



Minutes for April 1, 2008 Student Government Assembly Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order- Meeting commenced at 7:05pm
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes- March 25, 2008- Minutes approved
- IV. Guests
 - A. Mindy Montford, District Attorney Candidate
 - 1. University of Texas at Austin alumnus
 - 2. Currently prosecutes in DA's office
 - 3. Early voting this week until Friday
 - 4. Every vote counts
 - 5. Let Ms. Montford know if you are interested in helping with the campaign
 - B. Motion to suspend the rules and move AB23 to the next item on the agenda
 - C. Motion not recognized
- V. Open Forum
 - A. Geoff Geiger-
 - 1. Disappointed that SG has not addressed election reform sooner and that the proposed reforms are not stronger
 - 2. Commends SG for taking on reforms
 - B. Libraries
 - 1. Can now watch DVDs on library computers
 - 2. Googlebooks will be linked to library catalog
 - 3. Dan Villarreal- Do Texas Exes have off campus access to UT's databases?
 - a. Yes, and all Texas graduates have access to on campus resources
 - C. ECC- Events CoSponsorship Committee
 - 1. New member applications available
 - 2. Early fall allocation applications available
- VI. Ex-Officio Reports
 - A. Graduate Student Assembly
 - B. Senate of College Councils
 - a. Faculty Appreciation Week
 - b. Meyers- Thanks SG for such a great year
 - C. Student Events Center

- D. Student Services
- E. Motion to suspend the rules and move AB23 to the next item on the agenda
- F. Motion carries

VII. AB23: Changing Internal Rules- Requirements for Passing Legislation

- A. Motion to call the previous question
- B. Motion seconded
- C. Voting
- D. Motion carries
- E. Voting
- F. AB23 passes
- G. Motion to suspend the rules and move AR24 to the next item on the agenda
- H. Motion carries

VIII. AR24: In Support of the Targeted Divestment of The University of Texas Investment Management Company's (UTIMCO) Funds from Companies Operating in Sudan

- A. UTIMCO currently funds two of the worst offending companies
- B. Divestment campaign has been adopted by the United States
- C. White Rose Society has worked diligently to promote this cause
- D. Motion to suspend the rules and fast track AR24 as unfinished business
- E. Motion seconded
- F. AR24 now considered unfinished business
- G. Dan Villarreal- Are specific companies mentioned in the resolution?
 - 1. No, we did not think it was necessary to include specific examples.
- H. Motion to approve by acclamation
- I. Motion seconded
- J. Objections
- K. Motion to call previous question
- L. Motion seconded
- M. Voting
- N. AR24 passes

IX. Appointments

X. Deputy Adviser Report

- A. Melinda Sutton- msutton@mail.utexas.edu
 - 1. DoS is working to reach out to students and publicize the services that it offers
 - 2. Expect an email from DoS about risk management training, which will be offered for organizations next year
 - 3. Legends of China program
 - a. Study abroad opportunity
 - b. Application due soon

XI. Executive Reports- Farewells

- A. President: Andrew C. Solomon- a.solomon@mail.utexas.edu
 1. Concerns about party permits
 2. Meeting on Friday
- B. Vice President: Nicole Trinh- netrinh@austin.utexas.edu
- C. Executive Director: Jordan Davisson- jordandavisson@mail.utexas.edu
- D. Communications Director: Vicki Nguyen- vicki.nguyen@bba04.mcombs.utexas.edu
- E. External Financial Director: Stephen Gilstrap-sgilstrap@mail.utexas.edu
- F. Internal Financial Director: Frankie Shulkin-fshulkin@mail.utexas.edu
- G. Secretary to the Assembly: Chelsea Wade- chelsea.wade@bba05.mcombs.utexas.edu

XII. Committee Reports

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

XIII. Unfinished Business

XIV. New Business

- A. AB24: Changing Election Code- Miscellaneous Things
 1. Working document
 2. See election reform summary for reasoning
 3. Debate- No debate
 4. We have not had proctors for the past three years
 5. Voting
 6. AB24 passes
- B. AB25: Changing Election Code- Tickets (Definition/Ticket-Building)
 1. Any mentioning of ticket building and candidate associations is removed from the Code
 2. Students feel that the ticket system makes it difficult for students to run independently
 3. Makes it easier for students who are most passionate about representing their fellow students to run
 4. Executive alliance between President and Vice President so that the two can effectively work together
 5. Motion to suspend the rules and fast track AB25

6. Motion seconded
7. Motion carries- AB25 now unfinished business
8. Friendly amendment- In last line of 5.02- Change "will be subject" to "can be subject"
9. Amendment accepted
10. Ginn- How will the executive alliance affect voter turnout?
 - a. We want all candidates to run independently, but believe it is necessary for the President and Vice President to work well together
 - b. Mimics actual political system
11. Suggestion to conduct candidate seminar to educate candidates on policies
12. Umberger- Who made up the Election Reform committee?
 - a. One committee member ran independently
 - b. Now is the time to make a difference
 - c. All committee member were Student Government members
 - d. However, committee actively sought input from student body
13. Walker- Do you think the fact that candidates have to work alone will intimidate students from running?
 - a. Code does not exclude candidates from forming their own support groups
 - b. Election reform will continue to need work, but this is a good and much needed start
14. Trotter- How do we know that highly qualified people will not be beat by less qualified students?
 - a. It is the responsibility of students to make an educated decision
 - b. Will increase civic participation on campus
15. Debate
 - a. Yea- Grasso
 - i. There is an undeniable sentiment on campus that SG does not truly represent the student body
 - ii. SG seems exclusionary
 - iii. Apparent in Daily Texan
 - iv. Can no longer be ignored
 - v. In this year's election, a candidate without a platform or campaign received thousands of votes, showing student negativity toward the ticket system
 - b. Nay- Ginn
 - i. Ticket system used to work
 - ii. Ticket system makes two extraordinary student leaders branch out to different parts of campus and reach out to students who are leaders in their own right and provide them with an avenue for representing their community
 - c. Yea- Rajagopalan
 - i. Open process will generate more participation and more ideas
 - d. Nay- Knudson

- i. Unsure whether this bill is an appropriate measure for improving election process
 - ii. Believes the removal of the ticket system will make it easier for some students to campaign than other students
 - iii. She is concerned that At Large candidates will not be able to reach out to the whole student body
 - iv. For example, organizations would have to let all candidates speak
 - v. Concerned that candidates with financial support and social networks will have a better chance at winning
- e. Yea- Grasso
 - i. No other official comparison school uses a ticket system
 - ii. These schools successfully hold elections with much larger voter turnout
 - iii. Would consider it a success for there to be many candidates
 - iv. Most passionate students will be able to garner support
- f. Nay- Walker
 - i. Terrified that "no associations between candidates of any kind will be tolerated"
 - ii. It is impossible to not have associations of any kind while running for office
 - iii. Would recommend that SG considers allowing people to work together in some capacity
 - iv. Thinks committee is looking more at the effect than the cause
- g. Yea- Rajagopalan
 - i. Maybe we should soften wording
 - ii. What if four candidates rode in car together? It would be okay for the candidates to work together, so long as they are not endorsing one another
 - iii. Takes responsibility for making these reforms work
 - 1. Publicity
 - 2. Education
 - 3. Taking ownership of student governance on campus
- h. Nay- Bunch
 - i. Personal experience- No way he could fund an election
 - ii. Does not believe he could have won without the ticket
 - iii. Sees ticket as a way to include people who otherwise would not have the means to run
 - iv. Ticket system is less necessary for college representative candidates
- i. Yea- Martinez
 - i. For improving the system

- ii. Need to give students a chance to see if election reform can work
- iii. Many examples of students that spend a limited amount of money, yet win elections
- iv. Technology, good campaigning, and good proposals enable students to win with little funding
- j. Nay- Umberger
 - i. Believes it would be hasty to do away with ticket system
 - ii. Product of ticket system, but was not hand picked
 - iii. Ticket system has ability to do great things by setting an ideal
 - iv. The reason students do not have interest in SG is not because of the ticket system
 - v. Voter turn out fluctuates
- k. Yea- Roberson yields to Sally Waley
 - i. Ran and won as independent candidate
 - ii. Was not selected to run on a ticket
 - iii. Students are discouraged if they are not asked to run on a ticket
 - iv. Open system will enable motivated students to run with confidence
 - v. Talking to students proved more effective than spending a significant amount of money
- l. Nay- O'Rourke yields time to Stanton
 - i. Election Reform is skewed towards fixing perception of SG as composed of elite students
 - ii. Believes barrier to entry will be higher without ticket system
 - iii. If you have great ideas, but aren't popular will not be able to win an election
 - iv. Ticket ensures balance in ideologies
 - v. Need to explore other options for changing election process
- m. Yea- Herndon
 - i. We have examples of students that have been able to run with little financial support
 - ii. If we do not start now, when will reform take place?
 - iii. We will need to continue to work on these reforms and publicize the changes
- n. Nay- Bunch
 - i. Believes these reforms are more concerned about SG's image than electing an assembly that is representative of the student body
 - ii. Ticket system will not fix every problem
 - iii. Please stop and think about your vote
- o. Yea- Norcross
 - i. Committee members spent many meetings and hours researching and discussing election reform
 - ii. Invitation to anyone to run in SG elections

- iii. Candidates can gather support and funds from others
- iv. If you really want a seat in this assembly, you will figure out a way to make it happen
- v. Please read election reform summary
- p. Motion to call the question
- q. Motion seconded
- r. Motion carries
- s. Voting
- t. AB25 passes

C. AB26: Changing Election Code- Polling (Times Open)

- 1. Motion to fast track
- 2. Motions seconded
- 3. Voting
- 4. Motion carries
- 5. Magadi- Could candidates plan speaker circuit together?
 - a. This would not be considered a ticket
 - b. Students could complain and ESB would investigate
- 6. Magadi- Wouldn't increasing the polling times allow for candidates to more easily break the rules?
 - a. Possibly, but this will always be a problem
- 7. Nyberg- Why were polling times previously restricted?
 - a. Because tickets would hold voting rallies at night
- 8. Most students voted during later times
- 9. Purpose: To increase voter turn out
- 10. Mai-Tran- Why don't you just extend the polling times by two hours?
 - a. No answer
- 11. Voting
- 12. AB26 passes

D. AB27: Changing Election Code- Publicity (Letter of Intent/Filing Period/Debate)

- 1. Eliminated Letter of Intent because its purpose was to recruit ticket members
- 2. Extended time to file
- 3. Deputy Advisor will hold debate between contested executive alliance
 - a. Will preserve continuity
 - b. Unbiased moderator
- 4. Friendly amendment to change "spring long-term semester" to "spring semester" in 5.09
- 5. Amendment accepted
- 6. Motion to fast track AB27
- 7. Motion seconded
- 8. Voting
- 9. AB27 is fast tracked
- 10. Motion to call the previous question
- 11. Motion passes
- 12. Voting

13. AB27 passes

E. AB28: Changing Election Code- Financial Expenses (Spending Limits/Financial Disclosures)

1. Calls for removal of spending limits from the campaign
2. Calls for more transparency in financial portion of the campaign
 - a. Where money comes from
 - b. How the money is used
3. When you have a spending limit, a candidate will raise up to that limit
4. When there is no spending limit, students raise money as they need it
5. Goal is to make SG more accessible
6. Motion to fast track
7. Motion seconded
8. Voting
9. Motion carries
10. AB28 now unfinished business
11. Debate
 - a. Yea- Jung
 - i. Personal experience- Raised money through donations from friends and family
 - ii. Spending limit makes students think they need to spend money to run a campaign
 - b. Nay- Sowa
 - i. There are more important things that people should be donating money to than SG campaigns
 - ii. Without a limit, people will spend too much money on SG campaigns
 - c. Yea- Grasso
 - i. Financial disclosure component will prevent candidates from spending an excessive amount of money on campaigns
 - ii. All campaign spending will be reported to the Daily Texan and posted on the SG website
 - iii. Feels that campaigns will be less about A frames and t-shirts because there will not be big tickets
 - iv. Will result in more grass root efforts
 - d. Mai-Tran- Wouldn't raising funds count as asking for support? Candidates aren't allowed to ask for support before a certain date
 - e. Nay- Knudson
 - i. Candidate should only raise amount needed to raise a successful campaign
 - ii. However, that value may differ from one person to another
 - iii. While a successful campaign can be run without funding, an at-large representative may feel it is necessary to spend thousand of dollars to reach the entire student body

- iv. Is the student body really going to pay attention to Daily Texan reports about campaign spending? Instead, they will take notice of the aggressive campaign
- v. Concept will not be uniform throughout student body
- f. Yea- Walker
 - i. Cites examples of candidates at UTSA who won with minimal or no funding
 - ii. This policy mimics what happens in the real world
 - iii. This will shift focus from raising money and to speaking with students
- g. Nay- Bunch
- h. Yea- Novoa yields time to Sally Waley
 - i. Personal experience- Spent limit because she felt it was necessary to compete
 - ii. What was important was that she talked to students
 - iii. Believes students will realize that they do not need to spend a great deal of money
- i. Nay- Knudson
 - i. Brings up ethical issue
 - ii. When we talk about national elections, individual contributions are capped
 - iii. Doesn't understand national politics analogy
 - iv. Doesn't think a student should be spending thousands of dollars on a SG campaign
- j. Motion to limit debate to four minutes
- k. Motion seconded
- l. Voting
- m. Motion carries
- n. Yea- Amin
 - i. Individuals who personally contribute a significant amount of money to their campaign will attract negative publicity
 - ii. Students will not vote simply because they see a name 1,000 times
- o. Nay
 - i. Ran as independent candidate and lost
 - ii. Happy she was able to run
 - iii. Learned about the process
 - iv. Doesn't think financial limits plays a significant role in the results of elections
- p. Motion to call the question
- q. Motion seconded
- r. Voting
- s. Motion carries
- t. Voting
- u. AB28 fails

- F. AB29: Changing Constitution- Amending the Size of the Assembly
 - 1. Purpose- To increase competition

2. Would like to have each representative represent 2,500 students
3. Knudson- Does election code define graduate schools?
 - a. Student Government defines this term
4. Will reducing the number of representatives reduce the ability for SG to reach out to students?
 - a. Rajagopalan
 - i. Had trouble filling ticket
 - ii. This will increase competition
 - iii. Fall election for referendum will help publicize these changes
5. Motion to fast track AB29
6. Motion seconded
7. Motion carries
8. AB29 now unfinished business
9. Motion to limit entirety of debate to ten minutes
10. Motions seconded
11. Voting
12. Motion carries
13. Debate
 - a. Yea- Amin
 - i. Trying to decrease number of available positions to increase competition
 - ii. Increased competition will lead to better qualified representatives
 - b. Nay- Bunch
 - i. You could have more qualified candidates than there are positions available
 - ii. At-large reps are intended to represent various communities on campus
 - iii. We have more than twelve communities that require representation
 - iv. Would limit student say
 - v. Would marginalize opinions expressed in assembly
 - c. Yea- Amin
 - i. Not reducing the number of at large representatives in this bill
 - d. Nay- Manz
 - i. Does not think this is a properly thought out proposal
 - ii. Why target a 35 member assembly?
 - iii. Requires backing that shows the amendment will last more than a year
 - iv. This issue could be left until the next year
 - e. Yea- Rajagopalan
 - i. Assembly taking office on Sunday has three vacant seats
 - ii. Decreasing size of assembly would promote healthy competition
 - iii. Means to correct mistake in enlarging assembly size

- iv. UT's SG Assembly is much larger than that of comparison schools
- f. Nay- Knudson
 - i. Worried that this specific reform is premature
 - ii. May limit ability of qualified students to serve
- g. Yea- Norcross
 - i. Must still be ratified in election
 - ii. Changes would not take place until 2010 election
 - iii. Will allow two years for campus to adjust to reform
- h. Voting
- i. AB29 fails

G. AB30: Changing Constitution- Creating the Campus Community Representatives- Tabled indefinitely

H. Rajagopalan- Will revisit these issues in the future

I. Motion to recess for ten minutes

J. Motion fails

XV. Agency Director Reports

A. LLA

- 1. Thanks the Assembly and Exec for an amazing year
- 2. Thanks LLAs for their hard work

B. Transfer Student Agency

- 1. Happy with progress in obtaining research
- 2. Thanks Exec for a great year

C. FLO

- 1. FLO Director interviews on Thursday
- 2. Seven highly qualified applicants
- 3. Thanks Andrew and Nicole for opportunity to grow as leader on campus
- 4. Experience has made him feel like part of the University
- 5. Thanks to Tim Ginn
- 6. Broomball tomorrow

XVI. Representative Reports

- A. Message from Kuo- Lockers will become available by Clark Field
- B. Sowa- SG has done a lot for her
- C. Villarreal- Asks for support for co-curricular involvement records

XVII. Announcements

- A. Inauguration- Sunday, 3pm, Alumni Center

XVIII. Second Roll Call

XIX. Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm