

UT Dallas Student Government

Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 1st, 2019

Call to Order

Called to Order at 5:15 PM

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes

Kyle moves to approve the minutes

Danni seconds

Motion carries

Approval of the Agenda

Anna moves to approve the agenda

Nikki seconds

Motion carries

Announcements

- Danni:
 - National night out is tonight— involves collecting and donating supplies to CASA
 - JSOM executive dining summit on 10/16 from 10 am - 12 pm: email going to everyone
- Neha:
 - We need some senators to help booth for the summit, so let me know if you're free then

Visitors

Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

Jeremiah Stinnet, Assistant Director of Leadership

- Global leadership retreat: how leadership intersects with identity on November 9th-10th
 - To register, go to Tinyurl.com/grl2019 (application closes on Monday, October 7th)

Charlie Dorsa, Chartwells Resident District Manager

- Our student & faculty staff satisfaction survey goes live tonight (with prizes!!)
- Any questions/ideas/opportunities/suggestions?
 - Jacob: are you aware of the moldy fruit going around, and what will you do to help fix the suggestion?
 - We're contacting our vendor delivering the product and employees that they're properly inspecting the fruit
 - Eric: could you speak on your understanding of the reasoning behind the leadership transition?
 - We're putting students first and focusing on the food. We have leaders in place that look upon each student as a guest. We'd like to take resident dining to a more retail approach. We're excited about making positive changes, as we based a lot of our decisions on the feedback we received from last year.
 - Thomas: something I heard from Chartwells employees was that they filled holes in schedules, which contributes to a decrease in food quality. Could you explain the process behind transferring employees, the frequency, and how it is compared to last year?
 - Many of our employees are trained in multiple locations to be more efficient. Our biggest downfall has been bringing in temporary labor. We've shifted our policy to people first, employees second. We're also improving our training and following up materials, so now we will get an HR person at Chartwells that will help with staffing, coaching, and employee treatment. We're planning to keep our employees fully engaged so that they come back and there's a lower turnover.
 - Thomas: A roommate with Celiac disease has told me about the struggle finding non-gluten-free options and cross-contaminated food. What are the food options and training to avoid these? Also, will there eventually be more weekend dining options?
 - We now have a registered dietician with Abilene Christian University that we share time with who comes to our campus and makes sure people are properly handling food. She will also make time to meet with students.
 - We operate based off data, so if there's no need for alternative food locations, we aren't going to. If we go ahead and open those food options and they aren't profitable, then students, especially freshman, on campus will have to subsidize for them. However, we do need to put a focus on weekends, so we're working on assembling a team to improve food on the weekends.
 - Ryan (visitor): when would the HR person be expected to start on campus? And are students concerned with dietary restrictions and cross-contamination allowed to be exempt from meal plans?

- The job has been posted and we're waiting. And it's on a case-by-case basis; we take time and meet with the student.
- Visitor: what are some steps you've taken from rectifying the situation from last year? And what are you taking to formalize the improvement, as a lot of those sound heavily management-based?
 - We've had a lot of one-on-one conversations. In addition, we have new leadership— for example, a new retail director—that are all focused on spending time with employees and listening to them. To your second question, having an HR person to set a baseline and growing that through proper coaching and development will help.
- Visitor: As an international student that is vegetarian, are there any plans to increase food options for students, because sometimes they can be restrictive.
 - We don't have wiggle room for national branches, but we do have third-party contractors that are coming in and offering some more option. But for our resident dining halls, we are planning to completely change the menu and tailor it to UTD students.

Pam Stanley, Interim Director of Food and Retail Services

- A lot has changed over the past few years for students with allergies or food preferences. We're taking a hands-on approach and we're trying a bunch of different things.
- We'll be relaunching Swipe it Forward, an opportunity to donate your extra passes to peers in need. We'll be tabling in Dining Hall West for volunteers and people interested.
 - Justin: last year it was limited to guest passes. Is it expanding beyond that?
 - Yes
 - Ian: what times will the tables be up and how can we sign up?
 - TBD, but if you're interested contact Ayoub and we'll get you set up with a volunteer spot

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

- If you know of any students in need of food, please send them to the Dean of Students office because we can help them

Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Associate Dean for JSOM

- I will be taking students to London over Spring Break and Australia in May, it's open to all students so please contact me if you're interested

Ji-Won and Ryan, Texas Rising

- We're a non-partisan organization with the goal of registering people to vote
- We're creating a carpooling sign-up
- If you're registered to vote, you can become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) and register others to vote—we want as many senators and students as possible
- Thomas: *Point of personal inquiry—what happened to VDR training on campus?*
 - Ian: we're working on picking a date that works best for everyone involved
- PSA: deadline to register to vote is October 7th, so talk to me if you'd like to get registered or have any questions
- If you become a VDR now, you're in good position to register people for the primaries coming up
- We also have regular booting for anyone interested

Ex-officio reports

Briana Lemos, Director of Student Development

- Consider applying for the Global Leadership Retreat; it's an amazing opportunity and seats are limited
- Homecoming is coming up and we are part of Homefest, so mark that on your calendar and get excited!

Officer reports:

President: Ayoub Mohammed (ayoub@utdallas.edu)

- University Wide Committees
 - Please stay active and engaged in your committees
- University Texas System Student Advisory Council Assignments
 - Career Success and Campus Wellness Committees
 - I'd like to use UTD as a pilot school to help other schools address their problems
- State of the University Address
 - I will be giving it on October 15th, 2 PM

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

- Viva Volunteer
 - October 26th, from 8 am to 1 pm, so if you are interested and can commit, sign up

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

- Attendance points
 - Please be regularly checking your points just in case you are marked incorrectly for something
- Homecoming float
 - Send in your float ideas to me and Eric

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

- Nothing to report

Judicial Board Chair: Danni Yang (Danni.yang@utdallas.edu)

- Nothing to report

Committee Reports

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

- Nothing to report

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

- Advertising
 - If your committee is putting on an event, reach out to me well in advance—preferably at least a month
 - Next meeting, I'll be submitting an allocation for \$500 of general advertising money to use on a case-by-case basis for SG events

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

- Comet Cupboard school supplies
 - They've agreed to have school supplies so we're seeing if we can make that a more permanent thing
 - If you know of any potential sources for school supplies, please let me know

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

- Democratic Panel Update
 - We may have a panel with a Texas House representative, so let us know if you'd like to volunteer and get involved

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

- Residence Hall names
 - We're going to meet one more time to determine the names
- Canyon Creek Heights (CCH) Survey
 - It has gotten a lot of responses; it seems like people are really for the idea of vending machines and we're looking forward to expanding that project
- Meet the RSA Senators
 - We're planning one in the near future for students to engage with us

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

- Nothing to report

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

- Google maps
 - We're talking to UTDPD and OIT about updating our google maps and implementing "path waiting" to increase ease of food delivery, navigation, and pick-up services
- Student Government website updates
 - Committees and chairs page with pictures, committee member lists, new and old minutes, Green Committee page, projects lists, surveys, summaries of what a senator does
 - Slack/email me with any suggestions
- Questions?
 - Sara: Have you looked into updating apple maps as well?
 - I'm not sure how it works, or how accessible it is, but we can look into that as well as Ways

Green Initiative Adhoc Committee: Genna Campaign (genna.campaign@utdallas.edu)

- Comet Composting training
 - The next training is October 11th, 9:30 AM
 - Anything you could do to spread the word would be great!

Old Business

New Business

- Hope: Optional Practical Training (OPT) Resolution
 - These are programs providing temporary employment authorization to international students so they may gain practical training related to their field of study in the US
 - *Hope moves to write an SG-led resolution in support of keeping OPT*

Danni seconds

Discussion on the motion:

- Hope: this court case happens on October 23rd, so I would see us forming a group, writing the resolution by next Tuesday, finalizing the draft at the next Senate meeting

Motion carries

- Appointment of:

- Willie Chalmers
- Sandhya Subramani
- Vignesh Vasan

Jacob moves to appoint the new senators

Anna seconds

Motion carries

- Closing Announcements

- Hope: If you're available Thursday at 6 PM to write the OPT Resolution, come to the Galaxy Rooms. If you're not available, please email me

Adjourn

Stephanie moves to adjourn

Jacob seconds

Motion carries