UT Dallas Student Government

Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 8th, 2020

Call to Order

Called to Order at 5:15 P.M.

Swearing in of the President and Vice President

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

- Sara explains approval of last meeting’s minutes will be done every meeting
- Approved

Approval of Agenda

- Sara explains approval of the Senate agenda will occur every meeting
- Approved

Announcements

Visitors:

Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs:
- Congratulates the new President, Vice President, and Senators.
- Thanks Ayoub and Hope for their work in Student Government
- Welcomes new and returning senators.
- States that they are here to support us.

Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Associate Dean for JSOM
Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students:
- Seconds Dr. Smith’s statement.
- States do not hesitate to reach out.

Ex-Officio Reports:

Briana Lemos, Director of Student Development (briana.lemos@utdallas.edu)
- Direct advisor of Student Government
- Thanks Ayoub and Hope for their work last year and the assistance they provided over the summer
- Introduces Delia and what her role is with Student Government

Delia Castillo-Arellano, Student Development – Administrative Assistant (Deliaca@utdallas.edu)
- Introduces herself says her role is to support Student Government as an administrative assistant.

Officer Reports:

President: Sara Brennan (sara.brennan@utdallas.edu)
- Introduction
  - Finance and Economics major
  - Junior
- Proceedings
Meetings are at 5:15pm, log in around 5:10pm, if you have a class that ends at 5:15pm, email secretary
Committee meetings are every other week, senate meetings are every other week. These alternate.
Senate meetings are with everyone, committee meetings are just with your committee

Vice President: Rutendo Chando (rutendo.chando@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
  - History major
  - Sophomore
- Expectations
  - Meetings are mandatory, email secretary for absences/tardies
  - Keep yourself on mute
  - Use raise hand button,
  - Do not use chat

Secretary: N/A
Treasurer: N/A

Committee Reports

- Academic Affairs Committee: N/A
- Communications Committee: N/A
- Graduate & International Affairs Committee: N/A
- Legislative Affairs Committee: N/A
- Residential Student Affairs Committee: N/A
- Student Affairs Committee: N/A
- Technology Committee: N/A

Old Business

New Business

- Executive Council Appointments:
  - Ayoub moves to appoint Executive Council senator seconded
- Secretary
  - Paulina nominated Hiba Benelbar
  - Hiba accepts nomination
    - Senior Health Care Studies major
    - Previous experience of being a secretary taking meeting minutes and attendance
    - Organized and meticulous
    - Questions: None
  - Ayoub nominates Josh Babu
  - Josh accepts nomination
    - Sophomore neuroscience, second-year SG member, student affairs member
    - Student worker at the SSC, Freshman Mentor, and an EMT
    - Hopes to promote collaboration between committees
    - Questions:
      - Rose: Past Student Government experience?
        - Josh: Was a Freshman senator
      - Bradley: What are your thoughts on dress code?
        - Josh: More relaxed than in person, but still need some level of decorum
Alex Quach nominates Justin
Justin accepts nomination

- Senior Biology major with a minor in history
- Past experience on Student Government, noticed and increase in diversity
- Wants to include Caucuses in student Governments like the former LGBTQ+ caucus
- Views secretary as a way to add caucuses to governing documents
- Has past experience keeping minutes and attendance
- Hope to increase representation
Questions:
  Ayoub: What do you mean by caucus and why it is important for you to get the secretary position?
  Justin: Secretary reviews governing documents so caucuses can be more easily added

Vishvak nominates Willie Chalmers
Willie accepts nomination

- Sophomore Computer Science major
- Part of the Technology committee and headed up the reddit initiative
- ACM and created software
- Interacted with new senators and get more insight
- Hopes to continue reddit initiative
- Wants to keep up the website with the technology chair by adding committee projects
Questions:
  Ayoub: Why not technology chair?
  Willie: Feels limited as technology chair, also wants to redo governing documents and organize infrastructure regarding Student Government

Ballot vote: Hiba Benelbar

- Treasurer
  Hiba nominates Mathi
  Mathi accepts nomination

  No contest: Mathivarshini Sivachidambaram

- Academic Affairs
  Neha nominates Ayoub
  Ayoub accepts nomination

  - Last year’s student government president
  - Worked on the academic affairs flagship project the transfer equivalency tool
  - Hopes to increase open educational resources and asynchronous learning
  Questions:
    Hiba: Clarification regarding asynchronous learning point?
    Ayoub: The university views it as the same level of education, they should continue offering asynchronous learning past the pandemic. SG should move to a resolution-based system.

  Hiba nominates Margret
  Margaret accepts nomination

  - Freshman senator, not experienced but willing to learn
  - Has met with former student government senators to learn the ropes
  - Has led he high school’s speech and debate club and thespian society
  Questions: None

Ballot vote: Ayoub Mohammed

- Communications
• Communications
  o Bradly nominates Angel
  o Angel accepts nomination
    ▪ Sophomore Global Business major
    ▪ Former legislative affairs senator, created 2 successful round tables
    ▪ Regular field worker in Michigan voter registration, interned for Elizabeth Warren
  Questions:
    Bradley: Asks for clarification on what a resolutions-based senate is
    Angel: Drafts legislation instead of creating projects ex. roundtable

• Residential Student Affairs
  o Ally nominates Blake
  o Blake accepts nomination
    ▪ Junior cognitive science major
    ▪ Has lived in Northwest and University Village and loves being on campus
    ▪ Places emphasis on workers such as Peer Advisors or lawn workers
    ▪ Ultimate goal of making a tenant’s union
    ▪ Wants a review on housing contract such as move to monthly rent
    ▪ Allow rights to repair for tenants
    ▪ Create townhalls for the residents
  Questions: None

• Student Affairs
  o Jared Brooks nominates Neha
Neha accepts nomination
- Junior political science major
- Former student affairs committee chair
- Wants to ensure each senator is attending their university wide committee meetings
- Incorporating more resolutions and townhalls
- Hopes to create avenues for student workers to voice their concerns

Questions:
Margret: What is your stance on the counseling center?
Neha: sat on the wellness committee, acknowledges how they can do better and are not moving in the right direction
Margret: Asks what she has done in the past
Neha: Worked closely with communications, drafted resolutions but didn’t have much power because it lacked the backing of a full senate

Bharat nominates themselves
- Freshman Engineering and Computer Science major
- Focusing on a wide variety of issues affecting all students
- Part of speech and debate
- Hopes to make sure all voices are heard
- Focuses on a resolution-based senate

Questions:
Ayoub: What do you know about Administration?
Bharat: Can be blunt and learn from peers as well as the administration itself
Vasti: What qualifications do you have? Have you held office before?
Bharat: President of high school speech and debate, part of their high school’s NHS board, focused on Admin work junior and Senior year of high school

Ballot vote: Neha Khan

- Technology
  o Hiba nominates Vishak
  o Vishak accepts nomination
    - Sophomore Computer Science major
    - Involved in ACM
    - Wants to bring up more discussions revolving Honorlock
    - Increase different ways UTD technology is given
    - Increase access to outlets and Wi-Fi
    - Questions: None
  o Justin nominates Alex
  o Alex accepts nomination
    - Senior and fourth year on the Technology Committee
    - Was the chair of the committee in the spring semester
    - Increase womxn representation in Student Government/tech
    - Hopes to create an event similar to Womxn in Student Government
    - Questions: None
  o Willie nominates Vignesh
  o Vignesh accepts nomination
    - 3rd year Computer Science major
    - Has been on the Technology Committee
- Wants to revamp the website to include information about projects
- Leverage and increase usage of surveys
- Worked with ACM, AIS, and Womxn in STEM
- Questions: none

Ballot Vote: Vignesh Vasan

- Graduate and International Affairs
  - Ayoub nominates Sandhya
  - Sandhya accepts nomination
    - Masters international student so she represents both parties
    - Wants to represent the underrepresented groups on campus
    - President of Women in Technology and sits on the Student Diversity and Advisory Committee
    - Improves Student Government communication with international students
    - Past projects include Comet Classroom and Comet Cruiser Survey
    - Questions: None
  - Hiba nominates River
  - River accepts nomination
    - Junior Political Science major on the fast track program
    - Advocate for the creation of a Teacher’s Assistant Union and Teacher’s Assistant comp on tuition
    - Questions:
      Ayoub: Are you a graduate student?
      River: No, but I plan to be one.
      Ayoub: Are you an international student?
      River: No

Ballot vote: Sandhya Subramani

- Green Initiative Ad-Hoc Committee
  - Vasti nominates Ally
  - Ally accepts nomination
    - Mentions how climate change mainly affects people of color
    - Supports the single use plastic ban
    - Hopes to create a food recovery system for students
    - Increase knowledge about climate change
    - Questions
      Viggy: Stance on the creation of a green fee?
      Ally: Supports the green fee.
  - Jared Pugh nominates themselves
    - President of an organization
    - Wants to mark recycling access
    - Increase the recyclable utensils
    - Questions
      Viggy: Asks what organization they are a part of
      Jared: Kappa Sigma

Ballot vote: Ally DeVerse

- Judicial Board Appointments:
Ter 2020-2021

- Ayoub moves to appoint Judicial Board
  - Rutendo seconds
- Neha Nominates Jared Brooks
  - Jared Accepts
- Paulina nominates Katie
  - Katie Accepts
- Ayoub nominates Neha
  - Neha Declines
- Ayoub nominates himself
  - Ayoub Rescinds his self-nomination
- Katie nominates Vasti
  - Vasti Accepts
- Paulina nominates Bharat:
  - Bharat Declines
- Blake nominated Thomas Nazzaro
  - Thomas Accepts
- Ally nominates River
  - River Accepts

No Contest: Jared Brooks, Katie Silverman, Vasti Galvan, Thomas Nazzaro, and River Bluhm

Closing Announcements

Adjourn

Meeting is adjourned at 7:59 pm.