UT Dallas Student Government

Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 9th, 2021

Call to Order

 Called to order at 5:15 pm

Approval of Minutes

Rutendo motions to approve the minutes
Margaret seconds
Motion passes

Approval of the Agenda

Willie moves to approve the agenda with the amendment of moving unfinished and new business to after the ex-officio report
Bhavi moves to amend agenda to have “Nothing to report” under GIA
Motion passes

Announcements

• Ayoub: Deadline on March 22nd for election filing, go to UTD SG Vote website and follow the info to run for SG for next year, I will also be holding campaign orientation meetings during spring break on Tuesday and Thursday. Please let me know if you cannot make a meeting.

Visitors:
Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Associate Dean for Jindal School of Management
• Thank you for having the technology discussion working on agenda, I am interested to hear more.
Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

Ex-officio Reports:
Briana Lemos, Director of Student Development

Unfinished Business:

• Constitutional Amendments
  • Viggy moves to open discussion regarding all constitutional amendments but excluding GPA changes
    • Kruthi: Is it necessary to have two new standing committees? I feel that we are spread fairly thin as it is, and senators can only be on one standing committee.
    • Ryan: will the new EC chairs be given stipends?
      • Sara: Yes
    • Paulina: I feel smaller committees will be able to function more efficiently, and this amendment would do that
    • River: As the chair of DE, I support making these committees permanent
    • Allyson: I am in support of making the standing committees, as it is difficult to obtain senators for the committee when it is an ad hoc committee
Term: 2020-2021
Meeting: 9

- Kruthi: I feel like the committees that are going to become standing committees have not outlined how clearly they would benefit and what they would do better if they were standing committees
- Willie: I think Kruthi makes a good point about how committees should have outlined goals for what they will do when they become a standing committee
- Ryan: I have always admired the Green Initiative, they always have a hardworking chair and they deserve to be compensated
- Margaret: I don’t think it is right to judge the Ad Hoc Committees based on productive when we have all had low productivity in SG due to the pandemic
- Willie calls to question whether the amendments should be voted on
  - Majority of senators voted to call to question the proposed amendments
- Viggy moves to vote on the amendments
  - 2/3 majority of senate have voted to pass the constitutional amendments
- Viggy moves to open discussion on GPA changes in the constitutional amendments
  - Willie: I think that lowering the GPA sends the signal that grades do not matter that much to SG and to be a senator, so I am against it
  - Ryan: I do not think that a student’s GPA is a measure of how motivated they are, they may not be very motivated in their future career as there may not be a high GPA requirement, but they may be motivated to be in SG
  - Viggy: I move to amend the amendments to raise the senator GPA for 2.5
    - Willie calls to question this amendment
    - Vote failed
- Rutendo: GPA Req. at UTSG is 2.0 and at Arlington
- Thomas: It is not our place to judge how well potential senators will be based on GPA, as I could raise it to a 4.0 based on the argument that we should have senators who are very motivated and committed
- Willie moves to vote on GPA related constitutional changes
  - Vote failed to approve constitutional amendments regarding GPA

New Business:
- Repair Cafe Allocation
  - Blake moves to approve allocation by unanimous consent
    - Allocation is approved
- Discussion on Student Technology Requirement Wording
  - Consensus to change the word “required” in the statement to “strongly recommended” in order to relieve student worries and financial burdens regarding certain technological requirements for students

Officer Reports:
President: Sara Brennan (Sara.Brennan@utdallas.edu)
- February Senator of the Month
  - This senator has shown dedication to SG in their committee, always participating in discussion, working on resolutions, and attending University Wide committee meetings, and their chair thinks
that they could be President or Vice President of SG one day, congratulation to Kruthi on being Senator of the Month!

- **Love Jack**
  - The Love Jack has been moved to an area with much more traffic so that students can see it!

- **Amendment Timelines**
  - Today is the last senate meeting to propose Constitutional amendments that can be passed by this SG body, and not the next, incoming SG body that will be elected in the upcoming elections

- **Pandemic/Emergency Updates**
  - Have received question about mask mandate- UTD will be keep doing what they have been doing, and mask mandate for UTD is still in place and we should be expecting some more communication about it
  - There will be a vaccine distribution center on campus and will be partnering with UTSW
  - Will be sending out CARES Act Eligibility to students
  - Make sure students know to contact Dean Smith about housing eligibility and concerns

**Vice President: Rutendo Chando** *(Rutendo.Chando@utdallas.edu)*

- **T-Shirts**
  - They have arrived, and I will be organizing and distributing them, make sure to fill out the related form if you have not already.

- **End-of-Year Banquet**
  - Our End-of-Year Banquet will be held virtually and more information will be coming soon. It will be held towards the latter part of the semester in the last week of April instead of a senate meeting.

**Secretary: Josh Babu** *(Josh.Babu@utdallas.edu)*

- **Nothing to Report**

**Treasurer: Mathi Siva** *(mxs171130@utdallas.edu)*

- **Budget Report**
  - We have a little under 14,000 dollars, so if you have allocations please propose them in upcoming meetings

**Committee Reports:**

**Academic Affairs Committee: Ayoub Mohammed** *(ayoub@utdallas.edu)*

- **Nothing to Report**

**Communications Committee: Imaan Razak Macchiwalla** *(imaan.razakmacchiwalla@utdallas.edu)*

- **Coda**
  - We will start implementing Coda in SG so that students and senators will have a better idea of what everyone is doing in SG regarding projects and resolutions

- **Reddit Presence**
  - Communications will start increasing presence on Reddit, so that we reach out to students on one of the most used social media platforms by UTD students

- **Post Statistics**
  - We are starting to look at our statistics, for example, which Instagram posts do really well, and hopefully that will help us in the future

- **Wednesday Woman of the Week**
  - If you have anyone to recommend, please let me know, it can be a student, staff member, or any other woman affiliated with UTD.

**Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Bhavi Gullapalli** *(bxg170007@utdallas.edu)*

- **Nothing to Report**
Legislative Affairs Committee: Angel Hemme (amh180015@utdallas.edu)
    ● Elect Her
        • Having a seminar from 5-7pm this Friday to encourage women to run for SG
Residential Student Affairs Committee: Blake Lawyer (bpl170001@utdallas.edu)
    ● Nothing to Report
Term: 2020-2021  
Meeting: 9

Student Affairs Committee: Neha Khan (neha.khan@utdallas.edu)  
- Nothing to Report

Technology Committee: Vignesh Vasan (vxy170005@utdallas.edu)  
- HackUTD  
  - HackUTD went much better than expected  
  - Will be giving out prizes  
  - 40 submissions for SG out of 99 total submission- which menas we beat out companies for student engagement!

- HackAI  
  - Coming up in end of March, please let me know if you would like to judge, and we will be working on sustainability and diversity in this Hack-a-Thon

- Reddit Resident Affairs Project  
  - Helping residential students sell some of their things when they leave campus for the summer through a website or another online platform to connect students

Diversity and Equity Ad Hoc Committee: River Bluhm (River.Bluhm@utdallas.edu)  
- Outreach Project Update  
  - Will continue to ask students about Diversity and Equity on campus, and perhaps create a platform with the technology committee to do so

- Usage of Term “womxn”  
  - Recived feedback from students that Gender Center is using the term “womxn” which is exclusionary and carries a feeling of marginalization and we worked with the Gender Center on fixing that and have removed and stopped using that term

Green Initiative Ad Hoc Committee: Allyson DeVerse (ajd170001@utdallas.edu)  
- Nothing to Report

University Wide Committee Reports

Kruthi: Library Service Committee  
- My committee will be meeting on March 30th, please know that Canopy is a online service/platform that will be used in the future

Mustafa: Parking & Transportation Committee  
- Updates on UNIV 1010, that they will be going back to a C/NC system rather than a graded system

Allyson: Sustainability Committee  
- Single use plastic ban will be presented to SG for a resolution

Rose: Academic Calendar Committee  
- The UTD Academic Calendar Committee will have one SG representative and one from GSA

Adjourn

- Willie moves to adjourn  
  - Kruthi seconds

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…”
“\textbf{I move to close the discussion}”
\textbf{EXTEND DISCUSSION EXPIRING OR EXPIRED:}\n“I move to extend the discussion by ___ minutes” \textbullet\ Do not overuse for short extensions
\textbf{VOTING:}\n“I move to previous question”, “\textbf{I call to question}” \textbullet\ 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
\textbf{APPROVING AN ALLOCATION:}\n“I move to allocate ___ for ___” \textbullet\ Needs a second, and then we discuss; when discussion is over, or someone calls to question (see previous motion examples), we vote
\textbf{DISCUSSION COMMENTS DEVIATE FROM DISCUSSION:}\n“\textbf{Point of Order, *gets recognized*, discussion is not germane}” \textbullet\ 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
\textbf{TABLE DISCUSSION:}\n“I move to table the discussion/item for next meeting/indefinitely” \textbullet\ Depending on what the item is, this will most likely move the item to Unfinished Business for the next meeting