

# UT Dallas Student Government

## Senate Meeting Minutes

### Tuesday, January 19, 2021

#### Call to Order

- *Called to order at 5:15 pm*

#### Approval of Minutes

*Rutendo motions to approve the minutes*

*Willie seconds*

*Motion passes*

#### Approval of the Agenda

*Rutendo moves to approve the agenda by general consent*

*Willie seconds*

*Motion passes*

#### Announcements

- Ryan Short: Orientation leader application open till Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Margaret Moore: Made a Discord for Student Government Senate to get to know each other and have a forum to speak informally
- Willie Chalmers: If you are on campus, the north end of Rutford Ave on campus is open to see the new trees

#### Visitors:

Dr. Gene Fitch, Jr., Vice President for Student Affairs

- Welcome back, I want to congratulate you on your persistence and resilience during this pandemic
- Started COVID testing all on campus residence, about 2500/3000 on campus residents so far, and had about 30 positive tests so far, which is encouraging given state and national numbers. UTD will continue testing in February, about 7.5% of students
- Planning to hold traditional orientation in the summer for new students, but will also hold a virtual program. Faculty is looking to increase traditional orientation.

Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Associate Dean for Jindal School of Management

- Welcome back, general greeting

Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

- Welcome back, general greeting

#### Ex-officio Reports:

Briana Lemos, Director of Student Development

- Homecoming is this semester during February 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Will be working to organize homecoming with regard to current COVID restrictions.

#### Officer Reports:

President: Sara Brennan (Sara.Brennan@utdallas.edu)

- Senator of the Month (November)
  - Always strives to participate in senate and committee meetings, involved with Reddit and the Town Hall – Willie Chalmers



- Texas-Sized Christmas
  - Raised \$4305 to combat food insecurity in our community
  - SG will match \$4000 worth of food to Comet Cupboard
  - Shoutout to Communication Chair Paulina for her work!
- COVID-19
  - Any senators can feel free to ask Rutendo and Sara about updates about COVID at UTD
  - UTD may be a distributor of the COVID vaccine
  - Cases have been relatively high due to increased testing after the winter break; reference the COVID dashboard for more information
  - 18 isolation beds occupied, but many more available

Vice President: Rutendo Chando ([Rutendo.Chando@utdallas.edu](mailto:Rutendo.Chando@utdallas.edu))

- Grading Options Town Hall
  - Hosted a town hall for grading option, because fall graduates needed to make a decision by January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Can watch a recording of the town hall online
  - You have till May 20<sup>th</sup> to make your choices for this semester
- Office Hours
  - Office Hours for EC members will be announced soon, look under Files in the General chat in Microsoft Teams.
- CARES Act
  - If you want to apply you have to show financial need, and you can still apply.

Secretary: Josh Babu ([Josh.Babu@utdallas.edu](mailto:Josh.Babu@utdallas.edu))

- Introduction: I am excited to be working with you all, please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or questions.
- Governing Document Review Committee
  - Will meet soon, hopefully sometime next week. Look for an announcement in General if you are not on the committee but would like to be on the committee this semester.
- Attendance
  - Attendance is refreshed for this semester, so you start out with zero points and twelve points gets you sent to the Judicial Board.

Treasurer: Mathi Siva ([mxs171130@utdallas.edu](mailto:mxs171130@utdallas.edu))

- Nothing to Report

### **Committee Reports:**

Academic Affairs Committee: Ayoub Mohammed ([ayoub@utdallas.edu](mailto:ayoub@utdallas.edu))

- Nothing to Report

Communications Committee: Paulina Hruskoci ([pmh180002@utdallas.edu](mailto:pmh180002@utdallas.edu))

- Committee Update
  - Continuing to distribute give away prizes for SG
  - At the end of last semester, had increased Instagram following by 300 followers
  - Paulina will be stepping down as Communications Chair for this semester

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Bhavi Gullapalli ([bxx170007@utdallas.edu](mailto:bxx170007@utdallas.edu))

- Panel Discussion
  - Assistant Director Katie helped organize event with SG for international students who for those who are interested in UTD

Legislative Affairs Committee: Angel Hemme ([amh180015@utdallas.edu](mailto:amh180015@utdallas.edu))



- Nothing to Report
- Residential Student Affairs Committee: Blake Lawyer ([bp1170001@utdallas.edu](mailto:bp1170001@utdallas.edu))
- Nothing to Report
- Student Affairs Committee: Neha Khan ([neha.khan@utdallas.edu](mailto:neha.khan@utdallas.edu))
- Nothing to Report
- Technology Committee: Vignesh Vasan ([vxv170005@utdallas.edu](mailto:vxv170005@utdallas.edu))
- Nothing to Report
- Diversity and Equity Ad Hoc Committee: River Bluhm ([River.Bluhm@utdallas.edu](mailto:River.Bluhm@utdallas.edu))
- Meeting 11/20 @ 6pm
  - First meeting for this ad hoc committee for this semester
- Invitation to join
- Green Initiative Ad Hoc Committee: Allyson DeVerse ([ajd170001@utdallas.edu](mailto:ajd170001@utdallas.edu))
- Spring Semester Intro
  - Wants to start the semester fresh, and get a recount for who wants to participate
  - Meeting will be biweekly
  - Will be reaching out to other organizations involved with sustainability

#### Unfinished Business:

- Judicial Board Member Election
  - *Rutendo move to appoint senators for J-Board*
    - *Kruthi seconds*
    - *Motion carries*
  - Two Senators
    - *Jared moves to nominate himself*
      - *Jared accepts*
    - *Frank moves to nominate himself*
      - *Frank accepts*
  - *Speeches:*
    - Jared Pugh: I have been a senator since last semester, and I have found enjoyment in SG and I am on the Academic Affairs Committee. I also served in the judicial branch of my fraternity organization, so I do have prior experience to qualify for this position.
    - Frank Gao: I have been a senator since last semester, and I have been working in the Technology Committee. I do not have any current experience, but I do think I will make a good Judicial Board member given my passion for SG.
  - *Frank Gao is elected as Judicial Board member*

#### New Business:

- Elections Board Chair Election
  - Brianna: This position is very important in SG. This person has to be someone who is not going to run in SG elections and not affiliated with any party. You will have an Election Board Committee that comes from different groups within Student Affairs. You will suggest changes to the Governing Documents Committee and run all pre-election meetings.
  - *Rutendo move to appoint the Election Board Chair*
    - *Viggy seconds*
    - *Motion carries*
  - One Senator



- *Rutendo nominates Ayoub*
  - *Ayoub accepts*
- *Ayoub is elected by default*
- **Communications Chair Election**
  - *Rutendo moves to appoint the Communications Chair*
    - *Viggy seconds*
    - *Motion carries*
  - **One Senator**
    - *Ishmerai nominates Imaan*
      - *Imaan accepts*
    - *Allyson nominates Margaret*
      - *Margaret declines*
  - *Imaan is elected by default*
- **Closing Announcements**
  - Dr. Fitch will take questions:
    - Mathi: Will student org committees be capped at 10 people?
      - Dr. Fitch: It is based on room capacity. For example, the auditorium can have 70 or 80 people
    - Willie: Do we have any information whether the library will be open or not?
      - Dr. Smith: It will not be open
    - Viggy: Will we be able to have a solution to homecoming?
      - Dr. Fitch: We will be doing a shoebox parade. There are a lot of events planned, and perhaps there will be attendance for the basketball game
  - Sara: Thank you to all who are dedicated to SG during COVID

## Adjourn

*Willie moves to adjourn*

*Rutendo seconds*

*Motion passes at 5:59 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

OPENING/CLOSING DISCUSSION ON AN ALLOCATION/ISSUE/TOPIC:

**“I move to open a \_\_\_ minute discussion on/about/for...”**

**“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

