

# UT Dallas Student Government

## *Senate Minutes*

Areeb Siddiqui, Secretary

Tuesday, January 23th, 2018

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Agenda

Announcements

### **Visitors:**

Dr. Gene Fitch, Vice President of Student Affairs

Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students

Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Faculty Advisor

Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

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

Briana Lemos, SG Advisor

### **Officer reports:**

President: JW Van Der Schans (john.vanderschans@utdallas.edu)

- International Education Development Committee
  - Substitute for Thursday at 3:30-5pm
- Day of Giving
  - February 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:45-4:45pm, SPN 2.120
  - February 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-11:30am, DGAC 1.135
- University-Wide Committees
  - Academic Calendar
    - 1 SG Representatives
  - Academic Senate Observers
    - 3 SG Representatives
  - Sustainability
    - 1 SG Representative
- Elections – important dates
  - February 26<sup>th</sup>: Filing opens
  - March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Filing closes
  - March 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: Voting opens
- Judicial Board Openings
- Office Hours: M/Th/F: 11:30-4; Tu: 11:30-5; W: 12-2

Vice President: Alex Holcomb (alexander.holcomb@utdallas.edu)

- JSOM Mural project
- SU Art Committee



- If you have students interested in art, send them our way to join Art Committee
- Public Piano – update
  - Will be coming in on Jan 24<sup>th</sup>!
- Retreat Reminder
  - February 17th
- Personal projects/boothing
  - Reminder: we expect Senators to work on projects one hour outside of committee each week
- Office Hours: M/W: 11:30-5, Tu/Th: 2:30-5, F: 11-3

Secretary: Areeb Siddiqui (Areeb.Siddiqui@utdallas.edu)

- Nothing to report

Treasurer: Joey Campain (joseph.campain@utdallas.edu)

- Budget report
  - Will be making report public
  - Inquire with me if you would like to learn more about budget processes

### **Committee reports:**

Academic Affairs Committee: Nikki Prattipati (sainikitha.prattipati@utdallas.edu)

- iTunes U
  - JW met with faculty Senate
  - We Will Submit to Academic Council and Dr. Murphy
- PLTL Registration –website crashes

Communications Committee: Eric Chen (eric.chen8@utdallas.edu)

- Video Series Release
  - Rolling out in the Student Union
- Boothing
  - Dates and times to be finalized
- Mid-semester Newsletter
  - To provide updates to students and faculty and allow an avenue for feedback
  - March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Social Media Schedule
  - Posting on Thursdays, 6pm

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Adam Richards (adam.richards@utdallas.edu)

- Bus Route Surveying
  - Harpreet has been working on survey for bus route to Patel Brothers
  - Boothing to be coming soon

Legislative Affairs Committee: Ashley Levy (ashley.levy@utdallas.edu)

- Comet Policy Plug
  - Ben Darling has recorded three; to be posted soon
- Registering Voters (Boothing & More Voter Registrars)
  - Last day to register voters is Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> for primaries; March 5<sup>th</sup> for general
  - Contact me to get voter deputized this weekend!

Residential Student Affairs Committee: Danni Yang (Danni.Yang@utdallas.edu)



- CHAC update
  - Renewing for apartments opened up today
  - Pair up with roommates and be assigned a priority number
  - Semesterly rent with tuition starting Fall 2018; optional monthly payment plan will be available
- Outdoor Sports update
  - Will be located in North Courtyard
- Vending Machine project
  - Survey will be sent out to students
- Band-Aids and Blue Bins in UV
  - To be available to students at the front desk
  - Place a deposit and receive a Blue Bin to recycle for the year

Student Affairs Committee: Haris Pepermintwala (haris.pepermintwala@utdallas.edu)

- Residence Life Pamphlet Initiative
- Student Counseling Center
- Comet Cards
  - Carla and Haris will meet with Dr. Fitch
  - Increase validity of the card
- Transfer Student Experience
  - Luke is in contact with multiple faculty advisors
- Green Lab Initiative
- Sick Plates
  - Ready made meals from dining hall for pick up when student is not feeling well

Technology Committee: Dhiren Kisani (Dhiren.Kisani@utdallas.edu)

- Amazon Lockers
  - UT has given us information for the process
  - Implementation time: 12 weeks post approval
  - We have also received a mock contract
- Tech Vending Machines
  - Procure for the SU so students can purchase small electronic items
- ATEC Student Art for OIT

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

- **Green Ad Hoc Committee**
  - We have \$8,000 to spend solely on Sustainability
  - In the past we have collected ideas from students and put those ideas in place
  - 1 Chair, 6 Student Appointment
  - 1 faculty, 1 staff from Student Affairs, 1 staff from facilities
  - Approved
- **Approve the appointment of:**
  - **Jean Smith (Jude) Celiscar**
    - Serving has always been a part of my life
    - SG would be the best outlet to serve at UTD



- Idea: More water fountains around campus, especially in peripheral areas such as the parking lots
- Led a project to build a school in Haiti
- **Nikitha Vicas**
  - Freshman, Neuroscience
  - Interested in SG because of the power to turn ideas into reality
  - Idea: Device for vending machines to turn them off when they're not in use
  - Experience organizing events and fundraisers such as art festivals; involved in student council in high school
- **Tanuj Tiwari**
  - Sophomore, CS, ITS
  - President of Hack UTD on campus -> created a new product, worked with corporate sponsors
  - Idea: Opening a Reddit handle for Student Government to hear student concerns
- Approved
- **Improving Teacher Evaluations**
  - Currently low turn out for responses
  - Dhiren: Highest percentages when professors give bonus points
  - Carla: Some professors don't post grades until all are turned in; this is effective
  - Adam: With social media push students may be more interested
  - Danni: Some people click random boxes; one professor sent out feedback form half-way in; Grad TA evaluations should also exist
  - Haris: Extend until after final grades so student can answer if they've been evaluated fairly
  - Ashley: Hard to define current terminology (Agree, Disagree), prefer numbers (1-10)
  - Karine: Hold registration for classes until evaluations have been completed
  - Ben: One professor kept consistently asking for feedback, it worked
  - Kyle: Block on eLearning before evaluation completed
  - Alex: I really like teacher giving time in class to do it
  - Ashleigh: Second Danni's point
- **Allocation for Resident Life Pamphlet Initiative (\$783.68)**
  - Brochures provide information on sexual health, mental health, and other health advice/resources on campus
  - Provide pamphlets in Residence Halls, UV Clubhouses
  - Housing administration have all signed off on this
  - Subsidized \$600 by Counseling Center
  - Approved
- **Judicial Board Nominations**

- **Two members**
    - Kiyanoush
      - Conflict Resolution would be an interest
    - Dalton
      - Has served in this position in Dean's council
      - Can be objective about removing people
    - Carla
      - Has read constitution a few times
      - Served in similar role in Debate Team
    - Dalton and Carla elected
- **Adjournment**