

UHSGA

Order of Business

57th Administration Agenda

7:00PM Wednesday, August 26th, 2020

Clause 1: Call to Order by the Presiding Officer

I. Opening call of the roll

- Senator Acosta
- Senator Allen
- Senator Medrano
- Senator Pineda
- Senator Ortiz
- Senator Shell
- 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

II. Students wishing to address the Senate

III. Guest speakers wishing to address the Senate

- Interpreter Iglesias: I am Chile Iglesias and I am the Houston campaign manager for workers defense project here in Houston and I have well we have Omar Martinez who is a, Spanish Speaker, with us today I will be interpreting for him.
- Omar Martinez: Good evening, my name is Omar Martinez. In May of 2019, I started work building the dormitories at the University of Houston. I worked at that site for 10 months I work as a drywall hanger an framer I was making \$14.00/hour. However, the work I was doing had to be paid at \$17.44/hour - \$21.37/hour. About 3 months later, I started working at that job site. During that time, we made friends with other workers in other trades such as plumbers, electricians, an HVAC installer and because of that friendship, we found what prevailing wages where that we were not being paid up properly. Every Monday, we had a meeting with the four men of the company who reminded us that we were not indispensable. They stressed was that we were very lucky to be employed, in some way, humiliating and intimidating us. I did not take any action on the matter because I did not know how to do it. Eventually, I realized that there was a group of workers who were organizing to the man payment for prevailing wages owed then I joined the fight with workers defense project. This group of

workers made claims directly with the University that we do not have legal representation. On June 15, my colleagues and I submitted an incident report on the University of Houston website. we did this because that was the solution that the facilities and construction Department recommended that we do. a month went by without being called or email. Then mid-July, we called the facilities and construction office is asking to speak to executive director of construction projects Nicholas Mary. Nobody spoke Spanish in those offices. the person in his office gave us a phone number for another Spanish speaking person who works in the office to leave him voice message. End of August and as of yet we have not received a call from Nicholas Mary's office. the solution recommended by the University has not worked now more than two months later. I feel frustrated and disappointed by the university's inaction to see how they are workers like me who have not received or the salary that corresponds to us and the owner of this project is the University of Houston. Thank you very much for listening to me. I hope that this testimony that I am doing will not only help me and my coworkers but also future construction projects at the University of Houston. After more than a year of fighting, you are the first officials of the University who have listened to my story. I am only one of the many workers who were involved in that project and I am confident that you will make the difference that we need have a good evening.

- Nick (Staff Attorney): Hey, my name is Nick. I'm a staff Attorney at workers defense project in Houston. Yes so everybody thank you for letting us speak today. it's been quite a year that we've been working on this with a group of workers at the University of Houston who are on the quad project. so basically all of this boils down to a fairly straightforward legal issue that I'm happy to answer questions about but I'll just give you a brief overview of what the basis is of the wage theft claims that these workers have been bringing forth. so as I mentioned earlier on the staff attorney forward hands project, I represented the group of nine workers who originally came forward back in October or November of last year. we were able to successfully win a settlement for them for their claims but after they brought their claims and managed to get some justice, many more concert coming forward sharing basically their experience with almost the exact same problem that super nine had experienced. And the basic issue here is a minimum wage violation except it's a little different because it's a public construction site. so everybody's familiar with the minimum wage. everybody knows you're not allowed to be paid less than that. generally speaking for construction, when it's a public entity that paying for the construction project happened like a public University paying for going to be built, there are higher minimum wages that are required for the construction workers on that site based on the type of work that the construction workers are doing on that site. so if you're doing the work of an

electrician, you have to be paid at the rate for an electrician in these rates as set by the Department of Labor at the federal level and usually those rates are adopted by the government officials at the local level. So, Omar shared he was doing something called drywall hangers work which is important especially in a dorm because you have lots of rooms in a dorm obviously and you need to hang a lot of drywall to basically put up the walls that make up the walls of the dorm of those dorm rooms himself. that's what it looks like we're the hallways or the building we need drywall. So what this comes down to is like how much does a drywall hanger get paid according to the prevailing wage rate and that's the wage rate that's set for drywall hanger in public construction site. so the prevailing wage rate for drywall hanger in Harris County is \$21.37, that's how much you're supposed to get paid in order to do this work is that majority of the workers we encountered who were doing this kind of work on the site were getting paid anywhere from 25 to 30% less than that. so a lot of times it would be you know \$15.00/hour, \$17.00/hour. \$16.00/hour, or something like that and not \$21/hour. So, if this were just an innocent mistake that might be one thing what we are seeing is this is happening systematically across the board to a lot of the workers on that site out every single worker but a very large proportion of them it's more the only workers we've encountered who have this problem so far have been primarily Spanish speaking Latinx workers and uh you know that seems very concerning to us it's something that we have brought up when we were bringing attention to this issue in the past and I think it's something that should raise a lot of red flags or anybody is concerned about this um so I I think uh the last thing I want to mention here the way that you enforce this law is something that I think has been a point of contention with the universe so the way this law works at the state law and the state law says OK these are the prevailing wage rates if you're a drywall hanger you get paid this amount you electrician you get paid this amount the question then is who do you report this to if you're not getting paid that amount and who's going to do something about so under the law under the state law I am happy to share a link with you guys afterwards I can send it to you after I'm off this call under the state law the way this works is different workers thinks they're not getting paid correctly they're supposed to report that wage software that complain to the public entity that's paying for the construction to happen in the first place so here Omar a correctly decided to report his problem to the University of Houston because it's the University of Houston project they're paying for this construction project so you have to go to them to get their help pushing block University of Houston at that point is supposed to look into the complaint here the complaint the law is not super specific about how you do this but a lot of common sense would tell you what the next step should be should probably talk worker should talk to other workers and see if they have similar

problems on the site you should compare that with what you're hearing from the employer and then weigh the evidence and then figure out if you have follow-up questions and then Richard decision um it's been very difficult to get a straight answer about exactly what went into the process that the University of Houston is used to investigate the complaints themselves about forward in the past and the only complaints that were aware of the University of Houston investigating so far has been complaints brought forward when I was representing a group of workers as their lawyers we have limited fuel capacity and many workers have come forward so workers like Omar have come forward and these issues and nobody followed up with the University administration now the Alaska of this is to say University of Houston after it's like looked into the matter it is supposed to render it's called its initial determination and the initial determination is final as indicated in the title it's an initial determination if the worker disagrees with what the University says the person says we don't think you have a good claim the words that can appeal it to arbitration with the contractor so but the weird set up it's a little counter intuitive but the University essentially sits as the judge of the complaint that will work or brings forward on a prevailing wage theft complaint and then once universities made its decision the worker can either accept that decision or appeal it to arbitration and check the worker in the contractors arbitration so that's kind of the situation all of this you know I'm giving you along it longer than necessary probably breakdown of how the law works but at the end of the day all of this comes down to a very simple fact University of Houston is a big powerful institution Houston they paid for a lot of construction to happen on its campuses and if they say they want the construction done a certain way in a way to make sure that workers are paid properly and paid correctly and on time and the proper amount if they wanted to have monitored checking on those things there contractors would do that they would certainly live up to whatever the University of Houston requires that their contract but only at the University of Houston asks for it and hold his contractors accountable. I think that covers most of what I wanted to share I don't know if anybody has any questions about it I'm also happy to answer questions outside of meeting if you all want to talk later about prevailing wage law the state statute or how it applies here I'm happy to help answer those questions.

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

- Senator Gil: Hi guys. Welcome back to our first meeting of the fall. summer senate was pretty cool, President, Vice President, Speaker and all the officers, they did a great job this summer. when it comes to this issue, I was kind of sensing a rush but I think it's important that we take our time with an issue like this 'cause if there is anything that we can change is if there is anything that we have the power to change and it needs to be done and I know the executives in

this organization mysterious the right way it makes sure that justice gets done for those people but I mean this is just a case of straight negligence on the part of our University and I don't think how I don't think that you know anybody should feel comfortable with just letting this slide under the rug um so if we need to go in depth with this and if you know we can make real change then I encourage everybody to let our executives take control and let us help those people 'cause this is really important issue and it's honestly going to be one of the most important issues we probably face as a student government Association because like I said before these people's livelihoods that were messing with or he was a livelihoods that we are could affect you know that could be Mr. Martinez his money he could use to put food on the table so um thank you Senator Garcia for bringing them to the forefront and I hope we have a good meeting. thank you, guys, again.

- Senator Davis: Thank you Senator Gil, you were right. we are messing with the livelihoods and we have to do something to make a change. with that knowing that the power that we do have and I'm grateful to see that resolution as well that Senator Garcia drafted up. this is our first Senate meeting of this semester, it is online. I'm just going to recap this week that while my students, we got this even though it's virtual. even though this may not be what we expected. this change is going to take us to where we need to go. this school year will be prosperous with support, purpose, passion patience & productivity. remember this is only temporary. let's just stay focus and be great. let's become the great leaders that we are and with that, I would transition into my brief report of work groups that I've been working on this summer. I had the pleasure being in the race relations and social justice committee, Co-chaired by doctor Elwyn Lee and Dean Robert McPherson, in that work group by compiled resources based on criminal justice, Mass incarceration, policing, history of racial oppression, racial inequality's community development and other topics. in the second work group that I had the pleasure of being again is that diversity and inclusion work group. within that group I took on the tasks on recently being involved in cultural competence training requirements, campus climate survey and the respect UH campaign and telling campus culture committing to. that is all I have so far. we're getting to work first senate meeting, let's get to it.
- Senator Sasser: Hello there everybody, Just want to start off by saying that my father is a contractor and has been for more than 20+ years. this whole situation that was just said, I forward it to him and he says what happened in this situation usually happens because they don't have the papers or the money, or they just want to take advantage of these people, which is very common when it comes to contractors especially for the people that don't speak English clearly. on the side note of that too, I've been working with hero 19 committee of our scholarship to

help out medical workers essential workers and so far it's almost as halfway and it's almost done and I hope everybody is doing good.

- Senator Hamad: Hello everyone, I hope everyone had a great start to the semester. I just wanted to thank everyone for great summer senate. I'm glad to be back in Houston so no more 4:00 AM meetings for me. for this serious topic that was brought up right now a lot of people are going through this and probably even worse so thank you Senator Garcia for bringing this up and we need to work on it because personally a lot of my friends who have family members that are going through the same issues as well. So, let's start this semester well and stay positive and just looking forward to another great meeting.

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

I. Report of the President

- Everyone good evening um welcome to the first official meeting of the fall semester of the 57 student government Association I'll let senator Garcia speak more on this but the quad worker situation is a prime example of the impact that student government can have an opening the doors for communication with administration so earlier today actually John Julian and I met with general counsel of the University to talk more about solutions and hopefully to create a work group to open dialogue between the University contractors Workers. the new Quads are beautiful and to know that the workers that contribute to the beauty of our University have not been heard or treated with respect and dignity is completely unacceptable by these contractors that were hired by the University with September being Latinx heritage month I think it's important to address that Latinx people in the United States have been exploited for their labor for generations and the University has a responsibility as a diverse institution and as a Hispanic serving institution to ensure that workers are not being exploited and that they are treated with respect. I remember when I campaigned for student body president I took a break with Daniel, our deputy chief of staff, and we spent several hours at the quad workers protest. so thank you so much John for writing the bill and for bringing in Nick Chile and Omar an I'm excited that we have the opportunity to stand up with with these workers and prevent anymore complaints like this in the future. so but that out of the way I want to welcome everyone who's newly joining our SGA family for the first time this fall semester and I want to give a huge thank you to everyone who participated in the summer Senate and I want to take some time to reflect on the accomplishments of the 57th administration so far and highlight some great individuals and work that had been done so Sabreen and Jade, the chair and vice chair for the academic affairs committee collaborated with administrators from the office the provost to advocate for medical emergency W that we actually campaign for and brought

student awareness that policy. two months into this virtual student government administration I wrote the international student support act that created University of Houston's first international student mentorship program. through an executive order I created the international student membership program task force and I want to personally thank senators David, Paul Hilton, Sidney Blakely, Ester Arias and Annie Kim for helping us create that program and thank you to our speaker Julian for becoming the chairperson of this task force for the fall. Our administration has been no stranger to challenges when the ICE regulations were released that threatened the safety and stability of international students in the United States. I worked with our external affairs director Jessica Hewlett and she contacted all of the Texas student governments and we were able to together send a letter to the trump administration advocating for an end to these policies. former senator and chair of the internal affairs committee and now election commissioner Chiamaka Chukwu has not stopped her advocacy for representing underrepresented students or passage of the resolution in support of revenue of renovating garage 5 increase student safety on campus and is going to make that area more ADA-accessible to support students with disabilities. Vice president Rashid who is in many ways my foil and compliment shares two qualities with myself and many of us in this administration and that is her passion for change and her willingness to be outspoken even when it may be difficult when plans for reflection spaces in the new UH medical and law school were not inclusive to students of all faiths she spoke up in partnership with the Muslim student Association and she created a petition and are open past the resolution from Muslim inclusive reflection spaces and she made that change my chief of staff Sterling white who just a few years ago was my competition during our election for Senate has not only become my lifelong best friend but has been a great source of support for the entire cabinet Sterling and his deputy Daniel had been working hard for developing our emerging leaders Interxion program for the incoming freshmen and 1st year transfer students a few who are actually present today not only has the 57th SGA works through a pandemic but we've worked alongside a civil rights movement. the murder of 46 year old father of 3, George Floyd, by police sparked a cultural change across our nation and shed a light on the systemic and institutional racism and antiblackness that has plagued our society for longer than the novel coronavirus has and for the first time the UHSGA did not stay silent and we took a stand against police brutality systemic racism and openly voiced our support for the black lives matter movement and protests I worked alongside senator Kenneth Davis the 3rd to open communication between the sea and the historically black organizations on campus and together we passed the say their names resolution a resolution with over 20 sponsors from organizations across the campus where we called on the

UH community to stand in solidarity with the black community there's so much I'm so sorry all the nationwide civil rights movement inspired huge students to call on our own University to make change and we passed the policies Reform Act that united SGA members student organizers of the NPHDUH revolution petitions faculty and staff to work on policy changes related to diversity inclusion freedom of expression sexual assault and misconduct and UHPD reform and in the coming weeks you guys can expect legislation highlighting policy changes that we have made as a result of these work groups and I wanted to thank Sterling, Hiba, Chiamaka, John, and senators Wolfe, Ubina, Garcia and Davis for taking the time to be apart of these work groups. I know that none of us expected the 57th SGA to make history by being UH's first ever virtual student government Association because of a pandemic but all of this hard work would not have been possible without speaker Julian Cheng who was responsible for making our SGA meetings go smoothly despite not being in person and our PR director justice and outreach director John have been making Flyers and are going to be bringing us virtual events to increase SGA visibility during an almost all online semester in light of the pandemic and all of the essential workers who are instrumental in making our society run I wanted to highlight senator Jonathan Sasser who created a huge system wide hero 19 scholarship with Sterling for student essential workers which is awesome and I know that a lot of people might believe that our administration was short change this year but honestly I disagree it has and will continue to be a privilege and honor to lead this organization I am proud to be part of the historic student government Association that stood up for injustice and has not stopped working hard since the first day we got in office on Sept on April 1st despite not getting the perks of the other years the SGA has always been a selfless organization at its core the SGA has never been about the fancy offices although they're nice the Senate chamber or any perceived recognition that some people may think the student government has the student government Association will and will always be about creating a better future and I'm proud to leave it an organization full of dreamers leaders and advocates and passionate people so thank you all because every single one of you who puts effort into this organization will be responsible for a better University of Houston years down the line so thank you so much for a phenomenal summer sent it and I look forward to an even better fall semester

II. Report of the Vice-President

- thank you all so much for attending this meeting in the middle of a pandemic and a hurricane. this shows how dedicated you guys are and that makes my heart very happy. if you're in any way affected by anything that's going on, please reach out I'm always here to talk or provide support whenever you guys need. I'm glad Jasmine kind of slowed us down and talked about what we've accomplished so far

because and anyone can tell you, all of us are always just working and trying to work on the next thing and looking forward and saying “hey this is a problem we need fix this” and we never slow down and take the time to realize how much we've done already online. I'm really thankful that I'm part of this administration it's always the highlight of my day. I'm so glad this administration take cares about tough and important issues like on workers’ rights and I hope we can help those guys to help those workers get justice. I'm sure we've all heard about what happened to Jacob Blake. last I heard he was in the hospital paralyzed from the waist down when he tried to break up a fight between two other people and it sucks and it's terrible and this kind of stuff happens all the time. And that is why we need to do everything in our power to fight and call out racism no matter how small or common of an act of racism might seem. Microaggressions, little comments like calling those things out and using your voice will help people learn that racism is completely unacceptable in this society. that brings me to my no tolerance for sexual or violent offenders act. sexual assault is also not acceptable. my bill is going up for a final vote today. after it passed IA, we got a lot of sponsors for this bill and I really want to thank everyone who sponsored it and if you still like to please text me in the chat box. the end of the work groups is upon us. as you all know these work groups were created in the wake of the UH revolution petition as a reaction to George Floyd's death. Their goal was

- i. making campus more equitable
- ii. making campus a safer place for black students

Jasmine and I are setting up a meeting with all the SGA wraps on these work groups to assess their efficacy and if you'd like to know more about their work please reach out to us. we've done a lot of good work, accomplished a lot so far so please reach out if you want to learn more about it or be a part of it. the most notable recommendation we've seen this past week is for evaluations to be made available to every citizen after every interaction with the police which means you can evaluate the officer that you interact with. and we met a little bit of resistance, so we'll see how it goes. Lastly, I have 4 very lovely people going up for confirmation on committees tonight. if they're all appointed there will be 1 spot left on the cougar card advisory committee and 0 spots left on the LGBTQ advisory committee column performance Hall advisory committee and the sustainability task force and that is all I have thank you guys.

III. Report of the Speaker

- Now I want to welcome back or centers that haven't been here with us for a little bit but that's OK, we still got another seven meetings ahead of us. I sent a welcome email to the nine returning senators, I also sent out the agenda. so if you are a returning senator and you did not get a welcome email from me or the agenda email, please let me know. I know there's some problems with Yahoo

sometimes. those emails are important so I need to make sure that everyone gets those. besides that, I have two new candidates for senator going up. Senator Jon Garcia help me find one of them who is going for the graduate at large position and one of them is going to fill the school of public affairs. they're both great and they both have previous SGA experience from different schools. so make sure to listen to what they have to say, ask some good questions and if their appointment passes, introduce yourself and see what it is that they want to do, how you could help. I'm going to be updating the website so that means the new senators that are appointed I'm going to get your pictures in your emails and I'm looking to update some other things about the website. I'm also looking to have more Senator interviews for the open positions that are left, if these two get passed then there will be 2 graduate at large seats, one education, hotel restaurant management, College of law, NSM seat, school of nursing seat, social work seat. So if you know any good people then please talk to me and we can get some more senators in. I'm trying to have a full senate. I don't know if that's ever happened I don't know if that has ever been done but I want it and I want to do it. so if you know some people, let me know. besides that, I've been helping out with the international student mentor ship program in pairing off mentors and mentees. it's a little difficult to be honest most of the mentors are pretty young so I'm trying to find really good matches, both age wise, classification wise and culturally/ so that these people can really feel like they have someone they can talk to, help them, guide them through the transition. next meeting, remember to attend your committee meetings. if you cannot attend the committee meetings then please notify your chair or, both me and the chair. but if you could please tell your chair that you cant attend the meeting so that it will be an excused absence because there is a difference between excused committee absences and unexcused committee absences. so do not have too many absences because otherwise they want to take you out. if you would like to know what your standing is for attendance, just get in touch with me I have it all reported, I can let you know. besides that, good luck in your classes and the new semester, stay safe from this storm tonight.

IV. Report of the Chief Justice

- As mentioned before, the retreat will be in happening but of course it keeps getting postponed because of COVID. I wish everyone a good first week of school. this week during like in the group chat in the GroupMe chat I know things are kind of weird now and it's weird like not being able to see faces or like put names to faces but hopefully like things will get back to normal. Also, another Justice Ram is here tonight. we are sponsors to a bill that's going up today and that concludes my report.

V. Report of the Attorney General

- Caitlin has Chen is putting up with her Britney Antoinette and I have I have had the pleasure to interview Britney before for another position so you will be confirming her tonight.

VI. Report of the Chief Election Commissioner

- Hey also I'm just going to start off by welcoming you to the fall semester. since it is the beginning of the first semester, it's about time people start thinking about if they're going to run for elections and I'm happy to tell you that I have already posted the first platform and also the 20-21 electronic registration form. it's on the SGA website under elections. So if you're planning on running, you can go ahead and fill out the form can actually be submitted electronically. so you can just fill it out electronically and as long as you send it to me with your email, you should be good to go. I've had a few people applying for deputy election commissioner, but I kind of want more just to have like a really good pool of people. so if you're interested or if you know anyone that's interested the application is on the SGA get involved and that version closes the first week of September. if you have any questions please feel free to email me your questions.

VII. Report of the Chief of Staff

- A lot that's been said but I just want to say that our administration is great and if you see the changes that we have been making any changes that we're going to make. If that's something that you want to be a part of then stick around. if you don't want to do any of that kind of work, let somebody else have your seat. with that being said, onto my updates. Also, the scholarship is almost done. the hero 19 scholarship that I've been working on with senator sassar, senator Ubina, senator Ahmed and senator Davis, of course, and that's all been going well. I think we talked to a University representative and she was like we're about 70% done and most of the work is on the university's part and we're just waiting to hear back about that. I've also been having talks with the work groups and Hiba mentioned is that we brought attention to how bad the UHPD website was because apparently it was just complete and utter garbage and they quickly decided to go in and fix that. so that's been amazing work and for the rest of my reports my deputy will fill in.
- Thank you Sterling um like Jasmine then we finished transferring all the emerging leaders program online so now it's going to be 100% virtually we started picking application applicants for it in like jazz and said some rumor in the zoom chat now so I hope you all enjoy the rest of the meeting. we're still accepting applications until mid-September so if you guys know anyone or you yeah don't know anyone please let us know and we'll get right back

VIII. Report of the Director of External Affairs

- Hey everyone, I'm going to keep my report short and simple tonight. so firstly I hired associate director Anusha, a lot of you are probably already familiar with

her, and I know that she's going to do a great job. I have absolutely no doubt about that. I've also continued working on the UH system SGA conference and have begun to draft an agenda for the day. I'm also continuing to meet with UH SGA member schools about the conference. Lastly, planning for the Houston youth voters conference is still going on. I'm still working with the other universities on that and that's it.

IX. Report of the Director of Public Relations

- Hello everyone, I'm glad that everyone is back for our first meeting of this semester. I'm excited to hear everything that Jasmine said that everyone's gotten done, it's really inspiring. And I'm glad that we are going to continue to keep that momentum going. for me and my team, we had a meeting today and we decided that we're going to design the masks that we're going to pass out for SGA and the polos for SGA. so everyone get excited. I know polos aren't exactly like huge in fashion but there's huge in SGA. so we're all going to have some magic polos . the president is rocking one right now. so not only that, my team is working on some giveaway skits for more engagement from the general student body and everything. so we can get Coogs more excited about SGA and keep that going. other than that, I am working on the flyer right now for the emerging leaders program and some other Flyers and just getting some more information out there. I'm really excited to get back into the habit of being in school and like having an office now and everything. So, we can really get things done and hope everything goes well.

X. Report of the Director of Outreach

- I want to welcome everyone who hasn't joined us for summers in it and I want to congratulate you all right which updates. I'm currently working on a job for our fall outreach event, although there will be looking a lot different rest assured that I will be having conversations with the campus Department administrators to review our event proposals you know this summer. I found one of our work groups and will be having kind of like this work group I guess like end of the year like we have this big discussion with the progress we've made within all those workgroups that will be attending that as well I will link someone up I'll try to link up with PR Department next week to talk about the exchange merchandise for our event nothing has been confirmed yet but I think you know just this just drop that we will be working on SGA polos and face masks so that's really exciting. For general updates, I'm coming back from my summer with 3M and I'm starting my Fall internship in October for juniors and seniors. I know it's super crucial that you have internship experience on your resume. one of my plans for the emerging leaders program is to kind of hold a personal branding and LinkedIn resume editing workshops but I'm opening it up to everyone here. with the current season just around the corner reach out if you need any help with securing the bag

for this fall spring or next summer in terms of opportunities I'd like to connect you all with. I'm looking for bilingual Spanish speaking students to work at an urgent emergency call center at medics if you are a fan or looking for a job, I'd love to connect you with that recruiter and the pay is \$14 to \$15.00 an hour. another opportunity is my friend from the Wolfe center. she's starting her own business and she's looking for referrals if you know anyone that would be interested in disinfecting services like if someone in your family or someone you know owns a business and they kind of need disinfecting services. she offers 5% Commission if you can help her close a business contract and for houses or you know kind of like a smaller area you just get a flat amount. for anything related to reach inquiries about the opportunities that I shared and getting help for pairing for the recruiting season. if you do need anything text me your name and we could set up a meeting so everyone stays safe I'm looking forward to seeing you all in person soon

Clause 6: Committee Reports

I. Reports of the Academic Affairs Committee

- welcome to our first fall semester meeting. I hope you guys are staying well and staying safe and staying healthy now. for me I don't have too many updates. we haven't had a committee meeting in a while just because we haven't really had anything we would have to discuss but that is because I've had things that are happening in my personal life. I got to just put it out there, I was supposed to get married this Friday but because of storm it got pushed to next week. so for the next 2 weeks, if you need anything you know talk about academic affairs-wise, you can always contact. I remember my updates were Sterling, they're working on the scholarship to help first responders. I was there last meeting and then that in our last meeting as well, we had talked about a couple of ideas about maybe having a fixed tuition for students whose tuition is a bit too high, especially since everything is online and maybe making like the cost of registration with a little bit smoother and those are directly to propose is I want to work on whenever I come back. after this meeting I won't be attending the next two meetings. so any sort of questions after this, you can always ask Jade. I hope you guys stay well, stay safe. I love you guys.

II. Reports of the Internal Affairs Committee

- Hey y'all, it's been a week. Apologies for my internet issues currently staying at my Aunt's with the rest of my family cause hurricane. Our meeting last week was really productive, we passed Hiba's "No Tolerance for Sexual or Violent Offenders Act" through committee. Pretty solid bill. That's all y'all stay safe.

III. Reports of the Student life Committee

- I hope everybody is doing well. for those emerging leaders in here I'm super excited that y'all are in here. I was also an emerging leader before so if you have

any questions or anything, always feel free to reach out or if you have any ideas for student life. I don't really have any updates for the committee, we didn't meet a prior session because we didn't really have anything to discuss. so always feel free to reach out to me if you need anything that's going to be it

IV. Reports of the Administration and Finance Committee

- Hey guys, there isn't much to say we just kind of caught up in each other's lives but i look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

V. Reports of the Graduate and Professional Students Committee

- Yeah we're working on the graduate Bill of Rights still and on graduate recruitment and that's about it thanks.

Clause 7: Unfinished Business

Clause 8: New Business

I. Senate Appointment (Graduate at Large Senator) – Laura Diaz

- Hey guys my name is Laura and I'm a student in the College of pharmacy. I am not from here, I'm from Florida. so I graduated from University of South Florida with a Bachelors degree in biomedical Sciences. I came to Houston to go to pharmacy school. when I'm not studying I like to run, I like to go to gym and I love shopping so if you like to do any of those things let me know. I'm a pharmacy technician in three states. I am an intern for CVS and all of these basically fall under like one of the three categories I'm passionate about which is education, healthcare and advocating for people. most recently, I had an internship through CVS for Spanish Emerging which was where I advocated for individuals in the Community and provide education how we can manage their therapies how it could help them out in health care and stuff like that I was a senator at the University of South Florida where I served on Policy Committee relations committee and finance my roles there were a little bit of everything just 'cause I was on a few committees but notably we passed a few relations. when I was talking to Julian he let me know some of the platforms that Jasmine and her team ran on an I was happy to know they were also advocating for things like black lives matter which something I'm really passionate about. we passed a resolution at USF for like taking out red light cameras which were positioned in lower income neighborhoods so targeting racial injustices like that. I also am an outreach coordinator or I set up sites for a project called operation log zone to educate an opioid overdoses an medication therapies and then I also work for the university's pharmacy council as the appointed advocacy director. so that's kind of what my role is here I'm appointed to try to serve on the student government Association and advocate for things on behalf of the college a couple of the ideas I have going forward and would like to present to you if I get the opportunity to

serve would be introducing CAPS to the University. I saw that on their website they have specific counselors and specialties I'll call him for like better and students of colors first generation students but there's not really anything there for graduate level students and so it would be nice for someone to be kind of appointed to one of those to come and speak to graduate level students and kind of have someone that we can run to as well we also use a lot of paper he's a lot of everything in our building so another printer would be nice expanding the hours in the library something that we talked about kind of coming to SGA with anything other than that I really don't have I'll be happy to answer any questions that you'll have though

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Senate appointment for Graduate at Large passes*

II. Senate Appointment (Hobby School of Public Affairs Senator – William Taylor

- Hi guys I want apologize for the lighting I'm outside we just about whether to Austin I'm staying in RV so my apologies but so yeah my name is William Taylor and I am running her hoping to be appointed to the harvest full public affairs senator um I'm new to Houston I grew up in Beaumont but I just graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio magnitude loud with a politics and law degree while that you just say uh I was also a teaching assistant I talked legal research and writing and I guess certificate in legal reasoning through the summer law school preparation Academy uh so prior to that uh I join the marine core out of high school. so I started as an entry squad leader for five years during my time at conducted two combat deployments to Middle East and a security deployment to Guantanamo Bay Cuba which is beautiful so during my time in rank or you know I gained valuable lessons and I developed in home my leadership skills not only in pleasant conditions but also in austere combat environment. so I attribute my leadership skills to the marine corp, a falling in rank or I got out and started school. I interned for a law firm knows journalists intern where I wrote legal articles for pre-law websites posted nationally and I published like 4 four articles but my time there was short lived because I started interning for the office of congressman Joaquin Castro who represents the 20th district in Texas in San Antonio and while there I conducted constituent services in case work for local veterans to help them receive their benefits that they deserve uh so there you can't see a trend in public service throughout my career that's how that's what I hope to do following grad school here at University of Houston. so following my internship with the congressman I began teaching legal research and writing at the University. I taught and also know how to do legal research. we conducted multiple mock trials and that was on a minor scale around 40 students that I was assisting. currently my wife and I we just had a beautiful daughter in December. so after having her we decided to up and move to Houston because I was going to go to grad school in law school but I ended up

putting all school in the hold after we got here. i currently work with new american Here in Houston under the DBA of Texas back in business and what we do is I conduct financial and policy analysis on small businesses that were affected by hurricane Harvey and were tasks from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer received are saved which is a long fancy term for grants we have a hundred \$1,000,000 worth of grants we have to grant to small businesses in and around Houston Harris County. so that's what I do currently and this is my first message with you as a candidate for the master of public policy so I'm excited to be here after listening to all the reports from the president and on what you guys are doing sounds phenomenal. I'm really excited and hopefully be a part of this because my experience for this and SGA was very minimal because covid so my last semester was abrupted because of that so I'm glad to be here. currently I am a part of three professional organizations the Association for public policy analysis and management the international student County Management Association and the Texas city Management Association so please not bring that up it's 'cause I I intend to pursue my career in local and state government following my studies here at the University of Houston so uh in in it's far as things that I would like to do my goal is to tailor the harvest full public affairs towards towards organizations and stuff like that for the graduate students to get them immersed and integrated into the local government so yeah so I'm happy to be here and thank you guys for hearing me out

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Senate appointment for Hobby School of Public Affairs passes*

III. Justice Department Appointment (Deputy Attorney General) – Brittany-Anne Bonnete

- hello all you may be familiar with me because I was a Bauer senator in spring. though it was short lived, I really appreciate the time I had and my really appreciated getting to know the few that I did. I'm a sophomore, double majoring in marketing and political science. I'm French and I was raised in a Spanish and French speaking household so I actually started going to American school and learning English in the third grade. so that's a little bit about me. a little bit of background information and now on to why I believe that I would be a good fit for deputy attorney general. so I believe that my prior experiences in leadership and administration work will make me a suitable candidate and here's why: I already have some experience creating documents and answering complaints probably because I ran for attorney general before I knew kaylin was running obviously she's deputy attorney general but I ran just pretty much to see if I could kind of get some ground and learn more about the position. so I worked with Cameron and he sent me all the documents and I had to answer complaints an I'd get complaints in like 1:00 AM and I have to answer them and I'd also have to write up the documents afterward and publish them. so I do that with Cameron

and then when I came into contact with Caitlin for my interview she also educated me on what my position would be if I was deputy attorney general. so I do have a lot of background knowledge as well as background knowledge of SGA in general because I did serve as a Bauer senator. so I know how everything works and that's kind of my background knowledge that I have that I think would be a valuable asset to this administration on campus. I'm actually the secretary of the policy debate team here which means that I compute an expert curricular that's forced me into an unbiased position so I kind of have to evaluate everything I do on very objectively because as you know or as you don't know whether I'm giving a resolution and I have to create research on both sides, see from the negative usually its foreign policy but I have to argue for a policy that may not necessarily be something that I directly advocate for but I'm familiar with having an unbiased position which is something an attorney general has to be skilled in. I'm also in charge of filing paperwork for the student organization handling issues between members responsibly. I was a captain of my debate team in high school and now as secretary after file paperwork I always have to be available to contact and available to talk through issues members which I think would also help me in like in like the election. When I have to evaluate sanctions and all that hot jazz. I'm in the process of getting a newspaper called the scoffer starting to get published so I registered my student word and it basically calls out oppression in our city so I'm going away. I'm one of the Co-founders and I'm going to be publishing stuff along with my art to kind of call out the systemic oppression that we'd have to face in Houston. so that's another project that I have going on in the side in high school I had a multitude of managerial positions like stage manager. I led the national student walkout I directed shattered dreams and I also have worked in political campaigns so I am kind of accustomed to working in a position where not everyone has the same background not everyone has the same experiences as me and I do have to navigate how to talk to different people and I do have to navigate staying professional in those pursuits, so I hope to join the student government Association to stand up for what is right and just and represent my fellow students in constitutional matters and to assist the attorney general any other specific work as well. thank you so much for your time I really appreciate it and have a great evening

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Justice Department appointment for Deputy Attorney General passes*

IV. University Committee Appointment (Cougar Card Advisory Committee) – Randolph Campbell

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

V. University Committee Appointment (LGBTQ Advisory Committee) – Gabriel Pluchino

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

VI. University Committee Appointment (Cullen Performance Hall Advisory Committee) – Trevor Woeste

- hello everybody my name is Trevor. I'm a freshman at UH and I'm from League City. my hobbies include biking, running and debate. So out of all of my qualifications, I believe are important is that I worked for the Diana Steele congressional campaign back in 2018 and I also work on behalf of the federal campaign in 2018 and have an experience with meeting people, different ideas forming and campaigning with people, getting yelled at a few times at peoples doors and such so I know how to deal with hostile customers essentially. I also work currently on the March for allies Houston legislation at LAX using legislative committee. so basically what we do is we work to make legislation and craft ideas so that we can try to get it to may return it in the legislation and the committee everybody down there because we want to see modern we want to see gun control passed or we recognize that especially in the wake of George Floyd and police brutality we've actually added police brutality as part of our objectives because we recognize the fact that it's a huge problem and we want to see it's also we've been pushed we've been creating legislation that we're trying to help get passed or at least get it to down the field I also have experience as an Eagle Scout as part of the Boy Scouts program pretty much my entire life and recently got that in my high school experience I was captain of this. I was in the speech and debate for two years but I was the captain of the speech and debate team for my senior year and I was a state qualifier for the event of world schools so I have a lot of experience as an just said have a lot of experience with dealing with taking a resolution and seeing both sides of the argument seeing where people are coming from so for the Cullen Hall specifically which on being voted on. basically what I would do in this community I would like to work to make sure that people are able to use this Hall as safe as we can during the covid crisis and I would like to just say I'm also proud to be part of the emerging leaders program but I just wanted what I'd like to see pretty clearly is that we were able to use this Hall as productively as we can during this whole crisis and we were able to use it productively. I would just like to help the students and everybody here as best as I can that's my main objective. Thank you so much.
- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *University committee appointment for Cullen Performance Hall Advisory Committee passes*

VII. University Committee Appointment (Sustainability Task Force) – Kryss Schofield

- My name is Kryss Schofield. I'm a poli sci major here at UH. I like to just explore downtown and running in as far as prior experience during senior year in High School, I was the secretary of earth club and I was in charge of budgeting our monthly dues and seeing that we could do at the school and how we could make the school more sustainable. we increase recycling by over 50% at the school we also built a butterfly garden to help them on flies that were travelling down South. I have lots of ideas that I would like to share with the committee if I am appointing, I'm very excited for this upcoming semester.
- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *University committee appointment for Sustainability Task Force passes*

VIII. SGAB – 57009 – Election Code Clarification Act (First Read)

- Hello, so this is a bill that senator miles and I are co-authoring. There are multiple laws. Yeah it during the election but the ones candidates are primarily concerned with are the election code and student code of conduct and along with that you also have Supreme Court rulings which have to do with interpreting the election code and ideally you want all of these to be as consistent as possible you don't want them to conflict So what this does is it just to reword some of the things to ensure that the election code is clarified so that appointees don't have to look here and there to find certain provisions and look at whether it's anything is conflicting so that's all it does all it is is a clarification bill it doesn't add along take it away all of these things that we're adding in or all the existing laws in the form of this just clarifies that so with that we can go to the first provision. the first provision all that will be doing is rewording a section of the election code to make sure that provision barring candidates from having violations running violence or sexual misconduct from being used to restrict free speech or any other rights guaranteed by the constitution of out of the state or the United States. that's essentially the first provision. for the second part there were two big cases and this was because some parts of the election code that were a little unclear and so just mentioned the first one had to do with speech and what the SGA can regulate from private citizens for running the second part has to do with student organizations and so we had a case that involved student organizations being used over the course of campaigning and there were two questions that the court had to address the first was what is a student organization that was a bit vague because the election code never really defined it. there was a big issue because the attorney general defined it one way and the party to find it another way. so in the ruling the court basically just said we need to have a definition so it's clear so that candidates know what you're talking about the second question was how much SGA can really regulate the actions of a third party store organization and we said that SGA as an individual organization itself implicitly or explicitly control the actions of a third party organization. So what we did is we made minor changes just to ensure that

the law itself in spirit is the same while ensuring that the wording reflects the ruling so instead of student organization now in red you'll see it says registered to organization or University sponsored organizing that basically just puts a definition to it because register stigmatization University those are actual definitions that exist candidates defined so that it's very clear to them what they can and cannot use home second the previous part of the election code that is changed with A&B used to say that a student organization social medias cannot post this or that and given that we said that she can't regulate the actions of a third party organization this just changes the wording to say candidates may not solicit the use of organization it does the same thing the end result is going to be the same not the candidates instrument candidates are going to be mindful of using certain organizations for their support this just takes the object of control from the organization who the candidate which is within the realm of SGA.

- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *Motion to send it to Internal Affairs; passes*

IX. SGAR – 57008 – Coog Strong Mask On Resolution (First Read)

- Um hello so I'll try to make this pretty quick 'cause I think this is pretty straightforward kook strong mask on is a campaign that the University has started to fight against COVID-19 so just a few fast facts here COVID-19 pandemic has caused for 223 million deaths or cases sorry globally an 800 about around 800,000 global deaths and the United States is now leading the world with around 5 million covid cases and over 100,000 deaths at this point and the University of Houston unfortunately resides in Houston in Harris County which I believe we are ranked like #5 worst in the United States currently with a total of 100,171 total confirmed cases with our positive activity rate being 11.3% so that's bad. Whats even worse is that following the reopening of universities for the fall 2020 semester universities across the nation have seen a huge surge in COVID-19 cases with over 500 cases at the University of Alabama and USC had 43 new cases Iowa State at 130 new cases and that's within a week of opening their universities and many of these universities have now been forced to go completely online as a result. So in hopes that we don't have to go to a completely online semester 'cause I really want to see that Senate chamber and I know you guys do too. the University has started the Coog strong mask on campaign which essentially requires facemask to be worn at all times inside of buildings and outside when physical distancing isn't possible. The University wants to keep 6 ft distance practice good hygiene and washing your hands using hand sanitizer. this resolution just says that the FDA as a whole we agree with these new regulations by the University and some other quick facts in case you guys don't know we're at the universities advocating for students do a self-assessment make sure you don't have a fever or any covid symptoms before coming to campus and we are going

to have on campus testing center at the student Health Center that is going to take third party insurance and the cost to build your insurance is \$70.00 an uninsured students cost to \$70.00 which is pretty cheap. I work at an emergency center and they charge like \$175 for the covid test sometimes \$195 so this is actually a pretty good price for the Covid test and it's being sent to the lab that UT health which is why we can build third party insurance for that. so that's just a quick little overview of the resolution.

X. UB – 57003 – Contractor and Sub-contractor Employee Protections Act (Second Read)

- thank you guys for having the patience to go through all that and also for the questions that you were asking. I'm sure that they appreciated being heard by people especially by student government senators that was great. so thank you for that. so the reason that this change from a resolution to a bill was because of a meeting that was held today between Jasmine Julian and myself. Keith, thank you for setting that up, that was really helpful and a general counsel for UH and so this has turned from simply us expressing our support and what we think the University should do to remedy the situation. it has turned into a workgroup idea to work on internal policy for remedying any labor violations or labor disputes that occur on campus and so essentially the resolution is the same except for the fact that we have that work group statement in there and then there's also the questions that we want to ask administration in writing general counsel already answered all of those today but that was verbally that was not written and I know from working in government, everything has to be written to make sure that it happens and so that's kind of the logic there but all those questions we know the answers to already and so that shouldn't be a problem for administration but if you have any further questions let me know I'll pass along the contact information for that lawyer for people who want to ask more questions from him specifically but yeah if you guys have questions for me go ahead and let me know
- *Motion to send this Administration and Finance; passes*

XI. SGAB – 57008 – No Tolerance for Sexual or Violent Offenders Act (Vote)

- the only change is that there are two more sponsors so this is already gone through IA. we already talked about this at the last minute meeting but essentially what this will do is this will prevent the any vice president SGA from appointing anyone who has served sanctions for sexual assault physical, assault sexual harassment on a University committee.
- *Motion to move to previous question; passes*
- *SGAB – 57008 – No Tolerance for Sexual or Violent Offenders Act passes*

Clause 9: Closing Remarks

I. Comments and announcements of the Officers

- President: So I know everybody was trying to go to sleep so I'll make this kind of fast so SMAC applications I'm looking for four people I have two 1-year appointments in two 2-year appointments. they should be going up at the next Senate meeting. However, if you would still like to apply I'm still going to take applications upon get involved under the University committees form. any Bauer people who are interested in deciding where our student fee dollars go please apply that's a very important job and you have that in person appointment. some other things that we're working on COVID-19 relief, I am hoping to schedule meeting with UEP the urban experience program to use some of the SGA budget for purchasing of meal vouchers for food insecure students. the SGA budget bill should also be going up at the next Senate meeting so you guys can see how we can use our budget and then I am working on a return date and sorting life inclusivity bill that will see when it's going to be going up maybe at the next meeting but if you guys are a part of Greek life and are interested in inclusivity please talk to me reach out to me message me on GroupMe answer and whatever and I would like to collaborate I will be going to a meeting that has all of the Greek life's presidents officers leadership from all the councils which is getting scheduled later on i think next week so just let me know if be interested in working on that that's something I'm pretty passionate about.
- Vice President: Thank you guys for appointing all of my committee appointments and for passing my bill. I really don't have much else just apply to committees they're very interesting. there's something for everyone. they make some really important decisions around campus and if you want to make change that's the best way. goodnight everyone!

Speaker: Reminder please if you know anyone who could fill these senator seats 2 graduate at large, 1 education, 1 hotel restaurant management, 1 law, 1 CLASS, 1 nursing, 1 NSM, 1 social work, 1 optometry so if you know anyone please reach out to them and get these positions filled as soon as possible. congratulations to the two people who were confirmed tonight! great candidates I know y'all don't even have any questions for them I knew they were great. So, congratulations Laura and William. Congratulations to Brittany. Good luck in y'all's classes. stay safe tonight.
- Chief Justice: good meeting! good discussions! if any of you all want to talk about the bill and really go into the intricacies of like the First Amendment jurisprudence, we'll definitely be willing to sit down and talk to you. we do want to have as much open dialogue with this possible and we do want to ensure that you really understand that this bill is no more than a clarification. so yeah that's if you don't like to have those meetings on then please do reach out to us and apart from that look forward to seeing you all in IA.

- Attorney General: I'm going to be responsible for giving their reports up until mid-October but I think this was a really successful meeting. I really appreciated being a part of it and having been appointed. I look forward to giving more inclusive reports in the future that have more to do with the work I'm doing but I really appreciate your time and your dedication to this
- Chief Election Commissioner: OK so I know that like this is around the time when people start considering if they're going to run an SGA election. so I'm going to offer to peoples like platforms and give them feedback. I'm giving you advice to let you know what I found useful during elections but I didn't find so useful and I'm probably going to also take a look at the election code maybe after like the clarification act all goes down on to see if it would be possible to get those interested in being in parties and to parties I know it's really hard to campaign as an independent. so if any if there's any way we could actually get those people into parties and help them be more successful I think that would be great.
- Chief of Staff: hey guys want to say, nice meeting! the emerging leaders application still up still taking up till mid-September. Stay safe.
- Director of External Affairs: Good meeting everyone and stay safe!
- Public Relations: great meeting everybody! I hope everyone has a great rest of their night. Look forward to those polos and those masks.
- Senator Sasser: What a meeting everybody. truly, what a meeting! we got new people in here. we got everybody around. we got nothing but smiles. it is a new year. it is a new semester. we got through it or almost down we almost got it let's go for it. come on people! Yes, a hurricane is going on but truly we can all get through this. we survived Harvey saying nothing!

II. Open Forum

- Justice Ram: So I do want to mention that I will be resigning as a justice soon. there are a few things that I have going on this semester that I need to put a lot more focus on. it's not going to happen immediately, going to happen in sometime. So, I just wanted to let you all know it looks like everything is strong with this current file and I'll let you know you know when I'm resigning and some of the cool stuff that I'll be working on I just want to get it out there. Thank you for being awesome!

III. Closing Call of the Roll

- Senator Acosta
- Senator Allen
- Senator Medrano
- Senator Shell
- Senator Ubina

Clause 10: Adjournment