

# Student Government Meeting Minutes

## September 5, 2006

**Call to Order: 5:00 PM**

**Roll Call:** Basheer Benhalim, Felicity Lenes, Zeeshan Abedin, Jimmy Chu, Snir Cohen, Ben Cooke, Ben Dower, Julie Evans, George Graham, Scott Hooker, Omer Jamal, William Kelly, Abdulla Majid, Iris Kwong, Shamin Masrour, Sarha Mavrakis, Manfred Mecoy, Julia O'Kelley, Kevin Patel, Juliann Peterson, Jason Stephen, Mohammed Suhail, Bradley Wallace, Kerri West, Adit Wongsaroj

**Absent:** Jessica Ahmed, Dan Bautista, David Cameron, Stephanie Chan, Karen Huang, Albert Ramirez, Lori Skillestad, Almas Syed

**No Longer Senators:** Jenna Longoria, Ryen Maddox, David Ruben, Yen Yoon,

Approval of Minutes

Announcements:

### **Guests:**

Dr. John Sibert, UTD Quality Enhancement Program (QEP)

- QEP is an education plan developing on campus
  - A. Deals with all facets of UTD, such as improving education, student life, and etc.
  - B. Primary Goal: How to make UTD a better campus
  - C. Please inform fellow students of QEP
  - D. Please send all thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to [qep@utdallas.edu](mailto:qep@utdallas.edu)
  - E. Dr. Sibert will choose 3 to 5 topics and then return at the end of the semester to discuss them with SG

Dr. Kayla Price, UTD Alumni Association

- Dr. Price informed the Student Government that the Alumni Association wishes student body involvement
- Alumni Association is an organization devoted to improving UTD, funding events, and fostering a community with UTD alumni and the university
- Current Projects and sponsorships:
  - A. Freedom Sings
  - B. Community Garden
  - C. Disc Golf
  - D. UTD Scholarships
- Alumni Association also gives grants up to \$5000 for student initiated UTD events, projects and etc.
- Dr. Price requests that students who wish to submit ideas that they would like the Alumni Association to fund, please indicate how the project itself will improve student life on campus and how it will benefit everyone, including Alumni, Faculty, and etc.
- All requests should be submitted in writing to : Multipurpose Building 3.214 or 3.202

SUABB Represenatives: Executive Chair Jennie Tran & Vice-Chair GNO White

- Invitation to entire SG to TEMOC Kick Off Party in Galaxy Rooms -10 PM

SOF: (Absent)

## OFFICER REPORTS:

### President: Basheer Benhalim

- Treasurer
  - A. Basheer has stated that the Treasurer will report the current balance of SG's budget at all times
  - B. Treasurer will be compensated each semester
  - C. Will serve as a non-voting member of Executive Committee
  - D. More information will be available on the treasurer's role and duties on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September
- Athletic Fee
  - A. New fee will help fund athletics at UTD, thus providing for new facilities and programs
  - B. Fee will amount to approx.\$16 per credit hour each semester
  - C. Along with relieving the student services budget, the athletics fee will increase the overall amount of fees
  - D. Fee proposal referendum will be presented for vote on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September
- DART Fee
  - A. Will help fund DART shuttle system on campus
    1. Fee will pay for an annual pass, a \$ 480 value
    2. Twoshuttle busses will be dedicated to UTD
    3. The shuttles will connect UTD to shopping centers on Campbell and Coit Road and Galatyn Parkway
  - B. Students will only have to pay an approx \$18 flat fee each semester, not on a per credit hour basis
- Behavior
  - A. Basheer reminds the entire Senate that proper behavior and conduct is important on campus and wishes all of us to keep our dignity intact
- New Meeting Time
  - A. Basheer proposes a new meeting time for the SG general meeting at 10 PM on Mondays in order to counter the increasing number of senators leaving during meetings

### Vice – President: Felicity Lenes

- Poster Expenses
  - A. Felicity requests that we make a motion in new business to approve SG funds towards acquiring supplies (printing ink and paper) for 20 color posters in order to save money.
- Mural Project
  - A. Felicity has invited the entire SG to a meeting with Art Valve in the Art Barn at 1:00 on Monday, September 11, 2006
- Graduate & International Chair
  - A. Kevin Patel is open to the idea of electing another senator to serve as chair of his committee
  - B. Lori Skillstead has expresses wishes that she be nominated to succeed Kevin as the chair
- Election Board
  - A. Senators that will not be running in the Fall Student Government Elections are requested they work at the election table
- Election Code
  - A. Several Changes have been made to the SG bylaws

- B. An Election Board consisting of Senators and non SG personnel will head all SG elections
- C. Revisions made to the SG bylaws concerning the election code has been decentralized
- D. Scott Hooker will be serving as the Election Board chair for the Fall elections
- E. Fall Elections will serve as an experiment in testing the non-exclusivity of SG members serving on the EB
- F. Senators Scott Hooker and George Graham go over the proposed changes to the SG bylaws during New Business
- Constitutional Amendments
  - A. Any proposed amendments or changes to the SG constitution must sit within the senate for 30 days before discussion can convene
  - B. Senators Scott Hooker and George Graham go over the proposed changes to the SG Constitution during New Business

Graduate & International Students Committee: Kevin Patel

- Because Kevin has not relinquished his position as chair yet, a motion can not be passed for the election of a new committee chair
- Kevin requests the Senate submit ideas that his committee should undertake this year
- Committee meetings will be held either at 10:30 PM Wednesday or 10:45 PM Fridays

Academic Affairs: Iris Kwong

- Committee Meeting on September 6th on Wednesday at 8:30 PM
- Current Projects include the Latin Honors Debate
  - A. Supposedly the thesis requirement was taken off in UTD's Student Catalogue for 2006/2008. Iris is going to meet with Dean Coleman about this issue.

Communications Committee: Sarha Mavrakis

- McDermott Library Sign
  - Sign will cover McDermott Library wall that measures 12 ft by 40 ft
  - A. Sarha presents 3 different schemes that can be used on the banner
  - B. Senator Patel proposes that ultraviolet ink be used on the banner in order to avoid sun damage
  - C. Sign will say, "Student Government Works For You"
  - D. Sign will be made of vinyl and include the SG website and phone number
  - E. Sign will serve as publicity
  - F. Sarha is working on obtaining McDermott Library Administration approval to hang the banner
  - G. Colors green and orange will be used on the banner
  - H. Projected Costs and Sizes of banner
    1. \$898 for 10 ft by 25 ft
    2. \$1025 for 10 ft by 30 ft
    3. \$1460 for 10 ft by 40 ft
- Stake Signs
  - A. Signs will be posted around campus detailing SG's services and events:
    1. Immigration Attorney and hours
    2. Student Attorney and Hours
    3. SG Elections
    4. Free Scantrons/bluebooks
- Committees will alternate each Monday before SG General Meetings to hang up a banner detailing meeting date and time

Technology Committee: Ben Dower

- Ben met with Cary Delmar, Manager of UTD website to discuss the Online Book Exchange (OBE)
- A private entity, not university related has already created a forum that serves as OBE for UTD
- Ben is going to contact them to seek potential partnership and perhaps a link to the OBE from UTD Galaxy

Student Life Committee: Manfred Mecoy

- Manfred has requested input on potential projects that his committee should undertake this school year

Waterview & Commuter Students Committee: Juliann Peterson

- A Commuter Student get together is in the works
- A survey for Waterview residents will be distributed in order to receive student input
- Any complaints or problems relating to Waterview Apartments should be forwarded to Juliann's email address, Juliann.peterson@student.utdallas.edu

Student Services Committee: Snir Cohen

- Student Business Alliance list and contracts are in the final stages
- Snir requests the SG for input on what his committee should undertake this year
- Any services desired or not wanted should be forwarded to Snir

**Old Business:**

- Athletic Fee
  - quorum not met
- DART Fee
  - quorum not met

**New Business:**

- Graduate and International Chair
- Election Code
  - Senators Scott Hooker and George Graham detail changes made to SG Election code
  - Discussion has been tabled to next meeting date to September 18 at 10:00 PM
  - quorum not met
- Constitutional Amendments
  - Senators Scott Hooker and George Graham detail changes made to SG Constitution
  - SG Constitution must within the Senate for 30 days before discussion convenes
- Poster Expenses
  - Motion to Approve Poster Expenses
  - motion passed
- SG General Meeting Time Change
  - Motion to change SG General Meeting Time
  - motion passed

**Advisor's report:** Patty Atchley

- Jody Nelson has been appointed as interim Vice President for Business Affairs

**Motion to Adjourn**

6:26 PM