

Student Government Association

The University of Texas at Tyler

I. Call to Order

- a. 5:38 pm

II. Roll Call

III. Open Forum

- a. None

IV. Speakers Podium

- a. None

- b. President Menhennett: We don't have anybody this week, but we should have people here in the next few weeks.

Officer Reports

- c. President Menhennett

- d. I had a meeting with VP Tolliver and discussed a lot about housing. I got a lot of answers and a lot of the things that were on the recent announcement. Really, the way I see it, we should wait on the student fees because most of the students that have been here would see it negatively. I have a couple of things that I'm working on with Academic Affairs as well as maybe UT-SAAC members to improve online learning.

- e. Vice-President Cooper

- f. Right before our meeting started, we all received an email from Beverly Golden that said all summer classes will be moved online. All the in-person classes will be moved. We didn't have speaker podium this week, but we're trying to bring back Dr. Mirmiran and Dr. Swain next week. There may be some changes to finals week bags, because even faculty and staff can't be on campus, unless there's a way to send it all to me. I've been working on ways to virtually engage with everyone. For our group, does anyone know what a Netflix party is? Everybody watches a movie and there's a chat so that you can talk as well. I know the SE office is doing Kahoots, and this a thing that other offices have done. If y'all are interested in that, let me know. If not, also let me know.

- g. Secretary Jennings

- h. Talked

- i. Treasurer Rawashdeh

- j. Not here

- k. Parliamentarian Ray

- l. So, as most of you know, I've been slammed with school. What I'm going to do is tell my plan. One thing is that the new rules were approved. We did get some feedback, which we will be considering. Then, next up, I'll be emailing the President with the rules so that they can approve it. We're also going to be updating the newest rules to deal with the unique situations we've dealt with. I'll also be updating our house rules as necessary.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Student Life:

- b. That was it, the finals weeks bags and how we'll probably have to change it since no one is on campus. And then, just the Netflix party to engage everybody. It's not that easy.

- c. Communications:

- d. Talked

- e. Rules:

- f. Setting up telecommuting rules for senates

- g. President Menhennett: It's been proven that we can meet via Zoom, so we will be reevaluating whether we'll meet in the summer, since we have the availability.

- h. Housing:

- i. Sen. Roberts: I spoke with VP Tolliver today, they're still working on an agreement with UPines. Housing is going to start meeting next week, I'll have a time by tomorrow.
- j. ESC:
- k. Gathering ideas for next year

VI. Student Voice Reports

- a. President Menhennett: The order is in the chat. We're going to start with the College of Arts and Sciences
- b. CAS:
- c. Sen. Green: This is my first meeting since y'all have done Zoom. The last thing that I have is that I spoke with Dean Grey and asked how he was going to send personal letters to students that get on the Dean's List, but that's the last thing that I had for that area.
- d. COE:
- e. Sen. Barakat: Everything looks fine, no real reports. One big thing, one student asked, he works at the University and his supervisor told him to do a DocuSign to get paid and he finished it and then got kicked out of DocuSign. I told him that HR is probably his best bet.
- f. Sen. Karn: So IT couldn't find them in their system?
- g. Sen. Barakat: Yes, they couldn't find them to verify that they work there. They told him to go to HR.
- h. VP Cooper: Yeah, HR would be best. Tell him to hang in there.
- i. SBAL:
- j. Sen. Karn: This is my first time attending this meeting as well. I don't have much to report, I've talked to OIP about how the international student body will deal with all of this, so that's basically what's been going on.
- k. President Menhennett: I heard that some students are able to move back to their home countries. Have you heard anything about that?
- l. Sen. Karn: I haven't heard anything about that.
- m. President Menhennett: For Student Voice Reports, things like that would be great to share, especially since you know people in person.
- n. Sen. Karn: I do have one question: Who should I ask about our housing situation, since we'll probably have to leave the university?
- o. Pres. Menhennett: Andy Pettee, dean of students, would be the best person to talk to. I'll put his email in the chat. That's probably something that they're working on now. As far as figuring out long-term solutions, they're probably already looking at that.
- p. Sen. Bauder: I reached out to a professor where people are struggling, so now for the rest of the semester, he's doing a review before our final. I've been moving, so I haven't had a ton of time to work on the ID cards that I was working on. I've had a few people reach out, but nothing serious.
- q. CEP
- r. Sen. Williams: Um, I don't really have that much to report. Most people have said that everything has been great, setting up Zoom conferences, dividing group projects; that's really all.
- s. Sen. Stavinoha: So, pretty much the same thing. I haven't heard a single complaint. Our professors have really got it figured out how to do classes online. I did meet with Dean Hickey last Friday to commend him on how well everyone's doing. I asked him about our standardized tests, and he told me that the University has paid for online proctoring so that students can still take that test. Also, they've been working on wifi and access for everyone. I've been contacting Lauren Thomas, and she's been super helpful for students in this time. During the meeting with Dean Hickey, he was also very excited about the survey that we're proposing.
- t. Sen. Long: So, as far as my college goes, I have a little bit less information. I've had one professor that's been really great. He's sent out things he's grateful for and extended all of his deadlines. I was feeling overwhelmed and reached out to my professor, she said

that lots of her students felt the same. I asked her how her other classes were going and she said that some students are doing great and others are really struggling with the new format. Being an RA has been kind of not fun, they've sent home 5 of the 7 Ras, so I'm one of two in my facility. They're trying to move us around, and I think that housing is kind of the thing that people are most worried about or frustrated about. Victory is moving all of their residents that had to stay to Liberty, so that's something I've had a few complaints about. Commencement's new date went out and some of my friends that are graduating have been kind of frustrated, but they know that there isn't really a better option.

- u. Sen. Stavinoha: Lyceum has been moved online, so once the links come out, I'll send it out to y'all. Those videos should be posted some time around April 17th.
- v. Sen. Long: It would mean a lot because it's been a really stressful class and it's my last Lyceum, so that was really sad for me.
- w. President Menhennett: I haven't gone before, but I'm going to tune in.
- x. SCOB
- y. Sen. Forster: So, last week we talked about how we were supposed to have a Zoom meeting with a teacher. She cancelled it due to her being sick and taking a COVID-19 test. I'm sure she has tons of messages in her inbox, because there has been no update and no other assignments. Other than that, the rest of the classes are fine, other than one where everyone has a zero because no grades have been inputted. That's pretty much all I have. I can update y'all on that teacher.
- z. Sen. Rodriguez: Anything that has arisen has been resolved, technology issues, behavioral issues, etc. One student told me that he really wanted the pass/fail option and his professor won't get in contact with him to talk about where to go.
- aa. President Menhennett: As far as reaching out to the professor, I would recommend having them get in touch with the department chair, and then potentially the Associate Dean or the Dean.
- bb. Sen. Foote: I am also in the class that Sen. Forster is in. I do believe she is just not responding to things, which is understandable considering the circumstances. It is somewhat concerning because we were waiting on that meeting before going to talk to the Dean, at least our group. Another class had concern for the amount of extra work that got added because "everyone is now at home with nothing to do". Other than that, things are going pretty smoothly.
- cc. Freshman Senators
- dd. Sen. Reid: Everyone seems to be doing okay, as most freshmen are doing basics. Honors students seem to be doing okay, even though some of the work has gotten harder because we can't talk to our professors. They've been good about doing Zooms to answer questions, though. Most people seem to not be having a super hard time transitioning. Most people are focused on refunds for housing and meal plans.
- ee. UPines
- ff. Sen. Roberts: We still don't know what's going on other than the conversation I had with VP Tolliver. I'll send this information to others as well, those that are less informed.
- gg. Sen. Ramirez: In terms of UPines, I haven't been there in a few weeks, but I'm going this weekend. I haven't heard anything from housing about problems that have arisen. I have friends in all of the complexes, and I haven't heard any problems.
- hh. Sen. Roberts: This is a question more of Sen. Long or Sen. Bauder. As far as people who are living in other facilities, are they going to Liberty Landing now? Is that true for everyone?
- ii. Sen. Long: I am not sure. Communication has been sparse. I just know that Victory Village is moving to Liberty Landing. A lot of it probably has to do with the fact that Victory Village is a FEMA-approved facility that can house first responders that don't want to go home and potentially infect their families.
- jj. President Menhennett: Anything to add? Moving on.

VII. Old Business

a. None

VIII. New Business

a. None

b. Advisor Neaves:

c. The only announcement I have is that if you haven't applied to be a senator again, the link is on the website. Do so before Friday to ensure that you're on the ballot.

d. Sen. Green: I'm waiting to hear back from the Archer Fellowship. I was planning to go ahead and do the sign-up, but if I get it, should I just email someone?

e. Advisor Neaves: You can resign at any time, so you would just have to do that or participate via Zoom.

f. Sen. Karn is Senator of the Week

IX. Adjournment (6:31 pm) Motioned by Sen. Long and seconded by Sen. Rodriguez