



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.utsg.org>

Student Government Assembly Meeting

November 15, 2011

- I. Call Meeting to Order 7:11
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes Approved
- IV. Guests
 - a. William Powers Jr., President
 - i. It's a pleasure to be here. I have been president for almost 6 years and ive been at the university for 33 years. You all meet in student government, in committees, faculty committees, psac, and it really does make a difference in terms of impact on the university. I have seen item after item come from student ideas. You all very often don't see all of the fruits of that work because you are students here for only 4 years at a time, and you are only involved in student government for a few years. Take the honor code. Students came in with an idea about the honor code. It has transformed in terms of how we present the honor code, there is a task force. It is important for you all to realize that you are giving up time for important thing. Big things about the university – budgets, scholarship for faculty, where would the money come from, which is the real questions, which means that we all have to be very careful in our priorities, we cant grant everything, we have to be really careful in so far as what we are putting money to, from the FRI to in almost every college and program there are opportunities that many students take advantage of and take on projects with faculty and push forward. Tough budgetary times mean we have to be very careful determining what would be nice and what is critical. We spend a lot of time talking about that in PSAC. That is in a sense THE ISSUE, and I don't see it getting much better over the next five years. I don't think we are going to see budget crises like we have seen, but its not going to get better, the next legislature is going to flat, because new money isn't coming in. The deans and the departments go through a process to look at monies and where the go. It is extra important to be really thinking and talking and collaborating about what is really critical. Is it advising, more sections of building block courses, all of those issues. That is job one on the campus. We are going through a period in the United States that is questioning the value of education in the united states, its existential. That debate is worthy and we should welcome it. Does it make sense that every course is taught the same way as it was in 1985? No it doesn't, but that



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highly competitive students from my school refer to UT as a backup school. How do we attract those students? Powers: We want to be a premiere institutions. This is a special place, but we have a lot of things to work on. There are some challenges we have, we lose students to better packages, there are faculty that we get in a competition with Princeton and having kinds of support would help, but we win most of those. Being the backup school, if you walk on the campus at cornell, and I don't mean to single out cornell, and ask people where did you want to college, a huge proportion will say Yale. That actually is not the case here. We have a higher percentage of people who when they walk in the door as freshman, this is where they have wanted to be since they were 13 years old. Now its not everyone. It's a great thing to teach here. You are all really talented students. No individual school can say that 90% of their students wanted to go there. I bet if you surveyed Texas schools, students would say UT, a huge percentage, which would be way higher than Michigan and Berkley. I think that what you are suggesting is important, but I don't read that as one of the things that we need to prepare. Carlson: SG vs. non-SG appointment policy? Powers: There is not a policy, and the faculty will ask the same question. Very often there is an issue and the first thing to do is get input. The first place we want to look is an SG or a standing faculty committee to address the issue. Though I do think it is important to have vehicles for input for faculty and students who are not on these committees, to get a more broad temperature perspective. Student government can do this to. First and foremost, if there is an issue that we need input for, we go to Natalie, ask for input, often include GSA and Senate. If the thrust of the question is to not bypass the appointed and standing bodies. Lets look at something 4-5 years ago, when we had a death of a fraternity member, we got fraternity students. If we don't use the standing committees, it isn't by design. Leonard: Insight to the SG members to the future of the Big 12 conference. Powers: The big 12 is solid and it will be here for a long time, but now who the members are, I think the membership is solid, anytime you make changes, leaving a hole in the big east. The members in the Big 12 have more comraderie than I have ever seen it in the 6 years. Nebraska and Missouri wanted to leave 18 months ago, Missouri started, wanted to go to the Big 10, Nebraska thought about it, we sat around the table and said we should work this out. Nebraska left, Colorado left because they have more alumni in the West. People literally looked eachother in the eye and said they were committed. It is disappointing that people don't know what it means to keep



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- v. Fair: My email address is aaron.fair@bba10.mcombs.utexas.edu if you have any feedback.
- b. Melissa from University Events
 - i. Madison and Josh asked me to come and say a few words about the Orange Santa program. We are in our 18th year, its started in humble beginnings in an old electrical shop across 35, they wanted to start a community of caring people, we have a crew that sets up a holiday store in a new gym in Belmont hall, everything is donated from the sleighs to the decorations to the presents. It's a really rewarding program, and we hope SG can get involved. The members who this help are members of the UT Austin community 318 955 2,000 toys. We don't ask recipients to justify their income level or their need, its hard to pinpoint the exact reason for their need, it could be any number of life changes, we try to be flexible. You can help by donating, we take new unwrapped toys and gifts, 17 collection spots across campus, one in the SG office and 1 in the SAC help desk, you are connected to a lot of organizations, so spread the word, we also coordinate longhorn Halloween, explore ut, gone to texas,
 - ii. Fassio: Deadline?
 - iii. Melissa: Dec 2nd
 - iv. Thompson: Age group/gender?
 - v. Melissa: The group ranges from infants to teens, we have a need for teen boys, infants, and toddlers.
- VI. Ex-Officio Reports
 - a. Cameron Allison: On Thursday the film committee will be screening captain America at 6 and 9 pm. Thursday through Saturday is the madrigal dinner, 16,17 or 18 dollars. The show is entertaining, the food is amazing, if you are interested, go to texasboxoffice.com, we hope to see you guys there
- VII. Appointments
- VIII. Deputy Advisor Report
 - a. Melinda Sutton, Deputy to the Dean of Students – msutton@mail.utexas.edu
- IX. Executive Reports
 - a. Natalie Butler, Student Body President – natalie.e.butler@gmail.com
 - b. Ashley Baker, Student Body Vice President – ashleyv.baker@gmail.com



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- i. Did yall get the Facebook invite for the potluck? If you didn't, its headed your way, we will be sending out and evite. Its an informal gathering for all of us to have a lot of fun, it will be hosted at Madison Gardner's house at 23rd and Leon, 7-9:30.
- ii. We have been talking about risk management procedures, we also have some extra additions as far as recommendations, we are going to talk to everyone and get that organized
- iii. I am sending back that smoking thing, we want your feedback, my laptop broke, but I will send that ASAP

X. Agency Director Reports

a. Daniel Evans:, City Relations

- i. I have worked with John Lawler and the neighborhood associations like UAP and CANPAC, there is a business man who wants to open a liquor store near cuatros, UAP was wanting to get student feedback to see how you feel about that so we can voice our opinion to the neighborhood association.
- ii. Carlson: Can we get some sort of legislation on this, since this is an important enough issue to talk about, it is important enough to get an official opinion about
- iii. Lawler: I don't think there is anything wrong with trying to get feedback, it would be wrong for us to come forward with a certain piece of legislation, just trying to get a general feel.
- iv. Thayer: I agree, thanks for coming out and saying this
- v. Evans: I was just trying to get input to get a general feel.
- vi. Desai: Can you send an email out to the listserv so people can get more information and take them back to their councils?
- vii. Love: Any specific concerns expressed?
- viii. Evans: There are already two in the area. Liquor stores have a different zoning, I cant convey the specific concerns now but I can send those out.
- ix. Ragsdale: I don't know how the rezoning stuff works, but will the west campus area see any benefits as far ad property taxes?
- x. Evans: I will get back to you on that.
- xi. Rosenthal: since there are already some in the area, I don't see what is wrong with letting it be there

XI. Representative Reports



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XII. Unfinished Business

- a. AR 22 – In Support of a New Model for the Estimated Tuition Breakdown Pugliese:
 - i. This went to Student Affairs, Mary Knight requested sort of a timeline, we added the 2nd to last be it further resolved that it be done my next semester so that it gets done for sure.
 - ii. Zhao: We are going to follow through.
 - iii. **Leonard: I would like to add the first be it further resolved from the top, last line “to be displayed on the my tuition bill webpage”, seconded**
 - iv. Love: Can you explain your reasoning?
 - v. Lawler: If we are in debate, I would like to find out anyways.
 - vi. Love: Why do you want to add that specific language?
 - vii. Leonard: I took this to my council, explained it and asked for their opinions, and they thought that the people most concerned with where their tuition is going are the people who are paying it, the parents, and it would show it on that page right next to where you click to page.
 - viii. Love: So this will give parents the ability to understand the breakdown of their child’s tuition?
 - ix. Leonard: They would have the ability anyways, because it would be on the UT webpage, but this will make it easier.
 - x. Thompson: On the website it says that all tuition and fees information and changes will be sent to you in an email, is there a way we could get that implemented for the breakdown?
 - xi. Pugliese: We could definitely bring it up, they are really receptive, so I don’t think it should be a problem.
 - xii. Rosenthal: Have yall met with anyone from the technological people, because I have run into problems because it is a lot of work?
 - xiii. Zhao: We talked to Mary and she said she could do it.
 - xiv. **Leonard: Remove pay from the amendment.**
 - xv. **Amendment to the amendment passes**
 - xvi. **Amendment passes**
 - xvii. **Bill passes by roll call vote**

XIII. New Business AB 4



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- t. Lawler: Now that we are enforcing rules off campus (chalk on sidewalk was against university rules) are we also insinuating that the ESB would enforce city rules and? regulations.
- u. Baker: If you want to make these changes you can make them in committee.
- v. Desai: It says the appellate court will be created. Doesn't our governing document say that the judicial court is the appellate court?
- w. Baker: That's why I want to pass this to IA, so they can make those changes.
- x. **Lawler: I would like to move to table this piece of legislation.**
- y. **Hicks: Out of order**
- z. Carlson: This isn't a motion.
- aa. **Hicks: You can postpone.**
- bb. **Lawler: Move to postpone indefinitely.**
- cc. Lawler: I am up here today as someone who has been in this assembly for three years, and I oppose this because it goes right up against precedent set in previous years. There was an election scandal just a few years ago where the ESB chair was campaigning for someone, and instead of kicking it off to some committee that didn't seek public opinion, they had a huge process. The appellate court was removed in the internal reform task force, and this is in direct opposition to that, there hasn't been enough conversation.
- dd. Martinez: I have been bringing this up almost every week, I have been asking for input, one reason I don't want to postpone this is because there are four other entities involved in this as well, and they wanted to get it done by the end of the semester, and if it doesn't get done its just going to push it back further. I wish you had voiced your opinion before, I know you voiced it at IA, but we never heard any more input, we need to move forward with this.
- ee. **Carlson: Move to previous question.**
- ff. **Hand vote: 19-3**
- gg. **Debate is closed.**
- hh. **Motion to postpone indefinitely**
- ii. **Hand vote: 14-12**
- jj. **Postponed Indefinitely**

XIV. Announcements

- a. Martinez: IA will meet about this on Sunday, despite it not having a date set, meeting Sunday at 3:30 in the SG conference room, if you aren't here shoot me an email, I