

**University of Texas at Austin
Students' Association
Minutes
April 30, 1991**

CALL TO ORDER

Roll was called by pseudo secretary Davis

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Garth Davis

President Davis said he had attended the University Council meeting on April 29, the Multiculturalism Committee's report went to UC Monday. Another thing that was set up was a visiting scholarship program, visiting artist programs, cohort registration, and to make workshops for Faculty and staff. Basically, they are just recommendations to President Cunningham and no action will be taken unless we work on them in the committees. Mostly they fall under the Multicultural Affairs committee. These ideas need to be included in more substantial forms. University Council has basically said we are ready to work on these things. So it will be up to the Assembly to work on them.

I have testified at the Senate hearings and House hearings on the student regent bill. It looks good for that bill. I would like to give thanks to TSL members - they have been working very hard. Talk to them if you want to get involved with things going on at the Capitol. Compliments to Eric and David Ritchie for Friday's Dallas protest. I hope Leedom gets the point. HB10 and budget cuts are coming up so ask if you are interested in what is happening. Friday there is another rally against Senate Bill 602, the flexible tuition bill, will be on West Mall from 12-1. Barrientos, and hopefully Maxey and Delco will be speaking. It would be very good if you could show your face there from 12-1. It would be good to man the tables at that time. Talk to Susan Hays if you can do that and please be there.

Wayne Marshall the new Chair of the Cabinet will need people to help with the Registration Bash - setting up tables for a few minutes after the meeting.

We had a committees chairs' meeting today before this meeting. Committees have set agendas and we will be doing some ground work on these things this summer. We will get the office set up for fall, cleaned up etc. If you will be in town come by and help we will be there.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Samantha Welsch

I am passing around a sheet for your summer address. If you will be in town this summer please put your phone number down. We will need lots of help on a brochure which needs to be updated.

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR - Heather Wittman

Our SA budget was approved for approx. \$91,000.

VICE PRESIDENT - Julie Bray

We had the new members meeting earlier this evening. We are now having our last meeting of this semester. We will be doing a mail out letting you know the meeting times and dates. Make sure we get an address so we can send you information. Before the Assembly meeting we will be meeting with the chairs. We will give the office a new look this summer. Make sure that I recognize you before you try to speak at a meeting.

CHAIR OF THE CABINET OF COLLEGE COUNCILS - Wayne Marshall

Pre-registration Bash is coming up. Be sure and stop by to write your comments.

APPOINTMENTS

International Advisor - Pierre Ibrahim

He has copies included of approval from international groups that agree he should be the advisor. This position can sponsor legislation but can't vote. No questions were asked.

Pierre Ibrahim was approved by the Assembly.

University Policy Chair - Nikki Sanders

President Davis said Nikki has worked a lot with the SA. She was the Election Supervisory Chair year before last. Last year she was Citizen's Affairs Chair. She worked hard on Rock the Vote. I think she is a very hard worker. She held the first University Policy meeting and has set up the ground work for the rest of the year. She should be a good chair.

Questions -

What do you have planned for the committee?

Nikki Sanders responded, we want to do teacher awards, a ceremony to get teachers recognized for excellence in the classroom. We will be working on mandatory teacher evaluations and push for merit based faculty raises. We are kicking around the idea of doing another Grade UT. We want to look into some Freshman programs and have been talking about the cohorts program. I am open for suggestions if you have a project you think we should do.

Nikki Sanders was approved as University Policy Committee Chair.

Minority Information Center Co-Directors - Shuronda Robinson and Joseph Montoya

President Davis said though he wasn't fond of co-chairs he liked the idea of having both the Hispanic and Black communities represented by the co-directors. I think we need leadership from each community. We will dig up the funds to meet the required monies to make this a co-director position. They have both shown outstanding service in their own communities. Shuronda was vice president of BSA and Joseph has been on the Chicano Culture Committee and Mexican American Leadership Board.

Questions -

How do you feel about working together? How do you feel about the space at the MIC?

Shuronda said working with Joseph will expand her knowledge of the Mexican-American community. He has his pulse on his community and I have it on mine. This will bring it together. About the space--It is downstairs in UTC way in the back. It is pathetic. UT should be ashamed to have the MIC there but we can't do anything about that now. We have space allotted in the new Student Services Complex but that's years from now. I spoke to Samantha about finding other space.

President Davis pointed out that there would be a Bylaws change and that bill would go into Internal Affairs tonight. He promised to find the money to cover the co-directorship.

Joseph Montoya said that our goals are very similar and we will work well together.

Shuronda said in her interview I let Garth know I want MIC to do programs during Orientation and let students know what is going on and what programs are good. We will provide leadership for the program we feel the center should be doing. It is not until we get the board of Directors and executive members together to plot our goals will we really know the exact moves to make.

How many hours will the office be open?

Shuronda said it was open from 10-5 and we do have funds for a work study student. BSA worked out of there last year. Both Joseph and I have made a commitment to do what it takes to get things done.

Joseph said we have made a definite commitment.

Representative Dafny asked a question

(sorry I couldn't hear what it was on the tape)

Joseph responded that this is a good thing about co-directors and instead of having activities directed to one or another it will be more uniting activities.

Representative Dafny asked another question

(couldn't hear it either)

Shuronda responded that the center is actually open to all minorities.

(short section here that I couldn't hear)

Representative Daugharty asked who will be on the Board of Directors for the MIC?

Shuronda said Evaliza, as the Multicultural Affairs chair, will be on the board.

The question was called.

Shuronda Robinson was approved as co-director of the Minority Information Center.

Joseph Montoya was approved as co-director of the Minority Information Center.

Student Services Fee Committee - Ed Sullivan

President Davis explained that this body decides the allocation of all the Student Services Fee money.

TSP, Rec Sports, SA, Shuttle bus, Health Center, and Cabinet are all included. There will be two positions open a one year and a two year. Roger Martinez will be the returning two year position. This is a big job. Ed Sullivan has worked with the Young Conservatives. He is very knowledgeable on budgets. He is of different opinions. During his interview he seemed very fair-minded.

Questions -

Representative Ritchie asked about the Health Center wages? He asked if Sullivan would pursue a policy to maintain what has been done this year?

Ed Sullivan said he feels there is a direct link between quality personnel and what they get paid. About the Student Health Center-- I support erecting a new Health Center Building. The old one is in bad shape. It will also help attract better quality personnel.

Representative Ritchie said TSP has had serious financial problems and we have tried to help them out this year how do you feel about that?

Tsp only gets 1% of their budget from the fee money. Most of their money comes from private revenues. TSP should be able to find areas to cut down. I don't think I would cut them though.

Representative Ritchie said in 1987 SA President Randi Shade gave back \$10,000 to the reserve fund. Ever since then the \$10,000 was cut from the budget so we lost \$10,000. Are you interested in cutting SA budget back again.

Sullivan said being on the Fee Committee you have to look at all the budgets. I can't tell you exactly what programs I would be interested in cutting or if I would cut them at all. I would have to be concerned if there was waste of the money. I would want students to get the biggest bang for their buck. I don't have predisposition to cut anything. I also don't have predisposition to fund anything either.

Representative Ritchie said this year we gave Designated Driver a small annual operating budget. If the money does exist would you continue to fund this program.

Sullivan said we can all agree alcoholism is a problem and if designated drivers helps that's good. I haven't really looked at the program itself. If it is working well if it is operating well and students need such a program I don't have a problem with it. I would like to seriously look at all the programs to see their merit.

Representative Ritchie said you are the YCT vice president would this be a conflict of interest.

Sullivan replied YCT won't be involved in anything that interferes with the Fee committee except TSL. I told Garth I would abstain on those votes because it would be a conflict of interest. If it would be a conflict of interest on anything else I would abstain.

(a question was asked.)

Sullivan responded I want to look at each project to see what needs to be cut if anything. The Shuttle Bus contract is now the biggest problem. I see it as an issue that affects much of the student body.

(a question was asked.)

Sullivan responded Student Service Fee doesn't decide that. Projects are approved by the Assembly and I won't have control over the projects that I don't like. I believe government should exist. If SA does deem that funding necessary I can't do anything.

(another question)

Sullivan responded Student Service Fee doesn't negotiate the contract for the shuttle bus.

Representative Arredondo asked what he felt were incorrect expenditures?

Sullivan said I don't think it was fair to bring Said on Rosh Hashanna. I don't think it is proper when a group asks for \$400 and the SA gives them \$1,000. That is a waste. I don't think when a project gets optional fees they should be given additional fees by the SA.

Ed Sullivan was approved as Student Service Fee Committee member.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

University Policy - Nikki Sanders

Multicultural Affairs - Evaliza Fuentes

(couldn't hear)

President Davis said he would change the resolution to read from the recommendations to the UC. I will use part B of the report.

Representative Fitzer asked a question

(could not hear it, nor the response.)

Student Services - Bob Rankin and Marty Meekins

We had a meeting Monday and basically broke down what Marty and I will oversee.

You need to know the shuttle bus situation. Our contract expires in 1993 and Capitol Metro is asking for an extension to that contract. By doing this they are also asking for an additional 5%. In order to continue services they are also proposing a 60% increase in the Student Services Fee to continue to serve. This is very shaky ground for me. They have given us several options. We can get our own system, continue to rent as Capitol Metro does. It looks to me as if it could go either way.

Citizens' Affairs -- Howard Nirken

(sorry couldn't hear)

MEMBER PRIVILEGE

Representative Ritchie said he wanted to expand on what Mr. Rankin brought up on the shuttle bus. Eric, Jon Krueger and I are on the shuttle bus committee. We are negotiating with Capitol Metro about a 2 year contract. We couldn't give out a lot of info without compromising our position. This is a very serious issue. I feel there are more developments. I hope Garth will be interested in coming to these negotiations. It is in the area where Dr. Vick's office is. It is MAI 102 tomorrow at 3 p.m. Capitol Metro has laid out a deadline. They chose to sign a 3 year contract with Laidlaw - even though they had a five year contract. They would re-negotiate at this point. Laidlaw has lost money for the last 7 months mostly because SA busted them big time for some practices. They were doing things like not properly maintaining busses to save money. Capitol Metro had the interview process and some of us attended. We were not allowed to ask questions. We could only watch. There were 8 firms They chose the only one the students

recognized as utterly hostile to our interests. They have labor problems across the country. Capitol Metro wants to make the shuttle bus system into a completely merged part of the city system. They want no differences between our routes and regular city routes. We would have express routes in our areas. This is a serious issue for students because once we are worked into their system it would be impossible to pull out. Cap Metro laid the law out to us and said you have until April 29 to give us an extension to this contract or else. We counter proposed and were fairly reasonable. They came back with a proposal to increase fees by \$750,000 in the first year of the extension. They would get a 5% increase for the next 2 years. We decided we had to know what incentives were for doing this. We found out they were making a profit off us for the past 3 years. They get 4.7 million+ a year for running our system and they pay Laidlaw 3.2 million a year. Now they want to raise \$750,000 and they do not provide extra services at all. They do this thru a game with the feds. They don't consider us to have any real significance to the system. They basically refuse to deal with us. They don't even like dealing with the school. It is very possible we will tell Capitol Metro to pack their crap and leave. We can get a better bus system for less money. If that is the case we will be asking for your backing. We are angry.

Tonight we would like to know how you feel about creating our own system for the same money or less.

Internal Affairs - Prashil Govind

We met last Friday and went over the two bills one on Bylaws changes and one on Constitutional changes. I will report on the vote when the bills come up.

Vice President Bray reminded everyone that Members' Privilege should only last 1 minute.

Representative McGee asked if we would be swearing in the appointees.

The appointees were sworn in.

Representative Moorhead from the LBJ school said he was at another university and they had their own in house bus system which was a model system. It is totally student run. I urge you to support this idea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A.R. 4 Supporting the Faculty Senate Recommendations

It will stay tabled to committees

President Davis said the reason he wanted to bring it out was to work on it this summer.

A.B. 2 Bylaws Changes on Article VII Obligations of Representatives

sponsored by Representative Patel. She explained the bill was to change Article VII mainly to change obligations of the representatives. She was asked to sponsor even though she was not author. I am in favor of it wholeheartedly. I feel we need to do these things. A lot of us campaigned along these lines. We promised to be more visible. After getting elected in April a month later we cannot forget the promises you made to the student body. Everyone would attend 3 meetings. College reps would attend 1 council meeting and 2 groups. At large reps would include 1 group that would be a minority organization as defined by Samantha. Most people here are involved in other things so this won't be asking too much. Sororities, Fraternities, social groups are all included. This wouldn't be a major task and I ask for your support.

This bill was sent to Internal Affairs which voted 4 opposed. The bill will take a 2/3 vote.

Questions

Representative ?? asked if the West Mall table would count as one meeting group.

A: The whole point is to talk to people about what SA is doing. It is only 3 meetings a month that is not much. It could be included but I don't think West Mall is very effective.

Executive Director Welsch said she would get a list of organizations together. You are already a member of a group so you could speak to that group. I will organize everything for you. You will just go to the meetings.

Representative ??? from Liberal Arts asked if you would speak to the same 3 organizations each time.

How is that going to make us visible. These people already know. Isn't it redundant to have us report each month and take time out of their schedules to speak to them.

NO--we will bring up new topics every time. There are many on going events that you will tell them about.

Representative Ritchie said he has been involved for 10 years. The biggest problem with the SA is its image. People will think you did nothing at the end of the year. Image is our problem. This is the best way to address this problem by going out and talking to people about what we are doing. I am very glad we hired a publicity director. There is nothing wrong with going out to speak to people.

All you have to do is let them know you are there. If they have any questions they can feel free to ask. It is not that big of a hassle. We don't have the support of the student body and this is one way to get it.

Representative Marks said she thinks it needs to be worded more clearly so we know what is expected of us.

Representative McGee (sorry couldn't hear)

Representative Beinart from the Business School said I went to my meetings last year. There were lots of times you really didn't say anything. I don't think I got anything accomplished nor did the group feel good that I was there. We shouldn't be forced to go to meetings we don't want to go to. We cannot help the SA in this way.

President Davis said the Executive Director will have a report for you to cover at each meeting so you won't have any problem with what to say. You will know exactly what the SA is doing. This will let people know the SA is working not sitting their wasting the Fee money. We want you to go there and give a brief report and then ask for suggestions and questions. Let them know we are here to help them with anything. When I was a representative there were always questions. You will see when they find out we have special projects funds to allocate for other groups to draw from. When they realize you are the vehicle to get these funds you will see. You ran to serve your constituency. I think you owe them to let them know what we are doing. This will help us be the best SA we can be.

Representative Cheskes asked what if three of us are in the same group? Can each one of us count that as 1 of our groups.

Yes

The whole point is to have communication between SA and others.

Representative Ayala said if you are out on West Mall people will talk to you.

University Policy Chair Sanders said I have talked to a lot of people who don't know SA or what it does. We need to get the word out to others on campus.

Question was called.

Roll Call vote was taken and A.B. 2 Bylaws Changes on Article VII Obligations of Representatives failed to get 2/3 majority.

A.B. 3 Constitutional Changes sponsored by Representative Patel

The position of Executive Director was originally called Student Service Director. This is just changing the name.

Internal Affairs voted for this bill.

It was approved by acclamation.

Representative Ritchie suggested that with constitutional change bills we need to include a fiscal note because you have to advertise in the paper for these changes.

NEW BUSINESS

We have four resolutions that can be voted on tonight.

AR 05 Commends and Thanks the Graduate School of Business

AR 06 Commends and Thanks the University of Texas Law School

AR 07 Commends and Thanks the Graduate School of Engineering (amended)

These would be considered all together. There was one amendment the AR 07 which needed a change it would be Graduate School of Engineering instead of Engineering.

They were all approved.

AR 08 MLK Statue sponsored by Representative Arredondo

This resolution is calling for the Assembly to support the effort to erect a statue.

Representative McGee wanted to add an amendment that would add to one whereas that Dr. King was an advocate in fighting civil rights, and racial equality. Also, to add a be it resolved that the Assembly would support a scholarship to honor Dr. King.

Representative Lynch asked how far along is the process?

Dr. Vick, Vice President for Student Affairs, was at the meeting and let the Assembly know that the location is pretty much agreed upon. East Mall where all the sidewalks meet. About 200 feet east of Speedway. He said the question about funding should be answered by saying they were a long way off. They have raised only a small amount of what is needed.

President Davis said he is writing a letter in support of the statue on behalf of the Assembly to show support and help Michael Mark get funding.

Representative Daugharty wanted to add a whereas and the idea that they not tear down existing statues when bringing in the new statues.

Representative Arredondo said he appreciated the sentiments but I will not accept that as friendly. That doesn't go with the spirit or intent of this resolution or those working on this statue.

Question was called and the resolution passed.

A.B. 4 Co-directors for the Minority Information Center

This bill will provide a stipend for the co-director of the Minority Information Center.

This bill was sent to Internal Affairs and Minority Affairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Vick said he was pleased to be there. He had just come from a dinner honoring Professor Forgie. He said he was really excited about next year. He invited everyone to come by and see him. Representative Ritchie presented a resolution supporting the idea that the Assembly would endorse an in house shuttle bus system. The university run shuttle bus system provided the same system for the same or less. Vote to see if it is acceptable to allow the resolution presented.

Questions -- none

Call the question

A.R. 9 passed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Ritchie brought up the fact of running an add to advertise constitutional change.

President Davis said he won't run an add for this constitutional change.

Advisor Maloney said constitutional changes go before the student body and before the next election it must run in the paper.

Representative Ritchie said the constitution now clearly states that a graduate student has to be appointed to the Student Service Fee committee .

President Davis said first of all that rule hasn't been approved by the Board of Regents so it doesn't apply to his appointments. I did go to COGS and I told them I wanted a name by this meeting and got no response. It says that if there is not one available I can appoint the person of my choice.

Representative Ritchie said I understand the difficulty and I am not saying you are doing anything wrong but we are sick and tired of being snubbed. If nothing else I would have sat in the position. I am sorry these people didn't do things like they were supposed to. But there must be graduate students.

President Davis I agree with you and I publicized to the whole UT as much as possible. I put letters in all the boxes. I talked to chair and Vice Chair of the Cabinet and COGS.

Vice President Bray said we will discuss this later.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.