

Minutes

Agenda for February 3, 2008 Student Government Assembly Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order – 7:03pm.
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes- January 27, 2008
- IV. Guests
- V. Open Forum
 - A. Cindi Fischer – UT Libraries
 - 1. There is a new search box in the library's homepage
 - 2. You can still search the old interface
 - B. Abhinav Kumar
 - 1. I am the community programming director for KVRX
 - 2. They plan on doing a lot of election coverage
 - 3. Be on the look out for an email from me or the news department
 - C. Chris Plummer
 - 1. I am the SG rep for the SECL
 - a. We have a confirmed speaker
 - b. The \$2 fee on registration goes to fund great speakers of the year
 - c. We will soon reveal the speaker
 - D. Dr. Gonzalez – VPSA
 - 1. I heard about last week's conversation
 - 2. It is not about robustness
 - 3. It is about listening to each other and listening skills
 - 4. Everyone is gifted and bright
 - 5. Understanding each other is the challenge
 - 6. I hope you listen to each other with such intensity so you can repeat it to someone and have them tell you that you listened to them
 - 7. It is harder to listen with profound intensity
- VI. Ex-Officio Reports
 - A. Graduate Student Assembly
 - B. Senate of College Councils
 - C. Student Events Center
 - D. Student Services
- VII. Appointments
 - A. Jon Itzhakov – Judicial Commission
 - 1. From Dallas – Plano West High School
 - 2. Motion to approve by acclamation
 - 3. Motion seconded
 - 4. Motion carries
- VIII. Deputy Adviser Report

A. Melinda Sutton- msutton@mail.utexas.edu

IX. Executive Reports

A. President: Keshav Rajagopalan - keshavr@austin.utexas.edu

1. Legislative Session

a. Legislative Summit

- i. About 20 students are going to the Capitol tomorrow to advocate for more funding

b. Funding

c. Financial Aid

d. Textbooks

e. Health Insurance

2. Tuition

a. Costs have increased to attend UT

b. Tuition is only about 1/3 of your cost to attend UT

c. Course materials are getting more expensive

- i. Students are paying \$600 on average a semester for books

d. You also have transportation, housing and tuition

e. Please ask questions about tuition

f. In 2003, the State of Texas, the legislature made a conscious decision to deregulate tuition, leaving the hands of setting tuition in the hand of the regents

g. This is because Texas couldn't fund it anymore

h. The CPI is a fair rate at which our budget should increase

i. Based on that rate and our rate of funding for the past 23 years, our general revenue has decreased

j. TPAC now sets tuition

- i. 5 administrators and 4 students sit on it

k. We are not in a tuition setting year, it was set last year for the next two years

l. We are discussing affordability because the legislature is discussing it

m. TPAC discusses what funding we need to sustain and grow academic programs

n. The President reviews TPAC recommendations, and if he approves it, he sends it to the regents

o. Our president has agreed on it every time (3 times)

p. Regents returned it last year, and capped increases at 4.95%

q. This is the most transparent way to set tuition

r. With legislatures, it becomes a political battle where they put forth a one size fits all tuition increase

s. Why education has become unaffordable is because of lack of funding

t. This year, Senate Bill 1 has given us a 0.25% increase in general revenue per year

u. This does not keep up with inflation

v. The legislature decides time and time again to punch us in the stomach, but our hands are not tied behind back deregulation

w. If they want to tie our hands behind our backs, they have to stop punching us in the stomach, and give us more funding

x. Legislators point at Universities for increased tuition

y. How can you sustain the Texas Flagship institution at 0.25% per year?

z. I don't think dereg/rereg is the issue

aa. From 1990-2003, tuition and fees went up 13.5% per year

bb. From 2003-2009, it increased at 8.7% per year

cc. From 2009-2010, it increased at 4.95% per year

dd. During rereg when we were underfunded, we increased fees to keep up with inflation

ee. The process now is transparent and controlled by us

- ff. Point of info: when 13.5% of a lower lump sum is compared to an 8.7% of a higher lump sum, the increase in tuition is the same
- gg. George: Is that 13.5% annually?
 - i. Yes
- hh. I want to throw out scenarios
 - ii. There have been discussion about tuition caps and freezes
- jj. I think that price controls are never a good idea
- kk. That saves us now, but the people who come after us will pay more because they will pay what we should have paid
- ll. If tuition was regulated, you have to decide what your degree at UT Austin means to you
- mm. Do you want a mediocre degree?
- nn. Several legislators think that mediocrity is the way to do it
- oo. One legislator thinks UT should be housing 85000-90000 students and have classes Mon-Sun from 7am-9pm
- pp. You came to UT, the best public institution in the state, to get a quality legislation
- qq. If we want mediocrity, then I think the funding levels are appropriate
- rr. Of course, there is a line
- ss. We don't want to see things escalating
- tt. What is a reasonable cost to attend college?
- uu. I wouldn't want to forsake excellence for something else
- vv. People think that the Board of Regents are Governor appointees who have no knowledge in higher ed
- ww. They practiced fiscal responsibility by capping tuition increases at 4.95%
- xx. The legislator hasn't increased financial aid in four years
- yy. Right now, dereg makes sense
- zz. But, instead, lets go to the Capitol and advocate for more funding
- aaa. If tuition were reregulated, cost of attending UT would increase
- bbb. If we can't set our own tuition, we will see many services cut
- ccc. Trotter: Can I use our powerpoint in our presentation?
 - i. You can during rep reports
- ddd. Fees haven't increased since 2003
- eee. The legislator always talks about tuition, and never addresses fees
- fff. What is the political climate at the legislature?
 - i. There is a lot of good discussion at the capitol
 - ii. The governor called for tuition freeze
- ggg. McMillin – Why has the legislature decided to give UT an 0.53% increase for the biennium?
 - i. They are busy and they use formula funding to make it a quick progress
 - ii. The governor has created the competitive knowledge fund which has helped research institutions
 - iii. It is a one size fits all model
- hhh. UT Grant program lowers tuition increases for lower income families
 - iii. But, this doesn't help middle class, just the lower class
- jjj. We need more aid and funding
- kkk. Woodward: Our friends at A&M have gotten more funding. Why?
 - i. The chair of Senate Finance committee
 - ii. President Powers asked for \$50,000,000 for the biennium to sustain our current programs
 - iii. We got \$2,000,000
- lll. Lawlor: Where should the funding come from?
 - i. From the general revenue
 - ii. They can fund higher education

3. City Relations

- a. Mayor's Council

- b. PACE
- 4. Capital Campaign Update
- 5. Federal Relations
 - a. Economic Stimulus
- 6. Safety Website
- 7. SG Website
- 8. Elections

B. Vice President: Frankie Shulkin - fshulkin@austin.utexas.edu

- 1. Elections
 - a. If you can think of someone to run, let's get the word out
 - b. Let's increase competition
- 2. Councils
 - a. Please continue to go to your council meetings
- 3. CMHC
 - a. We want to figure out how to help fund this program
 - b. If you want to get involved, let me know
- 4. Upcoming Meetings
 - a. Our committee meeting is sometime soon
 - i. We are working on a time

C. Executive Director: Liam O'Rourke – liam.orourke@mail.utexas.edu

- 1. Lee Bagan Endowment Update
 - a. The applications are open
 - b. If you know someone who is struggling in class and doesn't have the money to pay for a diagnostic, the Lee Bagan endowment is a good place to look
 - c. The SSD office is a good place to look
- 2. Agency Websites
 - a. We are pretty sure that every agency has a template website
 - b. Agencies can go above and beyond that
- 3. Attendance Update
 - a. We will be sending updates soon
 - b. If you have questions, send them to me

D. Communications Director: Chelsea Fosse – chelseafosse@austin.utexas.edu

- 1. LAST Election Forum
 - a. Thursday at 8pm in UTC 3.122
 - b. Tabling — let's get the word out!
 - c. Encourage a friend or classmate to get involved and come!
 - d. The filing deadline is next Tuesday, February 10th at 4pm
 - e. Please join this Facebook group and invite all your UT friends:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/event.php?eid=65546371128>
- 2. Jester Office — Representatives: We really need your help in staffing the office. Please be on the look out for emails regarding this issue.
- 3. MOCA – TOMORROW at 7pm in the SG office. Please bring a laptop if it's convenient. Email *before* the meeting if you can't make it.

E. Internal Financial Director: Priti Joshi – priti.y.joshi@gmail.com

- 1. CGI U
 - a. If you are still interested in volunteering, the deadline is feb 4
- 2. Appropriations
 - a. Please forward the application the your organizations
- 3. SSBC Request

F. External Financial Director: Taylor Ellison – taylorkellison@gmail.com

- 1. Camp Fair: Next Monday, February 9th, Union Ballroom 10am-3pm
 - a. Thanks to Michelle and Sarah for al your hard work
- 2. Students Hooked on Texas

- a. We are working with the VSLC and college councils to instill a culture of philanthropy
 - b. Reps, if you want to help, please let me know
 - 3. Boot Scholarship Allocation Committee
 - a. Thanks to everyone for your help with this
 - b. We want to formalize the process because the amount of money is increasing

- G. Administrative Director: Minator Azemi – mazemi@austin.utexas.edu
 - 1. Meal to Seal the Deal – Kerbey Lane following the meeting

X. Agency Director Reports

- A. City Relations
 - 1. Internship program is moving along
 - 2. We met with City Manager's office at the end of last semester is they are on board with the idea
 - 3. They are looking into adding a section to their website that would cater to student intern needs
- B. FLO
 - 1. We are working on Floject
 - 2. We teamed up with boys and girls club of Austin
 - 3. We have four FLOers going to CGI U with floject as commitment to service
- C. LLA
 - 1. Please use LLA's for the end of the year
- D. Longhorn EMS
 - 1. We are working with David Crunk to make sure people know CPR
 - 2. We want to see if we can help Events EMS
- E. Historical Research
 - 1. I have been working with Alumni Relations director
 - 2. Please email her so that you can send emails to alumni and get info from them
 - 3. I worked in the Jester Office
 - a. I met 20 new people
 - b. I encourage all of you to work there
- F. Membership Coordination
 - 1. Please go to the Jester Office to recruit people to run in elections!
 - 2. There are plenty of new faces here
- G. Transfer Students
 - 1. I am still working on revamping transfer student orientation
- H. GLC
 - 1. Act Local Think Global next week
 - 2. GLC will be unveiling itself
 - 3. We are going to introduce scholarships for traveling abroad
 - 4. We are advertising for Act Local Think Global
- I. Volunteerism
 - 1. Premier Student Orgs in Service
 - a. It's the program that honors orgs on campus
 - b. I want to encourage you to apply for this
 - c. Apply if your org has done service in any form
- J. CEC
 - 1. We have a new vision for general meetings
 - 2. Thursday nights where people can come together to learn about global sustainability issues
 - 3. On a celebratory note, we got \$1500 award for Trash to Treasure
- K. LRA

1. We have more summits coming up on different issues
- L. Campus Safety
 1. Thursday we have a shuttle bus committee meeting
 2. We are going to discuss the E-Bus
- M. Policy Director
 1. I have been going through some of the reviews from last year and updating them
- N. Resource Center
 1. Please email me to work in the Jester Office
 2. If you want a copy of organizations, let me know

XI. Committee Reports

- A. Rules – We want to meet Sunday afternoon or Monday evening to meet
 1. Since we did reform election rules, this is a new ball game
 2. Keep your eye out on what worked and didn't so we can see how to make this process better and more productive
- B. Finance - Appropriations are out right now so please get people to turn in applications
- C. Internal Affairs
- D. Outreach – MOCA is meeting tomorrow at 7 in the SG Office
- E. Fundraising
- F. Legislative Policy – We will meet Monday at 7pm

XII. Unfinished Business

- A. AR 8 – In Support of Saving UT's Printing Press
 1. The Board has already voted to sell the press
 2. Intention to sell is not the same as sold
 3. We want student input
 4. Friendly amendment under the second WHEREAS, "due to outsourced printing, deadlines for transmitting the final pages for the Texan could be moved as much as 3 hours sooner, 2..."
 5. It passed with only two students voting against
 6. Students generally stick together on controversial issues
 7. In my exploration, students across the board opposed this
 8. Brown: In this you talk about outsourcing and that would increase student fees, how much would that be?
 - a. Unfortunately, it depends on which paper it was sold to
 9. McMillin: If they decide not to sell it, where will the money to maintain it come from?
 - a. We have \$1,000,00 in reserves
 - b. We quoted at \$90,000 to \$100,000 to repairs
 10. Brown: What is the \$323,000 figure if you say it would cost about \$100,000 to repair?
 - a. I am not sure
 11. Waley: I know that it would be reflected in student fees to outsource, how much do students pay now for general printing?
 - a. I don't know exactly
 - b. It is a pretty self-sufficient organization
 - c. I have heard no issues of fees ever?
 - d. Does the Texan support itself from ads?
 - i. Yes, and money we have in the past
 - e. It prints the Texan and Travesty, what else does it print?
 - i. It prints some school newspapers and we will lose revenue if we sell it
 12. Stanton: I want to make a friend amendment to change \$322,000 to reflect real amount
 - a. Amendment retracted

13. Brown: What are the pros of selling it?
- B. Debate
1. Yay
 - a. Meadows
 - i. From a College of Communication standpoint, every student that we have spoken to, this is something students care about
 - ii. They feel like it enhances something to their degree
 - iii. It is important to students
 2. Nay
 - a. Trotter
 - i. Pros of selling is that Student Media isn't always to serve students, but also as a business
 - ii. Renovations that will be made to Comm School should include printing press
 - iii. It takes up a lot of room and we may not have it in 10 years
 - iv. We should use the funds to upgrade our building
 3. Motion to approve by acclamation
 4. Motion seconded
 5. Motion carries
- C. AR 10 – In Support of a Green Building Policy for the University of Texas at Austin
1. This resolution states that all new buildings and major renovations on campus be LEED silver
 2. It is sponsored by US Green Building Council
 3. President Powers supports green building
 4. Commission of 125 advocates green building
 5. Motion to approve by acclamation
 6. Motion seconded
 7. Motion approved

XIII. New Business

- A. AR 11 – In Support of Increased Funding from the Texas State Legislature
1. This resolution talks about how state funding has decreased over the years
 2. It discusses how UNC receives 106% more state revenue than we do
 3. Cotton: How does this function with AR 12?
 - a. There is no correlation
 4. Meadows: I think we should discuss enrollment funding at that UT is capped out
 5. We will add who it will be sent to
 6. Tabled to LPC
- B. AR 12 – In Support of Tuition Relief
1. It calls on Texas Legislature to take back and make tuition setting in the hands of our elected officials because of the massive increases in tuition since 2003
 2. This is a debate on issues and two different sides who both love the university
 3. The administration aren't the bad guys
 4. I am a student who cares about students and wants to represent students
 5. We have numbers to make our case
 6. Wed 4-6, Sat 3-5, Mon 7-9; location TBA
 7. We will email the list serve
 8. Parks: How do your numbers differ from slideshow earlier?
 - a. That was the rate of increase
 - b. We have numbers that change the view of their numbers
 9. Rajagopalan: Last two WHEREASES on first page
 10. We will have a more concrete funding WHEREAS
 11. First WHEREAS under tuition affordability was accurate
 12. Woodward: The bottom for WHEREAS statements, does only the last one apply to grad students?
 - a. The other ones apply only to undergrad because rereg only deals with undergrad

13. Parks: The fourth WHERE on the UT System Board of Regents does not have a citing
 - a. It sounds like an opinion
 - b. We have other numbers
14. Meyerson: For first two WHEREAS's under Tuition Relief, can we get numbers from last five years?
 - a. There is not actual student representation for tuition
15. Stein: High Cost of Higher Ed third and fourth WHEREAS, what is the difference in types of tuition?
 - a. On the third one, only instate undergrad students are included
 - b. What is the difference between total and designated tuition?
 - i. Statutory and designated make 86%
16. Tabled to LPC

XIV. Representative Reports

A. Shwartz

1. Last week I talked about implementing a crosswalk
 - a. Two weeks ago, city approved a crosswalk
2. We have a Nursing Council meeting at Thursday at 5pm in the basement
3. If you want to go to a bball game, its good to bike there and park at nursing school
4. Orange Bike rep wants to increase bike lanes
 - a. Please contact him if you want to help

B. Westerman

1. Last semester, I talked about ALLY training
 - a. It is a time to be taught from scratch about the GLBTQ community
 - b. It is a good time to ask questions
 - c. Wed March 25 at 8pm, Location TBA
 - d. It is beneficial to reps to be informed on constituents
2. KIPP
 - a. This semester, we want to have two really big seminars
 - b. It will be on Friday nights
 - c. First will be Friday Feb 20 from 7-9pm to discuss social justice
 - i. We want a more applicable program
 - ii. Please let me know if you want to help facilitate

C. Jung

1. Faculty Council met last week for the first time this semester
 - a. A lot of people asked about the economy and the effect on the university
 - i. A good article to read is his response to his question at the staff council meeting
 - ii. We reassured us that UT is in good shape
 - b. We passed a resolution advocating for domestic partner benefits
 - c. We have a meeting in two weeks on the 16th

D. Yue

1. With abolition of ticket system, there will be a lot of people running, but there is a steep learning curve for SG
 - a. I'd like to sit down with some reps to structure a transition period or program so that new reps can have a better sense of how to go about doing what SG does

E. Ma

1. Scott and I have been working with UBC to try and create more communication
 - a. We were able to do that because we were able to get printing
 - b. Student voice does matter
 - c. We have 300 pages of free printing
2. Scott and I have been working with President of UBC to get SHoT going in the Business school and we are making great progress

F. Stanton

1. I have promised election candidates that I could find them campaign managers, so if you want to help, let me know and I will find you a partner

XV. College Council Reports

A. Liberal Arts

1. I chair Academic Affairs committee of LAC
2. Every semester, we give scholarships to LA students wanting to go study abroad
3. They can find the application on the study abroad and LAC websites
4. Deadline is March 1
5. They don't have to be accepted to apply

XVI. Announcements

A. Texas Cowboys is accepting applications

1. Info session tomorrow in the Alumni Center

B. LAC is accepting apps for membership

XVII. Second Roll Call

XVIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm