



Minutes for January 15, 2008 Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order- Meeting commenced at 7:02pm
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes- December 4, 2007- Minutes approved
- IV. Guests
 - A. Dr. Mary A. Rankin, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences
 1. There has been an interest in the valuable Brackenridge Tract
 2. The Board of Regents created a task force made up of administrators and friends of the University to analyze use of the whole tract
 3. Several groups gave testimonies before the task force
 4. Three prominent national reviewers evaluated the Brackenridge Field Lab
 5. The task force recommended the creation of a master plan with careful attention paid to BFL (whether it should be destroyed or decreased in size)
 6. College of Natural Sciences argues that BFL should be enlarged
 7. BFL is valuable:
 - a. It serves as the site for many UT courses
 - b. Much research is conducted at BFL. This research provides opportunities for students and brings in money for the University.
 - c. Characteristics of the land make BFL especially valuable
 - i. Contains diverse flora and fauna
 - ii. The University has recorded approximately 40 years of data on species located in the area
 - iii. Located on the water, enabling both waterfront and inland research
 - iv. Proximity to campus
 - v. Facilities are included in offers to faculty members
 - vi. It is difficult for people who do not conduct field research to understand the land's value
 - vii. Facility allows for the University to teach and research on topics in biology that will be growing in coming years
 - d. Once it is gone, it is gone forever
 - e. The Brackenridge Tract had been used by UT biology classes long before it formally became part of UT
 - f. Stanford has turned down billions of dollars offered for land used for biological study because it was more concerned about the research than satisfying its current monetary needs
 - g. BFL is something that sets UT apart from other universities
 - h. Davisson- How frequently do universities have field labs in urban areas?

- i. Very infrequently; cannot come up with any other names
- i. Proximity is irreplaceable
- j. Integrated Biology, which uses BFL, is one of the most highly ranked programs at this university
- k. BFL has served as a powerful tool for recruitment
- l. Solomon- How big is BFL relative to the tract?
 - i. BFL is 82 acres and the entire tract is just under 400 acres
 - ii. BFL is centrally located on the river
- m. The college has created a plan for further developing BFL and allowing surrounding developments
- n. A master plan will determine the fate of land
- o. Espinosa- Is there a deadline for the master plan?
 - i. Do not know

B. Motion to move AR20 as the next item on the agenda

- 1. Motion seconded
- 2. Motion approved

C. AR20: In Support of the Brackenridge Field Lab

- 1. Vivian Mai-Tran is added as a sponsor
- 2. A few more clauses will be added before next meeting

D. Ms. Melinda Sutton, Assistant to the Dean

- 1. Recently worked at UT Tyler
- 2. Native Texan, SMU undergrad, Earned Masters from Indiana University
- 3. Please introduce yourself
- 4. She is available and accessible to help students

V. Open Forum

A. Hall

- 1. Big 12 on the Hill
 - a. Annual trip to DC will be held March 11-14
 - b. Applications available in SG Office- Due January 25
 - c. Airfare and lodging should be funded
 - d. Will hold meetings to educate participants
- 2. Register to vote by February 4

B. Howard

- 1. "There's time enough but none to spare"
- 2. Stay motivated and make things happen

VI. Ex-Officio Reports

- A. Graduate Student Assembly
- B. Senate of College Councils
- C. Student Events Center
- D. Student Services

VII. Appointments

VIII. Executive Reports

- A. President: Andrew C. Solomon- a.solomon@mail.utexas.edu
 - 1. Election Reform
 - a. Will form committee to evaluate how we run Student Government elections
 - b. Committee will meet and make recommendations in the form of legislation
 - 2. MLK Celebration- Monday, January 21, 9am, East Mall

- B. Vice President: Nicole Trinh- netrinh@austin.utexas.edu
 - 1. Demand-Side Energy Management and Conservation Update
 - a. Conducting a series of audits on energy and water use
 - b. Will soon need a new SG representative on this committee
 - 2. One on One Meeting with Committee Chairs to discuss projects, goals, and transition into next term
 - 3. Inauguration Ceremony Committee- Looking for members to help plan the ceremony
 - 4. Rep of the Week- Anne Herndon

- C. Executive Director: Jordan Davisson- jordandavisson@mail.utexas.edu
 - 1. Safety Agency Director position is now open
 - 2. Polo Shirts are now available
 - 3. Internal Affairs- Please stay for five minutes after the meeting to schedule a meeting
 - 4. Agency Assembly Meeting- Wednesday, January 23, 7pm
 - 5. Director of the Week- Liam O'Rourke

- D. Communications Director: Vicki Nguyen- vicki.nguyen@bba04.mcombs.utexas.edu
 - 1. New semester brings new outreach assignments
 - 2. Jester Office- Looking for ideas
 - 3. Think Pink flyers/Basketball key cards- Please distribute
 - 4. Financial Aid to Students questions/concerns for Charles Sorber (Acting Director)- Let Vicki know if you have questions or concerns
 - 5. Staff Council concerns?
 - 6. Vicki can help you with your program publicity: newsletter(s), press releases, flyers, UT event calendar

- E. External Financial Director: Stephen Gilstrap-sgilstrap@mail.utexas.edu
 - 1. UT Boot Sales Update
 - a. Have sold 73 pairs of boots, raising \$13,500
 - b. Continue to operate on a waitlist system
 - c. Will give scholarships later in the semester
 - d. Postcards are here, so prepare for speaker-circuiting – Sign-up in the next few weeks
 - 2. Development Project Update
 - a. Meeting on Wednesday with Student Giving Committee

b. Student coalition selection process to begin soon

- F. Internal Financial Director: Frankie Shulkin-fshulkin@mail.utexas.edu
1. Religious sensitivity- Forming focus group to discuss campus food options
 2. Appropriation applications are now available
- G. Secretary to the Assembly: Chelsea Wade-chelsea.wade@bba05.mcombs.utexas.edu
1. Please submit amendments in writing
 2. Please check website for agendas and minutes
 3. LPC Meeting- Sunday, 5pm, SG Office
 4. Dinner at Trudy's following meeting

IX. Committee Reports

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

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

- A. AR21: In Support of a Wheelchair-accessible Van
1. Every day UT gets asked whether it owns a wheelchair-accessible van
 2. Many comparison schools own this van and offer related services
 3. This van would enable students with disabilities to attend field trips
 4. Ginn- Do we have any type of transportation for students with disabilities?
 - a. No. Campus buses only take students around campus, not to specific places like field trips. You cannot fit a wheelchair on a crowded bus.
 5. George- How would the van be used?
 - a. The van could be used for field trips as well as touring campus. Liam looks forward to discovering more uses for the van.
 6. Kuo- What is the average cost of a wheelchair-accessible van?
 - a. Currently researching this information.
 7. Villarreal- Are you looking to purchase a specific van?
 - a. Looking for a new, large van. However, no single van can accommodate all persons with disabilities.

XII. Agency Director Reports

- A. Transfer Student Agency- Administered survey to all transfer students and beginning to analyze results

XIII. Representative Reports

XIV. Announcements

- A. Next SG Meeting: January 22, 2008
- B. Austin-Area Chick-fil-A Restaurants Celebrate New Year: 15,000 Chicken Biscuits will be given away on Friday, Jan. 18 from 8-9am in front of Bob Bullock Museum
- C. Sign up for ZAP at <https://www.formspring.com/forms/?126649-W3dm2k0Nwn!>
- D. MLK Celebration- Monday, January 21, 9am, East Mall- Looking for volunteers- Sign up at foritola@mail.utexas.edu
- E. Hope Week in April- Learn how to step!
- F. First annual club party- "Contrast," featuring step show
- G. Texas Cowboys are opening the application process for Spring Newman Class- texascowboys.org
- H. Kappa Alpha Psi- MLK Candlelight Vigil

XV. Second Roll Call

XVI. Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm