

Student Government Association

The University of Texas at Tyler

October 12th, 2021

- I. Call to Order 5:30p.m.
II. Roll Call

Name	Absent
President Jennings	
Vice President Stavinoha	
Secretary Mattern	
Treasurer Limbrick	
Chief of Staff Smith	
Senator Arnold	
Senator Barria	
Senator Bennett	
Senator Black	
Senator Chawner	
Senator Chin	
Senator Collins	
Senator Dix	
Senator Dohadwala	
Senator Flores	
Senator Govea	
Senator Harris	
Senator Harrison	
Senator Henry	A
Senator Johson	
Senator Luna	
Senator McNamara	
Senator McQueary	
Senator Melendez	
Senator Rojas	
Senator Rosario	
Senator Ruiz	
Senator Scott	

- III. Special Closed Session

- IV. Approval of Minutes

President Jennings: I entertain a motion to approve last weeks minutes.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the minutes from 9/28/21 were unanimously voted in approval.

- V. Open Forum

President Jennings: Josh would you like to say hi real quick?

Josh Menhennett: Yes I did want to say hi real quick. Hello everyone, I can see the back of your heads. I did just want to say hi really quick, I hope you guys are all well. I know SGA is doing well and I just wanted to listen in. Don't mind me here.

- VI. Speaker's Podium

- a. Coby Dillard – Director of Military and Veteran Affairs and the Military and Veteran Success Center

Let the record show that due to the amount of time spent in the special closed session, Coby Dillard was not able to stay and speak during Speaker’s Podium.

- b. Ashley Davis – Assistant Director of Student Accessibility and Resources

Let the record show that due to the amount of time spent in the special closed session, Ashley Davis was not able to stay and speak during Speaker’s Podium.

VII.

VIII.

Officer Reports

- a. **President Jennings:** This week has been super busy for me. I met with Dr. Sas, the faculty senate president today. I met with Dr. Calhoun the University President last week. Both of those were very productive meetings. I love to meet with them and hear what is going on around the University because I think it puts what we’re doing here in SGA in context. That is always really beneficial. Dr. Sas asked me what we thought about potentially going online after Thanksgiving if we needed to. That is on the University’s radar and I would love to discuss that during new business if you all have thoughts, which I am sure you do.
- b. **Vice-President Stavinoha:** Hey Guys. This week has also been super crazy for me. As yall know we are getting close to midnight breakfast and a couple of other events. A lot of what I have been doing is focused on that. And then, also, trying to work with Ashley Davis, unfortunately there was another event and she was going to be on a time crunch and with the closed session, she was not able to be here and since next week is the townhall, I believe she is just going to be sending us a video to present. We are going to be doing similar things with the counseling center with Ashley Davis, where we just volunteer at some of the events they’ve already got planned. The rest of my report is in committee.
- c. **Secretary Mattern:** I don’t know if anyone cares, but the Astros won. Anyways, I really haven’t done that much this week. Me and KC were in the marketing meeting last Thursday. I thought that was a really good meeting to get things going with marketing, I believe they are going to help us a lot because I asked KC about making flyers but marketing was already working on them. Which is awesome. I really have just been working on the website updates and figuring out exactly what to post on the social media platforms. But other than that, I am just ready to leave my house.
- d. **Treasurer Limbrick**
Treasurer Limbrick had to leave early for class, thus he presented the budget presentation during his officer report.
I do not have any updates this week, just going to go inside the meeting for this Thursday and meet with anybody who requested funds.
- e. **Chief of Staff Smith:** I don’t really have much to update this week. Meeting with Josh and then I’m meeting with the rules committee after this. Ill have more coming next week and p.s I’m sorry for having whatever attack earlier, my throat decided it would be a good idea to just dry up. I lost my voice this weekend so that was why I sound the way I do.

IX.

Committee Reports

a. Events

Vice President Stavinoha: Alright so midnight breakfast, we have ordered all the decorations for it. And, I did receive the budget and Josh so kindly informed me that I did not reply to Sodexo, I instead forwarded the email to him thinking that I was replying to Sodexo. So I am going to reply to them. Get all of our food ordered but very exciting stuff, and I am talking to some organizations to participate in the activities upstairs in the UC ballroom. Farmhouse and ATO are interested and the rolling patriots guild has confirmed that the will be involved.

b. Communications

Secretary Mattern: We met Monday and I pretty much showed them the emails that you sent me talking about like all the questions and everything and we talked about the townhall which is next Tuesday during our meeting time. And we talked about the social media posts obviously and then the flyers and stuff like that.

c. **SGAC**

Treasurer Limbrick left the meeting early due to class.

d. **Rules**

Chief of Staff Smith: Again, I don't have much to report in this week. I kind of have a two week project going on right now so next week we will have more to report one but yeah. We're meeting right after this too.

e. **ESC**

David Harrison: So we're still working on developing the clothing drive. No money involved. That's the most recent update we have. There's another discussion that we had in committee related to something on Houston campus that we hope to bring up in new business soon. I am going to set a preliminary deadline for hopefully bringing this up. Maybe the week after next.

f. **GSA**

President Jennings: I reached out today a whole bunch of new people to get involvement including Dr. Wolfe in graduate studies to get suggestions. Hopefully we can get some good feedback in that.

X. **Student Voice Reports**

a. **College of Engineering**

Senator Barria: There's not much going on except everyone preparing for midterms, people studying and panicking. Nothing else.

Senator Rosario: We both pretty much have the same thing for our cite. Were just in need of extra coffee and caffeine in the lounge.

President Jennings: Do you guys not have coffee in the lounge? Is that what you're saying?

Senator Rosario: We don't have coffee or utensils. It is bareboned but we do have cabinets and stuff just nothing to put in the cabinets.

President Jennings: Hey, yall are laughing but that is a good request. Can you imagine? They don't have any of the food stuff that we do so coffee is a big deal. Send me an email about that and I can see what we can do. That is an easy request we can look at.

b. **College of Nursing and Health Sciences**

Senator McNamra: So I texted Justin the other day and was like we should probably meet with our dean, so we're going to do that sometime within the next week. She just got named the actual Dean because she was just filling in. Other than that, we don't really have that much. I didn't get to talk about it last week because we had our senator training but the top 25 was super fun so that was cool.

Senator Melendez: There were some students just requesting if we could have a table outside the entrance of the College of Nursing because there were concerns about masks. Not being worn, they just wanted a box in the front.

President Jennings: So they're just wanting masks inside the door? Again, send me an email about that and we'll look into it.

c. **Liberty Landing**

Senator Chin: I don't really have much to report because I have a midterm tomorrow morning but mainly I am going to set up a meeting with Blaire, the RC, and start a QR code system because Liberty is so decentralized that everyone's staying inside their apartment. I'm not going to go knock on doors for 8 buildings and 4 floors. I will be putting that in the clubhouse and reading those in my report.

d. **University Pines**

Senator Dohadwala: The only thing I have heard so far is like that coin machine in the laundry room is broken and people are annoyed that they are having to pay for laundry. And the app for doing laundry is kind of confusing for people because they are paying for it but it is not going through.

President Jennings: I would definitely recommend talking to the people in charge over there.

XI. **Old Business**

a. **Budget Presentation Review**

Treasurer Limbrick: So, here is the SGA budget for this semester and next semester. These are the action items I presented to you guys last week. This one change I made was adding

the SGA office phones onto the selected items on this semester and next semester's list. I removed it from the remove side and put it on the left side. Here is the proposed budget for 2021-2022. Large amount of it will be processed to the Disc Golf project which is roughly estimated to be \$14,000 and will be needed to allocate and finish that project.

Josh: We'll open up discussion during new business if we have any and then vote to approve or deny it. That'll be recorded but we'll let you know how it goes.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to open discuss on the Budget presentation.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Chief of Staff Smith: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: Okay so we saw what Ord had to share with those updates. Did anyone have thoughts, concerns, etc? I would like to entertain a motion to vote to approve the new budget.

Vice President: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the budget was unanimously voted in approval by the senate.

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

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Chief of Staff Smith: Motion seconded.

XII. New Business

a. Nomination of New Senators

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to open discussion to nominate some new senators.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: We have 3 people here tonight who are not current senators but after talking to them and they expressed interest, I would like to nominate them for senator positions. Justin Vargas who is being nominated for a college of psychology position. Brennan McGinnis who is also being nominated for a college of education and psychology position. And Alicia Govea who is being nominated for a senator at large position. She is also working in the military and veteran success center, so she will provide interest from there.

Alicia Govea: I'm Alicia Govea, I am pre-nursing right now and why I want to be a senator is that I believe everyone should have a voice and it doesn't matter how small. I am vet from the marine corps myself and I believe that we should have representation in the student body government.

Senator Govea: What is your favorite color?

Alicia Govea: My favorite color is blue. I am running for the general body at large. My favorite number is 18. It began with my boyfriend is a wildland firefighter. I needed nursing school in the area and it has great ratings for passing the NCLEX. So I figured why not? It looks like a nice, comfortable campus. It is not too big, not too small and I will also get a good education. I served for 11.5 years and I am very versatile and like to try new things.

Senator Chin: I have gotten to be friends with her and I think she would be a great senator.

Senator Govea: I think she would bring an interesting perspective.

President Jennings: I do appreciate that. As president, I have been collaborating with the military and veteran success center and Coby has been trying to get some military and veteran representation in the senate and I am very supportive of that. I would like to entertain a motion to vote to approve the new senator Govea.

Senator Adan Govea: Carried said motion.

Senator Harrison: Seconded motion.

Let the record show that the senate voted in the new senator Alicia Govea for student body at large.

Brennan McGinnis: I am Brenna McGinnis, I am a psychology major, I am a freshman and I am going for the Senator position in the College of Education and Psychology. I wanted to be a senator because I realized there were two open positions at the CEP and that meant no one had a voice there. I

wanted to give them a voice. I am looking to go to grad school and go into sports psychology to examine players. I like studying the mind.

Senator: I played intramural softball with Brennan and he's real great with everybody and a good team player. He would be a great member to add to our collection.

President Jennings: I know for a fact that he has reached out to multiple senators being interested. That is a great sign that he will be passionate about what he does. He also took off to be here so that is a great sign that he is dedicated. I entertain a motion to vote on it.

Senator Adan Govea: Carried said motion.

Senator Harrison: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the senator voted in new senator Brennan McGinnis for the College of Education and Psychology position.

Justin Vargas: Hi my name is Justin Vargas, I am a transfer and a Junior here. Right now I am a psychology major and the reason I want to join SGA is I thought maybe it'd be something fun to do and get to know the school better. I thought it would be a good idea to give people a voice in the CEP. Right now, I am looking a criminal psychology stuff like that. Right now I minoring in criminal justice. I transferred from a school in Plainview, Texas called Wayland Baptist University. I used to be a student athlete there for wrestling and transferred here. My parents moved here from Arizona during covid, I was going to go to school in Arizona and decided I did not want to pay out of state tuition.

Senator Barria: Can all 3 Justins go be J cubed? And can we have our own committee, the Justin Committee? **That was a joke.**

President Jennings: I think that is totally fine in informal settings.

Senator Adan Govea: Justin worked in student engagement and he's a really cool and proactive guy, especially when he is doing his work. I can see that being applied here in our senate.

Senator McNamara: I met Justin last meeting and we found out we were in the same art class so that was cool. He is a good friend, he will talk to you and not ignore you.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to vote to swear in Justin Vargas.

Senator Adan Govea: Carried said motion.

Senator Harrison: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the senate voted in a new senator, Justin Vargas, for the College of Education and Psychology.

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

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Adan Govea: Motion seconded.

b. QEP Committee Discussion

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to discuss the QEP committee.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Black: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: A couple of weeks ago, Katie Stone came to talk about the imitative and help. There is already a steering committee, but she wants an ADHOC committee in SGA for a focus group sort of style. That is a proposal before yall today. I just want your feedback, and if you are for it, we can create that.

Senator Harrison: Could you remind me what the QEP is?

President Jennings: It is the Quality Enhancement Plan. Every 5-10 years, it has to be renewed with a new objective. The new one is problem solving. This ADHOC would allow Katie to talk to SGA as well as students as well as alumni and faculty to kind of see what they think that means, how we can effectively implement it, etc.

Senator Govea: I think it would be a beneficial committee.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to create an ADHOC committee called the QEP committee for however it needs to exist.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Bennett: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the senate voted in favor to create the ADHOC QEP committee.

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

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Adan Govea: Motion seconded.

c. Advising Committee Discussion

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

Senator Adan Govea: Carried said motion.

Senator Bennett: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: In meeting with Ashely Bill, who is sort of over advising, she said that it would be helpful to have a task force related to advising to talk about the issues related to each college, etc. So, my intention for this and what I think would be most helpful is this was on an assignment basis so that we have representation through each college. So that's sort of what I envisioned for that. I imagine it would only last until the end of the year unless you guys thought it would need to be longer. Basically, it would be to facilitate a discussion between SGA and the administration that is focused on progress and creating real solutions.

Senator Harrison: I can definitely see this being beneficial and a need this year because I actually found out a couple of weeks ago that my advisor changed and I had no idea. And if I had been trying to get in touch with my advisor, I would have been contacting the wrong person. It is already hard to get in touch with your advisors in general, so I definitely think this is something that should carry forward.

Vice President Stavinoha: Like David said, considering that this has been quite a problem we have been dealing with as long as I have been in SGA, it might not be a bad idea to make this a standing committee.

Senator Luna: Just to clarify, this is just to come up with a plan to fix the advising issues? Like how the nursing school needs advisors that actually know what they are doing?

President Jennings: Yeah. I think the primary idea behind this is like if they contact the one-stop, they can give you one definitive answer whether than saying contact your college. We would tackle this by addressing what issues are in each college and how we can address them to make it more consistent. Of course with nursing and other majors like engineering, the requirements are different, things like that would be very inept but there are some things we can do to help make the process smoother. I agree with the longevity point. I am hesitant to make it a standing committee at this point. I think starting it as an ADHOC and maybe making it standing down the road. I would like to entertain a motion to create an ADHOC Advising Taskforce Committee.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Scott: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the senate unanimously voted to create an ADHOC Advising Taskforce committee.

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

Vice President Jennings: Carried said motion.

Senator Adan Govea: Motion seconded.

Senator Barria: Motion to open discussion about potential additions of water stations at the Houston Campus.

Vice President Stavinoha: Motion seconded.

Senator Barria: Currently, basically how our campus works is that all the water fountains are still closed because of COVID-19 and basically, we have to abide by HTC rules but I was wondering if it was possible to get a water station, with big jugs implemented into our student lounge. We have to get water bottles by the office and we are on the second floor. I think a temporary fix would be a water jug.

President Jennings: Just a clarifying question, the water fountains on your campus do not have a water bottle refill option.

Senator Barria: No, and the water fountains are taped off.

Senator : I know that the water fountains are open here at UT Tyler and I was just wondering why it is that they are not open there.

Senator Barria: That is an HCC issue. The HCC just started doing in-person classes I think like 2 weeks ago. I don't know if that is going to change in the near future but we have to abide by the HCC rules.

President Jennings: Is there a possibility of the water bottles being moved to the student lounge?

Senator Barria: I have inquired about that with the AISC president and we went down and we were wondering if we could have a case of waters be put in the fridge every now and then and they said no, every student has to come themselves.

Senator Harrison: I also wanted to mention that we brought this up in ESC and this one big issue with that, people are constantly using water bottles which generates waste.

President Jennings: If you will send me an email about that and I will contact the president about that and see what we can do. I know like you said, we have to abide by HCC rules so I will reach out to him. Or we could do a senator project for water bottles to be put in the fridge.

Justin Barria: I motion to close this discussion.

Vice President Stavinoha: Motion seconded.

XIII. Advisor Comments

- a. **Advisor Neaves:** Yall did really well tonight. For being one of the later meetings, kudos to yall. I think there was a lot of good discussion but I think it was good to see yall enjoying being here. When it got serious, yall got serious. My one comment, which KC has already addressed, is when you all are going through the new member process, please make sure to ask serious questions as well. Why do they want to join student government and what are they going to contribute to his organizations. Make sure that the constituents that they're representing are properly represented. SGA is not intended to be a social club, it is intended to be an organization to make sure you are representing your peers on important issues such as what was discussed all day today.

XIV. Announcements

- a. University Committee Membership
- b. Pumpkin Painting, October 25th, 11-1 pm
- c. Midnight Breakfast, October 27th 10 pm – 12 am
- d. Trunk or Treat, October 31st 6-8 pm

XV. Next Week

- a. Student Body at Large
- b. Houston Engineering Center
- c. Victory Village
- d. Ornelas Hall

XVI. Adjournment

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

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Adan Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the senate voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

6:56p.m.

Name	Absent
President Jennings	
Vice President Stavinoha	
Secretary Mattern	
Treasurer Limbrick	
Chief of Staff Smith	
Senator Arnold	
Senator Barria	
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