

Minutes Title 2006-12-05
Meeting 2006-12-05
Owner Devin Fletcher
Created 2006-12-06 13:15:09
Edited 2006-12-06 13:15:09

Call Meeting to Order - At 7:05 pm

I. Roll Call #1

II. Approval of Minutes – No changes

III. Guest

Chris Brownson, Ph.D., Interim Director of the Counseling and Mental Health Center – (on 5th floor of SSB) We teach different types of relaxation exercises, you do not need an appointment. In most cases, licensed counselors staff the emergency hotlines.

IV. Open Forum

***Jordan Davidson** – I am a sexual health educator and do all kinds of workshops. This is a great thing to do at a college level to educate other college students. If you are interested, contact the health promotions center.

***Zach Hall** - How many are SG and DC alumni? We are trying to secure funding for the trip, but we can only accept 12 people. Keep your eyes open for more information.

***Danielle Rudolf** – Every single institution got a letter telling them to rally behind tax-free books. A lot of people have been working behind this goal.

***Daniel** – My program is how to develop a foreign language education. I am pushing forth legislation to support more fellowships and scholarship programs. I am asking SG to help with this to get federal lobbyists to make a change concerning these policies.

***Keshav** – There is a card in the back of the room for Staff Appreciation Day. Sign it!

Nicole Trinh – Move AR 17 to next order of business. Passed.

-This is to reiterate who are staff are and how much they contribute.

Falola – A friendly amendment. You used Wikipedia as a reference, but that is not a credible source for statistics.

Trinh – We will look into that, and if this is approved tonight, I would like everyone in SG to sponsor it.

Fast Track? – Passed!

Stanis – Point of order – Was there an email sent out to the assembly?

Trinh – Just to the listserve.

Knudson – Suspend the rules and fast track. Passed! No discussion.

Stanis – Can I move to suspend the rules to allow AR 3 right now? Approved!

AR 3

Daniel – Explanation of why this funding is so important.

Falola – Can we list these “general fellowships” for comparison? And for 9, is that tied into the global language education?

Daniel – Not really, but kind of morphed it’s way in. It’s probably not going to be

in the final bill.

Knudson – How does GWOT speak to students?

Daniel – If you look at organizations like Federal Bureau of Investigation, only 30 knew Arabic. Where does this relate to UT and foreign education? UT could definitely benefit from having their program beefed up.

Biswas – I think the title might be detracting from the resolution.

V. Ex Officio Reports - None
Senate of College Councils
Graduate Students Assembly
Student Events Center
Student Services Associations

VI. Committee Reports

Rules: Stanis – We have tabled the bill. We want to remind everyone of the debate rules. You are only allowed to speak twice for one bill. No personal attacks should be made, if an attack is made, that person loses debate privileges. We were asked to table this bill and were never asked to untable the bill.

Internal Affairs:

Outreach:

Fundraising:

Legislative Policy:

VII. Unfinished Business

AB 13: Internal Rules (Tabled)

AB 17: First Year Representation Amendment (Tabled)

AB20: President's Student Advisory Council Selection Process (Tabled)

AR3: The Global War on Terror and FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION (FLE) GRADUATE STUDENTS (Tabled)

AR15: Supporting Veterans who attend the University of Texas (Tabled)

AR16: In Support of Adding Two Diversity Seats to the President's Student Advisory Council

AR 16

Scroggins : Passed LPC through committee. LPC made suggestions to the authors and they took them into consideration. They presented a new resolution, and we passed it through the committee. It was passed 4 hours ago, but I motioned to suspend the rules and allow this to come to the floor tonight.

Hardt – If we didn't suspend the rules, what will happen?

Marcus – It would have to be moved to next semester.

Stanis – What are we making a motion for?

Scroggins – To suspend the rules.

Falola – Isn't this time sensitive for a reason?

Hardt – What would change in the resolution if it was voted on next semester?

Marcus – It would be the same resolution, but just voted on next semester.

Scroggins – LPC did meet with one of the authors last night.

Marcus – Suspend the rules?

Take a hand count. We will ^{hear} here this resolution tonight.

Danielle – I will draw your attention to the changes that have been made. The name is at large community seats

Stanis – I think there is a higher issue you are trying to address with this bill. What is the intent?

Danielle – I've complete trust in PSAC and those in the past. This is trying to

allow that someone in the room that can speak to issues of diversity. That is why we are looking for a selection committee.

Stanis – From what I am gathering, the seats are to be used for the sole focus of diversity.

Danielle – I would like to clarify. Not just racial diversity, but encompassing much more.

Falola – Can someone speak to what the criteria is going to be?

Kashev – We just want the criteria to be consistent and suggest this is how each person is to be chosen.

Knudson – Are you saying every member of PSAC has same criteria?

Kashev – This would be a different process.

Stanis – What quantitative proof do you have that diversity is necessary for PSAC?

Kashev – That type of proof is difficult, but diversity has increased as of this year.

Windle – Motion to change the “same” to “uniform. A friendly amendment.

Kashev – We’ll take it.

Garza – You said this is the most diverse body we’ve had, but is that leading people to believe that it’s only about race.

Kashev – Well, other statistics are difficult to get.

Windle – Needs to be changed to “at large community seats”.

Stanis – You mentioned there were 7 major undertaking at the university. What are they?

Keshav – It’s online in the cite, I don’t remember off the top of my head.

Falola – When we vote on the legislation, what are we voting on?

Keshav – To choose the individuals how it is proposed in the bill.

Knudson – Move to debate.

Approved!

Debate-

Solomon – I would like a motion for a friendly amendment. Addendum A, change to international student office.

Danielle – Approved.

Evette – I speak for this bill. I think it’s really important because this piece of legislation cannot take anything from PSAC. It’s important to bring together diverse experiences. If we pass this, this will be a powerful statement.

Stanis – My fellow business people came out in opposition to this bill. I think it’s great that these proposals have been brought forward, but this bill is the wrong way to achieve that spirit. The second bill is the right way. Why are we singling out one specific issue?

Evan – The reason I am in support of this bill is because it’s a beautiful idea to dedicate spots to diversity.

Knudson – Diversity is an issue that needs to be addressed, but my issue with this bill is how the candidates are chosen. All the organizations that choose the candidates are cultural groups, but all the other PSAC members have different requirements. I don’t believe this is going to benefit PSAC because with the current legislation, the only factor when they are chosen will be diversity.

Falola – Are the requirements completely new and are these requirements going to be added to the PSAC?

Danielle – If this passes, SG will only print the applications. But I would assume that the requirements would not be less. The reason not to pick the SG seats today is to reflect what happens with this legislation.

Williams – I don’t think the Addendum should be the reason to not pass this legislation because it can be amended. We are very representative as SG, but if

there is another body that can be even more diverse, that would be great.

Amid – These two seats do not accomplish anything because they won't be able to relate to any one specific identity. PSAC can already do what we want right now.

Howard – I know people are opposed to how these people are selected, but we are creating these seats to increase the probability that more issues would be addressed.

Steven Hardt – I think PSAC is around 10 years old and the President meets with PSAC for 80 – 90 hours. To pass this bill says that we are failing at diversity and is a slap in the face to PSAC.

Andrew Soloman – I don't think PSAC is near as important as we make it out to be. We could save a lot of time by just adding these two seats.

Kate – I have not heard the sentiment from Reps that this is not an important issue and that they have heard in private meetings that President Powers says that he is going to choose anyway so we might as well vote. I myself have not heard of this, however, we all know how important these issues are to President Powers.

Windle – The only thing positive or negative that will come out of the legislation is that President Powers will be hearing two more voices. This is just a step.

Ferttita – By voting against this, it does not mean we do not support diversity. It just means we do not support this legislation 100 percent. SG currently has two at-large seats that they fill, so the question today is not to add community seats, but why the current at-large seats do not reflect diversity.

Stanis – What is the current make up?

Marcus – It's outlined in the legislation.

Falola – Point of order. You are not allowed to speak twice until everyone has spoken once.

Tarique – I think what we are doing is making the PSAC board more efficient. We need to look at this from a bigger picture to deal with the university on a larger scale.

Dorsey – We are here because we do feel this is a huge issue, but we do not feel this is the right way to go about this.

Jordan – It's my understanding that the Executive Board has been working on this for a number of weeks, so I think it has been examined a lot. From my point of the accessibility of SG, one of the criticisms is the intimidation factor. I think these two seats are a great idea because they would not be reporting to these three huge governing bodies. We are making this more accessible.

Falola – Who's holding these people accountable that are picked?

Keshav – The students who know about PSAC are very involved, so they have a wide reach.

Stanis – College councils are extremely important to college reps. We have two bills, but the resolution today is solely devoted to diversity. We are attaching this big issue in the wrong way.

Moved and seconded to limit debate to three more speakers on each side.

Moved and seconded to limit debate to only 30 more minutes, until 9:15.

Knudson – I think its important to talk to all the constituents in the college.

Angie-Faye – This is about the community in that the ideal is to give people access to many student leaders on campus. All these people work extremely hard and should have a voice.

Carrea – Who feels 100 percent either way as this bill? I just had questions I wanted everyone to think about. What about the other 6 major undertakings Powers spoke of? Won't they want 2 seats also? Shouldn't we look inside our organizations to address diversity?

Evette – This is meant to increase all types of diversity in PSAC. I think it's

important to say that we care about everything about a student.

Stanis – I just want to close with a few comments. I do think we have the right spirit in the room, but this is the wrong way to address this topic. Should we have two seats solely dedicated to diversity? Look at what happened with freshman representation. Three-quarters of you guys were absolutely against it. Look at the continuity and try to be consistent. Is this the right solution to the problem? Is this what the university needs? Don't vote one way and then the other.

Tarique – A friendly amendment. In Addendum A, I would like to add two different representatives from Muslim Student Association and

of Kashev – If you look at everything, they are big umbrella things. There are talks of interfaith councils which would encompass that.

Stanis – Did we add anything to the bill?

Marcus – No

Williams – When we talk about diversity issues, we will be encompassing all seven of the factors that Powers will address. There has not been any other ideas for those who have a problem with this. By saying to wait it out, you are saying diversity is not an issue. We have to go beyond the SG community. Look at the black face incident. The people who came and spoke were extremely intimidated, but chose to come here because such a drastic event happened.

Soloman – Call to question.

Also roll call vote.

Marcus – 19 votes passes

Stanis – I move for cloture on this vote. Approved.

Marcus – Vote totals are 16 yes, 8 no, 5 abstentions, 5 absences.

THE RESOLUTION FAILS

Falola – A five minute recess? Approved!

Back to session –

Roll call.

VIII. New Business

AR 17: A resolution recognizing all UT Staff members and making an official "UT Staff Appreciation Day" (Fast Track Pending Approval)

IX. Agency Director Reports - None

X. Representative Reports

Stanis – I just want to explain what happened with the rules. Tomorrow is the Feast of Saint Nicolas. I hope you get something good in your stockings!

Windle – I sit with a campus recycling organization, speak to Camille or myself if you have any questions about why we don't recycle glass. The first meeting of next semester, I will be introducing a bill for campaign reformation.

Nicole Trinh – A new stastic , 25, 204 faculty members for the resolution.

Danielle – Basically we have some funding to keep the FAC open for 24 hours which was a lot of money. We need to find out peak hours, but we need to see when students actually go. So if we can realistically identify which blocks of time are the busiest, we can be monetarily good.

Tarique – What are we trying to keep the money cap at?

Danielle – So we have 1200 hours that we can get paid for. In the end of the day, we don't have enough money to keep the FAC open 24 hours.

Hardt – The solution we have now would be for just one year.

Danielle – But if we show this is effective, the University would pick up that cost.

Fertitta – Could you recommend each close time would be extended a few more hours?

Hardt – We want to see what is the most beneficial.

Danielle – We want to hear from you guys what is the best solution.

Falola – What are the FAC hours during finals?

Danielle – I think it's 24 hours, but I'm not sure.

Hardt – Because the FAC will be open on a 24 hour basis, please use it so others can see that students need it.

Knudson – Update on professionalism. What we need to put legally in the code of conduct would be concerning the faculty. I will be sending more updates later and good job for the amount of professionalism in the debate today.

XI. Executive Reports

President: Danielle Rugoff-rugoffdr@mail.utexas.edu

PSAC Composition - Let me know if you would like me to meet with you, your college council, or your student organizations to discuss the Student Government proposal.

Keep UT Hate Free- I am currently working on institutionalizing Keep UT Hate Free Week as a Student Government program sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement. My hope is that this will compliment the annual fall program, Campus Fusion, as the official dialogue and diversity program each spring semester. The Week will be the 26th-30th of March. Please mark your calendars and let your student organizations know.

Bradford – Would the new assembly post elections be in office at this time?

Danielle – No.

Diversity Training – I am working with the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement to hold an optional diversity training workshop hosted by the Diversity Institute housed in the School of Social work for student organization presidents and student leaders.

Invitations will be sent out to the president of every registered student organization. This opportunity will be open to other student leaders as well. If you are interested in assisting with this program, let me know.

"Moving Forward: An Honest Dialogue," 6 p.m. in the San Jacinto Multipurpose room

Campus Climate Council/ Vincent's Advisory Committee- I have been working with Dr. Vincent's office to establish a committee to discuss diversity and campus climate. We are currently revisiting the structure to include interested faculty and staff.

FAC 24hours- We are still working with the FAC to keep it open for 24 hours. I am going to need your help identifying the "most important" hours of use. Contact myself, Steven Hardt, Bassam Tariq, or Marina Del Sol to get involved in this initiative. The goal is to have the bottom floor open for 24 hours for the Spring Semester.

Lincoln Commission- One of the issues that we are going to be discussing on the DC Trip is the Lincoln Commission. I have made two packets with comprehensive information detailing the Commission, why its important to our institution, and what we as Student Government members can do to assist in its passage. The packets were distributed at the Big XII Conference and to Student Governments around the state. The information can be picked up in the Student Government office.

Tax Free Textbook Update-This campaign continues to gain endorsements from institutions all over the State. Just last week, we had multiple successful conversations

which led to sponsorship and support of the legislation in both the House and the Senate. We are continuing to set up meetings with congressional and gubernatorial leadership for the coming weeks. I am meeting with Representative Rose on December 8th to write the legislation for the House. Contact Zack Hall to get involved.

Vice President: Marcus Cenicerros-mcenicerros@mail.utexas.edu

Big XII Conference: The 2007 Big XII Student Government Conference will be in Austin. This is a great opportunity for UT to showcase our programs and facilities, as well as to learn about how things are done at institutions across the Big XII conference. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee please let me know.

Student Leader Personal Resource Guide: We are working on a project with several entities on campus. The guide will include information about personal well being, mental health, keeping up with school, and list resources for student leaders that they can use to help their members. If you are interested please let me know.

Student Activity Center Progress, Input: Since it's approval by the Board of Regents, the Student Activity Center has made great progress. This semester an architect team was selected, two workshops for students were held, and the committee received hundreds of comments about what students want to see inside the SAC. There will be more opportunities for students to attend workshops and give their feedback about what is going inside the SAC next semester. Please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/student/sac> target="_blank"><http://www.utexas.edu/student/sac> for updates and to continue to give your input.

Tuition Website Growing: The Tuition website is becoming a popular source of information for students. It was recently written about in the Daily Texan. If any student has suggestions about the website please let me know.

Danielle – We are looking to rewriting parts of the Constitution to say exactly what you are responsible for.

Stanis – When is the first meeting of the next semester?

Danielle – January 16th.

Executive Director: Evan Autry-eautry@mail.utexas.edu

Rep Point System: Please send me your points. If you don't earn your total point, you will receive an absence. Refer to the recent legislation for point requirements.

Strategic Plan: Last week, I submitted a timeline. By the Winter Break, we'll be submitting our final questions. For more information, contact anyone from IA.

Texas Beautification Project: We're holding off on this project for now. Keshav and I are combining our efforts and ideas. We'll have an update later.

International Studies: We did not meet this week. We will continue working over and after break.

Texas Boots:

Windle – Can you be a little more descriptive of what you guys will be talking about at the Co-op?

Evan – George Mitchell had no idea that this stuff had been going on. This is as much as I can say.

Danielle – The Co-op was pretty shocked and appalled.

Communications Director: Rita Thornton-r.f.thornton@mail.utexas.edu

*Please fill out green binder or send me a blurb for all of your projects so far by December 12th. Devin and I will be compiling all of our accomplishments during the winter break and we can not achieve this goal without your cooperation. Green binder sheets can be downloaded off the SG website!

*It has been decided to send out one last newsletter this semester next Monday wrapping up the accomplishments of Student Government. Please send me a blurb about any big project you have completed (whether for SG or for your college) by Sunday at 3pm. Representatives remember that you get points for sending me updates for the newsletters!

*All Communication Agencies should have received an email from me with an End of the Semester Survey. Every Communication Agency Director must fill out these forms and get them to me ASAP before the holiday break! The survey is also available online!

External Financial Director: Alex Nguyen – alexnguyen@mail.utexas.edu

Career Round-up 2007: Need help publicizing: Fundraising needs your help! In order for SG's first annual career fair to be successful, we need several companies recruiting and several students attending. If you know any family members and/or close friends that work at companies that might be interested in attending, please forward me their contact information or refer them to our website! The website has recently been completed, and is viewable at <http://www.careerroundup.com/> target="_blank">www.careerroundup.com.

Career Round-up Meetings: If you are free at any time on Mondays and/or Wednesdays from 3:00 – 5:00 PM, please drop by the office to help us plan for this event.

Vending Coffee Update: I've just received word from PTS that their vendor will have a machine ready for installation during the first week of January. Everything is expected to be in place and installed before next semester.

Internal Financial Director: Keshav Rajagopalan-keshraj@mail.utexas.edu

Calendar Committee – Calendar Committee met last Friday and voted on keeping the calendar the same but removed a few outdated phrases from the University's guidelines on setting the academic calendar. The changes will go before Faculty Council for a vote. The Committee will hear a fall break proposal from me in January. I need a lot of help compiling research over the break!

Counseling and Mental Health Center Search Committee – I serve as one of three students on a committee to find the new director for the Counseling and Mental Health Center. We had our introductory meeting. I will keep you updated as the process continues.

Street Safety Taskforce – The LLAs Ludwig and Nathan did a great job adding to our PowerPoint of safety concerns in West Campus. We will be presenting to the City of Austin next Monday.

Fiscal Review of SG – Members of the Finance Committee compiled research about the various accounts SG has. We will be meeting next semester to write a report. We need your help!

Secretary to the Assembly: Devin Fletcher-Devin.Fletcher@bba02.mcombs.utexas.edu

Parking and Transportation Committee: Friday, December 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

University Syllabus Policy: We are currently in the process of creating a University Syllabus Policy proposal based upon our research of other institutional models. If you would like to help with this project please contact either Devin Fletcher or Whitney Yang. We have received a number of questions concerning this initiative. Our goal is to provide students with a policy that requires that syllabi be handed out in every class at the beginning of each term. Through this initiative we will provide specific recommendations outlining the content in which the syllabus should contain in order to be more student friendly.

Community Director: Angie-Faye-utcommunity@gmail.com

XII. Announcements

Dr. Leonard Moore: "Moving Forward: An Honest Dialogue," 6:00 p.m. in the San Jacinto Multipurpose Room

Provost Open Forum: December 14, 2006 at 4:45 in Main Building

Williams – I would like to commend everyone who is still here and those who are doing their job!

XIII. Roll Call #2 for Representatives

XIV. Adjournment

At 9:57 pm

