



# The University of Texas at Tyler

## Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday February 7th, 2023

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

Name	Absent
President Smith	A (approved)
Vice President Bennett	
Secretary Dix	
Treasurer Luna	
Chief of Staff Peters	
Adan Govea	
Amelia McCain	
Amber McAdams	
Ashlyn Mattern	
Bee Black	
Ben Buchanan	
JJ Rojas	A (approved)
Jorian Khan	
Justin Vargas	
Kyna Holman	
Lisa Tran	
Macie Kirkby	
Maggie Manning	A
McKenna Waller	
Tanner King	
Valerie McNamara	
Anayeli Campo	
Perpetual Kyei	
Emma Owulebaja	
Angelina Lezama	
Ronald Carnes III	A (approved)
Erica Santee	
Macy Reed	
Alexis Minick	
Peace Okeke	
Kelsey Niette	



<b>Emma Harlan</b>	
<b>SaMoan Brown</b>	
<b>Rina Bhatia</b>	
<b>Shelby Kipp</b>	
<b>Al Anderson</b>	
<b>David Templeton</b>	
<b>Elaina Gonzalez</b>	
<b>Chloe Burleson: Chief Justice</b>	

**Let the record show that the minutes from the January 24<sup>th</sup>, SGA General Assembly meeting were voted in approval by the Senate.**

**IV. Open Forum**

a. **NONE**

**V. Speaker's Podium**

**Cynthia Martinez, Executive Director of the Office of International Programs**

**Cynthia Martinez:** Hello everyone, my name is Cynthia Martinez and I am with the office of international programs and quick background about myself I moved to Tyler in 2019 prior to that I lived in the South Texas where I work at another institution at that institution I took on several roles I was a recruiter with upon a time and then I worked in student engagement and then I moved over to international programs I'm gonna call out my age I guess since since 2011 and I've been doing that since then and so it's something that I really enjoy doing I love working with international programs international students internationalization and so today I'm going to talk to you about what our office does and then hopefully you guys have some questions for me but I want to start off with one of our our office has like four major areas one of those areas is international student services and So what we do in that office is we oversee all international student visas so those are the F1 visa and the J visa so I'm not sure if you guys are aware but this university has over 60 countries that are represented on our campus and so we have students from all over the world that come and study here at this institution the degrees that they come in study vary they study engineering into computer science to technology psychology or education really they're pretty spread out and so our office is responsible for overseeing their visas and so we oversee their visas through a system called cetus and so we just have to confirm that the students are here that they're enrolled for the proper number of courses and things like that and that sounds pretty boring but i promise you very it's entertaining it is it's fun it's fun stuff but one of the other things that we do in our office is we celebrate our international students in their culture so for example we celebrate Diwali which is an Indian holiday and that is held sometime either in October or November it really depends on when the holiday is we also celebrate international Education Week that is held in November and we recently celebrated lunar year at the UC ballroom we also celebrated Hispanic heritage month back in September and then we're going to celebrate the holy in March hobbies when you see everybody throwing that colorful



powder and so the purpose of those events is just for the students to share the culture and for students to have an international experience while they're here at the institution and the other area of our office is study abroad I don't know how many of you have ever considered studying abroad or have already participated in a study abroad program but just as an example for what's upcoming this summer here at UT Tyler we have several programs with the more popular programs is psychology in London and that is being led by doctor Lauren Thomas we have political science in Europe and not being vetted by doctor sturken and they're going to London Paris and Berlin and then we have educational beliefs with doctor yanita oliveras and then we have global health in India and that includes pharmacy nursing and Health Science that students can participate in and they're they're gonna go to India and they're going in August we're going to be hosting this study abroad fair on Thursday this coming Thursday at the UC foyer from 11 to two and there are scholarships available for UT Tyler students so the scholarships that are available in our office are only for you guys obviously have to qualify for the scholarship so you have to have the the GPA one of the programs and you get to see funds from our institution there are external scholarships that students can apply for as well for example if you are from the military or you're going to a specific region there are scholarships that are available for students and we provide information on that we guide you we provide information for parents because we don't have a lot of questions about where are their sons or daughters going to only and I almost forgot carefree is also leading the program this spring break she's taking a group of students to Costa Rica for service learning so that's really exciting she's taking about 15 students right coming up and then one of the other areas that are off is overseas passport services I don't know if you guys are familiar with that but our office we are a passport facility so that means that anybody that qualifies for US passport is able to go to our office and apply for a passport and we are by appointment only however on February 15th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM we're gonna stay open a little bit later to allow for families or those individuals that work like an 8 to 8 to five job to be given the opportunity to apply for a US passport at that time and right now it's getting a lot busier in our office regarding passports because people are planning their summer vacations and so the processing time for a regular passport at as of today is 8 to 11 weeks so it is taking a little bit of time it was five to eight weeks but now because summer is coming and it's around the corner it's taking a little bit longer so if you're interested or you know anyone that is interested in applying for a passport fees encourage them to go to our office and the other area that our office focuses on is a program called IELI that is the intensive English language institute and that program is designed for individuals who want to learn English so for example we have some international students that come to you to Tyler and they wanna get a little bit better and improve their English speaking skills you can go ahead and enroll in our program and the UT Tyler professor teaches the courses and so it is an intensive English language program so students enroll highly intensive and they're pretty much in the classroom happened to be everyday other week are there any questions about our office what we do or how you can participate in a city about program

**Senator Templeton:** You said there were scholarships for Military Dependents, stuff like that, how would that work?

**Cynthia Martinez:** Oh sure the question was that there I had mentioned that they were scholarships available for military dependents and yes there are there is a Gilman scholarship that is available and that is it's the John McCain Gilman scholarship that is only available for



individuals that are dependents of sorry veterans and the application does open up it is very strict on when the application opens up and closes but then there are other benefits that you can talk to Kobe Dillard about you know Colby, Colby is awesome Colby can also help you let's take for example So what I mentioned earlier today regarding study brought was only summer programs but we have semester long programs at the moment we have over we have about five to six students that are currently abroad right now and so they're studying abroad in some of our partner institutions so that means that if let's say you guys decided to study you brought this spring semester you however your classes will take place abroad in one of our exchange partner schools and our exchange partner schools are in the UK Belgium and our most recent agreement is with the university in South Korea South Korea has become extremely popular with our students there's a lot of interest but you can talk to Colby some of those benefits because I do know that if you're receiving benefits those transfer over to programs that are held during the regular fall or spring semester.

**VP Bennett:** Kyna mentioned in the chat that the link to the Passport application is not working.

**Cynthia Martinez:** Yes so, our appointments are completely full and we open them up in by two weeks in advance but we've been opening up them up a little bit more and they do get they get filled so quickly because we provide this service with individuals in the community however if you're one of our students we will definitely try and accommodate you if you need a passport because you're going to travel or whatever the situation is we do really try and accommodate you and you are our students it's not preference but we do try and help you guys out so if it says no appointments you can e-mail me or you can e-mail our we can just e-mail me my e-mail is the longest e-mail here you better it's cynthia.martinez@uttyler.edu just my name altogether and we can help you schedule an appointment but honestly if you were really considering applying for a passport right now I would recommend that you come to our office on the 15th from 4 to 7 we never do walking appointments but we do try and have passport days so we're going to have one on the 15th and then we're going to have another one during spring break because that is really when children are not in school so we have smaller siblings they're not going to be going to school during that time we'll schedule another passport days so we can encourage them to come to our office and apply for a passport. All right you guys well thank you so much for having me today and I really hope that you guys sign up for study abroad program it's it's honestly a life changing experience for those of you that have traveled internationally I'm sure that you've experienced that before and share those experiences with students and encourage them to visit our office we promise we're really friendly so oh by the way our office is not on main campus we're across the street we're at the corner of varsity and omen and we it's a little house and so we always have coffee and tea and water available for students if you guys are bored or want coffee or beverage please stop by our office we also have a meditation room available and that's open to anybody students faculty and staff and so you can go and hang out and just go and check out the place.

### **Officer Reports:**

#### **VP Bennett on behalf of President Smith**

So I'm next is officer report so I have the officer report from Landry so for president Smith the officer report states that he attended UT sack he spoke with chancellor Milliken and other UT system leaders about micro credentialing and to initiatives the rules for certificates that um the



Provost came talked to us about he is also working on setting a date for this year's safety and access accessibility walk hope beginning to back to us on that soon he is finalizing candidacy meeting times for review for elections which will actually be talking about later today preparing he's also preparing for upcoming an upcoming meeting with president Carter and that is actually where he's at currently he is at an event with president Calhoun so that is why I'm stepping in tonight.

#### **Vice-President Bennett**

I've been working on midnight breakfast we're getting stuff finalized and getting stuff ready to go for that so if you have any ideas any concerns any questions, please visit us at events committee every 4th that every day every Tuesday at 4:30 we are usually in 103 uh right next door and so I'm just come enjoy have fun talk bring us some ideas.

#### **Secretary Dix**

In the past two weeks I have updated the website I don't know if I told you guys that already but everyone's on the website and I've been working on getting the Instagram posts out and keeping the story updated and the rest will be in Committees.

#### **Treasurer Luna**

This is Beverly from OK so I'm not really doing much I've been emailing some groups about JC and I feel like that's what that's always do and then I scheduled a hearing for this week so I'll talk about that whenever we go to next week stop and then I wanted to mention that I'm actually going to the Costa Rica service trip with and everybody so we have to take advantage of that stuff a lot of fun.

#### **Chief of Staff Peters**

I've been working on Constitution changes that will be presented next week as well as a Student Survey that I'm working on with Chloe.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **a. Events**

**Senator Black:** For Events Committee we just discuss the overview for midnight breakfast some of Roberts plans stuff that's gone into stuff we're still looking into uh like different tabling events by the organizations he's we've settled on the met food for this midnight breakfast we're still we're still finalizing some of the rest of the stuff for that and then we just that's pretty much all we talked about.

##### **b. Communications**

**Amber McAdams:** We talked about how Chloe so far has been doing a wonderful job, getting everyone one the Instagram with the different colleges, and like trying to post everybody. If you guys didn't send Chloe your headshots or quotes, please, please, please, we can't stress this enough, please send it to her so we can get that all posted, we also talked a little bit about how we're going to start coming out with like some plans and some posts for the upcoming events that are going to be coming up soon.

**Secretary Dix:** We started talking about some other posts like having to do with the Senate, so we want to do introductions of the committees and we are going to have committee chairs like schedule a day everyone like dress nice they would want it to be posted. We are going to post these to show our representatives for the committee in case someone sees you like in the UC or in a class or something and then I'm also going to post when we meet for GA.

##### **c. SGAC**

**Treasurer Luna:** So, Treasurer Luna, as you as you didn't meet last week, due to the weather. I ended up just canceling it kind of last minute, just because the Internet at victory and other places



were very spotty and stuff. So it's kinda like the decision that we kinda had to make, though we were supposed to meet with the agents in association, and unfortunately their event is this Thursday, and it's kinda like. So they submitted the request less than 2 weeks. So it's really important. If you guys want to like, tell people about it like requests up to 2 weeks to in advance. So things like this doesn't happen. So I told them about the reimbursement option we could have met on tomorrow. Reimburse them stuff like that, but they didn't really want to do that, so I don't know what they're gonna do. But it was just for a meeting. So hopefully they're fine, and we will be meeting tomorrow with Beta Alpha Psi. They have an event with a minorities and business on February 20, eighth, and they're only requesting about \$200 for Veggie Cookie plates and fruit plates. They have an entrepreneurial like Lady. I forgot her name, but it's on patriots engage. You guys want to see it. They have her coming in and speaking for them. So, They have an event with a minorities and business on February 20, eighth, and they're only requesting about \$200 for Veggie Cookie plates and fruit plates. They have an entrepreneurial like Lady. I forgot her name, but it's on patriots engage. You guys want to see it. They have her coming in and speaking for them. So, that will be fun, it's during SGA actually so you guys can't go, but yeah.

a. **Rules**

**Senator Reed:** We met on Monday this week, and we finished up a presentation that we're going to be giving at General Assembly next week, and then we're just going over a few different ideas for future presentations this semester that are still kind of in the works

b. **ESC**

**Senator Kirkby:** So we met today and we have like two events we're trying to plan out right now, we'd love to do one with events committee kinda collab on it, so that's in the works and then our Earth Day event we're working on that, too, but we're trying to get all the campuses involved this time so if you guys have any connections in the Palestine or Longview campus, let me know because I have been trying to find people to connect with over there.

c. **GSA**

**Did not meet.**

**VI. Student Voice Reports**

a. **School of Medicine:**

**Senator Kyei:** We had the ground breaking, and the building is anticipated to be finished in 2025, also we have incoming medical students, we have like 27 in the office we are hoping to bring our class size to 40 by April and class will start in July. We are also establishing a partnership with TJC to start a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory sciences. We are also recruiting top researchers for Neuroscience. We have started a brand new neuroscience department over at biotechnology, also there is a lot of renovation going on. We have applied for an NIH grant to support the renovation down in the basement and by medical research building. A lot of renovation is going and hoping to fund programs to include another masters program and possibly a PE program.

b. **School of Health Professions**

**Senator Kipp:** The online students just finished up midterms and then we are going to be start doing out finals and stuff for 7 weeks of the semester in the next 3 weeks.

c. **Houston Engineering Campus**

**Senator Khan:** Well, everybody hope you guys haven't a good evening. Houston has been interesting. It's been unusually cold down here, but we're we're catching along. So a week before



last we had a a lot of stuff. Happen. We had a blood drive on campus that was outfront our confront the Hc. Building at Alie Hayes. We also had a meeting of our ASC one of our most active student organizations. It's been an interesting semester. I know over half of our students here are mechanical engineers. Our mechanical engineering department is down about 4 faculty, so there's been some interesting challenges with scheduling classes for the spring and into the fall, including the summer semester, trying to get people the classes they need to to graduate and and be classified as seniors next next semester, but I think everything is coming along. It's just a you know, kind of a challenging time, I think a little bit, but I think for more or less, everybody is is chugging along pretty happily, aptly, as we can be as engineering students down here. But other than that I think there's been a couple of new hires in terms of faculty for the Civil Engineering Department and construction management. So they're a welcome addition to that department here at our campus. So we're seeing a couple of new offices filled in a and a couple of going empty. So besides that the spring semester. As always, we're having a a senior design expo for our senior design projects down here for engineering. So it is going to be a bust spring semester, We're looking forward to seeing our seniors graduate and present their presentations and having a successful semester. So that's what we got going on down here.

**d. Health Science Center**

**Senator Okeke:** Hello everyone, lot's of things happening, we have a new student success the Health Science and I connect more with Tyler and she has been very helpful in particularly for the health insurance because the systems kind of different on the Health Science Center to Tyler so she is helpful with that.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**a. Election Process**

**Let the record show the Senate approved for the Election sign up to begin February 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am, and the ballot to open on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00am, and closing on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.**

**b. Events Presentation**

**Let the record show that Senator McNamara presented some volunteer event opportunities to the Senate on behalf of Events Committee.**

**Advisor Comments**

**Camry Sharp:** So I have. This is obviously my second meeting, ever with SGA. I'm so thankful to be able to be here with you guys, and learn. Learn a little bit about this organization. I don't have a lot of comments, because I feel like this meeting went pretty smoothly. You know. I hope that you guys were listening when synthetic Cynthia was up there. Her area does a lot of great stuff that doesn't always get highlighted, and I think that it could be useful to not only you, but your constituents and my people who are in your colleges. You may not know about it. So make sure you share out that information that Cynthia shared with us regarding elections. We will definitely be sharing all of that information in written form, I know sometimes, especially in meetings, when you're hearing things, and you're not seeing it on the board. It's hard to like Put it to memory. So we will be sharing that information out in written form. As far as service. If for when you decide on that, I would love to partner my offices, the I'm. The assistant director of



student engagement over leadership and service, and soon organizations so happy to help and collaborate on that

### **Announcements**

**Senator of the week (last week): Amber McAdams**

**Senator of the week (this week): Anayeli Ocampo**

### **Next Week**

Nothing to add.

### **Adjournment**

**Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:13pm.**