

Student Government Meeting Minutes

February 21st, 2018

Clause 1: Call to Order by Presiding Officer

- Present: Senator Darusman, Senator Perez, Senator Loraine, Senator Spruiell, Senator Bush, Senator Nassar, Senator Daniels, Senator Shofoluwe, Senator Khan, Senator McCulloch, Senator Rehman, Senator Yu, Senator Fletcher, Senator Campos, Senator Trinh, Senator Iniguez, Senator Contreras, Senator Barrett, Senator Garcia

Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater

Clause 3: Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

- Minutes from January 7th, 2018

Motion to approve the Minutes; All for

Clause 4: Special Reports

I. University Representatives wishing to address the Senate

Mayor Sylvester Turner

- Got first taste of politics and the drive for such through the Student Government Association, primarily through the Legislative Branch
- Many of the connections he has today started from University of Houston
- Diversity is a critical component for progress at University of Houston and society in general
- Currently confronting problems with SB-4 (Senate Bill 4)
- The voice of the youth needs more representation and should be more prominent
- Working towards restructuring of the infrastructure of Houston in order to make the city more attractive, plans to achieve such through redesigning highways such as I-45 and adding more green spaces
- Summer programs and internships are available for the youth so that they may get more involved with their city
- Focusing as well on building "complete communities" through introducing more prominent educational avenues along with better transit systems and more job opportunities
- In the process of making Houston a "pedestrian focused city", where individuals can go through the city without the need of owning a car
- Need more youth outreach in order to fix communities like that of Third Ward, involvement with these communities can ultimately help in bettering them

II. Students Wishing to Address the Senate

Paul O Bryan / Bernice

- Been trying to get involved with the Student Government, wondering how to get involved with the community
- Certain problems with using student email and understanding how to keep track of events going on on campus

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

Senator Loraine

- International Mother Language Day event report is ready to be sent out to anyone who would like to see the turnout rates and overall statistics of the event
- The event was a success with roughly 273 students showing
- Planning on having the event next year as well

Senator Darusman

- Screening of the movie, "Coco" upcoming, giving sugar skulls at the end of the movie
- Talent show upcoming, \$400 grand prize

Senator Shofoluwe

- Cougar Combat-do date has been adjusted to March 7th, reason for this was lack of promotion

Senator Iniguez

- Looking at the recycling system at other universities around Texas and working to improve our own here at University of Houston
- NSM pizza talks upcoming, planning to have graduate students there so that they and the undergraduates can communicate with one another
- Talking with advisors regarding degree plan changes and how they are going about making the process easier for students

Senator Barrett

- Working to get together a list of all the TAs at University of Houston
- 60-70% of work on initiative done

Senator Yu

- Looked at survey by transfer students and found that many found their orientation to be unpleasant
- Finding a way to fix orientation for transfer students so that it is more pleasurable

Senator Rehman

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month upcoming, seeing what can be done regarding outreach and awareness of such
- Student Academic Bill of Rights need to be amended, been going over it in order to find what should be changed, bill upcoming in regards to such

Senator Trinh

- Difficulty reaching Graduate School Program advisors due to Yahoo email complications
- Student voiced concern regarding Microsoft OS being used at University of Houston, suggested a shift to a Linux Operating System

Clause 5: Executive and Speaker Reports

I. Report of the President

- In discussion with Dr. Walker regarding the missing Sugar Land Recreation Center fees, trying to find where the money being taken is applied
- Money from aforementioned issue is going directly to Provost not to Student Services, this should not be happening

- UHPD is now getting more training from the HPD so that they are more effective in protecting the student body
- Trying to boost awareness regarding sexual assault prevention
- More training for the Faculty and Staff of University of Houston, live training required each year now
- Finishing Open Textbook Network study, breakdown of results are available just contact to have the information sent

II. Report of the Vice President

- Student Government Association will have a finalized survey coming out for Sexual Assault Awareness
- Sexual Assault Task Force is hoping to continue progression with solving issues into the next administration

IV. Report of the Speaker

- Met with senators after previous meeting and has been trying to help with fulfilling initiatives
- Reaching out to ANF regarding Food Pantry idea, looking at how other universities implemented said system and trying to follow suit
- Plans on working on video for the Student Government Association, "Through the Wringer"
- Year in review for the senators upcoming, times set up so that senators can discuss what they have done this year for the student body
- Frontier Fiesta at the end of March, looking for ideas regarding what we should do at the SGA booth this semester

V. Report of the Director of External Affairs

- Texas Student Government conference coalition is coming up, carpool options and details coming out
- Assigned roles along with ways the senators can help at the coalition shall be released soon
- Coalition will be on March 20th, primary festival will be at Butler Plaza
- Sign up sheets are upcoming

Clause 6: Committee Reports

I. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee

- Everyone is working with their respective colleges as of now
- Two new senators have joined the committee, some new senators may be incoming as well
- New Vice President is McCulloch

II. Report of the Internal Affairs Committee

- IA committee was not notified of the two expenditures over \$500, need this information at least 2 days in advance
- Support from Teachers for International Mother Language Day

III. Report of the Student Life Committee

- Shirt Swap event, hand in any shirt that isn't red and you'll get a red University of Houston shirt
- Aforementioned event will also replace outdated organization shirts and replace them with the newest iteration

IV. Report of the Administration and Finance Committee

- Looking to see how to get the Food Pantry initiative going
- Trying to get recycling bins to residential halls

Clause 8: New Business

I. Appointment of Niza Garcia to the Student Life Committee

- As a Resident Advisor, is used to planning programs and getting more student involvement on campus
- Current Speaker of the Senate taught her as to how to delegate tasks and as such has been following through with previous initiatives since the appointment of Chelsea Cheung to the Speaker of the Senate position
- Trying to keep initiatives ongoing due to it being the final stretch of the administration, does not want said goals to fade due to end of current administration upcoming

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment Passes; 17 for, 0 against

II. Appointment of Raveen Fernando to the Senate (College of Business chair)

- Has background in investing and is planning to apply said background for internship at Bank of America, believes said background will translate well into the financial committee
- Wants to give back to University of Houston
- Rather than pursuing new initiatives, plans on upholding those already in progress and providing the help for such

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment Passes; 19 for, 0 against

III. Appointment of Maysarah Kazia to the Senate (College of Business chair)

- SGA is the most direct way to give back and help the Bauer College of Business
- Would like to work with the mentoring program currently ongoing

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment Passes; 20 for, 0 against

IV. Appointment of Allison Lawrence to the Senate (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Chair)

- Has held many leadership positions and has led many projects (e.g. Trans Non-Binary Clothing Swap)
- In regards to aforementioned event, managed to secure sponsorship from Target to help
- Represented University of Houston in the Capital, this experience sparked interest in policy making and led on to an interest in the SGA
- Wants to improve CLASS and NSM advising
- Would like to form connections between upper and lower classmen

- Willing to help other senators in achieving their initiatives

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment Passes; 19 for, 1 against

V. Appointment of Eric Nguyen to the Senate (College of Engineering Chair)

- Was in mentorship program and saw how beneficial it was, wants to help in making it grow and hopes for it to reach a greater number of the student body
- Wants to help in future with events upcoming
- Has experience with public speaking and has spearheaded social events
- Very willing to go out and network with others

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment Passes; 23 for, 0 against

VI. Appointment of Pareesa Mehra to the Senate (College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Chair)

- Wants to structure degree plans better so that it is easier for students to follow
- Degree plans should be presented to students before they come to university so that they know what they are getting into
- Wants to improve advising, especially for NSM
- NSM should have better guidance for medical school applications and resume building
- NSM should provide pre-medical advising for those that aren't in the college as well as many are still planning to go to medical school even though they aren't necessarily in a NSM major

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment Passes; 24 for, 0 against

VII. Senate Vote Keeping Transparency Act (SGAB-54010)

- Similar to the budget bill that was previously presented, meant to track which senators voted on which bill and which appointments
- Keeps senators accountable to the student body and would allow the students to recognize how their senators are voting
- Would allow students to confront their senators about decisions made
- System would be very dynamic and would allow for the senate to decide on a mode of record keeping (e.g. Clicker, Tophat, Physically Recording, etc.)

Motion for a Moderated Caucus for 3 minutes with 30 second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion for a Moderated Caucus for 2 minutes with 30 second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment Passes; 25 for, 0 against

Clause 9: Closing Remarks

I. Comments and Announcements from Officers

Senator Perez

- SGA needs to discuss the tweets that have surfaced regarding the president

Senator Daniels

- Sending forward email with survey for internship co-op

President Zhang

- SGA should not send out bills on just impulse

- If anyone would like to talk about the tweets that have surfaced, come by the office
- Senator Loraine*
- Thankful to the SGA body for allowing International Mother Day event to happen

III. Closing Call of the Roll

- *Present: Senator Darusman, Senator Loraine, Senator Barrett, Senator Spruiell, Senator Bush, Senator Garcia, Senator Nassar, Senator Daniels, Senator Shofoluwe, Senator Khan, Senator McCulloch, Senator Rehman, Senator Yu, Senator Fletcher, Senator Campos, Senator Trinh, Senator Iniguez, Senator Contreras, Senator Ball, Senator Fernando, Senator Nguyen, Senator Kazia, Senator Mehra*