

# UT Dallas Student Government

## *Senate Meeting Minutes*

### Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Call to Order

- *Called to order at 5:17 PM*

#### Approval of Minutes

*Paulina motions to approve the minutes*

*Viggy seconds*

*Motion passes*

#### Approval of the Agenda

*Rutendo moves to approve the agenda by general consent*

*Willie seconds*

*Motion passes*

#### Announcements

- Senators that have accrued 12 points are more this semester will be asked to come, along with their committee chair, to the Judicial Board meeting on Monday next week (11/23)
- Judicial Board has a new email [sgjboard@utdallas.edu](mailto:sgjboard@utdallas.edu) for excused or unexcused absences and tardies

#### **Visitors:**

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

- The Student Counseling Center will remain open and are still visiting with students
- This winter break may be a difficult one so please refer students of concern to myself or my office
- Let's continue to support students with mental health concerns

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

- We are seeing an overwhelming amount of students who are emailing deans or even the President of the University with concerns about their final grades, please remind your peers that they are to start with their instructor and then follow the formal process (outlined online) with regards to addressing grade grievances at UTD

#### **Officer Reports:**

President: Sara Brennan ([sara.brennan@utdallas.edu](mailto:sara.brennan@utdallas.edu))

- Announces that Camila Santos of the Legislative committee is Senator of the Month for October

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

- Working with the GIA committee as acting chair on a few projects, namely the panel that involves current students, alumni, and representatives from Intercultural Programs to address certain areas of concern for GIA students set to take place in the first week of December
- Updates on the Letter of Support Survey in regards to the Student Government resolution to extend CR/NC and P/F options for the Fall 2020 semester that will be presented tomorrow at 1PM
- Internal Survey will be sent soon regarding feedback on how SG was run this past semester, and information points of contact in current and future projects

Secretary: Hiba Benelbar ([hib180000@utdallas.edu](mailto:hib180000@utdallas.edu))

- Goodbye/Closing Remarks

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

- Budget Report

### Committee Reports

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

- Committee is currently work on a few different resolutions including expanding open education resources, and student concerns regarding Honor Lock

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

- Gained 100 new followers on Instagram, and 50 on Twitter
- Shoutout to Marshall for updating the UTD SG Facebook account
- Shoutout to Imaan and Ishmerai for running SG Spirit Week
- Reminder to Senators to fill out your Senator Introductions that was sent in the general teams chat
- Newsletter update: the first newsletter is set to be pushed on first week of the next semester

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: N/A

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

- Nothing to Report

Residential Student Affairs Committee: Blake Lawyer ([bpl170001@utdallas.edu](mailto:bpl170001@utdallas.edu))

- Nothing to Report

Student Affairs Committee: Neha Khan ([neha.khan@utdallas.edu](mailto:neha.khan@utdallas.edu))

- Town Hall is set to take place next Tuesday (11/24)
- Please attend, stay engaged, cameras on, etc.
- If you have any specific questions about the Town Hall please reach out to Neha

Technology Committee: Vignesh Vasani ([vxv170005@utdallas.edu](mailto:vxv170005@utdallas.edu))

- Nothing to Report

Diversity & Equity Ad Hoc Committee: Thomas Gebremichael ([ttg170030@utdallas.edu](mailto:ttg170030@utdallas.edu))

- Goodbye/Closing Remarks

Green Initiative Ad Hoc Committee: Allyson DeVerse ([ajd170001@utdallas.edu](mailto:ajd170001@utdallas.edu))

- Still working on the affordable meal plan, and issue with the sprinklers

### Old Business:

### New Business:

- Appointment of Senators:

*Rutendo moves to appoint Karel Lirazan and Zuhair Zaidi*

*Hiba seconds*

*Motion passes*

- Karel Lirazan
  - ECS Senior who is currently involved on campus as an undergraduate research assistant in the department of biomedical engineering, as Secretary of the Alpha Eta Mu Beta Biomedical Engineering Honor Society, and member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Biomedical Engineering Society. She notes that through her various avenues of involvement at the University she has been able to build connections with a very diverse group of students including graduate and international students. One main issue of concern for her is the mental health of students at UTD. Ensures that she will work diligently to address issues regarding the mental health of students during her time at SG.

- Zuhair Zaidi
  - BBS Senior who is currently involved on campus as the Vice President of TEDxUTD, a tutor, and student ambassador. Believes that he has been completely transformed by his experience at UTD, and hopes to extend this experience to other students at the University. One issue of particular concern is that of Honor Lock and hopes to address this issue by increasing student engagement with UTD SG.
- Any Questions?
  - Viggly to Karel: Do you think that your position in these clubs had prepared you to enact the change you want to see at UTD? Do you have any ideas in regards to addressing the mental health of students on campus?
  - Karel: Yes, I do believe that me being involved in these various clubs has benefited me in terms of my mental health. I believe increasing engagement with various clubs could help other students with their mental health in addition to passing the CR/NC and P/F resolution in the Academic Senate.
  - Paulina to Zuhair: I love that you mentioned school spirit. Do you have any ideas in terms of increasing school spirit with the general student population?
  - Zuhair: Notes that University events such as Oozeball has become campus tradition which has contributed significantly to campus culture and student engagement. This year has been particularly difficult with class instruction being held primarily online; however, the Student Ambassadors program in collaboration with the campus esports program was able to provide a virtual alternative which raised over 10,000 USD for the student emergency fund. Recommends implementing a similar program to increase student engagement.
  - Viggly to Zuhair: I also agree polling students is particularly relevant. Do you have any ideas on what or how to poll students?
  - Zuhair: I recommend using Qualtrics, in terms of content I recommend asking students about their overall level of satisfaction.

- Executive Committee Appointments

*Vignesh moves to appoint Executive Committee chairs*

*Paulina seconds*

*Motion passes*

- Secretary

- Hiba nominates Karel Lirazan

- Notes that she possesses demonstrated skills as a Secretary in her academic and extracurricular activities as the Secretary of the AEMB Honor society, as an undergraduate researcher, and the financial officer of her Senior design team.

- Ayoub nominates Josh Babu

- This is Josh's second year involved in SG. Last year he served on the Student Affairs committee, and this year he serves on the Academic Affairs committee working on resolutions regarding the continuity of asynchronous learning. He is also an SI tutor for Intro to Neuro and a Freshman Mentor.

*Paulina calls to question*

*Willie seconds*

*Motion passes*

- Graduate and International Affairs Chair
  - Rutendo nominates Bhavishya Gullapalli
    - Has been involved with the committee since the beginning of the semester. Some projects that she is currently working on includes the career fair for GIA students set to take place in the Spring semester. She notes that she has been growing personal connections with various GIA students and hopes to stick with the committee until the end of the year.
  - Ayoub nominates Jared Pugh
    - As GIA his main goal would be to reach out to various student clubs in order to give them more representation on Student Government. Notes that he wants to explore employment opportunities for international students that come to UTD, in addition to leading and conducting studies on the income of these international students. Notes that he is also interested in the cultural integration of these students.
- Diversity and Equity Ad Hoc Committee Chair
  - Sydney nominates River Bluhm
    - River's pronouns are they/them and she/her. Primarily her goal as D&E chair is to expand on the initiative taken by the D&E committee to reach out to student organizations that represent various minority communities and receive feedback on ways SG, and the University as a whole, can better serve these communities.
  - Paulina nominates Imaan Razak
    - Current member of the UTD SG Communications Committee in which she has worked on various projects including that of UTD SG spirit week, in addition to designing various other posts to the official UTD SG Instagram page. She is also involved on campus as part of the UTD Power Dance Team and as a member of UTD Deeds Not Words Title IX committee. She notes that her experiences as a WOC in the US has informed her ability to understand and empathize with students in a similar situation.
  - Ayoub nominates Jared Pugh
    - I intend to reach out to various campus organizations that represent different cultures to include them in SG matters. One of the biggest things we can do is host various campus events that seek to educate people on experiences outside of their

*Willie calls to question*

*Kruthi seconds*

*Motion passes*

*Josh Babu, Bhavishya Gullapalli, and River Bluhm are appointed to their respective positions.*

- **Comet Cupboard Allocation**

*Rutendo moves to approve Comet Cupboard Allocation*

*Mathi seconds*

*Motion Passes*

**Adjourn**

*Hiba moves to adjourn*

*Viggy seconds*

*Motion passes*