

UT Dallas Student Government

Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 15th, 2019

Call to Order

- Called to Order at 5:15 pm

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

- **Ashleigh Moves to Approve the Minutes**
 - **Jonathan Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**

Approval of the Agenda

- **Genna Moves to Add an Allocation of 2,000 dollars for the President's Brunch to New Business**
- **Jonathan Moves to Add item Military Credit Catalog Changes to the Academic Affairs Committee Report**
- **Tanuj Moves to Approve the Agenda as Amended**
 - **Ashleigh Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**

Announcements

Visitors:

Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Faculty Advisor

Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

Ex-officio reports:

Briana Lemos, SG Advisor

- Student Leadership hosting Leaders Meet on February 9th
 - 10 am - 2 pm, please attend especially if intending to fill an officer spot next year

Officer reports:

President: Eric Chen (eric.chen8@utdallas.edu)

- MLK Day of Service: Friday, January 25, 10 am - 12 pm, SU Galaxy Rooms
 - Sponsoring OSV with \$500
 - 14 senators signed up currently, 59 slots remaining
 - Mandatory senate event
 - Registration is necessary for the event

Vice President: Carla Ramazan (carla.ramazan@utdallas.edu)

- Nothing to report

Secretary: Kyle Tupper (kyle.tupper@utdallas.edu)

- Attendance report

Treasurer: Stephanie Royer (stephanie.royer@utdallas.edu)

- Projects budget report
 - \$25,352 currently remaining

Committee reports:



Academic Affairs Committee: Jonathan Schueler (jonathan.schueler@utdallas.edu)

- Transfer Equivalency Tool update – Registrar meeting
 - Meeting last Friday with OIT, Registrar, and JD Thomas
 - Academic Affairs getting together with focus group to help improve this tool
- Military Credit Catalog Changes
 - Working with Military Veterans Center on better explaining UTD’s policy on military credit transferability
- Questions:
 - Bookshelf
 - Ribbon cutting occurred during finals week
 - In the Comet café portion of the SU
 - Academic Affairs will try to keep the bookshelf full before the cycling process starts to take off

Communications Committee: Alex Holcomb (alexander.holcomb@utdallas.edu)

- AMA Buttons
 - Coming in next week
- Meeting Updates
 - Quick, 30 second video recap of each of our meetings
 - Help improve transparency on our activities
- President’s Brunch
 - Allocation in New Business
 - Feb 19th
- Blank Space Initiative
 - Will likely have to cut off to 60 submissions displayed
 - Before hand, there will be a two-week student art show so that student art can get displayed and students can vote on which pieces will be hung in the SU

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Vacant

- Nothing to report

Legislative Affairs Committee: Nikitha Vicas (nikitha.vicas@utdallas.edu)

- Debate series update
 - Continuing to contact professors and get topic ideas
- New projects:
 - VDR trainings
 - We need to register for Voting deputy registrar re-trainings
 - HB 375 student polling

Residential Student Affairs Committee: Zehra Rizvi (zehra.rizvi@utdallas.edu)

- Swipe it forward event update
 - Began around finals time last semester
 - 503 swipes in that span of the time
 - Dean of Students office will take over this from now on
 - SG may host another drive in February
- Central UV location
 - Agreed to have the leasing office be a place for us to keep some of our projects that apply to UV as a whole
 - Beginning this with the umbrellas
- Hammocks/umbrellas update



- Umbrellas are good to go as far as the Residence Halls go
- Hammocks sent the locks and cables to housing before break

- Should be operational shortly

Student Affairs Committee: Anu Emmandi (anuhya.emmandi@utdallas.edu)

- Blue Lights - update from Diego
 - Blue Lights will be removed from UV
 - Chief of Police wants the senate's thoughts on the situation with the rest of the lights
 - Current plan is to remove them as they malfunction over time
 - Opening a thread in the Slack to discuss Senate's thoughts

Technology Committee: Tanuj Tiwari (tanuj.tiwari@utdallas.edu)

- Hackathon update
 - Hack UTD February 23-24
 - Extent of our role in this event is still being determined
 - May need volunteers as our role becomes more clear
- OIT meeting update
 - The Library has contracted free to use LinkedIn Lecture series
 - OIT is planning to install Amazon Alexas in all buildings across campus
 - In conjunction with the Alexa Edu plan that will encompass different states across the US
 - UTD has been handpicked by Amazon as one of the Universities to introduce Amazon Echo products with Alexa skills in an educational context
 - This will start in the OIT office and hopefully expand according to success

Green Initiative Adhoc Committee: Joey Campaign (joseph.campaign@utdallas.edu)

- Idea Collection
 - Starting within the next month
 - Hopefully projects chosen will be taken underway this semester
- Sustainable Semesters
 - Topic for this semester is the water crisis
 - Currently reaching out to speakers
 - Goal is 5 seminars to help students continue to learn more about this issue and the ways they can make an impact
- Comet Composting
 - Getting about 600 pounds of compost every two weeks
 - Nikitha will continue to head this project and be looking into advertising efforts to expand its impact in UV

Election Board: Alex Holcomb (alexander.holcomb@utdallas.edu)

- Nothing to report

University Wide Committee Reports

Old Business:

New Business:

- **EC Appointment: GIA Committee Chair**
 - **Jonathan Moves to Open nominations for GIA Committee Chair**
 - **Tanuj Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**



- **Jason nominates Tiancheng Hu**
- **Alex Moves to Close nominations**
 - **Jonathan Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**
- **Tiancheng elected GIA Committee Chair**
- **Allocate \$1000 to the Communications Committee's Blank Space Art Project**
 - **Alex Moves**
 - **Tanuj Seconds**
 - **Discussion on the allocation is opened for three minutes**
 - Alex: In the lower SU from January 28th to February 8th, students will vote on which pieces they want to see for the rest of the semester in the blank spaces
 - We are paying for the printing, matting, and hanging for the works of students so that finances do not bar any student from participating in this submission
 - The Student Union has suggested that they will help cover the costs for food, so we may not need to spend the other part of the 500 dollars
 - Joey: How do you plan to advertise?
 - Alex: Handing out postcards to PAs and around the student union
 - Also sending out through emails and setting the hand-boards at certain spots around campus
 - **Motion Carries**
- **Allocate 2000 dollars to the Communications Committee's President's Lunch Project**
 - **Jonathan Moves**
 - **Tanuj Seconds**
 - **Discussion on the allocation is opened for three minutes**
 - Genna: This is an event that we are using to gather both student leaders from around campus and administration so that discussions can take place and expectations can be made clear
 - The cost is coming from the catering, which will be done through Chartwells
 - A bit more formal of an event compared to the President's Brunch
 - Jonathan: Numbers?
 - Genna: We are expecting around 100 people, likely around 75 from the student organizations
 - Diego: Date for invites and for event?
 - Genna: Student organizations will be invited through email ASAP,
 - Event is February 19th
 - **Motion Carries**
- **Student Safety Town Hall**
 - **Carla Moves to Charge SG with holding a Student Safety Town Hall**
 - **Jonathan Seconds**
 - **Eric limits discussion to 10 minutes**



- Eric: As a reminder, this will be a discussion on how SG will deal with such a situation in the future and is not regarding our treatment of the Jacob Anderson Case
- Carla: The event that I'm envisioning would be similar to our Meet the Senators event during WoW. After reaching out to appropriate departments to have booths in an open space, we would encourage students to open a dialogue about whether they feel safe on campus. Further, we will give the option to submit anonymous suggestions to improvements on campus safety
- Kim Winkler: I want to clarify that even if UTD had reviewed the admissions policy and made a policy that would have a criminal background check or something of the sort, it would not have changed anything in this case.
- Joey: Are we broadly discussing student safety, or more specifically the case?
 - Eric: We are more discussing SGs role in protecting student safety due to the concerns that arose in response the case, so broad safety stuff
- Jonathan: What actionable items are we looking to pull from the event?
 - Carla: This is a very broad, up in the air idea. I'm hoping the main focus of the idea would be to give students a platform to make their concerns, thoughts, and feelings known as it pertains to student safety on campus
- Tanuj: I think it would be pigeonholing if we related it to the Jacob Anderson case in any way
 - Eric: This response is tied to the concerns brought from the case, not the case itself. Connections to the case will be naturally made.
- Joey: We don't want to disconnect this event completely, because the ideas on improving safety which come from the feelings of not being safe due to this case are important
- Anu: What were the concerns?
 - Eric: I don't have them word for word, but I can share them via Slack
- Jacob: A benefit of SG holding this meeting is using this opportunity to gauge student opinion about the blue light situation as it pertains to general student safety
- Cecilia: Great idea, but one concern is that bringing in the counseling center is that we are taking them away from potential appointments and creating a back log
- **Time Elapses**
- **Motion Carries**
- **Chartwells Student Worker Union**
 - **Alex Moves to Open a Discussion on SG's position on the issues regarding Chartwells Student Worker Union**
 - **Jacob Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**
 - **Eric limits discussion to 5 minutes**
 - Eric: To preface this, there was an article in the recent edition of the Mercury that outlined the formation of a union that aims to protect the rights of the workers who work in Dining Services for Chartwells
 - Zehra: I think the first thing we have to do is sit down with Chartwells and hear their side to know the whole story

- If we are outwardly going to support a union, we could be seen as going over the head of Chartwells, and that's not a good look for us
- Jason: Have we spoken to any of the members of the Union? Or have any of them come to talk to us?
 - Eric: I have not been approached, but I believe Jonathan has
 - Jonathan: The Union is not a part our constituency, the student workers are. No one has really come to us from who we represent
- Jason: Seems to be a non-issue especially considering the extensive and expansive reach that Chartwells has in both UTD and our organization
- Tanuj: Are international students even allowed to be a part of a union?
 - Eric: I'm not sure
- Jonathan: Want to reframe this as what can SG do to support the student workers of Chartwells
 - If that comes down to supporting the union, I think that would be our path
- **Time Elapses**
- **Diego Moves to extend Discussion by five minutes**
 - **Jonathan Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**
- Joey: Let's talk to the workers themselves
 - See if you can have the conversation about this situation so that we can have some semblance of evidence before we continue with anything
- Anu: We should meet with both parties, but our priority is representing the student voice
- Ashleigh: When we talk to Chartwells workers, what should we try to ask them specifically?
- Trevor: Is this a contract with the UT system or UTD specifically? Also, if the things in the Mercury are true, perhaps we should encourage this being completed through Texas workforce enforcement
 - Briana: The contract is with UTD, but they could be on other UT systems campuses
- **Time Elapses**
- **Judicial Board Nominations**
 - **Priya Moves to Open nominations to the Judicial Board**
 - **Tanuj Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**
 - **Jason nominates Omar Elnamrosy**
 - **Abdullah nominates Trevor Schmealing**
 - **Carla Moves to Table election until next meeting**
 - **Alex Seconds**
 - **Motion Carries**
- **Anu Moves to Adjourn**
- **Jonathan Seconds**
- **Adjournment at 6:19 pm**



AMENDING A MOTION:

“I move to amend the main motion and...” ☐ If a proposed constitutional/bylaws/standing rules change ought to be altered, you would amend the amendment so that the correct/change is made before voting on it for approval

ALLOCATION/ISSUE/TOPIC:

OPENING/CLOSING DISCUSSION ON AN

open a __ minute discussion on/about/for...”

“I move to

“I move to close the discussion”

EXTEND DISCUSSION EXPIRING OR EXPIRED:

“I move to extend the discussion by __ minutes” ☐ Do not overuse for short extensions

VOTING:

“I move to previous question”, “I call to question” ☐ This closes the discussion upon a second and upon approval by 2/3rds of Senate; if you see a lot of people have something to say, you do not have to approve of moving to voting on the item

APPROVING AN ALLOCATION:

“I move to allocate __ for __” ☐ Needs a second, and then we discuss; when discussion is over, or someone calls to question (see previous motion examples), we vote

DISCUSSION COMMENTS DEVIATE FROM DISCUSSION:

“Point of Order, *gets recognized*, discussion is not germane” ☐ Doesn't need a second, doesn't need discussion, and is up to the speaker to determine if the comment/current discussion is related to the topic at hand

TABLE DISCUSSION:

“I move to table the discussion/item for next meeting/indefinitely” ☐ Depending on what the item is, this will most likely move the item to Old Business for the next meeting