

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Order of Business**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> Administration Summer Senate Agenda**  
**SC North Senate Chamber, 7:00 PM**  
**Wednesday, May 11th, 2016**

**Clause 1:** Call to Order by the presiding officer  
Opening call of the roll

**Clause 2:** Recital of the Alma Mater

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

**Clause 4:** Special Reports

- I. University Representatives wishing to address the senate
- II. Students wishing to address the Senate
  - a. Elliot – TPAC meeting next Friday @ 1:30p
  - b. Clint – As of Today 14-5 Faculty Senate Undergraduate Committee has approved Grade Replacement. Whoever becomes chairs, please concentrate on our academic rates.
- III. Two-minute speeches by the Members of the Senate
  - a. Corey – Excited to see productivity this summer, CoogTV interviewed Shane, up on YouTube, will be up on The Cougar next week. Conducted a survey with 80 responses on what students want to see improved in the College of Technology. Recently recorded the Alma Mater, maybe we can play it at the next meeting.
  - b. Kayla – Health Center Policy Board will be getting Blue Cross Blue Shield approved for future students
  - c. Hejal – Student Life met today and had a lot of good input, please bring anything forth to us.
  - d. Diego – Met with Spencer for Frontier Fiesta meeting further next week to address issues there. Also meeting Guillermo over Greek housing next week to see what he can do for SGA.
  - e. Fahad – Initiative for Cullen College of Engineering, evaluating at getting the aerospace program back at UH, if any senators are interested in this initiative please come contact me.
  - f. Leen – Bill that I'll be presenting to get passed, spoke to Shane to evaluate issues at CAPS and how they operate to hopefully address issues with our constituents.

**Clause 5: Executive and Speaker Reports**

Student Government Association I Legislative (Senate) Meeting

- I. Report of the President
  - a. Thank you for joining summer senate, this is an excellent turnout, so thank you very much. As we continue from our first 6-weeks, we finished our agenda faster than any other Administration as well as having a completely full Cabinet. Lots of progress occurring with Class Coogs, Classmates, as well as CAPS. Really should evaluate a formal taskforce for CAPS. Lots of work on an event for Weeks of Welcome for SGA Outreach. Aerospace program is really interested in bringing itself to Bauer as well as with Cullen. I want to recognize these projects and the success that has occurred this far. Wi-Fi meeting today covered a lot of conversation with data and what struggles are and what can be done. They'll be visiting with us monthly. Parking has a large proposal, talked to directors and assistant chancellors about the plans to adjustments to the PTS portion. Food conversations have been brought up, third party contractor is coming in to evaluate data there. Lots of exciting things coming on that front. Regional manager of Aramark meeting occurred. We're also using Project Management software to assist us in this process.
- II. Report of the Vice President
- III. Report of the Chief of Staff
  - a. Please get with the Executive if you are intending on working on projects also covered in the executive agenda so we don't duplicate our efforts. We will be attempting to setup bi-weekly meetings with the chairs and Speaker to work together on both the Executive and Legislative agendas.
- IV. Report of the Director of Public Relations
- V. Report of the Director of External Affairs
  - a. Building plans on community resources and job fair for the University. It's a resource and career fair for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward providing education, health, and employment resources. Had a meeting with UHD evaluating starting a Texas SGA system along with other schools in the state. UHD talked about getting registered voters and their programs. Talked about getting an early voting location on campus. Edwin talked about a Homecoming parade could maybe build in to the Community opportunity Alejandro brought up.
- VI. Report of the Speaker
  - a. Legislative Agenda, received so many responses that I've got 6-7 single source pages, I split them in to groups for individual committees. Chairs can go out and prioritize the list. Once evaluated we can look at getting everything put together. June 15<sup>th</sup> is the next Summer Senate meeting.

## **Clause 6: Committee Reports**

- I. Report of Administration and Finance Committee
  - a. Meeting last week, breakdown of TPAC so we know what's been done and how parking works, really helpful moving forward. We want to work on

increasing public transportation and other such things. Committee meetings will be occurring over the summer.

- II. Report of the Student Affairs Committee
- III. Report of Academic Affairs Committee
- IV. Report of Student Life Committee
  - a. Lot of ideas brought forth today and previously in other meetings. Will put together the notes and have something put better together so we can move forward with ideas and plans for the year.

#### **Clause 7:** Unfinished Business

#### **Clause 8:** New Business

- I. Appointment of Kayla Fischer to the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee – 12 – 4 – 2 - Confirmed
  - a. Going to keep this short, Senior Resident Advisor & Resident Advisor in Housing, three key points. I advocate for my students and residents and being the voice of others. I believe this ties directly in to chairs of committees in advocating for any and all students. That advocacy followed through SRA council and getting achievements done. My second point would be team work and team building in order to keep order and follow through deadlines so that we are seeing continuity and progress. I check back on issues regarding why things are or aren't getting done
  - b. Advocacy, Legislation, Project Management
    - i. Question & Answer
      - 1. Leen – What are your specific goals?
        - a. Advising is definitely one of them, funding is certainly not my first route. Advising across most colleges, would want passionate individuals from each college to work with me to bring students who care about advising
      - 2. Hunter – What can SGA do differently?
        - a. Never received input on advising process and being a voice for students should really be heard before true conversation and decisions are made about what students need. I'd like to see a huge blast of communication to effectively get input from students through outreach so we can use the data to address what can be done.
      - 3. What do you see that could do different that passed previously?
        - a. They went funding route with NSM and it's not feasible for the next 5-10 years. So I'd like to evaluate resources and see if we can perfect the process.
      - 4. Paul – What steps do you take, before taking over a team? What do you do to get settled in?

- a. If I don't know something I don't pretend to know it. I reach out to other resources that have the information, data, and experience to make better decisions for the team. I'd reach out to other senators and administrators for feedback.
  - 5. Have you done any of those things?
    - a. Read over the bylaws and there is a lack of data there, however I know what material exists there. I think that this position requires more about the information that comes in with a team.
    - b. Reached out to Clint about his experience as well as Josh since he's changing a bit of what the roles are.
  - 6. What about the committee members?
    - a. Regarding grade replacement yes
  - 7. Chris – How can you help me achieve my goals in academic affairs?
    - a. What are your goals?
  - 8. 1) See admission process and tweak it a little bit 2) expand other aspects of the Undergraduate Committee
    - a. Depends on the process that's decided upon, if you were assigned the head of the task, it would depend on what you want to do. It would really be dependent on whoever is leading individual tasks. If I can't do what you'd like I'd reach out to those that can.
  - 9. Fahad – What are your thoughts on the amendments needed to grade replacement and whether you'll take an active role or work towards advising?
    - a. Depends on the committee and who wants to take roles. I don't want to take over projects without working with the individuals who have existing projects. I do want to focus on advising and I want to facilitate
  - 10. Paul – When answering Hunter's question you stated they failed due to financial route (NSM), you said it was due to the financial route.
    - a. Edwin talked to admin in NSM who discussed the information that I was provided.
  - 11. Chris – What is Academic Affairs supposed to be doing?
    - a. I don't believe there is anything specific as we haven't reached out to all the students yet. When we have more information from students we can better determine what course of action to take.
- ii. Con – Pro – Con

1. Paul – First like to start by highlighting that her answers, by stating she was going to find out and going to get more information. She doesn't know what she needs to know and we have others who do know who can produce results. I feel our senate has more experience.
2. Fahad – First point I'd like to make, the fact that not knowing Academic Affairs job is, because she can't speak for the whole University. I highly doubt anyone here has evaluated what all students have needed. So I believe everyone is on a level playing field, so it shouldn't be counted against her.
3. Chris – I believe Academic Affairs that are supposed to happen. That's why I asked her perspective. She didn't have a clue really, well her answers were vague and I don't like vague answers. I didn't feel like she knew what Academic Affairs was about.
  - a. Leen – I feel like if you had a concern about her answer, you should've asked a follow up question.

iii. Moderated Caucus – 5 minutes

1. Omar – You mentioned an answer to be vague, you appear to have a distinct answer of what you wanted to hear. I heard a concern from students about allowing students to know about what is going on. I felt like you were subjective and I don't believe there is an end all be all.
2. Hina – The answer to what Academic Affairs is on the website, and she answered that through advising and grade replacement instead of addressing just specifics.
3. Chris – While making interesting points, I just wanted to hear her regurgitate what's on the site which makes me believe she didn't.
4. Paul – My line of questioning, there is a group that is concerned with individuals who don't want her as chair and I find it problematic that she hasn't reached out to those on the committee.
5. Shane – There are a certain number of senators trying to strong arm Josh in to who the chairs will be. I don't believe it's fair to say the group she will be working with is against her. Kayla reached out to those in the group.
6. Hunter – The idea to strong arm the speaker, AA members had a chat with Josh and wanted to instill same values, nobody is throwing a crying fit. We'll work with the person elected regardless, and we believe there is somebody more qualified.
7. Leen – Based off merit a person is proposing, a chair finds answers and pushes for needs of the students, not everyone knows everything and she stated she would do just that.

II. Appointment of Lucien Yabo to the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee - TABLED

- a. In Utah, let me know today prior to the meeting within 24 hours, would prefer to table, motion tabled by majority
- III. Appointment of Shawn Bhatia to the position of Assistant Director of External Affairs  
- 18 - 0 - 0 - Confirmed
  - a. Legal assistant at a criminal law firm, worked in a congressional office, a media group, and the common denominator is governmental work and service. EA is all about working with external departments and entities. President of the Sikh Student Association & Vice-President of College Republicans.
    - i. Alejandro - What are your goals?
      - 1. Wants to follow the guidelines in job description and organize UH Day at the Capital. Want to take on keeping Uber in Houston.
  - b. Delaney interviewed with 9 candidates, he had a lot of data and information on what External Affairs was all about. He has a lot of contacts and worked in lots of development in the community. He organized events in Washington D.C. and he's great at reaching out. He's very well spoken and qualified, it balances contacts on both sides of the aisle.
- IV. University Bill 53001 - Expansion of the Classmates Program - 18 - 0 - 0 - Confirmed
  - a. Reading by Leen Basharat
    - i. This bill is really about expanding the program to positively impact student retention and success throughout CLASS. Current professors involved are advocating for this bill and the putting of individuals in to this program. CLASS students and committees all want this and CLASS senators will be signing this bill so it can go to the Dean for review.
  - b. Alejandro - Just trying to extend the program to a full year?
    - i. The goal is to create a second set of courses so a total of 500 students can be in the program through two semesters, 250 each.
  - c. Hejal - What would be the process for taking a classmates course vs. another history course?
    - i. Credit for the previous class doesn't allow you to take the program. However, you can take the second or first versions of a class, just not the one you use from an AP credit class counting towards your hours.
  - d. Chris - If you enter Classmates how does enrollment operate?
    - i. It's exclusive, freshmen are sat down with advisors and it's an option for them. So they're enrolled at the beginning or not at all.
  - e. What you are saying is if you aren't in Classmates you can't take the course?
    - i. The professor still teaches the courses, you just can't take the Classmates time slot. So the professor is still teaching and can still be taken. However, one course is dedicated to the Classmates.
  - f. Hina - How would hiring another advisor work?
    - i. Conversation with the director, they're trying to get more advisors for Classmates, and a half time advisor can't handle that. The director believes it's feasible after evaluating funding reports, just have to get student support.



## V. Discussion of the Summer Senate Agenda

### a. 6 Minute Moderated Caucus – Going over initiatives

- i. Leen – Campus Carry starts in August, Townhall meeting for students, their rights and what not. Need to bring this to the students so they can get their concerns addressed.
- ii. Hunter – Written piece to students would be best and easiest as opposed to a Townhall. UH in 5 piece for Academic Affairs, exceptions for Architecture and Engineering
- iii. Chris – IA clean up Bylaws and evaluate it step by step
- iv. Paul – A paralegal program brought in entirely, minor program can use to pick-up skills and would be able to take a test upon completion.
- v. Hina – Administration and Finance Committee is evaluating marketing plan for public transportation.
- vi. Leen – Hopefully hear back this week to allow SGA to write to The Cougar.
- vii. Sean – CAPS taskforce brought up about awareness and efficiency, late wait times, suicide awareness and world health day programs are up in the air. Trying to make a huge impact.
- viii. Alejandro – Want to improve community involvement potential parade with schools in the area to celebrate history of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward increasing awareness. UT's wi-fi services to upgrade optional here.
- ix. Diego – Frontier Fiesta would like Bauer assistance and bring in Wolf Fest, bring in transparency in Greek Life housing.

## Clause 9: Closing Remarks

- I. Comments and announcements of the officers
- II. Open Forum
  - a. Winni – YouCanBookMe is getting setup shortly, it's a booking service allows students to book the Administration through available time slots. This will help student reach out and contact us. With the services provided we need access to the calendars so that we can upload that on the website. Goal is to have the links read for NSOs
  - b. Canyon – Will be gone from June through week after school starts. Will work with Shane on active Chief Justice. Published the opinion of the court from the appeal that was heard last night. Will need to get it published.
- III. Closing call of the roll

## Clause 10: Adjournment

President	Shane Smith	X	X
Vice-President	Rohini Sethi		
Chief of Staff	Andrew Bahlmann	X	X
Deputy Chief of Staff	Winni Zhang	X	X
Director of Public Relations	Dena Moghtader		
Director of External Affairs	Delaney Catlettstout	X	X
Director of Research	Dean Suchy		
Senior Advisor to the President	Robert Comer		
Special Advisor	Edwin Moscarro		
Advisor to Vice-President	Joana Nunes		
Attorney General			
Director of Finance			
Speaker of the Senate	Joshua Freed	X	X
Undergraduate At-Large	Paul O'Brien	X	X
	Diego Munoz	X	X
	Anthony Salcido	X	X
	Kenneth Nguyen		
Graduate At-Large	Lucien Nana Yobo		
	Will Simpson		
Architecture	Hunter Bodiford	X	X
Bauer	Alejandro Dolores	X	X
	Chris Gervasio		
	Fahad Rehan	X	X
	Omar Jamal	X	X
Education	Zeel Vora		
	Ayo Shofoluwe		
Engineering	Laurel Rawley	X	X
	David Gratvol		
	Farah Azari		
HRM	Adrian Hernandez	X	X
CLASS	Leen Baharat	X	X
	Alex Gonzalez	X	X
	Tala Arshouk		
	Jackson Crawford		



	Kye Cockerham		
	Hejal Soni	X	X
	Efe Ajayi		
	Sean Velasquez	X	X
NSM	Kayla Fischer	X	X
	Cindy Zarate		
	Kim-Briana Lorine		
	Rizwaan Siddiqui		
Technology	Cory Rodriguez	X	
	Chris Sanderson	X	X
	Rishabh Jain		
	Julian Byrd	X	X
Pharmacy	Evan Cleaver		
Honors	Hina Uddin	X	X
Law	Shannon Terry		
Nursing	VACANT		
Optometry	VACANT		
Social Work	VACANT		