

Minutes for the Student Government General Assembly Meeting
February 4, 2003

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

Roll Call #1

GUESTS

Kim Ross-

Is passing around flyers- needs help to pass around flyers about the forum next Tuesday- it starts at 6:30- Thanks from Faculty Council FAC 21

Stacey Middleton- Make Valentine's day cards For V-day. Vagina Monologues are coming soon!

Ernest McGowen-

ESB issued an opinion (at 11:30pm last night)

Rule 2.03- student means any person whose name appears on the roster of the registrar at UT Austin- no "Adolf Hitler" etc.

Omead- thanks to Stacey for showing up at _____

Shawn- we have finished revisions ???

SENATE OF COLLEGE COUNCIL'S REPORT

There's a meeting this Thursday- will be taking nominations for exec. Also, will be voting on whether or not to have a student on the Board of Regents

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The Sheila Jackson Lee small discussion had been cancelled, but there will still be a big event
- Internships- Student Conservation Association; UT Press; Girl Scouts of America volunteer opps.; Summer at NYU 2003
- Yesterday, there was a public hearing for a \$2 increase for tuition, but students didn't know and only Katie, Stacey, Alex, and Brian Haley were there. Also, library fee increased \$2, Tech fee increased by \$1.50- this is supposed to free up some cash to help the debt-
\$12 per semester credit hour. The Board of Regents will meet to decide about the overall tuition increase, and so will Faulkner. We don't know why we were not informed. The regents meet Tuesday and Wednesday of next. We can ask for another prompt hearing.
- Deregulation- the finalized compact has been sent to the legislature- we will get a copy soon. Ben- how do we argue this while trying to get a student on the BOR? One thing- we are having a problem right now- why will taking away control of tuition forever help?

- House Regent Bill will be finalized tomorrow- look for it online
- There was an online voting meeting on Friday- there will still be every once of security as in phone voting- we are very happy about the decisions with ITS
- Forum on Friday about Top Ten percent- it was very good.

Moved and seconded to move Unfinished Business to the next item on the agenda.
Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AR 28 The Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin does not support the Top Ten Percent Rule (HB 588) as the sole sufficient means of promoting and fostering ethnic and racial diversity at the University of Texas at Austin.

Look at new copy- a lot of changes have been made.

The title, defined “functionally”, explained model minorities...

Representative Durham reads note... “Tonight we have an opportunity to make a decision that will be heard by the world..” Property is important because where you have access to property determines what kind of property you will get which determines how much you pay in taxes which determines how much money goes to the schools in your area which determines what kind of opportunities you will have, which determines what kind of college you can attend....

This is a really important decision. The numbers don’t lie, but sometimes the administration does.

Questions and Friendly Amendments entertained:

1st Whereas: change “were” to “are”

Accepted.

5th Whereas: does the inclusion of the provisional program help your resolution?

Authors will keep it in.

10th Whereas:

13th Whereas: change “functional decline” to “statistical decline”

4th Whereas: at the bottom of the page, there is another Whereas

Vote to add Whereas:

Motion passed.

Moved and seconded to change the wording on the 1st Be it resolved from (after 588) “does not” to “is not the sole sufficient means to”

DEBATE

Representative Navratil (AGAINST)- the be it resolved makes a very strong statement as it is- Bryan’s words say that it is already working

Representative Pravda (FOR)- it is in line with the title. If we do not accept this amendment, let's change the title.

Vote: Motion fails

Take out "recruitment and" on 3rd be it resolved.

Moved and seconded to move into debate. Motion passed.

Moved and seconded to limit speaking time to two minutes each. Motion fails.

DEBATE

Representative Jennings (AGAINST)- we have not been given all of the statistics and info

_____ yields floor to Courtney Morris (FOR)-

Representative Kirkland (AGAINST)-

Nakeenya Haynes (FOR)- you say there are too many numbers, the numbers aren't germane, or there's not enough. What do you want? It seems like we can't win. It is your obligation as representatives to voice our opinions

Representative Garza (AGAINST)- (read letter from engineering student) if you look at percentages of how many admitted vs. applied- they are the same

Mandy Price (FOR)- we are talking about the number Bush is talking about- the enrollment.

Moved and seconded to move back into questioning. Division called. Motion passed (no one against)

Questioning

Representative Kirkland- 2nd Whereas on third page: change "functionally increased" to "functionally decreased"

Representative Gupta- 2nd whereas on third page

Representative Phillip- change minority in be it resolved

Representative Pravda- change "as the sole sufficient" to "as a sufficient" – not accepted

Representative Shuler- change to "as a sole"

Representative Durham- take out first sentence a leave the quote

Moved and seconded to move back into debate. Motion passed.

DEBATE

Representative Navratil (FOR)- there was an article in the NY Times saying this is pitting the Asian Americans against Hispanics and African Americans.

Moved and seconded to move Appointments to the next item on the agenda. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS

George Salinas- Law Rep.

Introduced self. Moved and seconded to approve by acclamation. No objections

DEBATE

_____ (AGAINST) should be a matter of merit – the authors of the bill didn't give another solution

Moved and seconded to call to question. Motion failed.

Representative Curry – people have come to speak, we should give them due respect

Motion to move the debate to one minute per person. Division called. Motion failed.

Motion to move speaking time to two minutes per person. Motion approved.

DEBATE

Representative Durham yielded to Chris Vaughn (FOR)– you should be concerned, it is a compelling interest

Representative Haley yields to Andrew Dobbs (FOR) – We can be a part of history , you are a part of the supreme court decision

Representative Riley (FOR)– if you do not pass this you will discourage Hispanics and Blacks

Mandy Price yields the floor to Evan Black (FOR)– Texas Onyx supports this bill

Michael Clemons yields to Ebony (FOR)– Are you seriously telling me you don't want to create more diversity?

Representative Buckley yields to Jackie McGorda (FOR)- Black people go back to their high schools and say don't go to UT

Representative Jennings (AGAINST) – Speaking against this bill does not mean that they are speaking against diversity – absolutely not true

Representative Buckley (FOR) – Although the problem lies in higher education, then we seek to compensate with saying the sole sufficient means is not shown with Top Ten Percent

Representative Navratil (FOR) – If we don't have differences to celebrate, we don't have anything

Moved and seconded to call to question. Motion failed

Brent Purdue (FOR) – It is a privilege to be white

Representative Mofoye yields to Stephen Torres – Thanks for the opportunity to tell Bush that this isn't working, we need to show others that we want diversity

Joe Silas – Top ten just doesn't work,

Motion to call to question. Motion passed.

Roll Call Vote requested.

Ben Durham re-reading the final resolution
Resolution passed.(32-2-2)

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- check website for survey for DDP- maybe use student fee money to hire somebody to fundraise
- This week- tell everyone about the Town Hall meeting next week
- inauguration has been set for April 5th at 6pm
- the next day will be the new member workshop
- Representatives of the week: Ty Cobb and Scott Kirkland. Yay ☺
- Thanks to John, Wei and Nam- got the most petitions for the student regent
- Thanks for coming to Battle Of The Bands- yay Bina!
- Conduct of the assembly- be respectful!

Moved and seconded to move New Business to the next item on the agenda. Division called. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

AB 19 Creating a Presidential appointment to the The University of Texas Volunteer and Service Learning Center to work with UT Students enriching Education through Service.

AR 29 Calling for the support of service learning and UT Students Enriching Education through Service (UT Sees)

Authors introduced both resolutions. No questions.

AR 30 Calling on the University to comply with the Texas Open Records Act and Attorney General's ruling by releasing all requested information regarding the University's surveillance of students and others.

Authors introduced resolution. No questions.

AR 31 The Student Government supports the optional inclusion of photo identification as part of our electronic directory information.

Authors introduced resolution.

Will there be thumbnails so you can look at a picture and figure out the name?

No- you have to know the name. the advantage of this is if you look up John Smith and 20 names come up, you can figure out which one it is.

What about making pictures an option only when you are logged into your UT EID?

There are looking at this right now.

What about Faculty and Staff? - anyone with an ID will have this option.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Internal Affairs this week
- Newsletter coming up- if you are interested in putting an article in it, let Alex know

INTERNAL FINANCIAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Appropriations packets are ready and interviews will start Wednesday

EXTERNAL FINANCIAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Thanks for coming to Battle Of The Bands! The winning band was Wideawake ☺
- We raised a lot of money
- Thanks to Erute for designing a logo
- Thanks to the Representatives who helped: Mercedes worked the door, Ben and Jordan rapped

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

- next week's meeting is in FAC 21
- good job of getting room cleaned up- but make sure all of the hearts are picked up
- C/A person of the week: thanks to Jessica Rice for helping clean up after the meetings
- The Men's retreat on Sunday was great

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- no report (thanks for signing the petition!!)

REPRESENTATIVE'S PRIVILEGE

- Representative Pravda-> he abstained from it because his constituents told him to vote that way
- Representative Jennings-> didn't vote yes because of everyone else after arguing against it- top ten percent works but is not the only solution
- Representative Aurentz-> not always the case that he already had his vote in his head- usually it is a vote you can gain
- Representative Curry-> buttons were made "I look furtive- fight for your rights, too" Still fighting the racial discrimination fight- thanks to Erute and Shawn. About tonight- the girl tonight was talking about her frustration- don't take it as people were trying to yell at you. Shout out to Ben Durham- a lot of people think he is very passionate about everything- especially this because he is an african american studies major- this is why he might have come off as emotional- he is trying to get you all to feel what he has been studying- don't just turn off when he gets up to the microphone- give him respect
- Representative Buckley- tomorrow night at 8pm is "On the fringe" a radio show- KVRX. Also- Public Service Announcement- an SG rep. rapping about tuition dereg. Chancellor Yudof called in response to have a forum- it has changed- he only wants to talk to exec of SG, Senate, PSAC, GSA- Buckley won't attend until all students attend.
- Representative Bryce- learned about Voices Against Violence- next Tuesday they are having a performance in this room
- Representative Navratil -> the VAV retreat was really cool- if you get the opportunity to do it next year, take it. The lecturers in ____ are having a problem. They have to teach one more class and a third of the faculty will be taken away. If you are interested, shoot him an email. Talk to graduate students and tell them they have a voice in this assembly and they have reps. GSA also has a pot of money to fund graduate stuff- go to their website

- Representative Durham- thanks to everyone tonight for dealing with him and this issue, but when you leave this room, keep thinking about it. By thinking about affirmative action, Ben has realized all of the opportunities he has had because of his economic status, and realized that he is racist- everyone is racist because of the social stigmas.. ALSO- the opening information of the elite group that will happen after this meeting. Reads poem...
- Representative Jiang- GSA past a resolution about local control of tuition and fees; also a resolution about the lecturers
- Representative Gupta-> echoes Phillip's sentiments- every amendment made was to make it better. Applauds authors because they were opened to hearing every amendment.
- Representative Pravda-> about Yudof's house being renovated- found out this is because Yudof is a conscious religious Jew and his Kitchen wasn't Kosher
- Representative Kirkland-> contact ...vsadler@mail.utexas.edu

COMMITTEE AND AGENCY PRIVILEGE

- Amber Billingsley-> March 22nd- mentor activity and also a FLO reunion on same day; also disappointing to see people come in late, and rush it and then have a right to vote- Amber shows up on time and stays for all of the meetings and doesn't get to vote.
- Stacey Middleton-> thanks to guys for going out to the men's retreat. Also, Women's Resource Center is having a WRC Day- so please come and see it and eat! Also- thanks for making the Valentine's! Please take a look at sheet passed out. Vagina Monologues- tickets on sale next week from 11-2 the 15th, 22, 23 at 8pm in Burdine; Vagina jeopardy
- Gunther-> will email out capital metro info
- Bobby- there's a petition going around the room... Judy Sheppard is now Monday April 21st- also -- write to your reps! GSA allocated \$1275 to Judy Sheppard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Representative Eichenbaum- Clinton will now be speaking in the Erwin Center- so more tickets will be available soon. Get involved with Texas Union
- Representative Riley- go to Barbara Jordan forum- click on link on home page
- Representative Navratil- Friars Centennial teaching fellowship- \$12,000-> turn nomination forms into SOC desk
- Representative Kirkland-> wants to start Sg IM softball team
- Representative Haley-> shout out to Julie for putting together statue petitions
- Representative Buckley-> AFRO – Austin City Council will be voting on a resolution on the war with Iraq
- Representative Vaca- tickets go on sale for vagina monologues on Monday- please go!!!

Roll Call #2

Meeting adjourned at 10:36pm

Sang 'Eyes of Texas'