UT Dallas Student Government

Senate Meeting Agenda

2.16.2016

Roll Call
Present: Akshitha, Grant, Rebecca, Jessica, Hannah, Tyler, Ana-Maria, Caitlynn, Charlie, Raja, Noah, Neel, Luis, Joey, Yitong, Nisha, Nishan, Neha, Raviteja, Sindhu, Sukaina, Christian, Megha, Zhongwei, Nyemike, Beckly, Varun, Ivan, Brett, Adam, Uttara, Gaurav, Anders, Christian C., Patrick, Jake, Abhisaike and Anuhy
Absent: Harris, Pooshan, Carlos, Rebecca and Jonathan

Approval of Minutes

Announcements
Collin Country registration booth in the lower level of the SU (ask Ana-maria about this)

Visitors:
Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Faculty Advisor
Recommendation: not much time is left in terms, and there is a new university president. Make a top 10-priority list to pass on to the new president, so that you do not end up in an inefficient transition period.

Ex-officio reports:
Briana Lemos, SG Advisor
- Pass on announcement to Charlie
- Charlie: Super overwhelmed, so election schedule will be on Facebook page
  - When you are able to register
  - What the election process will be like
  - If you ever want to talk about elections, do not talk about the ticket or any campaigning in any Student Government rooms or affiliated meetings
- Grant: You have to be here over the summer if you are running for president or VP
- Charlie: Encourage everyone to run, please consider running

Officer reports:
President: Caitlynn Fortner (cef130030@utdallas.edu)
- Run for election!
  - Would love to have hotly contested election, and the PR for Student Government is nice!
  - Think about running for positions, and generally for Senate as well
- Green fund – presented by Brett
  - Talked to over 200 students in the lower level of the SU
  - UTD has a large focus on being eco-friendly
  - Tier 1 Focuses – these colleges all have their own green funds
  - 2009 Texas State Legislature helped to establish the capability of environmental service fees being used in institutions
  - A&M Highlights raises a quarter-million dollars annually because of their use of the service fees
  - Texas State University has about $75,000 annually
  - Background of UTD:
    - Have already voted on and approved a Green Fee in resolution form currently
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- UTD leadership did not choose to bring it to the Board of Regents
  - Moving forward with the resolution is the next step
  - Empowering students to decide the allocation of the funding.
  - Student Allocation Committee, or some kind of structured committee similar to this, is what we would be using
  - Proposal:
    - Increase to student service fees, $5 per semester. Implemented only to incoming students, and would roll over until sufficient funding is received
    - Designate to Student Services, the Sustainability Club, etc.
    - Could have more or less than 6, since other institutions have had 6 students on their committee
    - Fund could go to infrastructure, sustainability scholarships, sustainability staffing, improving ongoing projects, etc.
    - There are a variety of examples of other Texas university projects that are funded by the Green Fund
  - Survey
    - Out of 200 people surveyed, 94% of people said they would support notion of a Green Fund being implemented
  - Questions?
    - Raja: Do you know what UT and A&M have been able to do with their funding so far?
      - The schools have renewable energy projects, have beefed up community gardens, have funded research for sustainability projects, they have an eco-month program to reduce waste, etc.
    - Nyemike: What is the student body suggesting that the funds go towards?
      - 5-area breakdown as possible answer choices. Pretty evenly distributed focus on waste reduction, natural and native landscaping, expanding mass transit, and other sustainability projects
    - Adam: Has to be a vote of the student body?
      - The Student Government will deliberate and consider this, and if we support a resolution, we would put a voting option on the ticket along with other student elections happening later in the spring
  - Caitlynn: This is something that we need students to vote on, and we have a draft of what would be put on the ballot

- Terrain Race
  - 6am to 12:30 on March 10th!
  - Instructions are on the SG Facebook

Vice President: Grant Branam (gwb140030@utdallas.edu)

- UTSSAC
  - Had last UTSSAC meeting
  - 11 recommendations to be presented to the Board of Regents
  - Returning as the Vice-Chair, will be travelling to Austin
Title IX
- Did pass a resolution
- Took over the educational component of the Title IX campaign
  - Students do not know about the Responsibility clause
  - Students are upset with how Title IX information is not being clearly explained or publicized
- Bringing up in new business about student opinions about Title IX

Line of Fire
- Discussing the refugee crisis at 3PM for UTD TV, and they need a Student Government representative

Secretary: J.W. Van der Schans (jwv140030@utdallas.edu)

Treasurer: Joey Campain (joey.campain@utdallas.edu)

Spending money
- Katie’s idea – primary recommendation was to talk to all of senate about spending money
- Have around $32,000 in budget, and the majority was spent on retreat
- When moving ahead in projects in each committee, think about how certain projects can be improved with the use of the budget
  - Let’s work out how to come towards an effective purpose to help the students
- Caitlynn: A great challenge for everyone is to brainstorm an idea of how SG can use their funds

Committee reports:

Academic Affairs Committee: Raja Reddy (rxr142030@utdallas.edu)

- Quality enhancement plan (QEP)
  - Still looking into details for Plinth event, as it is not currently available
  - Need help with boothing event
  - Should be early in March

Communications Committee: Rebecca Tjahja (rxt141430@utdallas.edu)

- Title IX Communication of policies
  - Roll out of communication to the influential organizations is the first step that communications are taking
  - What the clause says and what it means to the students
  - Committee have made a roll-out plan of what groups need to be targeted for this initial wave of communications
  - Working on educational flyer/information sheet that specifically talks about Title IX very clearly

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Gaurav Shekhar (gxs150130@utdallas.edu)

Legislative Affairs Committee: Christian Filsouf (caf140030@utdallas.edu)

- Equal Rights Ordinance
  - Revitalizing this ordinance
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- Have a survey drafted and getting the survey into the hands of the students
  - Debate
    - Working with both groups that are going to be participating in the group, along with the general set-up
- Lt. General Dan Patrick
  - Have been trying to get in contact with his people to deal with the details of his visit

Residential Student Affairs Committee: Noah Mudd (nwm140330@utdallas.edu)
- Neel met with people in Recreational Center West to discuss basketball and volleyball priorities
- Survey booth
  - Shootout to all of those that have helped at the booths so far
  - 210 people take the survey in 4 hours, so by the end of the week, we will have a good portion of the people in the residential halls surveyed
  - Looking for more people to volunteer, but the feedback so far has been very beneficial

Student Affairs Committee: Charlie Hannigan (rnx122930@utdallas.edu)
- Title IX
  - Talk about it in new business
- Comet Creed
  - Proposal: Putting the Comet Creed on the interior of some of the buildings
  - $450 dollars for the Comet Creed to be completely written out
    - Options for Stainless Steel and other materials are being looked into
- CSA
  - Trying to set up with facilities where food can be dropped off, so that affordable vegetables are more accessible
- Decorative stones
  - Difficulty with talking to group involved with decorative stones, so looking more into the idea of using decorative stones
- Accessibility
  - 3 full-time workers, and 2 student employees, so they have to do a ton of work
  - 700 exams were proctored last semester during final exams, and that involves all kinds of accessibility needs
  - Possible ideas
    - Additional training for others on campus so that there are more people able to help with accessibility
    - Possibly having accessibility options available in the Residence Halls, and not in the Student Services Buildings
- Late night dining
  - Delivery services late at night, and has a lot of activity on college campuses
  - Reach-out to local businesses to see if they would be interested
  - Sprinkles ATM machine in Northside
- Only needs a small space for the ATM
  - Talking to Doctor Jameson about the possibility of late night dining in Northside

Technology Committee: Megha Bhatnagar (mab150630@utdallas.edu)

Old Business:
New Business:
- Opportunity to spend money is brought up by Joey
  - Proposal of hand and foot wash stations
  - Caitlynn: We did it!
- Pooshan: Explanation of hand and foot washing?
  - Caitlynn: Foot washing stations for prayer
- Environment announcement for Brett: There is a form available for organizations to fill out that want to pursue sustainability projects
- Green Fund referendum - Grant motions to open 5 minute discussion, JW seconds
  - Brett: Deals with previous discussion, similar to UT Austin’s idea
    - Support for the fee, what the fee covers, the cost of the fee, and the duration of the fee
  - Christian: Why was it to be decided that we keep it at $5 instead of increasing it, since the students said they could handle more?
    - Brett: The placeholder is $5, but that is not for sure
  - Noah: What was the range of pricing for the fee?
  - Brett: $3 at A&M, and UT Austin is $10 range
  - Pooshan: Will that be enough?
  - Brett: Yes, it will be enough, unless we were to dream bigger
  - Joey: Mentioned that the referendum is changed every 5 years, is that ok?
    - Brett: Would have to go through the process again each 5 years, and the reason the referendum is in place is because of State law that does not allow the policy to be in place for an extended period of time
  - Adam: Would it still be possibly to peg the rate as the rate of inflation?
  - Brett: Would have to establish the standard of measure for inflation, but that could definitely be added to the proposal
  - Rebecca: The overall tuition increase that new students will be experiencing makes the small fee increase from the Green Fee seem insignificant
  - Christian: Important to note that there are larger schools with smaller fees, so I’m curious as to how the fee changing happens? Is it administrative or our power?
  - Brett: The decision falls with the UT system
  - Charlie:
    - Instead of “by an increase to students”, change “increase to student fees by $5”
    - Instead of “only” when discussing administrative processes, take that word out
    - Did not immediately get that the proposal involves a student committee, so you may want to add details about the committee, like having a certain amount of student members
  - CHARLIE FOR 5 MINUTE EXTENSION, JOEY SECONDS
Title IX – Grant motions for a five minute discussion, Adam seconds

- Grant: A lot of concerns with how students are not being informed of where their information is going, and what information is being taken from them.
  - Not a very hype even, important event.
  - Formal way of us saying what our fellow students are saying about the Title IX proposal as of now
- Adam: Not having information given to you about where your testimony will go is not to the benefit of the student or students involved, and can feel violating if you do not know which individuals hear of your story in the administration
- Charlie: Outline of the resolution
  - Staff and faculty are mandatory reporters to the state, so they are required by law to report the instance to the Title IX office
  - Staff and faculty are often mentors to students, but students do not know that these individuals are mandatory reporters
  - Put in situation where they either have to protect their friendship or their occupation
  - Mandate a warning that has to be given to the students detailing what they must report, since they are a mandatory reporter
    - Need to explain who they are reporting to and what they will be reporting
  - Students can stop at any level of comfort if they do not want others to know their information without their complete consent in knowing the details of their situation
- RAJA MOTIONS TO EXTEND BY 5 MINUTES, approved
  - Adam: Talked about a particular situation, and I was warned about their obligation. “What you just said, I have to report it”, there are other incidents that can fall under Title IX, so hostile situations, and not just sexual situations, have to be reported
  - Raja: All sexual harassment and assault. TA’s and PA’s are also included in the mandatory reporter category. First year leaders are included. RUOs – Equivalent of being mandatory reporters
  - They should tell the student that they will be reporting, as the legislation does not say that they must to tell students what they will be reporting
  - Grant: Very important discussion, so all attention needs to be focused on the discussion at hand, and not on other actions while in the Senate chamber
  - Raja: Has the Title IX office been brought back to discuss this?
  - Caitlynn: Title IX committee meeting occurs every other Friday
  - Charlie: Extend by 10 minutes, Adam seconds
  - Charlie: Like input on these three
    - First: Mandatory reporters, if they suspect the discussion will occur, that they tell the student what they will report, that they have to report it, and that counseling is an option instead of speaking to the mandatory reporter
    - Second: Title IX office must give a list of every title that is associated with a mandatory reporter, so that there is clarity on who is a mandatory reporter
    - Third: Requirement that Title IX must supply a flow chart on where the information goes, when it is reported to the police or when it isn’t, if you...
contact other individuals involved, and etc., all of which give the students a better perspective

- Gaurav: Is there a deadline for this resolution?
  - Caitlynn: No.
- Adam: Making sure that professors include this in the syllabus of their classes, just to make sure that the information is there
- Raja: In the training or education programs, a lot of the faculty do not even know that the policy entails in terms of the employees telling students about their role as mandatory reporters
  - Related to if the faculty “should” tell the students
- Neha: Add that the responsible employees are assisted if they are told explicitly that they are mandatory reporters
  - The policy itself is very unclear
- Ivan: If a student talks to a professor, and they didn’t tell the students that they are a mandatory reporter, does the professor still talk to Title IX?
- Charlie: Yes, they will, but I hope that there is a reprimand to those faculty and staff that do not inform the students that they will be reporting the information.
- Raja: The policy cannot be changed.
- Adam: It is a United States law, Title IX.
- Charlie: Can we get a vote about these points
- Caitlynn: The wording is not the same, so the vote will not be productive
- Grant: Will be bringing this proposal up in another meeting, so this discussion is just the rough discussion.
- Anu: How will all of those points be implemented? Who will be educating them?
- Caitlynn: Title IX will be
- Kaplan: Annually, staff and faculty have training over this kind of actions
- Caitlynn: Did they talk about you telling the student that you must report?
  - Kaplan: I do not remember that.
- Nyemike: If they are not required to inform the student, if I am a student, how do I know that what I am communicating will be cared for? Would being told about the process of what will happen with confided information be better than them stopping the conversation with a warning?

- Charlie: Two cases – where you want assistance, and want to pursue police actions. In that case, you know that the process is underway. Second case: Where you don’t want that type of publicity, and you just wanted someone to talk to, to where you would want to know how confidential the conversation is.
- CHARLIE – five minute extension, second by Adam
- Ana-Maria: How far does the information get carried up that is told to the mandatory reporter?
- Charlie: Very unclear on what extent the information is brought about
- AMANDA: If it goes to the Title IX office, the Title IX office does not have to report it to the police. Only connection is if the students want it to be pursued by the police, as a
criminal matter. It is pursued as a campus matter if not explicitly explained otherwise. If the public welfare is at stake, then they will go to the police.

- Akshita: If it dealt with different if the claim filed is different?
  - Caitlynn: No
- Jessica: 12 free counseling sessions are available
  - Adam: Clarify – With regards to mandated police reporting, childhood sexual assault must be reported, regardless of if it goes to the Title IX office first
- Raja: Will this be able to be posted to our public page?
  - Second: Can we bring Dockery back to ask him questions?
- Caitlynn: That is a possibility yes.
- Ravi: How often are employees reminded that the Title IX policy exist? So that they are reminded?
- Luis: If you tell the professor, they report it, and the students do not have to say anything else if the office follows up
- Neha: That is true, but the matter isn’t whether or not they are asked further. Rather, it is about confidentiality being breached.
- Raja: If the T9 office were to investigate a specific individual, you may be targeted again if you do not follow up with the office on your accusation

Adjournment

Parliamentary Procedure Basics
To ask a question - "Point of Information: [state question]"
To make a motion - "I move to [exact wording of motion]." (Most motions coming from an individual must be seconded by another individual simply saying "Second")
To end debate and move directly into a vote on the motion - "Call to question." (Generally, the chair will ask if there is any further discussion. If there is not, she will present the motion at hand to be voted on. The motion is typically used when there is still debate to be had but a person feels it is unnecessary. It is voted on.) To ask a question about Parliamentary Procedure – “Point of Parliamentary Procedure (or ParliPro)”