

# UT Dallas Student Government

## *Senate Meeting Minutes*

### Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### Call to Order

- Called to Order at 5:15 pm

#### Roll Call

#### Approval of Minutes

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

#### Approval of the Agenda

- **Tanuj Moves to Add Agenda Item under Technology Report:**
  - **Reddit Update**
- **Joey Moves to Add Agenda Item under Green Initiative Adhoc Committee:**
  - **Green Advertisements**
- **Eric Moves to Amend item 1 in Old Business, "Confirm Senate Appointments" to:**
  - **Appoint Judicial Board Representative**
- **Tiancheng Moves to Approve the Agenda as Amended**
  - **Tanuj Seconds**
  - **Motion Carries**

#### Announcements

- Eric: Two-sided name placards with pronouns are coming

#### **Visitors:**

##### Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students

- Congratulations to Alex for getting the art initiative off the ground. That project required a lot of hard work on his end, and his ability to push through the obstacles has been great to see. The same goes for Joey and the Green Initiative

##### Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

##### JD Thomas, Director of Orbit

- QEP was submitted to University's Oversight Board
  - The University is telling its creditor that we will be focusing more effort on transfer students
    - Part of this is the transfer mentor program among others
    - From now until Fall 2020, JD will be working to develop a transfer seminar
    - Transfer students make up around 38% of the undergraduate population
      - Student input is vital for ensuring this program's quality
- New Student Engagement Board
  - Focused on student success across the board
  - Goal is also to get more student input on faculty and staff operations

#### **Ex-officio reports:**

##### Briana Lemos, SG Advisor

- Congratulations to Alex
  - However, it was an SG event and only about three Senators were present



- More engagement with our projects and events will only make Senate stronger
- Engagement also helps make SG more visible
- Friday is last day to register for Leaders Meet
  - Keynote speaker is executive from Google
  - If planning to run for an executive position on Senate, please attend

**Officer reports:**

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

- Dr. JD Thomas: transfer initiatives
- MLK Day of Service meal packing
  - Thank you to everyone who made it out
  - This event will remain a mandatory event
    - No excusal and no attendance results in an unexcused absence

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

- Student Safety Town Hall
  - Received confirmation of reservation from Monday February 18<sup>th</sup> from 3-4:30
    - Senators are expected to attend

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

- Attendance report

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

- Projects budget report
  - \$25,352 currently in the budget

**Committee reports:**

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

- Transfer credit for Military Training - CUE update
  - Proposal put together by Military and Veterans Center for clarifying changes to the website
    - Went to Committee of Undergrad Education and was passed
    - Changes should be up on the website soon
- Bookshelf Book Drive
  - Organized on National Reading Day (March 1<sup>st</sup>)
  - Idea is to get people to donate books and for people to also be aware of the location
- Transfer Equivalency Tool - Focus Group
  - Committee is now putting together a focus group to find out features to put on the tool
    - This report will be given to OIT to make to the page when they have the opportunity

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

- Blank Space
  - If you have a chance over the next two weeks, go vote for your favorite pieces and tell your friends
- Presidents' Lunch
  - February 19<sup>th</sup>
  - 60 student leaders registered for the event
  - The registration will be opened up to Senators
    - Please do not register if you may not attend

- Jason: If we are an officer in a student organization, should we use one of those slots, or represent SG?
  - Alex: Go ahead and represent that organization
- Meeting Updates
  - If you feel what your committee is working on is worth highlighting, let either Trevor or Alex know
- AMA Buttons
  - Please put them on your backpack or clothes to spark conversation

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Tiancheng Hu (tiancheng.hu@utdallas.edu)

- Warm water project - update
  - These fountains have already been implemented in certain water fountains in ECS and SOM
    - Students began asking for hot water around campus, but as this was unachievable, the University instead decided to install unrefrigerated water fountains at certain locations
- SG attitudes survey
  - Will be sent out in the next week or two
- EE graduate student lounge - update
  - Request from EE graduate students for a student lounge to socialize and discuss research
  - Brought up to the Dean of ECS, and is waiting on further updates

Legislative Affairs Committee: Omar Elnomrosy on behalf of Nikitha Vicas (nikitha.vicas@utdallas.edu)

- VDR Trainings
  - Want to get as many deputies as possible
  - Want a trainer from Collin/Dallas county to come to campus to deputize
    - Requirement of 50 people to come out for this process
- House bill student surveys
  - List of about 10 Texas state house bills that affect students and campus life
    - Would like to survey students to gauge student interest in these bills
- Distributing Know Your Rights Cards
  - Looking to store them at places like the International Center, Gender Center, Housing Office, etc. so that those who want and need them can easily get them

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

- Mental health QR codes
  - Mathi is setting up a meeting with the Wellness Center to try to get these QR codes up
- Dog park
  - Justin talked to the CHAC committee on the potential for a dog park in a UV area
    - Student interest has been expressed
  - Jason: Where?
    - Justin: The initial thought is Phase 1, buildings 2-14
- UV signage
  - Waiting on for a meeting with Facilities for a walkthrough in UV to see points for signage that would be the most helpful

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



- International Student Course
  - A way for international students to get integrated into student life at UT Dallas
- ATMs on campus
  - Looking into getting more ATMs on campus
- Chartwells
  - In the process of setting up a meeting with them
    - Will keep SG posted with further updates

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

- Reddit
  - Posted Reddit outreach post this week
    - Lots of good ideas were posted in thread that your committees could potentially use
    - Hope to use this more in the future to increase interactions with UTD students

Green Initiative Adhoc Committee: Joey Campain (joseph.campain@utdallas.edu)

- Green Advertisements
  - We have the advertisements file, so keep an eye out for these initiatives
  - CCP, Sustainable Semesters, and other programs will be advertised soon
- Recycling bins
  - Gave over 300 recycling bins to Residence Hall students
  - Sustainability Club was instrumental in achieving this

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

- Filing has opened
  - Filing opened yesterday
    - Visit [www.utdallas.edu/vote/run](http://www.utdallas.edu/vote/run) to find the necessary forms and information
- Rules reminder
  - Shouldn't be talking about SG elections in meetings or in the HQ
  - Give us an unfair advantage if we use the access that SG gives to further our election purposes
  - Jason: Will you still be setting up an Election Committee?
    - Alex: Let's talk afterwards
  - Eric: Feel free to ask me questions if you're interested in running for an executive position
    - I'll remain as neutral as possible, but I'll attempt to give some good objective info

University Wide Committee Reports

- Academic Senate
  - Eric: International center has had a slight restructuring to report through the Graduate Studies Department
  - Jason: What about undergraduate international students?
    - Eric: I haven't heard anything about that, but we can follow up if you're curious
    - Kim: The initiatives of that office will still be for all international students, they are just reporting through the Graduate Studies program



- Also, Student Affairs will handle orientations and cultural programs

### **Old Business:**

- **Confirm Judicial Board Appointments:**
- **Anu Moves to Confirm a Judicial Board Representative**
  - **Tanuj Seconds**
  - **Motion Carries**
  - **Omar Elnomrosy**
    - Vice President of the Model United Nations team
      - We travel to conferences all over the US, representing the University and student body
    - Part of my job was to rehash our student attendance policy
      - We placed a large emphasis on the responsibilities of individual students
      - I had to make the tough decisions to dismiss people from the team
    - After dealing with absences on a weekly basis, I have the experience and insight necessary to make a call regarding Senate absences
    - Jonathan: What sorts of guidelines or reasoning would you use?
      - Omar: I would look at the nature of the excuse and the effort that the student took to ensure their excusal was submitted on time
    - Jacob: How would your work with the attendance policy of MUN help you fulfill this role?
      - Omar: The majority of Judicial Board is reviewing absences and bylaws
    - Kyle: How would you approach a student who emails with a relatively valid excuse on time, but cannot provide proof to affirm the validity?
      - Omar: If it's a recurring incident that occurs without proof, I would then ask to look into it further
    - Anu: Have you ever had to tell someone that they couldn't be a part of MUN?
      - Omar: Yes, I had to dismiss someone from the travel team due to a lack of effort and absences
  - **Trevor Schmaeling**
    - This has been my first year of SG
      - It's been amazing and I've gotten to meet just about everyone
    - Worked on the early part of the AMA buttons and Alex helped move me through that as I learned how to deal with certain issues that often come up in developing projects
      - I also worked on the SG recap videos with Alex and am currently working with the accessibility committee
    - In this role, I promise to treat everyone equally and fairly
      - I'll use my best judgement and common sense to decide cases
    - Jonathan: What specific qualifications do you have that would pertain to this role?
      - Trevor: Before I make all my decisions, I like to consider all the facts so that I can make a calm and objective decision

- Jennifer: What have your projects done to help your Judicial Board work?
  - Trevor: The experience of following various guidelines and adhering to all policies necessary has given me insight that would aid in my Judicial Board work
- Anu: If you had to tell someone they were no longer allowed to be in SG, how would you handle it?
  - Trevor: Facts are facts, and if you're missing many meetings unexcused, you don't really have any defense
- Tiancheng: Do you have any experience enforcing attendance policy?
  - Trevor: Not really
- Jonathan: What makes an absence excused or unexcused?
  - Trevor: It just seems to be common sense and I would treat it on a case by case basis

- **Omar is appointed by unanimous consent**

**New Business:**

- **Alex Moves to Confirm Senate Appointments:**

- **Tanuj Seconds**

- **Barbara Di Castro Pimenta**

- Majoring in IPE
  - Heard about SG when I first got here
- Was in a similar organization in high school
- Drawn in by breadth and depth of the impact made by the body to campus
- I originally came to UTD as a transfer student and there were a lot of projects implemented by SG that helped me to adjust to the campus

- **Yash Rupawat**

- Sophomore majoring in ME
- During my time in India, I served in an organization (insert name/function) that allowed me to make a significant impact on my community
  - I'd like to continue to make that kind of impact through SG
  - During that experience, I was told that leadership is not something that is taught, it is something that is practiced and learned through practice
- My greatest interest is in increasing the contribution of solar energy on campus
  - UTD has a lot of potential with huge open spaces

- **Alex Saunders**

- Freshman majoring in Supply chain management
- I would like to have a positive impact on campus and create change
  - During high school, I served in Student Council and I'd like to continue that type of campus participation here
  - I'm happy to be a voice for students and connect that to administration
- As a part of my internship with the Chamber of Commerce, I sat down with local congressional members and the mayor a couple of times



- These experiences will aid me in continued dealings with administration and student groups as a Senator
  - My ideal project would be a conversion point system for the meal plans where the meal swipes unused each week get converted into points to be used at Outtakes and other locations on campus
- **Danni Yang**
  - Junior majoring in Neuroscience
  - I served on SG for two years prior to studying abroad
    - I have a lot of passion for this university and the projects that we do
  - One thing I like about SG is you can see the continuity of projects throughout the years and over an ever-changing active body
  - I'd like to see a more engaging online platform for RSA because a lot of the flyers and advertisements around campus for residential events get ignored or trashed
- **Jonathan to Barbara: Since you didn't mention it, what project would you like to see implemented on campus?**
  - Barbara: I would push to help fulfill what JD talked about, and be a part of the task force to help transfer students more easily integrate into campus
- **Ashleigh to Barbara: What would be one thing you'd like to change about that process?**
  - **Barbara:** More communication with the counselors because I got put through a lot of hoops to just answer simple questions when I transferred here
    - An easier platform would make for a much better transfer experience
- **Alex to All: How did you push an innovation in another organization and how did you get everyone on board?**
  - Yash: In high school, it took me half a year to lobby for more sustainability initiatives on campus through the Student Council
  - Danni: Started a Red Cross Club on my high school campus
    - Difficult to get student interest and to maintain club numbers
    - There was some controversy due to competing with other charity organizations at school, so it was difficult to keep our organization afloat at times
  - Barbara: As a part of the debate team in high school, it was difficult to even get the team started
    - Myself, another student, and the speech teacher had to argue for its creation with the principle before we were given a space to meet
  - Alex: This occurred in my Chamber of Commerce internship
    - Everything has to be approved by the board of directors
    - I had an idea to revamp and change the Chamber website to increase consumer engagement
      - President wasn't on board with it right away
      - I brought up the importance of a well worked website

- Kept pushing for a few months through the chain of command to try to get the approval to change the website
  - Eventually succeeded and had to learn how to change the website myself by further developing my skill set
  - **Deliberation concludes**
  - **Motion Carries by unanimous consent**
- 
- **Alex Moves to allocate \$39.31 to the Blank Space Project**
    - **Ashleigh Seconds**
    - **Motion Carries**
  - **Jason Moves to Adjourn**
    - **Anu Seconds**
    - **Adjournment at 6:25 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 close the discussion”**

**“I move to**

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

