



The University of Texas at Tyler

Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, March 7th, 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	
Amber McAdams	
Ashlyn Mattern	
Bee Black	
Ben Buchanan	
Jorian Khan	
Justin Vargas	
Kyna Holman	
Lisa Tran	
Macie Kirkby	
Maggie Manning	
McKenna Waller	P (zoom)
Tanner King	
Valerie McNamara	
Anayeli Campo	
Perpetual Kyei	
Emma Owulebaja	
Angelina Lezama	
Ronald Carnes III	
Erica Santee	P (zoom)
Macy Reed	
Alexis Minick	P (zoom)
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 February 28th, SGA General Assembly meeting were voted in approval by the Senate.

IV. Open Forum

a. NONE

V. Speaker's Podium

Faculty Senate President, Dr. Harrison Ndetan

Dr. Ndetan: Thank you so much for coming. Sorry about the mic, right now it's. So I'm excited to be in the midst of this very professional people, Senator list, senator. Good senators, thank you for all you do. And keeping, uh, all this good practice. So my name is Harrison, and I'm actually at the house. I'm at the School of Medicine. The new School of Medicine who? Doesn't make that. Clash. The School of Medicine. I'm I've happened to be the chair of admissions. We just got our match. It's exciting news. Or the students coming in and then also I'll be the director of scholarly project, so those who want to do research and other like. helping them do that but the other thing i do is biostatistics and epidemiology public health that will buy statistics that do epidemiology. So I teach that. That's my little background. Originally from Cameroon, West Africa. I've been in the US for over 21 years, OK, and I've been in Tara for five years. So move away 2018 so. How about this in the stuff so? What are we working on? So, uh, I'm at the at the. The Council, I happen to sit there as the Chair of the Governance Committee and one of the things we are looking at is to make sure that we think about student success, what can we do to continue to enhance student success and a lot of ideas are coming through, but I will tell you that the Student Advisory Council. Has more information about that than we do. We actually brought in the chair of the Student Advisory Council to our last meeting and what they share very, very inspirational. One of those is about your, how do you call it, Michael, there's a lot of that expression going on. There's a lot of. Rising within that, restaurants are getting good. So we didn't. The school is doing a lot of things to help that. We'll have some discussion about accessibility both here and over to on distant campuses and there's a lot of work planned to improve on those with no students. Housing is also a big issue, so I brought this to the administration have. You need to talk about it to make sure that things work well. So apart from this few things, uh, in case you're interested, this is how we are structured so that you can



compare the how you are structured. So we have a faculty Senate, general body, general bodies will bring in all our faculties. So your president. Anybody invited to join us on Thursday? Like there's. That. And it's very open so that. Staff students. We know that when you have information, there is a spirit you call. There's a level of engagement, affective engagement, cognitive engagement, that in particular affective engagement you feel you belong when you feel you belong help Syria itself. So bringing all that. Children. So that faculty don't step back and say I don't know what's going on and my work as president to keep finding out your issue, I go around and find out who has the answer. I don't give the answers. I don't have the answer like you did above you guys, this migration of things to Microsoft, right? Migration things happening on. On Friday and Saturday. Breaking last Friday. And sometimes up to Saturday, Saturday. Find. So that's what we do. So I'm fine all things we bring the good companies in that General Assembly so. They're bringing us. Internal. So that's what we did. Presidents always need to give up. So that's a bigger anybody can. Then we have senators on the meeting like you have. That is true. We are free of that. No recording and everyone say nobody's name is written on anything. When you have a consensus, everybody's so people. That's where we learn about things that. Close down sessions for all these. It's schools. That's right. Then we have what people don't know is called a shared Governance Executive committee, where our leaders, faculty Senate leaders, meet with the school administration, all our executive peoples like. Administration. There were able to bring some of the things we discussed in senators only meeting and heard from them. And then I mean. And they have two different ministries. Pickets. That's how we. I sure do. One thing that happens in the round. It's about keeping provision governance with faculty have. Things that. Pause. So. Question. This guy was special. That you don't have. And I've been teaching since 1999. Did you? So I really have ingrained myself into caring for students around. Now I will shut up and then ask some questions.

Treasurer Luna: Hi my name is Beverly, I'm the Treasurer. Ware your guy's like pressing issues?

Dr. Ndetan: Good job. As I said, for me in particular is affective engagement. I want to know, I want to have the feeling of belonging. And so we want transparency in communication with the administration on issues. One do nothings up for under administration. The very religious, they come up, they tell other style from another thing is of course. I I know the story goes that nobody wants to be professor. That wouldn't look like we don't have any money. Like all of you want to become manager, director or whatever. We're coming from the where we are fighting to have our money so you like to be like us. So that's and the president is also very open to that discussion. You know the general economy people agreeing on that. So those are some key things. Of course this IG stuff from the major, the major has been a complex issue and we've done well like I'm from the house inside. Right and so to to blame and I'm hoping that you also are blending the students are blending well. We are very interested to make sure we move forward as one university that's a big priority for us. So we're doing well. So the IT merging the e-mail system to be one dealt with two emails for a while now so soon and very soon just get. E-mail one, Microsoft, other stuff. So those are important things, of course. You know that you're giving ties medical school. It's not as if the program that's different other program, that's just that when adding new program, it keeps making the school grow and stronger and all that. So it's a good thing for all of us, right? We have the our two statues. It's a big one too. Typically professors who've taught undergraduate programs have focused a lot on heavy teaching load and addressing new demand to. Before we are research, that is not a new thing for us, but as what I do every day



right as the life. I've learned to teacher to some scholarly work throughout. But it's not been the case every faculty with teaching undergraduate because most of the time they prioritize teaching a lot of work, which is very important for just saying that's a new demand with the status. That keeping that up and so we're learning to navigate that carefully and it's all good for the student because when create research opportunities for students is good experience. I want to do more. Thank you for that.

VP Bennett: Since we merged with the health science center and everything what has been somewhat like the hardest adjustments for uh faculty, there at the health science center coming into the rest of UT Tyler?

Dr. Ndetan: I happen to have been. The chair elect for our faculty Senate when the major happened, so I was really in the middle of the major. So when the major started we had to go meet at the President's House when the COVID and the like. So I have been just just mixing it. To me it was the best time for me to be on track of the Senate leadership. So I understand everything going through and understanding that however. There are few things that happen with the major that's really those reorganization some of the programs right. So we have like the College of Health professions new program. He has a blend of people with legacy you to Thailand and some of us who used to be and the public health program with mixed in there and people of healthcare administration. So I mixed in there. So there's a complexity there. Some people have to have nine years contract, 9 month contract in the whole way, 12 month contract. So some go. I unfortunately I'm I'm in the School of Medicine that I still have my previous month control but those are some of the things so that that makes and then we have to bring in our faculty Senate into one you guys had an advanced. What is an idea? Before us, we didn't care too much over there about faculty Senate. We had leaders, but we didn't care too much. But here the professional very serious about the governance. So that was something new to us to working with that. As always, we have a situation where. People are in the same school. Like the College of Health Professions that belong from different background and they have different things that are looking at some people are 12 months or nine months they trying to blend that. Some people have tempting, some have full tenure and we're struggling to balance it as complex and as you must know we are legislative session right we legislative session there's a lot still about 10. Anyway, you guys might have heard that I've been in many meetings on everybody. I see I thought they already know about it. I don't even even tomorrow. If I'm not even going to talk about it anymore because I just thought I'd be talking about it again and again and again. It's a big thing for us right, you want to be permanent. You want to show that you're selling this hard work to get there. I just got my tenure in 2120 and full Professor Kenya you don't ever take that away from me you know and then there is a academic freedom stop critical race theory GI which we think is a good thing that so those are complex things but again there's a lot of politics involved in it and our leaders are telling us to be careful that. They are doing the work. They're doing a lot of background work. In fact, I've learned a lot of the. Her policies become ignited a lot from the president. Or someone's gonna propose something, then they're gonna discuss it, then they're gonna vote, yeah, vote their vote until that's some of the things we're young will never even see the light, so shouldn't be panicking. And then a lot of people talking about don't vote for it, don't vote for it. So there's no need for us to keep doing anything bad. But if we try to even do something funny then instantly that always see these are very bad people really need to



give them stuff, look at the way they act so they're actually careful about that. A lot of good things happening. Exciting times always who has the best product question. There's two questions that create you.

Senator Vargas: I wanted to see your receptiveness on a project I'm actually working that I wanted to present to you later on. It's still in the works actually. So it has pertained to student parking and absences in classes, not where it's going where you think so? The to alleviate the parking like troubles that we have because a lot of times students tend to be late to classes because of they spend like 1520 minutes on the parking and alternative. I was thinking about presenting to you, I'm working on a survey to send out to students if they think it would help just to collect data. And present it, um, whether having zoom options in classes slowly, they can at least be there and get the attendance so they don't get counted late for being so late because of the parking. If that would be something you guys would be open to considering. At the very least because I know I talked to Doctor Sass about it and she said I could expect some faculty pushback about it. But I kind of also wanted to just since you're here to ask you about how receptive you would be to that idea?

Dr. Ndetan: Well, you're asking somebody was too interested in. I'm an evidence living guy, OK, I like for example, you guys just put it or you guys give some ideas about. Extending the windows for and of course evaluation. We did that we just piloted it and we have that would be one of the things that will be discussed tomorrow in our meeting. You'll be there to listen to that. So I'm always interested in collecting data is this is collecting data. When we have the data give us evidence to be able to talk with backends. I just finish and shared governance. I always will present that. I want to present that. I'm excited. So me, my opinion, go for it. Collecting data is nothing harmful, right? I'm just collecting data and then that data is always gonna give some information, it's gonna shed some light up if we need so that you're making decision based on evidence, based on facts rather than just. That's how I feel about it, you know? And we know parking is an issue I have that I come over here for millions and before moving around. My bullet to my meeting that I'm lucky I got the president's guests so I go to that place I got that finally because I couldn't keep doing that stuff and I told you don't want me to come over here or can you write the president somewhere and to be humble and just give me president use that and but we know there's a problem and that problem up. I've also advised to facilities, so it's a problem that is part of my my record go to college. I mean, there's a faculty. Should I want to see the data? Always. That's what we teach us. Evidence thinking, I critical thinking designed well, so limited by us, right? OK, I don't want to kill you guys. Stand. I have my punching bag.

Staff Senate President, Christina Chatman

Christina Chatman: Um. I actually got my bachelors and my masters, um, in business here, so I understand the student side. My daytime job, what I actually get paid for, is to be a assessment coordinator for the School of Nursing and the School of Health Professions. So my job is to collect data and ensure that students are being taught. What they're supposed to be taught in that you are successful and the student learning outcomes for those programs and to help maintain SAC accreditation and C&E accreditation. So staff Senate, we have a very similar setup or? As SGA and faculty Senate, we have two senators for each district. We have 15 districts and we also meet monthly. We have a closed meeting and an open meeting. And I always say the open meetings, as Doctor Harrison said, is public and our minutes are on the website. So if you ever



want to know what we're talking about, our guest speakers, things that's coming down the pipe. For the university, you can always read the meeting minutes and watch the recorded zooms for those open meetings. So umm, let's see where do we go, oh, the question of what's the pricing issue right now. So I'll just go ahead and answer that. So one of the big concerns, I wouldn't say it's a concern, but one of the big things is. As everyone knows, they're trying to increase enrollment. I think it's 15,000 in five years, I want to say by 2027 and 15,000 students. So one of the big concerns, specially for the student facing positions is just workload and staying on top of that so students won't have a lag in time and response. Pushing for like enrollment services advising, which I definitely understand that I used to be an advisor. So collecting data to support either increase in positions, increase in pay, that data can also be used for professor positions to get more professors. So that's one of the big things that we have been focusing on along with. Parking, that's every year, um, so we understand those issues as well. I'm a short and sweet type of person. I'm sorry, but if anybody has any questions just let me know.

VP Bennett: Over with the Peer Partners, we're kind of looking at what sort of like what courses are the most difficult for freshmen and how can we help improve the quality of education that they're getting so that we can improve retention rates here on campus. And so I was just wondering since you're the assessment coordinator, correct, for nursing and health professions? what are the hardest courses for freshmen and sophomores in nursing and health professions.

Christina Chatman: So Health Professions is fairly new in my role, so I'm not for sure about that. But for nursing, I know one of the big issues was patho. At that time getting into Patho was one of the big things have being whitelisted. And then also we did a study at one point of trying to see the success in the program compared to students at PATHO at UT Tyler versus transferring Patho in. um so that was one of the big things that we learned from that so for nursing i was specifically say patho school of health professions I'm not quite for sure. Biostatistics, thank you Dr. Ndetan.

Officer Reports:

President Smith

Safety and accessibility walk. I have a date down for that. It'll be April 4th and if you're super assessed with student government like I am, you will know that that's a Tuesday and that it's at 5:30 to 6:30. And so instead of doing our normal meeting, we will be doing the safety and accessibility walk and what that. Be is each one of you, uh, we'll go and survey your represented um, college or department or constituency. I'm still kind of working out how that would look like for our student body at large senators, but. And this is included for a distance campus senators as well. This will just be a time where we can go and I have a list of stuff that I asked questions about different. Rates of how accessible you feel like this given area might be. Um, is there any problems? Is there a light bulb out? It's a great time to kind of understand the layout of the campus and how that might affect different people. And it's going to be a required event. So you are required to go. But I would hope you would go anyway since that is our meeting time and that you would show up for that. So we'll have all the individual groups going to the different colleges. There'll be one group or we'll also be with different department heads. um that have different input like people from facilities people from sars people from different groups and departments and in the gold and not beginning looked at. So that way we can say after a certain amount of years that hey, this has not gotten any sort of hasn't been looked at any way shape or form. And we've been doing this for about five years now. So it's about time that this



gets attention. It's good to have data. So that's kind of the goal behind it. senator burgess student shirt. And we're working on getting more of those. So, um, no fret. I haven't decided yet. I will talk it over with the Executive Board at this next meeting tomorrow. It is getting toasty. I do agree. Well, we will discuss probably, I'll say probably shorts, but no promises. but OK that's supposed to I've been working on also I'm meeting with Dr. Calhoun tomorrow so if you have anything that you wish for me to bring up but there's some area of interest that you wish to be voiced to Doctor Calhoun let me know I'll be happy to voice it for you.

Vice-President Bennett

Because if you haven't been to the archives, it is an amazing place. Go there, you'll get a free T-shirt. It's amazing T-shirt. So I talked to them about. So next year is the 25th anniversary of the first time that freshmen were allowed to be here on campus. And so one of the things that we are looking into doing with the archives is that they are planning on doing, say, like a history of UTI. Tyler exhibit their university center or STE uh we'll be looking into it further but super excited about it and so I'm moving on to Chloe

Secretary Dix

Hello, so this past week I completed the minutes and got some posts. some posts out i posted about elections so if you haven't put that on your story please do so umm some more back and forth with the vendor for the T shirts and I'll present some designs to you guys at the end of the meeting so stick around.

Treasurer Luna

Hi, Treasurer Luna, just a lot of emails a lot of clearing things up uh a lot of emailing with the black student association but everything works out in the end so yeah I think most of it's mostly SGAC so I'll talk about that later.

Chief of Staff Peters

This past week I've been reviewing the Constitution in preparation for elections.

Committee Reports

a. Events

Nothing to Report

b. Communications

We've just been reviewing the shirt and also some posts that are going to get put out. So I'm gonna post like I messaged in the group chat, a big event post. So if you guys want pictures on that post, please put them in the photo circle or send them to me. And then I'm also going to do a post and I'm going to pin it and it's going to be our GA meeting time on the Instagram. And I also updated the website.

c. SGAC

For SGAC uh last week we actually met with the social work club. Um, they did get approved. They were asking for pizza from Little Caesars and I told them, hey, we have to do a little Little Caesars, but we have to do C's. And luckily not a problem, we just switched the CCS. They are. They actually moved their event to March 30th, so it's actually fine, it's just further away. So. They just have to return there. I receive whenever they get it. Um, what happened with BSA is that we had ordered items for them on Amazon, but we all know Thursday the weather was bad so they got delayed. The things didn't come in on time, so they had to buy it on their own. So they were asking for a reimbursement, but two things they weren't approved for reimbursement and the advisor had to buy the things. luckily they were OK with it and hopefully didn't hurt them too much in their pockets but they were fine with following the rules and that's i think A+ in my book so yeah ohh no one for this week so yes and then we're not meeting next week due to Spring Break.



a. **Rules**

We continued to work on our upcoming presentation.

b. **ESC**

c. **GSA**

Did not meet.

VI. Student Voice Reports

a. **College of Arts and Sciences**

Senator Gonzalez: I have only two things to report. The staff of the Patriot Talon is thinking about revamping their room and kind of making it a more inviting space for students to come and study and engage with the talent. And so that's going to happen, most likely after spring break. And then additionally, a lot of um SaaS staff have opened their inboxes for advising season, and so they're accepting student requests for appointments.

Senator Niette: Just a lot of getting ready for midterms everybody's really stressed out you all know that um yeah and just getting ready for Spring Break.

b. **Soules College of Business**

Senator Buchanan: Let me think. I have it written down a couple of things. Um, so March 22nd management marketing is doing like a Stanley's barbecue get together for all of those students and then accounting and finance and business law is doing an event on March 31st for all of their students. So those are the two big events that are going on for the College of business and trying to think of anything else I didn't realize that I was. Presenting today, um, I think that's it. Printer is still down, so we're trying to get that figured out.

c. **School of Health Professions**

Senator Kipp: OK, bear with me. I have a little bit so there's an interim Dean right now. I met with him last Wednesday. He said that the permanent Dean starts on the 13th and her name is Doctor Bird. Um, they're still kind of working through separating like health professions and kinesiology. That's just something that he wanted me to point out. They're hopefully going to be able to get an approval for a speech language and pathology masters program in the fall of 24. Um, they're seeking approval to expand the Masters of occupational therapy and the Doctors of Occupational Therapy. And they also wanted me to announce that they are doing like Wellness Wednesdays and they do events and stuff at night. And I don't know if you knew about that. I didn't really know about like the night stuff. I know that they've done tabling and stuff in the past, but they like do gains and they'll do prizes and drawings and stuff like that. So if you don't have anything to do Around 6630. I highly encourage all to go out to that because it sounds super fun, but that's about it.

Senator Templeton: There is a health festival today and the parking kind of sucks over there.

Old Business

New Business

Judicial Board Nomination

- **Let the record show that Jamie Rojas was appointed to the Judicial Board.**

b. **Banquet Discussion**



- Let the Record show that VP Bennett presented information regarding SGA Banquet location and theme. The theme that was voted on by the Senate was Masquerade. It will take place on April 18th.

Mr. & Miss UT Tyler nominations

Let the record show that Adan Govea and Chloe Dix were voted to be backed by SGA.

Advisor Comments

Camry Sharp: all, good luck on y'all's midterms. I know they're coming up. I know y'all are probably all like stressing on that, but also preparing yourselves for spring break. Woohoo. So one thing that Landry kind of touched on that I will harp on um, because that's just. It's it's it was not fun to watch last week. Y'all um, Doctor Berman and. Doctor Banta came up here and you know, they were speaking to y'all and some of y'all. Had some interesting facial reactions, um, and not really the most respectful demeanor while they were talking, you know, they come up here to share this information with you guys. I said, you know, they, they said thank you and I was glad that, you know, they were appreciative of y'all's time, but there was still on the playback, you could tell like that just in general, like the screens Landry. Just saying, um, y'all were doing homework. Yeah, we're not interested. Some some of y'all um, which, if you don't want to be active in student government, you don't have to be right. You don't have to be here in the seat. Someone else could be here in your seat. So just make sure that, like you're not doing homework while you're here. Has we want you guys to be active voicing you know voicing your um constituents concerns and asking those questions not re asking questions that other people ask because you've been on your phone and type scenarios. So just going to say that one time but other than that you know screens. Like I I'm working right here, obviously, because I'm just advising. But the rest of you all, you know, don't read, don't read like chapters and chapters of your homework while you're here. OK, um, cool. So other than that, um, y'all did kind of discuss homecoming a little bit, but I would love to see y'all show up at homecoming events like y'all showed up at the big event. I was so, so proud to see all y'all there and it just made my heart so happy for those of y'all who were there and. I got to see Josh. It just made Josh's whole day that y'all were there, um it and together and so that was cool. And, you know, for to see you guys in full force, especially with like don't y'all at number and some other organizations that were there, which is really neat too. So proud of y'all and I hope that y'all just keep pushing through this semester, make positive choices over spring break. And yeah, again with the the last thing I would like to say is the meeting with the Deans and department heads. I love to hear that Shelby got to speak with your interim Dean and I think that. More meetings like that would be really great to bring back to GA.

Announcements

Senator of the week: Senator Owulebaja

Next Week

Nothing to add.

Adjournment



Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm.