

Assembly Meeting - 9/21/99  
7:00 PM - Glenn W. Maloney Student Assembly Room

A regular meeting of the Student Assembly of the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin was called to order at 7:06 PM on September 21, 1999 in SSB G1.310. Secretary Lora took the minutes.

Roll was called at the beginning of the meeting with the following representatives, committee and agency heads, and executive board members not present: Cash, Day, DeZern, Dickerson, Donde, Gardner, Garner, Pichardo, Raman, Tran, Smith, Chao, Cunningham.

The minutes were approved.

Open Forum:

1. Mark Levin - Spoke about Proposition 17 and AR 24. He does support AR 24 which changes the language to put the focus on "Hook the Vote" and not proposition 17.
2. Kevin Yang - Project Reach Out
3. Robbie Slaughter - Blue book issue

President's Report

Parisa Fatehi

1. Academic Advising day is Wednesday, Sept. 29 on the west mall. The table will be moved from Jester to the West Mall for the day. We will be working with Cabinet from 9-3 at the table to have people fill out surveys and pass out punch and cookies.
2. Cabinet Mixer and Tower Tour - Thursday, October 14. Tower tours are from 6-8 PM. Cost will be \$3.
3. Hearts of Texas - charity fund-raiser across campus. Representative Friedman volunteered to attend a meeting tomorrow at 3:30 in the president's office to find out how we can get involved.
4. MLK statue unveiling this Friday - You should have received the full schedule of events in the invitation. The big march across campus begins at 9:30 AM. People need to sign up to carry the SG banner during the march.
5. Vision Conference is this weekend. Dan Lissner & Karen Gross are in charge of the conference this year. It will be this Sunday from 1-6.
6. Travis County delegation reception will be Wednesday, September 29 from 5:30-7 PM to honor the legislators that address the needs of this campus. Refreshments will be served. Invitations will be put in your boxes.

Vice-President's Report

Eric Opiela

1. Student Services Fee committee had its first meeting yesterday from 4-6 PM. They will begin hearing overviews from different groups that get fee money starting next week. The committee meets every Monday from 4-6 PM in SSB 4.212.
2. Later on we will have a discussion about what student government can and cannot do regarding issues. One of the main restrictions on our actions is our actual constitution itself. We can suspend the rules to add a new bill to the agenda that will give us the ability to advocate for

certain issues. There are a number of positive and negative issues surrounding it. Please think carefully about it.

#### Executive Director's Report

Randy Thompson

1. SG table is starting this week. Don't forget to sign up. Talk to Allison Smith if you have any questions.
2. Representatives have the right to reserve the west mall rally area, but please run it by Randy first. There is a limited number of reservations that SG can hold. Rooms and tables are fine to reserve without asking him.
3. Disabilities Agency director applications are due this Friday.
4. SG Member of the week - Ashish Gupta for all his hard work and good ideas with the Fundraising committee.

#### Internal Financial Director's Report

Robbie Macalik

1. If you are asked to sponsor a group for appropriations, please say yes. If you're sponsoring, all you have to do is introduce their bill to the assembly if they get money.
2. The two main expenditures from this week are candy and voter registration guides from Women's League of Voters.

#### External Financial Director's Report

Jamille Wilkes

1. Honesty and Props - She made a Props box and an Honesty box for anonymous notes. Each week she will type up the comments submitted and give us a copy.

#### Attorney General's Report

Jake Olcott

1. He would just like to say that he supports Robby Slaughter's work on the blue book issue. In the future, he would like to try to lower the 10 cent printing cost.
2. AR 24 - Mark Levin brought up some good points, but don't give up on this whole thing. We'll keep fighting it.

#### Secretary's Report

Aurora Lora

1. Please document all absences in writing, preferably on e-mail.
2. The calendar is up on the wall of the SG office for September. Please submit dates for the October calendar soon.
3. Please keep talking to a minimum during the roll call so we can get through it quickly.

There was no report from the Cabinet of College Councils.

#### Agency and Committee Reports

1. Student Forum Agency - Tooke reported that her committee will be presenting an information forum on Proposition 17. Please sign up to help her.
2. LRA - Bosquez would like to thank Citizens Affairs and Student Forum Agency for helping with the second deputization meeting. Now 40-50 more people are deputized. Starting tomorrow there will be a table at Jester registering students to vote, so please sign up to help them.

### Representatives' Privilege

1. Representative Halstead - Each representative needs to turn in some information to her regarding speakers circuit. You'll get your assignment next week from either her or Representative Barrera. You'll be getting a packet soon about the speakers circuit and you can plan to speak to organizations once every three weeks.
2. Representative Barrera - Please update your information in the SG directory.
3. Representative White - The representatives would like a packet of information about all the election issues so that they can be more informed when they speak to organizations.

There was no unfinished business.

### New Business

Representative Hammond moved to suspend the rules to allow for the consideration of AR 25 and AB 13. Representative Gross seconded. Passed. AR 25 and AB 13 are now added to the agenda.

#### **AR 24 - Endorsing Service-Learning**

President Fatehi introduced the resolution. Basically, we're showing our support to the students who are working to make this happen. Representative Quintanilla moved to call question. Representative Gross seconded. Passed. AR 24 passed.

#### **AR 25 - Sponsoring "Hook the Vote '99"**

President Fatehi introduced the resolution. This resolution has heavy implications because people who vote once will probably continue. We're just trying to get as many students as possible to vote in the upcoming election. Representative Gross moved to call question. Representative Levy seconded. Passed. AR 25 passed.

#### **AB 13 - Providing for a Student Body Referendum to Amend the Student Government Constitution**

This will allow SG to change the constitution to allow for the advocacy of issues. If it passes tonight, it will be on the ballot for the October 5-6 referendum. General discussion took place.

FOR - Representatives that spoke for AB 13 were Representatives Quintanilla and Hammond. Reasons for included that important issues sometimes need our help to inform students and get them to vote on them. We have the potential to make a huge difference on important issues. It doesn't necessarily need to be on the October referendum, it just says the earliest possible date.

AGAINST - Representatives that spoke against AB 13 were Representatives Rosen and Friedberg. Reasons against included that we may not be able to accurately represent the concerns of all students if we're taking sides on issues. Friedberg yielded the floor to Brian Ferguson, ESB chair, who also spoke against AB 13. Other reasons included the huge expense that may be incurred by adding this to the agenda at such a late time. In addition, there will also be resistance



from health services. This referendum is only being held at three voting locations. We might want to consider doing this during the spring election so that we won't have to pay for it.

Representative Friedberg made a motion to limit speakers to 2 minutes. Representative Woods seconded. Passed.

AGAINST - Representatives Friedberg, Fundraising Chair Gupta, Davis, Rosen - We might want to table it so that we can talk to other students first. Gupta yielded the floor to Robby Slaughter. Perhaps we may want to refer this to a focus group.

Representative Michels moved to table AB 13. Representative Woods seconded. Point of information: it was never actually introduced.

FOR - Representatives Gross, Levy - Perhaps this should be changed because it's out of date. We do need to talk to students, but they elected us to represent them and we should do things in their best interest.

Representative Woods moved to end debate. No second.

Vice-President Opiela yielded the chair to Attorney General Olcott.

Vice-President Opiela officially introduced the bill. The main reason he brought this forward now is because this is a hot issue right now. Right now we have the support of many assembly members and the Daily Texan. If we pass this tonight, and the student body passes it in October, we have a better chance of making it happen than if we try it in the spring. By March and April, people will forget this happened and the board of regents may not remember it and won't pass it. Debate.

FOR - Representatives Hammond, Halstead, Vice-President Opiela - The reason we don't need to table this is because it's going on the referendum to ask students what they think. We're voting on whether we want to ask students. Everyone is going to get a chance to vote. We also may be able to change the way the vote is conducted.

AGAINST - President Fatehi - She's for us having this advocacy power. However, if it passes tonight it is going on the October referendum at 4 locations without voter pins and volunteers. The turnout may not be good, so perhaps we should wait until spring.

Representative Hammond moved to call the question. Representative Murphy seconded. Division called. (14 for, 12 against). Motion carried.

Motion is to approve AB 13.

Representative Friedberg moved for roll call vote. Failed.

Point of information: A 2/3 vote was need to call the question, so technically the motion to call the question failed. More debate.

Representative Friedberg moved to table the bill. Representative Halstead seconded. Division called. (12 for, 11 against). Passed.

Representative White made a motion to reconsider. Representative Gross seconded. Passed. More debate.

Representative Friedberg moved to table it. Representative Friedman seconded. Motion failed. More debate.

Representative Rosen moved to table it until we can find out if it can even be on the ballot. Representative Friedberg seconded. Division called. (12 for, 11 against). Motion is tabled.

#### Announcements

1. Correspondent of the week - Representative Michels
2. Vice-President Opiela - No one donated money to the slush fund this week, but we'll try it again next week.
3. Please read all the written announcements printed on the agenda.
4. President Fatehi - Please sign up for the march if you're free on Friday.
5. Representative Halstead - Turn in your slips regarding speaker circuit. Yielded floor to Else Moran.
6. Else Moran - Anyone interested in Students for Service-Learning can come to a meeting at 4 PM on Wednesday in the SG office.
7. Representative Gross - Please register voters at your speaker's circuit meeting this week.

The roll was called at the end of the meeting with the following representatives, committee and agency heads, and executive board members not present: Macalik, Cash, Davis, Day, Dezern, Dickerson, Donde, Gardner, Garner, Jovel, Pichardo, Raman, Tran, Dibrell, Finch, Smith, Chao, Gulati, Tooke, Barrientes, Cunningham, Carter, Trilli.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM by Vice-President Opiela. The meeting ended with the singing of "The Eyes of Texas".