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Student Government Association

The University of Texas at Tyler

**Minutes**

*September 5th, 2023*

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes:** approved
4. **Open Forum**
5. **Speaker’s Podium**

Associate Provost for Academic Success and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Colleen Swain: She spoke on the fact that the work we are doing in SGA is making a difference. She spoke how the communication with SGA aided in the UNIV 1000 classes for the incoming students. Some advisors are teaching these classes, but the majority are being taught by faculty members. They email the students who aren’t showing up to check-in. SGA played a big role in getting this off the ground. The university is investing in more advisors and we are the only school reducing our ratio to 250/1 and this will allow the advisors more time with students. In terms of Academic Success, such as tutoring, S.I., First Generation, Success Seminar, Walk your Schedules are in the conversation. There is data that shows there are way more part time than full time students in the past years. This year, that gap is closing with credits attempted being 11.96. There are just about as many full and part time students. Retention is something they are heavily looking into this year, as well. Only 73.58% of full time Freshman were retained and are returning this school year. This has many different variables, a lot of which are outside of school such as jobs, family, etc. CAP students are no longer counted as incoming Freshman as they begin their course work in the summer. Housing is a UT System wide issue. Housing everywhere is very expensive to live off campus. The university is working very hard to accommodate everyone. HEC is being looked at as well to make sure they are taken care of. The Distance Campuses are also struggling with housing and parking.

1. **Officer Reports**
   1. President Dix: Met with Dr. Calhoun and inquired about the Foundry. Some of them are furnished as they are relying on donations from other school furniture that they are getting rid of. The university was waiting to see how the use of the Foundry was received and managed before they invested in any new furniture. The university is seeking areas to build a new dormitory.
   2. Vice-President Luna: Constitution Day is Friday, September 15th in the UC foyer from 1-3pm. There will be pizza and shirts so make sure to stop by. Professor Lopez will be there and able to help people to register to vote if they are interested.
   3. Treasurer Carnes: He has been setting up the SGAC meeting time and it is either going to be Wednesday at 4 or 4:30pm. He has been letting organizations know that they are able to request money through SGA. He has been working on the budget presentation.
   4. Chief of Staff Peters: He has been getting Judicial Board assembled and helping President Dix update the website. He will inquire with Andy Krouse the facilities director regarding parking concerns.
2. **Committee Reports**

n/a

1. **Student Voice Reports**
   1. College of Business
      1. Senator Scott: He informed the Senate that the COB advising offices were not allowing walk-ins for a period of time but everything should be back to normal now.
   2. College of Arts and Sciences
      1. Senator Ramos: He has heard issues regarding parking.
      2. Senator Vigueras: Notified the Senate of the Career Success meet the coach event for CAS, as well as, the JC Penny Suit Up event taking place March 8th-10th. Th Soules College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences fair is September 13th.
   3. School of Nursing
      1. Parking is an issue. During the first week of school, classrooms were being doubled booked by mistake. The Palestine Campus Site Coordinator had resigned and two faculty members were taking on that role.
2. **Old Business**
3. **New Business**
   1. Judicial Board Swear-ins: Let the record show that Audrey Harris, Margaret Manning, and Kwame Freeman were sworn into the Judicial Board.
   2. Secretary Nominations: Let the record show that Savannah Tropp and Precious Henry were nominated for the Secretary position.
4. **Advisor Comments**
   1. Josh Neaves: The Senate was asking great questions and we are on the right track. The E-Board has been working on getting speakers ready to inform the Senate of happenings and their department and campus wide. The Student Voice reports are looking great and he encouraged everyone to keep reaching out to students.
5. **Announcements**
   1. Fall Election: Sign-up has closed, please spread the word to vote. Voting ends September 7th at 12:00pm.
   2. University Committee Vacancies: Reach out to President Dix if you are interested in joining at University Committee.
   3. Online Senator Training: Will take place after elections have concluded.
6. **Next Week**
   1. Special Election: Secretary Special Election between nominees, Precious Henry and Savannah Tropp.

**Adjournm****ent: Let the record show this meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm**