

# UT Dallas Student Government

## *Senate Meeting Minutes*

### Tuesday, September 8th, 2020

#### Call to Order

*Called to Order at 5:15 P.M.*

#### Swearing in of the President and Vice President

#### Roll Call

#### Approval of Minutes

- Sara explains approval of last meeting's minutes will be done every meeting
- Approved

#### Approval of Agenda

- Sara explains approval of the Senate agenda will occur every meeting
- Approved

#### Announcements

#### Visitors:

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

- Congratulates the new President, Vice President, and Senators.
- Thanks Ayoub and Hope for their work in Student Government
- Welcomes new and returning senators.
- States that they are here to support us.

##### Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Associate Dean for JSOM

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

- Seconds Dr. Smith's statement.
- States do not hesitate to reach out.

#### Ex- Officio Reports:

##### Briana Lemos, Director of Student Development (briana.lemos@utdallas.edu)

- Direct advisor of Student Government
- Thanks Ayoub and Hope for their work last year and the assistance they provided over the summer
- Introduces Delia and what her role is with Student Government

##### Delia Castillo-Arellano, Student Development – Administrative Assistant (Deliaca@utdallas.edu)

- Introduces herself says her role is to support Student Government as an administrative assistant.

#### Officer Reports:

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

- Introduction
  - Finance and Economics major
  - Junior
- Proceedings



- Meetings are at 5:15pm, log in around 5:10pm, if you have a class that ends at 5:15pm, email secretary
- Committee meetings are every other week, senate meetings are every other week. These alternate.
- Senate meetings are with everyone, committee meetings are just with your committee

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

- Introduction
  - History major
  - Sophomore
- Expectations
  - Meetings are mandatory, email secretary for absences/tardies
  - Keep yourself on mute
  - Use raise hand button,
  - Do not use chat

Secretary: N/A

Treasurer: N/A

### **Committee Reports**

Academic Affairs Committee: N/A

Communications Committee: N/A

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: N/A

Legislative Affairs Committee: N/A

Residential Student Affairs Committee: N/A

Student Affairs Committee: N/A

Technology Committee: N/A

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

- Executive Council Appointments:
  - *Ayoub moves to appoint Executive Council senator seconded*
- Secretary
  - Paulina nominated Hiba Benelbar
  - Hiba accepts nomination
    - Senior Health Care Studies major
    - Previous experience of being a secretary taking meeting minutes and attendance
    - Organized and meticulous
    - Questions: None
  - Ayoub nominates Josh Babu
  - Josh accepts nomination
    - Sophomore neuroscience, second-year SG member, student affairs member
    - Student worker at the SSC, Freshman Mentor, and an EMT
    - Hopes to promote collaboration between committees
    - Questions:
      - Rose: Past Student Government experience?
      - Josh: Was a Freshman senator
      - Bradley: What are your thoughts on dress code?

Josh: More relaxed than in person, but still need some level of decorum



- Alex Quach nominates Justin
- Justin accepts nomination
  - Senior Biology major with a minor in history
  - Past experience on Student Government, noticed and increase in diversity
  - Wants to include Caucuses in student Governments like the former LGBTQ+ caucus
  - Views secretary as a way to add caucuses to governing documents
  - Has past experience keeping minutes and attendance
  - Hope to increase representation
  - Questions:
    - Ayoub: What do you mean by caucus and why it is important for you to get the secretary position?
    - Justin: Secretary reviews governing documents so caucuses can be more easily added
- Vishvak nominates Willie Chalmers
- Willie accepts nomination
  - Sophomore Computer Science major
  - Part of the Technology committee and headed up the reddit initiative
  - ACM and created software
  - Interacted with new senators and get more insight
  - Hopes to continue reddit initiative
  - Wants to keep up the website with the technology chair by adding committee projects
  - Questions:
    - Ayoub: Why not technology chair?
    - Willie: Feels limited as technology chair, also wants to redo governing documents and organize infrastructure regarding Student Government

Ballot vote: Hiba Benelbar

- Treasurer

- Hiba nominates Mathi
- Mathi accepts nomination

No contest: Mathivarshini Sivachidambaram

- Academic Affairs

- Neha nominates Ayoub
- Ayoub accepts nomination
  - Last year's student government president
  - Worked on the academic affairs flagship project the transfer equivalency tool
  - Hopes to increase open educational resources and asynchronous learning
  - Questions:
    - Hiba: Clarification regarding asynchronous learning point?
    - Ayoub: The university views it as the same level of education, they should continue offering asynchronous learning past the pandemic. SG should move to a resolution-based system.
- Hiba nominates Margret
- Margaret accepts nomination
  - Freshman senator, not experienced but willing to learn
  - Has met with former student government senators to learn the ropes
  - Has led the high school's speech and debate club and thespian society
  - Questions: None

Ballot vote: Ayoub Mohammed

- Communications



- Vasti nominates Paulina
- Paulina accepts nomination

No contest: Paulina Hruskoci

- Communications

- Bradly nominates Angel
- Angel accepts nomination
  - Sophomore Global Business major
  - Former legislative affairs senator, created 2 successful round tables
  - Regular field worker in Michigan voter registration, interned for Elizabeth Warren
  - Questions:

Bradley: Asks for clarification on what a resolutions-based senate is

Angel: Drafts legislation instead of creating projects ex. roundtable

- Hiba nominates Katie
- Katie accepts nomination
  - Junior Political Science major
  - Passionate about voter registration
  - Involved in Texas Rising, former officer and field worker
  - Priority is registering students virtually, has a possible solution for Texas voter registration
  - Questions:

Paulina: What makes you special for this role?

Katie: Passionate about voter registration, mentions the confusion of the Collin County and Dallas County lines and how she is knowledgeable

Bradley: States concerns they have with the U.S. postal service.

Katie: Acknowledged these concerns. Offers another method of doing voter registration, like adopting a mailbox.

Ballot vote: Angel Hemme

- Residential Student Affairs

- Ally nominates Blake
- Blake accepts nomination
  - Junior cognitive science major
  - Has lived in Northwest and University Village and loves being on campus
  - Places emphasis on workers such as Peer Advisors or lawn workers
  - Ultimate goal of making a tenant's union
  - Wants a review on housing contract such as move to monthly rent
  - Allow rights to repair for tenants
  - Create townhalls for the residents
  - Questions: None

- Willie nominates Justin

- Justin accepts nomination
  - Already worked on the committee for two years
  - Knows head of housing office
  - Sat on the University wide housing committee
  - Hopes to improve housing communication when a student gets infected
  - Mentions one of his projects which is bringing a dog park on campus
  - Questions: None

Ballot vote: Blake Lawyer

- Student Affairs

- Jared Brooks nominates Neha



- Neha accepts nomination
  - Junior political science major
  - Former student affairs committee chair
  - Wants to ensure each senator is attending their university wide committee meetings
  - Incorporating more resolutions and townhalls
  - Hopes to create avenues for student workers to voice their concerns
  - Questions:

Margret: What is your stance on the counseling center?

Neha: sat on the wellness committee, acknowledges how they can do better and are not moving in the right direction

Margret: Asks what she has done in the past

Neha: Worked closely with communications, drafted resolutions but didn't have much power because it lacked the backing of a full senate

- Bharat nominates themselves
  - Freshman Engineering and Computer Science major
  - Focusing on a wide variety of issues affecting all students
  - Part of speech and debate
  - Hopes to make sure all voices are heard
  - Focuses on a resolution-based senate
  - Questions:

Ayoub: What do you know about Administration?

Bharat: Can be blunt and learn from peers as well as the administration itself

Vasti: What qualifications do you have? Have you held office before?

Bharat: President of high school speech and debate, part of their high school's NHS board, focused on Admin work junior and Senior year of high school

Ballot vote: Neha Khan

- Technology
  - Hiba nominates Vishak
  - Vishvak accepts nomination
    - Sophomore Computer Science major
    - Involved in ACM
    - Wants to bring up more discussions revolving Honorlock
    - Increase different ways UTD technology is given
    - Increase access to outlets and Wi-Fi
    - Questions: None
  - Justin nominates Alex
  - Alex accepts nomination
    - Senior and fourth year on the Technology Committee
    - Was the chair of the committee in the spring semester
    - Increase womxn representation in Student Government/tech
    - Hopes to create an event similar to Womxn in Student Government
    - Questions: None
  - Willie nominates Vignesh
  - Vignesh accepts nomination
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> year Computer Science major
    - Has been on the Technology Committee



- Wants to revamp the website to include information about projects
- Leverage and increase usage of surveys
- Worked with ACM, AIS, and Womxn in STEM
- Questions: none

Ballot Vote: Vignesh Vasani

- Graduate and International Affairs
  - Ayoub nominates Sandhya
  - Sandhya accepts nomination
    - Masters international student so she represents both parties
    - Wants to represent the underrepresented groups on campus
    - President of Women in Technology and sits on the Student Diversity and Advisory Committee
    - Improves Student Government communication with international students
    - Past projects include Comet Classroom and Comet Cruiser Survey
    - Questions: None
  - Hiba nominates River
  - River accepts nomination
    - Junior Political Science major on the fast track program
    - Advocate for the creation of a Teacher's Assistant Union and Teacher's Assistant compensation
    - Questions:
      - Ayoub: Are you a graduate student?
      - River: No, but I plan to be one.
      - Ayoub: Are you an international student?
      - River: No

Ballot vote: Sandhya Subramani

- Green Initiative Ad-Hoc Committee
  - Vasti nominates Ally
  - Ally accepts nomination
    - Mentions how climate change mainly affects people of color
    - Supports the single use plastic ban
    - Hopes to create a food recovery system for students
    - Increase knowledge about climate change
    - Questions

Viggy: Stance on the creation of a green fee?

Ally: Supports the green fee.

- Jared Pugh nominates themselves
  - President of an organization
  - Wants to mark recycling access
  - Increase the recyclable utensils
  - Questions

Viggy: Asks what organization they are a part of

Jared: Kappa Sigma

Ballot vote: Ally DeVerse

- Judicial Board Appointments:



- *Ayoub moves to appoint Judicial Board*  
*Rutendo seconds*
- Neha Nominates Jared Brooks
  - *Jared Accepts*
- Paulina nominates Katie
  - *Katie Accepts*
- Ayoub nominates Neha
  - *Neha Declines*
- Ayoub nominates himself
  - *Ayoub Rescinds his self-nomination*
- Katie nominates Vasti
  - *Vasti Accepts*
- Paulina nominates Bharat:
  - *Bharat Declines*
- Blake nominated Thomas Nazzaro
  - *Thomas Accepts*
- Ally nominates River
  - *River Accepts*

No Contest: Jared Brooks, Katie Silverman, Vasti Galvan, Thomas Nazzaro, and River Bluhm

**Closing Announcements**

**Adjourn**

*Meeting is adjourned at 7:59 pm.*

