

Minutes for February 9, 2010
Student Government Assembly Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order 7:03pm
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes – February 02, 2010
 - A. Approved
- IV. Guests
- V. Open Forum
 - A. Dave Player- Daily Texan
 1. Questions about transferring power from someone who is not popularly elected
 2. How will this better help represent students?
 - B. Matt Portillo- Save the Cactus Café
 1. 501 3C nonprofit
 2. Community members, lawyer, extending hand to Union, administration and student body
 3. Looking for solutions to problem of closure
 4. Student initiatives
 - a. Funding internships
 - b. Booking talent, finding talent
 - c. Student artists in residence- opening acts for those headlining
 5. Get in contact with Friends of the Cactus Café
 6. If want to go for free on Thursday, talk to Matt (reps and exec only)
 - C. Timi Komonibo- Former Natural Science Rep
 1. Commend SG for work that has been done
 2. Done an amazing job, and thank for work
 - D. Cecelia Lopez- LEI
 1. Leadership series- provide leadership certification
 2. Tomorrow is the 2nd in the series, 5:30-6:30 in Rec Center 104
 3. Tomorrow's lecture is on "Learning Optimism"
 - E. John Woods- Students for Gun Free Schools
 1. Last Thursday was first meeting, second one is this week
 2. Endorsement meeting is coming
 3. Meeting this week: 6pm in BUR 220
 - F. Cindy Fisher- UT Libraries
 1. Valentine's Day raffle- why do you love the library- win a gift card
 2. New service- can request items from Fine Arts library
 - a. Search catalogue online for item you want
 3. Research Bytes- 12-1 workshop on inspect database

4. Approved to move computers into computer area and bring in furniture to allow laptops to be plugged in
- G. Dr. Gonzalez- Vice President for Student Affairs
 1. Hold Up for Haiti was "exceptional"
 2. \$55, 000 raised
 3. Educating men and women for the service of others

VI. Ex-Officio Reports

- A. Graduate Student Assembly- Daniel Spikes
 - a. Graduate Assembly has proposed motion for living wage motion
 - a. Bring up lower end TA or AI salaries
 - b. Faculty council will be proposing the same thing
 - b. Graduate student climate survey- grad students, please take it
- B. Senate of College Councils
- C. Student Events Center

VII. Appointments

- A. Jesus Hernandez- New Natural Science Rep

VIII. Deputy Adviser Report

- A. Melinda Sutton- msutton@mail.utexas.edu

IX. Executive Reports

- A. President: Liam O'Rourke- orourke.liam@gmail.com
 1. University Union Board/ Cactus Cafe
 - a. Next board meeting is Feb. 26th- open meeting
 - b. Proposal for how to move forward
 - c. Taking recommendation to supervisors
 - d. Ideal
 - i. Students were running the space
 - ii. Both would benefit immensely
 2. Leadership Reunion
 - a. April 17th, all invited
 - b. Lots of alumni, that Sunday is inauguration
 3. ESB Selection
 - a. All applications reviewed
 - b. Final slate of names by next Wednesday
- B. Vice President: Shara Ma - shara.ma@austin.utexas.edu
 1. Rep Meetings Round 4
 - a. Newly elected reps will meet old reps at the same time- think of tricks and tips
 2. AB 15
 - a. When it brought was before her, agreed that there needed to be a balance of power

- b. Pushing legislation before it is ready for disingenuous reason
- c. Rep runs to represent school, not to be speaker
 - i. VP is bound to students to be an objective speaker
- d. Realities of what will happen to the VP position were not thought out
- e. Does not serve assembly, university, or student body

C. Executive Board

- 1. Thank you to those who helped out with Hold up for Haiti!
- 2. Communications Meeting on Wed. Feb. 10 @ 8pm in the SG Office
- 3. Appropriations Interviews this week
 - a. Please sign up to help!
- 4. Date set for swearing in and inauguration ceremonies
 - a. Tie formal ceremony into leadership weekend
 - b. Swearing in ceremony will be 6pm day of first meeting of new administration

X. Agency Director Reports

- A. Katie Morgan- Historical Research
 - 1. SG in the News- no longer sending out firing lines
- B. Erica Brody- On and Off Campus Housing
 - 1. 2 forum events- 24th and 25th
 - 2. Both 6:30- 7:30: Kingsolving N Lounge, Jester Texas Cultures Lounge
- C. Sierra Stephens- LLA Director
 - 1. Doing service project- making fleece blankets, competition between us and A&M
- D. Rachel Aikens- CEC
 - 1. Teaching environmental leadership institute through informal classes
- E. James Sentine-
 - 1. Week of giving- April 13-16th
 - 2. If want to volunteer, send an email
- F. Tava Bingham- Transfer Student Relations
 - 1. PhiBetaKappa- lots of transfer students in it, want to start alumni
- G. Anna Russo- Women's Resource Agency
 - 1. 7 in RecSports Thursday- Sunday
 - 2. Dildo Diaries is 7 in Union Theater
 - 3. Thursday- Vagina Monologues
 - 4. Vulva-pops will be on sale next week
- H. Tony Flor- Resource Agency
 - 1. Sign up for satellite office
- I. OOSA
 - 1. admissions fliers are starting, let her know if you have anything you want to see in them
- J. Katie Wannakaber- QSA
 - 1. Evolution ball- Vogue Evolution is 7-10 in Thursday in Union Ballroom

XI. Representative Reports

- A. John Lawler- COLA
 - 1. More signage on campus
 - 2. Bike racks in East Mall and air pumps around campus
 - 3. Texas Students Association
 - a. Want to have spring meeting in Austin
 - b. State advocacy
 - 4. Liberal Arts Council is inducting new members
- B. Emily Benigno- Business
 - 1. McCombs Executive Summit is Saturday
 - 2. Professionals and government officials are coming to talk about the role of government in business
 - 3. Application is on texasbusinesscouncil.com- apply! Event is Saturday, apply by midnight tomorrow
 - 4. Free lunch afterwards
- C. Chad Stanton- UWide
 - 1. Bus coverage in Riverside
- D. John Woods- Graduate School
 - 1. Number of people running for LBJ and grad school is 0- 25% of school not represented
- E. Jim Woodward- LBJ
 - 1. Disconnect with getting people to run for next year
 - 2. Working to fill seats
- F. Committee Reports
 - 1. Finance Committee- Amanda Lopez
 - a. Thanks for coming out to appropriations
 - 2. External Affairs
 - 3. Internal Affairs
 - 4. Student Affairs
 - 5. Academic Affairs
 - 6. Legislative Policy

XII. Unfinished Business

- A. AB 15: Referendum in Support of the Speaker of the Assembly
 - 1. Very specific in nature- VP would be external figure head
 - a. Would be representative on SSBC
 - 2. AB 16 and 17 were rough drafts of where we saw the assembly going
 - a. Secret ballot would be addressed by next assembly
 - 3. What are these disingenuous reasons?
 - 4. Change assembly relationships, would affect administrations opinion of SG
 - 5. Speaker role is flushed out, VP is not
 - a. VP is very powerful as it is already
 - b. Already on SSBC, chairs other boards
 - c. Ferraro: would internal rules affect government now?

- i. Go back after constitution passed and work on internal rules
- ii. Can make this say that it would not go into effect until next assembly started
- iii. Only reps can be speaker of the house
- d. Stanton: VP would be in charge of committees- is it better to have the speaker of the assembly work with committees instead?
 - i. No, because that would eliminate need for VP

6. Debate

- a. Lawler: remember, this is not voting- this is giving the school the option to vote on the issue
- b. Hobson: taking away from the fact that VP is elected by 50,000 students, whereas speaker would be chosen by 39 reps
 - i. Our comparison schools are different from what research shows
- c. Hooper: Only person to work under this administration and one like the one proposed
 - i. In experience, no infighting, no breaking occurred
 - ii. Schools across the country endorse this system
 - iii. This step empowers the assembly
 - iv. Highest amount of power into the hands of students
- d. Ferraro: not a state government, students elect VP to chair meetings
 - i. Power of VP, prestige, comes from ties to assembly
 - ii. Why be less transparent? At what cost?
- e. Castetter: give voice back to 50,000 people- allow them to vote
 - i. Understand that power lies in the chairing of assembly, but also attached to president and agenda
 - ii. Alleviate pressure from office of VP
- f. Stroube: only a specific group of students elects a school rep
 - i. VP is unbiased resource
- g. Bunch: VP's position does not lie solely on ability to speak to assembly
- h. Ferraro: this is not an extension of what students asked for
- i. Rodriguez: wanted to empower the assembly, this is the next step towards making our assembly our own
- j. Gardner: As a rep, it is hard to be impartial and unbiased and VP would have weak internal power
- k. Hooper: assembly lacks autonomy and identity
 - i. This change would mean less turnover, a more balanced system
- l. Stephens: Branagan: empower this assembly- what about empowering the students?
 - i. This is taking the vote away from the students, and back to this room
 - ii. People are saying this will help VP, but VP is speaking against it

- m. O'Dell: saying we will be self-interested is disrespectful to people who have been elected by constituency
- n. Stephens: Mohiuddin: this legislation is not serving students any better than a VP was
 - i. People think SG is power hungry- this is something that needs to be fixed
- o. **Suzanne Branagan**: you could be writing legislation that affected students, not adds more bureaucracy
 - i. This does not help anything, adds no flow
 - ii. What defines "eligibility"?
- p. Jones: if individual knew that they were electing future speaker of the house, they would be more empowered
- q. Flor: this is undoing the separation of power
 - i. This will end up creating "favors" within assembly
- r. Woods: better represent students
 - i. Chair is supposed to answer to the rules, not the students
- s. Miller: great that we are bringing this up
 - i. Why vote against? Legislation is not ready to be put before the student body
 - ii. No responsibilities added to the job of VP- still being paid though
 - iii. If empowering assembly, empowering a few people, not students
- t. Talarico: Vote to let students decide
 - i. Ran on student issues, not on ability to run a meeting
 - ii. Can't fix student issues without fixing student government
- u. Woodward: we are debating. Commend both sides on being passionate, but no new material is being presented
- v. Rosen: speaker will be able to chair in an unbiased way
- w. Lopez: idea is good but execution is poor
 - i. Support needs to be from exec board as well
- x. Wanamaker: reconsider constituency
 - i. They are smart enough to chose you, but not smart enough to make a choice about this
- y. Hernandez: how is this being publicized? Students want to be informed.

7. Motion to table until next meeting (next week)

XIII. New Business

XIV. Announcements

- A. Ferraro, UWide
 - 1. Voted against postponing it now so it can be tabled indefinitely and made into a committee
- B. Peddaiahgari, Pharmacy School
 - 1. Words can be misconstrued, be courteous
- C. Lawler, COLA

1. Everyone who has questions/ concerns, going to have informal discussion group
 2. Thursday and Sunday for assembly and everyone else
- D. Stanton, UWide
1. Habitat for Humanity- if anyone wanted to take an SG group out, let him know
 2. Black Student Alliance is holding unity week
- E. Williams, LLA, UGS
1. Event: town hall meeting in FAC 4 with Dean Woodruff 7pm, Feb 22
- F. Dance Marathon
1. 11-11, register as student gov. group
 2. Thursday night- Tejas is having pancake night, gives half of what you make
 3. Food and prizes will be good
 4. Benefit concert is Feb. 15 with Texas Lassos
- G. Santo Brikado- this needs to be about helping people
1. Why are reps not doing something to help me
- H. Kabir- Orange Jackets
1. Week of Women is coming
 2. Monday is rally, 11-2 on Union Patio
 3. Tuesday is the Line is FAC 21
 4. Wed. is Dildo Diaries at 7 in Union Theater
 5. Thursday: Tejas House has Austin Roller derby and Vagina Monologues
- I. Portillo: Cactus café show is free to reps and execs so they can see what it is
- J. Stanton: offer mechanic service to students

XV. Second Roll Call

XVI. Adjournment 9:06