C

Student Government Association

The University of Texas at Tyler

*October 26th, 2021*

1. **Call to Order 5:30pm**
2. **Roll Call**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Absence** |
| **President Jennings** |  |
| **Vice President Stavinoha** |  |
| **Secretary Mattern** |  |
| **Treasurer Limbrick** |  |
| **Chief of Staff Smith** |  |
| **Senator Arnold** |  |
| **Senator Govea** |  |
| **Senator Bennett** |  |
| **Senator McQueary** |  |
| **Senator Dix** |  |
| **Senator McNamara** |  |
| **Senator Vargas** |  |
| **Senator McGinnis** |  |
| **Senator Gouvea** |  |
| **Senator Chin** |  |
| **Senator Barria** |  |
| **Senator Flores** |  |
| **Senator Rosario** |  |
| **Senator Harris** |  |
| **Senator Johnson** |  |
| **Senator Harrison** |  |
| **Senator Henry** |  |
| **Senator Melendez** | A |
| **Senator Collins** | A |
| **Senator Black** |  |
| **Senator Luna** |  |
| **Senator Scott** |  |
| **Senator Rojas** |  |
| **Senator Ruiz** | A |
| **Senator Dohadwala** |  |

1. **Approval of Minutes**

**President Jennings: I entertain a motion to vote to approve the minutes.**

**Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion**

**Senator Govea: Motion seconded.**

**Let the record show it was unanimously voted in favor to approve the minutes.**

1. **Open Forum**
   1. **None**
2. **Speaker’s Podium LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, PART OF THE MEETING WAS NOT RECORDED. WHAT IS SHOWN IS WHAT WAS CAUGHT DURING THE ACTUAL MEETING TIME.** 
   1. **Coby Dillard** – Director of Military and Veteran Affairs and the Military and Veteran Success Center

**Senator Dix:** What is your favorite event that you put on?

**Chief of Staff Smith**: How long did you serve?

**Senator Govea:** How can student be involved and help with your office?

**Coby Dillard:** Biggest thing is attending our events. My students have a group that are a part of the

* 1. Ashley Davis – Assistant Director of Student Accessibility and Resources

**Ashley Davis**: Hello, my name is Ashley Davis. I am the student accessibility coordinator. I work with SAR. So, I hate to go after Coby, but unfortunately, we ended our last event today, the panel. We have students who were former students and current who use the SAR office and they talked about access on campus. One of the things they want to see in SAR is activities. Our office is growing, we had possibly maybe 100 students, now we have up to 400. We are growing rapidly but it is a good thing. The state average is 14% and we are 7%. We are trying to get out of that stigma. Y’all are a force that is wanting to be seen and heard. My generation was like we’ll fight and see what happens. With that, people are coming to the office now about something that happened back then and that is our office is growing. October is disability awareness month. We had our panel and we will have more because it was great. We got to hear what they want. One of the biggest things I can say, if you see someone struggling, refer them to our office. It might not have anything to do with our office, but we can refer them to where they need to go.

**President Jennings:** We got an email today from a student who was wanting something more inclusive for students with disability areas.

**Ashley Davis:** We are trying to get my buy in with faculty in different departments. There are so many things we don’t know from a student perspective, but we can try.

**Senator Dix:** I was wondering how closely you worked with the counseling center?

**Ashley Davis**: We work very closely with the counseling center.

**Senator Harrison:** How do the students know if they are registered though your office? I’m thinking like I don’t know.

**Ashley Davis:** First you must apply.

**Senator Harrison:** How can this body try and get this information out there?   
**Ashley Davis:** I did bring brochures for you guys. We are big on confidentiality.

**Chief of Staff:** What kind of events did y’all have and like promote?

**Ashley Davis:** What we did this month, we did a film series, we did the panel discussion, we did a tabling event in the library.

**Vice President Stavinoha:** So, we talked about a lot of classroom accommodations but what about the on-campus students?

**Ashley Davis:**

**Senator Harrison:** With incoming students who have those accessibility issues, do you reach out to them for how to help them?

**Ashley Davis:**

**Senator Dix:** I did not go to high school in the area, and my teachers talked about how pour professors would not make accommodations. Do y’all reach out to the high schools promoting the information?

**Ashley Davis:** One of the biggest things like it counts on like what we do normally around this area. But we what to branch it out because like I said that is something that I have a passion for with high schools. What your teacher says is not right, you’ll get accommodations. So, I do want to be a presence so that they can still get the accommodations. It is not a delay. One of the biggest things is having them in place.

**Chief of Staff Smith:** I don’t know if you can answer this question, but what kind of funding do you get? Like do you get adequate funding for pursuing those initiatives like reaching out to high schools and stuff?   
**Ashley Davis:** That is a hard question, but I love it. A short answer, yes and no. So, some of our funding, because we are a federally funded department. Basically, do you all know about ADA? So, it is a federal law that says that bible force 504 is one of the laws or sections of where students can have accommodations if they need accommodations, they have to get to them. So, it is still the same with higher education. We do have some funding. Because of budgets, it is a little bit harder. So, deaf or hard of hearing, one of our biggest budgets because they have interpreters and it is hard, but we get it done. You know something might get cut back because we have to provide enough for that. Swag things we can't get because we got to make sure our deaf and hard of hearing students receive what they need. Um, gender neutral bathrooms, that is a big thing here I know, and we finally got them in the in the UC, but it was hard. But we got it done.

**Senator Gouvea:** You mentioned how they would have to move classrooms if it did not accommodate the students, will the campus eventually be all accommodated.

**Ashley Davis:** You guys are asking a lot of really good questions. Well, this is the thing. The biggest thing is having a seat at the table. Okay, it’s happening at the table because it is very important, because if we are not invited to those conversations, we aren’t going to know what is going on. It is all about good communication. It is happening slowly, but we have to know about accommodations in the first place so that maybe we will not have to switch classrooms or anything like that. That is one of the biggest things, that having a seat at the table and you sharing those things about what will be of the best interest and accessible for other students.

**President Jennings:** The last question I have, so are student from the Houston campus and the other distance campus, do you guys work with them?

**Ashley Davis:** Yes! We’re on all 5 campuses. So, even with UT Health Science Center we were actually on their campus before they actually merged with them. So, the Houston Campus, we do have resources we still meet with our student from the Houston are. So, it’s the same process and everything we will just meet on zoom. Sometimes I have gone down there in case they needed anything to happen. So yeah, same thing and same process. Thank you!

1. **Officer Reports**

**President Jennings**

I had a bunch of meetings. Midterms, also crazy. Jennifer and I have been doing a lot of coordinating for Midnight Breakfast. We think it'll be super fun and much bigger than it has been, which is exciting and stressful.

**Vice-President Stavinoha**

I am apologizing to Landry and Ashlyn with balloons, it had to happen. We are getting ready for midnight breakfast, on Thursday I will not be attending anything afterwards, do not ask me any questions. I will be sleeping. We are going to have a really good time, it is going to be fun and y’all are going to have a fun time.

**Secretary Mattern**

I have been updating the website. The FAQs for the fee increase are now on there. Thank you, thank you. Josh put the presentations up for me, I put one up and the other wouldn’t go up. Of course, it went up for him but not me. And the rest is in committee report.

**Treasurer Limbrick**

Actually, I wanted to talk to you guys about a couple of questions. So, after meeting with Josh, I came across a couple of things that we may need to change. First off, you guys recently went to the Palestine Campus, I have the distance campus budget at $300. Are you guys considering going to another campus anytime soon, do I need to change that? You guys just bought like $100 worth of pizza and that’s basically cut it in half. What I did was I put that budget in another column, that budget line has not changed. What my question is, am I allowed to redo the budget sheet because I came up with $300 for the distance campus budget and I did not think it would be so significant, but I think it will be if you guys go to another campus.

**President Jennings:** We don’t have anything planned at this time, but if we need to change the budget, we will need to have another presentation. We can talk about that later.

**Treasurer Limbrick:** Okay, student travel budget has $800 left. I want to know when the disc golf project is going to launch so I can get that in the budget sheet and see if it really is going to cost less, hopefully it will and I can move funds somewhere else.

**President Jennings:** It is not going to cost less. That project was approved as a 2-part thing. $12,000 for last year and $14,000 this year. That number is set which is really in our favor because if we got a quote today for concrete, with the price of everything right now, it would be much higher. Essentially, with that they were hoping to save us some money and that is a set thing. As far as timeline, I need to check on that. It will probably be in the spring just because concrete has to be poured during dry weather and we just hit rainy fall season so it is unlikely that will be done before the spring.

**Treasurer Limbrick:** And when do the phones get charged?

**President Jennings:** No idea, you would have to ask Josh.

**Treasurer Limbrick:** Okay, well my other stuff is for committee so thank you.

**Chief of Staff Smith**

So, this week I met with the Rules committee, we went over the language for the fee increase proposal. I messaged Vice President Tolliver about the previous changes, and she had a couple of suggestions, which I think are very strong suggestions, so I will likely present that next week. That is what I have been up to.

1. **Committee Reports** 
   1. **Events**

**Vice President Stavinoha:** There are so many balloons. We have got 9 orgs on campus to host tables, everyone has assigned places which we will tell you after we hold you for ransom after this meeting. We are blowing up a lot of balloons, there is a balloon arch outside of student success because that is the only place I could figure out where to store it. And tomorrow starting at 10, if you are not busy, if you could show up at my office to put up balloons all over the UC. That is what is happening tomorrow. The rest of it will be while we hold you hostage.

President Jennings: If you have social media and haven’t already shared, could you share something about midnight breakfast to get the word out.

* 1. **Communications**

**Secretary Mattern:** We made a table this week, me and Valerie sat outside the bookstore. So yall have been doing midnight breakfast, we have been doing the fee increase. We are doing that; I have been posting and obviously everything is on the website. The ballot goes out next week, so make sure to tell people about that.

* 1. **SGAC**

**Treasurer Limbrick:** Last week, we approved 2 people. We approved HSA for $400 and also WIMS for a max amount of $60. So that is all I have for SGAC.

* 1. **Rules**

**Chief of Staff Smith:** Like I said earlier, we went over the language for the fee increase and talked about potential changes to the constitution in the foreseeable future

* 1. **ESC**

**Senator Harrison:** So, we had a very productive meeting. We basically determined when we are going to do the clothing drive. It is probably going to be Earth Day next year. We have an Org in Tyler that we need to reach out to, and we are looking for options in Houston. Basically, what we are going to do is have an entry fee which would be bring a new pair of socks or underwear. We also have the recycling bins going into some of the housing soon, but I can't take credit for that, but that is happening.

* 1. **GSA**

**President Jennings:** We have a very productive meeting last week. Lots of good feedback from health science center students. I am making a visit out there Friday to get a tour, talk to some people, and kind of get a feel for what they're wanting in terms of engagement. Fun fact, they are still online and hybrid, so the biggest thing I heard was opportunities for mingling. Basically, opportunities to just talk to their peers, I think that is something we could get done.

1. **Student Voice Reports**
   1. **Student Body at Large**

**Senator McQueary:** I haven’t heard too much. The fee proposal is definitely getting out there. Someone came to the office asking about the flyers. I have also heard out a lot about the midnight breakfast.

**Senator Gouvea:** A concern is parking. Actually, you mentioned the and the whole parking area. Since they took away 300 spots, have they made any new ones? No, okay.

**Senator Johnson:** The freshmen are good, a lot of people are getting sick, and the clinic has been very full. Not me, but another freshman. I know the clinic has been full of outpatients as well. Other than that, freshmen are good.

* 1. **Houston Engineering Center**

**Senator Barria:** As far as the Houston center, I did get one student to come up to me and kind of bring up tutoring. I know it is late, but tutoring for any courses here, online or in person, would be best for any of the engineering courses. And another topic that got brought up to me was, so we are getting a lot of emails from Mark Stark pertaining to companies visiting the campus and kind of like the career fairs, but there are not that many opportunities for the Houston engineering center. I don’t know if that needs to be coming from the Houston campus, like everyone emailing him, but there is interest for interaction meeting with companies and or even in person resume checks and in person mock interviews.

**President Jennings:** Yeah, that is a really good point. Also, I just want to say kudos to you Justin. There are a couple university committees that specifically requested Houston representation and Justin has been rocking it by himself.

**Senator Rosario:** I have the same response as Justin regarding the career fair. I know Justin was in contact and lived with some people from Kimberly firm, so we are getting engineering firms and our career fair, so our students are going to get those opportunities.

**President Jennings:** Have you guys gotten a good response about the water filters?

**Senator Flores:** Yeah, we did, Justin actually took a picture of that earlier and sent a picture to all the students in our center, so thank you Justin.

**President Jennings:** Yeah, I actually emailed Dr. Garcia and he never replied and that happened, so I was sort of surprised, but I am glad they put something in for y’all.

* 1. **Victory Village**

**Senator Luna:** So, the victory village, in building 4, when you are pulling out, that brush covers passing cars. I don’t know if that is our land, or if we can contact the city of Tyler to like trim it or cut it. The same thing with the grass when you're exiting the county road, but they did trim that I think like two weeks ago. So, I think we're good at that. We don’t have an RC anymore; we are getting a new one so I will be in contact with them when I know. And the newer RAs they aren't really following protocol about noise complaints and stuff like that, I know Kiera was supposed to talk to them about that, but this was today, so I don’t know yet.

**Secretary Mattern:** When you talk to the new Rc, could you try to see if the pothole by the gate can be filled? It is horrible.

* 1. **Ornelas Hall**

**Senator Black:** I don’t really have anything. A couple of weeks ago people were complaining about the washer and dryers not doing their job, but they took them and cleaned them, and I do not think there is an issue anymore. There were smell issues, like people will cook stuff in their microwaves that just smell really strong, but they put air fresheners in the hallways to help. It was not great, the 5th floor smelled like noodles for a whole week.

1. **Old Business**
   1. **None**
2. **New Business**

**President Jennings:** Alright so Houston friends, y’all know about the proposed fee increases going out next week. The ballot will go to y’all too, just so you guys know, if students ask on campus, the REC sports fee is not paid by Houston students. The other distance campuses pay, you guys do not, and all campuses pay the Athletic Fee. Does that make sense? I just want to make sure you guys are clear on that.

**Chief of Staff Smith:** So, I went and looked at previous years' wording, when it came to these questions, a lot of responses said it was kind of biased. And the reason was because whenever it says this fee would go towards, it used to say this fee supports UT Tyler’s NCAA athletics. I changed this would go towards. In previous years, it also wouldn’t explain that it is capped at a certain number and so I wanted to make sure that it was as clear as possible. So, I put that it goes from $270, to $300 as far as capping. And then it would stay at $300 regardless of the number of student hours goes.

**Secretary Mattern:** Why did you put the athletic fee proposal first? Like the reasoning behind it.

**Chief of Staff Smith:** There is not a reasoning, I sent this over to Josh and this is the order he put it in. It does really matter; this is just the order they have had in previous years.

**President Jennings:** It might be worth it to include the current cap which is $240.

**Chief of Staff Smith:** And then for the REC sports, it is a lot more straightforward. It is just $30 and how it is going to be increased overtime.

**President Jennings:** I would like to entertain a motion to vote to approve this with one small edition of the current cap of the athletic fee.

**Vice President Jennings:** Carried said motion.

**Senator Bennet:** Motion seconded.

**Let the record show that the following motion was voted in approval.**

**President Jennings:** Also, Houston senators, just so you guys know, you guys don’t pay the HPC fee, but you do get to vote on it. The students will still get a vote because the reasoning behind that is, hypothetically, and this is not saying there are any plans, but if the University were to switch to all campuses paying, you guys would have a say in the increase, or lack thereof, is. I would like to entertain a motion to close discussion on that topic.

**Vice President Stavinoha:** Carried said motion.

**Senator Vargas:** Motion seconded.

1. **Advisor Comments**
   1. **None**
2. **Announcements**
   1. Senator of the Week**: Robert Bennett**
   2. Midnight Breakfast, October 27th 10 pm – 12 am
   3. Trunk or Treat, October 31st 6-8 pm
3. **Next Week**
   1. College of Arts and Sciences
   2. College of Business
   3. Patriot Village
4. **Adjournm****ent**

**President Jennings: I entertain a motion to adjourn**

**Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.**

**Senator Bennett: Motion seconded.**

**6:23p.m.**

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| **Name** | **Absence** |
| **President Jennings** |  |
| **Vice President Stavinoha** |  |
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| **Senator Harris** |  |
| **Senator Johnson** |  |
| **Senator Harrison** |  |
| **Senator Henry** |  |
| **Senator Melendez** | A |
| **Senator Collins** | A |
| **Senator Black** |  |
| **Senator Luna** |  |
| **Senator Scott** |  |
| **Senator Rojas** |  |
| **Senator Ruiz** | A |
| **Senator Dohadwala** |  |