

Minutes for January 27, 2009 Student Government Assembly Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order – Meeting commenced at
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes- December 2, 2008
- IV. Guests
- V. Open Forum
  - A. UBC - VIP Speaker Series
    - 1. Thursday, Feb. 5 from 5:30 to 6:30 UTC
    - 2. CEO and Founder of Southwest Airlines
    - 3. Comparing Southwest Airlines and the Marine Corps
    - 4. All students are invited
  - B. Gender Equity – Ishwariah
    - 1. Writing legislation about furthering gender equality at the faculty level
    - 2. If you are interested in being a sponsor, come talk to me in the back of the room
  - C. Michael Guzman – SCCC
    - 1. President of National Organization for Students for Concealed Guns on Campus
    - 2. It may seem radical
    - 3. I want to offer my services and offer an official debate for the student body
    - 4. I would debate anyone
    - 5. I will waive my speaker fee
    - 6. Villarreal: Can you talk about your background or credentials about this subject?
      - a. Former Marine
      - b. US Embassy Guard
      - c. I've researched this topic more than anybody
      - d. I have been on numerous national TV programs
- VI. Ex-Officio Reports
  - A. Graduate Student Assembly
  - B. Senate of College Councils
  - C. Student Events Center
  - D. Student Services
- VII. Appointments
- VIII. Deputy Adviser Report
  - A. Melinda Sutton- msutton@mail.utexas.edu
    - 1. I want to thank everyone who was able to attend Annie Elderbroom's retirement ceremony
    - 2. I want anyone who needs help from the Dean of Students with programs to come to me in Annie's place
      - a. Becky and Veronica in the SG office are also here to help

## IX. Executive Reports

- A. President: Keshav Rajagopalan - keshavr@austin.utexas.edu
  - 1. Legislative Issues
  - 2. Legislative Summit: February 3, 4:30-6:30 pm, UTC 4.132; register at [www.utsg.org/legsummit](http://www.utsg.org/legsummit)
    - a. Encourage your friends to come out
    - b. We need students to come down to the Capitol and advocate for more funding for UT
    - c. Our work in the next few months will be crucial to ensuring funding for our school
    - d. Brown: Is it OK if we are late?
      - i. Absolutely.
    - e. CFO Kevin Hegarty, AVP Gwen Grigsby, and Kenny Jastrow will speak
  - 3. Please contact any exec member if you ever need help with anything
- B. Vice President: Frankie Shulkin - fshulkin@austin.utexas.edu
  - 1. Elections – please do your best to recruit multiple candidates in your colleges or throughout the University.
  - 2. Councils – continue to go to Council meetings, and reach out to potential candidates through announcements
  - 3. SSBC – the report will be released in the coming weeks, and the committee will convene for the next round of allocation requests as we prepare for the fiscal cycle of the next two years.
- C. Executive Director: Liam O'Rourke – liam.orourke@mail.utexas.edu
  - 1. The Lee Bagan Endowment Testing Fund Application will be available from February 2 to February 20. Please go to the Services for Students with Disabilities office for more information.
- D. Communications Director: Chelsea Fosse – chelseafosse@austin.utexas.edu
  - 1. Welcome back to SG 2009! I can't wait to hear about all your SG New Year's Resolutions!
  - 2. Representatives: please email Cynthia Ho (Cynthia.ho@mail.utexas.edu) by Wednesday evening with at least one hour per week you can dedicate to work at the Jester Satellite Office. Frankie and I will be contacting all representatives who do not email Cynthia. Thank you very much to Hannah, Tressa, and Chad, who have already helped out so much!
  - 3. The last election info session will be on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in UTC 3.122. All SGers should be there and bring at least one friend!
  - 4. Thank you to Matt Becknal, Nathan Bunch, Tressa Westerman, Frankie, Keshav, and Taylor for helping out at SG Spring Orientation 2009!
  - 5. MOCA will be meeting at 7pm in the SG office NEXT Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll miss you, Patrick!
- E. Internal Financial Director: Priti Joshi – priti.y.joshi@gmail.com
  - 1. CGI U
    - a. If you didn't get accepted, but you are still interested in volunteering, please apply
    - b. Please forward the volunteer application to all of your contacts
  - 2. Appropriations - Due date for Spring 2009 Appropriations is February 11, 2009 at 4pm in the SG office. Please send the application to any and all organizations - I have sent an email with the application attached so please forward that!
- F. External Financial Director: Taylor Ellison – taylorkellison@gmail.com
  - 1. UT Camp Fair - February 9th, 2009, 10am-3pm
    - a. Spread the word and stop by!
  - 2. It's almost time to award the SG boot scholarships to UT students. Please let me know in person or via email if you want to help with this process!

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

X. Agency Director Reports

XI. Committee Reports

- A. Rules
- B. Finance
- C. Internal Affairs
- D. Outreach
- E. Fundraising
- F. Legislative Policy

XII. Unfinished Business

- A. AR 6 - In Support of Trayless Campus Dining Halls
  - 1. There have been a number of studies that have shown that we are wasting tons of food
  - 2. UT has looked at other schools that have gone trayless
    - a. It has proven that 30-40% of waste has declined
  - 3. The legislation tonight is in support of going trayless
  - 4. Other things have been tried, but this is the next logical step to decrease food waste
  - 5. SSD: Have you thought about students with physical impairments?
    - a. Trays would be available for those students
  - 6. D. Villarreal: I ate at Jester today. I had a lot of study to carry. What is your solution for this?
    - a. The drawback to all of this is the issue of convenience
    - b. There will be a loss of convenience, and it will take some getting used to
    - c. Each year, roughly 2/3 of students in dining halls are freshman
    - d. New students wouldn't really know about the trays
  - 7. FLO: We are taking about going trayless in J2 and Kinsolving?
    - a. Correct
  - 8. Johnson: Did you look into downsizing the trays?
    - a. It was looked at over the summer. That step has been taken. It has some effect, but not to the degree that they were looking for.
  - 9. On and Off Campus Housing: How much did DHFS spend on the most recent campaign?
    - a. I don't know, but I can find that out.
  - 10. Chair: Have you talked to constituents?
    - a. The people we have talked to understand that it is an issue of convenience.
    - b. A lot of students that live off campus don't mind, but that is understandable
    - c. The focus for this semester will be working with current students and letting them know that their interests are in mind
- B. Debate
  - 1. Yay
    - a. McMillin
      - i. Two competing claims are losing convenience, and gaining from saving that money and being environmentally friendly
  - 2. Nay
    - a. FLO
      - i. I did a nonscientific survey today
        - 1. 82% percent of the people I asked were in favor of keeping trays

- ii. Point of information: Students weren't given any statistics about the waste?
      - 1. No
    - iii. I am for saving the environment, but I'm not sure this is what students want
- 3. Yay
  - a. Trotter
    - i. Over \$600,000 dollars in food is being wasted a year
    - ii. We are not only helping the environment, but we are decreasing costs for students
    - iii. This is a significant impact that students would be in favor of
- 4. Nay
  - a. On and Off campus housing
    - i. I have lived on campus until this point
    - ii. I was a resident and an RA
    - iii. DHFS implemented a campaign with reducing tray size and educating, but I don't think enough time has been given to students to analyze the effects of this
    - iv. I would just like more time to see this happen and get more time from students
- 5. Yay
  - a. Parks
    - i. Campaign over the summer was very methodical
    - ii. A study was done before and after the campaign
    - iii. I think they have already captured what will change from that campaign
    - iv. Out of hundreds of campuses that have implemented this policy, only one has had enough resistance to overturn the policy
- 6. Villarreal: How can I contribute to waste?
  - a. Stein: If every student was cleaning their plate, that would be great, but not all students are doing that
  - b. McMillin: Us that clean our plates are in the minority
- 7. Point of Information: is it ok to pass our papers in support of one way or another?
  - a. Chair: I will look into it
- 8. Shwartz: How much money per person is the waste costing?
  - a. I am not for sure
- 9. Guest: no one has referred to the water issue waste, which is also being wasted
- 10. Point of order
- 11. Motion seconded
- 12. Motion carries
- 13. Vote to approve by acclamation
- 14. Motion seconded
- 15. Motion carries

### XIII. New Business

- A. AR 7 – In Support of the Existing Handgun Ban on Texas College Campuses
  - 1. Current law states that no guns, unless by police officer, can be brought into college campus buildings
  - 2. There is talk at the Capitol that would attempt to change that law
    - a. It would allow individuals with a CHL to carry them into buildings
  - 3. Our legislation is in support of the current handgun ban
  - 4. UTPD force is made up of 64 officers
  - 5. Most gun deaths are affiliated with suicides
  - 6. There is an argument that allowed handguns on campus would deter massacres like those at Virginia Tech
  - 7. But college handgun shootings are rare
  - 8. Guest: Does the resolution call for metal detectors, or other safety measures if the gun ban was lifted?

- a. It does not
- 9. Meadows: A student with a CHL can carry guns on campus, but not into buildings. Is that correct?
- 10. Motion to fast track
- 11. Motion seconded
- 12. Motion carries

XIV. Unfinished Business

A. AR 7 – In Support of the Existing Handgun Ban on Texas College Campuses

- 1. John Woods
  - a. I graduated from Virginia Tech three weeks after the shooting
  - b. Proceeds to read a written argument
  - c. Guns on campus at VA Tech would have done nothing
  - d. No students from VA Tech themselves have said that having a CHL holder on campus would have helped
  - e. Guns on campus are not welcome
- 2. Point of information: Can you run through the procedures of debate?
  - a. Debate rules repeated

B. Debate

- 1. Yay
  - a. Stein
    - i. The sponsors have spend a lot of time talking about this
    - ii. It is one of the most important issues of the year
    - iii. Student opinion nationwide is overwhelmingly in favor of keeping things the way they are
    - iv. 94% of Americans were not comfortable with having ordinary citizens to carry guns on campus
    - v. SCC passed a bill like this
    - vi. UT System Faculty Council also voted in support of this
- 2. Nay
  - a. D. Villarreal
    - i. I am a second generation Army vet
    - ii. I like in West Campus, and as you cross Guadalupe, you enter a danger idea
    - iii. There are some creepy people
- 3. Yay
  - a. Stein
    - i. Student support is overwhelming
    - ii. Chief of UTPD is in support of the ban
    - iii. There are 11 schools that allow this on campus, and nine in one state
    - iv. If we are one of a few colleges that allow this on campus, it wouldn't allow us to continue to attract grad students and faculty from other states
    - v. When you walk into a movie theater, there may be a gun. But this is where we live and study, and students aren't comfortable having guns on campus except by UTPD
- 4. Nay
  - a. Guest
    - i. I am a little girl, and I carry pepper spray
    - ii. I can't defend myself with only that
    - iii. I want to get my CHL when I turn 21, and I want to be able to protect myself and my property like other people that live off campus
    - iv. Criminals already disregard the law, and those that want to commit a school shooting won't obey the law
    - v. I have been shooting guns since I was little, so I don't see why responsible people should not be able to carry guns
- 5. Yay

- a. Cotton
  - i. Getting a CHL is not nearly as intense as Ranger school
  - ii. Thank you for having the "Defend the Bill of Rights" sign
  - iii. Our liberties are constantly being suppressed for our protection
  - iv. I can see and print whatever I want for the sake of the safety of our citizens
  - v. The idea of a few people having concealed handguns on campus is mind-boggling to me
- 6. Motion to extend debate by 10 minutes
- 7. Motion seconded
- 8. Motion carries
- 9. Nay
  - a. Longhorn EMS
    - i. Even though I am not a CHL holder, my roommate is
    - ii. I am an example of someone who would feel comfortable with people carrying guns on campus
    - iii. There is not much difference between standing inside or outside the door
    - iv. The debate should be about whether we should be allowed to carry guns into buildings, not on campus
    - v. Armed guards and armed services are also allowed to carry handguns on campus
- 10. Yay
  - a. Stanton
    - i. You can still carry your gun into no man's land by Guadalupe
    - ii. We have tons of call buttons on campus
    - iii. We have one of the safest campuses in the nation
    - iv. I have never felt threatened guns on campus
    - v. Other people may be allowed to carry guns on campus, but they are armed guards
    - vi. I don't see the need for someone to carry a gun on campus
    - vii. I know victims of rape and stalking, but also of gun crimes
- 11. Nay
  - a. Villarreal
    - i. I have used SURE Walk, and they will walk you to the edge of campus
    - ii. There are no call boxes or policemen there
    - iii. My personal defense becomes an issue, and I must figure out how to deal with that on my own
  - b. Guest
    - i. I'm a fat guy
    - ii. I have no way of defending myself
    - iii. I trust myself, not others
- 12. Yay
  - a. Bunch
    - i. You can carry a gun on Guadalupe
    - ii. Having a gun license doesn't remove you from human mistake
    - iii. Having guns on campus doesn't make people feel safer, it makes them feel more unsafe
    - iv. I fear for the one incident when a gun misfires
- 13. Nay
  - a. Guest
    - i. VA Tech panel recommended against concealed carry
    - ii. The Texas House Panel committee on Law Enforcement recommended in favor of concealed carry
    - iii. 11 schools that have lawful concealed carry have never had a misfire or a gun theft
    - iv. You are five times more likely to die in a fire than by a gun

- v. Recruiting efforts would be minimally altered if the gun ban was lifted
    - b. Point of information
      - i. Is there an armory on campus where people can check in their guns?
        - 1. Guest: No
14. Yay
- a. Chincanchan
    - i. Texas House Panel is a one party panel
    - ii. The VA Tech panel was a bipartisan party
    - iii. Statistics can be manipulated easily
    - iv. In SCCC's handbook, they discuss a Harvard study that says that license holders are more likely to binge drink and perform acts of vandalism
    - v. They cite studies that license holders are less aggressive than others
    - vi. On our campus and our university, their stats are not quite representative
15. Chair adds eight minutes to debate
16. Nay
- a. Guest
    - i. I am a CHL holder
    - ii. The train is not that of a police academy
    - iii. I completely sympathize with the idea that it can be scary to have guns on campus
    - iv. If your level of discomfort is all that is holding you back, please reconsider
    - v. This really does come down to our rights
    - vi. I really don't think that our rights are being infringed upon
    - vii. I don't think students should be discriminated against and told they can't have guns on campus
    - viii. It is pretty arbitrary that we don't have guns on campus
      - 1. We have 50,000 students on campus and 64 policemen
  - b. FLO
    - i. Question
      - 1. Chair: this should have been asked during Q&A
17. Yay
- a. LRA
    - i. This is a resolution, and all it is stating that this is the student opinion
    - ii. Students are overwhelmingly in favor of this, and you as reps should voice their opinion
    - iii. We know where they stand, so you as reps should say it
18. Nay
- a. Guest
    - i. Less than an hour ago, you passed something that you said students weren't necessarily in favor of
      - 1. The cost outweighed the benefits
    - ii. Stats can be manipulated, let's not ignore that
    - iii. Your stat says that most crimes are committed off campus
    - iv. Maybe we should focus on the age of CHL holders to protect themselves off campus
19. Yay
- a. Stanton
    - i. It seems like this is an obvious question with an obvious answer
    - ii. Reaching for a gun when you are being stuck up will only make the robber shoot you
20. Nay
- a. Guest

- i. I carry guns off campus, because I have my CHL
- ii. Your stat from 1996 does not carry now
- iii. By supporting this legislation, you are supporting this on other campuses as well
- iv. Last year at Rice, there were plenty of hold ups
- v. I worry when I walk home into West Campus
- vi. Students with CHL are much more experienced than some security guards

21. Yay

a. John Woods

- i. Students at colleges aren't allowed to carry weapons
- ii. Justice Scalia himself wrote that the second amendment isn't unlimited
- iii. VA Tech panel is in favor of this panel
  - 1. Included Tom Ridge, Sec. of Homeland Security
- iv. Texas House Panel hasn't been part of an actual shooting
- v. You can't bring a calc or hat to math test, but you can bring a gun
- vi. An average of 1 in 6 students are undiagnosed with mental illnesses, and could carry guns on campus

22. Nay

a. Guest

- i. My father is a CHL holder
- ii. He received death threats from an employee, who fired at him
- iii. My father returned fired, and drove the assailant away
- iv. If my father was at UT, he would be dead
- v. Concealed carry prevented this
- vi. Fact of the matter is that it saves lives
- vii. It saved my family
- viii. People will carry them regardless

23. Motion to call to previous question

24. Motion seconded

25. Motion carries

26. Roll Call Vote

27. Resolution passes 31-6-2

C. AR 8 – In Support of Saving UT's Printing Press

- 1. TSM voted to sell the printing press
- 2. This resolution is to oppose the vote to sell the printing press
- 3. Even though it was voted to sell it, it won't be sold until it is bid on
- 4. There are some changes that have been made from the resolution in December
- 5. I know just as much about this as much as the TSM admin, which is in favor of selling the press

D. AR 9 – In Honor of Annie Elderbroom

- 1. Motion to fast track
- 2. Motion seconded
- 3. Motion carries

XV. Unfinished Business

A. AR 9 – In Honor of Annie Elderbroom

- 1. Resolution read
- 2. Motion to approve by acclamation
- 3. Motion seconded
- 4. Motion carries

XVI. New Business

A. AR 10 – In Support of a Green Building Policy for the University of Texas at Austin



1. President Powers has drawn attention to this
2. The new ESB building will use a Green Building Policy
3. This would ask all buildings to be LEED Silver Standard
4. This wouldn't change much, this would just make it official and hold UT accountable
5. D. Villarreal: What is a green roof?
  - a. The top floor of the building is energy efficient
  - b. Green roofs alleviate the heat cause by ordinary roofs
  - c. It absorbs the Sun's heat, and doesn't radiate it
  - d. It also insulates, and saves money
6. Trotter: How does that alter the architecture of UT buildings?
  - a. We don't want all new buildings to have green roofs
  - b. The new SAC will have a green roof
  - c. Motion to fast track
  - d. Motion seconded
  - e. Motion not carried
7. This will simply document LEED policy in the books and make it official
8. This is important for external issue as well

XVII. Representative Reports

XVIII. College Council Reports

XIX. Announcements

- A. Legislative Summit
  1. Next one will be Feb. 24 and discuss financial aid
  2. Another one will discuss textbooks
  3. Encourage people to come out
- B. Please send appropriations applications are out
- C. Happy Birthday Priti!
- D. Gun issue is a safety issue
  1. So it is our jobs to improve things like SURE walk and try and accommodate those issues
- E. Dance Marathon concert
  1. Utdm.org
- F. SLB on Thursday will discuss 9/11 effects
  1. Texas Union Eastwoods Room Thursday at 8pm
- G. Texas Roosevelt Institution
  1. Come learn about policy
  2. People want to write on these issues
  3. Utroosevelt.org
- H. Business Fair Careers Expos
  1. Tuesday Feb 10 San Jac MPR
  2. Wednesday Feb 11 at Rec Sports MPR
- I. Dan Villarreal
  1. This is my last meeting
  2. I am working as a court interpreter
  3. I am honored to have worked with people like you
  4. Thank you for letting me serve
- J. Motion to adjourn
- K. Motion seconded
- L. Motion approved

XX. Second Roll Call

XXI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm