

UHSGA

Order of Business

57th Administration Agenda

7:00PM Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Clause 1: Call to Order by the Presiding Officer

I. Opening call of the roll

- Senator Blakely
- Senator Castro
- Senator Chidester
- Senator Medrano
- Senator Wolfe

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

Motion to approve; *passes*

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

- Kaytlin Burton: *Hello I'm with Caitlin Burton with the McGraw Hill student ambassador program now McGraw-Hill as you know is an online learning service company, they have the commitment mission to help every student reach their full potential and that's by getting them to learning material that they need. Right now, how students get their textbooks and learning materials is a very stressful and time-consuming process especially when it comes to finances but with inclusive access is a partnership between UH and McGraw Hill and you can get day 1 access and get billed through your own tuition. Some of the key benefits are not needing access codes because digital materials are readily available on the first day of class resulting in better student performance. Professors are not limited to only using McGraw-Hill products inclusive access is an agreement between the University in McGraw-Hill to reach the most affordable price on the market eliminating third party vendors benefits University because bookstore generates revenue for every student that uses inclusive access since the cost of inclusive access is clumped into tuition. Financial aid, scholarships and loans are directly applied so students will not have to wait until financial aid is disbursed to access course materials. This is not mandatory students can choose to opt out and pay for course materials using a different method and students who drop a class within the withdrawal period are not charged for the course materials. Inclusive*

*access is proven to result in significant student savings students between 20 and 50% prices on course materials. Our local McGraw-Hill team is currently working toward accounting classes using inclusive access. We would like to have inclusive access implemented for all courses at UH. Please let me know if you have any questions.*

III. Guest speakers wishing to address the Senate

- *Campbell Streater: I assure inside my name is Campbell Streater are I'm the executive director at an organization called every vote counts were a student-led nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing voter turn-out and expanding voter access nationwide I support students that do civic engagement work on more than 50 campuses around the country and a project that a number of our students have kickstarted has gotten a lot of steam recently and we're looking to expand that and that's what I'm here to talk about today. So, just first in background on this letter back in the fall of 2019 semester, I was talking with students at five or six different universities and colleges about issues. They were concerned about an issue that came up quite often was the issue of time off to vote both students on campus. Also, thinking about students going off into the workforce and moving into the world off campus and how that affected their ability to vote. So, they got together and drafted a letter in collaboration with their student governments at a liberal arts college, a flagship research, University of public University and then also an organization that serves an overarching student government organization for the big 10 to help draft this letter that effectively captures the argument from the student perspective. Students who will be future employees reaching out to their future employers advocating for time off to vote saying we as young people care about time off to vote and if you want to continue to hire good talent going forward you should too join the movement and provide your employees with at least two hours of paid time off. Since then we've been working to have that letter signed by student government administrator, student government associations like you all. So, at the end of the day we hopefully have a letter that represents 100 campuses and 2 million+ college students that we can send on to the 500 plus companies that hire the most recent graduates as well as some of the largest companies in the United States. So far, we have more than 45 campuses signed on representing more than 850,000 college students around the country and we're continuing to try and add as many as we can so that's kind of quick background on the initiative. I find it's usually easier to give people opportunity to ask questions have questions about you know why we chose to focus on corporate policy's how this will fit into civic engage work on campus generally or anything like that I'm happy to answer anything I can.*

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

- Senator Ahmed: *Hi guys, Nice I hope you guys are staying well saying save still wearing a mask and social distancing and if you're traveling please take all the safety precautions that you can. I've been the same, working a lot. I had a meeting with the head of the undergraduate academic affairs about our emergency W bill which is no longer a bill anymore actually. but I'll talk about that more when the announcements are being done. Hope you guys stay safe.*
- Senator Arias: *Hey guys. Just want to say, continue doing what you're doing. Be careful be ready for this semester that's coming up. Thank you!*
- Senator Darbin: *Hey guys, hope you guys are doing good. Tomorrow, Senator Fulce and I have a meeting with Don Jackley who is an assistant vice president of the housing Department. So, if anyone has a question, an issue or you know somebody having an issue with the housing and you want us to talk to him about it, please let us know. I think it's a great opportunity to talk to him and see his reaction and what he has to say. Thank you!*
- Senator Fulce: *Hi guys, first of all I want to start off with my standard 'hey guys don't get sick'. I actually thought to catch phrases when 'wear your mask as your main task' and 'if your social distance your life will be saved each instance'. On a more serious note, over the past week I was able to sub for John during the RSO work group we had some good work done. We were able to go over some of the policies that already enacted and have some potential changes. On a more personal note, I'm up for a couple University committee appointments, the transportation and parking advisory committee, the student life and housing committee, and also University undergraduate faculty undergraduate Senate committee. Similarly, to what senator Darbin said, he and I are meeting up with Don Jackley, the head of housing, and if you guys have any questions feel free to ask me. It's really important that we don't waste this opportunity. So., I look forward for you guys' questions and potential comments. Thank you, guys, for considering me for a couple committees.*
- Senator Garcia: *I wanted to bring up aside from our current pandemic, we do have an economic crisis that is accompanying a lot of people's issues that are happening right now in just multiplying the issues that they have one specific issue here in the city of Houston that we have not currently addressed on the city government level is an extension of the eviction moratorium or the rental grace period that other cities have. If y'all are interested in housing justice in racial justice I know we passed a resolution earlier this administration talking about being better neighbors to our third world communities one of those ways that we can do that is to make sure that we call our council members and our city and our mayor Sylvester Turner to implement one of these to implement this rental grace period lots of the 1st of the month is I believe on Saturday and lots of people are at risk of being evicted and you know it's up to us who have the privilege to have a*

*roof over our heads past the first to fight for those who may not have that privilege including students at UH that I'm sure are housing insecure right now so if you have the time I would really urge you all to call your City Council members to push for this rental moratorium until the pandemic pass classes so that people can have relief and disregard. Thank you.*

- Senator Gill: *Hello, just stay safe and I'm looking forward to a good meeting.*
- Senator Hamad: *Hey everyone, I just finished summer courses so I'm looking forward to coming back on the 16th and have a meeting at normal times. I hope everyone is staying safe and don't forget to wear your masks. Take care.*
- Senator Hilton: *Hey all, looking forward to this meeting. Just as everyone said, hope you're staying safe and healthy. Take care.*
- Senator Miles: *Stay safe and healthy.*
- Senator Morgan: *Hey everyone, I hope y'all are doing okay. So, my coworkers' daughter recently got into UH and they're super excited about it she wants to study biology because she wants to go premed, but they have a problem. She's looking for a good email address to reach out to an NSM counselor. So, if anyone has any information on a good contact for that college to talk about like the situation at hand for this semester if it's worth you know still trying to register what she should do for first semester please either send me a message on group me or text me so that I can relay that information to him I'd really appreciate it so thank you.*
- Senator Pineda: *Hey guys. I hope everybody's doing safe and social distancing. We're kind of like getting lower on the counts so that's a good sign. I am also an NSM counselor so whoever needs assistance, they can reach out to me.*
- Senator Sasser: *Neither everybody happy hump day nor good news is that today's the 30th anniversary of the ADA which is Americans disability act. I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be the person I am today, so it does a little happy anniversary about that same time tomorrow. the chief is staff and I are going to be talking with Ms. Ward about the possibility of a scholarship being made for the first responders during this crisis. There are fellow coogs so it's going to be fun to see either it's going to come true or not. I was able to get sponsors to make some donations already but without a doubt the scholarship will definitely be minimum a gram but the more money we get the more we can help out further our fellow coogs and first responders. I'll keep you all updated hope everybody's having a wonderful day*

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

### I. Report of the President

- *Hey everyone, thanks for coming to the second to last summer senate meeting. I'm excited that this crazy summer is almost to its end and the semester is around the*

corner. As school begins to reopen please remember that if you're coming back to campus, that you will need to wear a mask. So, please don't come to campus if you're sick. Please get tested and check your temperature every day before coming to campus because even if you're young and healthy it doesn't mean that your peers aren't immune-compromised or that your peers don't have family members who are immune-compromised as well. So, just keep that in mind that as you return to campus that you make every effort to be safe and do your part because every student that goes to UH deserves to feel safe. In Harris County, at the corner of coronaviruses disproportionately affecting the Latinx community we account for 38% of the COVID-19 cases in Harris County right now there's a lot of reasons for this, Internet access, language barriers, lack of information and just the sheer number of us that are essential workers. UT-health said that a third of Hispanics being tested in Harris County are receiving a positive result which is the highest positivity rate of any ethnic group so if you're part of the Latinx community, please let your family know how serious the situation is and remind them to be as careful as they can and to please get tested. Today, I have a new appointment going up for an associate justice position. She's a really great candidate and hopefully after her appointment, we'll have a full Supreme Court. Also, has FSAC applications are available under the University committee application on get involved. So, if you're interested please apply. And if you have applied already, I'll be reaching out to you next week for interviews. SFAC is student fees advisory committee and they have a really major role on campus they determine how are student fees dollars are allocated and so I'm currently looking for four members, 2 for 2-year appointments and 2 for 1- year appointments. With that, I hope you're all taking care of yourself and your mental health and checking up on your friends and showing them that even while we're apart in social distancing that we are still here for one another and we still care and with that enjoy the rest of the meeting

## II. Report of the Vice-President

- Hi everyone, I hope you guys are doing well and staying safe and please reach out if you guys need anything even if it's just someone to talk to um, I know I'm always down. So, I have two lovely students going up for University committee appointment today one of them is not a senator but she's very kind and very passionate about providing better medical care for women which is why I'm appointing her to the women and gender Resource Center Advisory Board and the Health Center policy board so watch out for that and one of them is our very own Zachary Fulce. So, if both of them are appointed the house, all the Health Center policy board will only have one spot left, TPAC will have three spots left which is transportation and parking and women and gender Resource Center Advisory Board student housing and residential life and the faculty Senate will all have

*zero spots available. Also, please apply to committees there's literally a committee for everything on campus and they're very interesting and it's a really great way to make change on campus and to make students voices heard. it's very important so please apply. I'm actually going to send the website in the chat so you can look at all the available committees and apply in the chat. I also have two bills going up today one is about reflection spaces. if you have any questions let me know at the next Senate meeting, I should have a bill going up that prevents people that have been reported for sexual harassment assault or violence from becoming SGA reps on University committee. So, watch out for that. As always reach out if you guys need anything or have any questions.*

### III. Report of the Speaker

- *Our next meeting will be the last some Senate meeting after that we begin the fall semester and the regular term for SGA. So, everyone will be responsible for attending all of those meetings and responsible for attending your committee meetings. I have been a little bit more relaxed on attendance for summer but I'm going to kind of crackdown come the regular term because the regular term is when we appoint senators, so you know one thing about violating the attendance policy is you get kicked out. I'm going to crack down so we can try and have as active as Senate as we possibly can so please review the attendance policy. It's like half a page long, it's in the bylaws. Basically, just have to attend the Senate meetings you have to tenure committee meetings you got to make sure to let me know. Besides that, if you believe that you won't be attending the fall semester and like maybe you're going to take this time to not taking classes or for whatever reason you decide to leave, just send me an email and I can make sure to remove you from the email list.*

### IV. Report of the Chief Justice

- *Hi everyone, hope you all are staying safe. I would like to say that there is going to be another person that's up for appointment for the associate justice position on the Court. One thing that I would like to remind you guys as senators that you will have the opportunity to ask questions to these justices. The reason why I say this is because it happens in the actual real life government as well to where an appoint judicial appointments go through the Judiciary Committee and you'll be able to ask them questions of why do they feel like they are a good fit to be on the bench. My other report is that of course I was able to update the website for the Supreme Court, so everything is up to date when it comes to justices.*

### V. Report of the Attorney General

- *Hey everyone, just wanted to say this is my second last US Senate meeting. If anyone here is running for president or trying to figure out what you want to do for the 20-21 election, feel free to reach out. I think my cell phone number is still on the SGA website. so just reach out ask for advice. I know there's a tendency*

*fresh candidate to be very secretive when they're running and putting their teams together but really that never really helps or works. It's always better to just be open and try to get advice and help you build a better campaign. So, I do encourage you to reach out to me or Jasmine or Allison or anybody you feel comfortable with and someone you feel would give you good advice if you're contemplating running or anything like that. SFAC, I just wanted to say I was in the member of SFAC last year and it is pretty fun. If you care about how your money is spent, then apply for it. Last year, something that I really champion when I was at SGA president, I was able to get done when I was a member of SFAC all it took was the IRS saying that we had to but we were able to get a student leader as a pay raise and that was actually approved by a 4-3 vote. It was an extremely close vote and so your voice on that committee really matters inside I do hope that we get a lot of applications from people in the SGA currently. And this year is also a unique it's sort of a once in a generation opportunity because the University is going through a financial like sort of a fiscal strain that has probably never been faced before. I think that there was a University-wide budget cut of 7 or 8% and SFAC and all the units associated with SFAC going to be under some constraint too. So really unique opportunity to really get in there and make a big difference. It's definitely not a normal year to be on SFAC, so you could be even a bigger help. Some Justice Department stuff, Caitlin has officially picked a deputy attorney general its former senator names Brittany Ann Benet, she was a senator very briefly in the last administration. She was a senator for like 6 weeks or something like that but she applied for AG and also deputy AG and of course I went with Caitlin for AG and then Caitlin thought she'd be really great deputy and I agreed and so she'll be up for confirmation on the 26<sup>th</sup>, so not this coming meeting but the subsequent meeting*

VI. Report of the Chief Election Commissioner

- So, I'm going to start off by thanking Donika with the full story about my menstrual products initiative. I'm also looking to start up a period Chapter here at the University of Houston and for those of you that aren't familiar with the work period does there really focus on distributing menstrual products to low income areas so like the greater third Ward area would be like a really great place. I'm also meeting with the University of North Texas president sometime because you have like a similar initiative going on which is pretty cool. So, I hope to learn some way that I can like actually to get this done here at the University of Houston. And I also got my first no I asked someone if they were interested in running for president and then they were like yeah, I'm not interested, and I was like cool so I'm looking forward too many more no's along the line.*

VII. Report of the Chief of Staff

- *Hello! So for update on my initiatives for the graduates Bill of Rights that I was working on with Mr. Jon Garcia we kind of we had a meeting with the Dean of the graduate college Sarah Larson and they're going to take the bill in a way to get some actionable things done as well as keep aspirational parts of the bill still intact. I've also been meeting with Senator Sasser personally to discuss the establishment of this scholarship. I reached out to Andrea Ward who is you know kind of the advisor or the lady who established scholarships for that whole board and so we should be meeting with her sometime this week. I believe our meeting might be tomorrow and that's really cool as it's for first responders. It's also sponsored so whoever it does get the scholarship but also be offered like interposition it's really cool initiative. The emerging leaders program still kind of going steadily, haven't had too many more applicants so if you guys happen to have any contact with any incoming freshmen let him know about the emerging leader's same thing for the international student mentorship program. Stay Safe. Go Coogs!*

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

- *Hi everyone. Just start off I had another Houston youth voter conference planning meeting this last Monday with all of the participating universities to give updates and get everyone caught up I've also been given the position of Co leader of content creation from the conference so I've been working on making materials and attending weekly meetings for that ink in the chat right now with an example of something that I've already made so you have an idea of what I've been doing what I'm doing and what I will be doing for the next month or two if you're at all interested or not totally cool as well I also have my first meeting with the UH downtown in there like SJ is to start planning the witches temesia conference and they both went really really well I'm hoping to have an initial meeting with huge Victoria the final system number school pretty soon hopefully before the next summit meeting and Lastly this isn't specific to SJ but I just wanted to let everyone know that I have started to move Texas chapter at UH move Texas is a nonpartisan nonprofit grassroots organization building power and underrepresented youth communities through civic education leadership development and issue advocacy so if that sounds like interest you at all please find organization to join I'd really appreciate it we're trying to build up our membership base.*

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

- *Hi everyone, I hope everyone's doing well and staying safe and social distancing. So, my team and I have discussed a little bit and we've come up with a schedule for the social media which you're going to see tomorrow. we're going to be doing another exec reveal so everyone just remembers keep liking commenting sharing. if you're on social media and you see it don't scroll go past. I was told that soon*



*we're going to be able to order more masks and things like that for SGA and I'm excited for that so I'm planning some giveaways with one of my associates, Maddie. We're thinking of some ideas on how to do giveaways or something like that just to get more interaction on social media. I'm supposed to be meeting with Jon hopefully this week. I know that Zachary has been doing a lot of the like sub work for him so maybe I'll be meeting Zachary and we're going to be discussing some more programming details and things of that matter. So, I'm looking forward to that and seeing how we can tie everything together because just with social media and public relations. Doing social media is one thing but I really want to do more than that because it can be burned out. I want to be an action person type so hopefully we're going to be able to get started in that. If anyone has any feedback for me feel free to reach out.*

X. Report of the Director of Outreach

Clause 6: Committee Reports

I. Reports of the Academic Affairs Committee

- *Hi guys, I had a meeting with the head of the undergraduate academic affairs, and we discussed what we want to do with the goals of how he wanted to implement this sort of bill that does need to be a bill anymore. So actually, a lot of ideas there actually having previously even before we can talk to her, they wanted to actually do this to help students with the COVID situation. Jay and I had elusive ideas. I had a meeting with her, and I told her about the ideas I want to implement and how they could implement those as they're already trying to change some things. so, she thought that was great and she like they mean Jade for all of the work that we had done. She's going to give me an update later on why exactly she updated. I'm like really happy and I'm very proud of our committee I should be grateful for her because I was so busy these past couple weeks and it could have done without her so now, she's amazing and so now I'm really excited to move on to other things.*

II. Reports of the Internal Affairs Committee

- *Hey all. So, we had a pretty solid meeting last week. Just a simple legislation, the electoral justice inefficiency act, the public engagement format and the bylaw clarification act which are all going to go up for a vote today.*

III. Reports of the Student life Committee

- *Hey guys hope everyone's doing well last I called off last student life meeting because we had built up stress due to everything going on so no updates in that area but I just wanted to mention that if anyone needs someone to talk to, I am a certified mental health first aid or so feel free to reach out to me no matter the time I'm always awake never sleep. By the way. I recently joined Sima Ladjevardian's campaign which is our Democratic nominee for Texas second*

*district going against Dan Crenshaw who's publicly addressed COVID as a hoax and has said that wearing a mask has not actually helped the slowdown of Corona along with other unacceptable comments as a congressman. So, please look into Sima's campaign or message me for more information elections.*

IV. Reports of the Administration and Finance Committee

- *Hey guys, I had a short meeting just to catch up with the members in the committee not many people joined as I would've liked them to, but I do appreciate the few that did go. We just talked and caught up on what's been going on, but I do appreciate the few that joined. Thank you so much.*

V. Reports of the Graduate and Professional Students Committee

- *So, updates are mainly around the graduate Bill of Rights. As Sterling had mentioned before, we had a meeting with Dean Larson, and I believe things are starting to move again. I believe one of these sections that we will prioritize in the graduate Bill of Rights that we can get implemented is parental leave for graduate employees or for graduate students that are employees that kind of employee status that they have so that would be nice and would help a lot of people I think but we're still in the works with that. And, seeing what people would want to prioritize on a more general level aside from that we'll keep working on that.*

Clause 7: Unfinished Business

Clause 8: New Business [42:03]

I. University Committee Appointment (Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee, Faculty Senate Undergraduate Committee, Student Housing and Residential Life Advisory Committee) – Zachary Fulce

- *I want to start off with thank you guys for the potential appointment to these committees so let me get into a little bit of background. My name is Zachary Fulce, currently on the senior double majoring in accounting and management information systems here at the CT-Bauer College of business. Thanks to my involvement in a myriad of different organizations such as all council/RFJ, being an administration and finance investor and also being a Bauer senator, I have really found my passion for empowering my fellow students. And also ensuring that the universe becomes better than how it was when I got here. So, starting off as me being a Bayou Oaks all council representative, I was issued the challenge of making one build per semester on how to improve Bayou Oaks and So what I did was collaborate with my advocacy chair and went around to each of the 15 townhomes of Bayou Oaks and also our events that we help to ask hey guys what are some things that are really plaguing you guys here and that can be really improved. As a result, one of the main issues that came up was the lack of purified water options at the townhomes. So, my advocacy chair and I went to the*

workshop if you will, write it out a beautiful bill and when I presented it at the General Assembly it actually passing unanimously. In fact, it's actually implemented now for the next for the upcoming semester. Likewise, the second semester we were given a similar challenge, but we did a similar process, if you will. As a result, we end up finding out that the lack of food options here was a real issue. Because, honestly, we're not trying to play Lewis and Clark going to Moody towers each time. so, as a result we wrote another bill and it end up being presented and it passed unanimously also. so now if you guys live here at Bayou Oaks, the next semester on Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30-2:30 if there's going to be food trucks available. similarly as administration finance investor I was given a unique opportunity to actually hold a staff student safety forum, where police officers and students had an opportunity to meet together and exchange ideas what part of campus felt really unsafe and the two places that really came up a lot was by the stadium at night and also, the technology bridge due to a lack of lights and a lack of police officers patrolling. as result of hearing this feedback now police officers patrol there more and it's all safer to an extent. Also, me being a Bauer senator, another unique experience it's giving me the passion of wanting to help and improve the University for everyone. as Bauer senator, I was given the opportunity to work with senator Darbin to meet up with a class vice president asking if the McAlhaney hall can be improved as that building needs a lot of improvements. as a result, he was really receptive and actually was planning on implementing some of the changes. similarly, tomorrow, senator Darbin and I are going to meet up with the head of housing and ask him about a few things that could be potentially improved to ensure that social distancing is actually enacted. given these past experiences, I would like to apply them to the committees that I'm actually hopefully being confirmed to. for example, as part of the transportation and a parking advisory committee one of the main things that I would advocate for is actually the continued usage of the shuttle buses. last semester. there was a whole initiative talking about basically raising the student fee in order to ensure that the buses still run. as a result of hearing this and how they plan on having their pull by giving you two options consisting of no student fee added or the Super premium limo service. I realized that that was actually really disingenuous. So, I was able to speak with the associated vice president Dr. Mesa and tell her how to expand the whole to have more options. And as a result, if you guys actually did the poll, there are more options on there. Similarly, as a whole council representative, I had the unique opportunity to actually interact with the ROC and I was able to interact with him. And thanks to my connection with them, we were actually able to implement all the changes that I advocated for. another thing is, being part of the faculty undergraduate's senate, I mixed the letters up but thanks to my unique experience

*of being a part of four different colleges, I've had classes in uh education, NSM, Bauer and also CLASS. I have a nice variety of seeing how teaching is done here so my main initiative there would be potentially better integrating zoom and giving both teachers and students the opportunity to get training and utilize zoom to their benefit. Thank you, guys, for giving me the opportunity to speak before you.*

- *Motion to extend Q&A to 2 minutes; passes*
- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *University Committee Appointment for TPAC, FSUC, Student Housing and RLAC passes*

II. University Committee Appointment (Health Center Policy Board, Women and Gender Resource Center Advisory Board) – Kala Pham

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *University Committee Appointment for Health Center Policy Board, Women and Gender Resource Center Advisory Board passes*

III. Supreme Court Appointment (Associate Justice) – Anusha Basra

- *Hi guys, my name is Anusha Basra. I'm an incoming senior at the University of Houston and currently majoring in management information systems. A little bit about me, so far, I've been a few organizations at UH and I've been an officer for MISSO, which is the MIS Student Organization at UH. outside of UH, I was in organizations that was passionate about such as 'I belong' and MIST which I've been a part of since high school and is actually one of the reasons why I decided I really wanted to join SGA because it got me introduced to all the different movements, ideas and topics which I'm really passionate about. And because of MIST which is a sister-serving society. We basically were able to attend to different things such as autistic children or women in abuse or domestic violence. I attended climate change protests & signed petitions. we also attended protests for black lives matter LGBTQ+ and then women's rights. so, I've been actively advocating for many different things that I'm really passionate about. then I was introduced to 'I belong' which allows me to mentor refugees today. Given all my background experiences, I realize what was really my passion which was speaking up and advocating for things that I stand for. This played into my roles at UH as a student. I used to just attend school and I saw that there were problems. we were always complaining about tuition issues or other certain issues that were shut down the road and weren't attended to. But, when I went through my own personal experience, I thought it would be good if I spoke about it and when I went to go speak with the Provost and someone in a higher degree who can assess these needs or like assess these issues that UH had, in regards to what I had to deal with, they didn't really take as much action. So, I realized I wanted to be in a position where I can voice my own opinions and see how I can*

*speak as far as a whole entire student population goes. one other thing was that my friend has reported rape cases and it just went unnoticed which I did not appreciate. Then my own personal experience which I'm not going to touch on but when I came forward about it, it just took a long process and they were questioning me and they were more focused on something else rather than my own mental health or how I was dealing my academics or how it affected my life. they were just trying to see what we can do like right now and what do you want us to do and wasn't a fast response which made it seem like if anyone was going through something, it wasn't school's responsibility. But when your part of the school you're a member of the school, you expect the school to be able to make sure you're assessing the students in the best way possible. So, this is pretty much why I want to be considered for this position. So, I can use my ideas and voice to better access to these needs of student body.*

- *Motion to moderated caucus; passes*
- *Motion to move to previous question; fails*
- *Supreme Court Appointment for Associate Justice denied*

IV. Time off to Vote Letter (Vote)

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Time off to Vote Letter passes*

V. SGAB – 57005 – Public Engagement Reform Act (Vote)

- *This was the legislation that was proposed about a month ago now and essentially what this does is it requires a form of a public engagement of every senator once in the fall and once in the spring. You have four options to choose from. it could be either in the form of a town Hall, in the form of a meeting between RSO leadership and yourself, in the form of a meeting between a regularly scheduled RSO meeting and yourself or a tabling in words of Director of External Affairs Jessica Hewlett. she's a coauthor to the legislation is not really appreciative of that this was born out of the changes that the speaker wanted to make to the bylaws initially by removing the town Hall requirement. I still wanted a formal public engagement to be in our bylaws, but I did agree with the speaker that that requirement was too strict. so, I believe that this legislation rewrites that in a very flexible manner that allows for people to pretty simply meet the requirements and I would really like to see how this plays out in this semester and in this administration. of course, if there are changes that need to be made to it, other administrations can do that, or we can revisit it after the first semester that's all I have.*
- *Motion to extend Q&A to 2 minutes; passes*
- *Motion to extend Q&A to 1 minute; passes*
- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *SGAB – 57005 passes*

- VI. SGAB – 57007 – Electoral Justice and Efficiency Act (Vote)
- *This provision passed in a unanimously basically the first 2 clauses just have to do with a Class A and Class D violations as I mentioned Class A in class D violations are the most severe violations that result in disqualification and usually their file during voting days just because that's the most strategic time to try and get somebody banned or get somebody disqualified. So what this basically does is make it so they go directly to the court just so because eventually even if you go through the appeals process we're going to be appealed to the court anyway this is for efficiency sake as well as for the speed and flexibility that candidates we need is that they're not in Limbo while they're campaigning and also for the sake of making sure that the punishments and all still workout because again it's voting day is happening and a Class A complaint results in a ban but it takes like 3 days to litigate it by the time you banned the person you know it'll be like the last day of voting day or maybe it'll even pass so it's important to get these done as soon as possible.*
  - *Motion to move to previous question; passes unanimously*
  - *SGAB – 57007 passes*
- VII. SGAR – 57004 – Muslim-Inclusive Reflection Spaces (Vote)
- *So reflection spaces are not going to include a carpet or a shelf to place prayer mats or any type of prayer materials or text that anybody would want to place and we were just advocating for that to happen because without them Muslims cannot pray comfortably and as well as other religions and other people won't be as comfortable in these spaces without both of these additions*
  - *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
  - *SGAR – 57004 passes unanimously*
- VIII. SGAR – 57005 – Student Life Plaza (Vote)
- *Essentially we're just trying to help the University architecture architect work on the student life Plaza which is the area next to the left of performance Hall has a cool little pond and we just want to make that area better because right now nobody wants to sit there and hang out or bring their food. so, we just kind of want to make that area better and more comfortable and feel safer for students.*
  - *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
  - *SGAR – 57005 passes*
- IX. SGAB – 57006 – Bylaw Clarification Bill
- *We're just trying to make sure that the bylaws reflect how SGA functions at the moment.*
  - *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
  - *SGAB – 57006 passes unanimously*

Clause 9: Closing Remarks

I. Comments and announcements of the Officers

- President: *Hey all. Stay safe and I'm excited to see you on campus.*
- Vice President: *my report is going to be a little bit longer I just want to express how disappointed I am that our justice appointment did not pass. For those of you who said that she didn't have the passion for the right things that does not matter, what matters is that she's passionate and she cares about this which means that she's going to put in t all of the work and she's going to care about this and what Jasmine and I envisioned for this entire SGA. We wanted specifically the Justice Department to be more involved which is why we're so glad that Eddie is so involved and he just set up a meeting with me tomorrow like next week like he's very involved with the Senate and I think that's very important for those of you who said that you don't think that she could make impartial decisions. she made it very clear that she would not impose her personal beliefs on others and that policy and law is what matters. those of you who said that she was incompetent, I'm extremely disappointed because she's involved with the community, she's worked on multiple campaigns, she's a leader of many organizations on campus. she's worked very hard and she passed Jasmine scrutiny then I'm pretty sure she's not incompetent. Also I'm just going to come out and say it that it was mostly men who voted no and I think that's because she went and talked a little bit about sexual assault and I think that your inner misogyny came out and you should check yourself and you should check your massaging and that is all I have to say.*
- Speaker: *Just to reiterate, I'm going to be taking attendance very seriously come fall semester that means you know if I don't hear you voting for 90% of the votes that we put up I'm going to count you absent for the meeting. I expect people to show up, I expect them to pay attention, I expect them to understand what's going on and what we're voting on and I really I want to thank everybody who does who does come in these meetings and they put their all into it and they're really listening to really pay attention to the long 2-3 hours and I really appreciate you all making the effort showing up to all these meetings and really putting your all and making sure that you're having your thing heard representing students. I really appreciate it I want to thank you. I'm going to be taking attendance more seriously this fall because that's my one way of keeping people out and I'm going to kick people out so I can bring more people in who are going to be more attentive and more active so if you wish to continue you know I ask that you put in some effort you have these positions and not everyone has one of these positions not everyone is able to vote on these things so please treat it as such and with respect. If you're part of two committees, I'm going to expect you to show up to both communities and committee meeting absences can add up so if you can't make it to both committee meetings let me know and we can get you out of one of your committees as you only required to do one committee meeting. besides that*

*we're going to have to do 2 caucuses in the fall so get ready for that one towards the beginning of semester and one is going to be towards the end of the semester now that senator Garcia's bill is passed you're going to be required to do at least one townhall per semester it can be a town Hall or it can be one of the three or four other alternatives that he's listed down so that'll be another requirement as long as well as 10 volunteering hours that we're going to have to think about because it's an ethical thing where I'm not sure if I should require people to volunteer if they don't feel comfortable leaving their houses. so that will have to be something we think about but for the most part brush up on the attendance policy and what is asked of you what is required of you so you don't get kicked out I asked Ann if you get close I'll try to communicate that to you and let you know.*

- *Chief Justice: Hi everyone. so again I just want to reiterate what the Vice President said like of course it is a little disappointing as I wished I kind of had the court filled but the good thing is that I am doing a retreat so it'll be able to help incoming justices understand their role as associate justice. the other thing is I'm also going to be reaching out to people as well to help me with the retreat, just so that they understand what SGA is as well too. but also, they get to hear from different other branches as well too. so I did set up a meeting with Vice President for next week that's going to be focusing around the retreat as well too so I just want you all to know that that I am working hard with the justices to help them understand their role and I'm giving them a mentor that I never had. but of course, being able to help other people as well too in Supreme Court.*
- *Attorney General: Hey everyone, I just wanted to say I can see the I guess the debate a potentially a roaring in the zoom chat potentially spilling over into the group meet later tonight but I just wanted to say that I can recognize that it's this could be a potentially a polarizing issue and it's always dramatic when someone gets voted down my first experience with student government was being voted down for no reason honestly that was my first day in SG I got voted down for two of the three committees that I voted for or that I that I went up for and so just try and recognize that the frustration from the exec is that obviously they went through a process of interviewing somebody for a position that she applied for and that she was voted down mostly based on the idea of 'I think I am interpreting her intentions and her future actions on the core based on more than what's in her resume' because the reality of her resume was that she did have a good resume and it leads to negative and oftentimes, you could say, disenfranchisement but the negation of people being involved in SGA because I'm a unique case that I got voted down, I came back for more. I spent two years getting voted down and not getting not applying for positions before I was next day but that's really unique right and so if you consider yourself that someone apply for this position, but I think that it would be better in another position. I can understand from this*



*person's perspective I don't know her but the fact that the senate made her first experience in SGA being voted down for position that she applied for I can understand why she might not want to come back and apply as a senator now. that being said just try to avoid hopefully that behavior in the future it was pointed out to me in text almost immediately I didn't notice it honestly that there are some pretty contentious words being used like 'incompetent' 'lack of passion' and 'lack of knowledge' on the position And it's not that you can't critique someone's application but I think I warned about it at the beginning of the last three administrations that I helped lead which was that when you start to make those assumptions and those presumptions about people you really do a disservice to your constituents and specifically when you start raising your voice in a caucus about something as menial as SGA position by saying things like 'she's incompetent' or 'she doesn't have my support' is ridiculous and totally uncalled for. I don't mean to scold you for voting no, I'm scolding you based on the lack of rationale or at the very least the dis-coordinated communication as to why you voted no. so it's not a judgment to vote no, but it is a judgment on how you do it and how you present yourself. so keep that in mind in the future it doesn't have to be a drawn out debate this doesn't have to take an hour to talk about but just try and take this as a lesson in the future on how to conduct yourself and hopefully as some people might advise others. don't take what I say personally*

- *Chief Election Commissioner: I just hope people don't think that I'm taking this personally when I say that if a man were up there y'all would not have used the same language and I know that to be true because when men have gone up for appointment as justices y'all have not discussed them in the same manner. a guy literally came late to the meeting and he still passed. y'all didn't call him incompetent or use any language that you used to describe her and that's sexist and if you don't see it then I have no other words for you. Besides that, coming for Vice President and saying that she's taking it personal, it's kind of hard not to when you as a woman witness another woman being torn apart for a University of Houston SGA position. like we are not the United States Senate so there really was no reason to put her down in the manner that y'all did.*
- *Chief of Staff: Interesting meeting guys. I don't have too much to say as everything's been pretty much said so stay safe out there.*
- *External Affairs: Normally I would say good meeting everyone but at this point I think I'm going to skip that comment for obvious reasons tonight. I hope better for the future.*
- *Public Relations: likewise, I hope everyone has a great night hopefully next time we can be more respectful especially when confirming someone*

## II. Open Forum

- Senator Fulce: *Hey guys. I want to thank you guys for confirming me to my University committees. I really appreciated that. Also, I'll explain why I voted against her it wasn't because of her gender cause I honestly have actually seen her work she's really good she's a really great MISSO officer and I said in the introduction of when I was asking a question and when I was explaining during a caucus and stuff. The thing was, I see her more as being a potential Bauer senator so if you guys want to expand the role and make a fifth Bauer senator seat then she absolutely has my support. So, that's pretty much my reason on why I voted no. so I hope you guys can see it and if I'm wrong please extend my knowledge on it. One more thing, senator Darbin and I are meeting up tomorrow with the head of Housing so if you guys have questions, let us know. Thank you, guys,*
- Senator Arias: *Hey guys I hope everyone's OK. I just wanted to speak on the matter because I do feel like there was a lot of disrespect floating in the air but that has already been said. I just want to be completely upfront about it I had my goals for SGA, and I had my initiatives SGA and I don't want to call anyone out and be rude, I've always liked sitting in the backseat and watching and listening doing my part. however I placed myself in positions to try to help senators and I don't get feedback, twice it's happened that I do not get the feedback and in our last meeting besides my advice there was two other people who joined the A&F meeting and that's really disappointing. so, for you guys to call out anyone doesn't matter their gender, race etc. and say that they're not prepared enough. well maybe we should be prepared first before we try to call someone out. please be please be respectful and I'm letting you guys know. just AG said she will probably not come back like ever, so I just want to make sure you guys know that.*
- Senator Gill: *Hey guys, so attorney general Cameron talked about a text message that he got immediately after the vote and that actually came from me. this is directed at Senator Duvall, your comment earlier that the candidate was incompetent, was not only extremely disrespectful but I found it completely uncalled for. just because she was maybe not the right fit for the position that she applied for, does not make her any less than any of the senators. just vote no and move on. do not insult someone who is trying to get involved in this organization because you feel that she does not meet your standard of competence. the comments you made and the attitude you had towards her are the reasons so many students are turned off from joining this organization, me included at first, and so although I did vote no because I felt that maybe she should be somewhere else or would be better utilized somewhere else that doesn't give you the right to call her incompetent or so that you're any better than her just because we felt that she wasn't right for the position. I think you made a mockery of this administration at the Senate meeting and it's not the first time you've done that. At the A&F meeting, a couple weeks ago, I saw that you were extremely*

*disrespectful to people asking you questions and you kind of make people feel small because you felt that you were right and you would not take criticism. so, this is the second time that I feel that you've done that, and I want to say sorry to the president and Vice president or anybody else who got offended that a vote 'no' was misogynist or sexist. I want you to know that it did not come from a place of that, so I want to apologize for that, and I just felt like a vote no looks really bad now because of what other people and other actions that people took. so, I would also like to personally apologize to the applicant, but I just think was extremely uncalled for and I think you made a mockery of SGA and you made a mockery of this administration.*

- *Senator Garcia: I just want to mention to all my fellow men and male identifying people in this organization that we have to recall that intent does not equal impact. the things that occur as a result of our actions and when you see such pushback from a group of people, don't think twice about this. in the same manner that all non-black people have to actively always think about how we can we have to fight against our racism. as men we have to recognize that we have to always be fighting our internalized misogyny. I am not clear of misogyny of racism of all of that stuff right it's all internalized cause that's the society that we were born into and it's not something to be ashamed of but it's something that we have to work on and we have to grow from it. so, as men I do think we have to have a conversation on this and we have to reflect on what happened today and how we can do better for those who are women, those who are trans, those who are not male. so, let's take this time to reflect and grow on this and remember that it's on us to do better not on women to call us out on it, thanks!*
- *Senator Ahmed: I'm disappointed obviously I'm really disappointed and I think that whoever made that comment and said that it was personal, I need you guys understand that whenever you're going to say things like that, it's always going to be personal no matter what. we need to make that clear especially when it was very obvious that was that was mostly men that voted against her. of course, it's going to be personal it would be for every and any group that has been marginalized and that have had to fought for their seat at the table, it's always going to be personal. And personally, I feel for her because I was once in her position where I felt like I wasn't, as many people thought, "qualified" by so much passion to want to do something. so you know for us to just completely marginalize her from this administration which I feel has been so inclusive and loving to have done that is very disappointing and like I think I forgot who said it but yes and I think one of the reasons why people are so turned off by SGA is because you know we feel like we're better than everybody else big just because we have a position when that's not true when it's are dropped actually help it's our job to be there for them and I*

*honestly think in this meeting we kind of forgot that an I just hope we can do better.*

- *Senator Medrano: Hey guy, so first off, I believe every single point invalid in regards this conversation about the appointee and obviously getting rejected and obviously we can't dismiss what anybody said. these are very important issues that we have to talk about, but you know as speaker was saying like I feel like maybe these conversations can be taken offline perhaps so that way we can get more into them be more detailed and thoroughly. Thank you!*
- *Senator Miles: All right, just to echo some sentiments that have been previously expressed. I'd like to apologize if anything I have said tonight is come off as misogynistic or if I've given offense to anyone here respectable fellow senators and my peers. I also think that like Senator Medrano, said these are important conversation that we have in the future and maybe we can continue this later time*
- *President: Thank you guys so much for the words after this. I'm really glad that a lot of you spoke up about sexism, about misogyny, about this appointment. I have been talking to her, she's not scared away from SGA. I assured her that it was not personal and that the Senate just saw her in a different position as maybe in a Senate position. so hopefully we'll find a UGAL spot for her cause we can't just make a Bauer seat. But thank you guys so much I really appreciate you guys speaking out it's important to speak out on these issues. I know that we will do better next time.*

### III. Closing Call of the Roll

- Senator Castro
- Senator Chidester
- Senator Miles
- Senator Wolfe

### Clause 10: Adjournment