

Senate Meeting

January 30th, 2019

Legacy A&B @6:00pm

1. Call to Order @6:06
2. Roll Call

Senator Alexander- Present

Senator Aguilar- Present  
Senator Benn- Absent

Senator Deckard- Present

Senator Egolf- Present

Senator Griffin- Absent

Senator Jackson- Present

Senator Linton- Absent

Senator Roach- Present

Senator A. Salcedo- Present

Senator C. Salcedo- Present

Senator Siddiqui- Present

Senator Vernon- Present

Senator Wimbish- Present

Senator Wintz- Present

Vice President Aguilar- Present

Vice President Slayter- Present

President Jones – Present

Quorum has been met

1. Approval of the Minutes
   1. Senator A. Salcedo moves to approve the minutes as written, seconded by senator Jackson.
2. Approval of the Agenda
   1. Senator A. Salcedo moves to amend the agenda to include the Swearing in of Associate Justice Ramirez under line item 10, subsection b, as well as to include Campus Safety and Security Bill: Color Markers under line item 10 subsection C, Campus Safety and Security Bill: UPD Thank you under line item 10 subsection D, and Campus Safety and Security Bill: Pride Alert System under line item 10 subsection E, seconded by senator Roach.
   2. Senator Wintz moves to add senate bill 1906 under line item 10 subsection F, seconded by senator Roach.
   3. Senator Jackson moves to approve the agenda with amendments, seconded by senator A. Salcedo.
3. Opening General Student Input
   1. None
4. Executive Board Reports
   1. President: Addison Jones
      * Had lunch with President Rudin and honors college students
      * Diversity and Inclusion committee has scheduled its first meeting for the semester on February 5th, let her know if you would like to attend
   2. VP/Senate Chair: Grace Slayter
      * Met with the Strategic Plan Committee on behalf of President Jones which is getting started with the strategic plan, if anyone has anything they think needs to be on there, talk to her or President Jones.
      * Remember that the Senate is in charge of this meeting, she is only here to facilitate this meeting, she encourages the senate to take this meeting as its own and to ask their own questions and to take time during their own committee meetings to come up with questions and think of something to ask of guest speakers.
   3. VP/Student Affairs: Paola Aguilar
      * She is moving the physical committee binders to an online drive so that there is a paper trail for everything worked on and discussed and so future committee chairs have access to past resources.
      * She encourages committee events to be student focused
      * If senators aren’t attending committee meetings let her know
      * She encourages the senate to try to answer Groupme messages within a timely manner
      * She encourages the senate to think about attending the Safe Space Ally events that are taking place this upcoming Tuesday
5. Advisor Report
   1. Jeremy Sippel
      * Minutes are now officially up on the website and he will post them each week as he receives them
      * Meet with him if you have any specific questions about what he is up to
6. Guest Speakers
   1. Dr. Shanan G. Gibson, the Dean of the Business school
      * COB is one of the larger colleges on campus and we have degree programs at both graduate and undergraduate levels for all kinds of degrees. We have the largest NBA program with our online curriculum, and we offer one of the best values in graduate education online, especially with its ability to accommodate student’s time.
      * Senator Wimbish moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Q: Since the senate has quite low representation from the college of business, is there any way for you to let students know who we are?
        1. A: Yes I can certainly do that, however 80% of my graduates have transferred here from somewhere else and they often have not had the opportunity to live on campus and thus have not seen the way of life that most students here do.
      * Q: Does your department offer scholarships directly from the college of business?
        1. A: Yes, we have numerous
      * Q: Would you describe your school as collaborative or competitive for students and faculty?
        1. A: Within every entity with limited resources, there will always be competition; I believe its good nature. However, collaborative work ethics win out most of the time for the faculty. For students, the most important document they will ever work on at this university is their resume. It is their job to differentiate themselves from every other person who wants their desired job. This stems from the natural competition for leadership roles; students at top are really good, and in order to outshine them, other students must work hard. Like SGA, they are doing it for the right reason, but they also wish to differentiate themselves in the job market. Competition is good, but they do also work together very well.
      * Q: What is something the college of business has that you want all students to experience?
        1. A: Experimental learning; students learn better in application, but not all students seek internships. You can get hands on experience simply with casework and excel practices as well as marketing plans. This is not a unique thing to our college but it is something valued very highly.
      * Q: What is your overall goal for the supply chain industry degree you plan on implementing and how can we help?
        1. A: Just keep your ears open and listen, we will want feedback in the future, and the support of students will be important for implementation.
      * Q: Do you know your graduation rate percentage?
        1. Our 6-year graduation rate is about 6% above the university average.
      * Q: Retention is a really big issue for us right now, do you know what the success rates are for students finding jobs after college?
        1. A: In general, I receive an overwhelming percentage of “well prepared” results on the survey, however, a survey isn’t always the most dependable. Retention is difficult because we do not have a great system to track that. I care more about how many students who come here get the degree they want. However, I would like to see a college of business living and learning community.
      * Q: I am a marketing minor, what are some tips on being successful?
        1. A: Taking marketing as a minor is a fabulous idea since there is a business side to everything. It is important to look at social media and how a web-based presence impacts buying positions. Don’t hide from the harder classes; they are hard, but great classes.
      * Senator Jacksons moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Alexander
   2. Dr. Brent Donham the Dean of the College of Science & Engineering.
      * The College of Science and Engineering has 7 departments geared towards people looking for an applied arts and sciences or associate degree. We offer biology, environmental science, wildlife conservation management, chemistry department, computer science, computer information systems, 3 engineering programs including construction, electrical, and industrial, tech management, mathematics, and physics. We have an observatory station, planetarium, and a biomedical institute for regenerative research which will be housed on the 3rd floor of the new nursing health sciences building.
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Jackson.
      * Q: As a biology student, it is hard to find people with the practical experience of a job in that field, do you have any plans to help students with that?
      * A: We have the industry advisory board which will bring in companies, representatives, and experts from each field to learn about the programs and talk to the students and potentially recruit them, and I am trying to open opportunities for all departments.
      * Q: Are there any other kinds of engineering you plan on adding in the future?
        1. I would prefer to have a master’s program in engineering first, but after that I would like to look into adding more
      * Q: Is there anything that can be done about tutors with lack of knowledge in specific areas?
        1. A: will look into it
      * Q: Do you guys have subject specific tutors?
        1. A: I do not know specifically for students because I don’t oversee the hiring process.
      * Senator Jackson moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon.
   3. Seth Dutton Director of External Operations from the Athletics Department
      * We would like to create a partnership between our program and yours to benefit both of us. I am asking the senate to promote the games to the students and I want to help you in return. We both want to give students best experience they can have. Our football team won the national championship, but we need you all to help promote “home energy”. We would love for you to join us at games for football, basketball, volleyball or even softball. We want to give you visibility through us, and I can tell you take pride in what you do.
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Q: What are other ideas that you may have for us to get more involved with you?
        1. A: I am thinking of getting someone from our department to sit in on your meetings so that we may work collaboratively together; we would have to sit down and talk about specific plans.
      * Q: We have elections coming up, would you be able to promote this during your games and using your social media?
        1. A: We would have to do it at softball and basketball games but we can definitely do that
      * Q: How do athletics play a role in school spirit?
        1. A: People do come to the games but I want people to be engage in the game from beginning to end to give a true homefield/court advantage.
      * Senator Wimbish moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Alexander.
7. Old Business
   1. New Senator Candidate:
      * Deandrew Hill
        1. Senator A. Salcedo moves to table New Senator Candidate: Deandrew Hill indefinitely, seconded by senator Vernon.
   2. Internal Affairs: Discussion and voting for New Bill regarding Constitutional Amendments
      * Senate bill 1901 Titled Executive Position Constitutional Amendment, sponsored by Internal Affairs Committee
      * Whereas the IA Committee has found that the constitution requires amendments regarding the executive requirements for eligibility.
      * Whereas, the constitution should specify that executive board applicants must be in good standing with the university for eligibility, and maintain that good standing with TAMU-C if they are elected for the position.
      * Whereas, the constitution should specify that applicants for executive board positions must be able to serve the full academic year in order to be qualified for the position.
      * Whereas, the constitution should specify that one full term is defined as starting at the first senate meeting in the fall, and ending with the last meeting in the spring.
      * Therefore, be it resolved that these amendments are adopted by the senate and will go to a referendum by the student body.
      * Senator A. Salcedo Moves to open the floor for discussion
      * VP Slayter entertains the motion to close the floor for discussion, so moved by senator Jackson, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to amend the bill under the 4th whereas statement with “1 full term is starting when senate member is sworn in spring and ending at end of academic year in spring” seconded by senator Jackson.
      * VP Slayter entertains the motion to go into voting procedures, so moved by senator A. Salcedo, seconded by senator Jackson.
      * 13-0-0
      * The bill is passed with amendments
   3. Senator Bryant Jackson: Discussion and voting for bill regarding recruiting initiative
      * Author Bryant Jackson bill 1904
      * Whereas the student government association has seen dwindling numbers of members and new applications for membership within the last year
      * Whereas the current senate body would like to make a concerted effort to reach out to organizations and the student body to find qualified and dedicated students for the senate
      * Whereas the Student Government Association is trying new efforts of reaching out to the student population and leaders for marketing its own organization, which will help for recruiting and retention in the organizations
      * VP Slayter entertains the motion to open the floor for discussion, so moved by senator Alexander, seconded by senator A. Salcedo
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to close the floor for discussion, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Senator Salcedo moves to amend resolution to the proper capitalization and to change “SGA” to the full name of Student Government Association.
      * Senator Vernon moves to go into voting procedures, seconded by senator Roach.
      * 13-0-0
      * The resolution is passed with amendments
8. New Business
   1. Internal Affairs: Presentation of new bill regarding Constitutional Amendments
      * WHEREAS, the Internal Affairs Committee has found that the constitution requires amendments regarding the senate requirements for eligibility and clarification.
      * WHEREAS, the constitution should specify that senate applicants must be in good standing with the university to be eligible, and maintain that good standing with TAMU-C if they are elected for the position.
      * WHEREAS, the constitution should specify that applicants must provide two letters of recommendation with at least one (1) being from faculty or staff while applicants within their first academic semester are required to provide one letter of recommendation.
      * WHEREAS, the constitution should specify that applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater at the time of senator application and must maintain this average if accepted into the senate. The constitution should also specify that applicants within their first academic semester are not required to present a GPA.
      * Therefore be it resolved that these amendments are adopted by the senate and will go to a referendum by the student body
      * Senator Jackson moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon
      * Senator Jackson moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon
   2. Swearing in of Associate Justice
      * Associate Justice Ramirez
   3. Campus Safety and Security: Color Markers
      * Whereas the 2017-2018 academic year there were 678 color zone parking citations. This timeline being from September 1,2017 thru august 31, 2018
      * Whereas people were issued citations for permits located in the wrong color zones
      * Whereas there are various locations on campus where the markings are not easily identifiable.
      * Whereas, when entering a parking lot there is no markings to easily identify who is permitted to park there.
      * Senator Jackson moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator A. Salcedo.
      * Q: Define color markers
        1. A: Your parking passes have designated colors for designated areas for parking. We just want something to visibly show what parking lots are designated for.
      * Senator Roach moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Alexander.
      * Senator Wimbish moves to amend the sponsor to Campus Safety and Security.
      * Senator Jackson moves to go into voting procedures, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * 13-0-0
      * Bill is passed with amendments
   4. Campus Safety and Security: UPD Thank You
      * SR 1909
      * Whereas the campus safety and security committee would like to recognize the hard work of the Texas A&M commerce police department
      * Whereas being a good police officer is one of the most difficult jobs
      * Whereas protecting the Texas A&M-Commerce campus is such a huge responsibility
      * Whereas the police department show the Texas A&M-Commerce community what true heroism is
      * Whereas the Student Government Association Greatly appreciates all the hard work that the University Police Department does for the community
      * Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government Association recognizes the Texas A&M University Commerce police department for showing selflessness and dedication.
      * Senator Wimbish moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Alexander.
      * Q: How would we honor them?
        1. A: We would give them framed certificates and invite them here for us to show appreciation
      * Senator Wimbish moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * VP Aguilar moves to amend the sponsor to Campus Safety and Security, seconded by senator Jackson.
      * Senator Alexander moves to amend the document to the proper capitalization, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * VP Aguilar moves to amend the document by adding hyphens as needed, seconded by senator Jackson.
      * Senator Vernon moves to go into voting procedures, seconded by senator Roach.
      * 13-0-0
      * The resolution is passed with amendments
   5. Campus safety and security committee: Pride Alert Warning System
      * SB1908
      * Whereas the pride alert warning system sends direct messages and phone calls to the students, faculty and staff informing them on situations that present themselves as an immediate danger
      * Whereas the pride alert warning system automatically empties out student registration information every academic year
      * Whereas, not all students know that they have to re-register or how to register for the warning system.
      * Therefore, be it resolved that The Campus Safety and Security Committee within the SGA have tables available to the student body to inform students on how to register for the Pride Alert Warning System in the atrium, and the library on 2/19/2019 and 2/20/2019
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to open the floor for discussion, seconded by senator Jackson.
      * Q: What are you planning on doing to get the word out?
        1. A: We are planning on doing tabling to gather awareness to help register and inform new students
      * VP Slayter entertain motion close floor questioning, so moved by senator Jackson, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to amend the bill’s sponsor to campus safety and security and to adjust format and spacing as needed, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Senator Jackson moves to go into voting procedures, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * 13-0-0
      * Bill is passed with amendments
   6. Campus Life: Women’s Health Initiative
      * SB1907
      * Whereas the SSC has removed women’s health ites from bathrooms and offered no replacement alternative.
      * Whereas women require pads and tampons as an essential health item in daily life.
      * Whereas the only current availability for these items, the bookstore, has a limited number of them, and sells them rather than being free.
      * Whereas other universities such as the university of texas at arlington have also recognized these needs and responded with their own health bill
      * Whereas as of the fall 2016 semester sixty percent of the student body are female, leaving almost two-thirds of the campus without a basic need for health
      * Therefore, it be resolved that the student government association implores the university to install containers in women’s and gender-neutral bathrooms that will contain pads and tampons free for use and to be regularly refilled. The university to install contains in women’s and gender-neutral bathrooms
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to open the floor for discussion, seconded by senator Wimbish.
      * President Jones entertains the motion to close the floor for discussion, so moved by senator Vernon, seconded by senator A. Salcedo.
      * Senator Vernon moves to amend the bill to read, in the last whereas statement, “sixty percentage of the student body identify as female”, seconded by senator Jackson.
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to amend the title to menstrual health initiative and to adjust terminology to a more inclusive alternative in all instances, as well as with the proper capitalization, seconded by senator Jackson.
      * Senator Vernon moves to go into voting procedures, seconded by senator Wimbish.
      * 12-0-1
      * The Bill is passed with amendments
   7. Academic Affairs Committee: Book Exchange Program
      * Whereas many students have expressed concerns about textbook prices at the bookstore for the upcoming school semester. There have been concerns regarding sell back prices for textbooks.
      * Whereas many students are finding it difficult to find a low-cost alternative towards accessing textbooks for courses on campus
      * Whereas it has been encouraged that faculty utilize low-cost materials for their courses and students can rent books for a lower price, rather than purchasing books; however, many of the rental prices have been costly
      * Whereas students are having to find lower priced alternatives such as online books which may not correlate with the course material and provide effective resources to facilitate student learning, thereby affecting students’ academic performance
      * Therefore, it be resolved the student government association will arrange for a program where a student who has an extra book and is not able to sell it to be able to allow a student to borrow the book for the semester via the library. The policies and procedures will be as is according to the ones set in place by the library and a liability contract would be utilized.
      * Senator Salcedo moves to open the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Vernon.
      * Q: What was the rationale behind “borrowing” the books?
        1. A: If students cannot turn it back into a bookstore, they may feel charitable enough to lend to other students through the program.
      * Q: Did you have a plan of action of how you would like to get the word out?
        1. A: I was planning on making fliers and working with PR
      * Q: Once you give the library the book you no longer need, is it then in property of the library?
        1. Yes
      * Q: Is there a set guideline for how the book exchange is going to work?
        1. I have had meetings with the provost and staff but no guidelines have been made
      * Senator A. Salcedo moves to close the floor for questioning, seconded by senator Jackson
      * Senator Vernon moves to table the bill until next week, seconded by senator A. Salcedo.
9. Committee Reports
   1. Academic Affairs
      * Our next project will be to work on a survey to research the tutoring issues that have been presented to us from past meetings. We will be meeting with the math department head to talk about the possibility of opening the math lab to upperclassmen as well, and we will be tabling next week.
   2. Campus Life
      * With the help of Student Health Services, we will be doing a sexual health awareness tabling event on Feb 14th from 12-2pm at the cross roads. We will be handing out t-shirts provided by SHS and plan to make it fun and interactive. We have sent out a sign-up genius a couple days ago and need to know who is available for that so that senators coming can be equipped with information about the subject to be able to answer questions. Let us know by Monday.
   3. Campus Safety and Security
      * We will begin working on certificates to give to UPD with the passing of the legislation, and will be meeting with them to get things done. We are also looking forward to meet with Nathan Perry to speak about the title 9 change. We are looking to expand certain safety avenues, and produce more legislation.
   4. External Affairs
      * We have had the opportunity to speak with someone about doing community service and we will be taking that idea into serious consideration. We have also been planning for mardi-gras and have discussed involvement there with other organizations. We have been looking over our mission statement as a committee to see if can revamp that to a better representation of what our goal is.
   5. Internal Affairs
      * We have been busy finishing up constitutional amendments and planning for the rest of the semester as well as starting on the process of rewriting our organization’s judicial by-laws. We also have been working with the PR committee on the SGA trifold board to make it present us to the best of its ability, and I hope to continue working with them for the next few weeks.
   6. Public Relations
      * We have started doing our weekly East Texan reports. We are planning on doing location tabling, named “SGA day”, and we have 3 dates for the next 3 months: Thursday February 21st between 2 and 4pm between the hall of languages and the journalism building, Monday March 25th from 10 am to 12 pm, and Wednesday April 10th on the great lawn from 11 am to 1 pm. All senators are more than welcome to come out to promote SGA. I am also challenging every committee to complete at least 1 resolution by the end of the semester in effort to promote our organization and our networking with the rest of the campus. Since the senate elections are coming up, we have decided on a theme: Friends. We will be coming up with some really neat promotional things and plan on individualizing campaigns when we figure out who will be running.
10. Officer Reports
    1. Vice Chair
       * Office hours will be picked up on 3pm Friday. If you do not have it in by then, you will receive a message on Monday.
    2. Treasurer
       * I would like to present a consistent budget every 2 weeks.
    3. Secretary
       * No Report
    4. Parliamentarian
       * We have students who come to the meetings without knowledge of terminology that we are using. I would like to make sure the meeting is left a little more transparent to the audience by providing them with copies of a Robert’s Rules cheat sheet. If you could assist me, I would like to present a sheet to the audience each meeting in addition to copies of the agenda. This is one step forward in opening the meeting even further to the audience.
    5. Historian
       * No Report
11. Closing General Student Input
    1. None
12. Announcements
    * + Look into redoing your committee mission statement if you believe it is outdated and does not represent what your committee believes
      + Senator Jackson and President Jones will be attending CSAC, feel free to contact them before they leave
      + Jeremy will be out Friday morning
      + Happy Birthday Grace 😊
13. Adjournment
    * + VP Slayter entertains the motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:59, so moved by senator Vernon, seconded by senator Jackson