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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Office of the Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Student Affairs

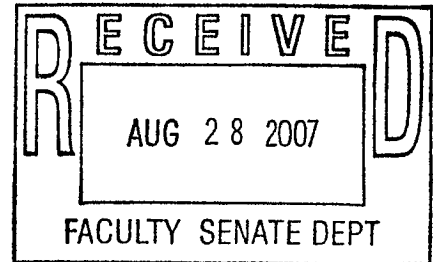
Interoffice Memorandum

To: Joseph Kotarba
President, Faculty Senate

From: Elwyn C. Lee *E. C. Lee*
Vice Chancellor/Vice President for Student Affairs

Date: August 27, 2007

Subject: Student Government Association Bills



Attached are several Student Government Association (SGA) bills and resolutions passed by the SGA during the spring semester of this year. SGAR44001 and SGAR44002 are resolutions and do not require any action on the part of the University Coordinating Commission (UCC). SGAB44001 only concerns SGA internal matters and similarly does not require any action by the UCC. UB44002 addresses the issue of the sale of fair trade coffee. I know that the campus food service committee and representatives from Administration and Finance have had several discussions about this issue so it is unclear to me whether or not the UCC wants to address this issue. Finally, there is SGAB44003 which concerns the issue of smoking in the University Center Arbor. This last bill was the one that Dr. Gogue mentioned when he indicated that the SGA bills should be sent to the UCC for scrutiny and a determination as to what campus stakeholders should screen the proposals before final resolution.

ECL/lg

attachment

cc: David Rosen
Sam Dike
William Munson
Marcella Leung



Label: SGAR44001

Date Introduced: 04/18/07

Author(s): Brandon Brewton

Co-Author(s): Judah Johns

Sponsor(s): Bethany Johns, Dona Suttajit

Committee: Student Life

A Tribute Honoring the Victims of the Virginia Tech Tragedy

Whereas, the University of Houston believes in staying united with colleges, universities, and institutions of higher education across the state and nation.

Whereas, on Monday April 16, 2007 a gunman opened fire on students and faculty on the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) campus claiming the lives of thirty two students and faculty and injuring many others and taking his own life.

Whereas, this is the deadliest mass campus shooting in the history of the United States.

Whereas, this tragedy has touched the lives of students and families throughout this country.

Whereas, the student body of the University of Houston is deeply saddened by this tragic event that has touched the lives of our fellow students.

Whereas, the University of Houston shares the belief that in a time of tragedy, we must honor those who have fallen and keep them in our memories.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association at the University of Houston:

That every year on the date of April 16, a thirty-three second moment of silence be observed.

Be it further resolved that the University of Houston Student Government Association officially and whole heartedly offer its condolences and best wishes to the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and extended family of Virginia Tech and the community of Blacksburg, Virginia.

Speaker of the Student Senate,

Ryan Free

President of the Student Government,

David Rosen





Label: SGAR44002
Date introduced: April 25, 2007
Author: David Rosen
Sponsor: Gus Forward, Salman Amandullah
Committee: University Administration and Finance

Whereas, earlier this month Student Government was handed a copy of a memo labeled "For UH Staff Use Only," detailing new policies to be implemented with tuition and fees beginning in fall 2007.

Whereas, before the memo was passed to SGA, no students in the organization had been given many details about the new policies, or consulted in the formation of the policy.

Whereas, Student Government recognizes a need for students to pay their tuition and fees in a timely fashion so the University of Houston can function financially.

Whereas, the efforts on behalf of the administration to educate students on the new policies have been woefully inadequate and unacceptable.

Whereas, policies as serious as the one detailed in the "Late Registration Procedures" memo must be constructed with more student input if that policy is to succeed.

Whereas, Student Government frowns upon the addition of fees or any changes in policies regarding enrollment without decent notification and a reasonable time frame.

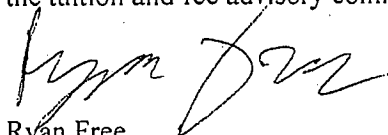
And whereas, if these policies are implemented in fall 2007, students have not been given decent notification in a reasonable time frame.

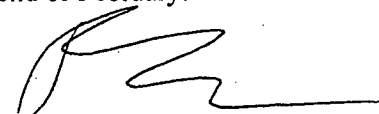
Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association at the University of Houston:

Being dropped from classes and losing a seat in those classes is negative incentive enough for students to pay their tuition and fees on time, or sign up for a payment plan. The \$100 penalty is unreasonable.

Be it further resolved that the university administration has thus far failed miserably in notifying students of these policy changes, and that any similar changes in the future must be communicated more effectively and earlier in the decision-making process.

Be it further resolved that any changes in enrollment policy be shared with students attending the tuition and fee advisory committee no later than the end of February.


Ryan Free
Speaker of the Student Senate


David Rosen
President of the Student Government

Student Government Association

www.uh.edu/sga



Label: SGAB44001

Date Introduced: 04/04/07

Author(s): Sam Dike

Co-Author(s): Brandon Brewton, Gus Forward

Sponsor(s): Chuka Onya, Bethany Johns, Shameria Davis

Committee: Internal Affairs

THE 44th STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Whereas, the 44th Student Government Association of the University of Houston has displayed a desire to be true advocates of our fellow students, and represent their needs and interest; and

Whereas, the Student Government Association is committed to continuing our outreach efforts to better inform students about how we can advance the issues that concern them as a whole; and

Whereas, recognizing that in order to adequately inform our constituents about the issues that concern them, we must make ourselves more available to our fellow students, and our actions as a representative body of the students must be transparent and open, so that we will always be accountable to our fellow students.

Therefore be it enacted by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association of the University of Houston that, we establish the Student Government Association Accountability Act.

Section 1: Information about SGA sponsored events or meeting must be made available online this includes but is not limited to, SGA town halls, and SGA senate and committee meetings.

Section 2: The Student Government Association shall create online profiles of each of its Senate and Executive members, on its website. The profiles shall include necessary information for students to adequately inform themselves on the issues, and view the work of the Student Government Association.

Section 3: Executive profiles shall include: name, position, college and classification, office hours, contact info, any executive reports, monthly time sheets, and university committee assignments.

Section 4: Senate member profiles shall include: name, position, college and classification, contact info, voting records, attendance records for senate meeting and SGA standing committee meetings, SGA Senate standing committees and university committee assignments, and a list of all legislation authored and sponsored by the senator.

Section 5: Student Government Association Senate shall also require senators to submit a monthly written report about an ongoing issue or project that they have worked on either individually or with other SGA members. The report may also include meetings senators may have had with a faculty member or administrator; however the topic of the meeting must be on a topic of interest to the students. The Senator reports shall be made available online through a link in the senator's profile.

Speaker of the Student Senate,

Ryan Free

President of the Student Government,

David Rosen



Label: UB44002

Date Introduced: April 4, 2007

Author: Tim O'Brien

Sponsor: Josephine Tittsworth

Committee: University Administration and Finance

A UNIVERSITY BILL MANDATING THE SALE OF FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Whereas, more than 500 University of Houston students, faculty, staff members and alumni have signed a petition circulated since August 2006 supporting the sale of 100% fair trade coffee at the UH Central Campus;

Whereas, the price of fair trade certified coffee has not increased the cost of coffee to students since it has been offered on campus since April 2006 therefore it need not go up;

Whereas, many coffee farmers receive market payments for their coffee which are less than the costs of production, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt; and Fair Trade works to correct these imbalances by guaranteeing a minimum wage for the small producers' harvest, as well as encouraging the cultivation of coffee without the use of pesticides;

Whereas, with the profit generated from receiving a fair wage, coffee growers are able to invest in such areas as health, education and environmental protection;

Whereas, more than 500,000 farmers in 20 countries produce and sell more than 32 million pounds of coffee each year through the Fair Trade network;

Whereas, the University consumes a large amount of coffee and, as a purchaser of goods and services, UH vendors have a responsibility to ensure that funds are spent in a manner consistent with decent ethical and labor standards, including assuring that workers are paid a living wage, and purchasing goods made in the fairest manner when possible;

Whereas, a change towards sustainable coffee will reflect positively on the University and its students, by setting an example in the community and furthering education about responsible consumer choices;

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association at the University of Houston:

Section 1: The UH Food Service Vendor shall provide visible literature educating consumers of the availability and social responsibility of Fair Trade Certified coffee at the point of sale of each coffee vendor.

Section 2: The location of the 100% Fair Trade Certified coffee kiosk will be in the 24 hour lounge in the M.D. Anderson Library, and should be established within a reasonable time frame.

Speaker of the Student Senate,

Ryan Free
Learning. Leading.™

President of the Student Government,



David Rosen

Label: SGAB44003

Date Introduced: April 4, 2007



Author(s): UC policy board, SGA executive committee

Sponsor: Gus Forward

Committee: Student Life

WHEREAS, numerous individuals and organizations have complained about the amount of smoke that accumulates in the University Center Arbor; and

WHEREAS, the UH Manual of Administrative Policies and Procedures (MAPP) 06.03.04 identified the University Center Arbor as a "well-ventilated" location where smoking is permissible; and

WHEREAS, since the original policy was written, the construction of the Student Information and Assistance Center has prevented the circulation of air through the first floor breezeway; it is no longer a "well-ventilated" location; and

WHEREAS, there is no mechanism to remove smoke from the Lower Level or the Second Floor of the Arbor; and

WHEREAS, the UH Fire Marshal's Office has identified the Lower Level and the Second Floor of the UC Arbor as an indoor location (as there is no ventilation system); and

WHEREAS, smoke regularly enters the retail, program and services areas of the University Center and UC Underground from the UC Arbor; and

WHEREAS, the University Center Policy Board has recommended the UC Arbor be identified as a smoke-free location five times previously (2000, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006); and

WHEREAS, the University Center has covered walking paths/areas on the North and South side of the facility to provide coverage during inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, the University Center will construct additional covered areas on the UC North Patio that could be used by smokers without negatively affecting the health of individuals who use the University Center if necessary.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Student Government Association recommends the designation of the UC Arbor as a smoking area is unhealthy for the students, faculty and staff who use the University Center and hereby requests the University of Houston amend MAPP 06.03.04 to identify the UC Arbor as a smoke-free location.

Speaker of the Student Senate,

Ryan Free

President of the Student Government,

David Rosen

