

Minutes for March 24, 2009 Student Government Assembly Meeting

- A. Call Meeting to Order - meeting commenced at 8:12pm
- B. Roll Call
- C. Old Business
 - a. AR 13 – In Support of Gender Equity
 - i. Changed everything to equity
 - ii. Meyerson – can you tell me if this is similar to the faculty's gender equity council conclusions?
 - 1. Most of it is the same
 - 2. Prof. Ritter wrote part of the original study
 - iii. Guest – What is the best practice model?
 - 1. To develop a model that is used consistently across all colleges
 - 2. Standardize the process
 - 3. Wording comes straight from the study
 - iv. Motion to approve by acclamation
 - v. Motion seconded
 - vi. Motion passes
 - b. AR 14 – In Support of Textbook Affordability
 - i. We incorporated the changes that Keshav suggested
 - 1. Requiring publishers to disclose price information and if an e-book is available
 - ii. Motion to approve by acclamation
 - iii. Motion seconded
 - iv. Motion passes
 - v. Call Sen. Steve Ogden's office
 - 1. (512) 463-0105
 - c. AR 15 – In Support of Modification of the Top Ten Percent Law (HB 588)
 - i. Legislation is tabled
 - d. AR 16 – In Support of a Staff Ombudsperson
 - i. Garrett Groves is with me who authored a similar resolution to LBJ council
 - ii. Staff members don't have someone to turn to
 - iii. Staff Council has been working on it for years
 - iv. Herman – Is it common around the country?
 - 1. Staff Council is doing study
 - 2. Almost 80% of our peer institutions have one
 - v. Meyerson – What would an ombudsperson have to do with the Dispute Resolution Office
 - 1. It is separate because Staff Council doesn't think the office is objective
 - vi. Parks – I don't think its necessary to include financing in this resolution
 - 1. We didn't want to include that info in this resolution
 - vii. George – If it were a staff member vs. a student, would the ombudspersons be in dispute of each other?
 - 1. The ombudsperson is simply there to give help, resources, and mediation
 - 2. Their real value is that they can aggregate these concerns
 - viii. Stanton – I think it would be a hierarchy with students turning to their ombudsperson and staff turning to their
 - 1. There is not paper trail that follows a student
 - ix. Jung – In Faculty Council, a Staff Council member mentioned the SG Resolution was mentioned

- 1. It means a lot to them
- x. Motion to approve application
- xi. Motion seconded
- xii. Motion passes
- e. AB 18 – Amending the Internal Rules:
 - i. This is what we looked at before
 - ii. As we continue to raise money for the scholarship, we want to have a place to put the money
 - iii. Leave a trace for future SG's to know how to allocate funds
 - iv. We had an exciting number of applicants
 - v. We will meet for the first time this weekend, and again on Monday
 - vi. We will have the official recipients at the end of next week
 - vii. We will allocate around \$60,000
 - viii. Gloyna – I am concerned with section 4. How will the members be selected?
 - 1. This year, I appointed a few that wanted to help
 - 2. In the future, it will be at the discretion of the EFD
 - ix. Motion to approve by acclamation
 - x. Motion seconded
 - xi. Motion passed

D. New Business

- a. AR 17 – In Honor of Dr. Margarita Arellano
 - i. Dr. Arellano will be leaving UT Austin for Texas State University
 - ii. She has had a huge impact on this campus
 - iii. Are there any questions on the wording?
 - iv. Motion to fast track
 - v. Motion seconded
 - vi. Motion passes

E. Old Business

- a. AR 17 – In Honor of Dr. Margarita Arellano
 - i. Trotter – On the 5th Whereas capitalize the "t" in "the"
 - ii. Motion to approve by acclamation
 - iii. Motion seconded
 - iv. Motion approves

F. New Business

- a. AR 18 – In Opposition to a Voter Photo ID Law
 - i. The actual legislation will be coming up in the legislature soon, so we wanted to get a move on it
 - ii. This is a controversial issue
 - iii. There has been a proposal to change law in Texas to require voters to provide ID for voting
 - iv. Now, you only need to provide ID if you are a first time voter
 - v. There is a provision that could provide for a Student ID
 - vi. It could help in some ways, but there are still concerns about the availability of photo ID's
 - vii. For those of that worked on election day, we know how these provisions can work against voter turnout
 - viii. Currently, it allows for a state agency ID to work
 - ix. Public universities fall under that provision
 - x. If you don't have your student ID and have waited for a long time, a lot of people will be discouraged from voting
 - xi. This might jeopardize the newly found strength that younger voters have found
 - xii. Stein – You have to have some sort of ID to register?

1. Yes
 - a. Stein - You sight surprising figures of voters that have already registered
- xiii. Stein – On the third page you site a percentage of young voters
 1. That is 18-24 year olds
- xiv. Meyerson – On the third Whereas, can we have a more thorough citing?
 1. Yes
- xv. Meyerson – On the second to last Whereas under section 5, what does having a photo ID have to do with long lines?
 1. A federal commission did a study and a lot of the evidence in this comes from that
 2. You remember on election day the long lines
 3. People don't vote when they get stressed out
 4. Texas for turnout ranks 45-50
 5. This just disenfranchises voters
- xvi. Herman – Does it say anywhere whether it is an immediate or gradual effect?
 1. It is an immediate effect, taking place in September
 - a. If I wanted to vote in September, could is use my driver's license?
 - i. Yes
- xvii. Membership Coordination – Does it say anything about a valid ID?
 1. There is a provision that if it is expired for more than two years, you can't use it?
 - a. What about student ID's?
 - i. It doesn't include a provision about that
- xviii. Meyerson – I couldn't find the savevoting.org website where that study is?
 1. Ferraro is referring to a different study
- xix. Meyerson – For the 7th Whereas in section 5, you cite a provisional ballot as an alternative, but absentees ballots are a valid alternative. Why did you leave the latter out?
 1. I will look into it
 2. I would assume that an absentee ballot pertains to those who are registered to vote at home
- xx. It has passed the Senate
- xxi. The House version hasn't been referred to a committee
- xxii. Rep. Smith is working to find a compromise bill
- xxiii. Tabled to LPC
- b. AR 19 – In Support of Student Involvement in the Academic Integrity Process
 - i. Students don't have a say in how students are punished for violating the honor code
 - ii. All research points to the fact that the more involved students are in creating and enforcing an Honor Code, the more effective that Honor Code becomes
 - iii. We need to increase student involvement
 - iv. Tabled to LPC
 - v. Woodward – In terms of the intent, is it in support to the theory, or suggesting that students sit in on certain cases?
 1. The purpose is to have students involved in process of assigning punishments

G. Second Roll Call

H. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn
- b. Motion seconded
- c. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm