

Minutes for April 28, 2009 Student Government Assembly Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order – 7:01 pm
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes- April 21, 2009 – Minutes Approved
- IV. Guests
- V. Open Forum
 - A. Nicole Trinh
 - 1. US Public Service Academy
 - 2. Please Pass AR9
 - 3. For more information visit USpublicserviceacademy.org
- VI. Ex-Officio Reports
 - A. Graduate Student Assembly
 - B. Senate of College Councils
 - C. Student Events Center
- VII. Appointments
 - A. Motion to limit time for each appointment to 2 minutes
 - B. Motion Carries
 - C. Streetham Das, Out of State Student Affairs
 - 1. Make out of state students feel at home
 - 2. Social and informational events
 - 3. Q: How would you help those that can't attend regular orientation?
 - a. A: Talked to admissions – wants to have special orientation for out of state students
 - 4. Q: Hooper: How can you reach out to large OOS Graduate population?
 - a. A: We focus on undergrad but will get back to you
 - 5. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
 - 6. Motion carries
 - D. Teddy Cummings, Legislative Relations Agency
 - E. Lawrence Danielson, Legislative Relations Agency
 - 1. Lorenzo in DC for Archer
 - 2. Big goal is to have a successful UT in DC trip
 - 3. Teddy: from Florida; leg won't be in session, so chance to focus on getting more students involved
 - 4. Q Ferraro: How to get students involved on issues?
 - a. A: blackboard with current events and how they affect you, polling, etc.
 - 5. Q Lawler: 1) experience in capital? 2) what's your agenda?

- a. A: 1) no 2) no big agenda but interested in working to formulate one and focus on federal level while state is out of session
 - 6. Moved and seconded to extend questions by 3 minutes
 - 7. Q Woods: How do you go about advocating for some position supported by SG that you personally disagree with?
 - a. A: If ethical disagreement, would not help; but I work for students and wouldn't let party/political affiliations get in way
 - 8. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
 - 9. Motion carries
- F. Sarah Watson, Campus Safety
- 1. Involved in school outreach last year
 - 2. Safety will be one of exec's biggest priorities this year
 - 3. Have all aspects of safety in my life, from sexual to nutrition
 - 4. Q: Hobson: Move safety week?
 - a. A: We need to start smart safety practices sooner, so move to fall
 - 5. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
 - 6. Motion carries
- G. Allyson Holley, Campus Technology
- 1. Don't have much experience on campus, but went to tech magnet high school
 - 2. Really wants to make SG website user friendly and relevant
 - 3. Eco-friendly – use more electronic forms
 - 4. Q: Azemi: DO you tweet? Which do you like better?
 - a. A: Yes; I like both
 - 5. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
 - 6. Motion carries
- H. Geera Patel, International Student Affairs
- 1. Not present but will return to her appointment
 - 2. Late because taking a test
 - 3. Econ major from Australia
 - 4. Great accent
 - 5. Q: Hooper: Speak foreign languages?
 - a. A: Can understand many can speak a bit of Spanish
 - 6. Q: Stroube: How to connect intl students with each other
 - a. A: Mixers, hubs, research opps for grad students
 - 7. Q: Tao: What's your background on international issues?
 - a. A: Understand international issues from working for my permanent residency
 - 8. Motion to extend questions by 1 minute approved
 - 9. Q: Greenberg: How can you use experience to help others?
 - a. A: Went to Taiwan – understand tough cultural barriers
 - 10. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
 - 11. Motion carries
- I. Rahan Atia, Staff Council
- 1. 3rd yr econ/gov major, wants to go to law school, you can catch him in the gym twice a day
 - 2. Q: How can you make sure students are well represented?
 - a. A: I don't know much but passionate and wants to learn

3. Q: How will you keep SG and students informed on staff council?
 - a. A: Will communicate information at meetings and meet with students
4. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
5. Motion carries

J. Simeon Bochev, ITAC Committee

K. David Holcomb, ITAC Committee

L. Jefferson Stein, ITAC Committee

1. Bochev: HS Involved in info tech class, gone to several ITAC meetings already; wants to change BB
2. Stein: soph in bschool; created new BB with friend; wants to overhaul email system
3. Holcomb: CS/EE major; involved in RA knows how RESNET, printing, etc. works
4. Q: Estep: How would you train TA's and faculty for new system?
 - a. A Bochev: have experience in HS with implementing new software and always including free training opportunities
5. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
6. Motion carries

VIII. Deputy Adviser Report

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

1. Only 7 months more once fall starts
2. Don't hesitate to get in touch to brainstorm/program
3. Available to help in any way

IX. Executive Reports

A. President: Liam O'Rourke- orourke.liam@gmail.com

1. Kudos to Exec Board
2. Feedback from last week's Suggestion Box
 - a. Kudos Box – can recognize those doing good work
 - b. You all can change agenda, etc. You all have the power to do what you want
 - c. Hear motions by more people? Anyone can motion, so DO IT
 - d. Try not to get sucked into your laptop and be engaged with debate, reports, etc.
 - e. Include abstracts for each piece of legislation
 - f. New seating setup rocks
 - g. Have DT at every meeting – work with Danielle to make sure we are giving clear message
 - h. Trying to get documents online
 - i. Tent name cards? Get ready for new systems in the fall – for example, we will all have name tags
 - j. Summer – USE IT to do work, use email, phone to communicate and move forward

B. Vice President: Shara Ma - shara.ma@austin.utexas.edu

1. Attendance –
 - a. Please notify Shara or Katina if you'll be absent for Assembly Meetings as a courtesy, but you are responsible for documenting reasons for absence

- b. Keep up good work!
- c. Will work on schedule to make sure everyone is pulling their weight and that no one is overworking

C. Executive Board

- 1. Suggestion Box – “Kudos”
- 2. Authors of legislation please send Danielle information on legislation to include in the newsletter
- 3. Rec Sports hosts “Splash Bash” on May 6 from 1:00-5:00pm at Gregory Gym. Free food, drinks, and live music.
- 4. Will you be here this summer? - SG at Orientation

X. Committee Reports

A. Finance

- 1. Changes to appropriations process
- 2. Anyone want to write legislation for fundraising agency director
- 3. Next meeting Sunday at 5 pm

B. External Affairs

- 1. We met and we are here to help assembly be in touch with all of campus – USE US!

C. Internal Affairs

- 1. Passed AB2 no intent or language change

D. Student Affairs

- 1. Met Sunday, discussed and passed voter ID and bike policy
- 2. Next meeting Sunday at 8pm

E. Academic Affairs

- 1. First meeting tomorrow at 5:45 pm

F. Legislative Policy

- 1. Next meeting Monday at 10 pm

All Appointments sworn In by Natalie Buttler, Executive Director

XI. Agency Director Reports

A. Volunteerism: CEC needs volunteers for Trash to Treasure

B. Membership coordination

- 1. Encourage freshman to attend SG info sessions at orientation and join FLO AND LLA
- 2. Plan on continuing “bring a buddy” to meetings

C. Veterans Affairs

- 1. Starting from scratch
- 2. Meeting soon with administration, trying to set up a Center for Veterans on campus

D. Student Forums

- 1. Plan on hosting one forum per month in the fall
- 2. If you want to plan an event, please contact Robert for assistance

E. External Appointments

- 1. Will get in touch with all recent appointments and plans on updating assembly on progress

F. Organizational Outreach

- 1. Please share information about all of the organizations you are involved with and the leadership if you have their information

G. HS Outreach

- 1. Tutoring program for schools around Austin that struggle

2. Go to every HS in Austin and set up event so that they can come explore UT campus
- H. Underrepresented Students
 1. Student organization guide for underrepresented community
 2. Use FLO for to encourage these students to get involved
- I. On and Off Campus Housing
 1. Look forward to initiative to reduce roommate conflict
 2. Planning some socials
- J. Resource Center
 1. Jester tabling schedule – sign up!
- K. Historical Research
 1. Tabling initiative
 2. Going through SG history this summer – join her for the party
- L. Public Relations
 1. Working on content for website
 2. Filling out press releases for things we do
- M. Women's Resource Agency
 1. Luncheon Monday in union from 12:15 – 1:45 - women leaders dialogue
 2. Condom Couture
- N. Global Leadership
 1. Gave 17000 dollars
 2. Official kickoff event for CGIU
 3. Brought two intly renowned speakers to campus
 4. Worked with 13 centers
 5. Partnerships with corporations for grants
 6. Council of activist/humanitarian orgs
 7. Vishal – appoint him!
- O. Safety
 1. Condom Couture
 - a. 7pm UTC 1.112A
- P. Alumni Relations
 1. Alumni event was great – thanks!
- Q. International Students
 1. Recruiting OOS – TX 3rd lowest currently
 2. OOS scholarships
 3. Inform that OOS that receive >1000 dollar scholarship are eligible for in-state tuition
- R. FLO
 1. Be a mentor! Get in touch with Luis at Luis.n.arm@gmail.com; encourage freshmen at orientation to join FLO and LLA
- S. CEC Director
 1. T2T – Donate and volunteer
 2. www.trashtotreasure.com

XII. Council Reports

- A. Stroube – Communication Council has a new exec
- B. Woods – graduate grant issue, please help if you're interested

XIII. Unfinished Business

- A. AR1: In Opposition of a Voter Photo ID Law
 1. Questions?
 - a. Q: Hooper: sec.4 leg would only accept Texas state id? 2nd whereas how does it fit in?

- i. A: Talarico: residency change would have to change, could complicate things, vague
- b. Q: Meyerson: this is way better. 4th whereas does Texas have a law about whether expiration date needed?
 - i. A: Talarico: No; law doesn't explicitly state "student" ids
- c. Q: Minator: Any id from state agency would be acceptable, UT is state agency
 - i. Talarico: doesn't explicitly say student IDs, so vague
- d. Minator: strikeout 2nd whereas on back page?
 - i. Talarico: problem is that on election day, pollworkers may get confused and could deny students who use their school ID
- e. Hooper: POI – does it say whether UT ids will be allowed?
 - i. Its implicit, but concern is that no expiration date on UT ids
 - ii. Castetter: Senators haven't looked at UT ids in a while, so cause for concern

2. DEBATE

- a. Talarico: this legislation has been seen multiple times, gone through a long evolution
 - b. Ferrarro: we want to make sure that if they do pass something, that it won't hurt students
3. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
4. Motion carries

B. AR4: In Support of the DREAM Act

1. Questions

- a. Hard to give exact numbers
- b. Example of UT student nurse that would benefit from DREAM Act
- c. Talarico: Stein added a few whereas clauses to make more poetic; wording cleared up
- d. Friendly amendment: 2nd whereas – change to professionals
- e. Intended for those that have lived in Texas for 5 years
- f. Rosen: clarify 6th whereas
 - i. Lopez: not just for undocumented, but for legalized too
- g. Woods: would this increase diversity?
 - i. Talarico: not the focus, it is to help those trying to enter workforce after graduation
 - ii. Lopez: wont change admissions process
- h. Woods: if were sending this to US Congress – they may like that it increases diversity, but not affirmative action
- i. Woods: motion or friendly amendment in 2nd BIR – "passage of the dream act could increase diversity at the university of Texas and..." – passes
- j. Castetter: friendly amendment – un-bold two T's and others

2. Debate

- a. Yay - Authors: It is so sad to see potential contributors to economy/society pushed to sideline

- b. Nay - Rosen: creates bad precedent – creates incentive for illegal immigrants
 - c. PI - Yue: illegal immigrants do pay taxes
 - d. Yay – O'dell: law already in place to put them through school and then they are left with no career. We can't deny that they want to benefit society
 - e. Nay - Rosen: fear that this will prolong the problem of illegal immigration
 - f. Yay - Talarico: broken immigration system is beyond our control, look at reality and do what we can to help and take advantage of opportunities – stay focused on UT students
 - g. Nay - Lewis: illegal immigrants are getting preferential treatment over Americans in admissions and tuition
 - h. Yay - Guest: requirement is that they must be resident in Texas for 5 years among other requirements; personal story about sister and mother
 - i. Nay - Gohlke: cost issue
 - j. Yay - Ferraro: not the intent of this bill
 - k. Nay - Lewis: need to be protecting Americans first, especially in this economy
 - l. Yay – O'dell: immigrants pay more in taxes than they use from public services; I worked part-time job for a year and then got instate tuition
 - m. Gohlke: move to roll call vote
 - n. AR 4 Fails
 - o. Motion to reconsider
 - p. Objection
 - q. Move to debate to reconsider vote or not
 - r. Yay - Woods: really affects UT students; many abstentions may want to reconsider
 - s. Nay - Hooper: you were elected to make decisions; abstain if conflict of interest or lack of info
 - t. Yay - Yue: Please reconsider to vote
 - u. Nay – Rosen: we should not reconsider voting because you had your chance to vote and failed to speak up, now it didn't turn out how you want, so you wan revote, sets bad precedent
- 3. Moved and seconded to vote on whether to reconsider
 - 4. Vote approved
 - 5. Move to Revote
 - 6. AR 4 Passes
- C. AB2: Allocation of All Remaining Funds in the 19, 29, 39 and 41 University Accounts and the External Checking Account Numbers 6800, 6804, and 6808
- 1. Debate
 - a. Yay - Lopez: formality
 - b. Nay - Hooper: for future we should consider the following things
 - i. Not giving up all oversight
 - ii. Meet once a month during summer to keep things in check
 - c. Yay - Lopez: Encourage you to pass AB2
 - 2. Move and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
 - 3. Motion carries

- D. AR7: In Support of a Bicycle-Friendly Policy by the University
 - 1. Thanks to Tom Wald and SL committee
 - 2. Stein: multiple changes and clarifications
 - 3. No questions
 - 4. No Debate
 - 5. Moved and seconded to approve by Unanimous Consent
 - 6. Motion carries

XIV. New Business

- A. AR 8: In Support of the Expansion of the UTakeCharge Energy Efficiency Program Across the University of Texas System
 - 1. Intro – saves university tons of money in long run – want to make this happen at other system schools
 - 2. Questions
 - 3. Woods: What is UTakeCharge?
 - a. A: simple behavioral changes can save millions; example: in chemical engineering building saved 200 home annual usage; make this a new point of view for university
 - 4. Q: What changes are proposed?
 - a. A: fluorescents lights changed, appliances upgraded; pays for itself
 - 5. Sent to Student Life Committee
- B. Fast Track Vote on AR 9 In Support of the United States Public Service Academy
 - 1. To mirror military academies
 - 2. Congress will vote over summer so we need to vote ASAP
 - 3. Questions:
 - a. Q: How does this apply to UT?
 - i. A: Other universities showing support we want to show support too. These leaders could come back to UT and Texas and help tremendously
 - b. Q: How is this different from peace corps?
 - i. A: get college education and then 5 years of public service required
 - c. Q: what types of jobs would they do?
 - i. A: working for government, AmeriCorps programs
 - 4. Motion to Fast Track
 - 5. Motion Carries
 - 6. Debate:
 - a. Nay - Rosen: big struggle to pay for education; now tax dollars go to someone else's education?!
 - b. Yay - Azemi: they would be doing a huge service to society
 - c. Nay - Hooper: expected ROI?
 - d. Yay - Azemi: concept only
 - e. Nay - Rosen: this says we support legislation, not concept
 - f. Yay - Ferraro: look at wording – we are supporting concept
 - g. Nay - Wang: cant be compared to military academy; cant people get this education elsewhere?
 - 7. Move to send to committee
 - 8. Objection
 - 9. Debate
 - a. Yay - Jones: need to research how this will affect students

- b. Nay - Azemi: have shown effect and we don't want to miss the opportunity to support this legislation
 - c. Nay - Stein: want to get this done to support greater efforts
 - d. Yay - Yue: this should be fair process
 - e. Nay - Meyerson: do you all want a friendly amendment to address problems?
- 10. Moved and seconded to recess for five minutes
- 11. Approved
- 12. Reconvene
 - a. PI - Hooper: clarify pieces of legislation mentioned
 - b. Yay - Woods: it is authors' responsibility to come up with friendly amendment; should we have committee meetings in meeting? Special meeting to vote?
 - c. Nay - Azemi: in support of concept, not bill
- 13. Moved and seconded to move to previous question - Should we recommit to committee?
- 14. Motion fails
- 15. Back to debate
 - a. Nay - Rosen: friendly amendment relating to funding of institution without tax dollars
- 16. Debate on amendment
- 17. Amendment fails
- 18. Moved and seconded to vote on AR 9
- 19. Approved
- 20. Roll Call vote
- 21. AR 9 Passes

XV. Representative Reports

- A. Woods – testified on Guns on campus legislation
 - 1. It's really important to call Senators as well as the leadership at other Universities
 - 2. Please send information to John Woods
 - 3. There's a potential compromise if it does pass pertaining to Veterans carrying weapons if they hold a permit
- B. Ferraro: Wants to put together a parking taskforce to work over the summer
- C. Jones: "Into the Woods" playing Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
- D. Hooper: For those who are in Austin over the summer we can put together a schedule for informal meetings for representatives
 - 1. Brown: If anyone is staying here over the summer please email Danielle at daniellebrown@austin.utexas.edu
- E. Wang: Advertising various events
- F. Stein: Appreciate support on bike resolution and want to continue work over the summer and into the fall
 - 1. Update on voting student regent – opposition over Senate Bill was that voting student would change count from 9 to 10 voting members which complicated matters and the bill was dropped
 - 2. Article in the NYT about tray less trend nationwide
- G. Yue: Two year term will expire with graduation and will resign in the fall; however, will be around over the summer and is happy to help out.

XVI. Announcements

XVII. Second Roll Call

XVIII. Adjournment at 10:36