

Approved 12/5/00

Assembly Meeting – 11/28/00

7:00 PM – Glenn W. Maloney Student Assembly Room

Meeting started at 7:14.

President's Report

- Thank you, Randy Thompson, for working so diligently on the fall break proposal. He has had to talk with lots of people about this. There should be a proposal written before the end of the semester.
- Tonight there is a resolution on the agenda that supports have a student position on the Board of Regents. All the assemblies in the UT-System will be voting on this. Thank you to everyone who helped out with the research. The outcome of the votes in the other student governments will be announced at the beginning of next semester.

Vice President's Report

- The resolution AR18 that is being passed out is part of the agenda.
- At the last meeting of the recycling ad hoc committee, there was discussion with Don't Mess with Texas, and the next meeting will involve Ecology Now. One of the issues being confronted is the campus phonebooks in dorms.
- Representatives who have committed to be part of a committee or agency should be attending meetings. There is no excuse not to be doing this. Be sure that you are doing your job.

Internal Financial Director

- Let Crissy know if you are interested in the Appropriation Committee for next semester.
- Contact information for Crissy will be sent out via e-mail. Be sure to come by and introduce yourself.

External Financial Director

Representative Cohen moved to suspend the rules and place a presentation from Apogee on the agenda. Representative Decker seconded. Motion carries.

- Presentation by Chuck Brady from Apogee

Executive Director

- In light of AR16, I have created a rough draft of a new proposal. It involves empowering to students to actively participate in the legislative process. Issues such as tuition deregulation, a student position on the Board of Regents, and flagship status will be targeted. Tomorrow night at 6:00 there will be a meeting to determine how we will go about this. This is really an important issue that all representatives should get involved.

Representative Decker moved to add AB12 to New Business. Representative Hammond seconded. Motion carries.

### Chair of the Cabinet of College Council's Report

- Monday, December 11 is the last Faculty Council meeting. The only issue to be discussed is alterations to the Liberal Arts degree. More information can be found on the Faculty Council webpage. There is no protest.
- The executive officers will be meeting with the Faculty Council officers to discuss the faculty hiring proposal and midsemester course surveys for next spring.

### Committee and Agency Reports

- Communications Agency Director Tooke – I am resigning because I have been selected to serve on the Election Supervisory Board.
- Legislative Relations Agency Directors Lefko and Virgil – The next meeting will be on Wednesday night at 7:30 in SSB 3.406. There will be discussion on the bill to eliminate tax on textbooks.
- GLTBA Agency Director Moulton – Thank you to Andrew for coming to our meeting. We looked at the future of the resource center. Also, there will be a forum on domestic partnership issues on The University campus in the spring.
- Operations Manager Slaughter – The e-university initiative is a mission to make the University online within 5-10 years. This is part of a master plan.
- Communications Agency Director Ince – Newsletters will be going out next Tuesday. Please get articles in by Thursday.

Vice President Hammond discussed the decisions of the Student Services Fee Committee which met for the last time last night. The Union asked for a %10 raise and was awarded 7%. The DDP budget was cut in half contingent on a new plan. A \$10 increase in the all-sports package was denied. The SECL regained the optional fee that can be designated as \$1-3. Retention services was given \$25, 000 for tutoring and more financial aid.

### New Business

**AR17 – Request for the Creation of a Student Member on The University of Texas System Board of Regents---(Representatives Bencivenga, Clemenson, Cox, Davis, Patel, President Roberts, Vice President Hammond, Executive Director Toussant, Attorney General Olcott, and External Financial Director Abboud)**

- President Roberts introduced the bill.
- Questions were answered.
- A friendly amendment from Representative Patel and Vice President Hammond was accepted.
- Representative Patel moved to approve by acclamation. Representative Clemenson seconded. Resolution carries.

AR

**AB18 – Resolution Calling for Student Government Support for Representative Fred Brown’s Proposed Bill to Discount Summer School Tuition---(LRA Directors Lefko and Virgil and Representative Hammond)**

- Legislative Relations Agency Director Lefko introduced the bill.
- Questions were answered.
- No debate occurred.
- Bill passes.

**AB12 – Amending the Election Code---(Representatives Decker, Bates, Knight, President Roberts, Vice President Hammond)**

- Operations Manager Slaughter spoke against the bill questioning the constitutionality. This is not a new idea, but it definitely defies pluralism.
- Representative Cohen moved to limit debate to one minute per person. Representative Aaron seconded.
- Representative Decker discussed that the constitution is fuzzy and could be interpreted in different ways.
- Representative Friedberg spoke against the bill stating that there are other ways. This is good because of the decreased time, but the cost per student is only \$.12 so the cost is not excessive. Students should have the right to change their vote. It is true that turnout differs in the runoffs, but it is a sort of test to see what candidates will stick it out.
- Representative Long spoke against the bill pointing out that this issue has come up twice and has been negated both times. Also, the Liberal Arts Council is greatly against this idea.
- Representative Patel yielded the floor to Randy Thompson. He also spoke against the bill stating that the reasons are good but the constitutionality is not. The constitution implies chronological order and shall means future. It is possible to do this, but a constitutional amendment will be necessary.
- Representative Kruppa spoke against the bill discussing that time is an issue and having student rank will up the time. Also, this is confusing.
- Representative Decker spoke in favor of the bill stating that this is about decreased time and cost. It is a way to protect democracy while being cost-effective. The constitution does not say this is wrong. Lastly, concerning the increased time, standing in line twice will end up being longer than this process.
- Communications Agency Director Ince spoke against the bill stating that the constitution calls for a physical runoff. Other changes need to be made.
- Representative Hammond spoke in favor of the bill stating that twice this issue has not been negated only delayed in consideration. This does not interfere with one student, one vote. There will still be a runoff so there will be no constitutional discrepancy. This bill will improve the process.

- Representative Clemenson spoke against the bill pointing out that the “fuzziness” could end up costing more than \$6, 000 in court.
- Representative Johnson spoke against the bill questioning the helpfulness of a paper ballot system.
- Representative Anderson spoke against the bill questioning how many students will research the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> best candidates.
- There was a motion on the floor to call the question. It was seconded. Motion carries.
- Bill fails 12-20.

#### Announcements

- Representative Friedberg – If anyone is interested in having a meeting discussing ways to decrease the cost of elections, let me know.
- FLO Director Price – Contact Amy or Mandy for more information on the FLO campout.
- GLTBA Director Moulton – Project 2001 is on February 17
- Representative Palafox – The Ransom Notes will be performing in Jester on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 9:30.
- Representative Davis – Good Job to Daron, Matt, and Jarrad for having a great plan for this legislative session.
- Executive Director Toussant – Do not forget about the meeting tomorrow night at 6:00.
- Representative Anderson – The CityWide Holdup was postponed and will be held on March 3.

The new member of the week is Reena Patel.

“Happy Birthday” was sung to President Roberts.

Vice President Hammond adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m. The meeting was concluded with the singing of “The Eyes of Texas.”