

# **Student Government Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 21, 2019

*Main motion;;passes*

## **Clause 1: Call to Order by Presiding Officer**

- I. Open call of the roll

## **Clause 2: Recital of the Alma Mater**

5 minute recess;;passes

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

*Motion to approve;passes*

## **Clause 4: Special Reports**

- I. **University Representatives wishing to address the Senate**
  - **Ann Daton Director of the Cougar Initiative To Engage:** This initiative is something the University goes through every 10 years to better the learning environment of the campus and make the campus a more realistic place to garner life experience. I am here to introduce myself and to hear directly from students. As well as an event we have coming up, "exCITE" this small event is meant to advertise opportunities for learning abroad, research, and internships. We want people to make elevator pitches about their co curricular activities over the summer, such as researching and learning abroad. There are prizes and we are accepting applications right now. Please share this information.
- II. **Students wishing to address the Senate**
- III. **Guest Speakers wishing to address the Senate**
  - *Mayor Sylvester Turner came to speak to the Senate before the beginning of the meeting. He discussed his time at UH as a Coog, how Moody was when he was here, plans to bring a theme park back to Houston, and how Houston is and will always be a city that accepts people from any background, race, and religion.*
- IV. **Two-minute speeches by the Members of the Senate**
  - **Senator Gonzales:** Had a meeting with Cougar pathways, we talked about how the application is lackluster. However we did discuss getting more readily available resources for career opportunities.
  - **Senator Abrams:** Next Thurs. There is Cultural Tastes of Houston if you have any questions about it or volunteering for it let me know. Today we will have Ask SGA coming up for a vote, and we are trying to restart the talks for a Walk in the Dark.

- **Senator Khademakbari:** I had two bills go up over the summer and am working on another.
- **Senator Doan:** Hope summer was well, I was also able to reach out to Cougar Pathway as well and discussed the spam we see in our gateway and I've been trying to implement that University wide. I also would like to throw a University event to help business majors expose themselves to other business majors across campus.
- **Senator Chambers:** Hope summer was well.
- **Senator Williams:** I will be at Cat's Back with Moot Court come by!
- **Senator Chukwu:** Feel free to share the volunteer sheet for CCA! We can use anyone's help and you get a free T-Shirt when you volunteer.
- **Senator Ramos:** Hope summer went well!
- **Senator Morgan:** I will be presenting some ideas to the standing committees and work with our business majors to introduce students to our dean and help new students adjust to faculty.
- **Senator Saybe:** Hi welcome back! Weeks of Welcome and we're hosting Class Welcome it's an event for Class majors August 29th in the AAH from 3-5, invite any of your orgs or members and feel free to network.
- **Senator Fuentes:** Hope summer was well. Hopefully we can work hard.
- **Senator Duvall:** Good to see you all.
- **Senator Mathis:** Working on bridging the gap between the law center and the university and working on a mental health class.
- **Senator Bryan:** Thanks for working so hard during the summer.
- **Senator Potts:** I'd like to publicly thank Senator Vo he did well over the summer as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.
- **Senator Epomba:** Hope the summer went well.
- **Senator Javed:** I'm back from the summer, let's stay focused and get back to work.

## **Clause 5: Executive, Speaker, Court and Justice Department Reports**

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

- Hey everyone hope the summer was well. Welcome back everyone. Over summer: We increased minimum wage on campus to \$8. We've been working on a student worker bill of rights, to engage the experience of student workers.
- SFAC appointments are going up today.
- A lot of volunteering is happening with Weeks of Welcome, here's the best time to have a presence on campus.
- We passed a nice bit of bylaw changes, any questions let me or the speaker know.
- For Food Recovery we've mandated that Chartwells communicate their food recovery proposals.

- Green Fund we've finished our research and we plan to get some orgs to lobby on its behalf.
- We've had a few slow talks about insurance meetings and we'll have some more updates to come. Sport Psychologists talk are in the works.
- Fall break is also in talks we're looking to have a few more meetings about this.
- Food Drive is happening on September 7th we need a lot of volunteers and we're having another food drive Septer 23-27th for parking relief.
- Also been discussing Chartwells Food Recovery initiative to have a text based system to let students know when there is leftover food for catered events.
- Lastly we are working on a university wide pantry.
- Let me know if you'd like to help out on anything.

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

- Faculty Senate is open let me know if you're interested.
- AFB is also open feel free to open.
- Cougar Pack is hiring drivers and a coordinator. Applications are online.
- We are attempting to have a garden on campus, we're actively looking into different locations.
- I've been working with Chief of Staff with the emerging leaders.

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

- Worked on some standing rules to explain how I will be running meetings.
- Bylaw updates included a lot of changes please look at them please.
- I am currently waiting to hear back on the attempts to book the Houston Room for Student Life's Event.
- We've been working on getting nicer placards.
- We've also been working on updating the website, we will begin switching Senate emails on the directory to UH emails, and committees are being scheduled.
- Volunteering is important and there are vacancies in the Senate. For the College of Technology, Architecture, Arts, Engineering, Pharmacy, Optometry, Education and lastly the Graduate at Large seats.
- Please send in Bios.

## **IV. Report of the Chief Justice**

- Matthew Stell graduated over the summer, and there is a vacancy on the court and there will be another after the semester is over.
- No rush there's not much to do currently as most of our work is during election season.

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

- Welcome back! Thank you for passing my bills and bylaw edits.
- There is now a confirmation for other members of the DOJ. I made changes to make the DOJ more transparent and open.
- I hope you all see what I saw in my appointee tonight.

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

- Hello welcome back. I will be placing an application for Deputy Election Commissioner on Monday, it will be up for a month and then I will select a Deputy.
- I will be meeting with as many orgs as possible to discuss marketing for the election.

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

- I've been assisting the Vice President and President for Office Coordinator applications.
- We have been working on getting more Emerging Leaders let anyone you know who might be interested to apply.
- We've also been working on having a record for our entire administration.

#### **VIII. Report of the Deputy Chief of Staff**

- Applications for Emerging Leaders is open we currently have 24 applicants.
- We are looking for more if you know anyone please tell them to apply.
- Application will close on the 30th, interviews will happen the first week of September.

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

- Hey! We did voter registration at all of the New Student Orientations and during move in.
- We've registered 250 people to vote over the summer.
- Sep. 24th we will do voter registration day. We have a request of \$3,500 to fund the event for free food and music.
- We've also secured non-partisan relations with many different orgs to help register students to vote.
- I've started planning End the Stigma, and special thanks to Bryan, Director of Outreach for getting us so many shirt donations for the event.
- It will be early September.
- Also thank you all for being on time and engaging with the Mayor.

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

- Everyone looks wonderful!
- I've been working on the UH System Conference, to get all of the UH Student Government's into attendance.
- September 24th 10am-4pm! Please show up it's a Saturday.
- Individual College tablings is in the final process of planning.
- Also If you haven't gotten headshots, please stop by my office tonight's formal wear is perfect for them.

## **XI. Report of the Director of Outreach**

- Summer was fun. Welcome back. We are still working on locations for tabling.
- We have worked with UHPD to develop legislature and that bill will go up later today.
- I am also working on the conference as well! Any ideas please send to me.
- We've updated the website. We've added some changes to the website to make it easier to get involved in SGA.

## **Clause 6: Committee Reports**

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

- We didn't have many meetings for the summer, but we did discuss adding A+ to the grade scale university wide.

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

- Over the summer we approved the bylaw updates. We also approved the DOJ's bill to make the DOJ more transparent and open. We also approved the Standing Rules. There is now a bill in the works to make sure senators are working throughout their term. Ask SGA is a bill in the works also to make SGA easier to reach.

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

- We only got to do a bit of planning for the Haunted Forest. We are pushing to get rid of menstrual product costs in the women's restrooms. We are still working on Haunted Forests, so we plan to have 2 houses and trick or treating with the senators to table initiatives.

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

- Thanks to everyone in the summer senate. We passed two bills the minimum wage act and Chartwells Food Recovery Act.

### **V. Report of the Graduate and Professional Students Committee**

- *Did not meet.*

## **Clause 7: Unfinished Business**

## **Clause 8: New Business**

### **I. University Committee Appointment (Sustainability Committee)- Chiamaka Chukwu**

*Motion to move to previous question;;passes*

*Appointment;;passes*

## **II. University Committee Appointment (Student Fees Advisory Committee One Year Appointment) – Cameron Barrett (In Person Appointment)**

- **Hey everyone, SFAC is a committee that helps appropriate the Student Fees. I have a good amount of experience as SGA President, I've worked with many faculty advisors that manage fee fundeds on campus. And I've worked to identify what fee funded need from SFAC and I have knowledge from my current job.**
- The student service fee is \$260 per student.
- I don't really expect to take a leadership role, I'd like to be there to serve as some insight for the members of SFAC.
- It really depends on the context of the need for the fee-funded. It also depends on what is going on with the university.

*Motion for Moderated Caucus;;fails*

*Motion to move to Previous Question;;passes*

*Appointment;;passes*

## **III. University Committee Appointment (Student Fees Advisory Committee Two Year Appointment) – Aristotle Economon (In Person Appointment)**

- **I am currently a Junior Electrical Engineer, I became vp of IEEE. I worked with Academic Affairs of the previous SGA administration where I served as a senator. I believe SFAC is where the rubber hits the road, and where fee funded get to take off. I plan to also bring a STEM element to SFAC.**
  - I believe there is a clear benefit to justify the cost.
  - I believe the perspective I can bring to the table makes up for my lack of experience.
  - I've been able to free myself up for this position I'm not trying to take on too many responsibilities.
  - I've never had a job specifically allocating finances, but I have been over entire departments to oversee our finances before.
  - My decision making would mostly go into the right amount of funding based on how many people would be most effective.

*Motion to extend Q&A;;passes*

- Having managed my time in SGA I plan to move forward and garner more knowledge on clubs and how they're handling their finances.
- I believe open communication and peaceful resolution is important.

*Motion for moderated caucus;;passes*

*Motion for PQ;passes*

*Appointment;;passes*

## **IV. University Committee Appointment (Student Fees Advisory Committee Two Year Appointment) – John Asamoah (In Person Appointment)**

- Biochemistry major on campus. I am also a research student. I am also a programming board member of NSM and a fundraising member of another organization. I have to optimize funding events. I want to start a non-profit organization for human trafficking, sustainability act and the homeless epidemic in Houston.
  - I've been on the other side of the table many times. I know how SFAC works and I understand what it's like to have strong arguments for SFAC.
  - If there was a misuse of funds previously I would ask for a justification when a misuse of funds is present.

*Motion to extend Q&A;;passes*

- The point of my questions that I would ask, would be to discuss that these funds are going to a certain org when they could prove effective elsewhere.
- A lot of the positions I have are about efficiency and I am very proficient with my time management and efficiency.
- My overall outlook would be would these funds make an important impact on the University.

*Motion for moderated caucus;;passes*

*Motion to overrule the speaker and have unmoderated caucus;;passes*

*Motion to move to previous question;;passes*

*Appointment;;passes*

#### **V. Department of Justice Appointment (Deputy Attorney General)- Brandon Erdman (In Person Appointment)**

- Senior in Finance. I formed my own organization and I handed it off to take on this role. My resume speaks for the experience.
  - I wanted to garner experience in law so I took this role.
  - I just wanted to try and see what a prosecutor's job is like.
  - I took a phone interview, and had a mock portion of the interview and before that there was a form of GetInvolved.
  - Obviously my demeanor would be different in the case of handling an election code violation.
  - I am not involved in the day to day of my org anymore.

*Motion for unmoderated caucus;;passes*

*Motion for moderated caucus;;passes*

*Motion to extend caucus;;fails*

*Motion to move to previous question;;passes*

*Appointment;;fails*

#### **VI. UB-56003- Stop The Bleed Kits (First Read)**

- This bill is to garner support for Stop the Bleed Kits being supplied on campus. These are bleeding control kits. Other institutions have implemented these bleeding control kits.
  - The kits cost about \$50 and there are about 120 stations they would be supplied at.
  - There has been one documented use at UT for someone who got shot.
  - We are here to support this, SGA will not restock these.
  - This resource will be well advertised.
  - We do hope to get this training out as much as possible.

*Motion to send this to A&F;;passes*

## **VII. SGAB – 56008 - Ask SGA (Vote)**

- This is to make it easier for students to get in touch with SGA.

*Motion to move to pq;;passes*

*SGAB - 56008;;passes*

## **VIII. UB-56002- Raising the Student Minimum Wage Act (Vote)**

- This bill is raising the minimum wage on campus for student workers. We've done this to set a progressive standard for our administration, but this bill has already taken affect. The minimum wage has been increased to \$8.
  - There have been no price increases because of this.

*Motion to move to previous question;;passes*

## **Clause 9: Closing Remarks**

### **I. Comments and announcements from the officers**

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### **II. Open forum**

- Javed: If you'd like to see Bernie Sanders, Contact me.
- Duvall: If you'd like to work on a bill involving facial recognition and AI let me know.
- Barrett: If you'd like to join my graduate call with utsa let me know

### **III. Closing call of the roll**

## **Clause 10: Adjournment**



<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Beg.</u>	<u>End</u>		
President	Allison Lawrence	P	P		
Vice President	Maysarah Kazia	P	P		
Speaker	Alexandre Do	P	P		
Chief Justice	Kate Dentler	P	P		
Attorney General	Sakethram Desabhotla	P	P		
Chief Election Commissioner	Bo Harricharran	P	P		
Chief of Staff	Vi Pham	P	P		
Deputy Chief of Staff	Tania Hameed	P	P		
Director of External Affairs	Jessica Hulett	P	P		
Director of Public Relations	Erica O'Brien	P	P		
Director of Outreach	Bryan Medrano	P	P		
Senators				Ask SGA	Min. Wage Act
Undergraduate at Large	Kaden Lewis	P	P	Y	Y
	Leonard Chambers	P	A		
	Elizabeth Pham	P	P	Y	Y
	Ed Gonzales	P	P	Y	Y
	Tomas Bryan	P	P	Y	Y
	Eduardo Abrams	P	P	Y	Y
Graduate at Large	Cameron Barrett	P	P	Y	Y
Bauer	Daniella Ramos	P	P	Y	Y
	Katherine Doan	P	P	Y	Y
	Jack Morgan	P	P	Y	Y
College of Education	Queen Epomba	P	P	Y	Y
College of Engineering	Quang Vo	P	A		
College of Law	Alexys Mathis	P	P	Y	Y

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Aidan Potts	P	P	Y	Y
	Kaitlyn Austgen	P	P	Y	Y
	Wasiq Javed	P	P	Y	Y
	Paulina Saybe	P	P	Y	Y
	Francisco Fuentes	P	P	Y	Y
	Lexus Simmons	A	A		
College of Natural Science & Mathematics	Christina Dias	A	A		
	Chiamaka Chukwu	P	P	Y	Y
	Aneesha Krothapalli	P	P	Y	Y
	Jasmine Khademakbari	P	P	Y	Y
Graduate College of Social Work	Emily Joslin	A	A	Y	Y
College of Technology	Bethany Jackson-Price	P	P	Y	Y
	Alexander Duvall	P	P	Y	Y
	Calvin Williams	P	P	Y	Y
Honors College	Chirag Mistry	P	P	Y	Y