

# UT Dallas Student Government

## *Senate Minutes*

### Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### Called to order

5:15pm

#### Swearing in of President and Vice President

#### Roll Call

- Quorum met

#### Approval of Minutes

- Approved

#### Approval of the Agenda

- Strike “Student Judicial Board Appointment” and replace with “Ad Hoc Governing Documents Review Committee Chair Appointment”
- Approved

#### Announcements

#### Visitors:

Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students – Not present

Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Faculty Advisor – Present, No announcement

Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students – Not present

Dr. J.D. Thomas, Orbit Director – No announcement

#### Ex-officio reports:

Briana Lemos, SG Advisor

- Welcome
- Watch for email from Briana or Delia regarding new Senator paperwork
- Late-Night Breakfast at Dining Hall West from 10pm-12am on May 2

#### Officer reports:

President: Ayoub Mohammed (ajm162730@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Overview of proceedings
  - Robert’s Rules of Order
    - Cheat-sheet on bottom of agenda
  - Committee structure
    - There are 7 standing committees, each of which will have one chairperson

Vice President: Hope Cory (hope.cory@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Expectations
  - Dress code
    - Must be in business casual
  - Attendance
    - Point system for unexcused absences, excused absences, etc.
    - Must email Ayoub, Hope, and Briana by 11:59pm the night before notifying of absence



- Mandatory EC Transition Retreat: May 4<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-5pm
  - Crucial for incoming EC members
  - New EC members will get more information after appointments made tonight

Secretary:

Treasurer:

**Committee reports:**

Academic Affairs Committee:

Communications Committee:

Graduate & International Affairs Committee:

Legislative Affairs Committee:

Residential Student Affairs Committee:

Student Affairs Committee:

Technology Committee:

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Confirm the Appointment of:**

- **Hope Cory motions to confirm the appointments**
  - **Eric Chen seconds the motion**
  - **Motion Carries**
- **Hope Cory moves to suspend Article VII, Section 2, Subsection C of the Bylaws that states “Appointed senators, but not elected senators, must have attended at least one general senate meeting and committee meeting” for the duration of the meeting**
  - **Eric Chen seconds the motion**
  - **Motion Carries**
- Samee Ahmad
  - Senior, International Political Economy
    - Involved in administrative positions on campus, nationally, and abroad
    - Would like to streamline processes through the SOC office
  - Carla: For those who have not previously served in SG, burn-out has historically been in issue due to being discouraged when projects do not move as fast as expected. What strengths and unique past experience do you think will help you navigate burn-out as a Senator?
    - Samee: Has dealt with burn-out before because of involvement with projects focused on capacity building. Keeps time-checks to manage time. Feels strongly about spirituality to keep grounded and bringing justice to this world.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Samee: Background in justice organizing and has enabled to see and envision a long-term goal for any organization.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Samina Haneef
  - Junior, Political Science major
    - Has new ideas: People don't know what's going on, trying to get visibility and increase campus involvement
  - Carla: For those who have not previously served in SG, burn-out has historically been in issue due to being discourage when projects do not moved as fast as expected. What strengths and unique past experience do you think will help you navigate burn-out as a Senator?
    - Samina: Has personally experienced burn-out as junior class president of high school. The best way to deal with burn-out is to remain positive and realistic and adjust accordingly.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Samina: Past experiences have brought on collaboration strengths that would be useful in SG.

Ballot vote: Not Appointed

- Majd Hawwar
  - Rising Junior
    - Have seen positive/negative things on campus
      - Positive activities with SG on campus like the TOLO bookshelf
      - Need to increase publicity and campus involvement with SG
    - Security Cameras coverage on campus
  - Carla: For those who have no previously served in SG, burn-out has historically been in issue due to being discourage when projects do not moved as fast as expected. What strengths and unique past experience do you think will help you navigate burn-out as a Senator?
    - Majd: When it comes to group settings, it's important to emphasize the population. The biggest skilled obtained is collaboration in terms of convincing the group of project necessity.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Majd: Believes a major role can play in SG is empowerment. This applies to burn-out, as well as those who aren't in SG.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Thomas Hobohm
  - Economics major
    - Wants to make UTD a more equitable, inclusive, and beautiful place for everyone to work/study
    - Want to advocate for students who are apathetic and don't feel like they have a voice on campus



- Senior Student Fellow for Beto campaign at UTD, student worker, writes op-eds for the Mercury, and participates in political advocacy groups on campus like Deeds Not Words, a Women's Rights group.
- Carla: For those who have no previously served in SG, burn-out has historically been in issue due to being discouraged when projects do not move as fast as expected. What strengths and unique past experience do you think will help you navigate burn-out as a Senator?
  - Thomas: Very value driven. Encountered a lot of struggles and problems when working in the Beto campaign, but pushed through until the elections.
- Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
  - Thomas: Has noticed in every domain, using digital tools is critical for the students to see what SG is doing.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Jacob Jones
  - Current freshman, Computer engineering major
    - Previous senator on Legislative Affairs committee
    - Looking forward to new projects for bikers, skateboarders, and pedestrians to be able to intermingle on pathways throughout campus in a safer and more efficient way
    - Would like to see biking programs formed to see more of Richardson
  - Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
    - Jacob: Finishing up first year in SG and wants to continue because of the chance he got in expanding projects started in the past like working with the Campus Housing Advisory Committee and working with Neha on the Office of Student Accessibility survey
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Jacob: Would enjoy serving in SG in how he served in Boy Scouts of America working as a leader for winter youth camp.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Neha Khan
  - Current freshman, Political Science major with a Psychology minor
    - Has loved getting to work with administration and sitting on University Wide Committees, include Accessibility Committee
      - Currently working on Accessibility survey
    - Wanting to continue working on unfinished Student Affairs Committee projects

- Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
  - Neha: Did not meet one of the qualifications to run in the election, but was still able to serve as the campaign manager for Tier One. Spent the last year building network to carry throughout the future of being in SG. These strong relationships will help projects really get moving.
- Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
  - Neha: Was not very involved in high school. Once in SG, she realized her strength and roles. Would like to be that person that others can go to for guidance on projects, etc.

Ballot revote due to incorrect amount of submissions: Appointed

- Noah Lawrence
  - Junior, double major in Biology and Healthcare Management
    - Big proponent for UTD
    - Transfer student from community college with different experiences
    - Would like to open up more opportunities for students to talk with deans and faculty members of their schools
  - Carla: For those who have not previously served in SG, burn-out has historically been in issue due to being discourage when projects do not moved as fast as expected. What strengths and unique past experience do you think will help you navigate burn-out as a Senator?
    - Noah: The biggest cause of burn-out is not being able to see the fruits of the labor. Looking at the bigger picture and taking a step back and realize that some projects will take longer.

Ballot revote, due incorrect amount of submissions: Appointed

- Abdullah Mohammed
  - Junior, majoring in Neuroscience
    - Past senator serving on Academic Affairs Committee
    - Wants to work on past projects, like the transfer equivalency tool
    - Wants to focus on other projects that have been mentioned but ignored such as improve advising
  - Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
    - Abdullah: In sg first year last year, involved in committees, book drive for TOLO bookshelf, helped booth for that, how to improve transfer experience, will have more time next year because of lite course load, as a peer tutor has a good idea of what students want
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?

- Abdullah: Teamwork is essential for the successful completion of any project. Communication with other senators, the advisors, and different administrators. See self as a great communicator.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Ameen Mohammed
  - Served on Academic Affairs Committee
    - Would like to continue Academic Affairs projects
  - Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal. (Eric: Point of Person Privilege- Please explain why)
    - Ameen: Ran in elections and lost. Served on Academic Affairs Committee and worked on several projects like TOLO bookshelf and resources to improve the transfer experience. As a rising senior, will have a lot of time to devote to SG.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Ameen: “Anyone that has worked with me in the past knows that I don’t come up with 1,000 great ideas, however, I am a collaborative and I feel that collaboration is the strength of any organization. I am good at doing good work and working with others.”

Ballot vote: Not Appointed

- Alexander Quach
  - Sophomore, majoring in Biology
    - Has served on Technology Committee and has worked on projects with OIT updating the Galaxy website as well as getting a CVS vending machine installed on campus
    - Would like to see a virtual reality space on campus open to all students
  - Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
    - Alex: Ran in elections, but was gone for half of the election week with another student organization. Has been in SG for entire time at UTD and has learned that it is what you make out of it.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Alex: Wants to push senators in committee to get things done
    - Point of order Eric: three senators in corner cease side conversation

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Farial Rahman
  - Graduating senior, but returning as graduate student in Cellular and Molecular Biology



- Has been a PA for several years and is interested in the Residential Student Affairs Committee, because wants to advocate for residents
    - Sees lots of residential issues that Residential Life cannot fully address
    - Future project interest is covered parking for residents
  - Kara: Since you will be a graduate student in the fall, are you seeking a graduate senator seat?
    - Fariel: Yes, seeking a graduate senator seat, but more interested in Residential Student Affairs Committee, because of experience as a PA.
  - Kara: UTD has a graduate population of 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. How do you plan to represent their voice?
    - Fariel: Yes, seeking a graduate senator seat. Incoming graduate student and is already going through aches and pains of process, like advising. Would like to see a scheduling portal for graduate student to be able to schedule time with an advisor. Having more graduate student organizations. More interested in Residential Student Affairs Committee because of experience as a PA.
  - Carla: For those who have not previously served in SG, burn-out has historically been an issue due to being discouraged when projects do not move as fast as expected. What strengths and unique past experience do you think will help you navigate burn-out as a Senator?
    - Fariel: Has learned how to manage time very well over last four years as a leader in many organizations at the same time. When making a commitment, it is not taken lightly. Sees being an advocate for residents as an opportunity and will remain committed.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Fariel: Very passionate and committed to getting things done.
- Trevor Schmaeling
  - Junior, Biomedical Engineering
    - Served on Communications Committee
    - Worked on rebranding SG logo and looking forward to continuing it
  - Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
    - Trevor: Lost the election, but during campaigning got to see the impact of SG projects.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Trevor: Sees self being on Communications Committee. Would like to continue to help with rebranding. Would like to increase communications between Chair and senators on Communications Committee.

Ballot vote: Not Appointed

- Zunayed Siddiqui
  - Current Sophomore, majoring in Software Engineering



- Started attending meetings last month
- Two projects have already started to be implemented since attending: bike racks and snack vending machines at Canyon Creek Heights
- Being a Peer Advisor on campus, gets to hear issues from students and would like to bring this to SG
- Transfer student and would like to bring up issues these students face
- Carla: For those who have not previously served in SG, burn-out has historically been an issue due to being discouraged when projects do not move as fast as expected. What strengths and unique past experience do you think will help you navigate burn-out as a Senator?
  - Zunayed: Time management goes great with adaptability. Not every week will be the same. Some weeks will have more pressure than others, so making sure that pressure does not become overwhelming but makes you more effective.
- Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
  - Zunayed: Has always been proactive and ahead of the game. Will make sure the same contribution in learning as well as in execution. Can bring personal experiences to the table.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Mathi Siva
  - Current Sophomore, Neuroscience major
    - Served on Residential Student Affairs Committee
    - Worked on QR code for website for mental health awareness and would like to continue
    - Would like to see the housing application more easy to use
    - Quicker turn-around for transfer students and housing appointments
  - Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
    - Mathi: Ran in elections, but did not get enough votes to secure a seat. Proud when talking about being a part of SG and wants to continue.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Mathi: Strength is in helping others. Can help find alternatives for projects and ideas.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Kyle Tupper
  - Current Junior, majoring in Mathematics specializing in Statistics
    - Has been in SG since Freshman
    - Two years ago, served as Senator on Technology and main project consisted of curating student art for the OIT office
    - Past year, served as Secretary and projects include:





- Reviewing Bylaws and making changes
- Further development of UTD mobile app (joint project with SG and OIT)
- Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
  - Kyle: Lost in election, but is returning for appointment because SG has been an integral part of life and wants to continue to serve. Started as Senator and most projects were external, but found niche doing more internal work as Secretary.
- Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
  - Kyle: Would describe himself in an operating capacity role. SG runs well on inside so we can push ideas outside. We need to let the student body know about our strengths.

Ballot vote: Appointed

- Danni Yang
  - Current Junior, majoring in Neuroscience
    - Has served on SG for the past three years
    - Served as chair in RSA Sophomore year and projects include:
      - Hammocks in Phase 8
      - Umbrellas in dorms
      - Free band aids
      - Extended dining hours during finals week
      - Would like to increase Mental Health QR code
    - Would like to bring years of experience in SG back for one last year
  - Eric: Past Senators, please explain why you are running for appointment and reflect on why you want to return and what may have prevented you from achieving your goal.
    - Danni: Ran in election because loves being part of SG. Has been in SG since freshman year and still wanted to be in SG no matter the election results because reaching students and being a Senator gives you the access to implement change on campus.
  - Genna: Describe outside of new ideas what role you see yourself taking on within the committee?
    - Danni: Brings experience as a senator and as a RSA chair. Can help with project goals, who to meet, can serve as first point of contact.

Ballot vote: Appointed

**Executive Council Appointment:**

**Eric: so moved to appointment**

**Omar: second**

- Secretary



- **Genna Campaign nominated Stephanie Royer**
- **Stephanie accepted nomination**
  - Main event was working with Comethon
  - Past year: Has done a lot of work within being the treasurer
  - SG has a point system... sent to Judicial Board for review
  - Send personal updates about Committee meetings to post on website for easier viewing
  - Questions:
    - Omar: Regarding Judicial Board during last semester; Great idea to let senators know of points
    - Stephanie: Would like to support EC with more information
    - Carla: Secretary has many roles, how do you see yourself expanding it even further?
    - Stephanie: Taking minutes, simplifying them and then posting on social media to for students to see what is happening without reading through minutes
  
- **Tiancheng Hu nominated Kyle Tupper**
- **Kyle Tupper accepted nomination**
  - Rising senior, majoring in math
  - Insurance company experience
  - Past secretary, who encouraged EC and Senators to participate and being more proactive in making sure visitors are accounted for
  - Questions:
    - Jacob: Biggest setback as secretary?
    - Kyle: Lack of access to SG website and abilities to make changes. Couldn't upload minute and would like to change by communicating with tech chair to upload every week.
    - Kara: You were secretary this past year, what did you do to expand to role?
    - Kyle: Changed the style of minutes compared to predecessor
    - Attendance point system: worked with Judicial Board Chair in making sure process was effective
    - Abdullah: How will you improve the process to take attendance of visitors?
    - Kyle: Mention during secretary's report every meeting
    - Thomas: Maybe consider using a sign in sheet for visitors?
    - Kyle: Many students did not know when committee meetings were a thing, so it's important to increase transparency of SG as a whole, by making it more clear on website

Ballot vote: Stephanie Royer

- **Student Affairs:**
  - **Genna Campaign nominated Neha Khan**
  - **Neha Khan accepted nomination**



- Has been preparing for a role like this for the past two semesters
- Will encourage students to propose ideas
- Appointed as seat in a University Wide Committee
- Questions:
  - Genna: Plans on how to turn surveys into projects?
    - Neha: Surveys will go out in the fall and whatever feedback they get back will be implemented in projects as soon as possible.
  - Kyle: How would you plan to expand our constrictings role of Student Affairs?
    - Neha: Definitely would not say it is constricting. Student Affairs is great as a committee and as a collaborator or as a project head for overall SG projects.

- **Carla Ramazan nominated Mathi Siva**
- **Mathi Siva declined nomination**

- **Lucas Lillie nominated Antonio Diaz**

- **Antonio Diaz accepted nomination**

- ATEC major...
- Wanting to create a Dean advisory council for ATEC (working on now)
- Have worked with student media... on fencing team
- Has a lot of
- Questions:
  - Carla: What would you say your leadership style is?
  - Antonio: Warm, bring people in room together

Ballot vote: Neha Khan

- **Legislative affairs:**

- **Abdullah Mohammed nominated Jacob Jones**

- **Jacob Jones accepted nomination**

- Served on Legislative Affairs Committee past year and was involved in many projects like bussing project.
- Improve lives outside of university as students are becoming better acquainted with legislative things inside and outside of campus.
- Questions:
  - Omar: What is one thing you think one thing Legislative Affairs can improve on during an off-year?
  - Jacob: It will be a difficult year for Legislative Affairs, however, things like Coffee and Conversation, which was started by Cecelia, was started to get this needed knowledge.

- **Danni Yang nominated Moazzum Naqvi**

- **Moazzum Naqvi accepted nomination**



- Served on Legislative Affairs in freshman year
- Tried to organized a debate, but didn't happen probably because of time constraints
- Comets Vote event that was organized which did a scan of who was running in the campaigns and then let students who know about their specific area's candidates.
- Questions:
  - Samee: You said students you want to let students know how they can vote via their embassy. Can you explain that?
  - Moazzum: By giving those who would like it details and information on the process.

○ **Carla Ramazan nominated Thomas Hobohm**

○ **Thomas Hobohm accepted nomination**

- Recognize that leg affairs is an advocacy group and would like to advocate for students
- Questions:
  - Danni: Can you speak on running for chair when you haven't served on committee?
  - Thomas: Believes he has the experience needed for such a position
  - Fariel: SG and Legislative Affairs is a neutral body and you are popular for your work with Beto. How are you going to remain neutral while representing SG?
  - Thomas: Will remain neutral while in SG.

Ballot vote: Thomas Hobohm

• **Residential Student Affairs:**

○ **Danni Yang nominated Mathi Siva**

○ **Mathi Siva accepted nomination**

- Rising junior, expand role as Chair
- Give back RSA on projects she has been dedicated to (mental health QR code, etc.)
- Questions:
  - Antonio: what experience do you have in working with administration?
  - Mathi: Working in SG and on RSA has given her the opportunity to work with administration. Given the past years' experience, she has connections made that can make getting project accomplished move much faster
  - Neha: What has been your role the last year as a senator on RSA and how would you integrate that into a leadership role?
  - Mathi: Role in committee has been a supporting role and would integrate to be a facilitator of ideas and projects

○ **Alex Quach nominated Justin Greitz**

○ **Justin Greitz, accepted nomination**



- Served on RSA committee for past year
- Main project was working on the dog park
- Several friends who are PAs and often hear their concerns
- Formed good relationships with Head of Housing and Residential Life
- Often speaks with students on experience in housing
- One of the main things: SG's power is directly related to how the student body sees us. We need more transparency and he would like to bring that to RSA.
- Questions:

Genna: What were the major projects that you worked on while on RSA?

Justin: Dog Park, swipe it forward, signage project, project for reducing Lyft/Uber prices for students that live on campus

- **Carla Ramazan nominated Anna Straughan**
- **Anna Straughan declined nomination**

Ballot vote: Mathi Siva

- **Academic Affairs:**

- **Genna nominated Anna Straughan**
- **Anna Straughan accepted by proxy**

No contest: Anna Straughan

- **Technology:**

- **Alexander Quach nominated Yilong Peng**
- **Yilong Peng accepted nomination**
  
- **Tiancheng nominated Alexander Quach**
- **Alexander Quach declined nomination**
  
- **Antonio Diaz nominated Lucas Lillie**
- **Lucas Lillie declined nomination**

No contest: Yilong Peng

- **Communications:**

- **Abdallah Mohammed nominated Genna Campaign**
- **Genna Campaign declined nomination**
  
- **Stephanie Royer nominated Danni Yang**
- **Danni Yang declined nomination**
  
- **Omar Elnomrosy nominated Kyle Tupper**



- **Kyle Tupper accepted nomination**

No contest: Kyle Tupper

- **Graduate and International Affairs**

- **Stephanie Royer nominated Tiancheng Hu**
- **Tiancheng Hu accepted nomination**

No contest: Tiancheng Hu

- **Green Initiative Ad-Hoc Committee Chair:**

- **Eric Chen nominated Genna Campain**
- **Genna Campain accepted nomination**

No contest: Genna Campain

- **Eric Chen: Moved to open nominations for Chair of Ad Hoc Governing Documents committee**
- **Carla Ramazan: second**

- **Eric Chen: Ad Hoc Governing Documents committee developed last term. When the term ended, Kyle Tupper vacated seat.**
- **Eric Chen nominate Kyle Tupper**
- **Kyle Tupper accepted nomination**

No contest: Kyle Tupper

- **Danni: Moved to shift control of allocation regarding Dallas Urban Future Series Summit 2019 to President and Vice President**
- **Second: Eric Chen**
  
- **Omar Elnomrosy moved to adjourn**
- **Abdullah Mohamed: second**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.**