

Minutes for April 7, 2009 Student Government Assembly Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order: Meeting commenced at 7:04pm
- II. First Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes- March 31, 2009 – Minutes approved
- IV. Open Forum
 - A. Joe Hanson, Scientists and Engineers for America
 - 1. We promote evidence based decision making on all levels of government
 - 2. This year we are focused on energy policy
 - 3. UT has made great strides to become a green and sustainable campus
 - 4. The utilities department has taken an initiative to promote a sustainable campus
 - 5. This will save \$2.7million a year in utilities at UT
 - 6. It will pay for itself in six years
 - 7. We want to expand this to all UT system schools with the help of SG
 - 8. The other system schools rank poorly in this respect
 - B. Cindi Fischer, UT Libraries
 - 1. Research Week is next week
 - 2. PCL is holding a libraries fair on the plaza with games and food
 - a. All libraries will be represented
 - 3. We are doing a one hour workshop to make your life easier and better
 - a. We will show tools on the web that can help you
 - b. 2-3pm on Wednesday at the PCL
 - C. Chelsea Fosse, Fun Fun Sober Run
 - 1. Center for Students in Recovery is having the Fun Fun Sober Run
 - 2. CSR is a unique program at UT
 - 3. It attracts a lot of students who have an addiction problem
 - 4. It has about 50 active students
 - 5. Run is April 18
 - 6. It is their main fundraiser event
 - 7. SG has a group – all are invited to participate
- V. Motion to suspend the rules and move Article VI, Appointments, to the next thing on the agenda
 - A. Motion seconded
 - B. Motion carries

VI. Appointments

A. Katina Rajunov, Administrative Director

1. Second year Finance and Government major from Mexico
2. She is involved with TFI and Hillel
3. She impressed us with her involvement in SSBC
4. Stein: What are some of your ideas on improving how we follow up with projects?
 - a. I have come to appreciate our government here in America, and the opportunity to get involved even before you are able to vote
 - b. I have been able to follow the legislative process with some of the things I have done in the past
 - c. There were great pieces of legislation passed with the last administration, and I hope we can increase that by encouraging reps to get more involved in the process
 - d. Everyone has an issue they care about, and turning that into legislation is what we should try to do
 - e. Sometimes I feel like legislation is belittled, but as AD I want to concentrate on informing the assembly what happens to the legislation
5. Lawler: You mentioned you want to increase outreach to orgs with legislation. How do you plan to do that?
 - a. That is not necessarily my job, but we should outreach to bring orgs in and get them involved in the legislative process and to SG
 - b. The White Rose Society was passionate about Darfur, and they came to SG to write and pass legislation
6. Motion to approve by acclamation
7. Motion seconded
8. Motion carries

B. Natalie Butler, Executive Director

1. Second Year Plan II and Political Communications Major
2. Served as LLA Director
3. Bunch: Explain your involvement with Student Government
 - a. Served as LLA Director this last year and understands role of Executive Director in helping facilitate the work of Agency Directors
 - b. Served as the LLA for the ED her freshman year
4. Meyerson: What would be your biggest initiation for change as ED?
 - a. Facilitate work between agencies that do similar work.
 - b. For example, Safety agencies can work together to make safety more effective while still fulfilling independent work
5. Motion to approve by acclamation
6. Motion seconded
7. Motion carries

- C. Danielle Brown, Communications Director
 - 1. Fourth Year Psychology Major
 - 2. Served as Philanthropy director two years ago
 - 3. Served as Liberal Arts Representative this past year
 - 4. Hobson: How do you plan to continue outreach that was built by Chelsea this last year?
 - a. Host mobile meetings bi-monthly or once a month so that all students have the opportunity to attend a meeting at least once a semester without travel restrictions
 - b. Increase partnerships with other organizations on campus. SG hosted Volley for the Cure this past year with sorority, able to see the benefit to both organizations in working together
 - 5. Motion to approve by acclamation
 - 6. Motion seconded
 - 7. Motion carries

- D. Sarah Yu, Internal Financial Director
 - 1. Third Year BHP Student
 - 2. Held numerous positions including Executive in ABSA
 - 3. Also held various jobs throughout her time in college
 - 4. Confident in her ability to put together a budget and budget proposal to SSBC
 - 5. Stein: How will your status as a newcomer to SG affect your work?
 - a. Biggest challenge will be getting acclimated to SG
 - b. On tasks that fall under the responsibility of IFD, confident in her ability to put together a budget
 - 6. Ferraro: Mentioned in application to including improvements in registration process, how can you get student input?
 - a. SG should use resources available including Jester Office
 - b. Also get surveys out, get representatives involved, and ensure that student input is taken into account to improve registration process
 - c. There are already steps being taken to improve the registration process, but student voice must be an integral part
 - 7. Motion to approve by acclamation
 - 8. Motion seconded
 - 9. Motion carries

- E. Scott Parks, External Financial Director
 - 1. Third Year BHP, Finance, and Urban Studies Student
 - 2. Served as Business Representative and did a lot of work with Shara for the business schools
 - 3. Very creative and will continue the improvements Taylor has made
 - 4. Applied for this position to increase his service to the student body
 - 5. Likes position, wants to improve the number of applicants for scholarships if they are put online, particularly if the new excellence fund is opened

6. Meyerson: Involvement in Students Hooked on Texas, how will he continue this?
 - a. Worked this past year to initiate the Business Legacy campaign, wants to help other colleges to do the same
7. Azemi: When giving exec. Reports will you be as happy as Taylor?
 - a. I will try!
8. Greenberg: How would you describe your working relationship with Shara, do you agree on issues, etc?
 - a. I don't know, let Shara describe it
 - b. Ma: We always were able to talk and work together and even if we disagreed on issues we worked to resolve them
9. Motion to approve by acclamation
10. Motion seconded
11. Motion carries

F. Louis Armendariz, FLO Director

1. First year Government and Political Communications Student
2. Served as an LLA last year and was the Freshman LLA of the year
3. Recommended by the past FLO Officers
4. Participated in FLO all of last year, FLO should serve as a body for first year students to get exposed to various leadership opportunities on campus
5. Improve the link between SG and FLO, but also find other campus organizations on campus including Senate, UDems, CR's, SEC
6. Lawler: How do you plan to expose students to organizations and specifically to Student Government?
 - a. One idea is to have a carnival like a job fair and get leadership organizations come and set up a booth
 - b. Have a speaker series and invite various organizations to talk at FLO meetings
7. Rodriguez: What are your plans to get students involved or acclimated on campus beyond the leadership level?
 - a. Wants to expand the leadership, students coming in are already leaders, but we want to expand their abilities and skills including cooperation, teamwork, etc.
8. Motion to approve by acclamation
9. Motion seconded
10. Motion carries

G. Drucilla Tigner and Rachel Aitkens, CEC Co-Directors

1. CEC is one of the most important agencies in SG
2. They were both selected by the current co-directors of the CEC, they want to continue the work that they've done and improve
3. Tigner: Third year Government and Communications major
 - a. Assistant Director, organized numerous large events, including Earth Week 2009, also does outreach
4. Aitkens: Second year Government major
 - a. Involved in CEC for past two years, served as an officer and director of Campus Recycling program

5. Hobson: Can you expand on Earth Week?
 - a. Tigner: Planning on hosting four days initiatives throughout the week. It is intended to outreach and incorporate other organizations on campus. Giving people more information on how to be more sustainable.
6. Talarico: What is the most pressing environmental issue facing UT?
 - a. Tigner: Institutionalization of plastic on campus. Many other schools have been able to do it, but UT has not yet been able to complete that initiative.
7. Jones: With everything that's going on in West Campus, would you make it an effort to expand recycling initiatives off campus in West Campus, Riverside, etc?
 - a. Tigner: In the past they have tried, but because there are still things to do on campus, that is more of a long term goal
8. Woods: Do you work with the City of Austin?
 - a. Aitkens: Currently no because there's so much to do on campus, but hopefully that is a long term goal
9. Lawler: Do you work well together
 - a. Yes
10. Motion to approve by acclamation
11. Motion seconded
12. Motion carried

H. Liam O'Rourke swears in all approved appointments

VII. Guests

VIII. Ex-Officio Reports

- A. Graduate Student Assembly
- B. Senate of College Councils
 - a. Lauren Ratliff, Incoming President
 - b. Looking forward to getting to know everyone
 - c. Sentate is Student Governance organization that represents students in Academic Affairs
 - d. Works with the College Councils and encourages representatives to get active with their councils
 - e. Passed SR507 trying to get the honor code on the Apply Texas Application which signifies that the Honor Code will now be in the application starting in 2010
 - f. Also have research week next week
 - g. Woods: Last week SG passed including Academic Integrity in hands of students, are you all involved in this?
 - a. Yes, they are doing research on that currently. They have an Academic Integrity Committee. Encourages anyone interested to get involved
 - h. Azemi: Who would they as representatives contact?
 - a. Drew Fink – fink@mail.utexas.edu

- C. Student Events Center
 - a. Andrew Nash, President-elect
 - b. Monday – film committee hosting Jurassic Park outside
 - c. Tuesday- Miss UT Asia as well as Noche Caliente
 - d. Thursday and Saturday – Texas Revue Talent Show
 - e. Following week will be the Orange and White Ball
 - a. Co-op traditionally funds 3 events, but has pulled all funds for next year
 - b. Will be creating a taskforce to raise more funds
 - c. Azemi: What was the reason?
 - 1. Clause under their bank account, due to expected revenue will no longer exist
 - f. Bunch: Similar to what happened with Campus Fusion, intent of Coop is to start programs and then let them become self sustained. It may be a good idea to create a taskforce for all events that are sponsored by the coop, we should attack the root of the problem
 - g. Stein: Give a brief overview on what the SEC does:
 - a. Housed in the Texas Union and made up of 15 committees
 - b. Sole mission is to provide premier events for students to enjoy including weekly movies, Forty Acres Fest, cultural events, speakers including Bill Nye tonight
 - c. Manage a budget of over half a million dollars that comes from endowments and UT budget
 - d. UTSEC.org

D. Student Services

IX. Deputy Adviser Report

- A. Melinda Sutton- msutton@mail.utexas.edu
 - 1. Serves as the Deputy Adviser for Student Government
 - 2. Always available to serve as a resource and help in any way
 - 3. Dean Soncia Reagins Lily is the Advisor to SG and also available
 - 4. Offices are located on the 4th floor directly to your left
 - 5. Always available to meet, to ensure she is there, send an email

X. Executive Reports

- A. President: Liam O'Rourke- orourke.liam@gmail.com
 - 1. Welcome everyone and congratulations on being here
 - 2. Lay out one key ground rule: Ensure that we have respect in what is expected to be a very intense assembly
 - 3. Ensure that arguments framed in a positive way and not personal attacks
 - 4. Notice the executive board is not sitting at the front of the room, the assembly is about the representatives
 - 5. Only have 24 meetings throughout the year, because everyone ran and earned these spots, will take meetings seriously and come do some work to share the goal of serving the students at the university

6. Come to work, come prepared
7. Lastly, communication is key, with constituents, each other, as well as Liam and Shara
8. Will make sure that everyone has the resources that they need to be successful, but if they have ideas, take the initiative and lead the assembly

B. Vice President: Shara Ma - shara.ma@austin.utexas.edu

1. Need to get committees set up as soon as possible and get chairs selected
2. Representatives – submit top three committee choices ASAP

XI. Committee Reports

- A. Rules
- B. Finance
- C. Internal Affairs
- D. Outreach
- E. Fundraising
- F. Legislative Policy

XII. Unfinished Business

XIII. New Business

A. AB1: 2009 – 2010 Assembly Rules

1. Authored by Shara and Liam
2. All of the University-Wide Representatives are sponsors
3. Shara went over the various changes in the Rep Orientation
4. There are changes in the order of the agenda
5. Changes in the Committee names and functions
6. New attendance policies
7. Committee chairs will now be representatives rather than executive board members
8. Questions on wording and intent:
9. Hooper: Questions related to absence provisions, do standing committees require quorum? Are there ever problems to making committee meetings quorums?
 - a. Yes, but half absence penalty will serve as incentive
10. Woods: Requirement to attend College Council Meetings, can we add requirement for Graduate students to attend the GSA meetings?
 - a. That can be taken as a friendly amendment
11. O'Dell: How will we keep representatives accountable to attending Council Meetings?
 - a. Ma: Yes she will be meeting with Council presidents in the summer to create a system of accountability. Fair system will be worked out
 - b. Bunch: VP Trinh would surprisingly attend council meetings to ensure attendance, and seemed to be effective

12. Hooper: Change of absence policy, can you talk to why the delineation between unexcused and excused absences and the need to change that?
 - a. O'Rourke: wrote that last year to differentiate between absences. The trouble was that it was very subjective. It is no longer the responsibility of the executive director, but rather the representatives, in the Internal Affairs Committee.
13. Lawler: Was attendance really a problem in past years?
 - a. Bunch: Didn't necessarily affect legislation, but there was the accusation of favoritism in how the Executive Director decided excused/unexcused absences
 - b. Castetter: As an Agency Director it was difficult to see that others weren't working when she was showing up regularly
 - c. Azemi: As former AD, did see LPC meetings where quorum wasn't reached
 - d. Stein: Last meeting of the year didn't have quorum so this is a good preventative policy
14. Greenberg: Why do agency directors have fewer opportunities to make up absences?
 - a. Bunch: they make a report only every other week, not elected
15. Lawler: Isn't preventing quorum a strategy that can be used to avert legislation?
 - a. Rodriguez: Previous absences were not related to that
16. Hooper: Was there a previous policy for students to submit in writing reason for absence?
 - a. Azemi: Yes, but because several different individuals needed to receive the email, it was a very inefficient method.
17. Will move to Internal Affairs Committee as soon as it's completed

B. AR1 In Opposition to a Voter Photo ID Law

1. Author: Talarico
2. Sponsors: Talarico and Rodriguez
3. First piece of legislation that is being introduced
4. Encourage all to attend LPC meeting when this resolution is introduced
5. Talarico: currently there's a bill in the Texas Legislature that would require voters to present a valid driver's license before voting
 - a. This would be a very restrictive initiative that would harm voter turnout as has been shown in various studies
 - b. Being proposed as a partisan play in the Texas Legislature and will harm voters and we need to work to encourage people to vote rather than discourage them
6. Casteter: How does it discourage students to vote?
 - a. There are numerous studies that show that it will make voting much more chaotic and difficult. It will increase waiting in line; if form of identification does not match it will disenfranchise voters.
 - b. Many students don't carry an appropriate voter ID

7. Woods: Can you vote with a Student ID if this is passed?
 - a. If interpreted correctly then yes. But there has been confusion and constitutional questions about poll taxes have arisen.
 - b. Restrictions on when one can get a voter ID only at the FAC that could hurt someone who needs to vote off campus, not to mention voting times.
8. Woods: Concern about the length of the legislation, and suggests that the legislation concentrate on what directly affects students
 - a. Consciously placed provisions that affect the whole state and not just the student body. Wants to ensure that representatives know the full effects of the law and have all of the information.
 - b. Woods: Suggests that a provision is placed in the back to include the full information, and concentrate on shortening the legislation.
9. Azemi: Length of legislation is much better served when it is one page front and back
10. Lawler: Clarification of the intent, could this legislation prevent someone from voting, will this solve the voter fraud issue?
 - a. Talarico: Though that does exist, this legislation only prevents voter impersonation, not voter fraud.
 - b. Lawler: Section 9, Ch. 42, at the bottom speaks to how this will cause confusion, is this out of committee? Could it potentially change?
 - c. Talarico: It has been passed by the Senate, and is now in committee at the House. Changes could still take place, this resolution only addresses a certain type of bill.
11. Meyerson: Can you talk about some of the arguments on the other side of the debate?
 - a. Talarico: Most people would tell you that this is a result of partisan debate. Studies show it primarily harms Democrats, and that can potentially be seen as a stop to democratic gains, particularly because it doesn't show that it prevents voter fraud.
12. Jones: Point of Information – Precinct Chair is empowered to determine the validity of the credentials, so based on that interpretation they can prevent you from voting
13. Hobson: Section III, 3rd Whereas clause, where does the NPR website show?
 - a. Talarico, it is in there, we would be the most restrictive
14. Castaneda: In Georgia and Indiana was there a drastic reduction in voter turnout?
 - a. Talarico: Yes, and particularly there have been difficulties in encouraging college students to vote, Indiana is a great example
15. Lewis: Point of Information, Indiana actually saw an increase in the overall turnout – opposed to this resolution and in favor of Bill in the State Legislature

- a. Talarico: This can be attributed to just overall voter turnout increase, not necessarily a turnout due to the rule being passed
- 16. Hobson: Section 5, what is the point of including statistics on elderly voters?
 - a. Talarico: it's important to include all of the information on who will be affected
 - b. Bunch: There are some students who are of that age
- 17. Estep: Length of the document, much speculative language is used. Also, it needs to be streamlined so that what is actually trying to be said is said.
 - a. Talarico: laws in other states are different so some speculative language is necessary, but they will work on the length
 - b. Motion to close
 - c. Motion seconded
 - d. Motion carries
 - e. Legislation will be referred to LPC

XIV. Agency Director Reports

- A. FLO Officers -- Introduction of the incoming team
 - 1. Adrian Ramirez, Associate Director
 - 2. Derek Vo, Outreach Committee
 - 3. Lance Rayborn, Community Service Chair
 - 4. Amy Huang, Community Service Chair
 - 5. Kacey Kelley, Fundraising Committee
 - 6. 10 flofficers
 - 7. Would like to hear from Representatives on leadership organizations that they are involved in and also get ideas and suggestions
- B. Student Athlete Affairs Agency – Stephanie Logterman
 - 1. Next Tuesday they will host a Student Athlete Forum in the Glenn Maloney Room at 6:00PM
 - 2. Meeting will start at 7:30 PM to encourage participation in this event
- C. Campus Environmental Center
 - 1. Earth Week will be April 21 and they need a lot of volunteers and involvement
 - 2. Trash to Treasure initiative is coming up and they are looking for volunteers – tons and tons of things are saved from landfills
 - 3. UTtrashtotreasure.org
- D. Historical Research Agency Director –
 - 1. Event coming up for Alumni Relations is coming up
 - 2. Many SG alumni will be attending
 - 3. All representatives are invited, and the invitation will be sent out again

XV. Representative Reports and Announcements

- A. Woods: Testimony last Monday on the Guns on Campus Issue, still pending in Committee
 - 1. HB 3252 is another Bill that would prevent people with mental health issues who are currently still allowed to purchase guns
 - 2. April 16, second anniversary of Virginia Tech shooting, there will be a rally at the Capitol at noon – Please help get the word out, also any speakers
- B. O'Dell: Education Council is having a fundraiser on Thursday at Pluckers all day – tell them you're supporting Education Council before you order food. Money will go toward allowing all members to attend a retreat in the fall
- C. Stein: Issues that they are working on:
 - 1. Meeting with Tom Wall from the UT Biking Community – anyone interested in biking issues contact Justin
 - 2. Last week legislation was passed in support of Academic Integrity, now we need to continue work on that
 - 3. Top 10% legislation was tabled in last administration, talk to Justin if interested in working on that issue
 - 4. Trays on campus – next meeting of Plate Waste Focus Group/Tray Free Focus Group will be tomorrow in J2 Cafeteria tomorrow from 5:00 – 6:00
 - 5. Concealed Carry on campus is also an issue that we need support in
 - 6. Thank Reps. Wang and Woody for work on request for proposal process on division of housing and food
- D. Talarico/Rodriguez/Azemi: Univesity wide reps will be hosting a town-hall meeting on Top 10% next Thursday to get student input on what legislation should look like
 - 1. All reps needed to help publicize
 - 2. It will be an official SG event
 - 3. UTC 1.102 6:00 and 7:15, more details to come
 - 4. Sam Stripling wrote a great piece of legislation that can be found on the website that will serve as the starting point
- E. Estep: Scientist and Engineers of America group is focusing on energy this semester, but it really is a policy organization. Want to push forth progressive scientific policies. Looking for undergraduates to get involved, particularly in the university's role.
 - 1. Webinar taking place next Tuesday
 - 2. Facebook Group: Texas Scientist and Engineers of America
- F. Butler: Orange Jackets, Tapee class has chosen service project to increase access to feminine products on campus.
 - 1. Sign a petition to support this initiative
- G. Ferraro: Encourage people to attend the Top 10% forum
 - 1. Starting to put together informal taskforce on parking- contact Alex if interested
 - 2. Texas Ventures is hosting the Lonestar Entrepreneurial Summit April 21 – founder of Sweet Leaf Tea, etc. sign up online at openforideasus.org
- H. McWorther: Cowboys hosting a barbecue tomorrow from 11:00 – 2:00 \$8.00 purchase tickets from him
- I. Wang: Thursday College Republicans hosting Radical Professor Event

1. Friday – Asian American Campus Ministries hosts TGIF
 2. Saturday – Poker tournament in the Union 8:00 – 11:00 PM
 3. Next Weekend – 3v3 basketball tournament that benefits Eastside Community Connection
 4. Film Committee hosting a movie right after the meeting
- J. Lawler: Election Taskforce Meeting this coming Monday as well as next Sunday – encourage everyone to attend
- K. Azemi: How many use email accounts given by university as primary email?
1. Majority use Gmail, rather than the University given email
 2. On an ITS committee that is looking into a new email system – please send Minator email if you have a strong opinion
- L. Tao: School of Social Work is hosting a Casino Night fundraiser

XVI. Second Roll Call

XVII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm