constitution. It just looked over, warranted any changes that need to be put in a place essentially also, by the way for Events, they have inflatable giant pumpkins on sale that Lowes for like forty five dollars like five foot tall.

f. ESC

Did not meet this week.

g. GSA

Did not meet this week.

VII. Student Voice Reports

a. Sophomore Student Body at Large

Senator McGinnis: Since the beginning of the semester, we've honestly been chilling right now. Um, I know a few people in liberty are kind of irritated at the RA's and stuff, because a lot of the doors, like the batteries are running out in like the scanner things, and maintenance keeps saying, Oh, yeah, we're going to come by later today to fix it, and later never comes. The top floor of my room is locked, like I can't go into the top floor now. A lot of people are still complaining about the basketball court seeing if they can set hours on it or something. Since I've been in Liberty, I've seen maybe three groups on it and all these times it's been like two in the morning. So, I feel like we can probably work something out, hopefully.

b. Junior Student Body at Large

So far, there were a couple of reports made, but most of them got fixed. I did have some about the key card scanner for a few of them, they did have fixed, but the ones on the top floors have gone out, as well. Also, complaints on the basketball courts and working on the pool, but working on the pool is during the day, and that's just a matter of students not wanting to wake up as early.

c. Senior Student Body at Large

Nothing to report.

Old Business

a. Anchor Splash



President Smith: Anchor Splash is basically the philanthropy event that DG does in the Fall Semester. From my understanding there is going to be two teams that are going to be put together of around five to seven and I think up to two teams. So, Shelby came to us last week if you don't remember, and she was just wanting to gauge interested. There was going to be an SGA team, and she has already been told that she will be the coach for the team if there is one. So, I'm more than willing to have up to two teams personally, and if you want I also have it up here. But if you want you can kind of go over like the events again, just so people know what events are going on throughout the week.

Senator Waller: So basically, all of this stuff is leading up to Anchor Splash. If we were to create a team, everything on here would be something that team would participate in. Obviously, some people are in class at certain times and whatnot, but anchor hunt, basically We have a bunch of anchors hidden around campus. So, it's a campus-wide scavenger hunt to find a bunch of little paper anchors, and that gets points for your team and then. Tuesday we have Pie-a-DG day: I feel like that's pretty straightforward, but your team can just encourage people to come to that. I'll be there. You can pie me. Um. Wednesday is puppies and pizza. So, it's basically just a little outdoor pizza thing, you guys can bring your dogs. I'll bring my dogs. Uh. So, if you don't want to participate, that is a great way to come and show support. Champion of the Anchor is a pageant basically, anyone on the team can participate, you can have multiple people from your team participate. It is essentially a, there is, like DG Trivia, which your coach will kind of prep you for like when we're re-founded. Who are our founders? Who is our president, whatever Um! And then there's like a talent portion someone did flirting last year. So, don't think that you have to actually have a solid, real talent. So that's a really fun part. The more people you have on your team participate in that, the more points you can get. And then Anchor Splash is obviously our big thing. It's something that you across the country, do. And you guys are going to be choreographed to do a lovely little synchronized swimming routine. But yeah, so if you guys were to make a team, the teams don't have to be one gender or one specific group of people a little bit from everyone, or like our anchor man. It used to be anchor man. I was championing the anchor just so that women are able to participate as well. So, do you guys have any questions? Yeah. And so, Delta, Gamma has our very own philanthropy. So, none of that money that we fund raise goes to any overhead fees. It's to go directly to the people in the community that we support. Our biggest place where we serve in the community is by house to the blind, which kind of rehabilitates people who lose their vision later in life. So, people who were born with vision and now have to learn how to live without it. So, your participation would help us raise money that would go directly back into our communities. So it sounds fun, but it's really a much bigger thing for us. (Are you only allowed to be on one team?) Yes, because you're going to be competing directly against other teams during anchor splash. We have the synchronized swimming part, but we also have, like some relays where you like have a spoon with a ping pong roll in your mouth, and you're trying to keep it still from one side of the pool to the other, and you compete against others in real time. So that was kind of how things are. You guys will kind of work with your coaches to make your dance the best possible. Um, people use costumes.



People use props. People do all of that kind of stuff, so it's definitely something that you can go in and customize and make unique to you. But that's one of the biggest point-raisers of the entire week. So if you guys kill the dance, and there's a pretty good chance you win the trophy, and you guys would get to keep a trophy, and it would go in there in Landry's office and you guys can keep it forever. They asked if they could have floaties in the synchronized swimming portion, and we said, yes. The dates are October the third through the seventh.

President Smith: I believe we will have a team, so we have enough interest.

New Business

a. ESC Chair Nominations

Nominees: Alexis Minick, Macy Kirkby, Brennan McGinnis

b. Discussion about next meeting

Senator Govea: Motion to vote to cancel next meeting in favor of attending the East Texas State Fair.

Justin Vargas: Seconded

Let the record show that next week's meeting on Thursday, September 29th has been cancelled in order for the SGA to attend the East Texas State Fair by majority vote.

d. Houston Senators in Tyler

Jorian Khan: I'll just go ahead and make a quick announcement that a couple of the Houston senators are going to be in time of next week on Thursday, actually, uh we're attending a career fair, and we're also attending leadership conference by the college engineer. But the thing that we're really excited about is we're going to be speaking with the Dean Kirst, the team of college engineering. So, I just wanted to make myself available to you all. If you guys have questions for the Senators, or if you want to give us a tour of campus, I know uh this is a lot, but our first time is coming to, you know.

Advisor Comments

Advisor Neaves: So just a couple of things, it was exciting to hear y'all do roll call. We have not done roll call officially since the pandemic started. So, it was kind of nice to hear that process again. My only feedback is back in the day it used to be Senator Abbott, Senator Adams, Senator Bennett (as opposed to first and last name). So, that's my only feedback to consider that as well because y'all are Senators and y'all are Officers, and so it is kind of cool to hear that. The speaker's podium was important you know, it's part of our new strategic plan. We are trying to increase our advancement efforts to help, you know, achieve not only our goals, but to ensure that the financial burden does not pass on to the student. And so, really, we've got a great community that supports us, and who's willing to give back as well as our alumni, and I think that's what Gina and the advancement team is doing. It's pretty important, and so you know the



information she requested today, and your participation and feedback can go a long way and helping the advancement team, and to really take advantage of what she has to getting y'all more involved. Y'all talked about canceling next week, I think the East Texas State very pretty awesome. And so, if you're a new student, not from East Texas. Ah, I think that is definitely make sure you go Check it out. As Landry was briefly mentioned, mentioning it. It's a sponsorship. And so next Thursday is Ut Tyler's Day, so we'll try to get everybody that is, friends and students and faculty and staff of UT Tyler to go check out. For students, we also do something a little special. We will be given out, ride all day passes, and so for those who have been here for a couple of years, you know that those passes go pretty quick. The line usually forms an hour before the passing begins. I will pass out the passes at 2 o'clock in the University Center. Thursday, September 29th in the UC. So I will go down there early to set up the line to structure, that I will be passing out only the right past this issue, not the fair passes. So, I did purchase some additional passes, and so that way we can try to get more passes into the hands of students. And so definitely that is an exciting opportunity to tell students. You can get into the fair before seven PM. For free, and we will also have tickets that we can print out to get to the before. So seven you potentially have to pay to get in. And so, don't skip class still need to go to class. I know y'all cancelled y'all's meeting, but that's not any reason to cancel class or to miss. So, after your classes are done, if you get a ride all day past, or go ride all the rides and have a good time, and represent. Also one thing that it was student government-related when Gina was getting kind of raising your hands to his freshman, who, sophomore. It has been a very long time since we've had an SGA that is composed of juniors and seniors. I want to thank you all for your for the juniors and seniors for staying involved and being leaders on this campus, and really leading by example and helping our freshman sophomores. Ah, grow as leaders and be a part of this organization. I've been a part of student government since I've been here and there's been some years, its mostly Freshman. and So it's cool to see a well-balanced Student Government. That means we're representing you. All are representing your peers, quite well. Ah, it's not student government related I'm going to put on my other hat. I had the opportunity to go to the long view campus and Palestine campus to conduct a focus group, and then I'm meeting with Houston some of the Houston students hopefully next Monday to do their focus group. And so I just want to encourage Student Government to make sure that you are consistently trying to represent the opinions of everybody. Not just your um, this this campus, but all five campuses, because to hear some of the the good and the bad on those campuses. It was very fascinating. So we've got some very active students on most campuses who are loving their UT Tyler experience, and had great things to say, and so I want to make sure that this group is also keeping them engaged.

Announcements

President Smith: Just a few announcements before y'all go, this is serves as an as an official announcement, but we're also going to send that an email. Um, we're taking Student Regent and Texas Higher Education Board nomination. So, if you don't know what either of those are Student Regent basically is a non-voting member that serves on the Board of Regents for the U. T. System. That student or individual who serves in that rule basically represents all students across the U. T. System. It's a very prestigious nomination. You were literally selected by the Governor, actually, for both of those roles you're, selected by the Governor the same thing with the Texas Higher Education Board nominations. If it's a non-voting student member who sits on the Texas higher education board. It is very important. UT Tyler has never had somebody for Student Regent. So, time goes on more we've been more and more likely to have a student



represent as a Student Regent for the whole UT System. If you are interested in that on our website, there is an application form for that. Um For both of those there is an application form for that. And again, I'll be sending out an email that will direct you all to that if you're interested it's a great opportunity. Um! In years past we actually haven't had a lot of people apply for it. I would like to see that change. Um, I think there's a lot of great people here. I think there's a lot of good people that can represent the whole U. T. System very well, um, and like, I said, as time goes on it becomes more and more likely that UT Tyler finally has somebody that is chosen to represent in either of those capacities.

Congratulations to Senator of the Week, Jorian Khan!

President Smith: Jorian was nominated because he's been shown to be super dedicated to the College of Engineering and Houston Engineering center. He's been very vocal for the distance campuses, and is always able to remind us that we do need to have, as Josh said, a whole perspective on representing all students from all campuses. So, congratulations Jorian! Thank you for everything you've done.

Next Week

Nothing to add.

Adjournment

President Smith: Motion to adjourn.

Senator Govea: Carry said motion to adjourn.

Senator Vargas: Seconded.

Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm.