



STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

1 University Station, A6210 · Austin, TX 78712-0810  
(512) 471-3166 · Fax: (512) 471-3408 · <http://www.uts.org>

Student Government Assembly Meeting

May 3, 2011

- I. Call Meeting to Order 7:00
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Guests
- V. Open Forum
  - a. Eugene Wood: Town form in MAI 212 4:30- 6PM, Chance for faculty, students and staff to talk about what happened this year, campus issues, etc
  - b. Alex Ferraro: Used to be a rep, wanted to say something really quick since this is this last meeting of the semester, its short and hard to get everything done, want to issue a challenge to show everyone the value of SG, pick 1 small issue (in addition to major projects) and make it your project to have 1 tangible accomplishment.
  - c. Billy Calve (Udems): Wanted to give a quick reminder that city council elections are happening right now, early voting is from now until May 10 in FAC, get out the vote on city issues
- VI. Ex-Officio Reports
  - a. Manny Gonzalez, GSA: Refrain from roasting
    - I. Regents Letter and Task force for Natalie, Senate and GSA have been working hard, summer planning as well
    - II. GSA forum on issues such as taxation on graduate student tuition
    - III. SB 29 Graduate student health insurance has finally been assigned to a committee in the house
    - IV. Trying to finalize exec board appointments, trying to avoid special session, trying to appoint others
    - V. Look forward to working closely with y'all
  - b. Cameron Allison, SEC : Cinco de Mayo Gregory plaza 11am-3pm this Thursday, moon bounce, hope to see you all there
  - c.
- VII. Appointments
  - Executive Staff**
    - a. Associate Director for Appropriations – Taylor Pousson



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Butler: Were gonna do this separately, Givens couldn't be here, I can speak on a lot of things he wants to work on, first up is Jesse, he has worked at the SOC and he knows how to make the Union Board more friendly to student orgs.

Jesse: Started of in SG as an LLA for VP, in February I joined the assembly as a freshman and was elected for another term, recognition and awards co-chair, student endowed centennial lectureship

Portillo: Are you prepared to hold your ground and say no on any decisions that come down from the administration that you do not approve of?

Jesse: Definitely, I plan on using SG and continuing to be involved and relay your thoughts to the Board

Portillo: How can University Union better serve graduate students?

Jesse: As a graduate student I am not aware of these needs, but they can survey graduate students to realize those needs

**Approved**

- e. Union Board (1 year) – Givens Miller

Butler: In absentia, he ran unsuccessfully and then filled out a good application, he wants to promote union activities and services both on and off campus, to reach all students, I also sit on the Union Board, I ask you to consider it despite him not being here

**Passed, 1 abstention (Carlson)**

- f. Staff Council – Michelle McCloskey

Butler: Staff council is newer, it reflects faculty council for staff, university consults this council, it is respected, she has served similar positions

Michelle: Freshman PR, excited to be involved, want to put SG voice in council

Carlson: We have you application for Faculty Council, can you still serve?

Michelle: Yes

**Approved, Nevel abstains**

- g. Spirits and Traditions Council – Janna Deis

Butler: Matt Portillo, Janna, STC

Deis: Freshman Corporate Comm. LLA, really excited, creativity can benefit this organization

Carlson: Since you didn't apply directly, can you give us ideas for initiatives



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Rosenthal: Liason between students and administration, if cuts happen, we need to make sure funding is sustained to the aspects that help students the most. That's not saying that the programs are not worth the funds, but you need to advocate those programs more for people to use

**Approved unanimously**

- k. Bicycle Committee – Matt Portillo, Daniel Evans, John Lawler

Butler: Oversees bike policies, all are avid bikers or support alternative forms of transportation

Portillo: Like to remove car traffic from entire campus, also want to remove pedestrians, just kidding, in all seriousness, I rely on my bike and have for all four years, I have lots of ideas for types of bike racks and bike rack placement

Evans: Director of City Relations, I think my job's responsibilities work well, I am an avid bicycle enthusiast, I have only been here for a year,

Leonard: Are you familiar with Blanca Juarez?

Portillo: Yes

Carlson: I don't get the bike rack thing, can you explain?

Butler: explained bike rule

**Passed unanimously**

- l. Student Endowed Centennial Lectureship – Luke Stone, Farhanna Rabbi

Butler: Rep Stone, is Farhanna here? This fund is on the registration page, brought James Carville, haven't done it in two years

Stone: I will find a speaker and make it happen

Leonard: Did you apply for this before or after Natalie sent out that email

Stone: After

Carlson: How do you plan to get feedback from students?

Stone: External Affairs speaker circuiting

Carlson: Why specifically did you appoint Farhanna?

Butler: I had spoken to her; she was excited to get involved and had been to many of the speakers in similar programs

**Passed Unanimously**

- m. Faculty Council Subcommittees



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VIII. Deputy Advisor Report

- a. Melinda Sutton, Deputy to the Dean of Students – [msutton@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:msutton@mail.utexas.edu)

IX. Executive Reports

- a. Natalie Butler, Student Body President – [natalie.e.butler@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.e.butler@gmail.com)
- i. I emailed all of you inviting you to the president's address on Monday, this is a really cool opportunity, the Commission of 125 and Faculty council will be there, they want student leaders to be there, please RSVP, look sharp if you want to go
  - ii. Set up 1 on 1 meetings
  - iii. Platform: Doing a lot of work on a lot of the things on our platform, hopefully I will have a lot of updates after summer, if our platforms are similar, lets work together
  - iv. Good luck on finals
- b. Ashley Baker, Student Body Vice President – [ashleyv.baker@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyv.baker@gmail.com)
- c. Andrew Townsell, Chief of Staff – [andrew.townsell@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.townsell@gmail.com)
- d. Sydney Fazende, Communications Director – [sydneyfazende@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyfazende@gmail.com)
- i. Fill out summer availability cards
  - ii. Website is trucking along, working on wire frame (navigation)
- e. Madison Gardner, External Financial Director – [jmgardner22@gmail.com](mailto:jmgardner22@gmail.com)
- i. Does anyone know what this Thursday is a 5PM?
  - ii. Everyone: Pizza fundraiser, invite friends
  - iii. CTBAC: Helped on COLA interviews for next year, Yaman and Janette and Billy are on that
  - iv. CTBAC MCombs: Created a survey, fill that out if it applies
  - v. Resolution in support of 18 foot longhorn boot on top of the CoOp, met with George Mitchell, he wants the boot, no cost to SG, he just wanted to see that we all wanted it
  - vi. Next Semester we are planning on having and SG, Senate formal, its gonna be fun, we hope to make money on it, we will share profits with Senate, we are going to invite orgs we appropriate to
- f. Ilse Quijano, Internal Financial Director – [quij.ilse@gmail.com](mailto:quij.ilse@gmail.com)
- i. Last Day to spend is this Friday



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- ii. IA: Just to let y'all know judicial court is looking over AB1, hopefully later on we can have some amendments so we are ready to go for the summer

c. John Lawler

- i. Really good meeting with Dean Lily and Mindy, cleared up confusion
- ii. Weekly parking stakeholder meeting, last general meeting was this past Friday, they will let me author the executive plan to City Council, if you are interested please email me

d. Joseph Lee

- i. Just sent out an email about AB1 amendments
- ii. Also sent out AR9, I will pass out soon, in your inboxes, not in agenda that I was not going to present this because I was not sure about the numbers, Veronica sent it to me about an hour ago, will be submitting this during New Business and Fast-track it
- iii. These suggested percentages are based on the ones I sent last week

XII. Unfinished Business

a. AR 3 – Honoring Betty Mallard

De La Cruz: Taught for 31 years, graduate, good faith measure to honor her

**Nevels: Friendly Amendment: 6<sup>th</sup> whereas, add "The" before Guilt, remove S in festivals**

**Amendment passes**

**Bill Passes**

XIII. New Business

a. AR 4 – In Support of Retaining Dr. Sarah Weddington (*fast-track justified*)

Martinez: Prove Manny wrong. In support of retaining Weddington, if you haven't seen in Daily Texas, being let go due to budget cuts, we wanted to write this because she is an amazing professor at the University, one of her most monumental things, at the age of 26 she won Roe v. Wade, that's that

Rosenthal: Did she have any intention of retiring? Did this just happen at the same time?

Martinez: No, she actually had a class for next semester

Stone: Is there a reason they are letting her go?



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Martinez: Hard to tell, first one we have heard about, Dean Deihl wants to prevent cuts

Lawler: Can you speak more towards LA CTBAC and their level of involvement?

Desai: We served on CTBAC, we passed recommendations, on of the biggest was preserving academics, specifically retaining faculty, which allows us to be a first class University, we as a CTBAC thought that was important, and we believe Weddington's experiences are experiences UT students cant get from other professors

Lawler: If what I am hearing from you is that this is an extreme situation?

Martinez: Yes

CIS results?

Henning: Came to teach in 1988

Laurel: Have you talked to anyone from the department?

Martinez: I know Alyssa Davis, Women's Research Agency, and she said she has been speaking with the Women's and Gender studies, and the cut she received was similar to her salary

Nevels: Can you describe her in so far as her diversity to the department?

Desai: White female, experiences set her apart, graduated from UT Law in a time when not a lot of women got hired in firms, she argued Roe V. Wade and won as a 26 year old, she has seen the field of law both when it was dominated by white males and now. She also has experience in government in both the state and federal level, meaning she has valuable experience

Martinez: Cross listed with Government, one of the few women

Q&A is over, debate in this case

**Motion to vote**

**14-7-6 Passes**

- b. AR 5 – In Support of Providing Disaster Relief for The University of Alabama  
(*fast-track justified*)

Desai: AB 5: Worst tornado storms in 80 years, over 300 death, University of Alabama was central damage, Their "drag" was where the tornado hit. This keeps in track with relief to Haiti, Japan, this is the starting point, want to pass this and then look into an initiative to fundraise and provide relief

Carlson: Fantastic thing: SG Helps out in any way it can? Any problems with this?



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Yuan: What percent of profits?

Gardener: 100% of profits come back to us

Leonard: How big is the boot

Gardener: 18 feet

Lee: Is it a replica?

Gardener: Yes, don't have cost (a couple thousand)

Covington: And they are expecting the boot to

Gardener: Yes

Lawler: Same George Mitchell to promote the Athlete Park that cost tens of thousands that sparked public outcry?

**RULED DEBATE**

Lawler: I just want to make sure this is the same CoOp Board that did that, do we have support of our specific student member of the board?

Gardener: He said we have internal support, but not specifically from student rep

**Fast Track moved, objected,**

**Fast Track Debate:**

Covington: Is this going up over the summer?

Gardener: Yes

Lawler: 6 months?

Pugliese: Last part of the process, we should fast-track, it is in motion, we want to get it done

**Voted 13-8-4, Did not pass fast-track**

Lawler: Thousands of posts and articles against athletic garden

Covington: Since this is an investment, I want to see something quantifiable

**Committed to Student Affairs**

- d. AR 7 – In Support of Advocating Transparency, Student Involvement and the Preservation of Research by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System (*fast-track justified*)

Portillo: We have to get Natalie something to use as ammunition in Board of Regents conversations, it has to be well thought out, not something straight from Texas Public Policy



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Carlson: The reason for the amendment is to place the focus on the need for a student voice rather than the opinion

Desai: TPP suggested separation of research and teaching, we disagree, we think that this argument is the heart of this issue, I think all of us understand is that the reason we need student involvement is to express that we need research and teaching intertwined, it is invaluable to a UT education

Carlson: I respect that point, we need to be careful about how we do our legislation, this is our final form, transparency and involvement is important, but we need to separate these first three whereases

Portillo: I would be down for considering that if we had another meeting or if this were going to committee, but unless you had a whiz-bang solution, I don't think that there's really a clear way to split the legislation, this really sets the stage for the controversy and why we are even asking for a voice, the situation at hand necessitates that

Nevels: Transparency is essential, we all agree on that, we agree that student involvement is essential, but we disagree on the fact that these three whereases need to be separate as an argument of its own, I want to make sure you guys understand exactly what we are saying, there are known facts behind this idea

Janette: Three whereas statements are the reason for the bill, Texas Tribune article talking about debate about this controversy. This is about the Rick Odonnell situation, they have been overstepping student voice, we as students have less of a say in regent conversations since they are appointed by the governor. This is an ongoing fight that students need to be involved in, in three years, three of the regents have finished their terms and are being replaced, we need to be involved in these conversations from the beginning

**Debate Closed**

**Amendment Fails**

Debate on Bill Continues

**Desai: Amendment to pass version outside of agenda, changes are circled**

**Nevels: Amendment 1<sup>st</sup> be it resolved, 2<sup>nd</sup> line, strike fundamentally, unnecessary word**

**Seconded**

**Objected**

Nevels: The word is unnecessary



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mission of this university and the value of our degree. Are we going to stay tier 1, are we going to be AAU status? We don't want to lose that status.

Carlson: If we do this, it isn't going to get us kicked out of the AAU, the wording is strong, I am not proposing a bill that says to separate them entirely. We need to look into better ways to make us a better university. Yes, we need to be careful. This is a very political position, and we are taking a strong and risky opinion. If this gets struck down I do not oppose

Rep: Is there a way that we can make this more sustainable as our opinion from now until the end of the summer?

Portillo: Do you have language to suggest?

Rep:

Desai: This is the most important resolution that we might consider in our entire term. I do not think this is inflammatory at all. I think this is in line with what students want. GSA, Senate, and Natalie have been working on this for a long time. UT is the greatest university in Texas, research and teaching are intertwined in that. A lot of the policies that TPP foundation is recommending were implemented by A&M, and the AAU reprimanded them. I think our degree value is strong because of research. This isn't about bad teaching. You could have had a bad teacher, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't vote for this. Human genome project- cost billions of dollars, no application (world opinion)

**Carlson: Amendment to delete 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> WHEREAS, Nevels seconded  
Objected**

Carlson: I don't see any reason to reference the TPP Foundation, it would be better to take out those whereas clauses to make a better resolution (more presentable) that doesn't have to include the specifics, we can support a more general idea

Martinez: The reason that is in there because it sets the stage. It's the reason why Senate, GSA, Natalie, and ten college council presidents have been fighting for this issue, it doesn't say don't accept any of them. We aren't saying UT is perfect and shouldn't be said, but that the regents shouldn't blindly follow TPP Foundation recommendations

Nevels: This isn't about student voice, it's about fighting for a certain side of an argument. By deleting those words, we are saying we support this opinion that is not quantified

**Lawler: Move to close debate**



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**On Bill, Amendment Passes (see bill)**

- XIV. Announcements
- XV. Second Roll Call
- XVI. Adjournment