

Authors - Sponsors - Footnotes - Comments

Title: Student Government Assembly Minutes

Stage: PASSED - 11/30/2004

Owner: Andrew Lara

I. Call Meeting to Order at 7:04PM

I. Call Meeting to Order at 7:04PM

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Open Forum

Student Library Council: Joe Dobbs

-here for any concerns

-When the café opens in PCL will you allow food in the library?

A: it will be ready by spring semester; at this time it will not amend the food policy; the café will be separate by glass walls

Q: will the glass wall take care of noise?

A: yes, noise, smell, etc.

Q: Can you send a notice will books are late so fines don't accumulate

A: the integrated library system will be connected to email notifications; computer programmers currently cant get it hook up to email notifications; that change is on its way; if there is any extenuating circumstances just contact someone who is authorized to make those decisions

Q: how long will it be before it is implemented?

A: I don't know when the ILS is going to be up and running;

Q: What is the story with libraries closing early?

A: because of state budget cuts, library hours have been cut

V. Guests

Teach for America

The application deadline is February 18th

-T for A is grad students are assigned to teach at low come schools; they are obligated for two years to help severely under privilege students; produce alums that will go on to do great things

-first round electronic applications; interview round; and then you would be assigned your region and teaching assignment

-summer institute for five weeks; you would be taught by T for A alums and master teachers

-when you get in your region you will have the support from T for A

-website is teachforamerica.org

-email sjkirby@mail.utexas.edu if you have any further questions

VI. Old Business

AR 11: A resolution urging The University of Texas to add height and weight ratio to its non-discrimination policy

Rep. Lemon: asks administration to add height and weigh to discrimination policy

Good reason: 1) will benefit UT students specifically people who suffer discrimination due to height or weight 2) will raise awareness to everyone on campus that we don't want to discriminate these reasons here

-Thank you

Rep. Ross: I don't think we are going to stop all forms of discrimination, but I do think it is incredibly important that we address this issue; there is this discrimination for these reason; it will raise awareness

Boehnke: obese people are discriminated; I think is precocious issue; I think it will make us a progressive assembly; why not do something for a change;

Rep. Fuller-wigg: this isn't just a fat issue, this is fat and weight issue; anyone in here could experience this just because someone didn't prefer your body type

Mei-lee: you can see it on the immediate look of people's faces; everyone does it internally in their head; I agree with Matt on this and feel it will create awareness; even it is just pity that they don't necessarily want Rep. Rios: the arguments against it are to what end; this is not an end this is a beginning; if we ignore this, we are ignoring are constituents; MLK said that are lives end when we begin to ignore the things that matter, and I am sure this matters to someone

QUESTIONS

Rep. Livingston: Fuller-wigg could she please explain what you explain to me

Rep. Fuller-Wigg: what changes would need to be made to implement this resolution such as seating; we wouldn't have to tear down a whole auditorium but perhaps a folding chair; it will be easily to do

Rep. Davenport: are you just referring to people who are genetically disposed

Rep. Lemon: you cant prove by looking at me that I am lazy or genetically made this way; you cant look at me and say that I am unhealthy and look at someone else and think they are healthy

Rep. D: don't you feel that is pretty subjective; everyone has a different perception of themselves

Rep FW: it is not like someone is going to be able to make accusations and both parties get in trouble. It would be the same as religion

Rep. D: how do you classify someone as overweight

Rep. FW: this is not an overweight issue;

Rep. D: it has to do with someone's reaction

Right

Rep. D: how is height and weight discrimination different from other body issue such as baldness, etc.

Rep. FW: everything in this resolution has been proven statistically; if it came up that baldness has become such a huge issue and has facts to support it

Baker: why cant the subjective be towards all discrimination towards physical appearance

Rep. Lemon: I've thought about that from the moment I have begun the concept of this resolution; we believe that height and weight is a serious concern; it should be more narrow; it goes to the legal argument; admin.

Wants more of a reason than the students want to be nice; height and weight discrimination is illegal in some instances; there is not awareness of this fact and those legal issues

Rep. Weber: what admin did you talk to

Rep. Lemon: Dean Brett and Vice President Vick

Rep. Gurevitz: I thought this was going to be about jobs and everything; maybe in the last be it resolved you change it

Rep. Lemon: who could be a member of our committee and how they are allowed to participate added to the very last line

Rep. Broyles: can you explain how this affects undergrad admission

Rep. L: I am a grad rep, and you have to interview during grad school admission;

Rep. Donaldson: can you show me in the resolution statistics and facts in relation to UT

Rep. Lemon: there is no research done here at UT; height and weight adds a legal reason to add it not a statistical reason

Jim: is there potential for exceptions for example police

Rep Rios: it is a fitness test; someone of any weight can pass that test

Stolhandske: bonafide occupational justification

Rep Lemon: The American Disabilities Act does not necessarily cover height and weight. There are exceptions but they are exceptions; we are trying to get height and weight added to the policy, but right now we are being very specific about what we want

DEBATE

Reep: subconsciously did does happen in society; by putting it in the code of the school we acknowledge that this exists and we wish to hold our community accountable

Dobbs: intent to try to prevent people from being denied things; right now the policy protects people from things that they cant change; what this does is that we are going to protect you from a choice you are going to make; I know this because I am an over weight person; where do we draw the line?; hiring an over weight person costs us higher insurance rates; we open policy to an enormous amount of abuse; it harms the whole system

Chicotsky: as an anthropology student there are definite marginalization in different social structures; in this case we are being very specific about respect; the implications of this article are not going to directly effect us with higher insurance rates or economic problems dilutes our attention from what is to be accomplished by the

article

Clark Patterson: don't believe this is a civil right issue; we cant divorce this resolution from the context we have here in America; you cant deny the fact that the US has 70% of lawyers; this will be an open sesame to law suits; it is ridiculous to be that there wouldn't be an avalanche of law suits as a result of this policy;

Vaughn: the policy is created to set up as a bench mark for a reason why they are being discriminated against for example sexual orientation and now perhaps height and weight; even though we would like to include all discrimination, there are some discriminations that are far more credible; the hate crime bills recently passed in Texas has controversy over the addition of sexual orientation; Now it is evident that sexual orientation

Rep Weber: blonde jokes are made all the time; I am for what is says, but I think it could be said better; it could be ostracizing for example girls who are blonde; there are issues of girls who cry because they think they are fat when obviously they are not; it doesn't clearly communicate the issue; we are a frontier; only two of them have the word height and weight

Rep. Rios: it makes me ill to think that there are people out there without every speaking to them and thinking they chose to be that way, I am disgusted; if we are worried about law suits we are cowards; if we need to educated the student body than lets do it including blonde discrimination

Rep. Donaldson: there is not any research done here at UT; you have the resolution, it doesn't have the evidence to say that it will improve UT; even in grad school due to the admission of foreign students it is impossible to require an interview; everyone has a different perception of fat. I think that is true; who is to say what fat is; it is not something we can quantify; we have race, gender, religion; Can someone really be confused about race.

Rep. Kennedy: there has been a lot of assumptions from the opposing side; if people choose to be fat than I don't see why they wouldn't choose to be thin especially in this society; even if it doesn't occur at UT it wont be hurting anyone to implement it; health providers discriminate against fat people without checking their health; race is claimed that it is objective by other side; race is definitely a social construction

Stolhandske: the more we add the more complex it becomes; if we are discussing merit here then lets state a resolution about merit; statistically we state that if it happens in the nation then it has to happen here; you cant make any assumption for example discrimination toward English as a second language yet we don't discriminate towards our professors

Rep. Full-Wigg: this is not just a fat issue; interviews aren't here at UT; if it is even possible that a TA will discriminate towards a student because of their height and weight then we need to protect our constituents

Rep. Davenport: you can be discriminated against about anything; it is not fair to single out height and weight; there are people who don't get jobs because of acne, baldness, etc; I think there is a lot of people who would be offended by this;

Rep. Ross: being fat is not always a choice;

Rep. Donaldson: we have talk to administrators in particular one that the other side has spoken with; the admin said that it will probably not going very far; it is not clarify to the point where there is direction given; we really haven't talked about what the students want; we need to take seriously that we are seeing a really small group of people who are really aware but we need to think about our constituents

Mei-Lee: this about height too; height is not a choice; short people did not choose to hang from monkey bars; people are genetically structured; you get interviewed for any organization; people do make predetermined judgments about the way that you are; this is about peoples view of you

Rep. Gurevitz: at the NaTSci Council meeting we had a lengthy discussion; way to narrow; made jokes about eye and hair color; inviting law suits to UT; this might not be an issue for many employers; we make it an issue by bringing it up; it might be important to push for physical appearance; I think that is really important that we listen to our constituents

Navaratil; google Laura Gladney-Lemon; read her testimonial and tell me that this does not effect UT students; the back of the SG t-shirts state "Leadership for Texas" I ask that you be true to that statement

Yates: any one can say they have been discriminated against by physical appearance; height and weight policy can turn it around and say that they didn't do it because of height and weight but because they are ugly;

Rep. Perez: amend final be it resolved stating that SG of UT desires that this legislation manifests these merit based qualifications as independent from physical appearance

ACCEPTED by the Authors

Rep. Karchmer: recognize those marginal groups; marginalized groups get to say this is something I get to identify with; that is the purpose of putting in height and weight; to use those words recognizes this is a real

issue; I have heard that people need to try harder to lose weight to not be discriminated; we have to deal with the consequences of relating that to eating disorders; if you feel that this is a joke I don't feel that you have been listening to Laura and the research she has done; it is hate it is not a joke; it is not something funny; Gerardo Interiano: the way that this can be interpreted; we as an assembly have misinterpreted; every single law discriminates against someone; we have the right to discriminate; who determines height/weight ratio? Does that infringe on privacy rights? This has a lot of legal holes, and the litigation that can come from this is ridiculous. This can be incredibly hurtful and can be written in a much better way.

Boehneke: A lot of fat hate exists. Mockery of short, tall, fat, skinny has a tangible effect on our university. Why not take a step forward to say that we are not a sociological island and we will protect our students?

Stanis: This is not my personal opinion. I am voicing my constituents concerns. The business council did not feel it was appropriate. They said you ran FOCUS on issues that pertain to UT, but you give me no evidence related to UT. You can't prove this is a UT problem. My sister and father deal with weight issues, I got the good genes, after Laura explained some people changed their minds.

Tayyeb: Just because UT stats are not there doesn't mean there isn't a problem. We are supposed to be proactive, not wait for a problem to be proven by statistics. You still have to qualify to meet the job. If you don't qualify you still won't get the job, but if you do and you don't get the job then this policy will take effect. Yes everyone gets discriminated against. There is a difference between prejudice and discrimination. The policy puts a check in the process. Blond jokes are very different. People thought racism, homosexuality, etc were too narrow at one time too. We have proven it, let's make change happen.

Webber: The architecture students were aligned with the business school. I am totally serious about being discriminated against for being blonde. I am completely capable. People don't take you seriously. I am for stopping discrimination. I am shocked, you are discriminating against me right now. We are all for the same thing.

Rep. Palmieri: say that it will open door to law suits is an excuse; take an inter group dialogue class; what has this resolution done? It has caused dialogue and candidness

Rep. Rios: we are opening dialogue; we are trying to do something about it

Dobbs: we are the first era when common people had a problem with obesity; if it were solely genetic we would have seen it all throughout history; indulgence and lacking in self discipline; it is important that we do not discriminate against these things;

Rep. Stanis: move to limit debate to Laura Gladney Lemon and then move to previous question
Second

Rep. Donaldson: move to amend motion to speaker from both sides and call to previous question

Seconded and Amendment Carries

Amended Motion Carries

Stolhandkse: we could stay here all year and find out what people discriminate against; it would take us an entire year; I feel that holistically we should be saying let's not discriminate;

Rep. Laura Galdney Lemon: thank you once again; this is not about law suits, this is about raising awareness to what I think is a very serious issue on campus; I am mooded at, thrown food at me; I sat in a class where a professor referred

Stanis: move to extend time to let Laura speak for five more minutes

Seconded and carries

Lemon: to say that these attitudes to not extend to Texas is closing their eyes; and we will be special; UT will be making history tonight; as for it taking away from other classes that are discriminated against I don't feel that anyone who is in a protected; Is it okay for someone on this campus to consider me or anyone to not consider you based on your size; it is about raising awareness; doing the right thing and in the mean time you will be making history

AR 11 passes (24 Yes; 6 No; 4 Abstain)

AR 12 A Resolution to Support the Implementation of the LA 101 Class

Johanna Gephart: students are not well informed about what is offered; similar to LA Honors 102

QUESTIONS

Reep: how would this transfer
Puentes: as an elective credit
Gephart: transfer students are allowed to take this class too
Stolhandske: move to call to question
Seconded, motion passes
Rep. Ross: move to approve by acclamation
Seconded, Resolution Passes

Stanis: move to suspend the rules and bring to introduce AR 15 and fast track it
Seconded, Motion carries

Rep. Stanis: .0013 from going to the BCS Bowl; we are ranked five; I emailed Mack Brown and his response is we love you, we thank you, and we appreciate it your support; we are going to send it to all the writers and coaches; makes sure it says voting coaches and writers; we did make some revisions; we wanted to keep it positive; if you guys want, I have no objections to putting everyone as a co sponsor; if we go to a BCS we get paid 14 million dollars
Rep. Livingston: move to approve by acclamation
Seconded, no objections, AR 15 passes

VII. New Business

AB 13: Revising the Election Code

Mathew Hargrow: has the privilege of running elections; tonight we present to you the changes that we have made to it and vote on it; extend thank you to all the people who participated
-focusing on stricter enforcement of the code and harsher punishments
QUESTIONS

Rep. Long: what was the purpose of money increase?

Billingsley: hasn't been done in a long time; along with inflation there would need to be increased; independent candidates had a greater percentage increase to compensate for increasing campaign spending

Stanis: extending polling hours by 2 hrs; how will you ensure that I won't go door to door have you voted will you vote;

Billingsley: that is legal

Brummett: chapter 4; does that include precedent how far back

Hargow: we are setting the precedence for this year

Brummett: the Judicial Board isn't like the supreme court; will they have adequate knowledge of what has been done in the past

Billingsley; all of those records are maintained

Stolhandske: gave final say to the Dean of Students who have attorneys who work on their staff;

Gurevitz: why can't we vote all night

Billingsley: take the first step of extending those voting hours; people were afraid to throw voting parties and coerce people to vote

JW: appellate court, the opposing side was never made aware of the arguments made at the hearing; it would be fair to have the other party present

Stolhandske: if appeal made on behalf of one ticket the other party should be present to make arguments that were not made in the initial hearing;

JW: the non-appealing party has to be notified of all appeals

Stolhandske: that is an issue that should go through the internal rules or in the constitution then

JR: that makes it fun

Ochoa: criminal charges can be brought upon a defendant in regards to the Texas Penal Code

Stolhandske: giving bite to the argument because it is not inline with the law

Billingsley: the use of the penal code is a valid use of defense

Rep. Stanis: recommend not doing this because your definition of spam and the Texas Penal Code states it has to come from a corp., you are opening the door to allow mass emails across campus

Stolhandske: we can create more specific rules and the university can make more specific rules, but the ESB can't make

Stanis: double check the forgery, they specify specific things; you are just kind of running into problems

JW: the order goes ESB, then University Policy, then any applicable laws

Rep Long: University Policy trumps everything first; those policies are what we need to follow first;

Billingsley; not saying anything trumps anything

Stanis: you are going to have lawyers if you are throwing in the penal code; it allows more outside influence

Stanis: move to amend 3.04 by striking and in accordance with Texas Penal Code

Seconded, motion carries

Billingsley: section 4.14 anyone opposed to allowing signed affidavits

Chapter 5 subchapter 8; would anyone be opposed to adding 5.06

7.12 object to having polling locations being on campus

4.15

Rep. Lemon: don't we sort of revise every year what is in the election code;

Could there be some sort of middle ground where you say it is not defensible

Hargrow: middleground it state why you are not going to

Karchmer: saying that there are different opinions

Paschal: would add a measure of stability that we do not necessarily have

Livingston: can you explain why the DOS has final say

Hargrow: they will have the final say over all judicial branches; it is going to be one of those thing where if you violate university policy, the dean will say you have violated university policy

Stolhandske: felt it was a better alternative; DOS is a better ambiguity than nothing gets pass the appellate court; there is one more piece of accountability; the DOS does have a staff of attorneys; DOS would step in and say you have to hear the students rights because

4.29 the office of DOS will have jurisdiction regarding violations in University Policy

Lemon: move it limited to two or three years worth of ruling

JW: keep it to one year because advisory opinion becomes code the following year

Billingsley: those are not use as precedent

Gladney Lemon: offers friendly amendment to 4.15 by limiting to years —

Karchmer: move to approve by acclamation

Seconded, No objections, AB 13 Passes

AB 14: Changes to the Internal Rules, Bylaws, and Constitution of Student Government

Ochoa: major changes include clear distinction between committees and agencies

Stewart: move to take a five minute recess

Seconded, Motion carries

Resume at 10: 15PM

Vaughn: what is the purpose of taking away motions away from committees and agencies; how would a motion directly affect the vote

Ochoa: it effects the course of the meeting

Lemon: what is the purpose of not allowing CandAs to have a vote in an assembly where they work equally in committees; if they are a part of our body and they want to go above and beyond in committee, I would really like you to change that.

Ochoa: they are given the right to vote because they are assigned to that; we are making a change where instead of bringing legislation to the floor we are going to have it begin in committee; therefore they could kill it

Stolhandske: move to give voting right to committee and agencies heads and strike in Article 32 Ex Officio

Members shall have the privilege of obtaining the floor for purposes of questions strike the rest of that sentence and add motioning and debate but not voting

Point of Order by Grant; motion is considered a vote and I would like to have that stricken

Ex Officio are allowed to make a motion

Stolhandske's motion is seconded

Debate:

Ochoa: as the language stands in the Constitution, this action is in line—making a motion is voting; ex-officio members includes Executive Board and external appointments

Stolhandske: (for) Directors should have the right to make a motion, should be able to have a slight control over the direction of the Assembly

Stanis: in direct violation of our Constitution; clearly defined by precedents in US Congress and Texas

Legislature; I have nothing against committee and agency directors, not trying to dilute at all what you do for us; you can disagree on this issue, but it says that voting rights goes to reps; it is clearly against our Constitution

Rep. Rios: through and through committees and agencies have had better attendance and have better knowledge of what is going on in the assembly

Kennedy: allowing ex-officio members would allow chair of GSA or Senate; change it to agency directors

Billingsley: if you do not like the motion, vote it down;

Ross: move to go back into questioning

Seconded, Motion Carries

Stolhandske: rescinded amendment to...but not motioning or voting with the exception of agency directors who shall have the right to make motions

Stanis: objection because you are not allowed to make a rule in opposition of your constitution; you must amend your constitution

Rachel as the chair states a motion is not vote

Stanis: appeal the decision to the chair

Debate

Stanis: we can not make a rule in violation of our constitution; if this is something that we want to do we need to amend the constitution

Motion fails

Question and Answer

Kumar: Article 6 on stipends: would you be willing to change is so Pres and VP 100 and 40 hours for the rest of exec seeing Pres and VP are allowed to only take 6 hours

Friendly amendment accepted

Stanis: move to call into quorum

Withdraws motion and moves suspend rules, move out of this legislation and move to AR 13

Seconded, Motion Carries

AR 13: Calling on the Texas Legislature to Allocate More Funding to Higher Education

Ochoa: there is a lack of state funding for higher education

-there are a lot of facts stated at the footnotes at the bottom

Long: move to approve by acclamation

Donaldson: object

Donaldson: on what ways have you knocked on the doors already

Favad: this legislation isn't meant to be hostile at all; just to make more people aware

Stanis: change to these are one of many factors such as

Favad: to change after general resources, which are two of many factors, that are strongly considered

Kennedy: move to call to previous question

Seconded, Motion Carries

Ross: move to approve by acclamation

Donaldson: objection

AR 13 passes by voice vote

Stanis: call quorum

There is quorum

Stanis: move to divide the question

Seconded, Motion carries

Fuller-Wigg: what was the thought process of getting rid of attorney general instead of making another exec position

Livingston: does this take effect as soon immediately

A: only changes to the bylaws and internal rules will take effect; Constitution changes pass by referendum

Carpenter: why didn't you contact this years communication directors

A:

Rep. Lemon: move to approve Constitution changes by acclamation

Bylaws

Donaldson: move to approve Bylaws by acclamation

Seconded and approved

Internal Rules

Lemon: accepting an amendment making an actual provision where committee and agency heads have similar rights as reps

Billingsley: we accept the intent but will amend when wording is certain

Kumar: when the bills get assigned to a committee, what happens if you send it to a committee is there an appeals

Billingsley: yes, it requires two thirds

Internal Rules are approved

Rep. Donaldson: move to table AR 15

AR 15 tabled

VIII. Executive Reports

President, Brent Chaney

-Tax free textbooks: how do we define a textbook; going to reconvene the committee; going to speak to George Mitchell

-Voting Student Regent

Vice President, Rachel McGinity

-Meeting with Chief Van Slyke next Thursday

-if you want to work on SG stuff this break contact Rachel

-Key Chain Call boxes should be available by next fall

IX. Representative Privilege

Kennedy: increase email to about 50 mgbytes by this Spring

Revisore: resignation

Liu: thanks Rachel for all her time at the podium

Windle: entering libraries without having your ID, it will be an option next spring

-working to get laptops for the guards and get PD training

Gladney-Lemon: thank you from the bottom of your heart for all your help

-Michela's Birthday is today

Karchmer: Amber has worked her ass off with all the constitution changes and ESB

-there was a supreme court decision that says university campuses are allowed to not have military recruitment on campus because they don't include gays

Rios: today is Michela's bDay

Stewart: higher ed questions can be directed to Grant and Clayton; we can get some info on this stuff

Gurevitz: professor office hours, bad idea because it is really annoying; we can have them listed in the

department website or college website; BOR regulations states that professor has to post office hours on their door and other locations

Stanis: if you want to help send the letters out to voting writer and coaches contact Grant

Ochoa: thank you for your hard word on the changes in Assembly Rules; thank you Laura Salcedo, LRA with the help with AR13

X. Committee and Agency Reports

Communication: Texas monthly is looking for stories that have changed significantly as a result of the tuition increases

-in 14 minutes it is World Aids Day

LRA: turn in pop quizzes

FLO: tomorrow night FLO is having a coldstone fundraiser from 7-10

Stacey Middleton: last meeting because she is graduating; special thanks to Tanny, Becky, and Annie;

XI. Announcements

XII. Adjournment

Footnotes

None

Comments

None

Authors

Andrew Lara
