

# UT Dallas Student Government

## *Senate Meeting Minutes*

### Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### Call to Order

- Called to Order at 5:15 pm

#### Roll Call

#### Approval of Minutes

- *Eric Moves to Approve the Minutes*  
*Anna Seconds*  
*Motion Carries*

#### Approval of the Agenda

- *Danni Moves to Approve the Agenda*  
*Anna Seconds*  
*Motion Carries*

#### Announcements

#### Visitors

#### Dr. Diego Garcia, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Ombudsman

- Has worked in higher education for 20 years, student affairs for 16 years
- Student Ombuds Office (SSA 4th floor) is a resource for students to raise questions or complaints about any aspect of the college experience
  - Confidentiality
    - ex. Title IX incident- the identity of the student is protected
  - Informality
    - no adjudication or administrative process
  - Neutrality
- He reports to the President of Student Affairs
- You can reach the office by email, appointment, or walk-in (your name will never appear publicly, and no personally identifiable information will be needed)
- Questions?
  - Eric: Who is in the front office?
    - Dr. Garcia: Staff members that will help you sign in, then direct you to me or refer/recommend you to another department
  - Visitor: Are other resources available?
    - Dr. Garcia: Ombuds will also direct you to other resources on campus
  - Jacob: What would a sample procedure be like if there was an incident that needed to be taken to Title IX, since no personal information is collected?
    - Dr. Garcia: Once you're in Dr. Garcia's office, he will collect personally identifiable information. When a case is closed, any related documents will be shredded.
  - Visitor: So are you essentially an arbitrator?
    - Dr. Garcia: Yes, that is sort of the main role, but no mediation

#### Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

#### Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Associate Dean

#### Dr. J.D. Thomas

#### Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

#### Dr. Fitch, VP of Student Affairs

- Welcome back!
- Updates
  - Division Classification

- We will not be going to Division 2, and will remain in D3 for the time being while adding more sports
- Senate Bill 18
  - New legislation signed by the governor that will impact us
  - SB18 allows for expressive activities on campus. Non-affiliated individuals can now come to campus now
  - We're already being approached by groups that want to come to campus
  - There is a letter being written by administration that will address this
- Dr. Amanda Smith: Students have complained about controversial groups, so as a senator remember that if a student's complaining to you, pass the information along to Hope and Ayoub, and respond appropriately.
- Ayoub: This isn't a UTD or administration decision, it's the state's
- Dr. Fitch: Questions?
  - Danni: if the student feels harassment or that they're in danger from the group, is the university responsible to address this?
    - Dr. Fitch: yes, there are parameters that can be crossed that will allow us to address it, but it may take some time to respond
  - Farial: Is this extended to student housing?
    - Dr. Fitch: No, this specifically prevents solicitation, no one should be coming to your residence
  - Visitor: is there a process to come onto campus?
    - Dr. Fitch: Currently there's no approval process, so anyone could show up. We are working to try and address that for the safety of students and visitors
  - Visitor (Ian): If the university can specify a place and a time for groups, couldn't we monitor outside groups using cameras? And shouldn't we know if groups are coming since we're specifying a time and place?
    - Dr. Fitch: There should be staff to watch over things. We don't know which groups are here until they show up or give us advance notice

#### **Ex-officio reports:**

Briana Lemos, SG Advisor

- Welcome back!

#### **Officer reports:**

President: Ayoub Mohammed (ayoub@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Updates from Summer
  - VIP Meetings
  - Student Government Rebranding and Marketing
    - new plastic cups (5,750 purchased) with the goal of giving each on-campus residence one
  - Student Government Changes
    - The 751 students:2 senator ratio in article 1, section 1 of the Constitution is being implemented, so more senators can now be part of Senate
    - Hoping to fill more graduate and international seats for proportionate representation
  - Expectations:
    - Show up
  - Overview of proceedings:
    - Robert's Rules of Order

- Committee Structure
- EC Requirements
- Questions:
  - Eric: are we considering the appointment of all 15 of these candidates today?
    - We will not be suspending the bylaws, the target date is next senate, september 3rd. I hope to appoint a lot of international students, sophomore, grad students, etc. I hope the process will be fair as EC will be consulted.
  - Kara: Will we be sent out an information packet about each appointee?
    - Yes, we will send their applications plus notes from interviews
- University-Wide Committees
  - If you have received an email from a committee, please reply as soon as possible. The UTD administration really wants to work with us

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

- Introduction
  - Updates From Summer
    - Student Discount program: for local businesses, but also extended to web (ex. Subaru discount code); link is found on UTD's website
  - Student Government Retreat
    - Friday, September 13th at 9 am- Saturday, September 14th at 3 pm
    - If you cannot attend, email ASAP
    - An agenda and travel forms will be passed out next meeting
    - Questions:
      - If you have class later in the day, can you join later?
        - We will work it out and try to get you there.
      - Will appointees be coming?
        - We can't exceed the max limit of people, so it's really important to let us know if you can't come
  - Weeks of Welcome
    - Thank you to those who came to Meet Your Senators;
    - 84 people signed up to receive more info about SG
  - Materials
    - SG Review
    - Slip of paper for name plate
    - Shirt size for short-sleeved polo
    - LET'S TALK buttons
    - Plastic cup
    - Weeks of Welcome schedule (we have a table at *Cometville*, sheet passed around for volunteers
- Ayoub: please represent your schools in SG, build relationships with professors and administrators, the Deans they met with over the summer feel that they're not receiving enough feedback

Secretary: Stephanie Royer (stephanie.royer@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Point System
- Dress code
- Questions:
  - Thomas: we shouldn't put too much emphasis on dress code, it might be hard for commuters or students.
    - Eric: judicial board will be reasonable with dress code violations
    - Ayoub: We're here to serve students first and foremost

Treasurer: Eric Chen (eric.chen8@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Budget report
  - FY19 is close to completion, the new budget starts at the beginning of September
  - Projects budget is about \$35,000-\$36,000
  - Many organizations spend most of their budget at the beginning, but ours is meant for allocation for projects as they arise
  - Your committee chairs will walk you through filling out a budget allocation form that you email to Eric, Hope, Ayoub, & Briana. This is your formal request for funds
- Ayoub- let's focus on spending money focused on student's voice. Hands-off approach on committees

**Committee Reports**

Academic Affairs Committee: Anna Straughan (ams170008@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Transfer Equivalency Tool
  - Focus is on improving this, working with OIT and studying how other universities do it

Communications Committee: Kyle Tupper (kyle.tupper@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Summer Updates
  - Focus is on communicating SG goals and objectives to the student body
  - Currently in the process of getting approved for political advertising on facebook to help Legislative Affairs Committee
  - Personal focus is on improving the mobile app & implementing a SG feature for the app
- Chair of Governing Documents Update
  - Upcoming meeting to finalize changes made at the end of last term, specifically bylaw changes
- Ayoub: Giving out secondary phone number to students (501-218-5619) for increased access

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Tiancheng Hu (tiancheng.hu@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
  - Focus is on building more international & graduate connections by being in contact with constituents
- CPT authorization fee
  - Currently, every college except JSOM requires students to pay one credit-hour fee
  - Potential solutions: offering 0.5 credits for cheaper fees
- Ayoub: go out of your way to engage with international community

Legislative Affairs Committee: Thomas Hobohm (tsh180000@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
  - Focus is on reaching out to student orgs, collaborating with administration, making SG more accessible to students
- Summer Updates
  - Increasing VDR
  - Potential town hall with Colin Alred
  - Dialogue with Kamala Harris campaign
- Ayoub: We can also help international students participate in overseas elections

Residential Student Affairs Committee: Mathi Siva (mathi.siva@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Dog Park and Rain Garden Update
  - Both long-term projects housing has temporarily put them on hold
- SG plastic cups
  - working on getting them to reach residence

- Researching new names to residence halls
  - Will be sent to the president's cabinet, then the UT system
- Question:
  - Justin: is there a university-wide committee for naming residence hall?
    - Ayoub: there was in 2014, but the names were eccentric, so housing & alumni relations and development would like for us to keep this in-house. We're aiming to name them around influential & notable people at UTD
    - Mathi: if you have any ideas, email me
    - Ayoub: text me

Student Affairs Committee: Neha Khan (neha.khan@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
- Summer Updates
  - Accessibility Survey
    - Culture, rather than a physical barriers on campus, Survey
    - Seeing if students know about the resources available
- Staying engaged as a senator at events like Meet Your Senators

- Ayoub: please show interest and engagement in SG

Technology Committee: Yilong Peng (yilong.peng@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
  - Focus is on app development, university-wide OIT informational security meetings, collaborative approach to projects

Green Initiative Adhoc Committee: Genna Campain (genna.campain@utdallas.edu)

- Introduction
  - The goal is to implement a green fee
  - Implementing on student-initiated projects
  - Current projects: composting, recycling
  - Looking for senators to join
    - You can simultaneously be on Green and another committee

- Yilong: student pharmacy vending machine project has reached completion (2 CBS machines), thank you to Alex Quach for his hard work

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- Student Judicial Board Appointment
  - *Eric moves to open nominations*
    - Genna seconds*
    - Motion carries*
  - Five Senators
    - *Hope nominates Danni*
      - Danni accepts*
    - *Mahir nominates Abdullah*
      - Abdullah accepts*
    - *Jacob nominates Lance*
      - Lance accepts*
    - *Thomas nominates Darreyl*
      - Darreyl accepts*
    - *Alex nominates Justin*
      - Justin accepts*
    - *Hope nominates Jacob*

*Jacob accepts*

- *Stephanie nominates Nikki*  
*Nikki declines*

- *Abdullah nominates Lucas*  
*Lucas declines*

○ **Speeches:**

- **Danni:** wants to use experience in SG for judicial board, can evaluate impartially, is comfortable having the hard conversations

- **Abdullah:** a lot of experience with management as VP of an organization, making difficult decisions removing irresponsible people.

- **Questions?**

- **Muhir-** an example of an experience?

- **Abdullah:** some officers at TedXUTD were removed because they didn't completely their responsibilities

- **Justin:** building a culture of credibility and enthusiasm from senators

- **Darreyl:** wants to become more integrated into SG, is motivated to change campus culture, empathizes with people who have a lot on their plate

- **Questions?**

- **Muhir:** are you working 40 hours this semester too?

- **Darreyl:** No

- **Kyle:** Do you think that you could acquire a decent enough understanding of governing documents?

- **Darreyl:** Yes, I will try my best

- **Lance:** is heavily involved on campus, would like to empathize impartiality and accountability

- **Questions?**

- **Kyle:** Do you think that you could acquire a decent enough understanding of governing documents?

- **Lance:** Yes, I am capable of and willing to understand how things work

- **Jacob:** is extremely responsible, would like to hold others to the same standard but also empathetic to extenuating circumstances

- *Danni, Darreyl, Jacob, Abdullah, and Lance are appointed*

## **Adjourn**

- *Muhir moves to adjourn*  
*Kara seconds*  
*Motion carries*