



The University of Texas at Tyler

Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023

- 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	
Amber McAdams	
Ashlyn Mattern	
Bee Black	
Ben Buchanan	
Jorian Khan	
Justin Vargas	
Kyna Holman	
Lisa Tran	
Macie Kirkby	
Maggie Manning	
McKenna Waller	
Tanner King	
Valerie McNamara	
Anayeli Campo	
Perpetual Kyei	
Emma Owulebaja	
Angelina Lezama	
Ronald Carnes III	
Erica Santee	
Macy Reed	
Alexis Minick	
Peace Okeke	
Kelsey Niette	
Emma Harlan	



SaMoan Brown	
Rina Bhatia	
Shelby Kipp	
Al Anderson	
David Templeton	
Elaina Gonzalez	
Chloe Burleson: Chief Justice	
Savannah Tropp	

Let the record show that the minutes from the March 28th, SGA General Assembly meeting were voted in approval by the Senate.

IV. Open Forum

a. NONE

V. Speaker's Podium

Sr. VP of Marketing Jeff Noblitt: I have a big smile on my face because I love. The opportunity to talk to students, and I love the opportunity to talk about marketing UT Tyler and our public website is far and away really the number one way that we do that. uttyler.edu is where many of our prospective students start their journey with learning. Or about what it means to be a UT Tyler student. The opportunities that we have here in and out of the classroom, including the the coming member of student government and other student organizations, are athletics. And then when you're here, it's a resource for you to find access to resources to keep you on path. To completing your degrees, it's a place when you're an alum you can come back and engage with the university and and whether it's through the career success or coming back for homecoming and hopefully supporting today's students. So it really is that that full spectrum. Um vehicle for us to communicate and engage with all of our audiences. So that was a mouthful. And where we're at, why I'm here today and why I appreciate the opportunity to come is, is we are in the midst of relaunching our our.edu, our website. And there's a lot of reasons for that. Some of them include we still have a legacy website for the Health Science Center. It's still out there aging poorly, and so there's a need to consolidate that that content and information. There's also how we manage that content. There's two different content management systems, which is inefficient and really inconsistent. And really there's an opportunity for us to tell the the story about UT Tyler, to talk about what makes this university special, how we're different from other universities and to really capture the full breadth of the student experience here. So those are some of the the key. Our goals for the why we're We're embarking on this. Our primary audience, and I say this to a room full of current students, is prospective students, but that doesn't mean that we don't have intentional plans to to really offer resources through the. Public website for curtains current students, current faculty and staff. Other people that influence the decision making process for prospective students so parents, families, guidance counselors, as well as the East Texas community in general and and alumni and donors. So we're at a point and again the



timing is great because I'm I'm here sharing the concept for a new home page and with the plan to collect any feedback. Earlier today I presented to University council. Next week I present to faculty Senate and staff Senate. So really with the goal. By the end of this month, to capture feedback on the direction we're heading, which is grounded already on a lot of research and discovery. We've come to student government. We had focus groups across the university and externally. We talked to prospective students, we talked to alumni and donors. You know, we want this to be a comprehensive and inclusive process. Um. And I'll you know, without further ado, I'll see if I can share screen and and then share where we're at and collect feedback. So this is where we're at. So this video that's streaming right here is really kind of a placeholder at this point. It's meant to show kind of the functionality, but you'll actually see kind of some old brand. And this is the the current video on our home page. But really what I want to show is kind of the structure and the direction we're heading. So right here, right off the bat you'll see that we're planning to create landing pages for these audience based content. So this current students landing page is where we would attempt to kind of recategorize and capture all of those resources that are going to be relevant to current students to. UH to have you really connect to the resources that will again keep you on the path to UH on time, graduation, faculty and staff, similar alumni and health is is going to be I think a really robust landing page as well given the the really just incredible portfolio of. Of things that fall under health, both for UT Health East Texas to our academic programs to student health. And now this is deserves a special call out. So. Months and months ago when we kicked this off and I came, I was up here probably fumbling for words like I am tonight. See, I we talked, I shared kind of the what the game plan was and and I laid out the process and I heard from Senator Govea, I believe an ask to consider having information in Spanish given that we are a new HSI and that that is a growing part of our community and our students. And sure enough, we tested and it was a great idea and uh, it was really validated talking to multiple stakeholder groups. And so we are planning for launch to have not the full site translated really what we've looked at and there's different models out there, but what we're planning to do is to have a curated. UM landing page for information on Espanol where we could really try to lay out what the the steps to becoming a student here at UT Tyler, the resources available for our community with really the the target audience and being parents and families of our current students and prospective students so. Thank you and I hope we did good and including that and listening so. Um, we also want to have these these calls to action up here, um, prominent. And then you're going to see a call back to that. But really, again with the prospective student focus, we want to help students quickly request information, apply. Visit and you know when you're in alarm, give. After you've, you know, paid off your loans and everything. Um. And then we have, uh, these different buckets where we would have laid out really the complete kind of array of information on academics. So that's where, that's where the colleges and schools would live. That's admissions and aid would be really focused on the new student. Student life. Uh, which I'll open up. Is would really be where we try to talk about the student experience. And so just showing kind of some of the different opportunities here whether it's housing and dining, student orgs, health and Wellness, Greek life study abroad, commencement, But you know some of these may change as we as we progress and do usability testing. And research and about. So that's those really kind of those that top bar is where a lot with you do heat maps when you're looking at website development, that's where a lot of those clicks are going to go. But we've also found that some students want to kind of tell me a story, let's let's. Talk a little bit more, Let's show more. And so as we scroll, we start to see, you know, there there would be a new video content. But one of the things we're excited about is telling more student stories. You know, I think that that prospective students want to be able to see



themselves here and how better to do that than to tell the stories? Of students like yourselves. And so we would plan to have different stories and talk about the opportunities in our academic programs. And so you see here, you know, chemistry and music. But then uh, this being a new function, a new feature for a program Finder where where prospective students can find everything from micro credentials to doctorates and and and everything in between. I don't know how well it's showing up on the screen, but we have this textural element, you know, one of the things that really. Animated A lot of the conversations we've had about this project is both the sense of place and so this. It kind of evokes like a topographic map. The the the this where we're at here in East Texas and the beautiful environment that that we're so fortunate to live and work and learn but also the different. The different pathways that there's so many different pathways that students have available to them. One of the things that I've heard a lot about and may not be as relevant to current students, but I think is is really kind of one of those those points of pride is where you where we really excel and so we can talk about some of the different highlights of the university. So having the first Med school in East Texas, the amount of. Of scholarship and grants and a number of student organizations. And you know, these could be updated and rotated. More real estate to tell the student story and talk about student and alumni stories where we can then highlight again that just again the rich diversity of of student life here. Um, health and Wellness, as I said kind of at the outset, being such a big part of our brand, having that opportunity to again connect site visitors to our health content. One of the things now you have to dig a little bit, not too far, but a little bit to learn about campus events. And so there's a lot happening here. And so we want to bring that up to the top and really highlight a curated list of campus events and so things that that would show again. That vibrancy of the student life here. Home, home. Stretch, I promise. So we we get down toward the bottom. And again after telling this story and and having. Had that rich content again. We hope that people knew to UT. Tyler will come visit, check us out, request information or apply now. And then we have kind of this nice little UH section at the bottom of the the home page where we want to integrate with Instagram and kind of have a little bit less polished, a little bit more real photos and content to engage with all stakeholder groups. And so we would. Look at having it ingest, ingest Instagram content. And then at the bottom you have all of those things that are both mandatory and helpful. So links to directories and campus maps and the library and the Cowen Center. And and also the UT Tyler Athletics, so. That is the desktop display, but we also wanted to really look at with intentionality how we present the on a mobile device. And so this is here showing kind of how the different sections and the modules really stack up nicely. So you see that Program Finder, you see some of that storytelling content, you see those brag points, more storytelling. Events that would rotate with the different calls to action. And the hamburger menu, as it's sometimes euphemistically called then shows kind of how the different NAV would work. So very clean, very contemporary and and should be very intuitive to all the users. So like I said, next steps. I have a few more groups that I'm going to be talking to and getting feedback and over the summer we're going to be planning to do a Sprint on content development. So lots of of writing of pages, lots of video and photography with the goal to launch. Mid fall of this year. So with that I'm happy to. Answer any questions either from the chat or the group Senators in the room.

President Smith: Is the list of events on the website integrated with Patriots Engage?

Jeff Noblitt: So the question was was a question from also a faculty member earlier today, is does this, but not that exact flavor, but does this thing and does this interact with patriots Engage. We're working on it. I think at this point the, the, the, the how is something we're looking at.



There's some different ways that we can approach the event curation. And so right now it's basically. Patriots engage and then not much else. And So what we're planning to do is to look at what there's a module that's in the content management system where we're planning to deploy. There's other modules that that do integrate. So the the goal would be to have. Something that's sustainable and that it can be the content can be syndicated. I think I'm using the right. Fancy lingo, but because really the idea what we want to do is a little bit to get away from having you know everything that you have to drill down into. But to the and the example today, it was a music faculty member who was asking questions about kind of how we would manage this because. You know, the music department has lots of events. They have recitals, you know, kind of around the clock this time of year. And so we wanted to figure out how we could have a tool that would have content that could be created and curated on the School of Music or the College of Arts and Sciences, but then syndicate up to. Home page or to a college page? And so I think the question about patriots engaged is a good one and and kind of a different flavor, but one that will be working to navigate.

VP Bennett: So I really love the topographic section and and the story behind that. One of the questions I did have about that though is so a lot of students love Easter eggs and so I know one of the things that would be cool is if we could and and Facilities probably has this but probably possibly a topographic map of campus.

Jeff Noblitt: I feel like you were hanging out of the UC when I was talking to Andy Kraus after University council. That's that's that's a I love it. I love it. Yeah that's that's that's the exactly the type of thing that I want us to have because that's unique. That's not you know that's not just pulling something you know off of Google. That's that's truly unique and. Sets us apart. And that's really what that's why. That's why I'm here. That's why we've done this process the way we've done it because we want it to be, you know, special to us. It's like a fingerprint. Yeah. So I love it. I absolutely. That's my goal as well.

Senator Mattern: I know you had a tab at the bottom The Page for the athletic, I guess Page. Do you plan to incorporate any other athletic stuff? On this website, I think your video SO would be good because I feel like a lot of prospective students look into athletics.

Jeff Noblitt: Another Great question. So, yes, so. Our intent and and really what we're trying to do with UH, particularly the home page, but also some of these different audience based landing pages is to show the full picture And so you know the I the goal is going to be to integrate. You know, and so I could see right now athletic events are not really on our home page. We do have some videos showing athletics, but I'll say that we want to integrate Cowan events, We want to integrate athletic events, we want to integrate. Uh, student events in in this section, we want to tell the story of student athletes. You know, we want to highlight athletics in general. And so I think my point is, I guess we're still, we're still kind of building, but I absolutely see athletics as an incredibly important part. Of of our campus community, of our student life. And so we want to highlight that and and and lift that up and so really I think. I both want to have it kind of organically included, but then this is this link down here is not like an afterthought, it's it's this. But this would be kind of the Evergreen way for someone that wants to go straight to the Patriots website, which is a separate website. I should have said that Cowan has a separate website. Athletics has a separate website, but really the intent is to bring pretty much everything else under this uttyler.edu umbrella. But I would imagine there's going to be links to athletics on



current students, on faculty and staff, on alumni, under student life. And so I think there's going to be a lot of different ways that we're going to be. Trying to connect and depict athletics on this website and that was also a question that came up this morning.

Senator Minick: mentioned or. Senator Mike, you mentioned a storytelling aspect of the website and how you want to tell the stories of the students here at each Tyler. My suggestion is have you considered doing some kind of one like A blog? I know that would be kind of like. So 2010, um, but I'm kind of way that you can actually tell current or recurring stories that are going on in UT Tyler realm and I'm not done. And so that way you have that opportunity to tell the stories, right? And it creates A personable kind of impression, UT Tyler, that they know when they care and they are cheering on their students. And also is going to attract new, you know, students as well also, are there any opportunities for someone who is maybe closer in age to the people you're trying to attract in the day-to-day process of creating this website? Because I'm thinking wouldn't you? That the voice of someone who is. We're in touch with what what they're going to want and what they're going to be looking for whenever they're going to find a college they want to. Pay bunches of money too to go to.

Jeff Noblitt: This pause for the the mic, the mic to to make it across the room. So First off on the the blog question that's a great suggestion and a lot of universities have that that's not currently like a phase one launch idea and and I. But I'm it's something that I think I'm open to. And um and if. Future student leaders have have thoughts on on you know partnering on that I think that that's something that again I'm very open to and that the. It is absolutely not as substantive as a blog would be. But I think part of the intent of that Instagram feed is to try to show a more organic but or and real integration with student life and to to and and even that you know it's it's it's good there's. Social media, real and and versus, you know, a longer form storytelling. So in full transparency. That's not like something that we've baked into this process at this point, but it's something that I think I'm absolutely open to looking at, but with an eye towards sustaining it. And then in terms of the student involvement, um. That's that is partially why I'm here. Um, and why. But it's also why we've done. A lot of of talking to students to get to this point. And so you know the a lot of the focus groups had an emphasis on current students. That's why we did a survey on this. The student response from remembering the numbers was you know kind of neck and neck with staff and and faculty. And so you know we're trying to, we're trying to to include that and I think as we as we continue to develop the content there will be. Particularly when we're interviewing students and talking to students, you know that's where I think that student voice will will kind of come to the forefront. But also we have student employees and the marketing communications department and I think we're always looking to grow that. So you know if anyone is interested in. Um, you know, I don't necessarily have like a wealth of paid internships or student positions, but. Come talk to me or uh, you know you you can reach out after. I would love to have Um. More student voices on the team and we do right now I mean like our social media we have is is really very much influenced by UT Tyler students. So I think point well taken and and and my commitment is absolutely for. This is not a website for for me or other people who wear suits to work, you know, and that's and that's that's actually I think has been really refreshing. And honestly at other institutions, oftentimes projects like this really get mired and institutional hierarchies here, I feel like there's a real spirit. Of of, you know, we're all in this together and this is all about our students, which I think says something about UT Tyler. That's why it's a great place to be.



Senator Vargas: So I a question about this. I'm not entirely sure you'll be able to answer this. I noticed that there was a Research tab on the menu. Could you maybe like, tell us if that brings students to a tab where they can see the current research opportunities available to them and how to get involved with that?

Jeff Noblitt: So that's a great question. And again I I can get probably half an answer and a half an informed answer at this point. The intent of that is to highlight research in every form here at UT Tyler. So everything from student research opportunities to faculty research to clinical research and so we've. Actually launched a new micro site for clinical research that would be absorbed into this, this project. And really the intent would be partnering with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies to to develop that content out and and really to ideally do exactly what you're saying is to connect students and to amplify. Um that awareness so that more students are doing research I think that's that's that hands on learning is is part of our our QP, our quality enhancement plan and so you know I think that hands on learning goes hands hand in hand with research and so absolutely.

VP Bennett: So under the each of the sections for Academics, Admissions, Student Life, Research and About, do you have a rough draft on what sections would be included in that or is that still in flux?

Jeff Noblitt: for every one of those pages where we're at now is there are wireframes that have been developed, but that's kind of the precursor to something like you're seeing today. This is still. Very much a work in progress and iterative, but we do have wireframes for some of those pages, but not all of them. And we do plan to develop out a whole new suite of templates. And so that's really kind of what I'm trying to do this month is get any feedback that would influence all of those other pages. And so that before we really move into design and content development that we would make sure that we feel good about the direction we're going. And so far I feel like we're we're on that path, but you know there might be some course adjustments as we go. Timeline. So right around now I'm going to give it. I've been saying that mid fall, I'll translate that to a real date and knowing that these sometimes go quicker or more often get delayed, we're targeting right around November 1st, so end of October, beginning of November. Or launch for phase one launch.

VP Bennett: And is phase one just the home page or is it a a website wide?

Jeff Noblitt: So phase one is we've articulated it as homepage plus everything one level down, which is actually a lot. You know, there's a ton of content off the home page. And I think I can go further and say you know, really given the focus on prospective students that we would try to build out. That full perspective student content funnel, but my goal is to to get as much as possible and you know there there are occasionally launches that that have the whole site come in and that's that would be the goal but right now. The you know what we're committing to is the that that home page and one level down.

Associate Provost Dr. Colleen Swain



Dr. Swain: It is an honor to be here. First of Oh. Thank you, Senators, who have dutifully served every week. Like sometimes you're you're meetings go ours, so y'all are rock stars. So thank you. I really appreciate the work that you do on behalf of students at UT Tyler. So thank you and congratulations to the incoming senators and new officers. So I'm really excited. It's a great day for all that. For our university and thank you, Lane. President. I'm sorry, President. Smith There we go. I was like, Oh dear, that happens when you get old. So thank you, President Smith, for the work that you have done. Uh, this year we're, you know, honored and privileged to have such a great student government association at UT Tyler. So I do want to thank you for that because I've been at other schools where sometimes it's not as functional as it is here. So I really appreciate the work you'll do. I also want to appreciate the way that you all have worked, um, with Ashley, Bill this year on ways that we can elevate undergraduate advising. And I know that again, that's additional time that you've spent. So thank you for working with us. I did want to share a couple of things. Um. First of all, hopefully you have seen the posters that say ready, Set and roll. And that is this Thursday. And if you have already enrolled for fall, wonderful show that you have a role for fall and you can get your free Chick-fil-A sandwich and some chips and a drink. I think that's what we're serving right now. OK, I know it's Chick-fil-A. I know I'm not lying on the sandwiches part. That's right in the photo booth, yes. And then they'll be hopefully we'll be good weather on Thursday and good games and stuff outside on Patriot preview and I know there's also financial aid will be out there to be there will actually be in the UC ballroom. To answer questions on financial aid and scholarships. And so Thursday is kind of a big day. I wanted to. Thank you. It's kind of like great minds all think alike. Because y'all have been thinking about seminars for incoming freshmen. And we have been thinking about seminars for incoming freshmen. And so this upcoming fall, colleges will be hosting. Zero credit seminars, but where we require them. For our incoming freshman, and actually in some areas we're going to also be piloting incoming transfer students because honestly, you experience culture shock as an incoming transfer student as well. And just because you've been successful at a different college doesn't mean you know where everything is here. And all of those kinds of things. So, but we are starting at the incoming FDIC, hopefully several colleges will also be launching for their transfer students, but that will be launching this fall. And some of the things that will be happening there are success strategies. On just using the tools that we have at to about research based study strategies that are effective. I hate to tell y'all, but some of the strategies you use, we know we're not going to really work. And so let's just nip those in the bud It works and it actually helps you think about how to process the information and then to be able to actually retrieve the information like on test, that would be cool. So we'll do that, but it will also be helping you learn and make connections with the different advisors, with different faculty members, with different your, with your. College career coaches, but where you're building affinity to your discipline and to your college and also having that stability. One Here's a group that we can meet with every week. One hour it's not. It's not gonna break you or anything like that, but it's just this built-in support system. So I was delighted when President Smith came to Faculty Senate and said, you know, SGA, we've been thinking about freshman seminars. And I'm like, yes, we are too. So thank you for your good idea. We're actually. We were all thinking of that together and we're going to be implementing that. We are going to be having a task force on getting a new 24/7 tutoring program. We've been using Upswing for a long time, and Upswing was the best that was out there in 2017. Guess what? It's not 2017. It is not the best package anymore. And so we will be having a task force, Dolly Meyer, who oversees our tutoring and our SSI program, she's going to be leading that. And we will have an SGA representative. We're going to also have faculty whose their courses are supported by. The new programs that are out there will have students



who go to tutoring and you know, because we can track who goes to tutoring and who uses the online service tutoring, get their input and so there'll be a task force happening. Um, so that we can pick the best new 24/7 tutoring? Uh, package for you. And so that will be coming up. We've had some of these, but we're going to continue to work on those and that is student success seminars. Because even though you might not be an incoming freshman. Or an incoming transfer student. Sometimes there are some things that you think, oh man, I wish I knew that. And sometimes you hit courses in your degree program that you think, Oh my gosh, have you ever taken a test job? And you thought, I think the professor gave us the wrong test because. I, like, went to class and I still have no idea what's going on here. Has that ever happened to you? I've been in. Yeah, I've I've taken one of those tests where I think it I think they gave us the wrong test. Because I clearly don't know this. But we're going to be having different seminars. One What do successful college students do? Again, research based study strategies. Because some of the stuff that we learned were hacks actually. And didn't really help us learn. And so some of those. Developing a Growth Mindset, How do we deal with? Moving forward on challenging things, so growth mindset, what to do when you bomb a test? I know that's never happened to any of you, but I mean, I see the reports come in and it does happen on campus. And so we need to let people know, what do you do when you bomb a test? Well, you know what? I have done that before. I've actually sat in class before and cried. So I mean, I I get it, and so that's a valid answer. Um, but after we get through the crime part and then I usually go eat like ice cream or something like that. But. Umm, and I think you eat chocolate. Oh, how do you know that kind of subset with you before it thinks you're? And you know, it's OK to be a chocolate guy. So, but we'll have some of those. We've been offering some of those, but this time there's going to be a schedule and when you come on cloud, when you come on campus in the fall, you're going to know what the schedule is for the fall. You could maybe even put it on your calendar. So we've been doing that. And then one other thing that I'll be doing is I'm going to have an advisory group that is just going to be an undergraduate studies student. Academic focused advisory group. I will have one or two senators only. Because I'll also be pulling in students from different areas, different student groups, I want to make sure we have a first Gen. I want to make sure I have all different kinds of students as we think about how do we continue to improve? And how do we continue to help you meet your goal and be the very best you can be? And that's going to be one we've been tossing back and forth, whether it's going to be monthly or every other month because we don't want it to be, Oh my gosh. You know, so we don't want it to be something that is Debbie Downer, but we also do want it to meet frequently enough that if something comes up that we can start working on it. And so those are some things that are upcoming. In UH, for the upcoming school year and so I'm happy to attempt to answer any questions. Oh, lots of questions.

Senator Vargas: So part of those. Back to what I was saying. One of those seminars, I do have a question about that because I think it's a great idea. We've talked about it and the advisory, the the advising committee with Ashley after our meetings and stuff in those seminars, will they be taught at some point, like how to read their pars and understand what they need?

Dr. Swain: We'll have some of what we're going to be doing is honestly having beginning zoom sessions that even predate when you get step on campus, because let's face it, you know before you come, you're like, really excited. And so those are the times that you could be watching those seminars and having those webinars and to be honest with you for some and for some of our incoming transfer, incoming freshmen. It also might be helpful that their parents know about



those things too. Not that we're saying that nobody's everybody's an adult. But umm. You know, Mom's still are the world's best at going. Have you eaten? Do you have your pants on? You know so so it could be. Have you checked your car? Is this class really necessary? So we are doing some of that. So great question though. Thank you.

Senator Carnes: or the senator cards for the 24/7 tutoring service we want to provide. Is that going to be an online or in person service?

Dr. Swain: What a great question. Thank you. We have multiple flavors of tutoring we have face to face, you know with sit hours. We have virtual zoom and then the specific task force is looking for the 24/7. It's online. But it's, you know, it's not that you have to come to campus because quite frankly. Many times y'all are doing your homework like at 2:00 in the morning. That's OK. I'm, you know, I'm sleeping at 2:00 in the morning, but that's. Whatever floats your boat. And so we want to make sure that if you get stuck at 2:00 in the morning. You also have some options.

Senator Minick: Have a couple questions and one suggestion. So First off, for your seminars that you're offering, especially particularly in the in reference to like the research based study strategies, what measurements do you have in place to make sure that it's also accessible to neurodivergent people as well? Um, suggestion, like recording it so that way they can go back and rewatch it, maybe like a brief set of notes. So that way they have that reference back to because knowing me violently, ADHD, I'm going to forget it's going to go one year and out the other. And so having some kind of way to reaccess that would be really, really beneficial. And then same thing kind of with. The actual things that you offer, I think having some kind of support for people who are not divergent or just even just in keeping accountable for studying. For all people because sometimes takes a long time to get to diagnosis and so like possibly some kind of like weekly study group where that's your sole focus. Maybe like a, I don't know, some kind of floor in the library booked for a little bit. So that way you have that that extra push size just the, you know, once or twice a year, right against procrastination I'm kind of thing as well.

Dr. Swain: Well, thank you. And we are looking at different student populations and special populations. And honestly, aren't we all special? And so, you know, it's just finding different ways to support the variety of people that we have going to school Here we will have all of our seminars recorded. Then you can watch look at the slide decks that go with them. So we're building in those supports. You know, because honestly. Our brains wander. And some of us more quickly than others and that's you know that's just something we have to figure out and and work that with that. So yes, we will have built-in supports. For those resources. You know, and we're also thinking about that even in terms of how we think about our tutoring. You know, and the other academic resources. So we really do want to truly, truly touch everybody. I've got one question here, then I'll get to you, Robert.

Senator McCain: Yeah. So you had said that there was going to be a new set of advisors that were specifically for like academics. I just wanted to ask like, what were some of the things that they were going to be providing? Like it's a kid is struggling in a class. Like are they going to be able to go and talk about that? Like, I'm just asking like more of like what they're going to be providing specifically?



Dr. Swain: OK. These are not different advisors. This is. I'm trying to think where we're going to have resources, academic resources. So your advisors, we've got the college advisors and they will. They're going to be aware of all the supports. Umm. But really, on those success seminars, those are going to be popped by different faculty members or staff members, for instance. All of these are based in cognitive science. And so, um, you know, for some of them, because some of you really like to get your nerd on about these things and that's good. And so we'll provide a little bit up. Here's here's what the technical thing is, but also really diving down into that strategy and. You know because if you only partially know a strategy and you don't know it enough to use it, then. Why did you bother learn and you know you really haven't gotten to learn it really because you haven't gotten to practice and use it and and and so we'll have different kind of supports on that but your your academic advisors will still be your academic advisors.

VP Bennett: As a person that went through the Souls Success Seminar here and has gotten to talk Dr. Swimberghe extensively about it. It is amazing that we are now being able to have this great program at all, at all the colleges. So I commend you all for that. But I did have a question regarding the specifics of the course itself. So whenever we were, whenever I gone through the success seminar, one of the things that we had was. Different organizations come in, talk, talk to us about what their organization does, what it offers, what programs are specific to the college itself. I would never have joined the Souls ambassadors here be as included here in the college as I am now if it was not for that success seminar. So I was kind of wanting to ask you about. Not only how the college work, the aspect of within the seminar, not only how the college works, but being able to tell those students what resources are available to them.

Dr. Swain: Well, we've got 14 weeks in a seminar. And So what weeks, you know. And so we're not going to make people every week. Here's the study strategy for this week. That would be awful. So we have all different kinds of different topics for each week. And absolutely there are sections get to know. Your student organizations, um, get to know the department chairs in your college. You know, so that you make sure as a freshman, that. You know, because you may think, oh, I started out in management, but I think I might want to go to marketing. Actually that's the same chair, but. You know, or I might want to. I wasn't accounting and so I know Doctor Lyerly, but now I think. You know, marketing speaks my language, so, oh, here's Doctor James. And, you know, so we have all of those introductions and built in many opportunities that the college shines through. Matter of fact, it's probably about a third of the seminar that's exclusively related to the college. I'm glad it was a positive experience.

New Senator: I have a couple of questions and they may be too specific. So just let me know. But first question would be, I know in the honors college we already have a seminar for. Um, freshman, sophomore and all the way up. And as you get older you start doing your like research and you're seeing here and stuff like that. So this seminar that y'all are implementing, will it have different subsections for different well to cater to students that are doing different lines of work. So for example biology will you? Like one that's more medical versus research or will it all be pretty general? And then sorry, second part of the question. Sorry, I'm so sorry. But then the second the second part of the question would be for these students who already have the seminars, like the honor students and biology students, would this be an additional seminar on top of that, or would it be already taught within the seminar that's already required?



Dr. Swain: Alright, I hope I can answer all these questions, so if I forget one, just just let me know. OK, the the seminars are by college now, like in Cass, we're going to have a I think my last discussions with Cass and again, the college gets to figure out their own seminar. Um, we provided. Here's some. Again, here's what the research shows on it. If you have these, it's really helpful to help students. But colleges still get to do. But really, in case we're going to have a STEM, non STEM or STEM humanities. You know, here's a STEM one. Here's a Humanities 1. Some people are in special populations and so we will oops, sorry about that. We will look to see. How might how might that work now this is? One semester only. So it's not going to be like an honors. You have a seminar every you know freshman, sophomore. It won't be like that for if if the college OPS to do again for the transfer student it will be 1 semester only and some colleges are saying you know I think for our transfer students instead of a 14 week. We'll do a seven week. Because transfer students have shown that they are successful at doing college, they we just need to make sure that they can do college at UT Tyler. So but. As far as I've seen, from what I've heard from the colleges and how things are going, not everybody has everything mapped out. But like biology seminar is doesn't replace your you know it would not conflict because again you wouldn't be in that. That area, So it's the first time only.

Senator Vargas: So this is a two-part but. I'm just gonna ask the first one just to start off with. UM. Is not that hard. Um so you had mentioned research based study skills. Now is this going to be based off of Dr. Chu's research that you guys have purchased?

Dr. Swain: We didn't purchase Dr. Chu's research. Dr. Chu is a cognitive scientist who puts his stuff out on YouTube. So we don't, you know, he is one of the. Cognitive scientists that we use their materials. Um, you know one thing that I didn't? Think to mention, but I will say right now all of their all of our undergraduate programs will be going through an undergraduate review. Now that doesn't mean everybody goes through it next year, everybody within five years goes through and every undergraduate program gets reviewed every five years. And we are asking departments to really look purposefully, you know, where might you be able to think about adding a micro credential in? Where might you how might you have the opportunity for all undergraduates, not just special ones, but all undergraduates, to participate in some kind of research, or for them to experience some kind of experiential? Learning within so it's not just always taking course, you know, take the course, took the test, got the grade, moving on that it's a more meaningful experience and so. You know, my goal would be for every undergraduate at UT Tyler to have some type of research experience. You know, because even teachers, we are teacher researchers. We're wondering, huh? Why didn't you get that when this person did get that? That's a wondering. That's a research question. So we can all wonder. So I hope that helped.

Officer Reports:

President Smith

It's not very extensive. I got to meet with Comfort Calhoun last week along with president-elect but not for much longer, Chloe Dix, and I think it was a very fruitful conversation and we will be meeting one more time before the semester is over.

Vice-President Bennett



I've been working on making sure that Beverly knows the ropes coming in for next year as vice president and I've also been getting stuff ready for banquet, which will be saving for committee reports. So yeah.

Secretary Dix

In terms of secretary duties, I updated the website, completed the minutes, and kept the Instagram updated with events that are going on and then kind of outside of Secretary duties. I, like Landry said, met President Calhoun officially for the first time and had breakfast with my mentor, Councilman Westbrook, and he's ending his term as Councilman, so that was kind of a nice last little meet up. And then I had lunch with the Mayor and with President Smith, so just catching up on what's going on around the school.

Treasurer Luna

Hello everyone. On the forefront, Banquet is kind of like because it's next week, it's kind of like on the front runner. Other than that really trying to update everything into the shared drive and the like budget expenditure stuff. I'm still missing things and you guys will see it later as you can see that we have a bunch of presentation but getting everything. Ready for next year is definitely second and then just some updates. The rolling Patriot skills event, the Lark Day One on April 1st actually got cancelled. Terry Sullivan actually went ahead and bought the water. So if you guys know any groups that want waters, we have them in the office. We can just kind of like them, but they're there. There was it was only like \$20, so it's not a big L on us. And then I had to reach out to the social work club. They had troubles with their emails. Still. Well, I got their receipt from CC's. So that's finally getting updated. And then the first generation Patriots, UH, which is this whole mess and stuff, but they ended up buying their own items. I told them we can do a reimbursement if their advisor through the JC policy if their advisor purchased the items, but they didn't. So I had to kind of deny it on their end but everything so far. Mostly that.

Chief of Staff Peters

I've been Working on. I've been working on some of the last items in Rules Committee for end of the year and I've also been updating the Chief of staff document and working on getting some new documents in the shared drive for future student governments.

Committee Reports

a. Events

VP Bennett: So, we discussed the awards for banquets, so get excited for that and also the different things that we will need for banquet. We were also we also discussed final stages coming up, so we'll be putting those together for finals week. And also we have invitations for the banquet as well. So, if you will be attending a banquet, please come to me afterwards and get your invitation.

b. Communications

Secretary Dix: In Communications, we just talked about kind of the last few posts that I'm going to be posting as Secretary on the Instagram. So, like, the senior spotlights the new Executive Board and a banquet photo dump.

c. SGAC

Treasurer Luna: SGAC, we actually had scheduled hearings with women in math and science, the Muslim Student Association, and the Reformed University Fellowship, and the only one that showed up was RUF. And they actually got approved. They have an event on the 15th, which is Saturday for a RUF barn event. It's going to be like a dance and stuff open to all students should go, and then no more SGAC for the rest of the semester. So that. When was the last one so you guys don't have to show up on Wednesday.

a. Rules



Chief of Staff Peters: We talked about and finished the last presentation we will be giving shortly.

b. **ESC**

Senator Kirkby: So, this Friday, we're having a campus cleanup event 5:00pm, South end of the trail at the pharmacy building. So, everyone come, it's kind of like what we did last year but not as like intense so yeah everyone show up.

c. **GSA**

Did not meet.

VI. Student Voice Reports

Senator Vargas: OK, So what I got to talk about tonight is. Two weeks ago we just had our last Dean search committee interview, and last week we just came up with the final conclusion, came to a consensus, and then we were sending up our recommendations to Doctor Memory and the Provost, and then they will reconvene and make the final decision of who's going to be the new Dean. Of the College of Education and Psychology. Aside from that, any press pressing issue. Sorry, I can't speak today. Was the major field test, um courses that we're having to go through because psychology majors do have to take a major field test just so the way we could show what we've learned kind of stuck kind of reflects on the program and stuff. And so there was kind of an issue with that because I guess during the whole IT spoof. The emails and stuff. Um, not everyone received the emails. And so there's a lot of people who were like, didn't know this thing even existed up until two days ago when they resent another one out. And so, and it's a requirement to graduate and if you don't, you do not graduate. So that is one thing that we were dealing with, but they finally got that fixed.

Old Business

None

New Business

-Let the Record show Treasurer Luna gave a budget presentation.

-Let the Record show Chief of Staff Peters and Rules Committee gave a GPA increase discussion and the discussion has been tabled until the third meeting of next semester.

-Let the record show the new Executive Board was sworn in as well as the new Senators elected in by the Spring Election

- Ona Toliver spoke to the Senate regarding her appreciation of the work the Senate has done.

Advisor Comments

Camry Tharp: I really can't say much more than what. Everything she said is true. And you know, it really encompasses the things that I've thought about you guys this semester. I've been so blessed to be able to stand in as your advisor of this semester because not only has it given me. A sense? What as she does in general, like I said, she all many times, but it just reminded me that there are students on our campus that can be professional and want to you know and want to learn and grow and this way once we representatives of the student body and in the most positive light. Want to make positive change happen And so you know, it makes me so proud to work here with you guys and so thank y'all for letting me be a stand in for Josh. You know, maybe one



day I can get to continue on and do this. When I grow up. But it really has been fantastic for me and I really just want to thank y'all.

Announcements

-Senator of the Week: Ronny Carnes

-Banquet: Tuesday, April 18th, 5:30pm in the College of Pharmacy – Masquerade theme

Next Week

- Banquet

Adjournment

Let the record show that the Senate voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm