

UHSGA
Order of Business
57th Administration Agenda
7:00PM Wednesday, July 1st, 2020

Clause 1: Call to Order by the Presiding Officer

- I. Opening call of the roll
 - a. Senator Blakely
 - b. Senator Castro
 - c. Senator Davis III
 - d. Senator Kelly
 - e. Senator Kim
 - f. Senator Medrano
 - g. Senator Miles
 - h. Senator Morgan

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
- 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: Hi guys. Hope you guys are safe. I just recently got employed at a healthcare facility and am an essential worker now. I am seeing how bad COVID situation has gotten especially for people above the age of 50. Please do not go out for the 4th of July it's not worth it. Black Lives still matter. Stay safe!
 - Senator Arias: Hey guys, hope everyone is okay and staying safe. Take care!
 - Senator Chidester: hey guys I hope everyone is doing well. No new updates but let me know if you need anything!
 - Senator Chukwu: Hey everyone, I have a resolution going up for first read today regarding the renovation of garage 5. And I am also going up for an appointment today for Chief Election Commissioner so please ask me a lot of questions. Thank you!
 - Senator Darbin: Hey guys, I hope everyone is doing good and staying safe.
 - Senator Duvall: Hi everyone. I hope everyone is staying healthy and social distancing. One night at a bar is not worth a loved one's death. So, remember

Black Lives matter and take precautions please. I will add on more as the meeting goes. Thank you.

- Senator Fulce: going off on what others said, the most important thing to do right now is wear your mask as Governor Cuomo of New York said, “we’re not here to wear chinstraps, we’re here to wear masks” so you guys have got to wear your masks. I went to a Walmart a couple of days ago, and people over there were all wearing masks it was very surreal. So, if the average person can wear one, you can too. And on a lighter note, I am down to help senators with their bills so let me know if you need any assistance.
- Senator Gil: Hey guys, hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. As Senator Fulce advised, wear your masks when you’re out in public or around people. It’s not that complicated and it’s better for everybody. Shout out to Senators Arias and Fulce for the continued leadership in the Administration and Finance committee. We’ve been trying to be active in that committee and Senator Arias created a google document asking for our opinions on how we can better our committee which is highly appreciated.
- Senator Hamad: Hey guys. Just like everyone said, please wear your masks and follow the guidelines. Where I’m at right now, Dubai, was under lockdown for the past couple months and it seems that the cases are going down. Please try to stay safe as your loved ones need you. Take care and good luck with everything.
- Senator Hilton: Hey everyone. I hope you’re staying safe, wearing your masks, following guidelines and staying indoors. Stay healthy and take care!
- Senator Robinson: Hey guys, I currently don’t have any initiatives but as Senator Fulce said, let me know if you need any assistance with any of your initiatives, goals etc.
- Senator Sasser: Hey guys. Hope everyone is doing well and ready for the sandstorm that’s going to be hitting us. Good news for College of Technology Senators, we had our meeting with the Dean which went really well, and we had a great time. He mentioned serious situations when it comes to hard evidence, which is when the dean will get involved. As far as the rumors, like how it came out on twitter, all he can do is refer it to the EOC. Besides that, everybody wear your masks and stay safe!
- Senator Shuping: Hey guys, I don’t have much to report. But I hope everyone is staying safe and Black Lives Matter!

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

I. Report of the President

- Hey everyone, thank you for joining this meeting and I am hoping you are staying safe and healthy. It is unfortunate that yesterday was the highest reported cases in Texas for COVID-19 cases which makes it about 43,000 cases confirmed as of

now in Houston area. It's gotten to a point that almost everyone knows someone who has been infected. Governor Abbott's Irresponsible decision to open the states is extremely disappointing and now hundreds and thousands of Texans are going to pay the price. As of now, the local leaders in Houston, San Antonio, Austin etc. are pleading the Governor to give the local leaders the authority to issue another Stay-At-Home order. These local leaders are fighting hard to make things right so it is important for us as citizens to realize that we shouldn't wait until we get a statement from leaders to stay at home and protect yourselves and those among you instead of worrying about the economic wellbeing. As we saw in the previous weeks that the leadership and the status don't listen to citizens, so we take matters into our own hands and demand change. And it's about time that we do the same by staying home, follow guidelines, wear a mask and social distance. If not for ourselves, for our community. I don't know when our government became so convoluted that the health and safety of our own people became such a partisan issue. So, please wear a mask and follow the guidelines not because it is mandated but because you want to keep everyone safe. Thank you to our essential workers for keeping our society afloat. It's sad that they go underappreciated for all their hard work during these tough times.

- Today marks the end of Pride month but certainly not our pride. On June 26th, 2015 the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in the United States. This was only 5 years ago. Although, our nation has made really great strides in supporting the LGBTQ+ community it's important to remember that there are still gay people around the world that are not safe and are still criminalized and that there is still homophobia lurking around in our nations and within our communities. So, even though it is not pride month anymore, still have pride in who you are, who you love and know that you are always accepted and welcomed here in SGA. The strides that our nation has taken would not be possible without the hard work of the activists like Marsha Johnson, a black transwoman whose shot glass was heard around the world and marked the start of change.
- On the SGA-related updates, I have a bill going up for first read today. It is a policy reform act which addresses a lot of the student concerns that we have been seeing over the last few weeks. Some of these issues include, Sexual assault, diversity inclusion, as well as UHPD reform. So, stay tuned for that. The University Provost Dr. Short will be releasing an update on July 14th about how the classes will be held in the Fall 2020 semester. A silver lining is that the UH International Student Task force has been doing tremendously with over 20 applicants for our program which I'm really excited to pilot this Fall. I know it's a tough time for everyone so please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here for you if you need anything.

II. Report of the Vice-President

- Hi everyone, hope you guys are staying safe and well. I understand that the reports given by me and the presidents are kind of brief, but it is because we have a lot of updates for you guys in between meetings as we are working constantly on initiatives. If you're interested in any of the initiatives, we mention in the senate meetings, please reach out!! We would love for you guys to be taking some of them and be part of projects. We reached out to a couple of senators to be a part of work groups, which we will later on reflect more on during the meeting. We are, like the president mentioned earlier, working on plies to improve our campus.
- The president and I had a meeting with A&F in which we discussed EOS. We will be working on updating some of their reporting. As it is difficult to report discrimination so we're hoping to have a form. For those of you following Vishaka's case against Professor Houghton Brown, I'm still working with her and advocating for her suspension to be retroactively removed. I also have some Bylaw updates going up today for first read so please vote yes, they are very small minute things basically updating on how SGA already works which is not reflected in the bylaws. I am also working on cougar pack and the International Student Membership program is going very well, like the president previously reported. During our first meeting, we looked at 20 applications. They're very surprising and cool. The interviews should be set up soon. There was an SGA social which was amazing. Thank you so much for setting to our chair, Sandra Ortiz, for setting it up. It was so much fun even though I didn't win a single game. A lot of the Executive Member will be training people to register to vote. If you guys want to be a part of that please let us know. It's a great opportunity to get young people to vote right now. We can definitely swing this election and make it go the way we want to.
- Lastly, I had a meeting with Jim Taylor, University Architect. I will be writing a resolution in support of phase 2 of the student life plaza. Hopefully, it should be going up by the next meeting. We also discussed reflection places and they're not exactly what a lot of people had in mind. So, I will be speaking with MSA about working on a petition and letting the architect department know what the students want. Other than that, there are committee appointments taking place today. Please vote yes as they are great candidates. And if you guys are interested in committees please apply, I update the website daily so please check it out.
- I do want to point out that your advocacy as a senator reflect greatly upon how much you want to participate. So, if you join these committees, you're going to feel like you're making a huge difference on campus.

III. Report of the Speaker

- I have a lot of people contacting me that they can't come to these meetings, which is okay a couple of times, but I do want to remind you that if you miss too many

meetings you won't be able to continue the summer senate and would have to wait till fall to continue with senate. But if you do miss meetings, you can appoint a proxy and have another senator fill in and vote for you. All you have to do is ask the senator of your preference and have them vote for you and let the speaker know that you will have a proxy for the meetings. You can only have proxy for one person so make sure you choose someone good. Other than that, we have been working with the International Mentorship Program. I attended the meetings and did an interview along with David Hilton with one of the mentor candidates. She was great and we really liked her. The social was great and I had a lot of fun. We should do something like that again.

IV. Report of the Chief Justice

- Hey everyone, hope everyone is staying safe. Just a quick reminder to wear your masks when you're out and about. I had to get tested because one of my students was exposed to COVID. Luckily, my tests came back negative. So again, please be very careful when you're out and about.
- I received a notice from one of my Associate Justices that she is resigning so there is one more spot open. If you know anybody, please reach out to the President.

V. Report of the Attorney General

- Hey everyone. As the president previously mentioned, I hope everyone had a pride month and this year pride month wasn't as colorful as last year due to the pandemic which is pretty sad. But, it's still a good time to celebrate.
- Due to lack of applicants, I appointed Chiamaka Chukwu to be the Chief Election Commissioner. I believe she has a lot of great experience and will do a tremendous job. This is purely a marketing and management position which makes Ms. Chukwu a perfect candidate for this role.
- I wanted to wish this administration a Happy 3-month anniversary. One quarter of the way through administration with a lot of crazy things done in the process. Typically, around July and August is when people start thinking about running for the election and the registration form for the election has been up for a few months now, so if you're interested feel free to reach out to me for advice.

VI. Report of the Chief Election Commissioner

- Hi everyone. Just as everyone before me said, please stay safe and wear a mask. I am still working on Student Bill of Rights and will be meeting about that with Jessica. The Emerging Leaders application is now open so if you guys know any incoming freshmen, let them know about this as it is a great way to get involved on campus. I also have a meeting with Graduate and Professional students Association and the Graduate Dean tomorrow with Senator Garcia.
- Jasmine and I talked at the Cougar Carnival over Zoom on Monday and we discussed and tried to get everyone to join. My part was to discuss the Emerging Leader program, how and why they should join and landed a few applicants after

that which I'm really proud of. We will be doing it again next month and will have a few more applicants and hopefully we can get that program started. Also, I reached out to all the applicants of the mentorship program last week and scheduled interviews with them so we will be conducting those interviews in the coming weeks and select correct applicants.

VII. Report of the Chief of Staff

VIII. Report of the Director of External Affairs

- Hi everyone. First and foremost, Harris county is now offering volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar training. These training will be held over zoom and will be an hour long, super easy and definitely worth it. I will be sending a link in the chat to register for training. These trainings can be counted towards your volunteer hours for senators. Yesterday, I attended a virtual meeting with Move Texas and volunteers from other organizations and universities. I spoke to over 40 people in the 2-hour event and answered common election questions and helped make voting plans. If you would like to attend one alongside of me please reach out.
- I emailed all three members of School about planning an All UH-System SGA Conference and also asked them to send me a contact information for the liaison for the future. So far, I've received responses from UH-Clearlake and UH-Downtown. Still waiting on UH-Victoria for a response. I will be holding meetings with each of the schools over the next coming weeks. As Mr. White said, we have a meeting together to discuss the works in Student Bill of Rights. There will be more about that on the next senate meeting. The SGA Legislative Affairs chair at TAMU reached out to me to discuss a collaboration on the Student Health Peak Act, the Rise Act and open educational resources, which we will be meeting for tomorrow. Lastly, I want to remind everyone to vote as there is an election going on right now. If you have any questions regarding votes and more information, please reach out.

IX. Report of the Director of Public Relations

X. Report of the Director of Outreach

Clause 6: Committee Reports

I. Reports of the Academic Affairs Committee

- Met with a handful of deans and CAPS on an update on the Emergency W bill. We came to a conclusion that we don't necessarily need a bill for what we are going to do. the school is currently working on something related to withdrawing from a class due to COVID-19. It's not official yet so I can't go in too much detail but its in the works and will fix everything that we want regarding withdraws. Additionally, I discussed more information be added to the Syllabi about the options students have. Nothing concrete has been created yet as it still needs to be

discussed with Senator Ahmed. I also will need to meet with them one more time to get an approval or disapproval of ideas.

II. Reports of the Internal Affairs Committee

- We had no meeting this week, so I have no updates.

III. Reports of the Student life Committee

- Hey guys. Hope everyone is doing good. We had our first virtual social last Friday, so thank you everyone for joining and making it fun. Special thank you to my vice chair, Mr. Sasser, for coming up with all the ideas and organizing such a fun event. We will discuss having another event further on.

IV. Reports of the Administration and Finance Committee

- We met last week and we caught up on everything, how everyone is doing and if there's any initiatives that need extra assistance.

V. Reports of the Graduate and Professional Students Committee

- We didn't meet this past week but there's still updates. The Grad student recruitment is not doing as good as we would like for it to do but it's the summer so there's a lot of distractions, so we are still a work in progress. We are implementing the plan that we came up with last meeting. In terms of institutional racism, right now I have been hearing about a lot of other graduate groups that are forming their own initiatives things spontaneously without as a centralized kind of thing. I know with the Hobby School I'm been working with, our administration on stuff like that and I think it'll be good to centralize what everyone is doing and help support each other on campus so we don't feel so alone as we fight these big fights with admin that can get pretty intense. I know that the letter that was sent to me by the UHPD Chief was sort of insulting as they dismissed our demands and what we were asking of them, which kind of gives us the taste of what administration will be throwing at us as we continue this fight.
- We will be having a meeting with the Dean of Graduate school tomorrow at 10:30am to discuss the Graduate Student Bill of Rights. If you're on the committee with me and want to join in on the meeting with me, please let me know. There will be people for GPSA there so we will have that student front with Dean Larson.

Clause 7: Unfinished Business

Clause 8: New Business

I. University committee Appointment (Women and Gender Resource Center Advisory Board) – Jessica Hulett

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *University committee appointment for, Women and Gender Resource Center Advisory Board passes*

II. University committee Appointment (Library Advisory Committee)- Sterling White

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *University committee appointment for Library Advisory Committee passes*

III. University committee Appointment (Library Advisory Committee)- Jasmine Khademakbari

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *University committee appointment for Library Advisory Committee passes*

IV. Election Commission Appointment (Chief Election Commissioner) – Chiamaka Chukwu

- I have a plan on upcoming elections if I was given the opportunity to act as Chief Election Commissioner. I wanted to get election assistant that way we can devise up the labor and have more tabling locations where people can vote like the library or student center. Also, want to have the marking out 2-3 days before the elections as the people tend to ignore it. I wanted to also have like a competition or a raffle for which you can gain 1 entry when you vote and there'd be different stages which will be covered later on. I also wanted to work on having a little event because I know the COVID is worsening so we can ensure that there is social distancing in the event. It would have all the parties invite and speak but due to the current situation I will need to figure more things out on how it will go down. And of course, having a presidential and vice-presidential debate because the last one surfaced up some great arguments and opinions. If the COVID situation is not getting better than I will focus on digital marketing more like on social medias as well as contacting professors with 100+ students about sending out a mass email about the event. I would also work with other election commissioners from the other UH systems and see what ways they're using to have an election during COVID. Regardless of whether we're social distancing or not, I would host social media contest for prizes. I would also like to publicize the platform to those that are running board positions which will make it easier for students to know what they stand for. I will host election seminars because I believe if people had opportunity to ask questions and figure out who is ready. I would also like to communicate with Becca and ask her about her Election Journals as she has a 2 year experience as an Election Commissioner.

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Election commission appointment for Chief Election Commissioner passes*

V. UB – 57002 – Policy Reforms Act (First Read)

- This bill covers a lot of different topics. Firstly, it talks about sexual assaults and the mistrust that the universities have in general regarding the complaints. The workgroup will be assessing whether any assistance is needed or if they need more funding, what the process is whether somebody will get sanctioned. 6 students from the College of Social Work wrote a petition with over 1,489

signatures from UH community to ensure there is not anti-blackness at an institutional level. In this resolution petition, they call for transparency between the relationship that they had with UHPD as well as the eradication of racial profiling by the UHPD, it also calls for de-escalation training. There will be workgroups being made to help with the implementation of the order on campus regarding the issues. There will be workgroups created for diversity inclusion, a UHPD reform, Sexual Assault and Misconduct improvement and freedom of Expression establishment.

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Motion to send to Student Life; passes*

VI. SGAB – 57005 – Public Engagement Reform Act (First Read)

- This act was created to make things more flexible. The main part of this Bill is giving us three options to choose from to engage with the public every quarter. Every SGA senator would be required to:
 - i. Host a townhall with the people you represent
 - ii. Have a meeting with two (2) registered organization student leaderships
 - iii. Simply attend an RSO meeting and give a presentation followed by a Q&A session with the RSO
- The format of these meetings will be determined by the executive branch, specifically by the speaker of the Senate. If you don't attend one of these meetings, you will experience an absence.
- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Motion to send to Internal Affairs; passes*

VII. SGAB – 57006 – Bylaw Clarification (First Read)

- This bill is just to take out two clauses out of the Bylaws. These two clauses should not be in there as that is not how the SGA works right now. First one is Title V, Article 2, Section 5 clause 3 which states that SGA Justices are automatically appointed to the Hearing board which is not how the hearing board works. Second one is Title III, Article 1, Section 4, Clause 7 which states that the Vice President has to put up a list of every single person that has been appointed to a committee which was not done by the previous VPs and also there is a privacy issue.
- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Motion to send to Internal Affairs; passes*

VIII. SGAR – 57003 – Resolution in Support of Renovating Garage 5 Hotspot Area (First Read)

- This resolution is to ensure safety for the pedestrians while crossing the Hotspot areas around Garage 5 by requesting renovation of the hotspot area.

Clause 9: Closing Remarks

I. Comments and announcements of the Officers

- Senator Sasser: Everybody stay happy and stay safe.
- Senator Duvall: If you would like to work on any bills with me or have any bills that you need help with, please reach out. Have a wonderful night.
- President: I want you all to know that all your ideas and opinions are super valuable and important. If you have any strong opinions about anything that we discussed tonight, please come to student life meeting to discuss any ideas you may have for the bill I introduced tonight. Your input is very valuable. Stay safe. Love the debate and the activeness of this administration.
- Vice President: Thank you guys for voting all the committee appointments and the Bill. Great job and stay safe.
- Chief Justice: please be safe out there, wear your mask and make sure you're being safe. I would also like to say rest in Peace to Vanessa Guillen, whose body was found, and they also found two people related to the murder and the third committed suicide today. Respect goes out for her family. She was also a Houstonian, born and raised.
- Attorney General: I had a suggestion for garage 6 parking, if we could suggest naming the garage 6 after one of the activist leaders to shed more appreciation and commemoration of the Black Lives Matter movement 2020.
- Chief Election Commissioner: Thank you all for voting me into Chief Election Commissioner. If anyone is considering running, I believe I can provide some useful tips. I will continue working on my initiatives. So, if you need any help or suggestions, don't hesitate to reach out!
- Chief of Staff: Please be safe. Wear your masks. Great meeting.
- Deputy Chief of Staff: Everyone be safe. Looking forward to the next meeting.
- External Affairs: Great meeting. I've said it earlier and will say it again, there is an election going on right now and early voting happening right now. So, please feel free to message me if you need help. Thank you for appointing me to the committee. Have a good rest of your night.
- Outreach: very pleased to see the progress and hard work that was put in. To make this transition to a virtual meeting speaks highly about the dedication of you all. Thank you all for your hard work. Stay safe.

II. Open Forum

III. Closing Call of the Roll

- Senator Ahmed
- Senator Castro
- Senator Chukwu
- Senator Davis III
- Senator Garcia
- Senator Gil

- Senator Kelly
- Senator Kim
- Senator Medrano
- Senator Miles
- Senator Morgan
- Senator Pineda
- Senator Wolfe

Clause 10: Adjournment