UT Dallas Student Government

Senate Meeting Agenda

3.1.2016

Roll Call
Present: Akshita, Grant, Rebecca, Hannah, Tyler, Ana-Maria, Caitlynn, Charlie, Raja, Noah, Neel, Luis, Harris, Joey, Tony, Nisha, Neha, Ravi, Sindhu, Pooshan, Sukaina, Christian, Megha, Zhongwei, Nyemike, Becky, Varun, Ivan, Brett, Adam, Uttara, Rebecca, Jonathan, Gaurav, Anders, Christian, Patrick, and Jake
Absent: Jessica, Nishan, Carlos, Abhishaike, and Anu

Approval of Minutes – Approved

Announcements
- Nisha: Volunteers around the world has a volunteer dodge ball tournament
  - All money is going to medication and supplies for a trip to Peru
- Adam: Finally getting back started on LGBT ordinance

Visitors:
Dr. Richard Benson, President-Designate
- Dean of Engineering at Virginia Tech
- Opportunity to work across entire university has been a goal from the start of academic career
- UTD has a huge amount of progressive growth
- Sustaining momentum is the key goal right now
  - Issues of scale are the key focuses of the strategic plan
- Student engagement in the community is critical
  - Community emigration is crucial
- UTD coming out of Texas Instruments is important to the development of the university in relation to the metropolis and the Dallas community

Questions?
- Charlie: How often would you like to meet with SG leaders?
  - As much as possible, and I need a better feel for the level of demand required in terms of communication
  - I am out and about a lot, so going to the work instead of letting the work come to me is how I operate
  - Meet people as often as possible, and if you invite me, I will come
- Christian: Have you had a chance to acquire an orange polo top for UTD?
  - Yes I have, but I can never have enough UTD apparel
  - I have quite the colorful orange wardrobe already
- Grant: What is your involvement with the art community?
  - Love the arts, including trumpet and photography
  - Enjoy a community that is involved in the arts
  - I was involved with ICAT: Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology at Virginia Tech
  - The DFW area around the university has a lot of artistic appeal
  - Want to fill the gap in our focus of the arts
- Adam: Wondering if I can have a private conversation with you about possible projects between the LGBT community and the administration?
Going to make a series of visits to UTD before May and I hope to meet with groups over the summer

Dr. Paul Diehl, Associate Provost

➢ Center for Teaching and Learning
  o Brand new, launched January 12th
  o Already acting in several ways
    ▪ Have several different workshops for students and faculty
    ▪ Particular workshops for a variety of fields, including A&H, EPPS, and NSM
    ▪ Programs for structural improvement grants
    ▪ For instance, if a professor was to reform a specific class that gives a different kind of emersion to students in their class, the center helps to support that change
    ▪ Graduate certificate program
    ▪ Teaching individuals how to be an effective professor and teacher by giving them information on how to be efficient in that role as an educator
  o Dedicated to improving the educational experience of students by improving the instructional experience
    ▪ Experiences you have with not only instructors, but through TAs will be improved
  o Majority of programs are with faculty and graduate students, but there are programs and events that will be targeting students that are interested in improving their perspective on the educational experience
  o Roles as students? Here they are:
    ▪ See students serving on a variety of committees or task-forces that are focused towards students improving the learning experience are important
    ▪ Greater role of focus groups related to the Center for Teaching are vital
      ▪ Information that is learned from a student focus group currently is now part of the newsletter that the center sends out
      ▪ Timely feedback, student concerns with different standards for TA sections, and feedback of that nature is crucial to convey to the faculty
    ▪ I would also like to propose that a group from SG meet with me as an additional connection from the center to the students
  o There is a lot of positive discussion that can come from the students, and I would be glad to have feedback
  o Questions?
    ▪ Pooshan: Are there certain guidelines that faculty follow that cannot be changed? In terms of grading systems and how classes are run?
      ▪ Most of the grading policies are up to educational freedom for the faculty
      ▪ Do have the ability to suggest what grading programs and means of teaching may be the most effective
      ▪ Can strongly encourage educators to normalize the standards of grading and teaching so that a standard is set
      ▪ Our role is to convince faculty to act in a certain way so that a student’s education and learning is improved
Dr. Gene Fitch, VP for Student Affairs
Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Faculty Advisor
Dr. Amanda Smith, Associate VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
  o Appreciation of Grant and Caitlynn is a necessity

Ex-officio reports:
Briana Lemos, SG Advisor
  ➢ March 11th is the final day for filing for elections
    o Need to have all forms in for you to start campaigning

Officer reports:
President: Caitlynn Fortner (cef130030@utdallas.edu)
  ➢ Terrain Race
    o Update to the post: Can now sign up for certain time slots for the Terrain Race
    o Would be able to attend the dance marathon in April
    o It is this Saturday, March 5th, in Fort Worth
  ➢ Green fee
    o Turning over that portion to talk to Brett about the Green Fee
    o Brett:
      ▪ No longer pursue the Green fund in referendum, and we are looking towards other possibilities to have future sustainability initiatives that can be instituted in the next academic year
      ▪ Have the ability to get a committee together focused on sustainability, as well as work with current revenue avenues to fund certain programs
      ▪ Reach out to myself, Grant or Caitlynn if you would like to work towards sustainability
      ▪ Questions:
        ▪ Jake: Why was the Green Fund shot down?
          • Caitlynn: The fund was turned down because proposals from all the UT presidents for an increase in tuition and fees were not approved by the Board of Regents
        ▪ Charlie: Are we sure that it is not the right move to follow up with the Regents about this proposal?
          • Caitlynn: Green Fees were not approved in some of the school’s proposals?
        ▪ Dr. Smith: Dr. Fitch is going to work to find an equivalent to this Green Fee so that you can go further in your sustainability project
          • Hard work and ability to work for this idea is what will propel the proposal forward
        ▪ Joey: Do we have any ideas for alternative funding projects?
          • Caitlynn: We have some ideas, but we have to look into these ideas before we pursue them
        ▪ Brett: Surprised and disappointed by the decision, but if we have a chance to let our administration find a different approach to sustainability funding, it will not be the end of our movement towards more sustainability
Spending money
  o Thank you for thinking of interesting ways to spend money
  o Will hear more about these ideas later in the meeting

Vice President: Grant Branam (gwb140030@utdallas.edu)
  ➢ Kickball tournament
    o Student media and student media will have a kickball tournaments
      ▪ Battle of the Crane, will have food and shirts and it will be lots of fun!
  ➢ Title IX
    o Most of our concerns were received, and there were responses to the majority of our concerns
    o Administration workers within the office have been working towards our major concerns, especially with the clear communication of Title IX to students
    o Caitlynn: Title IX office really wants to hear Title IX concerns
      ▪ Frustration currently because students are coming to Student Government and not the Title IX office
      ▪ Send concerns to the

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

Treasurer: Joey Campain (joey.campain@utdallas.edu)
  ➢ Spend money
  ➢ We have allocation forms that you need to fill out in order to have this allocation
    o Talk to me about getting an allocation form so that it helps to give details about the extent of the project

Committee reports:
  Academic Affairs Committee: Raja Reddy (rxr142030@utdallas.edu)
  Communications Committee: Rebecca Tjajha (rxt141430@utdallas.edu)
  ➢ Title IX
    o Communication and education was a focus of our address to those in the Title IX office
    o Will be working with the Title IX office directly in order to set up communication with organizations such as Greek Life, so make sure to participate in that discussion
  ➢ Elections
    o Anyone and everyone should run! Flyers for elections will be put up soon
    o Filing ends on March 11th
      ▪ Adam: When is the mandatory meeting for campaigning or for who is running?
        • Meeting on the 4th and one other on the 11th
Harris (via a student): When are the Title IX coordinators coming to meet with SG?
  - Caitlynn: March 22nd

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Gaurav Shekhar (gxs150130@utdallas.edu)
- Continuing survey & results on students perception of forms that graduate and international students must fill out
  - Survey will be sent out to student organizations and students in general to poll major questions that students have about filing and applications of different forms
  - From the survey, certain issues will definitely come to our attention that we can directly address

Legislative Affairs Committee: Christian Filsouf (caf140030@utdallas.edu)
- Debate: College Dems v College Republicans
  - Legislative committee has finalized the debate on March 24th
  - Have come up with a list of topics to discuss in the debate
  - March 24th, 6PM
- Voter booth
  - 11am-1pm in the Student Union will be coming up on the following Thursday
  - Hannah: Location of the debate?
    - Davidson Auditorium
  - Ivan: Moderators?
    - Nyemike, Christian, and Professor Polze will all be moderating

Residential Student Affairs Committee: Noah Mudd (nwm140330@utdallas.edu)
- Survey results
  - Ice Machines:
    - A large portion that were surveyed were freshmen
    - Relatively equal distribution of the dorms
    - Ice machine results are pretty strong and warrant having ice machines
    - Using an ice machine had a 74% positive response
  - Workout area
    - Did not have as much of a positive response
    - Still looking into this idea further
  - Pretty clear that the need for workout equipment is not as important, but the idea of working towards ice machines in the dorm is something we would like to focus
  - Will be presenting the results to the administration
  - Hope to have ice machines in the dorms by the end of the year or over the summer
  - Adam: How much was the estimated cost?
    - Looking into different designs, like scooping ice machines, or a hotel-style ice machine, so costs are not set yet
- Kaplan: Can students print in the residence halls?
Noah: Proposal is sitting with Kevin currently as they are looking at how all students, and not just residence hall students, could print in a more convenient manner

Student Affairs Committee: Charlie Hannigan (rxh122930@utdallas.edu)
- Title IX – put off to later discussion
- Comet Creed
  - Looking for a good wall to put the student creed up in various buildings on campus
- Tampon and pad dispensers
  - Sell them for a price and that they are high quality
  - Looking at handicap accessible doors
  - Looking at cleaner door opening usages

Technology Committee: Raviteja Lingineni (for Megha)
- Chromecast
  - If we had Chromecast, we could better use those TVs in the residence halls for direct streaming from an individuals’ laptops
  - Uttara: How would you prevent people from stealing them?
    - Grant: There are things like that in ATEC already, and there is a way to secure them to monitors
- Comet whistles
  - “Whoostles”
  - Is there a better way to flag down the comet cabs?
    - SG-branded whistles
  - Will increase the comet spirit
  - Harris: Whistles? Doesn’t it seem disrespectful and condescending?
    - Ravi: We will run it by the comet cab services

Old Business:
New Business:
- Debate allocation for up to $3000 – Nyemike motions, Patrick seconds
  - Nyemike: Funding goes to feeding the attendees, checking out the facility that will be needed, and promotional materials
  - $1300 Freebirds, $600 dollars for cookies that are elephants and donkeys, $100 for drinks, $250 to check out certain facilities from facilities management, $250 for custodial services like bags and the disposal of those, and $75 for 1000 posters from a distributive website
  - Joey: Have you checked with university to print it?
    - Have no currently, but PrintNoise.com was the resource given by a contact at the university
  - Pooshan: How many people to plan on having?
    - Expecting 200, and 81 are confirmed as of now, with 110 listed as interested
    - Making announcements in classes and sending emails out at as well
    - Ana-Maria: That order will be finalized before the food order
  - Charlie: I move to amend the motion to have $1300, and not $3,000
    - Do not need to spend money on this kind of action
    - Could have cheaper food options, expensive cookies are not worth it
    - Christian: We do not need to be conservative with our budget given that this is the first event of its kind
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- Using this money to promote the event and it will serve as an investment
  - Charlie: An awesome debate and not food is what should be drawing people in
  - Akshitha: If the event is at the auditorium, will people be going in and out to eat? Or watching the debate as they are eating?
  - Ana-Maria: I do not think personally that we will be making this budget
    - Cove in JSOM is where the food will be consumed for the most part
  - Nyemike: Plan is to not have the attendees eat during the debate
    - Food will happen after the event, and you will have confirmation that you attended in order to access the food
  - Adam: Getting people politically engaged is very difficult to do, and good food is very necessary to get people involved in that situation. Also, does unspent money go back into the budget?
    - Briana: Does not roll over
  - Harris: Why would you come to the event if you can just as easily hear a political discussion in a social discussion? Would rather have people come to an event for the event, and not the food? Have you thought of how it will be bipartisan? Is it going to be constructive, or something else?
    - Briana: The discussion needs to be solely on the amendment of $1300, and not the discussion
  - Patrick: Allocation does not mean actual cost, and the $1300 was the cheapest cost for catering an event of that level. Cove is where people eat, and the area outside of the auditorium is where we would have food consumed.
  - Uttara: Point of information = allocated $100 for an entire week for cookies, and used $36
  - Joey: Julian Castro talk happened in the same auditorium, and were inclined to talk about the issues brought up in the discussion afterwards because of the food, and the environment that the food creates
  - Gaurav: Small clarification = you are not allowed to take any food inside of Davidson. Also, since this event is the first of its kind, we are setting up a precedent for this kind of the event down the road
  - Rebecca: Should go for the amendment, as we are not an event-throwing body. That would be SUAAB and other organizations on campus. That amount of money on an event is not necessary. Have other projects that could be better served with this funding.
  - Adam: We do throw events all of the time to bring people in. The funding present could be used for something else in every context (one project could always fund a different project, so this instance is not unique). People need to want to go to this event! Need something high quality
  - Christian C.: Concerned with the number of people that will attend since people can leave with food
  - Patrick: Heard that it is too expensive, but we have a surplus of funding that we could utilize
  - Raja: Estimates from other places are below $500 for 200 people. Julian Castro: Funded by an office, and that event deserves money.
  - Charlie: Agreed with what Raja was saying
    - 1. Not the first event of its kind
    - 2. Professionalism: It was not the food that made Julian Castro’s event professional. Instead, it was Julian Castro that made it professional.
• 3. Do not need this kind of an event as the people that will attend do not need food
• 4. Rebecca’s point = our responsibility is not to event plan, but to serve the students
  o Grant: We do have plenty of ideas to benefit the student body, and we need to go forward with funding other projects as well to make sure that those serve the students
  o Joey: Just because we have the money and want to spend it doesn’t mean that we should throw it all at one event
  o Zhong-Wei: Our mission is to have political access to students, so it is not throwing away
  o JW: Why $1300?
  o Charlie: Honestly, I think it should’ve been $200, but $1300 seemed more reasonable.

➢ Motion passes to change allocation to $1300.
  o Charlie: It really shouldn’t be more than $250 or so
  o Motion passes

➢ Senator of the month – Noah motions, seconded by Gaurav
  o Raviteja Lingineni!!!
  o Rebecca, speaking on behalf of Megha: Individual has been full of ideas, takes a lot of initiative, and has worked with the communication committee in the past as well

➢ Crane trophy allocation
  o Grant motions for $60, JW seconds
  o Allocation passes

Adjournment – JW motions, Harris seconds. Adjourn at 6:55PM

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)”