

UHSGA

Order of Business

57th Administration Agenda

7:00PM Wednesday, February 3rd, 2020

Clause 1: Call to Order by the Presiding Officer

I. Opening call of the roll

- Senator Blakely
- Senator Boroujerdi
- Senator Diaz
- Senator Gomez
- Senator Hertzzenberg
- Senator Jordan
- Senator Kim
- Senator Kelly
- Senator Ortiz
- Senator Shriem
- Senator Shuping
- Senator Ubina

Clause 2: Reading and approval of the Senate minutes from the previous meeting

Clause 3: Recital of the University of Houston Alma Mater

Clause 4: Special Reports

I. University representatives wishing to address the Senate

- Christopher Caldwell: my name is Christopher Caldwell and service director for that committee funding board here at the University of Houston Keith and Julian asked me to come to this meeting because you are considering a bill for some reform to our guidelines and bylaws. So, I'm here just to give you a little background insight how we work our processes want to ask any questions that you might have about how we work a little bit about myself this is my third year serving in this role so I always I never called myself an expert but I've been here long enough that I think I know just a little bit about how we work and how we do things we are a fairly specific organization we don't do any programming or anything like that so we are purely paperwork based or purely driven by the guidelines in the bylaws that we have so little history on specifically to what's being requested in the bill is operating funds when I first started in AFP twin 2018 there was a task force that was set by the student fees advisory committee and we met should go over all the guidelines and I lost a little history AFP is an agency of the student fee advisory committee meeting we are recognized as University

sponsor organization but we are still a part of student fees advisory committee so we don't make many decisions or do anything without their advice and consent and we still go to inspect every year just like the other University sponsor organizations and request our funding only difference is that we are allocated 1% of the student service fee and that doesn't typically change the only time our budget changes is when enrollment increases and the total allotment that as fact so that 39,539 thousand 500 students that turned to 40,000 just a couple years ago for the interview that were here that's when our budget increases so I guess a few years ago game FB task to have a task force that took over all of our guidelines and bylaws and meet that task force was shared by the best which is the director of the student centers and we went over all of the things that we have in our bylaws including positions how often the positions are filled how long their field for how accountability looks second FB and then our guidelines our guidelines outlining what we find what we do not find how we funded all of those things just a few years ago before I became they'd be director as fact actually moved our bylaws on our guidelines apart they used to be one living document but they separated it to allow for our guidelines to be reviewed every year so apart of our guidelines is that in my role is to review the guidelines every year to ensure the process kind of stays up to date so each year I look at it and say OK we don't do this anymore we match this or anything that's process oriented I have the right unchanged changing that with you in that every year So what I do is I go through the process and say for example I started in AFP and said that you had to submit a request for weeks in advance we change it to three so things like that little my new details I request that to my advisor that goes up to her supervisor goes after changing demand they approve it and we change it so that does not have to go to expect things that change the way we function that does have to go to S fax so operating funds that something that as fact has 100% clearly seen that we do not fund right now so that would have to go for their approval I will give you a little background as my history in this role I have requested operating funds be something that MPI can fund and we have been told no three times actually in the past probably 10 or 12 years because the reason being AFP is funding for MPI is from student fee dollars so everything that had the funds has to be open and free to all you make students and the reason that fact has said no more than one time to operate in footage is because at that point that is something that can be enjoyed or used whatever terminology you want to use by exclusive group of students they cannot be something that the entire University community can you so for example if Abby finds an event all of you on this call Kim go and if you were declined at the door and we find out about it we reserve the right to decline that funding because it has to be open that's in our guidelines is very clear so operating funds such as supplies T shirts that are not event specific things like that we typically do

not find because they're not even specific and they're not something that can be used by entirely entire University commitment community so that's a little history on why we don't have operating funds now I'm happy to answer any questions if you have them now about the bill I know you have a lot to get through I will stick around in this meeting so when the time for them to come up with a question that you have has come up you can ask anything but not going to answer them now like I said keep wanting to stop by then you will have been discussing this bill for quite some time now.

II. Students wishing to address the Senate

III. Guest speakers wishing to address the Senate

IV. Two-minute speeches by the members of the Senate

- Senator Ahmed: Hey guys! I hope everyone is staying safe as COVID is getting pretty crazy. Please get vaccinated if possible and continue to social distance and wearing masks.
- Senator Arias: Hey guys, I just wanted to encourage you guys to finish this semester strong and graduate
- Senator Davis: Good evening everybody. This is my first senate meeting of the semester and I'm glad to be joining tonight. Some things that I have been working on. As you all know I'm part of the work group that the president appointed a while back last summer of last year to work on initiatives for this school year in future. one of those is the racial equity and social justice work group. we had a meeting in January last month we were trying to get a website worked up for the students to see the resources which cater to social justice and overall racial equity. And The cougar just reached out to me recently to kind of provide a brief a run through of what I was able to do there. So, they have all the answers submitted and hopefully get that published. We're working with Senator Ahmed to get a bill written to improve UH online because even after this pandemic when all this stuff is over, we're still going to have online classes and we're still going to have in-person classes. So, we have to get that bill to possibly improve academic affairs. Last thing I do have is kind of a question is that I am working with TSU to organize a community clean up in the near future, but I wanted to ask you all this administration to see if you'll all be down for that. It will be a community cleanup in a third Ward area because I have seen a lot of trash in that area. So, if you could just let me know if you're interest and I will get more information soon. I believe that's it for me and it's nice seeing you all.
- Senator Garcia: Hey all, I just wanted to plug something real quick so in my daytime I'm a housing policy adviser as my job for Harris County currently we're working on a 10 year plan for constructing affordable housing around the County and whatnot and still working on that kind of stuff and create complex creating a comprehensive plan for that part of this plan involves a survey of Harris County

residents regarding their housing needs their desires around housing and whatnot and from what I've been told by the outreach team that's doing this work younger people are not building up the survey as much as we would hope and of course especially with people our age student debt really hampers our prospects when it comes to owning a home and then of course with renting and just generally bad economic stuff for younger people so once everyone is done with talking about the event that Kenneth was talking about I'll go ahead and put the link in the chat and if you all can please fill that out it's a very short survey but if you can please fill that out and then if you do have people who might be interested in or groups or whatever that might be interested in doing this kind of stuff who are Harris County residents I'm I really encourage you all to share that link with them as well it's really important that we get representative sample with this survey because it will be impacting the County for the next decade. So, I'll put that link in the chat and then if you'll have more questions go ahead and just let me know appreciate it, Thank you.

- Senator Hamad: Hey everyone I hope you're all doing well and starting strong this semester. Nothing much to report.
- Senator Fulce: I hope you guys have a great start of the semester. As we all know, tests are coming up soon, so I hope you guys push through it. I have two bills up tonight. One for vote and another one for second read because we got a lot of good feedback at the internal affairs meeting. So, I want to make sure everyone has a chance of providing valuable feedback. So, that's something to look forward to at the end of the meeting, thank you!
- Senator Morgan: Hey everyone, I hope everyone is staying safe and hoping to have a good meeting tonight.

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

##### I. Report of the President

- Everyone happy start the semester I guess we're already almost like in the middle of it which is kind of crazy that testing everything are about to start piling up. Some updates for SGA, I'm going to be working on some health care reforms. I came across a petition and some graduate students, they are teacher assistants, they told me about how their stipend isn't covering their student health insurance cost and since we are in a pandemic and I work in healthcare and I'm trying to get into the realm of health care policy, this was kind of horrifying to me. So, I'm going to be meeting with Dean Larson. I already had a meeting with Dr. Walker about it just to let you guys know that a bill about this issue is going to be coming at the next Senate meeting, once I finalize these meetings and decide what way I want to try to solve this issue. What I'm going to try to do is advocate for their stipend to be increased to cover the entire cost of the health insurance. Something

that happens every year is that premiums go up for student health insurance because of the people using it and unfortunately, it's just the way our healthcare system works. So, one of the reasons we've been getting some pushback on it is because premiums will increase pretty much indefinitely with inflation with the usage. So, every any solution is kind of a temporary fix if we increase the stipend, premiums will probably still go up and at some point, the same problem will arise but because of the situation that we're in and because I personally believe that Healthcare is a human right, I'm going to be pushing for that stipend to cover the entire cost even if it is just a temporary fix now in light of the pandemic and because everybody has the right to help here. so that's what I've been working on. some other initiatives I've been working on with Julian as we're trying to get some signage in the dining halls but healthy eating habits how much caffeine is too much caffeine, how many monsters is too many monsters. So, people in the dining Hall can be a little bit more aware of their maybe not super healthy habits. something else that we're working on is that, Julian and I are part of a committee about affordable learning materials and so we're working on some reforms to try to either have learning materials included in financial aid and trying to kind of brainstorm ways that we can make textbooks affordable for all because something that I have run into before is that either my refund check doesn't come through fast enough and I just don't have textbooks for the first month of classes or my like checks for my part time jobs don't come through so there's been definitely instances where I have not been able to purchase textbooks for class until like maybe a month into the semester and I know that that's not a singular problem and a lot of us have had to face that issue of our refund check not hitting fast enough. So, we're going to try to work on a solution in that committee and still pretty excited for that to get some performs student life committee is going to be having a bill go through them as well hopefully if you'll decide that's the right Ave as you guys know a big focus of this administration has been inclusivity and as a result we have made quite a few resource lists I know that Hiba has been working on one Julian to be working on one there's a bill that's being presented today that Chiamaka and Sterling will be presenting about their resource list. I really want this to be something that SGA continues to follow up on and this list will be updated as the years go on. So, at the next Senate meeting, I'll be introducing a bill as well that has to do with having the student life committee chair be the designee to either themselves or whoever they decide will be the ones to make sure that this list is updated. So, we can kind of have that consistency throughout the administrations and some other things, exciting things I'm sure the rest of the cabinet will talk about is that we are planning for our banquet that is going to happen in March I know Julian probably is going to talk about that, so I'll let him talk about that and we are also going to be starting our tablins, our Coogs

Consent tablings, where we're going to be giving away some fun merch and a new show. I think we'll talk a little bit more about that and want to steal their Thunder too much. So, that I think is pretty much all of the initiatives that we're working on. I'm still trying to finalize some of the initiatives that we started and making sure they are taken up by the appropriate offices, but I think that's all of the new updates for now. As Senator Ahmed said earlier, the virus is still around, and I feel like I've probably said this like a million times, but I do work for an emergency center. I transfer patients to hospitals. So, I am very much aware of the capacity of Houston hospitals and Texas hospitals and they're pretty much all still at capacity it's been like that for months. I don't know how much you guys hear in the media, but things aren't getting better. people who aren't taking the virus seriously, I don't really know to say anymore because things are so much worse now than they were when people were actually afraid of it in like March in April of last year. So, please take it seriously if you're able to get vaccinated, please get vaccinated. I got my second dose to vaccine over the weekend I think and like I was sick for like a day after, it's not something to take lightly but you should definitely take it if you have the opportunity to so you can keep yourself safe and we can try to start having a solution to this public health crisis that we've been having. With that I'll leave you all, I hope you guys have a great meeting. Take care of yourselves, your family and/or mental health.

## II. Report of the Vice-President

- Hi everyone, I hope you guys are doing well nice to see some friendly faces. so, some stuff that I've been working on like Jasmine said the Muslim/South Asian student support bills. there's most likely going to be 2, one for Muslims and one for South Asian students because I feel like each group has distinct needs and they are separate groups although there is a lot of overlap. Also, as you guys remember last summer, we had quite a few work groups working on racial equity following the George Floyd protests and one of the initiatives that has come out of those workgroups is the safety and security student subcommittee, it was meant to be a task force, but they changed right now. That bill was supposed to go up today but it's not going up because of some changes that are being made, hopefully for the better. So, we're keeping an eye on that and I should have a bill ready hopefully by the next Senate meeting. So, that's going to be a good tangible result that we've had found the workgroups 5,000,000 years later. The change is slow, but we keep fighting. Lastly, all the applications officially have pronouns questions on there. There are even some applications on the SGA website that aren't even real applications, but I still put the pronoun thing in there in case it turns into application later just hopefully future administration can see that this is something that matters and it's important to our administration and they carry that on.

Especially, since I put it the bylaws for the vice president. If you have any other initiatives or need anything else, please reach out. That's it for me, thanks guys!

### III. Report of the Speaker

- Alright my report obviously we've got two new senators going up for appointment Kathleen & Farhan, I think you both like them. Finally, filling our HRM and College of law seats so I'm excited. I also have another person who emailed me just a few minutes ago expressing interest in one of the open CLASS positions. we have two open CLASS positions since Aderonke graduated last semester and Greg Norwood has recently resigned. So, we have two open seats now but next meeting we'll probably have one and if we have another before then you know there would be zero. I do have an open NSM seat and there's still 2 engineering seats, optometry, social work etc. The directory is up to date so you can check for availability there. I finally got to do my first tabling of this semester it went very well, passed out lots of masks. I was concerned that I would soon not be able to pass out masks because people wouldn't need it anymore but clearly people still need it because we haven't done our due diligence. so, the masks are still being passed out which is great and are going to waste. I've had a lot of genuine interactions with a lot of people who have come up asking about SGA and a lot of people who are interested in running. If you're ever in the student center, you can look at big TV well that's the one I was like an all-day above Starbucks and you can see our SGA election is being broadcasted or is being advertised up there. If you're interested in running, how to get involved. So, I talked to a lot of people today about how to run in the election, the forms to fill out, telling them about our website on the applications, the open vacancies, how our emails are all up there etc. I think I'm also getting a lot of followers for Instagram which is great those are long term strides, if you ask me those people will stick around for now who knows, and I check if they unfollow and most of them stick around. Besides that, I'm working on my transition documents for the next speaker, whoever that may be, as I said before if you're interested in that position, please reach out to me. I can talk your ear off and shoot off and then spit it back out for you and tell you all about my job but I'm working on the transition document. So, that the next speaker will have a little bit easier time for getting started. I'm also working on, as Jasmine said, putting together a PowerPoint to present services about some potential ideas for nutritional education that we can put up in the dining halls about things that some students may not know genuinely, and you know there's a lot of there's a lot of nutritional myths out there. So, it's important to kind of be able to distinguish the good information from the bad. Also, I'm in that inclusive access task force workgroup where a bunch of faculty and administrators are talking about getting a contract with full it's the provider for our bookstore securing some kind of deal or contract that will help students be able to pay for

textbooks with financial aid and such and to get kind of like a subscription thing where you a set amount and then you get all your textbooks. So, it's supposed to be cheaper and save the University students millions of dollars and they've been talking to other universities about how they implemented that deal with falling. I'm learning a lot about textbooks adoption. As President Khademakbari said, I'm thinking about putting together a resource document for Asian students just as campus. there are so many resource documents for the different students. On a personal note, I am about to finish my applications my Dietetic internships I'm applying to the Texas Women's University, University of Texas in Houston, University of Houston in Debakey and that deadline is fast approaching so I'm working on those applications.

IV. Report of the Chief Justice

- Hi everyone, it's really great to see everyone again there are a few kinds of things that I want to talk about. First, there is going to be an alternate justice that's going up for confirmation. I have worked with this person in the past before and of course he is an amazing person and I totally support him being an alternate justice. The next thing that I would like to talk about is that I am restructuring the Supreme Court of how everything is going to go. I will be probably drafting a resolution or a bill that describes this new position within the Supreme Court. So, this position is going to be considered a Ranking Associate Justice. The ranking Associate Justice is already going to be somebody that is on the court and will assume the duties of Chief Justice and Senior Associate Justice if a case needs to be heard and both Chief Justice & Associate Justice are out. This will also help groom the next Chief Justice, if I ever do decide to step down which I have not yet and don't plan to do so in the nearing future. But basically, that is going to be the mission structure behind the court and that's all that I have.

V. Report of the Attorney General

- Hello all. So, I have a few fun things on this week. It has been so fun for me because I've really gotten a good feel for what it's like to be Attorney General during the election season. So, that's really fun, work getting done. I went to an Internal Affairs meeting and will be there again on Monday to help and talk about the bill and discuss it. There are a few things I was going to talk about. First, I'm working with Hiba and Chiamaka on a Gender Pronouns Bill. It's going to go up for its first read next Senate meeting. I'm going to send it to Julian but it's about making sure that different parties don't refer to candidates by the wrong pronouns and that if they do it on purpose for a second time and a complaint is filed, it's going to be in the election code that they received a Class C penalty for that. I think this is really important because there is obviously a lot of stress and drama that happens during the election season and I want to make sure that it doesn't become something that's emotionally harmful to students, especially queer



students and dissuades them from running in the election. Another thing is that I'm currently working with a Court Justice named Meg and she is one of the first Democratic women to be accepted into court. So, she's going to be running her campaign soon and I'm really trying to gauge interest on who would be interested in working on a real campaign. she's looking for young Democrats that really love government. So, if that's something you'd be interested in, please let me know. I'm going to talk to Julian about maybe having her come in and speak to the senate because she'd be really interested to talk to you a little bit. But she's an amazing woman and she works really hard to help the homeless population in Houston and to work toward POC rights and queer rights in Houston. So, she's really awesome person. I think that's about it. I'm proud of all of y'all and I'm so excited for this election season.

VI. Report of the Chief Election Commissioner

- Hey also farther than 42 people signed 43 people actually not have signed up to run but only 18 people have sent me there for five so please get that into me because you will not run if you don't send it to me. Something I find interesting is that there's already 10 CLASS people registered to run and five businesspeople and there's only four business seats and only seven CLASS seats. So, those should be fun races to watch. I still like about the previous bill, I'm little confused about the whole situation because I posted the bill in the business chat and then I also mentioned if you have any questions reach out to me. Afterwards, we had a 3-hour internal affairs meeting, and no one brought up anything about the bills. So, the sudden care about the judicial branch's opinion is very suspicious and if the issue was as important then it would've been brought up sooner. That's all for me, thank you.

VII. Report of the Chief of Staff

- Hey guys, so I'm pretty much working on the same things that I have been working on. Retention, helping out with the banquet and putting together a black resources list mostly it has been Chiamaka, but we are doing that together and have been adding a little bit as well as Jessica. She won't be able to make it to this meeting but pretty much same update as last one, she has her hands in a few things to the full Senate. She has been working with a couple senators and members as am I to bring more things to you, president, vice president.

VIII. Report of the Director of External Affairs

IX. Report of the Director of Public Relations

- Hey guys, I'm currently working with Jasmine to promote the transfer student mentorship program. I'm also working with Eddie in the court and we're wrapping up a photo shoot this Friday and all the pictures will be uploaded on the link I sent in business chat I'm also working on ordering our goodie bags which will be handed every Wednesday during our tablings. they're going to be about 500 and

they're all going to contain condoms, Lube, oral dams and flyers in efforts of promoting safe and consensual sex on campus. that's about it for me.

X. Report of the Director of Outreach

Clause 6: Committee Reports

I. Reports of the Academic Affairs Committee

- Hi guys, I hope you're staying safe. I hope you're well. so, this is actually my first Senate meeting of the semester as well so I'm really happy to see you guys. For our update, we are still trying to gather the list of concerns students have been having regarding online learning. I wanted to pass this bill during the winter, but I had a lot, and it was very hard for me. But now Kenneth and I are going to be working on this bill and change the policies very quickly. There are still the same issues you're facing, and professors just aren't getting it. So, hopefully they'll be positive change soon. On another note, I just want to reiterate what Jasmine was saying about COVID. Jasmine and I work in the same place, I've been noticing people go out even more. I actually currently have COVID because I caught it through a coworker of mine. so does my husband as well as his entire family so it's spread pretty fast within my family. Honestly, I did not think I was personally going to get it because I social distance, wear a mask and did all that we could but it could happen to anybody. it's not fun, trust me. I've been in quarantine for a week and a half and I get retested again on Monday. So, hopefully I'm negative by then. Please, stay safe if you're able to get the vaccine, the sooner everyone can get vaccinated the sooner we can go out and about in our lives and do normal things. so, that's all I have if you are interested in Co-sponsoring the bill or writing it, please let me know. Thank you, guys!

II. Reports of the Internal Affairs Committee

- Hi guys. The internal affairs, as you know has been stated earlier, did have a 3-hour meeting, it was a very good and productive one. I really appreciate all the feedback and all the thoughts and all the communication that we had and as a result of that, the Senate clarification bill is coming up for a second read because as a committee. Also, we have another bill that's up for vote today which is going to be the transition bill. Basically, making sure that everyone's on the same page when you know they come into the Senate. The only change we added to it was pretty much adding a timely factor to it basically saying that the future speaker has to send this out by the first meeting after they get appointed. just to make sure that there is a timely factor that someone won't get an email at the end of the semester but what happened during this administration and that was pretty much the main gist of what happened at the internal affairs meeting. So, to those senators that are looking for another committee to join or wanting to actually join their first committee, I would recommend the internal affairs committee because

not only if the transition bill passes, but we would also pretty much document like the history of our administration through our bills and by creating a document about it and two there would be ample opportunities to write bills. So, you kind of get a 2-for-1 combo, the standard internal affairs stuff plus a bill writing section. So, I hope you guys would consider joining internal affairs, thank you guys!

III. Reports of the Student life Committee

- No new updates.

IV. Reports of the Administration and Finance Committee

- We just went over the activities funding order form. Now all we can do is really cross our fingers, hopefully that aspect helps on. But yeah, it's going to be on for vote today. Thank you.

V. Reports of the Graduate and Professional Students Committee

- So, as you all can see on the agenda, the Grad student Bill of Rights revised bill was passed by the GPS committee this past meeting. So, we will be voting on that as a full body today. I will talk more about that later. I'm really excited to hear that Jasmine is working on that stipend issue, it certainly is a big issue that GPSA and GPSC had been hearing about and so we're really excited to work together on that. Hopefully, we can actually make administration move on this priority. So yeah, I will talk more in a few minutes about the bill. Thank you.

Clause 7: Unfinished Business

Clause 8: New Business

I. Senate Appointment (Hotel and Management) – Kathleen Worsham

- Hi guys my name is Katie. So, I'm currently a junior in the Hilton college for Hudson restaurant management. I'm planning on going on the hotel track and I want to be a hotel general manager or work for a global travel agency. Currently, I have a job in a catering company is for very high-end clients. So, with this I'm a team lead which basically means I have a ton of responsibility I'm entrusted with working with these millionaires very well-known corporations I also have had jobs being a head coach head waitresses basically I just have a lot of experience responsibility being trusted and bad I also have experience in the student council I was in that for two years in high school I was the vice president so I helped plan a lot of events I was really well known in the school with all of the principles and AP's I was also in National Honor Society I was the president and so being in both of these really helping learn a lot of time management I was really dedicated for this in the school and I really miss that involvement I really miss being involved in the school getting to know other people in other majors that is something I really missed and that's something I really hope I can get here in SJ I'm also extremely active in the community I've had almost 400 hours of

community service and I'm really passionate about helping out and giving back I really think this is a place that I can do that clearly hearing from what I've been talking about throughout this whole meeting all of you clearly care about the community and want to help out and that's something I want to be involved in So what I want to do for the Hilton college is my main goal is to get it more involved on campus so obviously the seat has been vacant for a while which means that my college exclusive in itself a lot of people are only involved in the clubs in our college so they are only involved in the restaurant clubs or hotel or club or the like country clubs cops and I think that if I get this position I can help the college get more aware of other clubs on campus I can help them branch out into clubs like SDA or anything else like this just help expand their reach I guess and I'm planning on doing this by we have a currently have any Instagram for different clubs but right now they only promote Hilton clubs so hopefully through y'all I can learn about other opportunities on campus community service events other random things going on I can send that too to Instagram and help run it and help people get more involved I really think there's a big need for that right now and I hope I think I can help accomplish that so I yield my time to questions and thank you.

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Senate Appointment of Kathleen Worsham for Hotel and Management; passes.*

II. Senate Appointment (College of Law) – Farhan Mohiuddin

- Good evening everyone my name is Farhan Mohiuddin, and I am a current second year law school student at the University of Houston Law Center. a little bit about myself, after completing high school, I attended the University of Houston main campus and I completed a dual-bachelor's degree in biochemistry and psychology. after that I immediately joined law school and began my three years of studies here now as Julian mentioned, I do have a few minutes introducing myself and a few minutes for questioning and I've been told that the more time I spend on talking now the less likely I'll have any questions, but I would welcome any of your questions and respect everyone's time. So, I'll keep this very brief and then I'll be happy to answer any questions you have I applied for this seat for one basic reason there and that is to contribute in my own way to the UH community. I've been here pretty much my entire academic life and I've enjoyed every day of it like anywhere else our little community is not perfect but because of people like you and y'all were slowly but surely getting there as a whole and as a law school student I see myself primarily focusing on issues that may affect not only the entire campus such as working to decrease and hopefully eliminate hate speech and actions on campus against any particular group and focusing on diversity and inclusion initiatives on all parts of the UH campus at all I'd also like to focus on issues pertaining specifically to the Law Center and interactions mainly

interactions between the Law Center and the main campus such as increasing the collaboration between the two um I know that historically not many of US law school students joined the black this platform and this organization but I felt as though it was important to be a part of the discussion and contributed back to U of H as best as I can and with that I'll quit boring everyone with any more information if it's OK with you all I can answer any questions you may have and thank you for your time

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Senate Appointment of Farhan Mohiuddin for College of Law; passes.*

### III. Supreme Court Appointment (Alternate Justice) – Duy Pham

- Thank you everyone my name is to be found and I'm currently a junior in the Bauer College of business I transferred from ACC as an SGA officer so I'm very well acquainted with the inner workings of sea in terms of advocating for the best interest of a diverse student body as well as to bridge the gap between the University administration and a student body I started out initiate there as a campus relations committee chair and work my way up the ladder to the highest level of senior leadership in the system which is the United student council that had jurisdiction over district matters overall 6 SDS in the system an in my capacity as an officer there I worked on student retention initiatives ranging from academic advising to structuring of the art and design discipline as well as a complete revamp of the sea constitution which I am very proud of Anne from this project it was especially important to me because the college is a two year minority serving institution that faces the reality of student leaders leaving prematurely and also because of the lack of a robust student learning student life experience so I wanted to introduce a Dream works that would create an inclusive and equitable student government experience for every student therefore as much as possible and outside of the classroom I am engaged in social impact efforts that promote well not necessarily for most but provide access to education in Southeast Asia so East Asian regions that for students who face to experience natural disasters and also nonprofit organizations here in the states that promote environmental activism and overall I feel that I have Explorer a variety of leadership functions to diversify my skill sets but I feel that my strings with most compliment a position on the core as an alternate justice to start. Thank you all for your time.

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Supreme Court Appointment of Duy Pham to Alternate Justice; passes.*

### IV. SGAB – 57019 – African American/Black Student Support Act (First Read)

- So basically I'm not sure if you guys have gotten a chance to read the bill anything but it is very similar to the president's first bill that we put out for Latin X students that we had back in September and two October so we saw that Black

History Month is February we put out a resource list for Latin ex-students for LGBTQ students hippos working on one for South Asians Muslim students and so tomorrow night sights get together and work on one for black students and so this is just the bill saying that you support that and that's what's going to be happening this is also going to be affected by Jasmine's eventual bill that has a student life chair making sure that these are being updated.

- *Motion to send it to Student Life Committee; passes*

V. SGAB – 57018 – Senate Appointment Clarification Act (Second Read)

- Pretty much the reason why we're bringing this bill up for a second read is because at the internal affairs committee we ended up having like a lot of great ideas come out with. for example, extending the time period for having like the speaker reply to applicants from like 2 weeks to like 30 days, basically a month. and a lot of good ideas like that. So, what we wanted to do was not basically confine that like creativity and that thought to a single committee, we wanted to bring it back up for everyone to put their valuable insight in our legislative product. The main part in question. The reason we wrote this bill was because there were past instances that people applied to the SGA or two applied for a position and it took a few months to get a response from the speaker and/or just generally they did they did not receive timely communication from the speaker. So, we saw that it's important and the only way we can make sure there's a fair process for the students and for us as senators that we see the appointments coming to the Senate. the only way we can make it there is that the person in charge would respond in a timely manner and communicate with them. So, one of the things that was said about the bill was that we should leave the responsibilities of the speaker vague, so we don't make it too detailed or specific to make it difficult for the speaker. So, I don't think it's too specific, I think it's just like the time limitation. It's there in many other cases in many other documents of the SGA, including the bylaws, the constitution and election code. one example, Article 2 Section 1-6 of the election code specific and there are many other examples of this specifically says that the election commissioner has to respond within 48 hours to the emails. so, this is kind of similar except we're saying the speaker has to communicate with the applicants within two weeks. So, the speaker has a pay position of 20 hours every week, two weeks is 40 hours of stipend hours of work. we had other bills coming to the Senate that added more details to the bylaws and no one questioned that. so, I think is fair to say that if the details we're adding are necessary and useful, like in this case we're saying that it has happened in the past, so we want to make sure it wouldn't happen in the future. So, it shouldn't be a problem that they are too detailed and it's only like 2 clauses to the responsibilities of the speaker. just want to reiterate we're really open to any

potential changes that you guys have for the bill. It's really important to get everyone's feedback so we can make this bill even better, if possible.

- *Motion to send it to Internal Affairs Committee; passes*

VI. UB – 57006 – Activities Funding Board Reform (Vote)

- So, basically the reform bill is trying to ask for some changes in the guidelines of the activities funding board and the goal is to better incentivize student organizations in their activities. I think doing this would actually help FPS' main mission statement which is to increase campus vibrancy and inclusion for the students. So, one of the main challenges for many student organizations is having access to initial funds to plan and prepare for their programs, especially smaller organizations because they can't raise funding from their members. they don't have many members and they also can't organize events because they don't have any money. So, that's kind of like a trap for them. AFP helps with that. they have three types of funding, as I understand from their guidelines. they have direct payments; they have reimbursement and advanced payments. that being said the funding, as Jerry Caldwell said, is available only for events that are open to the entire student body. So. none of the organizations being funded can you know close your door or apply any type of limits to the participants. another issue with the FBS application beside that is that it is only available for specific events. beside that, the process takes sometimes from four to six weeks. so, if student organizations wanted to plan a program like for next week or two weeks from now, they wouldn't be able to receive funding. Here's what the bill is asking. It is asking to allow student organization to request a maximum of \$100 per academic year for operating funds, that's the maximum limit of \$100. FBS allows for \$3000 per organizations, for other events. But this comes from that \$3000. it can be used for necessary expenses for the organizations including subscriptions, programs, software and supplies that are central to the purpose of the organization. they use it throughout the semester to prepare for events. it's not dedicated to one single event, but they use it throughout the semester for their maintenance. I've contacted many registered student organizations and some actually, I think 25 of them, responded and they said they would like to sponsor this bill and support it. they all said they want to hear back about this bill, if it just passes into SGA and later if it's implemented. all of them were very enthusiastic, they said that it would help them a lot. they said they find this this initiative very useful in the future. Also, it's been implemented in many other universities across the country but one example that I looked at the same operating funds is provided in UT-Dallas except it's \$300 for every student organizations per academic year. the last thing I want to say if this bill gets passed from my understanding, it would be implemented AFB has to consider it and propose it to the aspect and if it's approved then it's going to get implemented.

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes.*
  - *UB – 57006 – Activities Funding Board Reform; passes.*
- VII. UB – 57007 – The Ratification of the Revised Graduate Student Bill of Rights (Vote)
- there were no changes through the committee when this bill was heard in committee. Essentially, we had this original student Graduate Bill of Rights passed a couple of years ago which was never implemented because of issues that UH administration had with the language. since then, it has gone to UH's legal Department to be reviewed and currently we are going through this re-approval process of the revised version of this document, which is mostly the same aside from the fact that we've divided the document. one part of it shows what policy's UH currently has regarding issues with grad students and what they can do to resolve those issues. the second part of it explains what we desire from administration and what we think we're entitled to when it comes to UH serving our needs. So, went through our committee within SGA and was passing honestly GPSA is currently virtually voting on it. I'm checking the votes and it seems like it has already reached quorum and it's passed unanimously. the next step for this would be to go to the graduate professional students committee which is composed of faculty and two graduate students them to approve to finally move on to the next step which is review from the Provost and then a real re-review from the UH's legal Department.
  - *Motion to move to previous question; passes.*
  - *UB – 57007 – Ratification of the Revised Graduate Student Bill of Rights; passes*
- VIII. SGAB – 57016 – Transition Plan Bill (Vote)
- So, this bill is just trying to bridge the gap between this administration and the next administration by making sure that all of the senators that are coming in are well aware of all the initiatives and pretty many things that we passed this semester just giving like a nice living short brief document. someone could reference it like this instead of having to go through all of the different bills. it's just to make sure everyone knows what they're doing.
  - *Motion to move to previous question; passes.*
  - *SGAB – 57016 – Transition Plan Bill; passes*

#### Clause 9: Closing Remarks

##### I. Comments and announcements of the Officers

- President: Great meeting Everyone if you guys are interested in any of the initiatives that we're working on feel free to reach out and I would love to have any of your input or help with anything. if you're on campus come by to our table on Wednesdays, we should be there pretty much all day and we should be getting that merge in the next week or so. So, hopefully next week maybe we'll have some goodie bags for you so come by



- Vice President: Everyone great meeting hopes you guys have a great night and have a good one guys.
- Speaker: Expect an email coming out very soon on the RSVP for the banquet. So, if you want to bring someone to the banquet then you will have to fill out a form, that form will be reviewed and if that person is accepted, we will send that person a waiver. they have to electronically sign that waiver and you have to RSVP. The deadline is March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the banquet is March 26<sup>th</sup>. if you do not RSVP and you try to come to my event, I will kick you out because capacity is very important. so, this plus one system you could say is a first come first serve basis.
- Chief Justice: Hey everyone again. I just want to thank you all so much for confirming the alternate justice. I will make sure that he knows his duties and he will be able to understand the constitution, the bylaws and the election code. If he does ever become an associate justice. if you all have any questions or anything like that regarding appeals or anything like that, please feel free to reach out to me. I'm more than willing to talk to you.
- Attorney General: very good meeting! excited about all that is to come. I talked to Julie and we're going to get the justice to come speak next time. So, if you're interested in working on a campaign, I've worked on a few it can be very frustrating but it's fun. So, DM me on GroupMe or whatever you're interested in helping out with the campaign. all of you are great and I appreciate all of you.
- Chief Election Commissioner: Hey, all! So, just get me your FERPA's and get your people to send me your FERPA's. if they don't get their FERPA's to me and come through the candidate seminar, they're not going to be able to run this election.
- Chief of Staff: Nice meeting everybody! I really appreciate you coming out tonight. I really appreciate you guys voting yes on the Bill of Rights. that was one of my first initiatives and it's taken this long to get there. mostly thanks to John and GPSA but I was there a little. I hope you guys have a great night, stay safe.
- Public Relations: Hey guys great meeting. something I also wanted to mention was that I'm going to work with the Exec and discuss about the banquet regarding like decor merch. If you guys have any ideas or if there's anything you want like SGA pens, shot glasses etc. Hit me up with the ideas and we'll get it done. thank you, goodnight!
- Outreach: Hey everyone, thanks for a productive meeting. If you need any help or any advice, please feel free to reach out to me or any member on the executive board. Goodbye.
- Senator Fulce: I want to thank you guys for one voting for the bills. I really appreciate it and it feels really good to have a bill written. Also, I really do appreciate you guys sending the set appointment clarification act to the internal affairs committee. it's going to be really exciting to hear more feedback and

seeing how we can fine tune in all the bill. So, I really appreciate that, and I hope you guys have a nice night.

- Senator Shriem: Hey I just want to mention something really quick. I'm not sure if you guys are aware, when Jasmine was talking about the book's issues. sometimes you're having a hard time getting your book on textbook on time. if you go to the library website for the University of Houston, you can sign in and search for your textbook and find a free PDF version of it. so far, I've been able to find all of them except for one for this semester so hopefully that helps.
- Senator Ahmed: Hi guys, I just really quickly want to ask if you guys are interested in joining Hiba and I with the South Asian student support Bill, please let me or her know. Also, if you guys are a new senator and you guys wanted a committee to join, I would highly recommend you join the academic affairs committee. we tried to do you good work as much as we can. academics really do affect our lives the most as students. So, if you are interested just let me know and if you are interested in helping writing or Co-sponsoring our Bill. hopefully we'll have a reading for the next Senate meeting on the issues that students are facing with online learning, let me know as well. thank you, guys.
- Senator Sasser: What a meeting! Truly a blessing to see you all and see these bills being passed. Lots of fun! All things aside, please don't forget about the Essential Worker Scholarship. Scholarship foundation where I make sure to put it in our group E and we're trying to help out fellow essential workers, our fellow Cougars. In addition, for the CSD committee, even though we passed the bill to improve conditions for students with disabilities with all that they're dealing with. unfortunately, a lot of professors are still denying students with disabilities their accommodations but without a doubt we're trying our hardest to make sure that people make sure that the CSD and our administration work with each other. Everybody here is amazing. everybody is beautiful. hope you have a great night!

II. Open Forum

III. Closing Call of the Roll

- Senator Arias
- Senator Blakely
- Senator Boroujerdi
- Senator Diaz
- Senator Gomez
- Senator Hertzzenberg
- Senator Jordan
- Senator Kim
- Senator Kelly
- Senator Ortiz
- Senator Shriem

- Senator Shuping
- Senator Ubina

Clause 10: Adjournment