
THE **114TH** SESSION
OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY

STUDENT GOVERNMENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021

SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY: HOLLY AINSWORTH
PARLIAMENTARIAN: SARAH SPIVEY
CLERK: BRAXDON CANNON

- I. Call Meeting to Order - 7:05 PM
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Adina Traub - Student
 - i. Summary
Is present today to support A.R. 09, and she spoke about the things she has experienced. Discussed specific instances where she has experienced anti-semitism, including the graffiting of a Jewish fraternity.
 - b. Joseph Reitman - Student
 - i. Summary
Is present today to support A.R. 09. Discussed a specific instance where he feared for his life, due to anti-semitism on campus. Would like to spread more awareness to this issue.
 - c. Troy Richard - Student
 - i. Summary
Is present today to support A.R. 09. Discussed a specific instance where he was profiled on campus, simply for speaking Hebrew. Explains this situation is few and far between.
 - d. Shira Hovav - Student
 - i. Summary
Is present today to support A.R. 09. Discussed the instances on campus where her, and other students, have felt dismissed or discriminated against-- solely because of their heritage. She explains that anti-semitism is on the rise, and it's important we take a stand against it.

IV. New Business

a. J.R. 20-07 A Joint Resolution in Support of An Independent Redistricting Commission and Redistricting Reform for Texas for the 87th Texas Legislative Session

i. Summarize Authorship Speech

Redistricting is a process that happens every 10 years, and is done by state legislatures. Texas has been historically gerrymandered. This dilutes the voting power of minoritized groups. Giving student body support for an independent redistricting commission. This is more of a 'statement' piece of legislation.

ii. Q&A

1. Rep. Brown - Cockrell

a. Summarize Question

Love the legislation. What does it have to do with the UT Student Body? Why should we care about this?

b. Summarize Answer

Specifically, UT campus is broken into 4 or 5 congressional districts, so it's hard for us to unite and support one candidate. This districting decreases the student voices on campus. Would be willing to amend the legislation to include this information in the resolution.

2. Rep. Cantu - CNS moves to end the Q&A period by unanimous consent. So moved.

3. Spkr. Ainstworth - U-Wide moves J.R. 20-07 to the Governmental Affairs Committee.

b. J.R. 20-08 A Joint Resolution in Support of the 2021 Invest in Texas Platform

i. Summarize Authorship Speech

Invest in Texas is a student initiative led by the three governing agencies. It is a student lobbying effort, where we come together to fight for issues pertaining to students. There are lots relevant topics that the legislature is looking at right now, and it is imperative that we reach out, and fight for what we believe in. They have released a specific platform: 1. Continued research on the impact of tuition capping. 2. Preserving resources for higher education services in light of the pandemic budget cuts. 3. Exploring avenues to increase graduate student financial support. 4. Increase resources and advocacy for mental health. 5. Opposing bills that are detrimental to the campus climate. It is a fluid platform, so it can change as events happen.

ii. Q&A

1. Rep. Seyer - CNS

a. Summarize Question

Can any student get involved with the organization?

b. Summarize Answer

Yes! Anyone can join, they already have the people they need, but are always looking for more help.

2. Rep. Le - Nursing

a. Summarize Question

Have y'all had conversations about the affordability of student housing?

b. Summarize Answer

Unfortunately, a lot of the zoning is involved with the Austin City Council, so from a legislative standpoint, there isn't much to do.

3. Rep. Cantu - CNS

a. Summarize Question

What are some ways you are going to establish and build relationships with legislators.

b. Summarize Answer

This is one thing they are looking to reform in Invest in Texas. This semester they are fortunate to have people who work at the Capital who are providing valuable connections. They are hoping to have a town hall later in the semester.

4. Rep. Cope - Law moves to end the Q&A period by unanimous consent. So moved.

5. Spkr. Ainsworth - U-Wide moves J.R. 20-08 to the Governmental Affairs Committee.

c. J.R. 20-09 A Joint Resolution in Support of An Addition of An Optional Pronoun Field in the UT Directory

i. Summarize Authorship Speech

Wants to put contact systems for faculty, students and staff. They noticed there is no pronoun field. You can see pronouns on Canvas, but this is limited. There is an overwhelming majority of students that support the pronoun field. The registrar has shown strong support for this change.

ii. Q&A

1. Rep. Wongso - U-Wide

a. Summarize Question

Have had conversations with anyone who is responsible for changing the directory? Do you have any timelines?

b. Summarize Answer

They have been in two meetings with the registrar, however is that they are working to update the directory. He didn't have any qualms about the age of the program or the complexity of it. They did not get a timeline, but hopefully in the next year.

2. Rep. Menon - Mccombs

a. Summarize Question

Is it possible to add something where people are required to update their pronouns, because myUT can be hard to use or navigate through?

b. Summarize Answer

When you are registering at the beginning of the year, there would hopefully be a field to update your pronouns.

3. Rep. Seyer - CNS moves to end the Q&A period by unanimous consent. So moved.

4. Spkr. Ainstworth - U-Wide moves J.R. 20-09 to the Student Affairs Committee.

d. J.R. 20-10 A Joint Resolution in Support of Optional Semesterly Mental Health Check-Ins

i. Summarize Authorship Speech

Currently, there is only a brief mental health module. There are no follow-ups. As a result, many students do not know about the services provided by UT. The legislation calls for a semesterly mental health check-in. If the student completes the semesterly survey, then the program will tailor a response to direct them to the right service. All responses will be recommendations, so it's up to the student to take action. They met with CMHC, and it was deemed to be possible.

ii. Q&A

1. Rep. Le - Nursing

a. Summarize Question

What kind of questions would this survey have?

b. Summarize Answer

Partly would be personal, like "how are you doing in this moment? Are you struggling?" Other questions would be along the lines of "Are you aware of these services oncampus?"

2. Rep. Wall - Mccombs

a. Summarize Question

Have you put in any thought at what point in the semester these surveys would be sent?

b. Summarize Answer

They have not discussed it yet with CMHC, but probably sometimes during the middle of the semester to avoid hectic times.

3. Rep. Plaza - Public Affairs
 - a. Summarize Question
If it's anonymous, how do they get a personalized follow up email?
 - b. Summarize Answer
What they intended was that depending on their responses the program will recommend certain services. There is no physical person going through results. If a student responds in an alarming way, they are trying to make it to where a pop-up appears for the hotline.
4. Spkr. Ainsworth - U-Wide
 - a. Summarize Question
Is there a scenario where anonymity would be breached?
 - b. Summarize Answer
It would just be the pop-up. The burden falls on the student.
5. Rep. Le - Nursing moves to extend the Q&A period by 4 minutes by unanimous consent. So moved.
6. Rep. Plaza - Public Affairs
 - a. Summarize Question
Is there any chance of the privacy being violated? Have you talked to CMHC about this?
 - b. Summarize Answer
Maintaining student privacy is the best course of action, and authors and CMHC are in agreement on this fact.
7. Rep. Le - Nursing
 - a. Summarize Question
There is a law that mandates there must be a preventative measure that can't be automated, are y'all planning to follow up with CMHC to implement an emergency mechanism?
 - b. Summarize Answer
There will be discussions. In terms of this legislation, there should be no harmful or identifying questions.
8. Rep. Seyer - CNS
 - a. Summarize Question

Surveys are periodic, it would allow us to collect data overtime, is this still the current plan? Are you looking at patterned behavior?

b. Summarize Answer

This line no longer holds, they would like to edit this part out of the summary.

9. Spkr. Ainstworth - U-Wide moves J.R. 20-10 to the Student Affairs Committee.

e. A.R. 09 In Support of Jewish Students In Light of Recent Anti-Jewish Hatred, Vandalism, and Exclusion

i. Summarize Authorship Speech

There has been many incidents of anti-semitism on campus. The legislation recognizes the campus incidents where anti-semitism has occurred. Also, it calls for Student Government to do more to support the Jewish community. The legislation, in addition, calls for a definition of anti-semitism that is non-partisan and consistent throughout campus. Would love your support, and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to Jordan Cope.

ii. Q&A

1. Spkr. Ainsworth - U-Wide

a. Summarize Question

Is there anything we can do, to help your cause? Are there petitions?

b. Summarize Answer

The goal is not to call out the administration, but unfortunately they have not done much. They would like more actions to be condemned. He will be working on future legislation to tackle this issue.

2. Rep. Cantu - CNS moves to end the Q&A period by unanimous consent. Rep. Romero - U-Wide Seconds. So moved.

3. Spkr. Ainstworth - U-Wide moves A.R. 09 to the Ethics and Oversight Committee.

f. A.R. 10 In Support of Installing Lights on West Campus For UT Students

i. Summarize Authorship Speech

This has been an ongoing issue. There has been a change.org petition, where 1,600 signed. In 208, it was reported that 20% of the lights in West Campus needed to be replaced. Many students feel unsafe walking around West Campus. Only 18% of students live in dorms, so that means that most students live in West Campus. Having the installation of more lights, will increase the presence of safety. There are lower crime rates in areas that are brighter.

ii. Q&A

1. Rep. Farias - Undergraduate Studies

a. Summarize Question

Would you consider adding a Be it Resolved send-to list clause so that the legislation is sent to the appropriate people.

b. Summarize Answer

If this legislation was to pass, there have been many questions on who should the legislation be sent to. Wanted to focus on once it gets passed, to then contact the higher-ups at UT, and people who have authority over West-Campus. They can add a Resolved clause, but they would rather pass it sooner rather than later.

iii. Rep. Murphy - COLA moves to end the Q&A period by unanimous consent.

Rep. Cantu - CNS Seconds. So moved.

iv. Spkr. Ainstworth - U-Wide moves A.R. 10 to the Governmental Affairs Committee.

g. J.R. 20-12 A Joint Resolution in Support of Keeping the Mask Mandate and other Safety Protocols

i. Rep. Lopez - COLA moves to abridge the regular legislative process to vote on J.R. 20-12 A Joint Resolution in Support of Keeping the Mask Mandate and other Safety Protocols on first reading. Rep. Plaza - Public Affairs seconds. So moved.

ii. Summarize Authorship Speech

This legislation is a collaborative effort between the legislative bodies. There is scientific evidence that we should continue the mask mandate. It is a very simple solution to continue what we are doing with masks and safety protocols. Last year, CDC reported that masks saved more than 200,000 lives. It only makes sense that we continue this requirement.

iii. Rep. Murphy - COLA moves to end the Q&A period by unanimous consent.

Rep. Cope - Law seconds. So moved.

iv. Rep. Murphy - COLA moves to approve J.R. 20-12 A Joint Resolution in Support of Keeping the Mask Mandate and other Safety Protocols by unanimous consent. Rep. Plaza - Public Affairs seconds. So moved.

XII. Executive Board Reports

a. Owen McGeary- Administrative Director

i. Summary

Working on the West Campus Lighting Campaign. Big XII on the Hill went really well. Make sure to check out the SG Newsletter. Shout out to Longhorn Athletics for their insane work on Spirit Week.

b. Audrey Balliette- Advocacy Director

i. Summary

No updates.

c. Vinit Shah- Chief of Staff

i. Summarize

SG is hosting its first-ever Spring Virtual Fair/Info Session next Wednesday from 7-8pm. Please sign up for it! This is a great opportunity.

d. Oriana Garcia- Communications Director.

i. Summarize

Oriana was absent, so Chief of Staff Vinit Shah presented her slides. SG Connect has launched. Spirit week is coming up late March so stay tuned.

e. Ethan Jones- Financial Director

i. Summarize

Endeavor Fund is coming soon. Make sure to get PCT. Wear a mask!

f. Winston Hung- Vice President

i. Summarize

Winston was absent, so President Anagha Kikkeri presented his slides. Working on PCT appreciation for staff members. Winston is doing SSBC interviews. Menstrual product committee proposal is being worked on.

g. Anagha Kikkeri -President

i. Summarize

Make sure to check out UT A&M Texas Tough Fundraiser. We have raised \$78,000, and we are beating A&M! This is helping students through an emergency fund. UT main account reposted it! Make sure to boost the West Campus lighting campaign.

XIII. Speaker of the Assembly Report

a. Summarize

We will be introducing a few JR's next week for first reading. Look out for a from Holly compiling initiatives. Make sure to vote next week in Student Elections.

XIV. Second Roll Call

XV. Adjournment - 9:04 PM

a. Rep. Murphy - COLA moves to adjournment by unanimous consent. So moved.