

## Minutes for November 6, 2007 Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order- Meeting commenced at 7pm
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes- October 30, 2007- Minutes approved
- IV. Guests
  - A. Greek Life and Education- Andrea Handzus
    1. Advises Panhellenic Council among other things
    2. Greek life incorporates five diverse councils
    3. Serves approximately 4,000 students
    4. Serves 58 organizations
    5. Retreat will be held in second weekend of February
    6. CHANGE Institute Retreat
    7. Provides advisor and risk management training
    8. Organizes recognition programs
    9. Order of Omega recognizes top 2% of Greeks
    10. In the case of violations, Greek Life and Education participates in investigations, but individual councils address issues
- V. Open Forum
  - A. Pakistani Students Association
    1. Tense situation for Pakistanis
    2. Condemning Martial Law and human rights violations
  - B. Texas Cowboys
    1. Harvest Moon featuring Corry Morrow and Aaron Watson- Friday, 6pm, Waterloo Park, \$20 tickets
  - C. Texas Spirits
    1. Band Jam- Thursday, 8pm-1am, Momo's
    2. Silent auction at midnight
    3. T-shirts- \$8, Tickets- \$8
    4. Will be tabling in West Mall
  - D. DoS Office
    1. UTLB presenting LOUDD on Thursday, November 8, 5pm, Business School Atrium
    2. Providing diversity workshops for student organizations
  - E. Sugar-Free Bowl, [sugarfreebowl.com](http://sugarfreebowl.com)
    1. Flag football tournament- November 17
    2. Please register to participate or volunteer
    3. Proceeds will benefit a Juvenile Diabetes research fund
  - F. Dance Marathon
    1. Dance Marathon held in February
    2. Dodge ball tournament- Sunday, November 11, \$10/person
- VI. Ex-Officio Reports

- A. Graduate Student Assembly- President Powers will speak at next GSA meeting, Tuesday, 5pm
- B. Senate of College Councils
  - a. Senate will host lunch with student leaders from around campus on Thursday to discuss issue of recruitment and retention
  - b. Plus/Minus Grading
    - a. New motion put forth requests that plus/minus grading system be implemented in Fall 2009 as opposed to Fall 2008
    - b. Will vote on supporting A+
    - c. High concern for grandfathering
- C. Student Events Center- Events for November
  - a. SEC Dodge ball tournament- Tomorrow, 6pm, free entry
  - b. Harry Potter IV at Union Theater
  - c. Sunday, November 11- Poetic Expressions, Santa Rita Room
- D. Student Services

VII. Appointments

- A. Zachary Walker- Temporary Two Year at Large
  - 1. Student in LBJ School
  - 2. Graduated from UT Arlington where he served on Student Government
  - 3. Elected as Vice President of Graduate Public Affairs Council
  - 4. Motion to approve by acclamation
  - 5. Motion seconded
  - 6. Zachary Walker is approved

VIII. Executive Reports

- A. President: Andrew C. Solomon- a.solomon@mail.utexas.edu
  - 1. Applauds Nicole for her hard work on the Big 13 Conference
  - 2. Property Taxes in West Campus
    - a. Development is result of UNO
    - b. Other properties in West Campus are now being taxed at a much higher rate
    - c. Nonprofit houses are suffering from increased property taxes (Greek houses, Co-Ops, and Tejas)
    - d. Two fraternity houses have already been lost
    - e. November 29- Meeting to discuss conditional overlay which would grandfather houses into former property tax rates
  - 3. Board of Regents Open Forum for graduate student housing issues- Friday, 1:30pm, Ashby Hall
  - 4. LOUDD- Friday, 2pm, Gregory
- B. Vice President: Nicole Trinh- netrinh@austin.utexas.edu
  - 1. A Big Big 12 Thank You
  - 2. Tuition Website Meeting- Thursday 11/8, 4-5pm, Main 26
  - 3. Student Services Budget Committee- Initial Recommendations have been submitted to President Powers
    - a. Two major priorities
      - i. Sustainability

- ii. Stability
      - b. Major challenge- Cost of utilities
  - 4. Policy and Planning Advisory Council- Data Collection Report
    - a. Educate far more undergraduates than comparison schools
    - b. Higher student-faculty ratio
    - c. Lacking in endowments
  - 5. Rep of the Week- Cesar Martinez Espinosa
- C. Executive Director: Jordan Davisson- jordanavisson@mail.utexas.edu
  - 1. Polo Shirts- \$15 checks payable to "Student Government" due tomorrow morning
  - 2. T-shirts- \$10
  - 3. RIAA- Recording Industry Association of America has been targeting students for illegal downloading music
    - a. 88 students have been targeted at UT
    - b. Every student has to settle for \$3,000 or pay significant amount per song downloaded
    - c. Working to make legal affairs aware of issue
    - d. Students are only given 20 days to make a decision
  - 4. Agency Assembly Meeting- Wednesday, November 14, 8pm, SG Office
  - 5. Director of the Week- Matt Becknal
- D. Communications Director: Vicki Nguyen- vicki.nguyen@bba04.mcombs.utexas.edu
  - 1. Mobile Meeting Next Week – Centennial Room of Belmont (9<sup>th</sup> floor, west wide, football stadium)
  - 2. Outreach Sign Up – Events start as early as this week
    - a. [UTSGOutreach@gmail.com](mailto:UTSGOutreach@gmail.com)
    - b. No response from organizations? Try again.
  - 3. Band Jam – November 8, 8p-2a, Momo's (6<sup>th</sup> and Rio Grande), 7 bands, \$8 presale
- E. External Financial Director: Stephen Gilstrap-sgilstrap@mail.utexas.edu
  - 1. High School Workshop – Coming Soon – Volunteer Sign-Up
  - 2. Career Round-Up Update – Temporarily Regrouping for a Sustained Advance
  - 3. UT BOOTS UPDATE – Sold out!!! More coming soon! Starting advertising – Sign-up in coming weeks
  - 4. Legislation addressing student involvement in Capital Campaign will be coming soon
- F. Internal Financial Director: Frankie Shulkin-fshulk714@aol.com
  - 1. Religious Sensitivity Task Force
    - a. Met with Dr. Arellano
    - b. Would like create calendar with religious holidays
    - c. May create Student Government Agency for this issue
    - d. Will create task force for dealing with this issue

- G. Secretary to the Assembly: Chelsea Wade-  
chelsea.wade@bba05.mcombs.utexas.edu
  - 1. Come out to Bowling for Literacy! Tomorrow, 8pm-12:30am, 300 Austin, \$20 at the door
  - 2. Dinner at Players following meeting

IX. Motion to suspend the rules and move AR13 to the next item on the agenda

- A. AR13: In Support of UT Families and Graduate Student Housing
- B. Friendly amendments
- C. Martinez Espinosa- This is one of the most thorough and well-researched resolution he has seen during his time with Student Government
- D. Dudley- Section IV states that 63% of comparison schools provide onsite childcare centers. What does UT have and what does the resolution propose the University do about this?
  - 1. This particular issue is not addressed in the resolve
- E. It would be great to have a childcare facility, but the purpose of this resolution is more humble. It seeks to save housing located on Brackenridge Tract.
- F. Manz- Friendly amendment
  - 1. First "Therefore Be it Resolved"- Suggests that authors strike all words following "in order" so that it does not state a singular purpose.
  - 2. Authors accept amendment and agree to strike out "in order to ensure the successful recruitment and retention of top quality students."
- G. Motion to approve by acclamation
- H. Motion to call question and approve by vote
- I. AR13 is approved
- J. Howard- Where should Student Government go from here?
  - 1. Attend forums, speak your voices, attend Board of Regents Meetings
  - 2. Advocacy is crucial for this issue
  - 3. Create task force or committee to keep momentum
- K. Go and see signs that Mathews Elementary students have displayed to demonstrate how they would feel if they had to leave their home and school
- L. Howard- Do you prefer to stay on Brackenridge Tract or receive other housing opportunities?
  - 1. Remaining in current location is crucial
  - 2. Please get your organizations involved with this issue

X. Committee Reports

- A. Rules
  - 1. AR14 and AR15 have been combined to form a new legislation
  - 2. Assembly can overrule mandatory events as long as Assembly is notified far enough in advance
    - a. Must inform Assembly of mandatory events at least seven days in advance
    - b. Otherwise, Executive Board may highly recommend attendance instead

- B. Finance
- C. Internal Affairs
- D. Outreach
- E. Fundraising- Please volunteer for High School Workshop
- F. Legislative Policy

XI. Unfinished Business

- A. AR14: In Support of the Enforcement of the Internal Rules of Procedure
- B. Resolution was inspired because Graduate Student Housing Resolution took a long time to bring before Assembly due to confusion about Internal Rules
- C. Resolution was also inspired due to lack of attendance at committee meeting
- D. Everyone should be held to the same set of rules
- E. George- How does the resolution differ from what we have in place?
  - 1. It is not a bill, but a resolution
  - 2. Would like to have resolutions, minutes, and agendas available
- F. Friendly amendment- "That legislation be submitted"
  - 1. Amendment accepted
- G. Motion to call the question
- H. Voting
- I. AR14 is approved

XII. New Business

- A. AB16: Assembly Membership
  - 1. Will be sent to Rules Committee
- B. AR17: In Support of the Senate of College Council's Initiative to Gain Official Recognition of Academic Minors, Programs, and Certificates on The University of Texas at Austin Academic Transcript
  - 1. Senate of College Councils passed two resolution regarding recognition of academic minors, programs, and certificates on academic transcript
  - 2. This resolution would support these Senate resolutions
  - 3. Should include "programs and certificates" as well as minors
  - 4. This is strictly in support of Senate to help keep the issue in the minds of the Education Policy Committee
  - 5. Student Government took the initiative to address this issue and worked with Senate on its creation
  - 6. Manz- Believes there is a substantive difference between recognizing minors on transcripts and recognizing programs and certificates. Recommends that Student Government split the resolution into two separate pieces of legislation.
  - 7. Motion to suspend the rules and extend the time by ten minutes
  - 8. Motion seconded
  - 9. Ten more minutes for introductory
  - 10. Manz- Student Government uses different wording from Senate. Why not use same wording and give endorsement?
  - 11. Rajagopalan- Thought it was more effective to reword the resolution as opposed to copying and pasting.
  - 12. Manz- Does this create disparity in reasoning about this issue?

- a. Magadi- shows that there are many reasons why recognition of these things are important
- 13. Manz- Have you considered class crowding as an issue?
  - a. Rajagopalan- It is tough to say what impact it would have.
- 14. What percentage of students have minors already?
  - a. Rajagopalan- Does not know.
- 15. Dan Villarreal- Something equivalent exists on PhD level.
- 16. Knudson- Would you include TI Exemption on transcript?
  - a. Rajagopalan- This issue was not discussed, but we could research this issue and incorporate it into a later resolution.
- 17. Walker- This seems feasible
- 18. Will be sent to Legislative Policy Committee
- C. AR18: Requesting that the Educational Policy Committee Address Student Input Received on Plus/Minus Grading Implementation
  - 1. Senate prepared document that came out of one of their forums
  - 2. Would like plus/minus grading to be implemented correctly
  - 3. Council acknowledged that there were reservations and concerns about implementation

### XIII. Agency Director Reports

- A. FLO
  - 1. Only two meetings remaining this semester
  - 2. December 10- FLO will attend Trail of Lights
  - 3. Flanksgiving in RecSports Center Games Room featuring dessert competition- In need of cooks
- B. Philanthropy
  - 1. Thank you for attending Trunk or Treat
  - 2. Zavala Elementary Principal wants Student Government to speak to Fifth Grade Council
  - 3. Monday 19- First day of BEVO Buddies
- C. LLA
  - 1. Please complete work orders
  - 2. December 9- Retirement home holiday party
  - 3. LLA of the Week- Carly
- D. SDA
  - 1. December 7- Dinner event
  - 2. Miss Wheelchair of Texas website will be launched next week

### XIV. Representative Reports

- A. Nyberg- Attended Natural Science meeting and heard about plus/minus grading and Faculty Council issues
- B. Sowa- Grade Replacement Policy
  - 1. Issue has come up before, but concerned that having students retake classes may shift UT's push for four year graduation rates
  - 2. Will research graduation rates of schools with grade replacement policies
  - 3. Please encourage sporting event attendees to better represent our school and demonstrate better sportsmanship
- C. Thompson- Would like to write resolution in support of geological research center on Brackenridge Tract
- D. Please do not harass fans from other schools during sporting games

XV. Announcements

- A. Next SG Meeting 11/13: Mobile at Centennial Room of Belmont (Stadium, 9<sup>th</sup> floor)
- B. Tejas Coffee- Thursday, 9pm, Tejas House
- C. Wednesday, November 14- Will be voting on speaker for UT Speaker Series
- D. Fastathon- Tomorrow
- E. Saturday, December 1- Step Show in Hogg Auditorium

XVI. Second Roll Call

XVII. Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm