

# Student Government Meeting Minutes

September 19th, 2018

*Main motion; All for*

## Clause 1: Call to Order by Presiding Officer

- Present: Senator Mehra, Senator Lorine, Senator Bhiray, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Vicklund, Senator Marvel, Senator LaCourt, Senator Syed, Senator Akhtar, Senator Pedro, Senator Esponda, Senator Garcia, Senator Pen, Senator Berger, Senator White, Senator Lamonte, Senator Chang

## Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater

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

- Minutes from September 5th, 2018

*Motion to approve the Minutes; All for*

## Clause 4: Special Reports

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

*Cory Gaddis*

- President of Student Veterans of America at the University of Houston (SVA)
- SVA is made to support Veteran Students
- SVA sends five students to a convention every year, which has become very costly
- Looking for more funding

*Asher Warriach*

- Member of new organization
- Organization will be focused on networking and entrepreneurship within the sports industry
- Looking for outreach and marketing

*Andrew Teoh*

- University of Houston Student Regent
- Student Regent Application is now open
- Renovations are coming to the University of Houston
- Available if help is needed

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

Senator Syed: Career fair is done and went well.

Senator Lorine: Looking at revamping orientation

Senator Akhtar: Working with Senator Esponda on Straw Initiative

Senator Caceres: Working on revamping orientation, contact her with personal orientation experience

Senator Garcia: Working with Senator Vicklund on a big event

Senator Ajrami: Register to vote

## Clause 5: Executive and Speaker Reports

### **I. Report of the President**

Only \$500+ expense was Tailgating spots, which were refunded to only be \$250. Student Regent applications are now open. SGA now has its new logo.

### **II. Report of the Vice-President**

Student Center is now completely Styrofoam free. Cougar Pack has launched and is now hiring. Houston Health and Safety Summit will take place October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **III. Report of the Speaker**

Class Graduate Career Fair was successful. Working on making mentorship programs campus wide using Alumni and Student led mentorships.

### **V. Report of the Attorney General**

Election Commissioner page is live. Working with the Director of External Affairs on National Voter Registration Day event.

### **VI. Report of the Chief Election Commissioner**

Still looking for another Assistant Election Commissioner, which is a paid position. Working on merchandise and advertising for the election.

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

Emerging Leaders selection is complete. Emerging Leaders Retreat will be Saturday.

### **VIII. Report of the Director of External Affairs**

National Voter Registration Day event is being planned. End the Stigma is on Thursday, and more shirts are needed.

### **IX. Report of the Director of Public Relations**

Working on increasing social media presence. Members can help by participating.

## Clause 6: Committee Reports

### **I. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee**

- Dead week proposal is progressing

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

- Working on new election days
- Working University-wide Committee Senate confirmation removal

### **III. Report of the Student Life Committee**

- Working on straw initiative
- Student life tabling on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Clause 8: New Business

### **I. Appointment of Azali Jeffrey to Undergraduate at Large Senator**

- Sophomore Political Science Major
- Hopes to improve town halls
- Interested in Student Life and Administration and Finance Committees

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

*Appointment of Azali Jeffrey to Undergraduate at Large Senator Passes*

### **II. “The Trans Inclusion Act”; UB-55013 (First Read)**

- Will allow preferred names to be used in applications and entered into the AccessUh system
- Preferred names will be included on all course attendance sheets
- Written in collaboration with representative from LGBTQ Resource Center

*Motion to extend Q&A by two minutes ::: Motion passes*

*Motion to send back to Student Life Committee for further review;;; Motion Passes*

### **III. “The Styrofoam-Free National Dining Franchises Act”; UB-55014 (First Read)**

- Commits both current and future on-campus National Dining Franchises to use alternatives to Styrofoam, if such alternatives are available
- Alternatives are only to be used if price increases remain minimal

*Motion to send back to Administration and Finance Committee for further review;;; Motion Passes*

### **IV. “The Coogs Vote Act”; UB-55015 (First Read)**

- On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first day of early voting for 2018 midterm elections, buses will be continuously provided to transport students from the main University of Houston campus to the Young Neighborhood Library, a polling location in Palm Center
- These buses will leave from the South Student Center
- These buses will be provided by Auxiliary Services

*Motion to send back to Administration and Finance Committee to be further reviewed::: Motion Passes*

*Motion to move “Exempting Certain Confirmation Process” (SGAB-55006) up in the Agenda;;; Motion Passes*

### **V. “Exempting Certain Confirmation Process”; SGAB-55006 (Second Read)**

- Will remove Individual Confirmation Hearings for most University-wide Committees
- AFB, SFAC, University Hearing Board, Student Traffic Court and Appellate Board will still require Individual Confirmation Hearings due to the importance of those roles
- Vice-President will provide a bi-weekly report to be approved by the Senate
- This report will include resumes and answers to a questionnaire relevant to the Committee to which an individual is being appointed
- Approval of this report will serve as approval of appointees within the report
- Senate will have the power to request Individual Confirmation Hearings for any appointment through a simple majority vote
- This Individual Confirmation Hearing will take place at the next feasible Senate meeting, at which time the Senate may vote on the appointment

*Motion to extend Q&A by three minutes;;; Motion Passes*

*Motion for twenty minutes of Moderated Caucus;;; Motion Fails*

*Motion for five minutes of Moderated Caucus;;; Motion Passes*

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

**VI. “Support for the Texas Central Railway”; SGAR-55007 (First Read)**

- Shows SGA Texas Central America’s Bullet Train
- Bullet Train development is completely private, with no use of Government Funding
- Eminent Domain will only be used as a last resort
- Will be sent to every Senate Committee for proper analysis and discussion

*Motion to extend Q&A by two minutes;;; Motion Passes*

*Motion to send back to all Senate Committees to be further reviewed::: Motion Passes*

**VII. “Supporting Higher Wages for Lower-Income Campus Staff”; SGAR-55006 (Vote)**

- Shows support for a University of Houston Human-Resources Department full PayScale Review
- Supports University Minimum Wage to be increased to \$9 per hour, followed by an increase above \$10 per hour after Fall 2022
- This change should be implemented in all new employees
- This change should be implemented in current employees through twenty-five cents increase per quarter
- Paygrade 101 should be abolished
- Pay-scale curve should be flattened

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

*Motion to enact SGAR-55006::: Motion Passes*

**VIII. “Standing Rules”; SGAB-55007 (Vote)**

- Focused on making Senate meetings more orderly and efficient
- Will not allow Senators to vote to bring candidates back in for further Q&A after they have left the room during Individual Confirmation Hearings
- Prefacing will be at the discretion of the Presiding Officer
- Will go back to Internal Affairs Committee for changes

*Motion for five minutes of Moderated Caucus with thirty seconds of speaking time;;; Motion Passes*

*Motion for two minutes of Moderated Caucus with thirty seconds of speaking time;;; Motion passes*

*Motion for straw poll vote;;; Motion Passes*

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

*Bill Fails*

**Clause 9: Closing Remarks**

**I. Comments and Announcements from Officers**

*President Barrett*

- New Attorney General will be confirmed at the next Special Session Senate Meeting

*Speaker Trinh*

- Contact me about changes you want to see in the Standing Rules

*Senator LaCourt*

- If you know how to get tickets to the Beto vs. Cruz Debate, please contact me

*Senator Caceres*

- Student Life Tabling will need volunteers

*Senator Garcia*

- If you want to know more about the event we are planning, contact us

*Senator Lorine*

- If you are willing to help with this event, contact us

*Senator Vicklund*

- The event we are planning is a haunted house

*Senator Mehra*

- Come to the Internal Affairs Committee if you want to talk about the “Exempting Certain Confirmation Process” Bill (SGAB-55006)

*Senator Lamonte*

- Blackboard is being mobilized
- UIT is making a new app

## **II. Open Forum**

*Aidan Potts*

- Viewing party for the Beto vs. Cruz Debate is being organized, contact me if you want to know more

## **III. Closing Call of the Roll**

- *Present: Senator Mehra, Senator Lorine, Senator Birhiray, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Ajrami, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Vicklund, Senator Marvel, Senator LaCourt, Senator Garcia, Senator Pen, Senator Bryan, Senator Berger, Senator Estifanos, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte, Senator Chang, Senator Jeffrey*

---

---

## **Roll Call Votes**

---

---

### **“Supporting Higher Wages for Lower-Income Campus Staff”; SGAR-55006::** **VOTING RESULTS**

***For: 28***

***Against: 0***

***Abstentions: 0***

***FOR:*** *Senator Mehra, Senator Lorine, Senator Birhiray, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Ajrami, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Vicklund, Senator Marvel, Senator LaCourt, Senator Syed, Senator Akhtar, Senator Pedro, Senator Esponda, Senator Garcia, Senator Veeramachaneni, Senator Pen, Senator Bryan, Senator Berger, Senator Estifanos, Senator Joslin, Senator White, Senator Lamonte, Senator Chang, Senator Jeffrey*

***AGAINST:*** *None*

***ABSTENTIONS:*** *None*

---

**“Standing Rules”; SGAB-55007::: VOTING RESULTS**

***For: 4***

***Against: 20***

***Abstentions: 3***

***FOR:*** Senator Ajrami, Senator Pedro, Senator Esponda, Senator White

***AGAINST:*** Senator Birhiray, Senator Adkison, Senator Terrier, Senator Seernani, Senator Akil, Senator Caceres, Senator Pham, Senator Vicklund, Senator Marvel, Senator LaCourt, Senator Akhtar, Senator Garcia, Senator Veeramachaneni, Senator Pen, Senator Bryan, Senator Berger, Senator Estifanos, Senator Joslin, Senator Chang, Senator Jeffrey

***ABSTENTIONS:*** Senator Mehra, Senator Syed, Senator Lamonte

-----