

Student Government Association

The University of Texas at Tyler

Minutes:

September 12th, 2023

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
- IV. **Open Forum**
 - a.
- V. **Speaker's Podium**

Director of Financial Aid, Nathan Flory: He provided information regarding FASFA updates for Aid Year 2024-2025. He informed us that the application will not be opening on October 1st, 2023, this year only but has been postponed tentatively to December 2023. The reason for changing the application is to simplify the process. Question number has been reduced from approximately 108 questions to approximately 48 questions. Applicants will be required to use the IRS direct data exchange tool. Manual entry of tax information is no longer expectable, in efforts to simplify the application process. The new term "contributor" has been introduced, and these individuals must provide financial information. (i.e., parents, stepparents, spouse, student) The term EFC has been discontinued. The new model for the FAFSA to determine what type of need-based aid students are eligible for is SAI (Student Aid Index). In regard to the "number in college" question on the former application this will no longer play a role in how SAI will be calculated and how much aid you're eligible for. This should not negatively impact students. Lastly, some students will be automatically awarded the Pell grant. This will be awarded based off different things the government already has in place to determine poverty level. Process for inserting information for students with parents that are going through a divorce or own a family business has changed. The types of financial aid awards have not changed nor has the dependency questions. The financial Aid Department will host sessions in the near future to educate students on the changes being made.
- VI. **Officer Reports**
 - a. President Dix: She attended UTSSAC this past weekend and was a part of the undergraduate student committee. Issues that would be brought up at the board of regents meeting in May were discussed. It was noted that every school in the UT System is having parking and housing issues. President Dix would like for our senators to focus on the needs of the students beyond housing and parking along with some possible solutions, highlighting needs that need to be addressed on an institutional level.
 - b. Vice-President Carnes: In regard to his former position as treasurer, he presented a power point detailing this year's budget. He also presented changes made to the SGAC Policy to be approved by the senate. These changes were approved.
 - c. Treasurer Peters: Has been working on updating the roster for new senators and learning how to make the best use of our funds for this school year.
- VII. **Rules Committee**
 - a. Rules Committee- They talked about what they want to say for it, and how that will go during this meeting. Also discussed rules of order and their technicalities.
- VIII. **Student Voice Reports**
 - a. Honors College:
 - i. Senator Rolling: Provided information on what Honors College is. A 3.5 GPA is needed to join and a 3.25 is required to be maintained. Honors College promotes group work and community through small class sizes and events.

- ii. Senator Schwartz: Senator Schwartz stated that the LLC has grown from around 15 students to about 30. Everybody living in the LLC and students seem to be enjoying their time at O-Hall. Students have been able to get to know each other, and work with other honors students. The honors college is working on a new points system that some of their students are not in favor of. She expressed that many students don't like the change of location for the honors program either. They feel like there is a lot less interaction between honors college and students in the UC. However, the honors college is doing well.

IX. Old Business

- a. GPA Discussion- GPA requirement increased to 2.5. The judicial board created an appeals process that allows for life's happenings in the event that a Senator does not meet the GPA requirement. There was a diverse take to this discussion with many Senators in support of the change and many others were timid about making the change in fear limiting the number of students that could join SGA.

X. New Business

- a. Senate Swear Ins- **Senator: Buckner, Bruce, Jett, Winn, Buckner, Ajahpovi, Arsin, Valdez, Moghaddam, Aumad, Otiocha**
- b. Secretary Special Election- Senator Henry was elected.
- c. Budget Approval- The budget was approved.
- d. Budget Changes- Reallocating some of the money for a safety net, which is now called an "Operating budget."
- e. E-Board Swear ins: Carnes: Vice-president; Peters: Treasure Henry: Secretary

XI. Advisor Comments

- a. Josh Neaves: Advisor Neaves expressed his position on increasing GPA requirement but agrees with the compromise by way of the appeals process and believes it is a step in the right direction.

XII. Announcements

- a. Online Senator Training- schedule was sent out by President Dix

XIII. Next Week

- a. n/a

XIV. Adjournment: Let the record show the September 13th, 2023, meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.