

Student Government Meeting Minutes

February 7th, 2018

Clause 1: Call to Order by Presiding Officer

- Present: Senator Darusman, Senator Perez, Senator Loraine, Senator Spruiell, Senator Nassar, Senator Daniels, Senator Yu, Senator Stell, Senator Campos, Senator Iniguez, Senator Trinh, Senator Contreras, Senator Le, Senator Shofoluwe, Senator Barrett, Senator Ball

Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater

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

- Minutes from January 24th, 2018

Motion to approve the Minutes; All for

Clause 4: Special Reports

I. University Representatives wishing to address the Senate

Auxiliary Services

- North-South shuttle implemented that stops at the colleges of law, engineering, architecture, and art; runs from 9:00AM to 6:00PM
- New plans in the works

II. Students Wishing to Address the Senate

Dean of Students Leadership Council

- Wants to diversify their organization and get more graduate students involved in both their council and in university affairs
- Opening up their 2nd meetings to allow for those interested to attend
- Wants to bridge the gap between the student body and the Dean of Students office
- Vetting process for those interested in joining
- Organization was formed 7 months ago so it is still in the process of growing, hoping to start following through on their plans once they get more solid footing

Azali

- Campaign going on for congress elections in 7th district, looking for volunteers to assist in such

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

Senator Ball

- Make sure to check degree plans and core requirements for your major
- Working on project, seeing how to move forward with it this semester

Senator Shofoluwe

- Cougar Combat-do now has a date, place, and instructor; will be happening on February 21st from 4:00PM to 5:15PM
- Trying to publicize Cougar Combat-do to the rest of the student body

Senator Loraine

- International Mother Language Day event is ready to go
- Looking for more volunteers to assist during the event and in setting up

Senator Stell

- Cougar Combat-do happening at Melcher gym
- University of Houston extended the last day to adjust schedules to a day after the original deadline, however many students were not notified of such; trying to find a way to account for this in the future

Senator Iniguez

- Plans on refurbishing the Fleming building computer labs

Senator Barrett

- Overridden the previously vetoed bills, planning to present them again today for a revote

Senator Campos

- IA meetings have been rather slow this semester, however still working towards the goal of free speech for students as well as adjustment of the student code of conduct

Senator Tran

- 2nd annual open house event for NSM saw a good turnout, trying to increase it in the future
- Trying to bring back cultural events for NSM

Senator Spruiell

- Graduate program applications have been moved by one week
- Working towards getting the mental health presentation back for graduate student orientation
- Sexual Violence Prevention panel next wednesday, inviting students to come out

Senator Trinh

- Trying to get graduate schools to promote their programs to undergraduates
- Revising initial plan regarding such for the smaller graduate programs

Senator Le

- Counselor exclusively for pharmacy school now present one day a week

Clause 5: Executive and Speaker Reports

I. Report of the President

- Had conversation with Dr. Walker regarding sexual assault
- Moving forward with previous initiatives and will be coming out with a letter and bill related to sexual assault
- Visited University of Houston Downtown and met with the student government association there, thinking about implementing some of the initiatives they have placed there onto main campus
- Worked on the Sugarland University of Houston's issue regarding paying rec fees even though they cannot utilize such. Will receive answer from the provost Friday
- Would like to focus on issues pertinent to the student body rather than just internal conflicts

IV. Report of the Speaker

- Needs to meet with the senators
- Planning on doing a year in review for the senate, if the rest of the senate is willing we can move forward with such
- Meeting has been set with the Dean of Students Council, if anyone would like to come, notify beforehand

V. Report of the Director of External Affairs

- Texas Student Government conference coalition is coming up, sign up if you want to help out
- Will be discussing bylaw changes
- Trying to get more students here to vote in the elections

VI. Report of the Director of Public Relations

- Creating video with the senators in it
- Sending out volunteer list for the talking event upcoming
- Working regarding scholarships
- Information regarding Frontier Fiesta can be found on the Google forms

Clause 6: Committee Reports

I. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee

- Not much was done other than discussion of policy
- Been in contact with CLASS

II. Report of the Internal Affairs Committee

- Had a meeting today and only has three more left for the rest of the administration
- Discussed bylaw change regarding Attorney general position
- Can provide audio of the meeting if asked for such

IV. Report of the Administration and Finance Committee

- Meeting upcoming next Thursday
- Senator Barrett is the Vice Chair for the organization as of now

*Motion for a Moderate Caucus for 4 minutes regarding adding Bills to Clause 8 ::: Motion Not Recognized
Point of Order; All vetoed bills shall be reconsidered the meeting after*

Clause 8: New Business

I. The Reasonable Accommodation for Graduate and Professional Students Act (SGAB-54006; Override)

- Implementation of a Graduate Committee that works around graduate students' schedules
- Allows graduate senators to not be held to a set number of attendances
- Accommodations implemented by this bill will work in the favor of graduate students and will incentivize their participation due to the less intensive restraints

Motion to extend Question Answer Time by 3 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to extend Question Answer Time by an additional 3 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion for a Moderated Caucus for 5 minutes with 30 second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion for an additional Moderated Caucus for 5 minutes with 30 second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to extend Moderated Caucus by 2 minutes and 30 seconds ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Bill Passes; 16 for, 0 against

II. Stipend Policy Readjustment Act (SGAB-54005; Override)

- Bill gives way to go through a court process if a problem with the stipends is noticed
- Bylaw changes introduced makes it so that refunds on part of misused stipends can be fulfilled
- As of now, no real regulation regarding such, which is why the bill is needed
- Bill is ultimately meant to act as a checking system on the executive branch
- While said introduced bylaws are already present to a degree in legislation, there is a lack of specificity which can lead to abuse of the policy
- Current system allows for loopholes and gaps to be exploited

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

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Bill Passes; 10 for, 5 against

III. Transparency Act (Override)

- Bill was previously passed with overwhelming support from the senate, but was vetoed
- Bill will allow us to see in depth as to how the money being provided is being spent by the executive branch
- Allows us to see where money is being allocated
- Will allow students to view the transactions as well

Motion for a Moderated Caucus for 5 minutes with 30 second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Bill Fails to Pass; 10 for, 3 against, 3 abstaining

Motion to Divide the House ::: Motion Passes

Bill Fails to Pass; 11 for, 6 against

IV. Social Media Act

- Was previously voted on and passed, however was vetoed
- Makes it so that the Student Government Association of the University of Houston will now have a social media platform and a LinkedIn page with which they can communicate more directly with the student body
- LinkedIn page already exists due to the bill passing previously, so it only makes sense to reintroduce and pass the bill once again as the outcome of such is already present
- While the page is already up and running, this bill will make it so that it is required for it to be maintained

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

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Bill Fails to Pass; 5 for, 8 against, 3 abstaining

Clause 9: Closing Remarks

I. Comments and Announcements from Officers

Senator Shofoluwe

- Leadership of this administration is disconnected from the student body
- Issues are being heavily politicized and are used in order to maintain advantage (Executive Branch over Legislative Branch)

Senator Trinh

- Robert's Rules need to be reviewed so that a clear understanding and usage of such can be achieved. In doing so, it should help the Student Government Association function more efficiently and with less confusion

President Zhang

- SGA should shift from focusing on internal affairs and should rather be focusing on the student body

Senator Campos

- Internal versus External debate is not necessary and is very cyclical in nature with little change being seen no matter how much the issue is brought up over and over again

II. Open Forum

- It is challenging to get involved with SGA due to commute and other constraints, regardless there needs to be more focus on student needs
- Compromise is important in order to move forward, there is needless conflict currently and it is only acting to hold back the organization
- 3 more meetings this administration

III. Closing Call of the Roll

- *Present: Senator Darusman, Senator Loraine, Senator Barrett, Senator Shofoluwe, Senator Yu, Senator Campos, Senator Stell, Senator Trinh, Senator Tran, Senator Contreras, Senator Ball, Senator Spruiell, Senator Perez, Senator Le, Senator Iniguez*