

Student Government Association

The University of Texas at Tyler

September 28th, 2021

- I. Call to Order 5:30pm
- II. Roll Call

Name	Absent
President Jennings	
Vice President Stavinoha	
Secretary Mattern	
Treasurer Limbrick	
Chief of Staff Smith	
Senator Arnold	
Senator Barria	
Senator Chawner	
Senator Collins	
Senator Dix	
Senator Govea	
Senator Harrison	
Senator McNamara	
Senator Melendez	A
Senator Scott	

III. Approval of Minutes

President Jennings: I entertain a motion to vote on the approval of the minutes.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that it was unanimously voted in favor to approve the minutes from last week.

IV. Open Forum

- a. None

V. Speaker's Podium

- a. **Dr. Colleen Swain – Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Online Education**

Good evening! I Apologize that I am not there in person with you, I went at lunch to pick up my dog from the dog hospital and I needed to be home with him and knew I would not make it back up to the campus in time. Thank you for the flexibility. Let me just welcome you to the fall semester, I hope you have had great start. Like you, I know you all were hoping that we would be completely back to whatever normal was. We aren't there but hopefully we will be soon. We have a wonderful undergraduate cohort this fall. It is actually our most diverse cohort. We are excited we are opening doors to those who haven't come in the past. We are thankful for this rich and diverse class that does allow us to enrich our UT Tyler family. I want to thank you so much for your help

last year as we worked on the syllabus module. You will hopefully have seen that the syllabus module is there. As far as things going on within the university, I do not have that much. I know that Katie Stone is here and she'll be talking to you about our QEP. UT Tyler is going through a reaffirmation year and that relates to our accreditation, it's a really big deal. We are moving forward with that. It is also UT Tyler's 50th anniversary. This is exciting in the world of a university. The areas that I am over are really undergraduate programs, many of the services that relate to them are academic related. So for instance that would involve the undergraduate advising who reports in my division, I am not overseeing it directly. If you want to visit with our person with advising, I can always make sure to get them in touch with you. The other areas for instance would be the pass tutoring center and supplemental instruction. I also oversee components of online education. Those are really the areas I get to serve the university community. Like I said, we are just thankful that things are moving along this semester. Those are things I oversee at the University, so I will be opening it up to questions.

Senator Govea: So, last week at our meeting, and advising was brought up. We specifically brought up the idea of possibly having peer advisors. What is your opinion on that?

Dr. Swain: It depends on what kind of peer advising we are doing. In many ways, peer advising is amazing and actually in some of the areas there would be some important ways that we could prepare and work with peers. You know with college students so that you could get appropriate advising, so that's certainly an opportunity to look at different ways. But there are certain things that we are going to make sure you have the official faculty advisor or professional staff advisor working with you. But honestly, many things have aspect where peers could work and be trained to do peer advising. That is certainly an option. I am happy to meet with Ashley Bill and speak with her more about that.

President Jennings: Just to give you guys some context, I already met with Ashley Bill and we will be creating an advising task force with representatives with all of the colleges because each college does advising differently. And kind of discuss best practices and how we could potentially improve that area. That will be a very intentional discussion and that is already in the works and you guys will be assigned to that potentially. For tonight, she is not directly overseeing advising.

Dr. Swain: I know who to connect you to. That was a great question.

President Jennings: I just wanted to say thank you Dr. Swain and I have found Canvas a lot easier this year, especially learning with this past crazy year so kudos to you and your team for making that work. The syllabus module that we fought so hard for. I don't know if you guys know but we have been asking for the syllabus to be in a syllabus module and I don't know about y'all but I have definitely seen improvement in that.

Dr. Swain: Thank you. I wish Claire was here to see it.

Vice President Stavinoha: Hi Dr. Swain, I do have a question. If we have a professor that is not maybe handling Canvas as well as they could be, how would we go about handling that?

Dr. Swain: What you can do is, because I never want to put you guys on the spot, but email me and you need to, as much as I would like to say I know every faculty member and adjunct by name here, if you will email me and I can reach out to the department chair and make that concern known. We do have all different kinds of training for faculty to learn how to use Canvas better. If you can give me as much information as possible, the more we have the more we can do a better job of addressing the problem.

Senator Chawner: I am a pass tutor and you work under pass tutoring. A couple of people have asked me if tutoring is available in different classes and I don't know whether it's you. I was going to speak to Laura Lee about it as well. How do we go about adding subjects or considering other subjects to be tutored?

Dr. Swain: That is an excellent question. We look at that every semester to try and see where students have a need. We are also open to departments coming to us and say we are interested in having pass tutoring or supplemental instructors. Some areas want S.I. where other areas want tutoring. We are always open to departments and again y'all can email me and we can work with the departments on your behalf. It does cost, I mean you want your salary for your pass tutoring work and so there is a financial aspect we have to look at. We also want to provide tutoring and supplemental instruction in areas where it is needed and so if there's a need and I realized I forgot to tell y'all what my email address is, it is cswain@uttyler.edu. Again, if it's okay if you reach out and I act on your behalf, I never try to put students on the spot or where they feel like they're under the gun. I am always happy to ask questions on your behalf.

President Jennings: Just so you guys know, I am sure you can tell but Dr. Swain is a definite advocate for our student body and always loves to work with SGA. We appreciate you being here and we hope your dog is okay.

Dr. Swain: Thank you! Have a great meeting and congratulations to the new senators being sworn in.

b. Katie Stone – Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan

Hi everyone. I am Katie Stone, you may recognize me from my previous role at the university as the honors coordinator. I was going to ask if you guys knew what the QEP was, it is the quality enhancement plan. It is part of our accreditation process which happens every 10 years, that process makes sure we are complying with

standards across with like federal standards and Texas standards. But also in addition to complying, the QEP is making sure the institution is adding things that enhance the quality of education you receive. It is to determine and decide how can we make UT Tyler the best it can be. It is a plan to enhance the quality of education here. So, before my time in this roll, in 2016. Was anyone here in 2016? Wow. The campus got together, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members, they took assessment of the where the university was and where we were failing students and where maybe students needed some extra help. There was a big survey sent out with 27 topics, form that is was determined the QEP topic would be real world problem solving in undergraduate education. We are planning to include graduate students, but our focus is undergraduate education. So what we are trying to do is enhance the real world problem solving in undergraduate education. We are planning to incorporate graduate students in how we implicate this but our focus is undergraduate students. Our consultants and other institutions who have implemented something similar they focused on undergraduates. My purpose here today is really to twofold, one I wanted you to be aware of this because we have our accreditation body coming in March to do an on site visit and that's a big deal. It is also important you are aware it is happening because the QEP is the sole purpose for you all. But in order for that to happen, I also need help. What better people than the students who will be hopefully helped through this process. After talking with President Jennings, she had the brilliant idea of coming up with an ADHOC committee to help implement the QEP on the students side. There will be faculty, staff alumni and community members on a larger QEP steering committee but this committee would be helping me implement assessment efforts, events potential, communication and awareness to the general body. This is project which has a really big impact. The timeline, up until February, we are creating the proposal and making the plan. Plans changes, but we are putting together a plan and if it gets passed, the plan gets to be started in the fall. It is a five year plan. We are going to start small and scale up, you will be helping design a plan that affects the institution for five up to ten years. So we could really use your insight and your voices as we make that plan. So that is QEP in a nutshell, feel free to ask me questions and I am really excited.

Vice President Stavinoha: You discussed events, what events are you thinking?

Katie Stone: I am open to ideas. They need to be tied to the topic of real world problem solving. I am working with honors on the lyceum and the freshman book right because I think those are broad based campus initiative, but I know Souls has the big idea competition and I see a direct correlation and tie to real world problem solving there, but I am open to other ideas as well.

Senator Chawner: How often do you plan on doing this committee? How long as well?

Katie Stone: my goal is to have the committee meet a little more in the fall, maybe twice a month. And then they will be integral in our on-site visit on March 15th. In Helping e lead that presentation, and doing a focus group, it will taper off and I am only asking 1 year commitments from you al because I know that with SGA it's a one-year commitment so that is what I am thinking right now.

President Jennings: just to clarify, the ADHOC committee does not exist at this time, that is just something we discussed. So, we would have to formally approve that, similar to the GSA we recently approved. It would exists as long as needed, it would not be a standing committee at this time at least. Whoever is on that, whoever is elected as chair, would then sit on the formal committee as well. This is an area we can really do good for the university and I would definitely like for us to consider that.

VI. Officer Reports

- a. **President Jennings:** This week, we had the election, as all of you new people know. Hopefully all of you voted, I will be looking to see if you did. Just kidding I can't do that. I am very glad we have so many fresh faces in this room, super enthusiastic to see what we will get done. I have been working on various things, the QEP is one of them as well as advising. Those are two areas we have requests from the administration area and I definitely would like for us to consider ways we could help in those areas. We are planning a visit for next week to the Palestine Campus. I am very excited for that and we have 2 slots if anyone else would like to attend with us. We will leave at 10 and return at 2. It will be a good opportunity, we have not been to the Palestine campus in a long time and I feel like it is important for us to visit the distance campuses and get to know the students. So is kind of it for me.
- b. **Vice-President Stavinoha:** So, this week, I am meeting with the Sodexo directors and chef Romney to handle midnight breakfast. As well as, tomorrow is two really cool events. There is a suicide awareness walk outside of Harvey Lake, as well as the top 25%, which is KC can give more details, but if any of you can come, split your time and do both or just go to one, that would be awesome. The rest of my report is in committee.
- c. **Secretary Mattern:** I updated the website, if you want to see your name on the website, you can go look, thank you Josh for the help. I am still getting in touch with the lady for the table cloths and we have to get our other purchase order for the t-shirts, the shipping, and rest is in committee.

- d. **Treasurer Limbrick:** As far, as the budget goes, I received one final request, a receipt, I have to plug that into the budget. Just an FYI, for anyone who wants to purchase things, we have half of the budget left. Im not new to how you guys spend money but just if it comes down to it, i'll tell you guys hey we are running low. It is the budget for this semester and the next. The rest of my report is in committee.
- e. **Chief of Staff Smith:** Most of what I have been working on will be discussed later. Other than that, I have been speaking what a few students on ways to get recycling going on campus.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Events

Vice President Stavinoha: We go over all the events and handle it all. We are doing midnight breakfast and other events for Fall fest. This week is the meeting with Sodexo. Starting on Friday, I will be in my office from 8am-11am, if you want to discuss decorating. We are decorating the entire UC, so I will need ideas I would love to hear ideas that do not involve glitter and feathers. Going from there, after the Palestine visit, every Wednesday, once we order supplies, we will be working on making the decorations. It is going to be large scale event. My committee meets every Tuesday at 4:30pm.

b. Communications

Senator McNamara: We talked about, we had a fee increase proposal and we talked about ways to promote that and tell students about it. We are going to make an Instagram post and posters to put in the HPC. We also need senators for the College of Education and Psychology so we talked about emailing the dean and possibly seeing who would be interested in that.

c. SGAC

Treasurer Limbrick: We have one request, it was requested last Friday on the 24th, and we have 2 old requests that I need to get done this week at least email those who have sent a request. Senators who are being introduced this week, I plead with you to look into SGAC so we can get things done. I believe it is the most important committee because of the high volume of requests, it is a lot.

d. Rules

Chief of Staff Smith: Again, much of what we have been working on will be discussed on. Last meeting we had a presentation about minor changes and we talked about some things I missed. It was great to actually go through it and put in stuff that made more sense. We got some language approved, so hopefully we will present that later.

e. ESC

Senator Harrison: Meeting right now, generally meet Tuesdays around 4 but it has been inconsistent because we are all dealing with school. We are working on getting the recycling initiative in the works. We are also working on this of having a clothing drive/swap on campus. We are going to be reaching to people this week and getting more details situated and seeing if money will be involved. That will hopefully be developed.

f. GSA

President Jennings: As I said earlier, GSA is an ADHOC meeting, which means it is not a standing committee. We have graduate seats in our senate but most of the time this time is not available to them. We have our first meeting on Thursday and I am looking forward to it. I expect it will be a small amount of attendance but I am hoping I can really grow that so we can hear from more graduate students.

VIII. Student Voice Reports

a. College of Arts and Sciences

Senator Chawner: I had someone come to me within an organization in the CAS asking about how they request funds. Do they just email Ord or do they need to submit a form? If so, where is the form? I tried to find it but I could not.

Treasurer Limbrick: The form is on engage and if they have any additional information, they can email me.

Senator Chawner: Is it under like SGA in engage?

Treasurer Limbrick: Yes. My email is also attached to that area as well.

Senator Chawner: Perfect I will pass it on.

Senator Dix: I do not have anything new to add. I have seen a lot of people in the lunge area studying for midterms. It's just been a little bit busier.

Senator Harrison: Pretty much the same. Just trying to pass.

b. College of Business

Senator Govea: I met with Dr. Chris Suenberg last Monday, we just had a very insightful talk about what he wants to see happened here at the university or like what his vision is for the college of business. It is just overall pushing for initiatives that empower our entrepreneurship which is I guess his way of promoting opportunity at the university for us. He's going to get businesses in Tyler to work with the COB a lot more. I would like to be apart of this and getting involved. We also talked about what freshman initiatives he has planned. The COB ambassadors is going here. He

talked about what orgs are doing to promote freshman involvements. Healthy conversation about what is happening at the COB.

Senator Scott: I don't really have too much to report, I know for the COB a lot of people are preparing for the midterms so it has been a lot. I have had faculty push for people to meet with the career success advisors.

c. Patriot Village

Senator Arnold: I am patriot village. There hasn't been much going on, we have been having inconsistencies with the wifi but they recently fixed that. Our RC is being promoted so she is moving her stuff out of her office, I am not sure who her replacement but I will get back to you guys about that.

IX. Old Business

a. Constitution Updates Discussion

President Jennings: I entertain a motion to open discussion on the constitution updates.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Vice President Stavinoha: Motion seconded.

Chief of Staff Smith: Like we talked about last week, there were some things that needed to be specified. One of those would be the addition of the actual date that specified article 1.2 would be suspended up to. We made it December 31st. I also made a change, since we added 2 senators to the health campus, our total senator population would be 46. Right here, it originally stated to assign 2 student housing senators no later than the second general assembly meeting. This is misleading because it made it sound like the student residence halls as a whole could only have 2 senators. Which is not the case, it is for each residence hall. We changed the amount of justice from 8 to 4 justices. And then, previously we voted on making the ESC a standing committee, essentially I made that permanent on the constitution and then a little bit further down, there were some questions over whether or not the language basically gave the ESC responsibility to be in direct communication to faculty that would also promote environmental sustainability initiatives on campus so we changed it to where this further established who you were supposed to speak to at this time. These are the changes and it is nothing super huge, they are all minor. If you have any questions, go ahead.

Secretary Mattern: Motion to close discussion and open a vote on the changes to the constitution.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the changes to the constitution presented from Chief of Staff Smith were unanimously approved.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to open up discussion on the budget presentation.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Chief of Staff Smith: Seconded.

Treasurer Limbrick: This is the budget presentation that I created. So, what I did was take the last year budget items and did some rearranging. These are the action items that are still on budget for this year. So this semester and next semester. The action items on the right are the ones I removed, was for elections because we already have elections. Conference, office supplies and office phones. Is that a recurring monthly bill? Some of the action items that can be taken off or put back. Tonight we want to vote on the budget so we can move on. This is proposed budget and we are working on half the budget because of the approved Disc Golf Project. Most of the numbers are cut in half because of what we really want to do and the project was half. This is my email and I would like for you guys to email if you have questions. Also email me if I need to redo some of the action items, add or remove.

President Jennings: Just to give you guys some context for the new people, the disc golf project was approved by last year's senate. It was a 2 part renovation, we did the first over the summer and now are obligated to do the second part. That is why that is there, we do to have any flexibility. It is what it is, the items above that line are flexible. Advisor Neaves, he is asking if these are things we typically pull out of?

Advisor Neaves: In prior years, the election line was established for in-person voting booths, but for the last couple of cycles SGA has done everything online with the use of reminders. Since we have implemented that, there has been a slight increase in those who participate. In the past, this line was primarily used for just buying pizza and so I do not see a need for keeping that, I think it could be rolled into events. Conference, sea used to participate in the American Student Government Association and about 3-4 years ago that E board voted to not renew the membership due to the costs and not utilizing the services that were available. That conference line can be removed. And in the event that there is a conference that the student government or e board wanted to go to, we would just tap into student travel. Office supplies I would recommend keeping because there are little miscellaneous things that pop up and in SGA uses a lot of paper, I will charge SGA for restocking that paper. It could be business cards, pens, little things so I would keep a small line. We could roll it into marketing, I am okay with that. The phones are an automatic because SGA has 2 phone lines and so I would recommend keeping

that. I am hoping within a year or 2, SGA will have a more permanent space in which those offices will need phone lines. Those phones are pretty minimal.

President Jennings: Awesome, that is some things to consider within the budget. Here is what we have proposed before us right now based on Advisor Neaves recommendations. Any questions, comments or concerns? And this is limited to voting members.

Vice President Stavinoha: Motion to table this discussion until next week so that the SGA office phone line item can be added back in.

Senator Govea: Motion Seconded.

Let the record show that it was unanimously voted in favor to table the budget presentation discussion until next week so that the SGA office phones could be added back into the budget.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to close this discussion.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

X. New Business

a. Swearing in of New Senators

Let the record show that the following table represents the new senators, and which college/residence hall they represent, who were sworn in at this general assembly.

Name	Representing
Jaime Rojas	College of Engineering
Luis Rosario	College of Engineering
Idalia Ruiz	College of Engineering
Precious Henry	College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Robert Bennett	Soules College of Business
Zainab Dohadwala	University Pines
Bee Black	Ornelas Hall
Jacqueline Chin	Liberty Landing
Beverly Luna	Victory Village
Audrey Harris	Student Body at large
Holly Johnson	Student Body at large
Bryce McQueary	Student Body at large
Omar Flores	Houston Campus

XI. Advisor Comments

Advisor Neaves: Alright, a few things. A reminder to the t-shirt market thing, I need to know because student government may not be able to host it. It gets tricky, anytime there is money involved. I do want everyone to know I received an email that the applications for the student regent are open. I always encourage the members of student government or our student body to apply. It is my goal to have one of y'all represent all of the UT Tyler. It is a great honor and privilege. A great leadership opportunity and networking opportunity. Please reach out to me, I can advise you to the best of my ability. You have to be planning to be enrolled in a UT institution by next year. The chancellor does submit that for the governor for approval. Great opportunity and I want to see applications. The only way we will get a student is the apply. We also have the Texas Higher Education

Coordinating Board for student representative. Since I have been at UT Tyler, there has only been a handful of applicants, that is a great way to learn about the role of the board and the responsibilities. It is equally important opportunity.

Constitution changes, I did review them before they were presented today and they were all minor. I am very glad previous SGA went through the process of amending the amendment process, that way the document you are bound to can be updated more frequently. We don't have to go through a semester process for minor changes. I do appreciate the work you are doing, Landry.

I do not know if Ord is still here but he did a great job on the budget. Similar to my comment about money but the best thing is to encourage your student fee funding. It is better to give back to the students in the form of the services we provide. It is a large expense for the Disc golf but that is a service that not only students, but everyone, gets to benefit from. Kudos to getting that going, and my goal, what I challenge the E-Board, is to try and get within 5%, spend 95% and only leave 5% left. This means you have been good stewards of the budget that you've received, you didn't go over, and you sued it appropriately. What I saw today, I think that is a good proposal and I think it will be quickly used.

President Jennings: Do you have to be a UT Tyler student to apply for the Texas Higher Education Board position?

Advisor Neaves: I am not sure, I would have to look into that. I would prefer if you came form here but I would have to double check.

XII. Announcements

- a. Suicide Awareness Walk on Sept. 29th, 10-2 on Harvey Deck

XIII. Next Week

- a. College of Engineering
- b. College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- c. Liberty Landing
- d. University Pines

XIV. Adjournment

6:34pm

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Vice President Stavinoha: Motion to adjourn.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that it was unanimously voted in favor to adjourn.

Name	Absent
President Jennings	
Vice President Stavinoha	
Secretary Mattern	
Treasurer Limbrick	
Chief of Staff Smith	
Senator Arnold	
Senator Barria	
Senator Chawner	
Senator Collins	
Senator Dix	
Senator Govea	
Senator Harrison	

Name	Absent
Senator McNamara	
Senator Melendez	A
Senator Scott	
Senator Harris	
Senator Black	
Senator Luna	
Senator McQueary	
Senator Johnson	
Senator Ruiz	
Senator Chin	
Senator Rojas	
Senator Flores	
Senator Dohadwala	
Senator Bennett	
Senator Henry	
Senator Rosario	