

Authors - Sponsors - Footnotes - Comments

Title: SG Minutes
Stage: PASSED - 03/22/2005
Owner: Andrew Lara

I. Call Meeting to Order at 7:05PM

II. Roll Call #1

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Open Forum

-Brandon Chicotsky: TSP

-as a student liaison it is my duty to address any issues that affect the assembly;

-there is an issue whether or not the Texas Opinion Editor should be elected or not

-Ben Heath: What happened with Texas Student Media; The memorandum of understanding and before that it is the declaration of trust and it discusses how the university is going to interact with The Daily Texan; It gets approved by the assembly and then it goes to BOR; That document still has not been approved yet; The editor would be approved by the trustees;

Livingston: move to extend their time for 5 minutes

Seconded; Motion Carries

The Trustees are 11 people; some are college representatives and others are at larger members. Then, 5 are appointed and then, 2 are professionals; We would have the editor appointed by the board instead of elections; No other paper in the nation has an elected editor; an election is good and electing politicians, but is not useful at electing departments such as the department of health which is more of the branch where we see The Texan; We'll let you know if the tower is getting to close to approving that;

Stanis: Do you think it will affect voting turnout rate; have you looked at the numbers?

Heath: I think it will be interesting to find out; we have not looked at the numbers;

Ross: is your student majority in the board permanent majority;

Heath: the power to change the handbook is through the board

Kennedy: why wasn't this brought up around election coverage time?

Heath: I don't know; AJ is on the fence; he has not made a statement yet; there are no ulterior motives;

Livingston: I don't understand how the board will be more qualified than a selection by their peers...

Heath: includes people with experience; people who know about money and media management;

Chicotsky: Voices for Choices is leading a protest under the leadership of Ali Puente;

V. Guests: None

VI. Executive Reports

-Faculty Appreciation

-Publicization of the Honor Code

-United to Serve chaired by Nick Staha

Graduate Student Assembly: Paul Navaratil

-Graduate Student Employee Excellence Awards; nominations are due this Friday

-AR 8 was passed today, which is also in support of computer recycling

-Proposed AB2 which proposes some significant changes to our constitution

President Brent Chaney

-new tuition proposed by the Chancellor; changing set flat rate from 15 hours to 14 hours

-SBOR: Senator Shapleigh changed bill to mirror SG's proposal, which is exactly like Wentworth's bill;

Shapleigh bill is pending in the Committee; only Senator Wes was there; Colton has done quite a bit of work today; matched each Senator of the education committee; 13 definite yeses; we need 21; a lot of them are unsure; We only have two weeks left;

-Try to get your parents involved as well;

-Student Fees

Vice President: Rachel McGinity

- Shadow meeting is next week, so all of new Representatives we will be seeing you here at 6:00pm
- Inauguration is at 4:00 in the Rec Sports Center up on the Second Floor
- Ben Silvermintz resigned last week, so he will not be part of the numbers used for the votes tonight
- Have a great week and live up the last two weeks in the assembly

Attorney General: Amber Billingsley

- Fact Sheet on the upcoming federal legislation
- if you are a current rep in your assembly, sit in the middle when we vote
- Dr. Harkins got back to us on the changes to the streets; he wrote a letter to the city and they finally responded;
- Let's shoot for perfect attendance next week

VII. Representative Privilege

-Jason Boots: Executive Board of Kansas SG Executive Board;

-Two Coalitions Delta Force and K-United for the past four years; their have been close elections, some have not been; adds accountability to the system as platform issues from previous years come up again; some say a two party system bars other people from running; K-United once started off as a third party; For the most part that is a general overview;

Chiou: Do you have online voting?

Boots: you could vote on any on campus computer and then there was one official voting location;

Carpenter: who gets to run in your coalitions;

Boots: anybody can start a coalition; coalitions get involved 2-3 months before elections; members left over from the coalition fill the remainder of the seats in the coalition; The coalition try to meet as many people perhaps interested in running;

Brummett: what is the spending limit?

Boots: there is not a spending limit; their can be agreement during the election process to limit it to \$2000; that has not been signed in a long while; This year our coalition spent \$3500

Karchmer: how accountability increases

Boots: as the tickets come back they are going to get a lot of questions from opposing people and students asking why didn't this get done in previous years;

K: some feel it is too exclusive during our elections; does that exist at your school?

B: you know who you need to talk to if you want to run;

Carpenter: what do you spend your money on?

B: buttons, posters, and opening parties

Ross: have they been sweeps?

B: last two years sweep; two previous years split ticket

B: vote turn out about 18%

Ross: people who have ran by themselves how were they favored?

B: one person won, he was from a relatively small college

Tayyeb: any ideological differences?

B: at the beginning yes, but later and for the most part no;

T: do students align themselves based on agendas that they are interested in?

B: No, whoever they know is who they vote for

jboots@ku.edu

B: our platforms are usually a lot of leg work with administration; very few of our platform issues are actually voted on; resolutions hating on the state legislature

Windle: AR 20 is moving to table it because Gurevitz, an author, is out of town; March 30 is city council forum in the Jester Auditorium at 7:30pm

Westerband: Gender Neutral Restrooms; have two in Gregory Gymnasium; I have some maps where exactly they are in Gregory; There is a bathroom in Mez that is a single restroom;

Stewart: yielding time to Stanis: article about Rodrigo Interiano; yee who has not sinned cast the first stone; (goes over constitution procedure with impeaching a member of the assembly); Imagine what the Texan is going to look at the end of the next weeks meeting; I am going to object to calling to previous question on this resolution;

Karchmer: Student Government Open Forum: Election Reform; Welch 2.246 on Thursday March 24th at 8pm

Laura Gladney-Lemon: I think it would be inconsiderate to not listen to Kennedy's legislation; I think it is

embarrassing that we have not been held more accountable, especially by exec;

Kennedy: you would be doing a disservice to students if you do not take it to your constituents or college councils; I did ask Rodrigo to resign quietly, so if we are interested if the face of SG that could have been done;

Chaney:

Lemon: is it true that SG exec can not take more actions to ask people to resign;

Kennedy: it lies more on the reps; Exec can put individuals on probation and send it to assembly rules, but for different reasons there was not really and assembly rules committee, so it goes back to exec, but once again it is more the responsibility of the assembly;

Brummett: West Campus Greek Houses are now starting a recycling program;

Donaldson: what is going to be the headline on the Daily Texan during our last meeting; The legislation we are currently working on or Rodrigo;

Kumar: recommend all the new reps next year do not be on instant messenger if you bring your laptop to meetings;

MacLeod: I love the Texan, but I am so upset that we vote on how we are concerned with press coverage

Stolhanske: Suspend the rules and move into New Business

Seconded; Motion Fails

Stanis: Division

Failed (15-12) you need two-thirds

Kennedy: put on the forum recommendations for Communications Director and improving SG image

VIII. Committee and Agency Privilege

-FLO: fundraiser and next years FLO Board

-Advocates for Non-Violence: Take Back the Night; March 28 at 6:30 in Parlin 210 and April 4 at the same time and same place

cvaugghn13@aol.com

-LRA: writing recommendations about accountability and getting members of the assembly and more involved;

-Daniel Becka: Legislative Lobby Day texascollegiateday@hotmail.com

-registration is going to be at the LRA website on the Texas A&M website on April 4 all day; If interested let us know; I will have more information at next meeting;

-Recycling bins at register

-Student Forum Agency: Thank you so much for those who helped with the Get what you voted for Forum

-Keep UT Clean and Green petition

-Communications: compiling what SG had done this year

-Spirits and Tradition Council Scholarship; It's simple and it's a \$500 application; It's a really great opportunity; A lot you would be great candidates for the scholarship; you can be a graduating senior;

-GLBTAAA: Sex Workers Art Show; People in the sex industry had art displays ranging from spoken to visual

IX. Appointments: None

X. Unfinished Business

-AR 19: In Support of a Community Oriented Policing (COPs) Program for the University of Texas Police Department

Stolhanske: move to approve by acclamation

Seconded; AR19 is approved

Windle: move to table AR 20

Seconded; AR 20 is table

AR 21: Resolution in Opposition to Cuts in the Federal Higher Education Budget for Fiscal Year 2005;

Ross: move to approve by acclamation

Seconded; Objection; Motion Fails

DEBATE:

Stohanske: I don't think anyone is for cuts to higher education; I think this encroaching on an area that is asking people to take action instead of taking action; There are so many things that I can write about our state or federal government; I don't think is the appropriate venue; I don't think Bush is going to call up Larry; I think we need to guard our legislation and make our legislation more profound; I think that dilutes our legislation;

Lemon: Loyd Doggett thought enough about us to write an op-ed piece on this particulare, therefore I think it is important that we communicate that; Atleast one student on this campus has said I personally care about this issue, so I want to say that students are alarmed by this and we should take action;

Stolhanske: Politically these sources are one sided; secondly, I don't think we should always respond to legislation;

Stanis: other universities have passed resolutions on this issue, which will be discussed at convention;

Chaney: we have a good relationship with congress and this legislation will be sent to the capitol

Rios: move to previous question

Motion Fails

Stolhanske: People were angry when we wrote legislation about the War on Iraq; I feel that this is another thing that I don't see an action will come from this;

Osama: It will show that stance that students are taking; the most we can do and we can do for students is writing legislation;

Lemon: the research I did was from the Chronicle of Higher Education, which is not a partial media source; We were solicited to write legislation on this issue

AR 21 PASSES (26-3)

Stolhanske: move to postpone indefinitely AR22

Second;

Debate

Stanis: its not only about SG's image but it is also about Rodrigo; he will be attacked for a week; there needs to be ¾ of the assembly to vote on Rodrigo which is not going to happen; this is about person; it is not about an issue it is about saving someone's personality; How would you feel if you had to go through these personal attacks;

Vaughn: Accountability is something you guys have thrown heavily at committees and agencies by removing voting privilege from C/A; and you guys won't go far enough to be accountable and explore whether Interiano needs to be impeached

Stolhanske: Rodrigo more than anyone out of the crowd is chosen to be impeached because he is two year at large; This doesn't effect us anymore than one more meeting; this is something that I feel will greatly

Interiano: I'm not here to defend myself that will be done next week; I have not done anything illegal or outside of my membership to be impeached; I have been invaluable to the assembly; I have taken information back to my constituents and participated in the assembly; I think it is ridiculous to announce before this assembly and the university because I am lazy is bullshit; I have not done anything that merits impeachment

Lemon: I was wrong; Brent was right that Exec did not have any more power of holding members of the assembly accountable than we do is important; I think this at least merits discussion; and I ask you to do what you think is right;

Donaldson: I think we should table this because it is a personal attack; It is not about what Rodrigo has done but what he was asked to do, and did what was asked of him; Therefore, I think it will be better if we write legislation about what a rep should be required to do;

Musselman: I don't know all the reps in this assembly; in my time here, at large positions have been left for various reasons; and the people who have filled those positions have been some of the hardworking people in SG like Kennedy, Stolhanske, and Gladney-Lemon. Who do you really want in SG? Do you just want to hope that something is going to change or is there people who are really more deserving?

Carpenter: I have never been elected and not to good at being electing; I question whether or not you need to be an effective member if you are elected to the assembly; If we know this is going to get shot down then why bring it up next week; Next week, is the last meeting of this assembly; lets focus on what we want to do and pass the torch;

Karchmer: I think it is important to vote on this; This is a broader issue that we are dealing with outside of Rodrigo being a person; There are appropriate avenues that we can take to discuss wording; What we are here for is to attach are name to things; That is what we are here for;

Rios: I think this is an unfair witch hunt; Based on the number of pictures being taken of Rodrigo his name will

be splattered across the press; If we want to hold him accountable I think we are already doing that; he will be watched next year;

Rios yields time to Kennedy: impeachment is not only for illegal affairs it is also done on the basis of someone not being good in office; impeachment was usually a common occurrence especially before tickets; Yield time to Amber; (Amber acknowledge that SG has kept track of Rodrigo's attendance and he was notified of his absences); Do you want to pass the torch to high standards that students ask us to or signing office hours and moving on?

Stolhanske: for failure to fulfill their duties in the bylaw or constitution; our constitution says he cannot be impeached; it is a summary judgment;

Vaughn: an enforcement mechanism for representatives to be held accountable; if you table this bill and do nothing about accountability you will not hold any discussion on assembly accountability;

Stanis: We report to constituents; Rodrigo's term may be two years but he has not done anything wrong; Do not subject him to this; The motion is going to fail

Lemon: I would like to see that he be cleared by a panel or procedure; to me that is better than saying we dropped the legislation; I would like to remind everyone that AB1 this year was about accountability;

Ginn: I think this is a big black cloud on our term; I think you should table this, he is going to work with us and we can always un-table this;

Reep: I looked up the information

Tayyeb: Move to limit speaking to one more speaker. Motion carries.

Salcedo: We can talk about what we feel all day long. I didn't know who Rodrigo was until tonight. But we have to go with what is written in black in white. Did he do everything that was spelled out? Yes, I think that we can all argue that he did. If we want new more stringent expectations, we should do so and move forward.

Roll call vote: tabling the bill carried.

McGinity: Will the authors of AB 18 please come the front and briefly introduce the bill.

Fuller-Wigg: The title it: Revising the Election Code... It's revising the election to an individualized system. Give more accessibility to students. Please come to the committee meeting so that next week isn't a long dramatic meeting. Please email me problems this week so that we can handle the problems accordingly. SG office 9:30pm Wednesday committee meeting. Forum on election reform Thursday 8pm Wel 2.246.

AR 23: Resolution to reaffirm the University of Texas' commitment to ending sexual violence and to support the events of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Vaughn; this resolution will hopefully get blown up and posted on a survival wall

Livingston: move to fast track

Second; Motion Carries

Livingston: move to approve by acclimation

Seconded; AR23 passes

All voting members on the last roll call vote will be placed as co-sponsors to AR23

Seconded: Motion Passes

AR 24: Supporting the Creation of the Student Building Advisory Committee

(Donaldson introduces resolution)

AB 19: The Election Improvement Act

Karchmer: Presidents and Vice-Presidents will begin filing September 1 and all the other candidates will be filing December 1st. The reason for this is to allow Presidents and VP's time to reserve space and room;

Brummett: we are very open to suggestions and we encourage you to go to the forum. This an alternative to getting rid of tickets;

Kennedy: I don't think you should consider this bill this one or the other; You can do both or neither; Please educate yourself on friendly amendments;

AB 20: Improving Student Government Operations

XII. Announcements

Courtney and Stanis are the next chairs of Party on the Plaza; we hope you apply

Anjali: Alliance for a Feminine Option

Kumar: never voting to limit debate; I did it because the argument that did it for me is that it is going to affect

next years assembly more;

Orange and White Ball in Gregory Gym

-Brummett: Thanks to Chris Kennedy for bringing up the legislation on impeaching Rodrigo because I felt it raised important issues on accountability;

XIII. Adjournment 10:11

Footnotes

None

Comments

None

Authors

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