

# Student Government Meeting Minutes

July 18th, 2018

## Clause 1: Call to Order by Presiding Officer

- Present: Senator Mehra, Senator Harricharran, Senator Chang, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Akhtar, Senator Bryan, Senator Joslin, Senator White

## Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater

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

- Minutes from June 27th, 2018

*Motion to approve the Minutes; All for*

## Clause 4: Special Reports

### **II. Students wishing to address the Senate**

*Antonio*

- Hopes to spark greater voter turnout from student body here at UH
- Wants to increase the voice of the youth in the political arena, also wants to increase diversity
- Saturday Early Voting, imperative that youth show up
- Wants SGA to implement a Civil Engagement Officer position, said position would solely be focused on getting the student body to vote

### **III. Two-minute speeches by the members of the Senate**

*Motion to amend the Agenda to add a Bill; All for*

## Clause 5: Executive and Speaker Reports

### **III. Report of the Chief of Staff**

- Merchandise for SGA senators still needs to be picked up

## Clause 6: Committee Reports

### **II. Report of the Internal Affairs Committee**

- Further discussed Bylaw Updates & the ultimatum discussed previously for the Senate Budget
- New Bill being introduced that will simplify election code and voting dates

### **IV. Report of the Administration and Finance Committee**

- Formed list of tasks and objectives the committee wants to achieve this coming semester, will be starting these after this meeting

## Clause 8: New Business

### **I. Appointment of Maysarah Kazia to the Executive Assistant Position & the Women and Gender Resource Center**

- Double Major in Accounting and Finance, both of which can be well applied towards both of the aforementioned positions

- Working on multiple programs and initiatives currently such as, extending mentorship programs at UH, easier transport via metro for students, educational programs for women regarding career paths & etc.
- In order to accommodate both positions, will stop tutoring
- Not only working on implementing new programs, but also working towards improving already existing programs such as the Bauer Mentorship program

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes*

*Appointment of Maysarah Kazia to the Executive Assistant Position; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Maysarah Kazia to the Women and Gender Resource Center; Appointment Passes*

## **II. Appointment of Kate Dentler to the Associate Justice Position**

- Political Science Major, pursuing the position will not only help individual in furthering their career goals, but will also allow them to apply the knowledge from their major into the position
- Vice President of College Gems
- Has and still works on increasing voter registration both in and out of University of Houston
- Has studied Greek politics and ethics, has superior knowledge of law

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes*

*Appointment of Kate Dentler to the Associate Justice Position; Appointment Passes*

## **III. Appointment of Jonah Baumgarten to the Alternate Justice Position**

- Political Science Major
- Has interned with the mayor, Sylvester Turner; Working alongside the mayor has allowed better knowledge of law and parliamentary procedure, can further apply this to SGA
- Furthermore has taken two consecutive semesters of Constitutional Law, thus furthering their knowledge regarding procedure
- Taking this position will allow individual to further career goals

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Appointment of Jonah Baumgarten to the Alternate Justice Position; Appointment Passes*

## **IV. Appointment of Lena Craven to the Alternate Justice Position, Hearing Board, & Appellate Board**

- In the 3+3 Law Program
- In Pre-Law Pipeline Program
- Working internationally with a Law Firm
- Aforementioned experiences lend individual better towards the position of Alternate Justice, Hearing Board and Appellate Board, not only that but it helps in pursuing career goals
- Position as a student and position as a professional allows her a unique perspective when dealing with cases
- Thoroughly understands parliamentary procedure

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Appointment of Lena Craven to the Alternate Justice Position; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Lena Craven to the Hearing Board Position; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Lena Craven to the Appellate Board; Appointment Passes*

## **V. Appointment of Benigno Solis to the Alternate Justice Position, Hearing Board, Appellate Board and Traffic Court**

- Part of the UH Law Center Pipeline Program
- Experienced in briefing and going through various cases
- Shadowed District Judge previously
- Interning currently at the DA's office

- Works with individuals that have obtained DUIs & DWIs, helps make it not permanent on their said record
- Currently a commuter but used to live on campus, as such understands both perspectives
- Furthermore lives near the metro rail so understands the problems associated with such

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes*

*Appointment of Benigno Solis to the Alternate Justice Position; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Benigno Solis to the Hearing Board Position; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Benigno Solis to the Appellate Board Position; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Benigno Solis to the Traffic Court Position; Appointment Passes*

## **VI. Appointment of Moses Belton to the A.D. Bruce Religion Center Policy Board**

- Has provided religious counsel before and is quite experienced with such
- Wants to rectify certain policies in order to make the center more accommodating for all religions
- Has experience with Ministry
- Hopes to make usage of the center free for students and religious groups on campus
- Primary objective if allowed to serve on the board is to give equal access to all religions to the center

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes*

*Appointment of Moses Belton to the A.D. Bruce Religion Center Policy Board Position; Appointment Passes*

## **VII. Appointment of Moiz Syed to the Teaching Excellence Committee Position**

- Working in CLASS Ambassadors and Career Services has allowed him to work close by other faculty
- Will remain unbiased during decisions regarding which faculty member should receive the prestige of the Teaching Excellence Award
- This position is for judging the merit of faculty across campus that have been nominated in order to see whether or not they deserve said award, all decisions are peer checked so little if any bias occurs

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Appointment of Moiz Syed to the Teaching Excellence Committee Position; Appointment Passes*

## **VIII. Appointment of Sahishnav Pillai to the Children's Learning Center Advisory Board**

- Worked alongside children on multiple occasions, e.g. Volunteered & Shadowed at a Pediatric Neurology Clinic, CHAT volunteering and etc.
- Extremely involved on campus, currently chapter president of BXO and active member of AED
- Primary goal is to provide meals for the children that are in the learning center as they are currently not provided such

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Appointment of Sahishnav Pillai to the Children's Learning Center & Advisory Board; Appointment Passes*

## **IX. Appointment of Sterling White to the I.T. Advisory Committee**

- Has extensive experience with Linux, Windows, MacOS & other specialized operating systems
- Both skilled in software and hardware troubleshooting and repair
- College of Technology Major
- Main Goal is to improve the communication between I.T. and the student body
- Other Goals are regarding improving wifi, fixing any "holes" within the I.T. network, and possibly getting the servers at UH updated

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Appointment of Sterling White to the I.T. Advisory Committee; Appointment Passes*

#### **X. Appointment of Jessica Hulett to the Center for Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee**

- Current Director of External Affairs for SGA
- Has had extensive experience with disabled individuals, has tutored for disabled individuals in high school
- Wants to better support the students in the center and wants to get the faculty to better understand the issues that come along with a disability
- Wants to make the center more accommodating

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Appointment of Jessica Hulett to the Center for Students with Disabilities Advisory Committee; Appointment Passes*

#### **XI. Appointment of Davis Mendoza Darusman to the Safety & Security Advisory Committee, Emergency Operations Committee, and Cullen Performance Hall Advisory Committee**

- Both the Safety & Security Advisory Committee and the Emergency Operations Committee work alongside current initiatives he is working on
- Currently UH Alerts are vague and not detailed well, due to this there is no viable way for students to take preventative measures in order to avoid conflict zones
- Working on Safe Walk Program, said program would allow for those who go back to their dorms or cars at night to have a companion so that they feel safer and can be better safeguarded against potential threats
- Currently working towards improving UH Alert system, joining these committees would give more credence to changes he wants to instigate
- Pushing forward initiative to have more security measures at the University Recreation Center
- Has served previously on the Student Program Board, also helped in directing the "Wonderland" event on campus

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes*

*Appointment of Davis Mendoza Darusman to the Safety & Security Advisory Committee; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Davis Mendoza Darusman to the Emergency Operations Committee; Appointment Passes*

*Appointment of Davis Mendoza Darusman to the Cullen Performance Hall Advisory Committee; Appointment Passes*

#### **XII. Appointment of Mike Floyd to the Associate Justice Position**

- Texas Democratic Party Treasurer
- Mainly wants to work on managing budgets in place, application of the bylaws, and better communication to the student body
- Currently has a very flexible schedule so can better manage the workload
- Currently a trustee and as such can work very well with both public and private information, and correct dispersal of either if need be or if authorized
- Ultimately wants to be more involved with the University and wants to better serve the student body

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion passes*

*Appointment of Mike Floyd to the Associate Justice Position; Appointment Passes*

#### **XII. "The Better SGA Act"; SGAB-55005 (First Read)**

- Formalizes the "independence" of the Justice Department, effectively separates Judicial Branch and makes it a separate entity within the University's Dynamic
- Enacts review over stipend implementation for the President of SGA
- Allows for the Speaker of the Senate & Vice President to override the President of SGA given proper justification
- Formalizes the Speaker's ability to vote
- Stricter deadlines enacted
- No longer required for the President to review legislation before it can be brought for a vote

- Vote ratios altered
- Impeachment of President procedure made clearer and more systematic
- Recall system enacted to allow student body more control and more of a voice within the chamber
- Referendum System
- Adjusted number of positions across branches of the SGA

*Motion to send back to Internal Affairs in order to be further reviewed ::: Motion Passes*

#### **XIV. “The Freely Accessible Textbook Act”; UB-55008 (First Read)**

- More strongly establishes exchange system for textbooks at the library
- Allows for textbook donations to be accepted by the library
- Will create an online catalog of textbooks available and make checking out textbooks much simpler

*Motion to send back to Administration and Finance Committee ::: Motion Passes*

#### **XV. “The Meal Plan Price Control & Transparency Act”; UB-55007 (First Read)**

- Details how certain meal plans have changed in pricing and swipes
- Essentially the Act would enact better record keeping and better information dispersion regarding meal plans on campus; would allow the student body to make a more informed decision when buying a plan
- Limits the increase in price to only 3% annually unless given proper justification
- Tries to make one cougar dollar equal to one actual dollar rather than having both adjusted differently

*Motion to send back to Administration and Finance Committee::: Motion Passes*

#### **XVI. “Discontinuation of Styrofoam Products at All Campus Dining Franchises”; SGAR-55001 (Resolution)**

- Main point of the bill is to dissuade restaurants on campus from using Styrofoam and to present a more ecosystem friendly alternative
- Bill will hopefully push franchises to change, acts as pressure on the restaurants and shows that the student body is passionate about the change
- Bill would not secure a fixed price, price may either increase or decrease based on decision made by the restaurant

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Motion to send back to Internal Affairs in order to be further reviewed ::: Motion Fails*

*Motion to enact SGAR-55001 ::: Motion Passes*

#### **XVII. “Hosting a Texas Senatorial Debate”; SGAR-55002 (Resolution)**

- Aims to enact a Senatorial Debate on UH Main Campus or at the very least, to encourage it
- College Democrats, College Republicans and other politically oriented organizations on campus have shown support and have agreed to promote the occurrence of such an event
- Resolution will not only allow the potential senators to debate on UH property, but will also give UH massive media coverage and will further the reputation of the college

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Motion to enact SGAR-55002 ::: Motion Passes*

#### **XVIII. “The Campus Recreation and Wellness Center Safety Act”; UB-55009 (First Read)**

- Student Body has indicated that suspicious behaviours and stalking occurs at the Campus Recreation Center, this Act aims to mitigate risks present to those vulnerable to these acts of harassment

- Act will increase UHPD presence at the Recreation Center and will create easier ways to quickly contact security if needed
- Will increase the amount of self defense classes implemented at the university
- Harassment will result in banning of individuals from the center for an allotted period of time
- Currently sending out surveys to gauge how serious of a taskforce should be implemented

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Motion to send back to the Student Life Committee in order to be further reviewed ::: Motion Passes*

#### **XIX. “The Bylaw Update and Structural Reform Act”; SGAB-55004 (Third Read)**

- Edits Bylaws in order to make them more concise, less redundant and less vague in nature
- Fixes formatting of the documentation, structure will be made more consistent
- Logo has been updated

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Motion to send back in order to be further reviewed ::: Motion Passes*

#### **XX. “FY19 Budget Bill”; SGAB-55002 (Vote)**

- Implements cuts to the President’s budget and SGA banquet budget in order to increase the Senate’s budget
- Ultimate goal is to cut out unnecessary expenditures and to allow for best optimization of the budget in order to get more initiatives for SGA pushed through

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Act Passes (Voting Results at the end of the Minutes)*

#### **XXI. “The Election Marketing Act”; SGAB-55003 (Vote)**

- Discontinues the use of physical polling locations in favor of online voting
- Gives Election Commissioner control of election marketing
- Allows for better dispersion of information to the student body regarding the election

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Act Passes (Voting Results at the end of the Minutes)*

#### **XXII. “The Menstrual Product Price Stabilization and Availability Act”; SGAB-55006 (Vote)**

- Surveys revealed that both pricing and options regarding menstrual products are dissatisfactory
- Act will bring in more options of higher quality and will also introduce a lower premium on these products
- Act has already been run through the Administration and Finance Committee to gauge viability
- Both tampons and pads will now be viewed as essential products on campus

*Motion to move to previous question ::: Motion Passes*

*Act Passes (Voting Results at the end of the Minutes)*

### **Clause 9: Closing Remarks**

#### **I. Comments and Announcements from Officers**

*President Barrett*

- FSAC positions are currently open if anyone is interested in applying

- Election Commissions Application is currently open

*Chief of Staff Lawrence*

- SGA merchandise still needs to be picked up
- UH Day at the Capitol application is due by July 31st

*Speaker Trinh*

- Weeks of Welcome sign-up is currently open, it is mandatory that senators sign up
- Meetings upcoming with all the senators in order to find out how best to push initiatives forward

## II. Open Forum

### III. Closing Call of the Roll

- *Present: Senator Mehra, Senator Harricharran, Senator Chang, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Marin, Senator Bryan, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte*

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### *Roll Call Votes*

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### **“Discontinuation of Styrofoam Products at All Campus Dining Franchises”; SGAR-55001 ::: VOTING RESULTS**

**FOR:** *Senator Mehra, Senator Harricharran, Senator Chang, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Marin, Senator Bryan, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte*

**AGAINST:** *None*

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### **“Hosting a Texas Senatorial Debate”; SGAR-55002 ::: VOTING RESULTS**

**FOR:** *Senator Mehra, Senator Harricharran, Senator Chang, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Marin, Senator Bryan, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte*

**AGAINST:** *None*

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### **“FY19 Budget Bill”; SGAB-55002 ::: VOTING RESULTS**

**FOR:** Senator Mehra, Senator Harricharran, Senator Chang, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Marin, Senator Bryan, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte

**AGAINST:** None

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**“The Election Marketing Act”; SGAB-55003 ::: VOTING RESULTS**

**FOR:** Senator Mehra, Senator Harricharran, Senator Chang, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Marin, Senator Bryan, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte

**AGAINST:** None

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**“The Menstrual Product Price Stabilization and Availability Act”; SGAB-55006 ::: VOTING RESULTS**

**FOR:** Senator Mehra, Senator Harricharran, Senator Chang, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Aguilar, Senator Syed, Senator Marin, Senator Bryan, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte

**AGAINST:** None