



The University of Texas at Tyler

Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, February 14th, 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	A
Amelia McCain	A
Amber McAdams	
Ashlyn Mattern	
Bee Black	
Ben Buchanan	
JJ Rojas	
Jorian Khan	
Justin Vargas	
Kyna Holman	
Lisa Tran	
Macie Kirkby	
Maggie Manning	A (approved)
McKenna Waller	
Tanner King	P (late)
Valerie McNamara	
Anayeli Campo	
Perpetual Kyei	
Emma Owulebaja	
Angelina Lezama	
Ronald Carnes III	
Erica Santee	P (zoom)
Macy Reed	
Alexis Minick	
Peace Okeke	
Kelsey Niette	



Emma Harlan	
SaMoan Brown	
Rina Bhatia	
Shelby Kipp	A
Al Anderson	A
David Templeton	
Elaina Gonzalez	
Chloe Burleson: Chief Justice	A

Let the record show that the minutes from the February 7th, SGA General Assembly meeting were voted in approval by the Senate.

IV. Open Forum

a. **NONE**

V. Speaker's Podium

Ashley Bill, Executive Director of Academic Success

Ashley Bill: Hey guys it's so nice to see you all this evening happy Valentine's Day I hope you all have wonderful plans after this president Landry asked me to no first name is typically not so much but that time that time used to y'all had asked me to come in just to kind of give you a little bit of an update about our advising sort of ad hoc committee that we've been working on this year and then also talking about sort of some plans for the rest of this semester so as many of you know usually once this semester would come in I would meet with a group of you well typically it would be when the advising issues really sort of got to a breaking point I would come in I would listen for a couple of hours we would identify the most pervasive issues and then we would sort of attack those this year and talking with SG leadership we decided to go ahead and set a standing ad hoc committee so I can hear every other meeting to make sure that at any time we can look and see what issues are going on and how can we address them because sometimes they're one off they're just individual other times they're systemic it's something that we need to be addressing university wide or maybe just in a specific college I will say this since we've been doing this so much more often than the number of complaints has gone down fairly significantly and I think a lot of that has to do with us listening to what you had to say going back and addressing those issues whether they were training with a specific advisor or whether that was a policy shift that was allowed us to improve processes but what I don't want to do is say OK we've got less complaints now we must be good let's move on that's not what we want to do at all So what I'm hopeful if you all might be able to have a chance to discuss this later tonight or maybe later this semester I would like to ask that that advising ad hoc group be made permanent and that is something we continue here by year and make sure we'll have different groups come on but we do need representation from every single college because while the original group represented the majority of the colleges that participation has dwindled down now to we're really only getting feedback from about two to three colleges and for me to be able to make a



significant difference we really need to have representatives from all of our undergraduate colleges on the campus but I would love to continue this in perpetuity every two weeks we continue to have these throughout the traditional fall and spring semesters because even though maybe we get to a point where there's less complaints there's still a lot more that we have the ability to do so the conversations that we've had have been on while I have to wait to get information back from my advisor or I don't know what to take I don't know what my degree plan looks like but we have a slew of advising technologies already built in to my UT Tyler to EAB navigate that students can use that can create their own individualized planner so they know exactly when they plan to graduate because not every student on the same track not every student is going to graduate in four years not every student has to be or can't people time some of them need to be part-time students and that's going to extend their degree there's no one-size-fits-all degree plan so being able to utilize these individualized components will allow students to create what is ideal for them based on their previous credit and their major and minor combinations so part of what I would like to use in addition to still continuing to feel these advising concerns is being able to use this group as a sounding board how do we get information out to the students about these different pieces of technology how do we make sure because in the past we've sort of relied on new student orientation but that is if it means most of you have gone through it's like drinking from a firehose I mean you've got so much information coming at you it's really difficult to remember that three months six months nine months down the road so how do we put together a cohesive communication plan that makes sure we target the information students need to know without overwhelming them because I understand how many emails you in text messages you all get from having listened to some of these meetings you are inundated with a lot of things so how do we prioritize the content and how do we communicate with the most effectively to you all so that is what I'm hoping really the net the rest of this semester we can be looking at both the different advising technologies that we're utilizing how do we make sure students who are aware of all of those communication plan that goes along with it because again we don't want to do too much but we also don't want to do nothing so those are the main areas that we've been talking about so far this this year and again with this group's approval I would love to have this group continue year to year and that way we ensure we have a standing twice a month opportunity to talk about things that are going wrong ways we can make it better and when new opportunities arise to share information students making sure we use this group as a great non board for how we communicate that information out yeah so right now we've been looking at just at express this group goes we've been looking just at the complaint section so really starting next month or the next meeting that's where my real plan is to start looking at how do we communicate this information out right now it's on our website but that means students typically have to search it or the advisor might give them the link when they're in the session with them but how do we actively and proactively reach out to them that's part of what I'm hoping that this group will be able to give us ideas on standing committee absolutely so right now based on the most recent this semester the most recent that we've had and we only really have strong representation from the College of education psychology and the souls College of business so the other four undergraduate college school of health professions the School of Nursing the College of Arts and Sciences and then lastly from College of engineering those are the four that we can really use additional feedback from this semester so if any of you are in those colleges and you would like to join we meet every other week after the SGA meeting that way you guys are already here if any of you on zoom would like to participate we can continue again to do it via zoom join us as well I would very much appreciate that opportunity how do you join us as well I would very much appreciate that opportunity not so my office only



supports undergraduate advising graduate advising is handled in the individual colleges there's no cohesive structure for graduate advising at the university now there is someone in the Graduate School hi miss Jennifer Moore so she is sort of my equivalent for student success programs or academic success programs ethic graduate level so she if that something that you were interested in doing she might be someone you would want to reach out to the difference between undergrad and grad every undergraduate college employs full-time professional academic advisors whereas in the Graduate School we only have three colleges that have full-time professional advisors at the graduate level and the rest are done by faculty which can cause just a whole myriad of issues because there's no consistency on that side where there's typically is at the undergraduate level but if you're if you are interested Jennifer Moore and would be the ones from the Graduate School if you want might want to invite them in to talk about those options would be some really good context for you to start with of course any other questions that I can try to answer for you all well I hope you have a wonderful rest of your meeting a wonderful valentine's day and I'll see you back here in two weeks I always sit in the back row, come say hi whenever you want to.

Camry Tharp, Assistant Director of Student Engagement

Camry Tharp: Alright hello everyone for those of you who don't know me yet Camry Tharp assistant director of student engagement I decided I wanted to come chat with you guys and kind of gauge opinions on things as you guys are the voice of the student body so my role includes overseeing student organizations and advocating for student organizations on campus and so one thing that has come up currently with us is a change in the way that space is going to be available to students so as you may have heard rumblings of the university Academy is going to be acquiring the ordinance activity center across the way eventually and we we say eventually we don't really know an exact date but I do know that like scheduling of events for students in that space I think has ceased at this point and they're honoring like the ones that have already been requested so the way that space works on campus is that you have to request it in order to request it as a student you have to be in a student org or associated with a department or something you have to be associated with the college and like involved in some way and so when you request space you must do it at least two weeks out of the band and then you know depending on if you're a student organization is a registered student organization then that request will be you know looked at and then it dependent on you know a number of things it'll be approved right so additionally with the OC going to be taken offline that means that the camps and the conferences and all the things that people come to campus for that are kind of Co sponsored or even like for profit are going to have to find a space that's a large meeting area to go to right and So what we're seeing or we will anticipate seeing soon is kind of an influx of those type of programs into the university center which is a typical student space right and so what we are curious about is you know we know that the space is always a concern residents on campus and so we just kind of want to gauge your thoughts on that and you know we are considering some usage policies for the university center with regards to like how it can be reserved especially like allowing student organizations to have first rights to the space so that you know there's not an issue of like you know you want to host this creative event for your organization but you know it's already been booked out by another group so wanted to gauge thoughts on that and feel any questions so that when we do make that policy that we're taking the students opinions into consideration so open for questions. OK So what Robert said is that he likes that we're considering making student



works the first dibs basically on the space and likes that you know we have people coming in on campus but once they encourage us to give opportunity for them to go elsewhere encourage them to go elsewhere people are coming in from off campus I agree with you but that's not you know this is not all about what I agree with but you know if that's something that the students would like and that works for you know the event management team I think that that is a great idea to encourage people to utilize others beautiful spaces on campus like the College of business and I think that's what we're working towards you know the student work or student space being mostly the university center right I mean obviously the whole university belongs in a way to the students but like the university center specifically it's like where you guys are meant to you know gather outside of the classroom and so that's why this whole conversation has become a conversation we want to make sure that you guys are getting first dibs yes. um taking away is a very interesting way to put it so Ronnie asks what's what spaces will be taken away from soon I don't think that taking away is really what we're doing but more limiting on the times of the spaces to be used so the university center aside we're not we're hoping not to do that but I know that they are planning in a couple of weeks to change the alumni center restrictions space restrictions in order to have a call center there so you know that's a space that a lot of groups like to use for special events but again we know that that's a special event space a lot of the time and not typically a meeting space for students so that's kind of why we wanted to bring it up as a conversation because their hours would pretty much limit student usage that like to Fridays and Saturdays and that space and then the university center I'm operating as normal but what we're looking to do and is hopefully allow student groups to book space out one year in advance typically right now we only allow student groups to book out each semester after registering as a group but we're considering changing that policy in order to better accommodate students so that when outside groups come to request usage of the space we can already say like OK we've got these groups that are planning to use it in advance because what happens is camps and conferences they plan out years in advance like they try to plan out long term but our student groups have that somewhat of a restriction due to registration and if you're not involved in another student organization there's probably like falls on deaf ears but I do want to like share that to those I know a lot of you guys are involved in other organizations so yes. so that's you know that's again where we will change the policy in a way that we give students ample time to request ahead of time so that when those other groups come in and we're considering like a six month for outside groups and departments so you would have much more time in advance than they would to prepare and everything was dealt with on a case by case basis I approve all student work space requests and work with Vicki and event management and doctor Katie who is not talked to Patty sorry Andy who oversees the university center space and you know case by case we'll handle it but that's why we're that's really why we're bringing into conversation we don't want students to feel like they're being pushed out by an outside group right so yeah your question is what if the student works don't have funding to plan that far ahead but that's why the hope and the plan again nothing set in stone it's to allow student works to set it up to one year in advance and other departments and outside organizations only six months yeah no I totally understand that's why I'm bringing it up as a conversation nothing said is done and so we're kind of trying to get your input as like that's a great point if you guys don't have money that's something that you can head for but I do know like certain organizations know what stable program or like the money that they're trying to put towards their programs it's going to be something that is going to have growing pains but we are still trying to put students first regardless and so you know we're trying to include you guys into the conversation as far as like what the process would look like I will include Landry into that as far as like when we change



the policies and procedures to make sure that it's going to benefit students the majority of the time I was going to include this a little bit in my office report but I did meet with president Cohen today and this was a topic that was brought up and frankly whenever they're saying this transparency they had no idea about the alumni house and the times that were being established and stuff like that so I now have a better idea of who to go and ask those questions so this is something that I'm going to be following up on and getting more details so do you have a question go ahead yeah I mean once this policy goes into place there would be like from fall to fall I guess would be probably what happened so we try to as a professional staff member here that plans events we try to plan a year in advance and it is hard to conceptualize we get our budgets at like you know the end of the summer beginning of fall so that's how we plan and I imagine that's how that works with start falling as well that's a great point and that's something that we would definitely consider putting into that I think when I when I thought about we do to minimize the that like the OC is called the offline this is already made space that people love to use how can we make sure that the students aren't going to book a space and forget that they booked a space you know that kind of thing so I think notifications on that reminders check-ins to see like how can we help you with this event do you have any changes that kind of thing.

President Smith: I think there would be a lot more space reminders definitely and just as a general rule student governments more than likely if we're not we'll make sure that we are but we're going to be consulted on this before any sort of decision is set is set in stone. Remove any I'm going to be speaking to whoever that is relevant to so once I've done that we can definitely have the keep having this discussion but do you have any further questions.

Camry Tharp: Our question is this going to make it harder to reschedule events if they have to cancel and I guess can you elaborate on that right so I think naturally when there are more people utilizing a space that's going to happen is that like there will be tighter constraints around like OK we can't move it here we'll have to move it here which is just an honest unfortunate thing I know you probably heard a lot it's just a growing pain right now for us and we're hoping that you know eventually and I think they've you know they've talked about it and actually before but like as we grow and we get more buildings or you maybe potentially there will be a meeting space in a residence hall we don't know but in the time that we have to like make this shift while the other building is going to be offline it will probably be uncomfortable.

President Smith: And there is to kind of go into the domino effect when it comes to all the different locations that are going to be kind of I guess not closed but close for certain times that was one thing that president Calhoun and chief staff entered reiterated his that this could be relating to that kind of domino effect of having to move different departments into different places so for example testing center just got moved into the library right and so or it's at least being planned they're going to be moved into the library and so that's it's part and parcel of a bigger problem of they're just getting started on getting things bigger and this is kind of going to be the process for a little bit to important part is that we have clear communication with the administration and that there is a clear procedure for these types of cases so that is definitely something that I will be paying close attention to.



Camry Tharp: So one more thing on that is that nothing can be changed without consulting the students we don't want anything without consulting the students especially usage policy on the UC so that has to be like a conversation so.

Officer Reports:

President Smith

I'll go ahead and I'll go ahead and move on to officer reports as I kind of already mentioned I met with president Calhoun today and it was a very productive conversation I also updated him on recent stuff with UT SAC some of the efforts that we have going on especially relating to micro credentials and student resources and consolidating those to make sure that they're in one area I'm probably sure that you've Tyler actually does a decent job having a one stop center and a physical location whereas a lot of other schools do not have a one stop center or physical location for it so would be happy the other things that we discussed was increasing student worker opportunities increasing student worker jobs on campus that will offer more attractive uh a more attractive job for Once Upon you graduate you can put that on your resume and be much more marketable candidate so that's still in the works.

Vice-President Bennett

Mainly a lot of what I've been working on is an events committee so I will say before committee kind of the same for me but I've just been working on the posts and yes the rest isn't many people

Secretary Dix

Kind of the same for me, I've just been working on the posts, and the rest is in committees, as well.

Treasurer Luna

Actually wrote it down because I was forgetting things so last week actually emailed back and forth with Joy from the African student organization and Derek from.. over the steps and requirements for SGC funding and then I don't know where joy got it but they sent me a 2017 version of the SGC request form so that was cool to look at but I sent from the right I don't know where that's at and then I also spoke with Rama from the Muslim association about the options and what they could do about how to handle their money they were asking about like bank accounts and stuff so I kind of like refer them to the student organization handbook and kind of told them what I do personally and then I have my Costa Rica meeting last week and so I took the opportunity to drug say vice president Bennett along with me so we talked to Cynthia about what we could do if they had any ideas and what we could do during homecoming slash midnight breakfast and she said that they are willing to help in any capacity that they seem fit so that is kind of exciting and the last thing I would like to meet with anyone who is interested in being treasurer next year so I am open to talking about anything you guys want.

Chief of Staff Peters

Just worked on finishing the presentation we are giving today. If anyone is interested in being Chief of Staff I'm open to meet.

Committee Reports

a. Events

VP Bennett: We spoke with Cynthia over in OP so we are having in so that they will be most likely helping us with being up breakfast so we are having the council presidents next week on February the 20th that is in the month on Monday you aren't required to be there don't worry so



it's been reserved we got things going so we we got stuff coming in if y'all have not registered in acquired event register now or right after this meeting if you don't show up it would be mad so it is March 4th from around 9:00 AM to around 1:00 PM uh so it's downtown I believe still and at breakfast again March 22nd if you're here on the main campus and you're not there we're going to have an issue and then we're still working on the dates for banquet and whenever we will be visiting the Houston campus as well and we did come up with dates for finals bags so we do Monday April the 24th it'll be general we'll be in there in the UC we'll also be back in nursing on Tuesday the 25th because we have a ton of stuff for nursing to give out and then on Wednesday the 26th of April we will be there in the past so whenever we get around to it those senators I will be coming in talking to you about tabling with me for those events and yeah that's about it so I'll move on to communications.

b. Communications

So we still kind of continue discussing like the direction of the Instagram um and we're going to start making headway on the post for the events that Robert just mentioned and we were also brainstorming some then at breakfast themes which will present to e-board tomorrow I guess so and then I also wanted to say if anyone has any ideas for posts or anything like you don't have to be in communications committee we really want to hear from you guys on the direction of the Instagram because we want you guys to love it and want to show it off too.

c. SGAC

Last week we met with and they were approved for \$234.96 for McAllister deli sandwich trays for the event on the 28th as a reminder they're doing a diversity inclusion meeting where they're going to have this speaker and attendance and then tomorrow we'll be meeting with two groups the pre health student association and the rolling hatred skills PHS also request kind of late but should be fine and then lastly I want to emphasize the importance of going to committee because I only had two people show up last week and I need a minimum and like the bare minimum of three people to actually have a meeting so thanks.

a. Rules

There's the presentation we are giving today.

b. ESC

We met today, nothing crazy we're planning our two events and yeah.

c. GSA

Did not meet.

VI. Student Voice Reports

a. College of Arts and Sciences

Senator Gonzalez: Last week the College of Arts and Sciences hosted a pre theology moderate discussion panel it went well the speaker came from the Brook Hill High School a doctor philosophy and talked about some different concepts and then the following day on the ninth there was the column of arts and sciences career fair and I think that's it.

Senator Niette: Really this is like a really small thing asks at some point they passengers and maybe other schools where they also have those desks when you get together and talk about maybe a plan to keep more organized in the classrooms kind of come up with like a little system that's something worth noting also I don't think there's any other poly-sci or history majors in here but there's a CAS vent this week for it meet with professors you'll probably don't care but you know.



b. College of Business

Senator Buchanan: One thing is that the printer is broken and the computer lab and it's been broken for like the last two months and so I've gone to the Dean's office about it and they're like yeah we'll get it fixed and then that's a good fixed so I'm going to make sure to get that working because people complain about printing and having to go all the way to the library for that now which makes sense it's a long walk and then yeah events going on so management marketing did a bunch of this stuff for the Hawaiian night over at the basketball games last week and that went really well it was a really cool event so I got to go to that and then for accounting and finance department they're using their student success funds to do thing called fable fest which stands for finance accounting business law and ethics department and so they're going to have like a bunch of giveaways and sponsors local community and then have like a networking event through that so those are like the two big events going on or one that went on and one that's going on for the college of business but other than that not really anything crazy going on just people busy with school.

c. School of Nursing:

Senator Ocampo: we had a meeting with the Dean and we were basically discussing a bunch of issues and I had just brought up a bunch of issues that you were having at the Palestine campus so I feel like the biggest issue that we have is that we have labs that last like the entire day basically and we have our tables in our labs there were from 7:00 AM to like 3:00 PM so the fact that they don't have outlets is kinda like yeah there's no way to charge your devices so they have to like move to like where the SIM simulation like that's are and so it's like very inconvenient for you to be taking notes and trying to like learn and you know you don't have anywhere to treat your devices and then there was also yeah housing brought it up and they said that they have mentioned it which contradicted what we had discussed because it's a the housing and the business locations weren't well needed or like weren't seen as me Mike and high demand but they actually the Dean was like oh we've actually like discussed this before and it's been brought up every time so it's just something that hasn't been done.

Senator McNamara: so we also talked about the ceremonies that we have we have a white coat ceremony at the beginning of nursing school and then a pinning ceremony at the end of nursing school they're talking about just taking away the pinning ceremony um altogether because a lot of nursing schools don't even do it anymore it used to be like the little cap ceremony you know but we don't wear those anymore but they're talking about taking it away and I didn't really like that just because at me graduating in the summer I'm not going to have a graduation or I'm going to have to come back for the fall which I really don't want to do so the pings money was going to be like my graduation ship they take it away then it's just like oh you know anyways then we talked about the expansion of the nursing school that's going to be done by 2025 fund and then related to that we did a deconstruction of the garden in the front there's going to be a reconstruction whenever they like start building yeah and then we talked about the global health via trip a little bit and what you can do is like I'll be graduated by that time but if I wanted to go they told me I could apply as a grad student which was really cool and I don't even have to be in grad school like I'm not going to grad school yet so they're like you could still apply and get grad student credit which is really cool I had no idea um and then some of the certificates we talked about clear data analytics nursing informatics I didn't know we had those like certificates which is really cool and that's it.



Senator Ocampo: We also talked about how we don't have like any food so in the past and campus we only have one vending machine and it's like the high school the University Academy they like come in like those high school students they all show like use of stuff so basically all we like survive off of is the coffee machine.

Old Business

a. Rules Presentation

Let the record show that Chief of Staff Peters discussed changes to the Constitution in regards to the naming and the meeting time and they were approved by the Senate.

New Business

a. Senator Templeton opened a discussion on the meal plan requirement for those who more often chose to cook at home, even those who live on campus.

b. Senator Minick brought up that Inspired Minds submissions are open.

Advisor Comments

Camry Sharp: Keep in mind if you have anything to say more about this space concerns please reach out to Landry, Landry and I are in communication as well as I'm advocating for you guys I want you all to know that that's why I brought this up here so open to suggestions and opinions and thoughts and concerns.

Announcements

Senator of the Week: Justin Vargas

President Smith: Justin was nominated for the great work that he does insert student government and especially the great work he does outside of student government whether it be at the College Peer Partnership Program or sitting on university committees trying to find a new dean for the College of Education Psychology, so we just wanted to thank you Justin for all the hard work you've done especially as a long term senator so thank you!

Next Week

Nothing to add.

Adjournment

Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:22pm.