



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

1 University Station, A6210 · Austin, TX 78712-0810
(512) 471 - 3166 · Fax: (512) 471-3408 · <http://www.utsg.org>

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

STUDENT GOVERNMENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Tuesday, November 17th, 2015

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. Dan Slesnick - Tuition Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC)
 - i. Have meet several times over the last couple months and want to discuss our budget situation as well as a budget increase. As most of you know there was an email that went out yesterday where you can fill out a survey and we have gotten quite a few of those. Since the financial crisis of 2009, the primary revenue sources of the university have declined or remained flat. State general revenue was reduced 46 million annually. Resident undergrad tuition rate has not increased since fall 2011. We look at our budget in three different categories we have 2.8 billion dollars, 1.4 of that goes too academic core, 965 goes to academic enhancement, and 428 goes to self supporting. In the case of athletics, they give funding back to the university. No academic core funding goes to athletics. The academic core is where we are trying to support the research and teaching goals of the university. More in depth of the academic core. The 1.4 is divided into 358 of State General Revenue, Tuition is \$593, Indirect cost is \$90, Annual Payout varies 12 million for year 15-16, Other is \$108. The academic core needs a 30 to 40-million-dollar increase to keep up with inflation, salary increase etc. Most of it goes to Salaries and benefits. Fringe benefits are caused by inflation. What did TPAC consider? WE looked at a comparison of tuition at UT Austin relative to other universities. Maintenance of affordability and access to the university and the funding needs of the university. We are 7th when it copes to tuition cost in colleges in the state of Texas. On a national comparison we rank 14th/15th for an annual tuition rate. It would take a \$4,000 increase to reach the median cost of our competitors. UT Austin discounts tuition through the application of financial aid. Net Tuition = Listed tuition less financial aid. Financial Aid = Federal, state,

private and institutional aid exclusive of loans. Net tuition provides a more accurate indicator of progress. Who receives discounts is based on family income. Anyone with a family income of \$80,000 or less on average receive financial discounts. Not as dramatic with out of state students. What is the Tuition recommendation being considered? Recommendation – Increase Texas resident undergraduate student rates 3%, roughly \$300 a year. Out of state residents would be roughly \$500. Additional funds will be used for scholarships for economically disadvantaged students, educational support to improve 4-year graduation rates, competitive salaries for faculty and staff, costs to maintain facilities, classrooms and campus infrastructures. If you have questions the email is tuitionfeedback@utexas.edu. We are here to answer questions and I want to open it up.

- ii. MADDEN – I'm assuming most of the responses it to not raise tuition, but can you paint us a picture if tuition is not raised?
- iii. LADY – In order to give salary increases the deans of had to pay for very modest raises, and they have had to find those funds in their colleges and have to reduce the quality of programs so that's the main impact of what would happen
- iv. MADDEN – How much money should we receive from the state as far as how much we have to pay can you walk us through what's happening at a state level
- v. LADY – The legislature has a lot of different competing requests for resources, the political environment has not been supportive of large increases in higher education it is a continuing dialogue but on average we've seen 2-5% increases
- vi. MADDEN – So this is for two straight years, and the next year you will try and increase it?
- vii. LADY – yes in 2017 we will go back to them
- viii. ROTENOFESKY – Its unfortunate that this falls on the back of students but we are now put in a position where its up to us to cover some bit of what needs to be done to cover that deficit, and what we should do is channel that anger and take it to the legislature
- ix. BANNER – How will the funds be allocated to those last four categories that you showed?
- x. LADY – That's a discussion for deans and the president but after that its budget decisions and priorities of the president
- xi. WOLF – Something that we've debated is UTIMPCO what percentages of tuition goes to UTIMPCO?
- xii. LADY – None of UT tuition money goes to them
- xiii. ZHANG – How does this affect students enrolled in the longhorn fixed tuition plan?
- xiv. LADY – if they are currently enrolled in the fixed land you will not be subjected to a change
- xv. ROSALES – Has sustainability been discussed?
- xvi. LADY – Yes that has come up, we've discussed it. UT System legal said we cannot re do the fee, but that could be something the president has and if students feel strongly about that it can be added

- xvii. BARTH – If you want to take a 5th year how will that affect your tuition?
- xviii. KNIGHT – 5th year will be based on whatever the going rate is at that time
- xix. RAJA – Why is there such a big priority in discussing on comparing our cost of tuition to other tier one universities
- xx. KNIGHT – I think it just shows the support of students to have towards their university and state funding
- xxi. MCGINTY – To what extent are you really considering student's options?
- xxii. KNIGHT – well you have students on the TPAC committee, I would say work through your leadership and we are looking at every single one of your emails, but I would advise going through leadership
- xxiii. ROTONOFSKY – tuition seems like the most viable route to deal with the tension in our funding, and it is the most balanced way to what students can put in to together sources of funding. That's where this increase will be going too and as a student I can voice our opinion
- xxiv. MCGINTY – That's why I'm asking can this give enough money for new areas like green fee?
- xxv. MANDELAPU – The way we look at it is that we are having less of a deficit and its more like okay what organizations are we not going to have
- xxvi. SCHREDDER – Do you anticipate any change in student population and enrollment?
- xxvii. KNIGHT – I don't think so we have never had a problem with applications

b. Taylor Lopez-Huebner, Society of Petroleum Engineers

- i. We are here to educate you about hydraulic fracturing, drilling and other things you should know. UT generates all the electricity on campus is generated by natural gas, powering lights, air-conditioning, Wi-Fi. Oil and gas helps to provide energy to promote a higher quality of life. The demand for energy is projected to increase due to the increasing world population and developing nations. Energy drives us, items made from petroleum include toothbrushes, soap, pillows, etc. CO2 emissions have been going down since 2009, it can be a cleaner source of energy. How does drilling work? Weight is applied to a rotating bit to drill through the ground. Drilling mud is circulated through the hole to carry cuttings to the surface. After the hole is drilled, casing is placed and cemented. Go in with a large drill bit, then go back with a smaller bit, Single surface location has a much smaller impact than multiple. What is hydraulic fracturing? By injecting fluids at high pressure, engineers are able to create more openings. DO we need it? YES, US consumed 26,698,068 million cubic feet. What is a Fracking? It is ¼ inch thick, can be very controlled. Fracking affect on groundwater. A main misconception is that it contaminates groundwater which is not true at all. The fluid that fractures the land is 99.9% water and sand while only .1% is additives. SPEUT.com
- ii. CHE – So I understand the important role of natural gas, could you comment on hydraulic fracturing and earthquakes?

- iii. SOPE – In some areas earthquakes do occur because of hydraulic fracturing, so many earthquakes happen below surface
- iv. SOPE – it is actually injection wells not hydraulic fracturing, you need injection wells with hydraulic fracturing hence the correlation, and its 1/10,000 that can cause a perceivable earthquake and its projected at a fault. Hydraulic fracturing itself does not cause earthquakes.
- v. BANNER – As technology has improved they can read the seismic under the ground these faults are huge and it eventually causes it to slip a foot or two which cause a small earthquake but once these faults are identified they wont be injected into them

V. Open Forum

- a. Nishitha Sharma – Bhakati Yoga Club – coordinating with Texas for Israel and we would like to invite SG for this event this Thursday at the Texas Hillel, so come dressed in traditional clothes and formal attire and bring friends

VI. Appointments

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

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. A.R. 15 - In Support of Installing Wall-mounted Emergency Trauma Stations Throughout Campus
 - i. This piece of legislation is in support of installing wall mounted emergency trauma stations throughout campus. In partnership with Longhorn EMS this legislation aims to make campus a safer place. Longhorn EMS will be raising funds for purchase, installation, and maintenance.
 - ii. ROSALES – changed a word and added sponsors
 - iii. HAYES – We would make them customizable to help be most beneficial towards students
 - iv. WOLF – I would like to move to fix the spelling of my name
 - v. MCGINTY – I move to approve AR 15 by unanimous consent
- AR 15 PASSES BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

VIII. New Business

- a. J.R. 2 (Fast Track) – A Resolution in Support of Creating a Service Flag
 - i. JR2 would give instructors, professors and colleges within the university the option of including "service learning" within their curriculum. JR2 defines service learning as out-of-classroom community service/projects that benefit both the community and the student. The implementation of service learning flags within courses would positively impact communities near UT's campus as well as broaden students' knowledge of the courses' material through hands on experience, a sense of civic engagement and responsibility.

- ii. STONE – After overwhelmingly positive results we think that the best way to do this is with a service flag, we've met with various people and it is an academic change, but creating a flag is such a big deal we wanted to include SG
- iii. ENRIONE – It would be an optional way to identify service learning courses, students could more easily identify these courses. This way you could easily spot this class
- iv. WOLF – when I participated in the original McCombs rollout and it has substantial impact on the community because this was in place.
- v. MCGINTY – Do you know if the flags show academic summaries?
- vi. ENRIONE – It would be an internal way for you to be able to see
- vii. STONE – Its definitely something we could push for transcript recognition and that's definitely something I would be willing to push for
- viii. BAKER – the school of education already has a lot of service learning so how would this affect the school of education
- ix. STONE – I'm not really sure this would be an issue and it could be addressed if it was
- x. ROSALES – I move to approve the fast track of JR2
- xi. DIMITROFF – SECOND

FASTRACK APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Added to list of sponsors of JR2

Adkins, Schwall, Helgren, Rosales, Che, Rodrigez, Norton, Norton, Dimitroff, Ross, Zhang, Banner, Saez, Arnett, Dror, Engel, Schredder, Ainsworkth, Minkowitz, Sostek, Mumford, Tran Guzman, Richardson.

ROSALES – I move to approve JR2 by unanimous consent
 JR 2 APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

*Tanner steps down, Dror takes over

- b. A.B. 7 – Referendum in Support of Continuing the Campus Green Fee
 - i. AB 7 is expressing the continued support for the University of Texas at Austin Green Fee. The intention of this bill is introduce a referendum item to be voted on by the student body during the next campus-wide election in March 2016.
 LONG – Been working on this since January, exact wording is on the bill supporting a continuing of Green Fe
 MAGEE – What has been your favorite initiative done by green fee?
 LONG – back when the Bastrop wildfires happened UT was able to send nearly 3,000 trees to replant them at the site, we have water bottle refilling station has a huge impact on campus unfortunately this expires at the spring, but at the price of a latte I don't think people will mind continuing this great program

COMMITTED TO STUDENT AFFAIRS

- c. A.R. 16 – In Support of Umbrella Checkout on Campus

- i. This legislation seeks to establish an umbrella checkout on campus. Students who forget to bring rain gear to campus will be able to borrow and return an umbrella to campus departments/buildings facilitating the umbrella checkouts.
- ii. DIMITROFF – Rain sucks *Falke opens Umbrella* Dramatic affect This is something John mentioned to him in August. We won't have a \$16,000 Umbrella budget but we want to do a pilot program here at SAC
- iii. FALKE – It would be here at the SAC, students would benefit, there would be a fee if you don't return it, we would want to try it out with 20 umbrellas
- iv. DIMITROFF – If you don't return it you don't get to check out an umbrella again and we would appreciate your support
- v. HELGREN – Have you given any thought to having these checkout stations operating under an umbrella that way for the sake of convince you could deliver them back to one of those.
- vi. DIMITROFF – WE first would want to try the piolet program and if its successful we would definitely want to do that
- vii. ENGEL – how would you get the word out?
 - DIMITROFF – then we could launch and SG campaign possibly or word of mouth
 - FALKE – possibly posting it on FAC/SAC websites
 - MADDEN – What happens if the umbrella breaks if you are using it?
 - DIMITROFF – It kind of depends on how it is broken but there is still a circumstantial issue that will be taken into consideration
 - WOLFE – what is the budget?
 - FALKE – we have a little over 1,000 in our budget, I can get you the exact numbers after the meeting
 - TRAN – WHO'S PROPERTY?
 - FALKE – it is property of SG
 - MYLOTT – How many umbrellas can \$200-\$300 buy?
 - DIMITROFF – Around \$15 and the thought would be that if this was successful we would look at other options; we would get money from special projects for a piolet program
 - DROR – Would yall buy from the coop or place the university supports?
 - DIMITROFF – We have thought of that moving forward
 - AUDIENCE MEMBER – what about acquiring umbrellas, like those who the stadium can't bring them in and have to leave them
 - ROSS – speaking of what athletics does are other rain prevention measures being done like possibly ponchos?
 - DIMITROFF – Umbrellas are just the first thought if problems with umbrellas ends up being they break them a lot Ponchos are still a possibility

- IX. Ex-Officio Member Reports
 - a. Senate of College Councils
 - b. Graduate Student Assembly
 - c. Campus Events and Entertainment

- i. Tomorrow Mexican American Culture committee is having an event called searching for Aslan, a Latino version of the Wizard of Oz. Thursday ShowTime is screening Mission Impossible Rouge Nation in the Union Theater. This Thursday, Friday and Saturday the Magical theater.
- X. Deputy Advisor Report
 - a. Alex Kappus, *Deputy to the Dean of Students* – akappus@austin.utexas.edu
- XI. Executive Reports
 - a. Xavier Rotnofsky, *President* - xavier.rotnofsky@utexas.edu
 - i. PSAC was last weekend, big 12 was great, I have 14 woman's basketball box seats
 - b. Rohit Mandalapu, *Vice President* - rmandalapu@utexas.edu
 - i. Big 12 wrapped up this weekend I chaired the committee on sexual assault, if that's something you care about reach out to me, if you have questions on TPAC let us know
 - c. Taral Patel, *Chief of Staff* - taralvpatel@gmail.com
 - d. Thomas Mylott, *Communications Director* - mylottiv@gmail.com
 - i. Productive conversations through communications and many schools have outreach and promotion a lot of schools have problems with outreach this was reassuring. Shot out to Nicole for everything good that happened this weekend
 - e. Nicole Chu, *Internal Finance Director* - nchu@utexas.edu
 - i. Big 12 is over thanks to everyone who helped
 - f. Conner Patrick, *External Finance Director* - conner1201@gmail.com
- XII. Amber Magee, *Administrative Director* - mageeamber15@gmail.com
 - a. Google Doc on the Facebook page of External appointees, not a lot going on. Big 12 was good, chaired a discussion on financial aide. Increasing inclusivity and diversity on campus back into recruiting systems if we can diversify the pool. Thank you all very much for reading my email and I appreciate that we can talk about that an if you have any concerns I would love open constructive conversation. I'm open to working at all improvements and questions about the legislation. WE did have a voice and a stance on that just on the time frame with things that we do constantly
- XIII. Cabinet of Policy Director Reports
 - a. RAJA – LLA has been doing a great job, sock drive has been going great, it's a great cause and means a lot to the homeless population in the area, getting along well or so I heard, FLO's Thursday night Thanksgiving dinner in the Rec Sports. LEA working to find incubator space on campus, they have a blog now
- XIV. Agency Director Reports
 - a. ZACH LONG – Federal Relations Agency Director – Hook ' Up Bi Weekly Newsletter kind of lie the Skimm, if you have any suggestions let me know
 - b. JOHN – Out of state international students – trying to bottleneck real problem students and transfer students are having we met with the dean of UGS to talk about this issue

and one of the problems is that you're being frontloaded with information at orientation and how can you provide that information at a need to know basis. There will be transfer figs next year as well as UGS transfer specific classes if you have any recommendations of classes contact me

- c. GRACE GILKER – WRA- we've been keeping up this semester and had to get a new room because they are well attended, running the vagina monologue auditions right now, having a tampon drive next semester to benefit safe place also still working on self defense legislation, probably going to be doing a working group kind of thing we would love to have your input.

XV. External Appointment Reports

- a. DAVID ENGLEMAN – On faculty and staff council, very eventful faculty council meeting this week, three important resolutions were passed, two had to do with campus carry and one had to do with academic freedom. Things that may seem like they don't apply to us when the faculty stands up to reaffirm them. Keep an eye out for this kind of stuff, weather the positons of attitudes of faculty council. In terms of campus carry, one was relevant only to this campus and it was faculty council about their implementation of it here. The UT cannot support their mission if they have guns on this campus and that it impedes learning and jeopardizes the credibility and status, faculty council is against campus carry. I encourage you all to take an active roll to give the body to make important decisions about it here at UT. The second resolution was very similar but just more on a nation wide scale, that was the outcome of faculty council.
- b. ANDREW BRAMLETT – Men's Athletic Council – Got to represent to athletic director of a list of 15 ideas and got a lot of positive feedback and hopefully some meetings will be set up, the athletics council and specifically the athletics side is getting audited right now, overall pretty uneventful.
- c. SHANNON GEISON – Texas Student Media – TSM meeting is this Friday at 1pm, there super interesting if your interested d let me know

XVI. Executive Staff Reports

XVII. Standing Assembly Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs Committee, James Che - jamesikeche@utexas.edu
- b. External Affairs Committee, Allison Ainsworth - allisonrainsworth@gmail.com
- 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

XVIII. Representative Reports

DIMITROFF – Student Speak – thank you for everyone who helped out with this if anyone wants to sit down with me and look at issues let me know

MCGINTY – Break down some issues with academic advising and hopefully have legislation, there will be a gift for the LLAs in the office on Monday

ROSS – Meeting this Friday to discuss digital platform and ideas generated from student speaks and putting them online

HELGREN – Quality of Life for college students met – Short Term Rentals – passed a resolution put a temporary moratorium on STR. If you don't have an STR licenses, you cant apply for one until the end of 2017, if that's something you find interesting let me know

XIX. Judicial Report

XX. Ad hoc Reports

XXI. Speaker of the Assembly Report

a. 9 Meetings left, next meeting is January 26th, Embedded Livestream into front page of the website

XXII. General Announcements

a. DROR – This coming Friday is ThankSGiving, cool little sendoff

XXIII. Second Roll Call

XXIV. Recess/Adjournment