

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes as Recorded

By: Jackson Crawford, Senate Emerging Leader
UC North Senate Chamber, 7:30 PM
Wednesday November 19th, 2014

Clause 1: Call to Order by the presiding officer

I. Opening call of the roll

Completed, 19:38 PM, See attached roster

Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater

Clause 3: Reading and approval of previous meeting's minutes

No Changes

Clause 4: Special Reports

I. University Representatives wishing to address the senate

a. Administration and Finance – Report on MOU and Student Fees (Dr. Carlucci and Emily Messa)

Dr. Calucci introduced the topics at hand, ceded time to Mack Rhoades.

Emily Messa was not in attendance.

Rhoades: Stadium has been a success, exceeded expectations.

President Haston took time to describe events that occurred over summer 2014.

Rhoades thanked the students and time was ceded back to Calucci.

- Explained estimates: 36 million dollar original estimate for proposed end zone facility in 2008. Plan changed in 2010, new stadium original estimate was 120 million dollars. Added to this estimate was a 40 million dollar renovation of Hofheinz Pavilion.

- Addressed use of HEAF funds.

- Explained different revenue sources (notably, student fees = 28% of the funding).

- Explained requirements for UH Auxiliaries that rent their facilities for income.

- Explained budgeting for Capital Renewal.

- Addressed Public Private Partnerships.

- Explained how rates are decided upon.

Dr. Calucci's presentation was followed by questions from President Haston.

- President Haston requested that Mack Rhoades summarize the new student fee and Memorandum of Understanding, and that summary was given.

- Haston followed up with several questions on which individuals were involved with the referendum and the MOU in question.

- Rhoades established during questioning that the above issue was under Finance and Administration (Dr. Calucci) as opposed to the Athletics Department.

- Dr. Calucci was asked whether his understanding was the same as that established by Rhoades – he made the clarification that he was not fully aware of all the details of the MOU.

- Haston asked about the establishment of a committee to oversee UH athletics facility usage (Clause 8 of the MOU) – Dr. Calucci responded by saying that this was a governance issue, and that getting involved with this would be overstepping his authority.

- During questioning, Dr. Calucci said that there is a difference between “honoring” the MOU and “dealing with it right away.”

- Haston asked whether the construction was over budget. Dr. Calucci responded that it was still in negotiation.

- Dr. Calucci clarified during questioning that the stadium was not planned to be completed for opening day. He also said that he could not say for sure whether the construction was over budget.
 - Dr. Calucci explained that there are still parts of the stadium to be completed.
 - Haston requested that Dr. Calucci read a selected part of the RFP (Request for Proposal).
 - A memo was displayed to Dr. Calucci, Dr. Calucci said he “probably” recognized it.
 - Haston asked about the use of the current private contractor for the stadium (Venue Works) considering its limited (nonexistent) experience dealing with large stadiums in metropolitan areas near the size of Houston.
 - Dr. Calucci clarified that aggressive booking can occur once football season is over.
 - Haston asked Dr. Calucci about the General Counsel’s Office.
 - Haston asked about what was said by the internal auditor – Dr. Calucci responded that the process started with attempting to contract larger businesses.
 - Haston asked why if two internal watchdogs had concerns about the way the RFP was handled (and wanted it sent back) those recommendations were not followed.
 - There was a consistency issue about what services exactly were sub-contracted by Aramark to Venue Works.
 - Dr. Calucci explained that this was not truly sub-contracting, but rather a partnership.
- Questioning from the Senate Floor was held.
- Senator Ramirez asked about the future timeline. Dr. Calucci responded that more about costs will be known after the last football game.
 - Senator Kadiwala asked about the expected lifespan of both the private contract and the stadium itself. Calucci responded 15-30 years.
 - Senator asked about where the presentation could be found online.
 - Senator asked for Calucci to elaborate on his understanding of the MOU.
 - Senator Salinas asked about intramural sports and how they will be handled. Calucci clarified that this reduced cost is factored in.
 - Senator Pourreau asked about whether a field cover has been purchased yet. Calucci responded that it has not been fully purchased yet.
 - Senator Magadi asked about resistance in reporting the funds. Calucci responded that it was an issue of time. President Haston interjected to clarify accuracy of Calucci’s claims on this topic. Calucci responded that a smaller number of people is better to work out details and that this was not an issue of public or private. Haston responded that Administration and Finance had two months and did not hold itself to the standard of the other university departments.
 - Senator Alsbrooks asked about whether students were made aware about the use of the third party contractor. Calucci conceded this point, though admitted he was not sure of the awareness of anyone on this topic at the time. Senator Alsbrooks asked whether substantive talks would have been a net positive. Calucci rejected the premise of this question and suggested that he did not have enough information at the time for those hypothetical talks to make a difference.
 - Director of Finance thanked Dr. Calucci for his presentation and expressed appreciation for his effort.

II. Students wishing to address the Senate

**Venezuelan Students Addressing Currency/Bank Transfer Issue
On Currency Transfer to the Dollar**

- Speaking on behalf of about 70 students who cannot get their money to pay tuition due to currency restrictions. The University is currently not addressing this or providing a solution.
- If they are unable to enroll in classes, they would have to go back to Venezuela.
- Meeting will be made on an individual basis with the Director of Enrollment Services.

III. Two-minute speeches by the Members of the Senate

Senator Pourreau announced his resignation and thanked the Senate.
Senator Fields expressed his thanks to Senator Pourreau.

Senator Daniel discussed upcoming last home game.
Senator Ballands reiterated the sentiment on the upcoming game and mentioned the upcoming basketball game.
Senator Fischer mentioned the most recent game.

Clause 5: Executive and Speaker Reports

- I. Report of the President
Discussed issues related to the previous questioning of SFAC and his past decision to go public with the issues. Suggested that several claims made during the questioning were fabricated. Clarified some of the details of the situation.
50 million dollars in bonds have been committed to the stadium. The costs discussed with the Board of Regents was not multiple phases, but rather was complete predicted costs. 90% of complaints are issues that report to Administration and Finance. Food services issues and parking issues all go up to Emily Messa. Discussed transparency issues. Discussed issue with RFP process.
A bid that nobody else would take was proposed – President Haston expressed the lack of ethics in this decision. Official statements show that Venue Works is in charge of managing for the stadium. Staff turnover is 60-80 days for Venue Works. Venue Works is not swiping students in.
Questioning was held.
It was clarified during questioning that there is no provision in the contract to get out of the contract with Venue Works.
- II. Report of the Vice President
Clarified an issue with Senator Daniel.
- III. Report of the Chief of Staff
Discussed upcoming service project. This would be the first community service project the Senate is doing. (EA has details). Mentioned Emerging Leaders update. (Nov. 21st, 4:30-6:30)
- IV. Report of the Director of Finance
- V. Report of the Director of Public Relations
The game is this weekend – volunteers are needed. December 3rd and 4th will have tabling events.
Issue was resolved regarding first Spring Semester Senate meeting.
- VI. Report of the Director of External Affairs
Elaborated on the upcoming SGA service project.
- VII. Report of the Attorney General
Election code reform drafting is finished. Amendments will be discussed at special session.
- VIII. Report of the Speaker
Special session on December 3rd at 7:30.
Motion for special session was held. A simple majority vote passed the motion.
Discussed sustainability fest and current vacancies. Mentioned attendance issues, there will be a likely upcoming vacancy.

Clause 6: Committee Reports

- I. Reports of the Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Affairs
The proposed changes to the hours in residency policy will be proposed. Last meeting for Academic Affairs was held. There are issues with students in the College of Education being able to graduate in a timely manner.
 - b. University Administration & Finance
Discussed last meeting having been held.
 - c. Internal Affairs
An additional meeting will probably have to be held.
 - d. Student Life

A “Greek Week” cannot occur because of opposition from some smaller groups, but a day-long event may be able to occur.
Open forum for housing changes was held.
Questioning was held and focused on concerns about a Greek focus, including related to Frontier Fiesta.

II. Reports of the Select Committees

Clause 7: Old Business

- I. SGAB-51003 *Election Reform and Transparency Act*
[Motion to table until special session was passed.](#)

Clause 8: New Business

- I. Open Nominations to Vacant Senate Seats: *College of Optometry, Graduate College of Social Work, College of Education, Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management*
II. SGAB-51007 *Attorney General Appointment Amendment*
[Motion to table until special session was passed.](#)
[Motion to table only items 1-3 failed.](#)
[All further items were also successfully tabled.](#)

Clause 9: Closing Remarks

- I. Comments and announcements of the officers
II. Open Forum
III. Closing call of the roll
[See Attached](#)

Clause 10: Adjournment

[Meeting Adjourned 22:45](#)

Position	Name		
Student Body President	Charles Haston	P	P
Student Body Vice President	Erica Tat	A	A
Chief of Staff	Leo Mata	P	A
Director of External Affairs	Marcus Smith	P	A
Director of Public Relations	Adrian Castillo	P	A
Director of Finance	Adil Rajabali	P	P
Attorney General	Clarita Montant	P	A
Speaker of the Senate	Shaun Smith	P	P
Speaker Pro-Tempore	Sebastian Agudelo	N/A	N/A
Sergeant-At-Arms	Sterling Dodd	A	A
Clerk of the Senate	Bruno Ugaz	A	A
Senator- Undergraduate At-Large, Seat #1	Sebastian Agudelo	A	P
Senator- Undergraduate At-Large, Seat #2	Chelsea Moses	P	A
Senator- Undergraduate At-Large, Seat #3	Alan Garza	P	P
Senator- Undergraduate At-Large, Seat #4	Hugo Salinas	P	P
Senator- Graduate At-Large, Seat #1	Varun Sreenivas	P	P
Senator- Graduate At-Large, Seat #2	Nathan Alsbrooks	P	A
Senator- Hines College of Architecture	Issam Kadiwala	P	P
Senator- Bauer College of Business	Sunil Motwani	P	P
Senator- Bauer College of Business	John Fields	P	P
Senator- Bauer College of Business	Marcus Pourreau	P	P
Senator- Bauer College of Business	Pooja Magadi	P	P
Senator- College of Education	Geordie Daniel	A	P
Senator- College of Education	VACANT		
Senator- Cullen College of Engineering	Tanzeem Chowdhury	P	P
Senator- Cullen College of Engineering	Clint Kirchhoff	P	P
Senator- Cullen College of Engineering	Nelson Raymond-Grajales	P	A
Senator- The Honors College	Canyon Sanford	P	A
Senator- Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management	VACANT		
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Sarah Aimad	P	A
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Stephanie Bailey	P	P
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Will Fischer	P	P
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Matthew Ramirez	P	A
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	VACANT		
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Tatiana Lutomski	P	A
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Jessie Smith	P	P
Senator- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences	Clement Agho-Otoghile	A	P
Senator- College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Louis Adam	P	P
Senator- College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	VACANT	N/A	N/A
Senator- College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Ahren Esquenazi	A	A
Senator- College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics	Trent Fuller	A	A
Senator- College of Technology	Max Ballands	P	P
Senator- College of Technology	VACANT	N/A	N/A
Senator- College of Technology	VACANT	P	A
Senator- UH Law Center	Sepi Zimmer	E	P
Senator- College of Optometry	VACANT		
Senator- College of Pharmacy	Lauren Nicole Tolat	E	E
Senator- Graduate College of Social Work	VACANT		