



110<sup>th</sup> STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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THE **110<sup>TH</sup>** SESSION  
OF THE  
**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY**

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
*Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016*

SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY: SANTIAGO ROSALES, UNIVERSITY-WIDE REPRESENTATIVE  
CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY: HANNAH MCMORRIS  
PARLIAMENTARIAN: GRAHAM HOUP

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Minutes
- IV. Guest: CEO Cheryl Phifer, *University Co-Op*
  - a. PHIFER: You own the Co-Op, so you should use the Co-Op. We are a non-profit, so we are not increasing the price of textbooks. We are not a division of the university or owned by them. We were organized 120 years ago as a not-for-profit co-operative. Four students are elected to the board, 2 each year. They are full members and have full, fiduciary responsibility to help make sure we are running a good and profitable business. We recently allocated \$12,000 to student organizations. We are supplying you with textbooks and course materials. Our slogan is "You spend, we give." We give money back in the form of rebates. We take hundreds of student applications for funds. Last year, that amounted to \$25,000 that we gave back. We hire students and we loan textbooks to all student employees. We have 10 student brand ambassadors that get experience in marketing and social media. We are creating laboratory opportunities for students. These are just some examples, but we could also be doing more for our students. We have been helping student organizations, like the sale of the UT booths and the Eyes to Eyes movement. We know that course materials are expensive, but we are trying our best to make them inexpensive. About 77.4% goes to the publishing company. At the end of the day, we make 3.7 cents of every dollar of books that are sold from the Co-op. We are trying to pass on every bit of savings to you. Your nonprofit bookstore is not trying to profit off of your textbooks.
  - b. If we know the books ahead of time, we can give you more money for your books for buy-back. There is more supply at the end of the year, and less supply closer to the beginning of the semester. The earlier we have it, the more supply we have. 25% of

faculty didn't tell us the books we needed until a week before school. There is an additional cost getting that in.

- c. Faculty adoptions were due yesterday, October 31. We are the official aggregator for the university. We work closely and give little nudges to ask faculty to give us their adoptions.
- d. The royalties are the same, no matter if we publish it or not, but the production cost is much less, if we publish it, because there is no shipping cost.
- e. We have 4 satellite stores, and they sell apparel only. The profits are coming from apparel and souvenirs, and it's okay if we're making profit on them, because alumni is buying it. Students and faculty can turn in their receipts for rebate from those stores as well.

V. Open Forum

- a. SANTOYO: Proud type 1 diabetic, and I am a Moody representative for SG. I have started a chapter of College Diabetes Network here at UT Austin called Type Texas to help Type 1 Diabetes be less of a challenge, because it is hard to go through alone. November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. You can reach out to me at [typetexas@collegediabetesnetwork.org](mailto:typetexas@collegediabetesnetwork.org). If you know any diabetics, feel free to let them know about Type Texas.
- b. CHASE. From the Daily Texan. Speaking on part of the editorial board for the Daily Texan. We are extremely reliant on the First Amendment. We are very against AR-15. There is nothing we can do legally to get them kicked out of. It was a terrible bake sale, but this is also a terrible resolution. They are pretty clearly protected by the First Amendment. The subtext of this protest is not about affirmative action. They are trying to rile up people. Please don't even consider this bill.
- c. ROSEN: I am also against AR-15. YCT should not be disbanded, because I don't think it was intended to be hateful or incite violence. The protest against it was best, but suppression by the university is not. Offense is subjective and non-violent. Non-hateful expressions of opinion should not be stifled.
- d. ZANDER: We had a protest against Campus Carry. The same rules that let me carry a dildo on campus against Campus Carry should also be able to protect YCT.
- e. SHARMA: I'm here to speak in opposition to AR 15. We heard from Cocks not Glocks and Daily Texan that First Amendment protects them. YCT was engaging in the same activity. If it was racism, I would urge you all to understand the gravity of what that means. That means they directly believe that some races and genders are less valuable than others. The diverse group of people out there would not represent such a group of people. A lot of the people in this room right now are liberal, but some day, you will grow and become less liberal.
- f. NAYONGO: I was one of the protesters, when really I just wanted to learn more about what YCT was doing. I do not agree that disbandment is the right decision. They do have the right to air out how they feel. Banning them does not send the right message. I would like to see a suspension or probation possibly instead. I give them the benefit of the doubt. I don't think it was racism, but it was an act of ignorance, but it did cause a lot of hurt and national awareness. Although what I thought they did was hurtful, I don't believe they should be banned from campus.
- g. EMIKA: Student of the Engineering school. I think it's important that when you debate this bill, you understand that this was a very hateful act and this was a form of aggression. In the future, you want to discourage such activities. Some people might be able to walk out unscathed but a lot of people are going to go to trauma for the rest of

their time in this university. Whatever legalities there are, this is something you should keep in mind.

- h. NASHIKI: Hate speech is not covered by the First Amendment, and as a student of color, it is exhausting to have to defend your humanity. It does not make it less hurtful that students of color were involved. Many colleges have disbanded organizations for such less. It is about the effects that it has on students of color on this campus.
- i. To say, they are not racist. There whole precedent of this campus was saying that people are not qualified to be here. Many students were uncomfortable. We need to start taking action for these racist events that happen on campus. The "Catch an Illegal Immigrant" day, the FIJI party, these inflammatory messages... this is inexcusable. Just because they are not overtly racist and maybe they're nice on the outside, doesn't mean that what they're saying is not hateful.
- j. EDUARDO: Thank you to the students who wrote the legislation. This is my fifth year at this university and this is the third time they've held a hateful event. UT for the past five years, has not punished these students. The law was not written for people of color. It has been continued to oppress us. We are excusing people at the cost of students of color, who are marginally represented at this university. I don't understand the impact that this group has. This campus is not a place of hate. I'm all for you having your conservative opinions, but this does not give you the right to have hateful speech against us on this university that wasn't built for us.
- k. DIGNESH: Everyone here has a opinion. We have very strong opinions on this, but we should keep two things in mind. By voting for AR-15, it could set a very dangerous precedent for UT and other Texas campuses, like Baylor University or Texas A&M. Christian universities could ban marriage equality protests. It could really lead to problems that are not present right now. We all interpret the sign and actions differently, but have you ever considered speaking one-on-one with YCT without yelling or crying or outright anger? Then we could make a conclusion of what their opinions are and what our opinions are. We urge you all to vote against AR-15.
- l. ZAPATA: One of the supporters of YCT Bake Sale, was attacked personally by protesters saying that he got in on the easy way in because he was a transfer student. It is not right to bring in the transfer student population and continue this stigma against transfer students.

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business

- a. A.B. 13, Amending the Constitution of Student Government to Create a Transfer Student Representative
  - i. *This bill will create a Transfer Student Representative in the Student Government Assembly.*
  - ii. ZAPATA: Transfer Students Agency Director. It is extremely difficult for transfer students to find a way into Student Government. We are finding another way for transfer students to get into SG easier. Freshmen outnumber transfer students 4-1. Transfer students don't live on campus, so they don't have that same community. We would be allowing them to have a voice on campus.
  - iii. CAMERON: Ran as a first-year representative. It was difficult to find that network of transfer students on campus that could support me in that campaign. Having a position like this would help students have a voice on campus.
  - iv. HOPKINS: I was surprised to know that the transfer student population is so high, which is about 18,000 students. It is vital to create a position that represents those students.



- v. ZAPATA: We are more than willing to have that option open of having more than 2 representatives.
  - vi. ROSALES: They would coincide with the other election so that they can serve the full-term.
  - vii. ZAPATA: Dorms help facilitate network, and transfer students sometimes don't know until a week before that they are accepted into the university.
  - viii. PARKS: Motion to extend Q&A by 3 minutes.
  - ix. ZAPATA: A Transfer Student representative would be similar to a U-Wide rep. We are trying not to infringe on others' jurisdictions.
  - x. I. CARTER: The LGBT community, minority community, nontraditional students. What makes this different from other communities?
  - xi. ROSALES: A transfer student is an academic term, and you build a list of candidates off of that. We can see how it would be difficult to pin other identities down, but not a transfer student.
  - xii. ZAPATA: We looked at the voting software and Santiago contacted ITS and Dean of Students. We can see if it can follow a student throughout all four years, and not just the first year.
- b. A.B. 14, Amending the Code of Rules to Restructure the City Relations Agency
- i. *The purpose of the legislation is to restructure the City Relations Agency and make it more effective in the future. It arranges it into 3 subsets: communication, city government, and city departments so UTSG can have their voice better represented in city affairs.*
    - 1. Currently under the City Relations Policy Director.
    - 2. **Committed to Rules and Regulation Committee.**
- c. **Motion to Discharge the Student Affairs Committee of A.R. 13, In Support of Black Students and the Black Lives Matter Movement**
- i. *This resolution was tabled during the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Student Affairs Committee. Given that the MyBlackUTMatters event occurs this Thursday, the Assembly should consider this item at the next meeting.*
    - 1. SANTOYO: I object. I want this to be in committee for as long as possible to discuss the amendments.
    - 2. ROSALES: I moved to discharge the resolution from committee because the amendments suggested in committee were simple, stylistic and were points of clarification. Withholding this doesn't have much
    - 3. HUERTA: We support this bill. Some of us added our names to the bill as sponsors. We just want to educate other organizations on this bill because not everyone is educated on this bill. Not all of us would have the time to bring this to our council.
    - 4. SANTOYO: I showed my council and there were some people who had reservations about the title of this bill, and rewording the title that doesn't fog the intentions of the bill. We just need more time to talk about this. That was the general consensus.
    - 5. MAXWELL: We would like this to be discharged. We want to see this brought to our event, MY Black UT, and can say that SG supports us. This shows solidarity. You should take it upon yourself to educate yourselves about Black Lives Matter and this bill.
    - 6. WOLF: We 100% agree with a lot of the things Cameron said. We agree we should support the Black Lives Matter movement over all. We

represent a lot of students on this campus. We want to make sure that we have an educated student body.

7. ROSALES: There is enough of a favorability to bring it back to assembly. It does not have to be voted upon, and we have an opportunity to go out on a better foot. The counter-protest of last week and the presence we have in this room right now is speaking to the fact that this matters to our students of color.
8. HUERTA: The thought behind this debate and tabling it is that this is the benefit for the bill.
9. RUBIN: My constituents from the Architecture council would not have had time to look at this bill. We don't have the time to represent the people in our council.
10. SANTOYO: I disagree that this is the most conducive time to talk about the amendments. The best time was in the committee meeting. We need as many people to know about our meetings. It is not best to talk about it on the floor right now.
11. Motion to vote by hand vote.

**12. 7-18-2. The motion fails.**

- d. **Fast-Track Request to add to the agenda** A.R. 15, In Support of UT Disbanding the Young Conservatives of Texas from Campus for Its 'Affirmative Action Bake Sale,' Efforts and 'Catch an Illegal Immigrant' Game Effort, and UT Meeting Future Incidents of Bias with Punitive Action

- i. SURI: Given the timeliness of what happened last meeting, there is no way we could have responded to it earlier because it happened last Wednesday.
- ii. CHOI: Assuming the heat of the protest, we want to bring it up now, so that people know freedom of speech has consequences and racism has no place on this campus. This is a non-legally binding document, but we are presenting it today.
- iii. F. CARTER: If you are not allowing diversity, you are prohibiting diversity. Black students visiting campus are not going to want to come to this campus, if they see bake sales like this taking place.
- iv. MALY: All of these people turned out so that we can speak on this bill. We hope you will allow them to have this time.
- v. CHOI: It has already garnered a bunch of support from both sides. Most of us are informed. Daily Texan and Cocks not Glocks came to speak. Even if we don't vote today, people will be informed and can come next week. Both sides will come out to represent their viewpoint.
- vi. SANTOYO: This is happening very fast to me. I didn't really get my eyes on this, and I am not ready to vote on this. I want to be as pragmatic as possible. This is a very touchy issue, and I am all about making voices heard on campus. I want to do that by exposing this to as many people on campus.
- vii. HASHEM: We are only introducing this. This is being conducted under New Business. We will not be voting on it.
- viii. F. CARTER: Everything that Santoyo says he wants to happen, will happen, as we are not voting on this today.
- ix. CHOI: We just want to present our bill, as this is the same thing that Engel did with her fast-track request.

- x. ENGEL: Mine is not as controversial as AR 15. I have not had time to take this back to my constituents.
- xi. CHOI: I don't think it is controversial at all. I want to stand against racism, just like you. Whether or not it is controversial is inappropriate. Next week is the election. We want to make sure that students of color hear from us and hear their support. We took our time this weekend. We didn't have the time to heal. Those who are able to physically and mentally avoid this bake sale, kudos to you, but we can not do that.
- xii. SURI: With My Black UT happening, and the failure of that motion, this is a second chance. We should definitely talk about this now. The event, My Black UT, is in two days.
- xiii. WAGNER: We have many more voices in this room than usual. We should fast-track this bill, and that has direct correlation to what's going on tonight.
- xiv. Motion to vote by voice vote. 23-2-1
- xv. Introduction

1. SURI: When we have discussions about race, opponents always bring up the fact that it is not pragmatic or practical. This usually comes down in the favor of the university. Ultimately, if it did pass, UT has always struggled with inclusivity and diversity. This is why now, more than ever, we need to have this discussion. We need to show that this is not a post-racial university. Our focus should not be on passing something legal. I personally joined SG with the platform to represent the voices of the minority community. Even if YCT has the legal right to hold this bake sale.
2. CHOI: We are exercising our first amendment right to go against them. Those not targeted by the bake sale, you all will go on their lives. We are not free to learn in this university. We have to deal with something like this. There are less than 4% and .2% of Native Americans. We're here to let them know that the impact of free speech is more important than the intent of freedom of speech.
3. AUTHORS: The Bias Incident policy and the Hate Crime policy are the same.
4. ENGEL: University of Oklahoma
5. MALY: The initial action was by the University of Oklahoma president and SAE took action afterwards.
6. MAXWELL: There is no legal bearing. This is a statement against YCT . There were 15 minority students who were touring campus, asking why there was a non-racist bake sale. The reason why we want this is because students of color are not welcome to come to this campus.
7. HOPKINS: 2 of the 3 examples are of schools suspending organizations for different actions. Can you explain the thought process behind suspension versus disbandment?
8. CARTER: This organization has a track record of over a decade that has racism and prejudice. A suspension will not affect them as they will continue acts such as these. They do not want to be educated.
9. MAXWELL: I would like the university to have some sort of hand in what happens. There should be some sort of consequence for this to happen.



10. HASHEM: What does education mean?
11. CHOI: Something as simple as “how not to be a racist about it.” In the future, if they want to have civil dialogue, they will know how to go about this in the right way.
12. HARPER: Would disbanding YCT be silencing a minority group on campus?
13. The people in YCT are not those opposed to YCT. There are students. YCT doesn’t have any trouble coming to class.
14. SANTOYO: Would you be okay with taking punitive action but possibly not disbanding?
15. SURI: It would go against the statement we are trying to make.
16. DAVID: Would you be open to advocating against disbandment?
17. CARTER: No.
18. HOPKINS: Would you be okay with suspending the group?
19. SURI: I think the fundamental problem is that they don’t want to be educated. It was satirical. Education may not work in the context of this organization.
20. VAIDYNATHAN: Were there actions taking in other incidents, like the bottles and bleach balloons?
21. CHOI: There were petitions made or actions taken to the Dean of Students, but no actions took place.
22. READ: Do you think UT is in their legal right to disband YCT?
23. CHOI: Yes, I believe so, as YCT did engage in offensive language.
24. ENGEL: Who gets to decide what hate speech is?
25. SURI: Racism is still very much present. There doesn’t have to be a bottle or yelling, but there are other forms of violence through rhetoric and speech, and just by the way it affected people.
26. HOPKINS: Would you be open to the idea of having the suspension, but have contingent on them changing or being educated.
27. CHOI: When we told them the facts, they are not here to be educated. We said that Asian-Americans were not the smallest beneficiary of affirmative action, and they shrugged.
28. HUERTA: Have you spoken to YCT to talk to them one-on-one?
29. CHOI: No.
30. READ: ...
31. SURI: We perceived the bake sale as a form of hate speech. That is the point of controversy.
32. MUMFORD: In Whereas clause 16, there is no evidence. In Whereas clause 18, the evidence shows that they were suspended for other reasons. There was no evidence there was bleach in those bombs.
33. MALY: There was a lot of outcry that UT did not take quick action. It was cited in the last one because it was done in response to that.

#### **34. Committed to Student Affairs Committee.**

- e. **Fast-Track Request to add to the agenda** A.R. 16, In Support of the Creation of a Bias Response Advisory Committee
  - i. In the creation of this committee, we will have a quicker response time and combining the two will give students a much stronger voice. It is nice to see that students come together and get things done. CCRT is not a disciplinary or

judiciary committee but there is nothing about recommendations that have to be considered or student voices that have to be considered in those recommendations.

- ii. HELGREN: Why fast track?
- iii. ENGEL: This was in response to the bake sale. We didn't make the deadline.
- iv. SURI: Why is it so time sensitive?
- v. ZAPATA: It is important that we ride that wave of momentum, so we can garner their voices and use that momentum.
- vi. Debate to Fast-Track
  - 1. We want to speak in opposition to those students who can have their voices heard. So when it goes to committee, we can hash out the details there.
  - 2. READ: We have just had a very sensitive incident and we need time to think about it. To suspend the rules and fast-track things, it is our duty as an assembly to really think about things. We have already set a precedent about bending the rules.
  - 3. SURI: I think the specific content of this legislation is not time-sensitive. Of those listed, it is only SG representatives. If you are going to have a legislation keeping students of color in mind, then you should have reached out to students of color.
  - 4. **Vote to fast-track. 20-2-4.**

vii. Introduction

- 1. ENGEL: We wanted to find a better way to address the bias and hate speech that happens on this campus. We think combining it with a response team will be a good way to address that.
- 2. ZAPATA: Giving students the voice to carry out such matter. A lot of people have questions on whether or not students or the university has the power to do something like this. We don't want to exclude those voices on purpose. It was just time that didn't allow for this. Our intentions are to work with the committees and communities.
- 3. ZAPATA: It could be named something else or institutionalizes the Campus Climate Advisory Board. We want to make this more permanent.
- 4. KIM: Why was there not communication with the Campus Climate Advisory Board?
- 5. ZAPATA: We did not have the time.
- 6. READ: If you want to institutionalize the board, why does it say that you want to make a new board?

VIII. Ex-Officio Member Reports

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

IX. Office of the Dean of Students Report

- a. Kyle St. Nicholas – [kstnick@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:kstnick@austin.utexas.edu)
- b. Marcus Mayes – [mayer@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:mayer@austin.utexas.edu)

X. Executive Reports

- a. Kevin Helgren, President – [kevinhelgren@utexas.edu](mailto:kevinhelgren@utexas.edu)



- b. Binna Kim, Vice President – [bkim41@gmail.com](mailto:bkim41@gmail.com)
- c. Isaiah Carter, Chief of Staff – [isaiah.jay.carter@utexas.edu](mailto:isaiah.jay.carter@utexas.edu)
- d. Colton Becker, Communications Director – [coltonbecker@utexas.edu](mailto:coltonbecker@utexas.edu)
- e. Jonathan Harper, Internal Financial Director – [jharper17@utexas.edu](mailto:jharper17@utexas.edu)
- f. Jonathan Dror, External Financial Director – [jonathandr@utexas.edu](mailto:jonathandr@utexas.edu)
- g. Adit Bior, Administrative Director – [adit.bior@utexas.edu](mailto:adit.bior@utexas.edu)
- XI. Cabinet of Policy Director Reports
- XII. Agency Director Reports
- XIII. External Appointment Reports
- XIV. Executive Staff Reports
- XV. Standing Assembly Committee Reports
  - h. Academic Affairs Committee, Priya Suri - [priya.suri@utexas.edu](mailto:priya.suri@utexas.edu)
  - i. Legislative Policy Council, Natalie Engel - [natalie.engel@utexas.edu](mailto:natalie.engel@utexas.edu)
  - j. Financial Affairs Committee, Vivianne Tu - [viviannetu@utexas.edu](mailto:viviannetu@utexas.edu)
  - k. Governmental Affairs Committee, Connor Madden - [camadden@live.com](mailto:camadden@live.com)
  - l. Rules and Regulations Committee, Andrew Parks - [baparks@utexas.edu](mailto:baparks@utexas.edu)
  - m. Student Affairs Committee, Micky Wolf - [mickywolf@utexas.edu](mailto:mickywolf@utexas.edu)
- XVI. Representative Reports
- XVII. Judicial Report
- XVIII. Ad hoc Reports
  - a. Student Opinion Survey
  - b. Event Satisfaction Survey
- XIX. Speaker of the Assembly Report – [santiago.rosales@utexas.edu](mailto:santiago.rosales@utexas.edu)
  - a. Q&A for Assassins
  - b. Explaining Office Hours and Absences
- XX. General Announcements
- XXI. Second Roll Call
- XXII. Recess/Adjournment

#### NOTICE OF ACCOMMODATIONS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need accommodations in order to fully participate, such as a sign language interpreter, are requested to contact Santiago Rosales at [santiago.rosales@utexas.edu](mailto:santiago.rosales@utexas.edu), 72 hours prior to the meeting, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.