

Student Government Meeting Minutes

April 18th, 2018

Clause 1: Call to Order by Presiding Officer

- Present: Senator Bush, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Kuligowski, Senator Khan, Senator Upama, Senator Vicklund, Senator Marvel III, Senator Aguilar, Senator Akhtar, Senator Pedro, Senator Esponda, Senator Garcia, Senator Bryan, Senator Berger, Senator Estifanos, Senator Carrillo, Senator White, Senator Albiso

Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater

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

- Minutes from April 1st, 2018

Motion to approve the Minutes; All for

Clause 4: Special Reports

II. Students wishing to address the Senate

Student

- Has an idea regarding a police escort system in place at University so that students can feel safe walking to their vehicles or other areas of campus late at night
- Also considering a volunteer based system in case the police escort system proves to be arduous to implement

Elliot Kauffman

- Parking permits are starting to come out
- If anyone has any questions regarding zoned parking, feel free to get into contact
- Plans to implement a Parking Workshop so that the student body has a greater understanding of auxiliary services

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

Senator Tomas

- Looking at changes that can be implemented with advising
- Meeting upcoming regarding student involvement

Senator Veeramachaneni

- Reaching out regarding implementation of a study space for NSM
- Going forward with RSO NSM plan
- Looking at making changes in advising for NSM

Senator White

- Not all of the College of Technology is moving to Sugarland Campus
- Looking at forming a better connection between University of Houston Main Campus and University of Houston Sugarland Campus

Clause 5: Executive and Speaker Reports

I. Report of the President

- Big Involvement Bill, Parking Bill, Student Inclusion Bill, Election Codes, and the Budget Bill are all upcoming
- Parking Bill concerns issues with the pricing on permits and the random fluctuations on the rates
- Student Inclusion Bill concerns implementing halaal and kosher alternatives on campus
- Election Codes are going through a first read today
- Budget Bill needs more time to be worked on so it will either be introduced next meeting or sometime during the summer

II. Report of the Vice-President

- Attended Student Leader Ceremony, Senator Lorine was awarded twice

III. Report of the Chief of Staff (Time Yielded to Deputy Chief of Staff)

- In the process of interviewing previous Emerging Leaders
- Executive Agenda is near being finalized
- Initiative regarding Graduate Fair is seeing progress, hopeful that it will go through
- Reaching out to students regarding parking to see what they want done to the current system
- Connecting senators with Deans of their respective college

IV. Report of the Speaker

- Working on Standing Rules, currently on a public Google doc so any senator can view and critique them
- Office hours have been posted on the GroupMe so feel free to come by during that time if you have any questions or need help with initiatives
- Working on Graduate Fair for CLASS

V. Report of the Associate Director of Outreach

- Nearly finished hiring individuals for the Department of Outreach
- First department meeting is this coming Thursday
- Setting up meetings with other councils such as the Greek Life Council
- Planning to reach out to other senators in the upcoming few days

VI. Report of the Director of Public Relations

- Upcoming event at the Library on May 3rd from 10PM to 1AM
- Today is the last day to get your Headshot and Biography in for the SGA website

Clause 6: Committee Reports

I. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee

- Focusing on creating a standardized scholarship program, emergency drop, and dead weeks or days
- Starting up emergency medical training course

II. Report of the Internal Affairs Committee

- Election code is up for its first reading
- Townhall Bill will be up for a read next SGA meeting

- Meeting next Tuesday

III. Report of the Student Life Committee

- Looked over the Involvement Bill and agreed upon it
- Spent time last meeting looking over other Bills as well

IV. Report of the Administration and Finance Committee

- Has yet to meet, hopefully going to have a meeting this coming Thursday at 7:30PM

V. Report of the Graduate and Professional Committee

- Meeting on Friday
- Will mostly be doing work online

Clause 8: New Business

I. Appointment of Allison Lawrence to the Safety and Security Advisory Committee

- The committee's goals line up with the Executive Branch's initiatives so it would not be hard to maintain the position
- Has skills in project management
- Already has been working to improve campus safety by working on a ride along program with UHPD
- Being on the committee would allow for closer work with the Vice-President and easier implementation of safety programs

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment of Allison Lawrence to the Safety and Security Advisory Board ; Appointment Passes ; 24 for, 0 against

II. Appointment of Paressa Mehra to Undergraduate at Large Position

- Already has experience with SGA
- Part of 4 different Colleges at University of Houston
- Has lived both on and off of Campus which lends her to a better understanding of both commuters and individuals that dorm
- Primary focus is on mentorship programs for the different colleges
- Has leadership experience from being a part of multiple organizations, working as a scribe trainer at certain hospitals, and etc.

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment of Paressa Mehra to Undergraduate at Large ; Appointment Passes ; 21 for, 0 against, 3 abstaining

III. Appointment of Christopher Lemonte to the Senate (Senator of the College of Technology Position)

- Technology Major, currently a junior at University of Houston
- Having been at the College for as long as he has has lent him a better understanding as to what the students want and what should be changed
- Has been trying for a while to join the SGA and other committees in order to improve the College of Technology, ultimately just wants to be in a position to help improve the college for students
- Has done work study for 2 years, worked in IT at UH more recently
- Primarily wants to get more companies out to the College of Technology Fair as currently only construction management companies come

- Working towards more transparency regarding the move from Main Campus to Sugarland Campus of the college
- Hoping to get a Townhall going so as to answer any questions that students may have

Motion for a 3 minute moderated caucus with 30 second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Christopher Lemonte to the Senate ; Appointment Passes ; 25 for, 1 against, 0 abstaining

IV. Appointment of Pedro Ortiz Menchaca to the Scholarships and Financial Aid Advisory Committee

- Interested in Financial Aid Advisory Committee due to be reliant upon scholarships
- Wants to improve the system for unprivileged individuals, hoping to empower others who need this money in order to come to university
- Main focus is to get information out in a better fashion so that it can reach more people who need it
- Informational workshops implementation

Motion to extend speaking time by 2 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Pedro Ortiz Menchaca to the Scholarships and Financial Aid Advisory Committee ; Appointment Passes ; 28 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining

V. Appointment of Gabriel Aguilar to the Scholarships and Financial Aid Advisory Committee

- Currently CLASS senator
- Experienced a large amount of confusion when inquiring about his scholarship, ultimately showed him the lack of organization when it comes to such affairs
- Primary focus is in regards to communication and outreach

Motion for a 3 minute moderated caucus with 30 second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment of Gabriel Aguilar to the Scholarships and Financial Aid Advisory Committee ; Appointment Passes ; 25 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

VI. Appointment of Valentine Perez to the Bookstore Advisory Committee

- Held position in the committee previously and is hoping to be reappointed so as to continue initiatives that were started last administration
- Wants to address pricing issues, faculty delays on ordering books, student interest, and committee efficiency

Motion to extend speaking time by 4 minutes ::: Motion Fails

Motion to extend QA time by 2 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes

Appointment of Valentine Perez to the Bookstore Advisory Committee ; Appointment Passes ; 26 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

VII. Appointment of Jerry Marvel III to the Traffic Court and Hearing Board

- Has commuted to UH throughout undergrad and still continues to do so as a graduate student
- Has previously worked in Traffic Court, so has a good understanding as to how to manage the position
- Is able to be impartial and will remove himself if need be

Motion to extend speaking time by 2 minutes ::: Motion Fails

Motion to extend QA by 2 minutes ::: Motion Fails

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Jerry Marvel III to Traffic Court ; Appointment Passes ; 26 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Appointment of Jerry Marvel III to Hearing Board ; Appointment Passes ; 26 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

VIII. Appointment of Matthew Stell to the Associate Justice Position in Advance

- Served as a Senator in the 54th administration and was also the chair of IA previously
- Comes from a Law background and as such has the ability to remain impartial
- Served as a University Ambassador and in that position dealt with conflicts and was able to resolve them peacefully
- Has interned in two different judicial offices

Motion to extend QA time by 30 seconds ::: Motion Fails

Motion to extend QA time by 3 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Matthew Stell to the Associate Justice Position in advance ; Appointment Passes ; 27 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

V. First Read of SGAB-55001 (The Election Reform and Fairness Act)

- Replaces Runoff system in certain cases with Alternative Vote or Proportional Representation
- Attorney General would now be an elected position rather than an appointed one
- Would not allow for consecutive terms for President
- More transparency in the donation system
- Would not allow parties to run using previous resources from previous election cycle
- Monday & Tuesday voting times for 3 weeks instead of 1 straight week of voting

Motion to extend speaking time by 3 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to extend speaking time by 10 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to extend speaking time by 10 minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move Bill back to IA ::: Motion passes

Clause 9: Closing Remarks

I. Comments and Announcements from Officers

Senator Bush

- If anyone is interested in anything going through IA you can stop by the meeting or ask

Chief of Staff Alridge

- Will be at future IA meetings if anyone has any further questions as well

Senator Moiz

- Met with Networking Team and Student Life, both meetings went well

Vice President Darusman

- Will be present after meeting if anyone needs to be added to the SGA group chat

Speaker Trinh

- Biographies are required by 7AM tomorrow for the website
- New Senators are required to send in their biographies by 4PM tomorrow

II. Open Forum

Elliot

- If anyone has any questions regarding the judicial process, will be here after meeting

Senator Lorine

- IMLD was awarded as the top collaboration that happened this year

President Barrett

- Special session coming up next week

III. Closing Call of the Roll

- *Present: Senator Bush, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Kuligowski, Senator Khan, Senator Upama, Senator Vicklund, Senator Marvel III, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Marin, Senator Akhtar, Senator Pedro, Senator Garcia, Senator Veeramachaneni, Senator Pen, Senator Bryan, Senator Berger, Senator Estifanos, Senator White, Senator Chang, Senator Lemonte*