

Minutes Title	2006-01-31
Meeting	2005-01-31
Owner	Stephanie Weaver
Created	2006-02-02 15:01:50
Edited	2006-02-02 15:01:50

I. Meeting Called to Order at 7:05pm

II. Roll Call #1

III. Minutes Approved

IV. Open Forum

Monica Rios – UT Basketball: Thank you so much for coming out to the past two basketball games as a student organization. If you have any comments or suggestions for athletics, please let me know. We will also be having a mixer on Valentines Day

Zack Hall – Basketball Block: If anyone would like tickets for this week's game, send an email to zackhall@mail.utexas.edu with your name and the number of people that are coming with you. Be at the Nursing School at noon to pick up you tickets.

Longhorn Speaks: Will be having an information session this week

Mecha: Publicly want to support AR 21; it is important that the university no longer accepts money given by Dow Chemical

Speaker 5: There have been complex issues surrounding this issue, we as citizens of this country must stand up against the things that Dow has refused accept responsibility, I urge you to support this resolution, it is an important symbolic gesture

Speaker 6: Please vote in favor of the Bhopal resolution

Mark – Hope Student Life: Traditionally these things are drawn down political lines, and this is something that should not be, we must make a statement to people like Dow that they must be accountable for their actions, this money represents about 1% of UT's budget, please vote for this resolution

Speaker 8: Read testimony from a Bhopal victim

Speaker 9: Read testimony from Bhopal victim, I urge you all to support the resolution today

Speaker 10: I am appalled that there are people in this world that don't know about the Bhopal tragedy, I urge you because of moral reasons, not economic reasons to vote for this resolution. Dow has refused to take the liabilities or Urban Carbide, what this resolution says is that we will not let such things continue, we have to value human life everywhere

V. Guests

Mobile Campus – Thanks to all of you that have enrolled in our service thus far, text messages will be coming at the end of this week for all subscribers, if you have any questions about how to get involved in the program or

VI. Ex Officio Reports

Student Events Center – JV Vela: Union 20 applications are out, there are a host of leadership workshops throughout the retreat, the deadline for the application are due February 3, the SEC has a board of directors and filing for office are currently up, there is also the SEC board, there are ten committees each with a specific design and purpose, feel free to apply for all of these positions, they are due March 9

Senate of College Councils – Kate Nanny: Senate meetings have been moved back to the Glenn Maloney Room, in the spring, our focus is shifted more to programming, Integrity Week will be next week

VII. Executive Reports execsg@lists.cc.utexas.edu

President: Omar Ochoa - omar.ochoa@bba02.bus.utexas.edu

-Brief update of what reps have been doing: better ticket allotment process, coffee maps and recycling in Welch, cataloging student areas in the liberal arts college, student run EMS service, extending jurisdiction of UTPD to Riverside and West Campus, housing guide; We have been able to reduce parking rates for students that use UHS services, university will seek a standardized student to outlet ratio
Keep up the hardwork for the next sixty-three days we have in office

Vice President: Elizabeth Brummett - ebrummett@mail.utexas.edu

- Texas Student Government Conference – preliminary date is the day of Forty Acres Fest
- Basketball Block – contact Zack if you want to have space in the block
- Rep of the Week – Michael Windle for his hard work on power outlets
- Absence Credits

Executive Director: Dan Paschal - dapaschal@mail.utexas.edu

- SAC Architects – met with the architects last week for about five hours, a rendering has been created
- SAC Campaign – will be meeting and working with any students that want to work on the campaign
- Housing Guide – should be up on February 15
- Director Updates – for the directors that have not sent them, please do so, we need to figure out what you are going to be doing in the rest of our term

Internal Financial Director: Henna Tayyeb - hennat@mail.utexas.edu

- Spring Appropriations – applications are due February 8th by four o'clock, we have a goal of receiving 100 applications, interviews will be from 10-2 in the business school
- Funding Brochures – this will be a brief summary of the various ways students can receive money on campus

External Financial Director: Clayton Stewart - cstewart@mail.utexas.edu

- Mobile Campus – sign up and get your friends to sign up, there is lots of free things involved with the package, www.longhorns.mobilcampus.com to sign up
- Fundraising – Meeting tomorrow at 7:15pm
- Bricks – seniors should be receiving a brochure from the Parent's Association, part of the money raised from this project goes toward the SG Endowment which will enable SG to become self sufficient
- Student Council Workshop – we have had a lot of positive responses to this program, we are going to start publicizing the event again

Communications Director: Stacy Torres - torres_sm@mail.utexas.edu

- Mobile Meeting – February 14 will be meeting in the Union
- SAC Open Forum – the logo will be everywhere, if you have any suggestions please let Stacy know
- SG Elections – let as many people know about the process as possible

Secretary: Stephanie Weaver - stephanie_weaver@mail.utexas.edu

- Athletics Meeting
- End of Term Party/Banquet
- Dinner After Meeting – Players

VIII. Representative Privilege and Committee Reports sgr@lists.cc.utexas.edu

Rivera: LPC met on Sunday to discuss AR 21

Scroggins: Assembly Rules will be meeting on Thursday in the SG office

Sanchez: I agreed to sponsor this resolution a few months ago, there has been past precedent of the university cutting ties with organizations that might have questionable backgrounds

Holman: There will be a finance committee meeting Tuesday at 6:00pm

Solomon: Come to the fundraising meeting, Mobile Campus will be there

Trinh: We have found a professor to teach Vietnamese classes

Caniceros: UT is hiring a new chief of police, one of the forums was today, the other candidate will speak tomorrow, this is a great chance to voice any concerns you have over safety

Windle: The university is planning an major renovation over the campus's east mall, I am going to propose that the university begins a pilot recycling program, this would allow the university to start from scratch

IX. Agency and Director Reports lga@lists.cc.utexas.edu, sgcom@lists.cc.utexas.edu

X. Roll Call #2 for Agency Directors

XI. Appointments

Lucas Salinas – IT Director

Allmon: Move to approve by acclamation

Seconded

No Objections

Approved

Sworn in by Executive Director Dan Paschal

XII. Unfinished Business

AR 21: Resolution in Support of Disassociation of the University of Texas at Austin from the Dow Chemical Company

Authors: We are not calling for complete disassociation, this is only until the site is cleaned and then Dow can do whatever they want, we are asking that whatever Dow intends to donate to the university that they are willing to spend an equal amount to what Dow is willing to spend in cleaning up the disaster area

Bradley: What are your thoughts on the Union Carbide settlement

A: The first settlement was in 1989, the Indian government at that time did not know that there would be long term

effects from the gas that was released in the air, Union Carbide actually knew of the effects of the gas but did not inform the government, the settlement was handled outside of court. This issue was opened again in 1991 and only accounted for the deaths that happened the week of the accident

Solomon: Do you know if the universities whose Student Governments passed resolutions have made any action

A: The resolution at Berkeley was just passed last semester, to my knowledge the University of Michigan has not

Ceniceros: Do you know if any of the administration have heard of this movement and what their opinion of the movement is?

A: Yes, I have contacted the chief financial officer about the amount of money that the university receives from Dow, but the university will not release the most up to date information

Bradley: Do you know the different departments that the money was going to

A: Most of the money goes to research grants and endowments, not scholarships

Ceniceros: Do you know how students at the university that this resolution might affect feel

Sanchez: I had mixed feedback, the chemical engineers felt much more strongly about the resolution not passing

Rucker: What is the link between this resolution and Warren Anderson who has been charged with the accident

A: For Dow, the university of holds great weight, this resolution could put pressure on Dow that could then put pressure on Anderson

Trinh: Question regarding footnote 18 and the lease of the land that the plant was located there

Bradley: Just to elaborate on the previous question about how engineering students feel about the resolution, there was not one student in the engineering council that wanted me to support this resolution

Longoria: What will you do to make sure that this resolution carries weight with the administrators?

A: We also have a similar resolution in process with the GSA and over 1000 student signatures and hope to continue to process from there

Rivera: I was wondering if you talked to Dr. Cox who returned the \$10 million from the BHP?

A: No we have not

Ceniceros: If we do pass this resolution, what do we ask President Powers do write in his letter?

A: We are not dictating what the president writes. It is just a request that we as students are asking of the president

Rucker: Have you gone to talk to the organization about this issue?

A: Members of the Students for Bhopal have met with them and to my knowledge, nothing much has come about

Del Sol: Dow is not going to meet with these students, this is our chance to show students that we care about their concerns

Ross: Wasn't there a huge class action lawsuit against Union Carbide, so they know about this issue

A: Yes, they know what is going on, Dow was using the fact that they met with some victims as a public relations tools

A: Dow set aside \$2.2 billion for asbestos liabilities but are claiming that they do not have responsibility for Bhopal. They have paid for other companies before but they should assume equal responsibility for all companies. It will take 500 million and this year alone they made 5 billion; this is a small chunk for them.

George: Who bought Union Carbide India Limited in 2004?

A: Ever Ready.

George: did they assume any liability?

A: They have not done anything, but Ever Ready is a part of Dow.

Trinh: Foot note #4 has information from Amnesty International. Are you aware that that month there was another article stating that the information was not completely correct?

A: It is hard to find one source but we have been chasing down articles as well because that is the only way to find the information.

Ceniceros: If we pass the resolution what is the next step?

A: The next step would be to approach university administrators, we are asking the university to take action

Ceniceros: Would you have SG play a role in how we present the administration

A: Yes

Holman: If the resolution does not pass tonight, what would be your next step

A: Without the student voice, we are limited in certain aspects, we would still go ahead with petitioning

Ceniceros: Would you entertain the idea of tabling this resolution until members could meet with administrators

A: Yes

Longoria: Motion to move into debate

Seconded

Motion Carries

Rivera: Move to suspend the rules and show the Bhopal presentation

Seconded

Rivera: I withdraw my motion

Ross: Motion to recess for the duration of the presentation

Motion fails

Das: Move to recess for ten minutes

Seconded

Motion fails

Ceniceros: Move to suspend the rules and have continuous debate for both sides for ten minutes

Seconded

Motion fails

Allmon: Move to call a straw poll to see who would like to see the presentations

Holman: Move to suspend the rules and allow ten minutes of debate per person

Seconded

Motion fails

Falola: Move to recess for three minutes

Seconded

Motion carries

Back into debate

Rugoff: Motion that the first two speakers will have ten minutes to speak

Seconded

Motion carries

Quezada: I yield my time for the presentation

Presentation over Bhopal

Bradley: This resolution could greatly hurt the engineering school, I have talked to engineering council and other sources and they don't think this is the right way to handle it, I do think that something should be done, but I don't think this is the right way to handle it. I want you to think about why you ran for office and urge you to think about your constituents.

Christianson: I am definitely with Jessica in that something should be done about this issue, but I don't think this is the right way to go about this issue.

Hinchey: I have some big problems with footnotes and evidence that has been used to support this resolution, some of the laws were made because of the issue, there seems to be a timeline differentiation that do not match up

Dewitt: I would like to express the voice of the Student Engineering Council. If we were to refuse these funds, it is the engineers that would be hurt. It has been pointed out that these funds represent 1% but that is still a lot of money to these students

Solomon: I am not exactly sure if SG is the proper way to have this issue addressed. This is a tragedy and something must be done, but I don't know if this is the proper medium to go through

Ceniceros: I would like to speak to the way that SG can help on this issue. I think one way we can help is to facilitate meetings through which these concerns can be addressed

A: A quick point regarding the support of issue, we have set up a way through which a registered UT student could send emails to SG representatives. 115 of the emails have been sent, over 1000 signatures have been collected

Dewitt: I yield my time to Jordan Davidson

Davidson: It is so important to vote on this issue based on how your constituencies would want you to vote. I do think there are other things that can be done.

Falola: The main people that this resolution affects will be the engineering students. I think that to make this resolution better you must have the people that this resolution affects involved

A: I don't think I could compromise my morality over this issue. This issue is: if you pass this resolution, what will happen.

Allmon: Yield my time to GSA

GSA: I would recommend that you generalize the resolution to address the future of how the university accepts funding

Allmon: I would like to suggest that we table this issue for this week in order to include some of the language for the suggestions that were made

Anjali: I believe in SG and I do think that SG does stuff that actually matters so I think that we should vote for this. A lot of people came here today to support this resolution and they are your constituents as well; and there aren't that any engineers here.

Morgan: My concern is if whether or not voting for this resolution is the most effective or appropriate course of action and I don't think it is. I don't think our members are informed enough on the contractual information to make a decision. The point is to get Student Government behind this but I think a more effective way to do that is not by passing a resolution because SG doesn't really have an understanding of this issue. Working with members outside of legislation to get meetings with administrators and working on the campaign for this resolution is the best thing to do.

Arun: The same level of support is not going to come out next week if we table this issue, another issue, we are discounting the role that SG can play, it is important that we feel that we have a part to play

Allmon: After debate I will be moving to table this resolution for a week. I don't feel that the assembly is ready to vote on this issue tonight. There is a lot of hard work that went into it, I think we should be unified in the way that we vote, and I would feel better having a true opinion from SG

Ross: As to whether or not this resolution falls under the jurisdiction of the students, this is a university that is controlled by the students and it is our responsibility to look into this matter

Rucker: If another resolution can be written that would be more effective, a way outside of legislation I think that might be the most appropriate way to handle this issue

Hardt: I believe that the people who came here tonight deserve an answer. The reason administrators are so willing

to meet with SG representatives is because they have legitimacy

Diaz: It is important that we are here tonight discussing this issue that is important to the students of the university. I would like to emphasize the responsibility issue of this resolution. I don't think we have utilized the full potential of this assembly

Ginn: I move to limit debate to the people that are standing at the mike

Seconded

Motion fails

Trinh: One of the issues that has been brought up several times is that the SG representatives are not informed about this issue, I have gone through section by section and footnote by footnote and I have found information to contradict the information that was presented. I do not feel that are constituents. I send out my greatest condolences, but sticking to the resolution, they don't all add up and they don't all agree

Ceniceros: I would like to propose an amendment

Interiano: Move to move into New Business while discussion is going on

New Business

AB 29: Referendum in Support of the Creation of a Student Activity Center

Paschal: This is a project that we have been working on since last spring. We are introducing language to place on the ballot. A lot of language was pulled from past referendums. We don't know what the cost of utilities will be in the coming years. It is important to note that the fee will not be collected until the building is finished. 20% of the money must be set aside to financial aid. This is really needed by students

Clifford: Will a link be included to give information about the SAC on the ballot

Allmon: Should the 20% be included in the language?

Paschal: Some students thought that the language should not be included, but I have not yet made up my mind regarding this

Rugoff: Could you include the student to space ratio?

Paschal: We can't say facts. If you start including facts like that, it might seem that you support the issue

Holman: Do you plan on explaining this to students

Paschal: This campaign is one of education to let students know what they are getting

Hall: When do we think the project will be completed

Paschal: That depends on how long the administration wants to take in getting the project started. I don't see this opening until the fall of 2010. This is really something that we are doing for the next generation of students

Brummett: This bill will go to LPC

Das: Friendly amendment

Sealy: Move that once we get back into debate that each side has only five minutes to speak

Seconded

Motion Fails

Division Called

Motion Carries 23-10

Back into debate

Bradley: I would like to address the one issue that I had in that we offer other alternatives and educate students in ways to address issues like this.

Rivera: Next week is Integrity Week and celebrates the honor code. The business school made a decision to turn down \$10 million from an unethical source

Arun: We are in a symbiotic relationship with Dow and when we have made decisions similar to this in the past, positive has come out of it

AR 21 fails 16-17 with 2 abstentions

XIV. Announcements

Center for Global Educational Opportunities hosts Study Abroad Fair @ Jester, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Wednesday
Volunteer & Service Learning Center / Office of the Dean of Students hosts Volunteer Fair @ Speedway Mall, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Wednesday

The UT Employee Assistance Program (EAP) hosts From Chaos to Coping: A Self-Care Group @ NOA, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Wednesday

Women's Basketball at Texas Tech @ Lubbock, TX, 5:00 PM, Wednesday

Men's Basketball at Missouri @ Columbia, MO, 8:00 PM, Wednesday

School of Social Work & Center for Women & Gender Studies @ 6 pm at Utopia Theatre in the School of Social Work, Thursday

Teach for America Information Session @ TX Union Santa Rita Suite at 6 pm, Thursday

Performing Arts Center hosts Delfos Contemporary Dance @ WIN, 8:00 PM, Friday

XV. Roll Call #2

XVI. Adjournment