

Student Government Meeting Minutes

April 25th, 2018

Clause 1: Call to Order by Presiding Officer

- Present: Senator Mehra, Senator Lorine, Senator Butcher, Senator Chang, Senator Bush, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Ajrami, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Kuligowski, Senator Upama, Senator Vicklund, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Akhtar, Senator Esponda, Senator Garcia, Senator Pen, Senator Berger, Senator Estifanos, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte

Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater

Clause 3: Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

- Minutes from April 18th, 2018

Motion to approve the Minutes; All for

Clause 4: Special Reports

II. Students wishing to address the Senate

Cengage

- Service being proposed would allow for a new venue by which students could get textbooks
- Potentially cheaper materials if implemented
- Service will work through a subscription

Clause 5: New Business

I. Appointment of Pedro Menchaca to FSAC (Food Services Advisory Committee)

- Increase in prices for dining plans has resulted in student outrage
- Plans to implement a sustainable way to buy food and advocates for transparency of the Committee to inform students of changes being made
- Implementation of alternative food options for those with restrictive diets
- Hopes to improve upon how information is communicated to students
- Prior experience through working in the food industry

Motion to extend speaking time by two minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion for a three minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Pedro Menchaca to FSAC ; Appointment Fails ; 4 for, 22 against, 0 abstaining

II. Appointment of Kyle Price to STF (Sustainability Task force)

- Biology Major along with Atmospheric Science Minor lends individual towards being optimal for this task force
- Joining Task Force would not only allow him to help the University of Houston, but would also help contribute towards his perceived future job
- Implementation of volunteer style pickups
- Hopes to get more available recycling options

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Kyle Price to Sustainability Task Force ::: 23 for, 3 against, 0 abstaining

III. Appointment of Isabel Pen to STF (Sustainability Task Force)

- Working on reducing plastic straw usage; starting initiative where people are given reusable plastic and/or glass straws, still looking for sponsors as of now
- Hopes to reduce the carbon footprint here on campus
- Wants to tackle styrofoam problem
- Biology Major and passionate about the environment

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Isabel Pen to Sustainability Task Force ; Appointment Passes ; 25 for, 0 against, 1 abstaining

IV. Appointment of Ryan Pulido to the Student Housing and Residential Life Advisory Committee

- RA at CV1
- Has consistently lived on campus all of his college career and is therefore more in tune with individuals that dorm
- Wants to build campus unity between commuters and dormers
- Implementation of more jobs on campus so students will not have to leave the area in order to get to work
- Better communication strategies so that students understand the changes being made regarding dorms
- Implementation of better kitchens in dorms so that students can cook their own food rather than spending money every time they want to eat
- Has a group of residents underneath him from all different walks of life that can guide and advise him regarding what students want

Motion to extend question answer time by one minute ::: Motion Passes

Motion to extend question answer time by five minutes ::: Motion Fails

Motion to extend question answer time by one minute ::: Motion Fails

Motion for a two minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Fails

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Ryan Pulido to the Student Housing and Residential Life Advisory Committee ; Appointment Passes ; 28 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

V. Appointment of Kim Lorine to Speaker Pro-Tempore Position

- Has been heavily involved in the Student Government Association for the past three years
- Well-versed in Robert's Rules of Order
- Can be assertive when needed in order to maintain stability of the senate

Motion to extend question answer time by three minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion for a three minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Kim Lorine to the Speaker Pro-Tempore Position ; Appointment Passes ; 24 for, 0 against, 3 abstaining

VI. Appointment of Tomas Bryan to the FSAC (Food Services Advisory Committee)

- Has consulted with the director of auxiliary services
- Dining is extremely important to him as he dorms on campus
- Food quality is good but can be improved
- Implementation of take-out boxes again
- Would have to consult the rest of the committee and see what the auxiliary department is doing currently in order to form further initiatives

Motion to extend speaking time by two minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion for a three minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Tomas Bryan to FSAC ; Appointment Passes ; 24 for, 2 against, 0 abstaining

Motion for a ten minute recess ::: Motion Passes

VII. Modern Drug Policy Act (First Read)

- Harris County has decriminalized marijuana and overdose is virtually impossible on the substance
- Worst punishment for possession or consumption of illegal substances should be expulsion not jail time; Expulsion would not be the first response
- Distinction must be made between distribution and possession
- Would shift focus from persecution to therapy and counseling
- Will not form a culture of promoting drugs but would act as a “harm reduction” policy
- Act would not prevent police from arresting individuals but would make sure administration would not immediately call the police on individuals possessing illicit substances

VIII. Food Inclusion Act

- FSAC looking at implementing halaal and kosher food
- This act would make it so that those with restrictive diets would be better provided for and have more options
- Every new building/dining hall will have a halaal and kosher option put into place
- Discussions currently going on with auxiliary services, if any amendments need to be made they will be done during the summer senate

IX. Involvement Act

- Would require RSOs to update meeting times and contact information on the “Get Involved” page
- Would make the process of becoming an RSO easier but would make it harder to maintain that position
- SOLAR training no longer required for repeat RSOs trying to maintain their position, only needed for their first time
- Will still allow for liability trainings
- Implementation of separate systems that will allow for the easier upload of new organizations into “Get Involved”

Motion to extend question answer time by five minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Passing of the Involvement Act ::: Act Passes (Voting results at the end of the minutes)

X. Parking Relief Act

- Increase in parking rates will be capped at 8%, emergency increases must be declared to the student body
- Schedules must be released more than a year in advance
- Will require there to be an actual necessity in order to increase the parking rates
- Better communication to both staff and student body regarding changes with the parking situation and rates

Motion for a three minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Passing of the Parking Relief Act::: Act Passes (Voting results at the end of the minutes)

Motion for a five minute recess ::: Motion Passes

XI. Election Reform and Fairness Act

- Modifications will be made dependent on the turnout during the upcoming election

- Changes voting days to be spread over three weeks with the first week being Monday and Tuesday, the second being Wednesday and Thursday, and the third being Friday and Saturday
- Modification of voting days would allow for a break for both the student body and the election parties
- Sunset clause implemented which states that if the Act fails to improve upon the current system, the change will be rescinded
- One trial year to see how this will pan out
- Voting would open for 48 hour periods during the 2 main rotation days
- New Chief Investigator Position created
- If a presidential candidate or vice presidential candidate drops out, the election party is no longer required to drop out of the race
- Expenditure limits will be implemented
- Three new polling locations will be created to allow voting on campus
- Presidents are not allowed to run again for a second term

Motion to extend question answer time by ten minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to extend question answer time by five minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion to extend question answer time by five minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion for a ten minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Withdrawn

Motion to extend question answer time by ten minutes ::: Motion Passes

Motion for a ten minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Passes

Motion to suspend the rules ::: Motion Fails

Motion for a ten minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking time ::: Motion Fails

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Passing of the Election Reform and Fairness Act ::: Act Passes

Motion to amend the agenda to add the appointment of Ethan Adkison to FSAC ::: Motion Passes

Motion to amend the agenda to add the appointment of Allison Lawrence to the Safety and Security Committee :::

Motion Passes

XII. Appointment of Ethan Adkison to FSAC

- Represents a dietary minority as he is a vegan, through this he can offer valuable input in regards to dietary constraints of others with similarly restrictive diets
- Concerned with the mislabeling of food items in the dining halls, vegetarian items being marked non-vegetarian and meat items being labeled as vegan; main concern and is hoping to fix this
- Hopes to lower consumption of meat on campus during Earth Day and other environment focused days
- University of Houston needs more options for those with allergies as well, will hopefully implement more alternatives
- Joining FSAC will allow him to directly make changes to the system

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Ethan Adkison to FSAC ; Appointment Passes ; 28 for, 2 against, 0 abstaining

XII. Appointment of Allison Lawrence to the Safety and Security Committee

- Working on implementation of a Safety Summit on campus and a Ride-Along program
- Safety and Security Committee ties into the Emergency Safety Committee, working on both of these committees will allow for faster implementation of policy and programs to protect students
- Implementation of guidelines to response operations
- Working directly with teachers currently to find the best way to help students while still keeping classes running

Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes

Appointment of Allison Lawrence to the Safety and Security Committee ; Appointment Passes ; 26 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Clause 6: Closing Remarks

I. Comments and Announcements from Officers

Senator Bush

- Passed the Election code extremely fast with little discussion even though it will have a profound effect, would warn against doing this for other upcoming bills

III. Closing Call of the Roll

- *Present: Senator Mehra, Senator Lorine, Senator Chang, Senator Bush, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Kuligowski, Senator Upama, Senator Vicklund, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Akhtar, Senator Esponda, Senator Garcia, Senator Pen, Senator Berger, Senator Estifanos, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte, Senator Harricharran, Senator Adkison, Senator Pedro, Senator Veeramachaneni, Senator Bryan, Senator Albiso*

Senator Voting Results

Election Reform and Fairness Act:

Approval of Act: Pareesa Mehra, Kim-Briana Lorraine, Bo Harricharran, Ethan Adkison, Kobe Terrier, Divvya Seernani, Mohammed Akil, Hannah Ajrami, Amanda Careces, Shegufta Upama, Jules Vicklund, Gabe Aguilar, Moiz Syed, Marcela Marin, Jazzib Akhtar, Ines Esponda, Tanooha Veeramachaneni, Isabel Pen, Tomas Bryan, Sandy Berger, Emily Joslin, Sterling White, Alex Albiso, Chris Lamonte.

Involvement Act:

Approval of Act: Cassandra Butcher, Tammy Chang, Devon Bush, Vi Pham, Olivia Kuligowski, Diego Garcia, Pareesa Mehra, Kim-Briana Lorraine, Bo Harricharran, Ethan Adkison, Kobe Terrier, Divvy Seernani, Mohammed Akil, Hannah Ajrami, Amanda Careces, Shegufta Upama, Jules Vicklund, Gabe Aguilar, Moiz Syed, Marcela Marin, Jazzib Akhtar, Ines Esponda, Tanoocha Veeramachaneni, Isabel Pen, Tomas Bryan, Sandy Berger, Emily Joslin, Sterling White, Alex Albiso, Chris Lamonte.

Parking Relief Act:

Approval of Act: Cassandra Butcher, Tammy Chang, Devon Bush, Vi Pham, Olivia Kuligowski, Diego Garcia, Pareesa Mehra, Kim-Briana Lorraine, Bo Harricharran, Ethan Adkison, Kobe Terrier, Divvy Seernani, Mohammed Akil, Hannah Ajrami, Amanda Careces, Shegufta Upama, Jules Vicklund, Gabe Aguilar, Moiz Syed, Marcela Marin, Jazzib Akhtar, Ines Esponda, Isabel Pen, Tomas Bryan, Sandy Berger, Emily Joslin, Sterling White, Alex Albiso, Chris Lamonte, Nardos Estifanos