



The University of Texas at Tyler

Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Thursday, November 17th, 2022

- I. Call to Order 5:30pm
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Minutes

Name	Absent
President Smith	
Vice President Bennett	
Secretary Dix	
Treasurer Luna	
Chief of Staff Peters	
Adan Govea	
Amelia McCain	
Amber McAdams	
Ashlyn Mattern	
Bee Black	
Ben Buchanan	
Brandon Scott	
Brennan McGinnis	
Bryce McQueary	
Christine Barrett	
Emily Helms	
JJ Rojas	
Jorian Khan	
Justin Vargas	
Kaylin Sheppard	
Kyna Holman	
Lisa Tran	
Macie Kirkby	
Maggie Manning	
McKenna Waller	
Tanner King	
Valerie McNamara	
Aisha Price	
Asia Adams	
Anayeli Campo	
JaMaya Gossett	



Perpetual Kyei	
Emma Owulebaja	
Angelina Lezama	
Ronald Carnes III	
Erica Santee	
Macy Reed	
MD Milon Uldin	
Alexis Minick	
Peace Okeke	
Chief Justice: Chloe Burleson	

IV. **Open Forum**

a. NONE

V. **Speaker's Podium**

a. **Director of Student Engagement, AVP of Student Success, SGA Advisor
Josh Neaves**

Josh Neaves: all right. So uh the executive board asked me to kind of set aside my SGA hat and put on my main hat, and to kind of just give you all a brief update on what's been putting this domestic. This is y'all's last meeting of the semester. Uh, hopefully, I didn't spill the beans on that hopefully. They knew that. Oh, potentially it's your last meeting in the semester. Sorry um! So by a show of hands and a thumbs up emoji for those online. Raise your hand. If you have attended at least one event, this semester on campus raises your hand. If you have attended at least five events, this semester on campus Okay, it's starting to go down a little bit, all right. Ten yeah, you just keep your hand alright, so it's good to see that activity, because um, I ran a report right before the meeting started. Since August fifteenth there have been four hundred and ninety-seven events and meetings that have been hosted on campus, this semester that is a lot of activities right? Ten thousand one hundred and seventy, two check-ins and students only, is almost at two thousand six hundred two thousand six hundred students have attended at least one event on campus online um hybrid, depending on how they checked it on engaged. And so that is a lot of activities. And so that that makes me happy because we are for sure, up uh compared to the last couple of years, for obvious reasons. Um! But as we gear up for next semester. I kind of want to hear from you all as it relates to student engagement, your traditional activities, uh, or anything in the division of student success. What type of programming do you all want to see for next semester?

Senator Khan: Sure Um and I'll always be an advocate for remote campuses. So uh in Houston we would just like to see uh more. Uh, you know, we've always been trying to push to get a events, and I know It's difficult because we have a smaller subset of students here. But um! Just getting uh events to happen on our campus is a is a wonderful thing, and you know I know we've had a few. This semester. But uh, just more, for remote campuses is always a good thing, so regardless of programming more for remote. Sure. Um, I think in in our remote campuses I would like to see events that engage our faculty and staff with the students. So whatever that means to get faculty advisors, professors from all engineering disciplines, talking with engineering students. So if that's orientation sessions to get professors meeting students, if that's just a



welcome week, if that is um uh, you know some sort of sports event, if that is uh some sort of faculty student competition. That's what I'd like to see. I think there is um as new students come into our two-year program here in Houston. It's especially critical that we get them interacting with faculty, staff, administrators, etc. Earlier and faster and harder such that they have a really good experience with UT Tyler. That's my two cents, the feedback.

Senator Mattern: Um! Since the spring semester's coming home. I hate to hand this up since this spring semesters like coming up. Can we do more when it gets warmer, like water activities? I feel like we never do anything with like water. Like could we have like a water balloon fight? I don't know why that like that sounds so childish sort of like it's fun like things like that in the spring.

Advisor Neaves: It's possible, many years ago we used to do a freshman field activity, and that's something we can look at potentially trying to do. I was thinking more like canoe races, would you participate if we did canoe races? Oh, the question was, Can we get a blob on the lake. Another question was: This has been a reoccurring question over the last couple of SGAs, so can we get a party barge on the lake? Um. The answer is it depends. So didn't say no. But there's a lot of logistics. And what would be done on this quote: Party barge, I have a lot of questions.

Senator Carnes: Uh, one thing my high school did was student lock-ins. I would love to see that uh happen again in a at college level uh we would spend the whole night just saying up to billing community and uh, really getting to know each other. Uh, I feel like That's something we could definitely do.

Advisor Neaves: (inaudible speaker) So, the response was more academic focus uh events specifically on getting faculty to help engage with the students, since sometimes there is a concern with students um interacting with the faculty, and in in return we should see a positive impact on academic success and retention.

Senator Mattern: I was going to say, like what about a big bonfire, are we allowed to do that?

Advisor Neaves: So the comment that actually wrote was a lot of high schools uh do lock-ins. Um, and also do it here HPC for graduation. And it would be potentially pretty cool for college students. Uh her next question was, bonfire. Um. We have discussed that at the homecoming Committee. Yeah, I was to say homecoming would be really good if we did it at home, coming by show of hands with who would show up to that. Good majority.

Senator Vargas: I apologize about my random outburst early, though. Um, So I was going to ask was like, have you all thought about partnering with like academic success for some events, because I know they've talked about um. They want more students to be aware of what's available to them. Resource wise there, but a lot of students. They kind of have that stigma of academic success, boy in academics. No one really wants to do



anything with them. Um! So, they've kind of been talking about. They want to change, like the image around academic success, to make students think. Oh, it's fun! But the same time I learned something from it.

Advisor Neaves: So, to answer that question the answer is, yes. So, the not against procrastination uh the office of new student family programs has uh co-sponsored help co-sponsored that event. Uh and then uh the office of first year experiences specifically a don because he's our first year Experience Student assistant uh has done um like a resource reminder for trucks. And so that's been a great way to remind students, hey, These are resources are available. Here's also some free food, and so to help kind of continue to expose um that these services are available, and we want students to utilize them. And so I do think there might be some more opportunities to try to do some more. Um, But when you take start taking out some of the food, the uh the social elements that's when we start seeing attendance. Certain going down a little bit uh, and so that's where we could use Your help is, and we there is events that are beneficial, regardless whether it's academic social. That's where we could really use your help to help get the word out. Because um, I give you all I get the executive board a hard time, because midnight breakfast is the largest, as of this semester. So far, the largest event that's been held on campus as far as student check in and it's ran by students. They'll hardly do any marketing, and yet a lot of students show up for that. And so. But when we do events it's we're doing everything we can to get, since there. And sometimes it's hit or miss, And so that's where we could use your help. Okay. So if you all do have ideas questions. Uh, we're not able to do everything Um, because our budgets are limited, and they've been set for several years, and so, but we always try to be a good steward of our resources that we do have. We try to collaborate with other departments, to try to make sure that you have the best experience possible. Um, I do want to also highlight that you know it kind of goes back to what I was talking about soon. Government. Some of the best events are led by students. We have a student organization that is one hundred. That's all they do is plan and execute events uh patriot productions. Raise your hand if you've heard of Patriot Productions. Okay, good. That makes my heart happy. Yes, uh Ronnie, who's actually your one of your Senators uh, is the President correct? Not yet. he is involved in patriot productions, and so I have with me applications to join patriot productions. And so at the end of the meeting, if you are interested in joining patriot productions, and being an officer, uh applications are due on November twenty-first at noon, and then they're going to do interviews the twenty eighth through the second uh, and so we got to get rocket and rolling so that way we can do some training and planning before the spring semester, being a one of the Perks for being an officer in patriot productions, or sometimes we call it P. Two or P. Squared. I think It's P. Two is it scholarship based? And so it's not a student assistant position. And so you're able to be an officer in P two, and it not negatively impact the number of hours that you're eligible to work on campus. The scholarship stipend um is one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars per semester. So if you successfully complete the expectations of being an officer and patriot productions. At the end of that semester, you will be rewarded that scholarship. So, it is a fantastic opportunity. Uh, it is a great way to develop uh event, planning skills, budgeting skills, marketing skills Uh, those are things that can assist you in your career, and you could have fun doing it. Sometimes What I think, is cool, is no longer cool. Uh, and so it's always best to hear it from the students, and Patriot Productions uh the great way of



doing that, though I have the applications with me. Um. So if you're interested to see me afterwards, and I will make sure uh to give you an application, Ronnie. You had your hand race while ago.

Senator Carnes: I was gonna say. It is a really great opportunity to get to know a lot of different people and a great opportunity to plan events and get that experience. It is just really fun just to have that experience to put on an event that goes well that you just built for the ground up. It's just really fun.

Senator Minick: Are the only options to apply to be an officer, or are there member positions? I'm interested in being an officer. But my issue is that I've never done anything with patriot productions, so I want to make sure that it's not frowned upon to be like. I immediately want to be the president of patriot production, and I'm never done anything with them. But so that's my question.

Advisor Neaves: That's a good question. Uh. It is preferred that you have been part of Patriot Productions as a member. The officers need help. They can't do it by themselves, and so my understanding, and that's something. We'll have to look at the application. Okay? So I'm gonna switch gears now. Uh, before I do. If you do have any ideas, make sure to email them to me. And so that way I can see what we can. I can't do or get them uh sent over to the staff or p two who not be planning events. Uh: I do want to provide an update earlier. This semester I uh we kind of had a conversation about you don't transfer orientation? What if transfer orientation was to become mandatory uh this group was overwhelmingly positive about that decision. And so I'm happy to report uh that the provost has signed off on transfer orientation becoming mandatory. So it is a done deal, and so we are making the necessary changes uh to get that implemented before the next cycle begins. The other exciting update, as it relates to orientation. Um, Dr. Colleen swain uh had to give her props because she was able to secure a grant uh to help and enhance student success and student retention. And part of that grant is to overhaul and enhance our online orientation, and that online orientation is going to be used for the students who are not able to attend in person or distance campuses uh and can be also used for not only transfer students, but graduate students. Uh, And so that is exciting news, and we're going to move fast and furious, and hopes that we can have it ready before May. Uh. And so we've identified a company that's gonna come in and help us completely revamp online orientation. It will no longer be on canvas, And so we're really excited. It's going to be somewhat similar to UTSA, Utah, and a few of the medical schools in UT System. And so it's going to be engaging. It's going to be a lot more exciting than what we currently have, and so I wanted to provide that update to the Senate. Um, Since that was discussed early in the semester, any questions pertaining to orientation. Okay, Okay, Any questions in general for me?

Senator Carnes: Uh it is required for all new students uh the art transfer students to go to orientation correct?

Advisor Neaves: It is now. so starting in May any new students, any new students undergraduate at Ut Toler will be required to complete orientation before the end of their first semester at UT Tyler. Since I've been here it is highly encouraged for transfer soon



as to attend orientation. But what we it we don't that big of return. Um! So, it's participating in transfer orientation as we do freshman. So for the back to the question. Can anybody join uh as an officer, and they answer, it is, you have that uh two point, five for officer to be an officer in one of and then two point of general member. You don't have to have prior experience, and before you, before becoming an officer, so you can in theory run for President right away. Hey keep up the good work. I am putting my advisor back at head on. I am proud of you all. This is one of the largest Senates we've had for the fall semester and well represented across the board. Uh, and so that makes me happy to see a strong group of leaders uh that are representing the students. Uh. And so, as your advisor, I just want to continue to encourage you to make sure that you're going out there asking your peers what's happening, good or bad, and make sure that you're reporting back There should always be something to report back there voice reports uh, because that means you're going out and talking to your peers on the issues that are going on. We are not a perfect university, so I know that there's issues out there, and we want to hear from students. So that way we can try to be better. Alright that's all I've got.

Officer Reports:

b. President Smith

So this week I went down to Austin with Senator Okeke for UTSSAC and um. We got to discuss a variety of issues. Um, but I actually got put in charge of a subcommittee that uh, we are forming um to help outline um some great money that the system is uh receiving to help um our micro credential programs. So if you all remember, the Provost came and spoke to us about some of the micro credentialing programs that we're going to have um. So basically all that is going to be is, it's going to be students kind of outlining what they would like the guidelines to be um for how that money is going to get used towards those programs. Each institution will probably get around eighty thousand dollars, but they haven't publicized uh that the system has received the grant, yet, so that might still be up in the air. They have received the grant. They just Haven't publicized it so. Um! So we did that, and um, I mean we had fun, as always uh getting to see everybody from other institutions skin to talk to them about their student governments. Uh, because a lot of them are student government leaders, some of them Aren't. But um! It was a great time. Um! They also uh invited the Um assistant or associate vice Chancellors for uh governmental relations. Um, and they updated us on the past elections, and then also what's expected to be talked about at the next legislative session. Um talked about a variety of things. Strangely enough, cadavers came up. Don't know why I don't remember why exactly, cadavers were that important. But I think there's some regulations that they're going to put in place. Um. And then other topics included um faculty tenure um school safety. Um, yeah, among other things. But uh other than that. Um, we've been working on getting our stuff moved down to our new offices. Um! Which, if you haven't gotten to go and see where they are, yet they are literally on the corner on the second floor, and you see we're like right before you turn in to go to Stuart Hall towards the one stop center. They're really cool. Um! Once they get all cleaned it'll be a great hangout spot to if you just want to come in and say hi or bug us and tell us we're not doing our job.

c. Vice-President Bennett

Not in attendance

d. Secretary Dix



Well, I hope you guys all know what I'm going to say um. Keep sending me your headshots or nice photos and an answer to one of the two questions. So, I want a little bit of a variety. There are two questions to choose from. Um. The first one is, why did you join SGA in the second one is, what do you love about representing your college? Um. The updated constitution is on the website, Chief of Staff Peters sent it to me so the E-Board can no longer vote as we were before. Um, That's official. That is pretty much it.

e. **Treasurer Luna**

Not in attendance

f. **Chief of Staff Peters**

Yes, like Chloe said. I have been helping her get the website updated. Um, and the Committee times have been updated.

Committee Reports

a. **Events**

Finals bags. If you did not attend the Midterm Election watch party you are required to help pass out finals week bags. There will be different times for passing those out.

b. **Communications**

Yeah, we basically just talked about the posts. Um! And I just I showed them the what I have. So far everyone who sent me um something. I've already made it, so I just kind of show them what I'm working with and asked for um some feedback. So if you guys want to see them to, just let me know, and I can send you yours, and you can say I want to change something or what not.

c. **SGAC**

I think since uh treasurer, Luna isn't here? She asked us to speak up, and kind of uh give some of the things that happen this week. Uh whims are women uh women in math, and science. Uh was approved for uh thirty, nine, eighty for some uh events uh on their December first study night uh the Muslim Student Association was denied by Treasurer Luna Uh, because their request for sure it's exceeded the funds that they had left over. Plus, They wanted them for next semester uh the African student organization, or ASO was denied because they're request, was only going to benefit members of the Aso Uh. They wanted to use an unapproved vendor. Uh! And then, lastly, she would like us to note that actually had their keynote speaker event uh this afternoon uh, and all as well. Uh so uh, that's the update from Treasurer Luna, and she was like that shared on behalf SGAC.

g. **Rules**

I just worked on a change to the constitution that will be presented next Semester.

h. **ESC**

i. **GSA**

Um, GSA: I actually do want to kind of have a conversation on this. Should I ask this in it? This is kind of a complicated association, because it hasn't been used really a whole lot in the past. And so um, I guess this kind of ties in maybe to um constitution changes. But uh what I am considering, and this is just an idea is um disbanding it as a standing committee, but making it a requirement that every student government that comes in next year has to consider whether or not to make a stand. Make it a standing committee for the year. I don't know if that makes sense, because I don't want it to. I don't want to relegate it just to an ad hoc committee where nobody will remember to, you know, if there is a need to start it up to start it up. But I also, don't want to have to, because we have to have it on the agenda as a standing committee and everything. And so, if it's not going to get used, I don't know, and also in addition, we have graduate



representation in student government, too. So, GSA every year kind of takes an interesting format. It can either operate kind of like how um the pharmacy uh student Council operates, or um where they kind of do their own thing, but they also don't, but we also have representatives from everybody. I don't know I was just wanting you all's opinion, really or feedback on whether or not that'd be something worth considering even.

Senator Minick: Could it largely depend on how much marketing is done for graduate students to join SGA in the first place. Um, and I'm not sure. Maybe that's already being done, and I don't want to, you know. Speak an error. Um. But I think if you market more towards graduate students joining and being able to give their voice on that um, that might be a good way to start. Um, but maybe with the way that you word it, is it just kind of like an optional kind of thing? So, they decide on a case by case basis every year, whether or not it there's any kind of necessity for it.

President Smith: Yeah. So the I guess two things. So, Josh, you can correct me if I'm wrong. But I believe this is the most graduates we've ever had in student government this year. So, there was. We did make. We wanted to make sure there was an effort to have graduate voices. Uh, just because, historically, we never had them in the past. And so we're very thankful to have graduates such as yourself and um student government and have that whole level of academia represented. Um, But yes, so basically we have ad hoc committees. We have um. We have ad hoc committees, and those as soon as student government ends uh in May on May first um that those all dissolve, and they have to be remade if you want to continue them so it would dissolve. But the requirement would remind the next executive Board and the next student government to consider whether or not to re-establish it every year. Other ad hoc committees, don't have that requirement. Like we don't have to think about redoing the advising ad hoc committee, even though that honestly gets reignited every year. But I don't know, just an idea I guess.

VI. Student Voice Reports

a. School of Nursing

Senator McCain: Okay. So we met with the Dean today, and I apologize in advance if I forget anything because we talked about hot today. Um! But one thing that we talked about was just setting up some fun things for finals, and like getting snacks kind of set up, and maybe potentially doing some outdoor games like cornhole or Jen guns just stuff like that. Um. So we kind of talked about that Um. We learned about two programs that we're starting up. So the C. R. And a program is planning to start in the fall twenty-five, and then Bs into D. And P. Is going to start fall of twenty four. Um! So that is pretty exciting news for school of nursing, and we also have the pre nursing Academy. Um! They are trying to get things up and running again because they had started a while ago. But then, you know, Covid happened, and things kind of stop, but they're starting to get things back in motion, because one thing that we also talked about was a way to get pre nursing students more involved because we feel like they just aren't as involved, or like we aren't doing our job as actual nursing students to get them involved. And so we were just trying to find more ways to do that. And so we kind of we're also brainstorming on some ideas on how to just get Pre and some students more involved.

Senator McNamara: So I had my last clinical of the semester today. Yay! I got out early so that's why I'm here, anyways. Um. So this past weekend we had a service project. Um! We had



six nursing students show up, and then, like both of our Deans, came, and Then some other faculty came, and it was just super fun. Um, we did run out of paint. It was fine, so they all had a really good time, and said, they want to do it again, so I'll probably schedule another one uh for next semester. That was the house painting with path that we have done in the past with SGA. Um. And then Yeah. So in our meeting today we also talked about um. The new renovations that are gonna be happening with the nursing school. So, they're gonna expand it. Um. And then, like, just basically move everything around. So we have more space, because if you've ever been in the nursing building. It's like really small, and we don't. Actually, I've I don't have any classes in there, because there's not enough room So they're gonna like redo that. And yeah. So then for finals week out, Um. Robert had told me that there's going to be a table in there where we're going to be passing out finals bags. Um! So that that'll be fun. And then events for that, and we'll have study rooms open, or like the lecture rooms open to studying um, and then we talked a little bit about professionalism in the hospital, and just making sure our UT Tyler nursing students are be representing the school correctly, because they're wearing like you're supposed to wear like these jackets to clinical, and people are wearing sweatshirts over it. Um! Which is like you can wear them into the hospital. But once you start doing patient care like you don't want to be wearing a cotton sweater like That's nasty, you know, like. So we talked about that a little bit, just making sure you had the correct number of stars, and then we talked about um. Our pinning ceremony for a level. Four students, and how it's going to be a little bit more intimate with just the faculty and students rather than everyone in their dog coming to the ceremony. So it's going to be like live streamed instead of everyone there. Um! And then it'll just be students to faculty at the ceremony. Yeah, that's about it.

Senator Ocampo: So um. Valerie mentioned the path and how it was completed. But on Wednesday Andrew Kraus and the Dean of Nursing School um! They were talking about it, and how it was going to work um, and then uh the school of Nurse. Oh, well, for pre nursing uh the schedules. They've been uh going out and being done. But there were some issues with uh Castle Branch and the Palestine campus um and their nursing. Um. I guess the system was kinda like tripping, and um some of the students weren't getting a registered on time, and then the classes get filled. So that was just an issue with some of them, and that's all.

b. **Houston Engineering Center**

Senator Khan: All right, full back around another report. Um, it's been an interesting time uh at the Houston Engineering Center, since we're all engineers, we are all getting hammered for finals, So we're all going into our uh Thanksgiving break or fall break um uh with lots to do for pe prepping for finals. That's across the board for all disciplines. Um Additionally, our seniors, uh who are all in senior capstone for all engineering majors. We have a senior capstone project. Um! It's a pretty big time where we go in for design reviews. Um! And everybody gets to pick apart all of our designs for our Capstone project. So it's a pretty stressful time. Uh, but I think for the most part we're kind of through design reviews. There's one or two that will be uh kind of after the fall break additionally. Our administrator, Miss Christine Smith, has kind of floated the idea of maybe doing uh, uh, you know, uh kind of finals uh alleviation kind of events where we have hot chocolate or something like that uh funded by the College of Engineering. So we're kind of looking at doing something like that when we come back from break um, but beyond that it's been lots of uh long study nights. Why, for both students and a lot of back and forth. It's been cold in Houston, so we're all kind of bundling up for all of you guys up there, You're probably used to a little more cold weather, but down here it's a little colder um. And so subsequently one



of the things that's a big kind of an issue on our campus is, we have kind of have some kind of transient uh individuals kind of coming in and out of the of our building. some of the Hcc. Kind of resource officers uh shoeing out uh kind of people from our uh UT Tyler for our second floor. There we've been having some kind of a homeless uh kind of people coming in occupying some of the study spaces. So uh that's been kind of something that's been happening. That's uh kind of not so great. But, uh, you know, I think the Hcc. Staff and the Hcc. Resource officers have been kind of helping out without uh with that quite a bit uh, but other than that, just going straight into a uh December uh trying to hit it hard for finals. And I uh, I think most of you so are feeling pretty good that the student that the semester is over. We're all looking forward to the spring uh Lisa. Do you have anything to add, for, uh, for

Old Business

a. TXDOT Grant Letter of Support

This is just a draft. Um. Just give you all a chance to kind of glance at it. Um, but I This was approved by uh, I went ahead and sent this to uh the director facilities Dr. Andy Kraft to, and he didn't have any problems with it. And, by the way, This is like a draft from previous student governments whenever they did a letter of support for some, I think, remodeling to the library. So if y'all ever get bored feel free to come by our new office and do a deep dive into the SGA shared drive.. So um. This will basically just be sent to the director of the program with the uh Texas Department of Transportation. Um, just kind of signaling that there's internal support for this on campus.

New Business

a. Student Regent THECB Endorsements

Let the record show that, Senator Minick, Secretary Dix, and Senator Okeke will receive SGA endorsement upon submitting their Student Regent and/ or Higher Education and Coordinating Board Applications.

b. Last Meeting Discussion

Let the record show that the December 1st, GA meeting was voted on and will be cancelled to allow for study time and a holiday get together.

c. Calendar Discussion

The calendar for the Cowan Center was discussed due to a committee that President Smith and Senator Govea sit on in order to get the word out for the free tickets that are available to students on a first come first serve basis. Let the record show that an Ad Hoc Committee on the Cowan Center was voted on and formed.

Advisor Comments

Nothing to add.

Announcements

President Smith: Student region, text higher education, coordinating board. Obviously, we discussed this, but deadline is the twentieth. But put it in by tomorrow if you can. Um, just so, you give Josh enough time to send those and reply this. Revise those if needed. So that way he's not having to do too much work over the break, not revised. Review. Sorry bad words.

Senator of the Week, Senator McCain.



President Smith: Senator McCain was nominated for being a very active senator, especially within our college, giving great student voice reports, and of course always being attentive and asking great questions. So, thank you, Senator McCain, for all that you do, and since we have our new office space. We're going to try to get Senator McCain to be our first senator on our Senator of the week plaque.

Next Week

Nothing to add.

Adjournment

Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:43pm.