



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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THE **109TH** SESSION
OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY

STUDENT GOVERNMENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Tuesday, January 24th, 2016

SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY: TANNER LONG, LIBERAL ARTS REPRESENTATIVE

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY: KATHERINE STADLER

PARLIAMENTARIAN: MELYSA BARTH

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Minutes
- IV. Guests

a. Mayor Steve Adler – Mayor of Austin

- i. Thanks for the invite back, awfully nice to be here not as a candidate this time. We changed the governing structure, we went to government districts. I think you have seen that cities who do that have failed the first couple years. We have divergent members in city council this year, we have a tea party member. Some of the issues that I think are relevant are Uber and Lyft. My personal belief is that we need them here in the city the obvious answer in a public safety issue. Gives people a mobility choice that didn't previously exist. It's an important asset to the community. Questions as presented never work as smoothly or as they should. Right now in our city taxi cab drivers are fingerprinted. Drivers who are fingerprinted, is a biometric link. We also have the situation in Austin there has been a dramatic increase in woman who have been sexually assaulted, which is an important thing to know in this debate. There have been a little over 10 incidents, which have been forensically investigated. They however cannot say that if Uber/Lyft drivers were fingerprinted that this would not happen. So we had two important safety issues, and I listened to the debate on which is safer. I was willing to accept that there is a significant part of the community with a fingerprinted driver and I would like to give them that choice. I choose to believe to compromise and give people choices. I didn't like any of those choices, we try to redefine the problem. How do I get to rideshare fingerprinted drivers at scale? It doesn't do me any good to have fingerprinted with not a rideshare at scale. We are focusing on peer to peer economy. When you look at the peer to peer

economy and I have a stranger getting into someone's car, like AirBnB. At some point you begin to wonder who is sleeping on that sofa, you just don't know a lot about that person. To an ever increasing degree we are going to have strangers interacting, it goes all the way to EHarmony. Economy based on people getting to interact with people more easily. Look at those platforms themselves and how they work. Does anyone use EBay? They're only going to buy it from someone with a power seller badge. As you look through platforms you can learn something from the people you are dealing with. I started suggesting that Lyft and Uber had as much in common as AirBnB and yellacab. I started looking at the industrial age, customers love it because you don't have to pay a 10-year-old as much as a 15-year-old. There is no shortage. We have minimum wage laws and work week laws and overtime laws. We have people who were externalized the question is if we take a look at this peer to peer economy that we have to look at. If I send you a tweet it has a validator that shows its coming from me and not a parody account. Why don't you create a third party platform badge, that certifies people? If you get that badge you get to pick people up at the airport, better access to acl, sxsw. We offer incentives, reduce the fee a little bit, ride is cheaper with a fingerprint. If we made it voluntary could we incent that level high enough it becomes a meaningful amount of people. You could pick a driver who was fingerprinted, something with the app, instead of mandating the regulation could we get to a place in the economy in a new way to have a cross platform certified badge. They don't exist, but we will be talking about this at SXSW and my hope is that this is the way out of the box the council has found their selves. Elections coming up for Uber/Lyft and petition to keep uber and lyft here. The problem now is if we just adopt the ordinance that just comes with that petition we cant do an optional fingerprint program. In addition to that even though Uber and lyft had agreed to a 2% fee in the process they also cut the fee in half. What I would really like to do is keep an ordinance that would keep it where it was but show it was not mandatory. So this election is going to be a little bit confusing because we can't put that on the ballot. The only thing we can put there is what was attached to the referendum. I'm talking to the people who raised the drive to the people who got those signatures and hopefully they will help. Everybody is lining up for this and the question that we have ultimately is can we message that to the community in may. Can we get them to vote no on the referendum? We are dealing with those same kinds

- ii. PATEL – What are your thoughts on the resurgence of Urban Rail?
- iii. ADLER -- Its hard for me to imagine ATX without an urban rail, its more of a question to when than if, you can double the amount of lanes in the highway but in 5 years they will be full as well. There is no other way to do it. You can't add

enough lanes; you have to get people to change the patterns in what they do. There's no way to get it on the political agenda this year and then when we do, we need to look at other cities who have jumpstarted those kinds of projects like Denver. And then you are using some of the tools cities have to raise money other than raising taxes like tolls. I think we need a more bite size urban rail program to show that it will work. I think there will be a bond election in that fall that talks about making Lamar and Burnet road true walkable streets and are not afraid to die walking across them. We will be doing that this year and I hope it is a trust building exercise and working with capital metro cause people aren't going to be using a bus schedule if they have to look at it all the time. It is not something that the others are ready for they just told us last year that was not the direction they wanted to go.

- iv. SANTOYO – What is one piece of advice you can give us to take away
- v. ADLER – Dream Big!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The people that are willing to dream big actually accomplish big things and accomplish what they want and it's the little voice in the back of the head that keeps them from doing it. Also, its okay to fail, we live in a city where it is okay to fail, people try things in this city and if you succeed on your first attempt people think you're lucky.

V. Open Forum

- a. Amy Enrione – Austin Connect – we bring in CEO's and have dinners with leaders in the community that come every semester and mentor our groups that we meet, we meet Tuesdays from 6-7pm application on Austinconnect.org
- b. Alyssa Kahl – LHR – Registration is opening next Monday – the more registration the more money we get to give out to student orgs.
- c. Sunny Das – Texas Custom Apparel – In Support of A.R. 17

VI. Appointments

- a. Assembly Appointments
- b. Internal Appointments
- c. External Appointments

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

- a. A.B. 8 – Establishing the Associate Director of Scholarship Position
 - i. This Bill seeks to amend the Code of Rules and Procedures for the External Financial Director to create a new Executive Staff position. Currently the External Financial Director oversees two Directors of Development, and a Director of Philanthropy. This Bill adds in a Director of Scholarship to oversee the production of related materials, selection of recipients, and participation in the Governing Endowments Board. However, since this was the role of one of the Directors of Development, we will only need one Director of Development

moving forward. So the External Financial Director will oversee a Director of Development, Director of Philanthropy, and Director of Scholarship.

- ii. PATRICK – Amending my part of the code for the external finance director, not a huge functional change, just helps clarify for future External Finance Directors. So what this does is gives a focus on scholarship, helps future administrations keep on track of that not really changing the track, just makes it clearer.

COMMITTED TO RULES AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

A.R. 17 – In Support of On-Campus Space for Student Entrepreneurs

- iii. The resolution advocates for a collaborative workspace on campus for student entrepreneurs. A co-working space would offer built-in resources and a place where entrepreneurs from different backgrounds and skill sets can meet and exchange knowledge. Establishing incubator space on campus has been a goal of the Longhorn Entrepreneurship Agency since its inception.

ROTNOSKY – Regarding collaborative workspace for Longhorn Entrepreneurs and now we have some sort of opportunity to capitalize it to get this done, basically we get this done. Its weird that UT doesn't have done of this yet

WANG – We have a lot of startups coming out of the university, not all of our resources are connected and that's what we really need this space for we can't build a community without a physical space for students to collaborate, that is what we need this space to be and without that we wont have this community. A lot of different colleges have this like A&M on campus. Please pass A.R. 17

DIMITROFF – I think this is great, are there any spaces you have thought about?

WANG- If you look at the appendix that's just kind of what we are looking for.

MARTIN – What criteria will you have for people to reserve this space?

WANG – Ideally by keycard only

MARTIN – What would that vetting process look like?

WANG – that is something we are definitely still looking at and just thinking about ideas like things like interviews

MCGINTY – Why does it switch be it resolved clauses, instead of whereas clauses

ROTNOSKY – we can change it to whereas clauses

DROR – I think this is awesome, have y'all started to look at funding and how you will pay for this.

WANG – a lot of successful alumni and sponsors who are willing to give money

ROTNOSKY- the issue is spacing and leveraging what we have and the support we have and all the great companies who have come out of UT its just the space that we need

ROSS – Have y'all looked into any of the new buildings on campus?

WANG – that's a good idea, the only thing is we want the space to be accessible to everyone in different colleges can come together to work on startups we don't want to keep it to one particular school

ROSS – why does housing it in a specific building keep it from other people accessing it

WANG – Its just weird for a business student to go into engineering schools

COMMITTED TO STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

b. A.R. 18 – In Support of Improved Composting on Campus

- i. This legislation calls for increasing the amount of compostable materials used on UT's campus in locations including the Union, SAC, and future food trucks in the Speedway project. In the last 18 months there has been no viable compost for these facilities because of non-compostable materials from places such as CFA, Taco Cabana, etc. contaminating the compost bins in each building. The Division of Housing and Food Services at UT has the goal of getting UT's food vendors to use compostable materials only. This change will help to achieve the Universities zero waste goal by 2020.

SOSTECK – Compositing is a desirable feature for our campus and is a zero waste. The problem is the Vendors have materials that aren't compostable, support the idea of making more compostable materials. Its for a good cause, a lot of the compost we make comes back for gardens.

PATAL – a lot of schools have done a very easy change for these vendors, add it in the contracts for biodegradable containers

TRAN – Aramark Higher education controls a lot of food places have you talked to them?

SOSTEK – The housing of food and services sent this to us a list of people to send this too

DIMITROFF – I know Aramark is strict in their contracts, what's the issue

PATAL – The issues are the contracts like vendors like people downstairs, dorms and residence halls have biodegradable. Chick Fila has done this at another school

COOK – Will this eliminate the vendors that come in?

SOSTEK – our goal is to get this for the vendors we already have in and it sets a precedent

COMMITTED TO STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A.B. 9 – Amending Student Government Campaign Finance Limits in the Election Code

- ii. AB 9 seeks to reduce SG campaign finance limits along a scale. The scale was derived from student election spending limits of official UT Austin comparison schools and Big XII member schools. It was found that the mean UTSG spending limit was significantly higher ($p < .05$) than that of the average spending limits from comparison schools. In recruiting students to file for UT elections, campaign finances are frequently mentioned as at least a perceived barrier to office, and as members of the collective voice of students, the authors hope to debunk the idea that SG has an "entry fee" via the amount of money it takes to participate in campus wide elections.

SAEZ – POI – can Zach be added as a sponsor

BARTH – It can be changed in committee, but not on the floor

STONE – does that include Debate time

BARTH – there is no Debate time

ROTNOSKY – The idea behind this legislation is that finances deter a lot of students to run that we don't usually see participating in student government.

You don't need all of this money to run. When you see the spending limit is so high people get scared, when you lower spending limits you see more people who come out.

MAGEE – If you look at the slide, I've compared us to the other schools that we normally compare too I've compared University Wide, and Executive Alliance. Having people run on a ticket seems to cut costs in half. That's kind of the breakdown as far as we compare to our comparison schools, I arrived to these totals by doing a mean of these. I think what you will find is that based on exactly what \$500 to a standard college student, logically we are above the average **shows slide comparing how much \$500 to the average college student**. We need to advocate for students and how we have admissions and faculty, students should be able to get involved without having to spend that money. At the end of the day Student Government is a Club that people will pay on, that is that basis for this legislation I think a lot of you have questions in the timing and I know you do, but we have been working on this all year.

LONG – Thank you guys for bringing the bill, I want to preface that I'm not working for a campaign I have no stake in the election, I don't know if you looked at numbers in the past campaigns and I just want to run through these. The average college rep spent \$23.81 the average Uwide spent \$ 216.82 the average winning numbers of a college rep was \$19.52 and U-wides was \$268.47. 17.5 percent would only be affected in my view that is a small percentage.

Football game analogy

MAGEE – many more students would of run had these numbers been lower, our thing is getting people to the table, our numbers have shown that one person has filed so far is that has not been involved in SG. That means that almost everyone would be aware of these changes. In regards to the football game, this is probably late in the game and I know that every quarter counts. We are not doing great here in SG in that regard. The timing isn't perfect; I know; I think that we are reaching out to other organizations to bring them to represent themselves.

SAEZ – yields time to Stone

STONE – I don't think that we are a quarter into the game, the election code is very clear on that that is subject to penalties on page 22 and that is unauthorized campaigning. The game doesn't start until campaigning starts.

LONG – POI – So you mentioned that no unauthorized campaigning is allowed via Section 2.3. Let's say that I'm deciding to file for president next week. I purchased \$600 of blank t-shirts a few months ago and I want to use those t-shirts in my campaign but had gone over the proposed spending limit. Since you're familiar in the code, what do you propose I tell the candidate that spent more than the proposed limit?

STONE – those shirts sound like campaign materials I don't see how that could be something you can use to campaign.

LONG – My intention is to draft a bill that you can't change the code 6-8 weeks before the election. If someone exceeds the limit, would a ESB ruling would be suitable for that since it is subjective, do you think we need a ruling?

SAEZ –yields time to Stone

STONE – The ESB is not policing organizations. Only under things like freshman elections where they don't know the rules, so if you think that there is some ambiguity in what you can or cannot do then we need a ruling

BANNER – Do you plan on filing to run for the presidency with Daniel Chapman?

LONG –POO - Robert's rules says you can question the intentions of members of this body.

MAGEE – I will tell you what I've told my mother. I don't know if I am ready to ask that of myself and ask that of my friends. I know the last time a black woman ran for president she had to step down. I think that you will know by February 16 at noon. I would have presented to you this last semester it was just hard to get the entities we needed to too meet. I think that it equalizes the playing field, I can't tell you if I'm willing to step into Xavier's shoes

MANDALAPU – I think there is a Daily Texan article about it and one of our initiatives was to reduce campaign financing. This is Amber working as the administrative director to see this through.

BANNER – In the event you run would this impact your campaign and the people running against?

ROTNFOSKY – By lowering these limits I can see a lot of other voices coming in and I can see a lot of other people in campus, actually hurting Amber.

BANNER – With you as Author this seems like a direct conflict of interest

LONG – POI – What does Roberts Rules say regarding voting issues that are immediately affecting you during that voting yourself?

BARTH – You would recuse yourself if it is something to do that is related to you.

MADDEN – POI – would all members planning on running need to recuse themselves?

ADKINS – So we HAVE too?

BARTH – I cannot tell you to recuse, these are really for people who are going to be biased when making a vote.

DIMITROFF – I fundamentally agree with the premise of this legislation and that we should be successful in that I just have two things. The first is more people tend to file towards the end, the second thing to think about less people run because of the ballot. Is there away to make this accessible while still doing due diligence to the students. I think cutting budgets social media can cut down leadership stipends

LONG – POI – are you aware that when with congressman and woman are deciding on their salaries it takes affect for the following term?

ROTNFOKSY – this has nothing to do with stipends and salaries ---

MAGEE – No, I wasn't aware of that. In the questions that we are getting I don't know how to convey this as my personal intentions and I have worked on this for a long time. I do not want to stand here with personal values and knowing SG does not look representative, there is a huge discrepancy

ROTNOSKY – By you advocating for this it will encourage more people to run

MAGEE – I am totally okay with having this conversation because I think there is a huge net benefit, there will be more students willing to come forth to the table.

LONG – I move to extend time by 5 minutes

LONG – POI – can we make sure time is yielded

SAEZ – time is yielded

STONE – an example is freshman elections and we have a lot of people, and didn't realize that the code was \$600 I just wanted to relate that it was earlier, people dropped when they found out how much they were going to have to spend.

SAEZ – yield my time to Connor Patrick

PATRICK – I tried to do an election stipend but I kept hitting dead ends because it affects financial aid and keeps them from getting scholarships, loans and it became super complicated and wasn't a realistic action but this achieves the same kind of goal

FALKE – As we know if you are in a spirit group or Greek group that not a lot of people might have access too if the only way I can get people to vote for me is printing out flyers and having people vote for me I feel like it would strengthen the ability for these kind of people to get votes.

MANDELAPU – I think the best response is that people who weren't in anything like me and X that we didn't spend any money or get any votes like that.

MAGEE – I think you can post on other things like social media it makes people be more creative and innovative rather than spending x amount of money to

LONG – 28.5% of people elected spent \$0 and I'm not advocating against it. There are going to be a lot of logistical issues in having this voted on, with some of the logistical things, this won't be voted on until next week so we are going to make Becky contact these individuals and hope they haven't spent over the limit. And she's already printed 50 election codes and I don't want Becky make this. Would you guys consider just having this affect 2017 elections to avoided controversy, what are your thoughts on postponing this?

MAGEE – I think it was last year Ms. Becky had to print out more copies because something changed. I think that people are going to ask why and people will have to say they were personally invested and that's why this campaign election codes didn't pass. So no I have yet to hear substantial reasoning to postpone this, the code is very fair.

LONG – would you then believe that people who have spent over the campaign limits should be disqualified?

MAGEE – that's not my goal and that's not what I'm advocating for I think that is a small thing and this is a part of larger thing, I don't want to hold this bill down, I really think we should do outreach in a way to invest in this org that people because not because of financial. Your seats are fair game; I want to

increase that number there should be an equal opportunity feeling there is a lot of organizations that require dues.

MCGINTY – you mentioned that you should force students to be innovative in other ways, I considered myself innovative and a cookie place donated me \$200 for cookies, but they do have to final certain things how can students get around these barriers for things like that how do we get around of that

MAGEE – I think that in general we are sending the wrong message by focusing on \$200 here so yes you're right you would have to get fewer donations and why there is some sort of commerce associated with campaigning.

BANER – I move to end question and answer

MADDEN – Second

COMMITTED TO RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

IX. Ex-Officio Member Reports

- a. Senate of College Councils
- b. Graduate Student Assembly
- c. Campus Events and Entertainment

X. Deputy Advisor Report

- a. Alex Kappus, *Deputy to the Dean of Students* – akappus@austin.utexas.edu

Elections and Filings have begun; real talk is you all as representatives of this organization is that you can get word out want to put people in charge of getting excited about the election sharing that information as you all know the ESB advisory board was selected late last semester. One big change is that when students file they have the opportunity to sign an agreement to being apart of election campus organization as well as opportunities to use trademarked opportunities. The election Org piece is not very cool but anyone now who runs can observe space on campus. You don't have to be scared of taking a photo and the tower being in the background Help get the word out, if you are running remember you all care deeply about this university and respect one another and stay involved, really want to keep in mind that all are all longhorns and let's have fun doing it. Tanner mentioned 8 meetings left this doesn't mean yall are off the hook. Get some advice from Tanner on legislation. Bevo Bucks, if you are there is a law school admissions coaching run through in the liberal arts career center. If you are interested in that I can give you info. Feb 1st there will be a new mobile app its going to be a really cool tool and and its all about wellness. Archer Fellows Program

XI. Executive Reports

- a. Xavier Rotnofsky, *President* - xavier.rotnofsky@utexas.edu
 - i. PSAC went down last week, food trucks are coming down next Feb. trying to get vendors to come down for one day this spring.
- b. Rohit Mandalapu, *Vice President* - rmandalapu@utexas.edu
- c. Taral Patel, *Chief of Staff* - taralvpatel@gmail.com
 - i. Students with Disabilities – Service Note Taking, working with a program to work with

- ii. WRA – Vagina Monologues
 - iii. Queer Student Alliance – Pride Week
 - iv. Diversity Inclusion Agency – AR 8/ Anti Racism Teachings
 - v. Transfer students – Outreach
 - vi. Voting/Register
 - vii. Holding a panel for 49th council
- d. Thomas Mylott, *Communications Director* - mylottiv@gmail.com
 - i. Election Filing is happening
- e. Nicole Chu, *Internal Finance Director* - nicole.chu@bba11.mcombs.utexas.edu
 - i. 24-hour window of appropriations, we will see an influx in 24 hours, apply we will be conducting interviews of their own. The only other thing is the follow up to the big 12 conference don have anything concrete on that in the moment.
- f. Conner Patrick, *External Finance Director* - conner1201@gmail.com
 - i. Philanthropy projects, Becky Carreon scholarship is coming out, application for transfer student scholarship is almost done
- g. Amber Magee, *Administrative Director* - mageeamber15@gmail.com
 - i. External appointments are done, thank you for talking with use I really do want conversation, I want to work and compromise and we push it open even further. I look forward to working with yall the rest of the semester
- XII. Cabinet of Policy Director Reports
- XIII. Agency Director Reports
- XIV. External Appointment Reports
- XV. Executive Staff Reports
- XVI. Standing Assembly Committee Reports
 - a. Academic Affairs Committee, James Che - jamesikeche@utexas.edu
 - b. External Affairs Committee, Allison Ainsworth - allisonrainsworth@gmail.com
 - i. It would be really helpful if you are going to submit legislation that you would let me know a few days before c
 - ii. Rules and Reg will be meeting Friday at 6pm and shout out to my committee
 - c. Financial Affairs Committee, John Falke - johnrossfalke@utexas.edu
 - d. Legislative Affairs Committee, Edward Banner - ebanner@utexas.edu
 - e. Rules and Regulations Committee, Jonathan Dror- jonathandror@utexas.edu
 - f. Student Affairs Committee, Santiago Rosales - santiago.rosales@utexas.edu
- XVII. Representative Reports
 - a. ROSALES– looking to start a conversation for having low income students for having internships that don't pay
 - b. DIMITROFF – use for space in Jester
 - c. LONG – amending constitution and election code
- XVIII. Judicial Report

- a. STONE – just wanted to make myself available for Q&A if anyone has any questions
- XIX. Ad hoc Reports
- XX. Speaker of the Assembly Report
- XXI. General Announcements
 - a. ENGEL – every Thursday I feel the homeless from 445-6 at Gods Family Dinner
 - b. ADKINS – Running the marathon for Down Syndrome Association to share Go Fund me page on social media
 - c. MADDEN – Tejas Coffee at 8:45 Newman Honor
- XXII. Second Roll Call
- XXIII. Recess/Adjournment