



# The University of Texas at Tyler

## Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>President Smith</b>	
<b>Vice President Bennett</b>	
<b>Secretary Dix</b>	
<b>Treasurer Luna</b>	
<b>Chief of Staff Peters</b>	
<b>Adan Govea</b>	
<b>Amelia McCain</b>	
<b>Amber McAdams</b>	
<b>Ashlyn Mattern</b>	
<b>Bee Black</b>	
<b>Ben Buchanan</b>	
<b>Jorian Khan</b>	
<b>Justin Vargas</b>	A
<b>Kyna Holman</b>	
<b>Lisa Tran</b>	
<b>Macie Kirkby</b>	
<b>Maggie Manning</b>	A
<b>McKenna Waller</b>	
<b>Tanner King</b>	A
<b>Valerie McNamara</b>	A
<b>Anayeli Campo</b>	
<b>Perpetual Kyei</b>	
<b>Emma Owulebaja</b>	
<b>Angelina Lezama</b>	
<b>Ronald Carnes III</b>	
<b>Erica Santee</b>	A (approved)
<b>Macy Reed</b>	
<b>Alexis Minick</b>	
<b>Peace Okeke</b>	
<b>Kelsey Niette</b>	
<b>Emma Harlan</b>	



<b>SaMoan Brown</b>	
<b>Rina Bhatia</b>	
<b>Shelby Kipp</b>	
<b>Al Anderson</b>	
<b>David Templeton</b>	A (approved)
<b>Elaina Gonzalez</b>	A (approved)
<b>Chloe Burleson: Chief Justice</b>	

**Let the record show that the minutes from the February 21st, SGA General Assembly meeting were voted in approval by the Senate.**

**IV. Open Forum**

a. NONE

**V. Speaker's Podium**

**Lou Ann Berman, Associate Provost of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness**

**Lou Ann Berman:** Thank you all for allowing me to join you this evening I'm in the office of assessment and institutional effectiveness and you may not know much about what we do this is students we look at the quality of academic programs and also the quality of every service on this campus whether it's students access careers to services you name it we collaborate with those offices and part of that review for ensuring quality at UT Tyler for every single student is to complete or to ask much question exit survey if you've had friends who have graduated ahead of you may have heard them talking about it it's part of the checklist in the registrar's office when you apply for graduation and no it is true confession it is not required you can still graduate if you don't complete the survey but we ask that you take that extra 10 minutes to complete the survey because we do use the information for continuous improvement planning the results go back to the stakeholders in those various offices for them to determine what went well what our students telling us that they would have liked for us to offer that we didn't offer or what was the timing wasn't right the services weren't right it wasn't meeting student needs we have one exit survey that's specific to undergraduate students and one for graduate students because some student populations have different and priorities we have not had a deep dive review of these two surveys in many years and so this year the Provost asked me to lead a committee to do a deep dive review of the current surveys and what I've asked stakeholders on the committee to do it's to look at the current questions and determine three things one of three things a they stay two they stay with modifications or three we replace them it's not going as planned So what I'm getting what I had hoped was to have a better quality of survey OK I mean even if I'm going to ask of others to have quality in their offices I need to have quality review in my own office and so part of reviewing the quality of the service the AI he office offers students and administrators and faculty is I want the survey to have quality in and of itself I want it to be meaningful I don't want it to be 15 minute survey that goes into the weeds I want it to have higher level results that I can



then bring back year to year to the SGA leadership to the stakeholders across campus these are the results these are this is the information students have shared with us and these are key points of strengths and maybe some key challenges that we could dig deeper and look at to work together to better for future students So what I'd like to do is the question the new questions when I say my committee hasn't gone as planned the new questions are probably in some cases more in the weeds than what we've got now and it's in the opposite direction of what I have in plan that I had intended or hoped for so I'm going to continue through the process the charge to the committee by the Provost was that that at the end of the spring semester we would have a draft proposal or hand to review and to consider and then share out with stakeholders based on the what where we're headed now I'm adding an A new step and that's why I really need to ask for your help and maybe even some volunteers would love for students to be a part of this committee even if you don't attend because of your core schedule the formal committee meetings because they're during the day we can meet in the evenings we can get a subgroup get some committee members volunteers from SGA who would meet with me and we would review we would vet those items to get student input on will this question has meaning or but you've missed the boat for this office you really need to be asking these questions that's what I need and then next fall for senators who will still be here next fall we're going to miss some folks because they're going to graduate but for those of you who will still be here I would like to have SGA complete a pilot of the draft survey before we send it to the registrar's office to go live in January 24 and then based on that early pilot and feedback of students who actually complete the survey that's where the rubber is going to hit the road on does this survey get out what we needed to and by we I mean students as well as administrators and faculty so that's a lot do you all have questions for me today and if anybody is interested Landry how can I connect for volunteers to work together from this point forward.

**President Smith:** Well, you are more than welcome to contact me, and I will send y'all directly to Mrs. Berman if you are interested in participating on that committee, I know I don't know if there's a place for me since I'll be graduating but I'm happy to participate.

**VP Bennett:** Just for anyone interested in this umm what are some of the questions that currently have been on previous surveys and what questions are you all maybe thinking about on next surveys?

**Lou Ann Berman:** In aggregate form on our website and I will share that URL with you Landry and then you can send it out to the senator so you can actually see prior years also prior response rates but the questions cover every single office that interfaces with students on this campus it also currently has questions about high impact practices did you participate in an internship did you have any leadership services did you participate in service learning and and then what what we're really missing I think how did Dell services contribute to your personal success your professional trajectory and preparing you for your next step in either grad school professional school or your career so there's a disconnect one of the things I'm most proud about on the survey that we have is it is anonymous but if you choose to provide your name for alumni services we we link it to a second separate appendix survey so they remain separate and then in that appendix survey we also ask if you know your first destination if you've already been admitted to a graduate program if you already have your your job lined up for when you graduate and that way we can give that information to career services and to your Deans of your colleges or schools so they can help track you know employment graduate or professional career



placement and that's very important because then we can reach out to those folks to come to future career success conferences and also track to help know that our students really are um landing that position or that next program for their academics.

**Treasurer Luna:** Hi! My name is Beverly, well i just graduated with my undergrad last semester so now I'm in graduate school and I remember getting a link to that and I was wondering if that same link or the same survey gets sent out for whenever the graduate students or any other students in the graduating too or is it just like kind of catered to them?

**Lou Ann Berman:** by the way and we're thrilled that you're in grad school thank you so yes we do have a unique survey for graduate students but some of the questions are very specific to graduate needs and priorities I think we could do a better job of that and so I do hope we have graduate students help us in their review or can recruit graduate students who maybe even aren't senators because I2 distinct populations the majority of our graduate programs are 100% online so how do we know that we are truly meeting the needs of all students no matter where they are Houston Longview Palestine online only we do disaggregate the results of the surveys and so we can disaggregate that all graduate online students these are their responses all face to face undergraduate students these were their responses then we can break it down by college and we could even break it down by programming major and but it's always aggregate data the most important part of the information I have found to be useful and actionable data are the student comments and so at the end of each topical section like we have a section on IT we have a section on library we have a section on student support services or academic support services at the end of each topical section there's a comment bar and so the comments are more specific to those offices and we have found them to be very useful there is a mindset I think that Oh well the students that comment are going to be really happy or really angry but I think it's the way we ask the question and if we advise students that what we want is actionable information then I have found that students give us information that guide us in future planning it's not just a great or not just to say oh yeah UT Tyler's awesome.

**Senator Govea:** I am looking at the graduation exit survey response rates and you're at around 79% why don't you just go ahead and make it mandatory because for every student uh as I know whenever I apply for graduation this semester it's an internal process where like a couple steps like you do through your mic Tyler page kind of like kind of similar to how you verify your information every semester for the registered office saying yes I live here these are my emergency contact why isn't that done to for this? What are your thoughts on that?

**Lou Ann Berman:** I'm open to that and I would love to hear student opinions I would even take that out to the student body for a vote we just I think just assume that there would not be well received by the students to make it mandatory but if that's a misunderstanding on my part let's find out.

**VP Bennett:** so one of the things that I've sort of found out with talking to the Dean here is that with individuals that do drop out of UT Tyler, sadly, is there I don't know if it's within your purview or any or stuff like that but is it possible to also send a survey something like this out to those students to be able to avoid that survivorship bias.



**Lou Ann Berman:** I love your question and I hope you have a long thriving career in higher education administration and we actually did through my office and in collaboration with student success office years ago we had what we called a patriot reconnect survey that was sent to students who did not return and that we sent it I believe two or three semesters I can actually pull up the old data I have the files so I'm speaking from little Gray sales that aren't always dependable but um the common threads for students who did not return came up to one family obligations to finances 3 academics and we know based on the exit survey for example that the majority of UT Tyler students work more than 30 hours per week while they're going to school full time that's huge I don't know that that is likely to change anytime in the future a majority of our students are Pell eligible Pell recipients a majority of our students are first generation the majority of our students are transfer students I started at TJC took me 9 years to get my baccalaureate degree because work full time but it was worth it I'll just tell you right now I'm so glad I did ended up with a PhD but I started as a freshman at TJC so I doubt those are who the people we serve in East Texas those are the students and I just think that This is why this survey is so important and if there is interest to maybe resurrect that patriot reconnect survey I would certainly do that but we would also want to work with academic success academic advising and get a broader bandwidth of stakeholders in that planning I would predict that we wouldn't get much different results that it's still going to be finances family obligation and then academics 3rd and academics is probably because of the first two.

**Secretary Dix:** Hi I'm Secretary Dix I was wondering if you could provide Landry with a link to send to everyone who may not have completed the graduation survey this year just to give like a little perspective what we're looking at I mean I took it but it was kind of a couple weeks ago.

**Lou Ann Berman:** Thank you and it won't be the link to the actual survey but I will send you a PDF of the survey of both the graduate and the undergrad.

**Senator Bhatia:** So, I know that the university also sends out a e-mail notice to students who are maybe failing a class or experiencing this assignments and things of that nature would it be possible to include a survey attached to those emails as well to maybe reach out and see if the student could make use of any on campus resources that they weren't aware of like past or the writing center things like that.

**Lou Ann Berman:** Thank you that's wonderful I love your idea and yes let's explore that if you could reconnect with me in the next couple of weeks I will connect you with the office and the leaders who are in charge of those early alerts and the planning and I think that would be a really good idea anything we can do to help our students and let our students know we care I'm going to build off of that real quickly we're adding a new section to the survey that we've never had before the very first section is going to have items on belongingness and I think that this is going to be so important because what I want to do by portraying it very first when they answer their questions they're going to identify their major and then some of their demographics but then their belongingness how did they feel they connected with UT Tyler did they feel like they belonged here that they were valued that people cared about them as an individual that people cared about them to graduate and help meet the individual members goals and I think that by doing that what we are sharing through the survey I hope just through maybe subliminal design is that we care about you and that's why what you have to say on the survey matters that we will take it seriously.



**Let the record show, Dr. Joshua Banta spoke to the Senate on behalf of end of course evaluations and the inclusion of more questions and diversified questions.**

### **Officer Reports:**

#### **President Smith**

I don't have a whole lot to report this week I met with doctor Mirmiran today and discussed excused and unexcused absences and potentially a freshman seminar and the viability of making that a required requirement and so on and so forth so if you're curious about how that went feel free to talk to me afterwards I also plan to meet with Wayne Morris this Friday to discuss a variety of different areas so if you have any input on anything that you would like me to discuss with him please feel free to share that, you know where to find me.

#### **Vice-President Bennett**

So uh I met with Zane Haywood with the university center the other day and so we will be doing stuff critter again everyone's paper and then have breakfast and so I just wanted to so we already ordered the animals that we are looking at it was really quick quicker than I thought he would do but we are looking at is that we are looking at doing 200 cream bears 200 snow leopards 150 triceratops 150 balls Eagles 150 dolphins and 150 Penguins so that totals to about 1000 stuffed critters and that should be enough if not then we'll just do whatever we what we did every single year it was it was yeah person to person and so of course beforehand since we are working the event you aren't able to go to it you will be able to go and get what which one you wanted to the beginning before it starts and I also met I also emailed Vicki von asking about I know we aren't doing a discussing banquet today but we are we are discussing whether it'll be in the ballroom or possibly they're the pharmacy building so we'll be discussing that more in eboard next week and other than that on to Chloe.

#### **Secretary Dix**

Hello! The main things that I've been working on are the posts and the minutes, but communications committee and I have been working on the T shirt design which we will present to you guys next GA and I have a phone call with the vendor tomorrow to get some numbers and some designs finalized so yes rest is for committees.

#### **Treasurer Luna**

It's been really slow this week has been very slow start but it's OK because last week I got to sit in the homecoming logistics meeting for Robert I really just kind of like mentioned midnight breakfast to them but it was really cool seeing what all goes on in the background I also helped out the social work club kind of do their form for SGA just cause they're kind of having trouble submitting it they kept asking if I got it and I was like there's nothing there and they're like you sure and I was like yeah and I even took from the screenshot and they're like Oh yeah we didn't some minutes sorry yeah so yeah that was a lot of fun I have been going in and updating the expenditure spreadsheet just because with like Josh kind of of being gone it's kind of they haven't been sending me the receipts and stuff but I have gotten a few things so I kind of went ahead and added those in I'm not too worried about that just because the university does keep tabs on things and I just like being extra I'm putting every single thing in there and then I also got the Muslim student associations receipt because they had a meeting yesterday and they just bought pizza so I got that yesterday we met with them uh rest and really is just SGAC so I'll talk about that later.





### **Chief of Staff Peters**

This past week I formatted the approved changes in the constitution and sent them out to Landry I'll save the rest for rules.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **a. Events**

**Senator Black:** We mainly just talked about Midnight Breakfast. If y'all have any ideas for decorations they have to be through an approved vendor so like Walmart or something but if you see something or Amazon you see something send it to Robert um the theme is tacky tourist so just keep that in mind and then we discussed stuff about the banquet as well we're trying to finalize themes ideas and whatnot so without any ideas for that as well send them out but that's pretty much all we discussed so communications.

##### **b. Communications**

**Senator Kipp:** For communications committee this week we inquired about T-shirt design so hopefully we'll have proofs for that next week and we also finalized a banner design so that's super exciting Chloe and I are going to do that next Saturday.

##### **c. SGAC**

So last week we actually met with the black student association African student organization and the Muslim students student association and they were all approved luckily the BSA and ASL had to go in and change all their Sam's Club items to Walmart and I'm still waiting on the ASO things I believe no the BSA things actually and I emailed them earlier because their item should be already in the swing engagement office to get picked up so I was just waiting to see if they had submitted that Walmart list or not because they could maybe not tag unit and then ASO needed to see if their vendor was university approved which we're working on that to see if that is and then tomorrow we'll be meeting with the social work club shouldn't be too hard I think it's going to be really quick because they just want me some pizzas they put down their vendor as Little Caesars but I'm going to ask them to switch to CC's and so that's about it.

##### **d. Rules**

In Rules we went over the SGAC guidelines and format in a lot of this changes that Treasurer Luna requested we gave the entire document and makeover with all the from

##### **e. ESC**

**Did not meet.**

##### **f. GSA**

**Did not meet.**

## **VI. Student Voice Reports**

### **a. College of Pharmacy**

**President Smith on behalf of Senator Kirkby:** She did send me an update uh things that are going on she said April 19th at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM there's a blood glucose checks with the nursing and then there's a new Dean coming in March 6th and then it's also pre health week.

### **b. Student Body at Large**

#### **Freshman:**

**Senator O:** So pretty much everyone just getting ready for midterms pretty much excited for spring break and then there's just some issues with like Houston which go hall is like the biggest housing for freshman and so to see freshman having issues with that but it's getting sorted out



with the senator for housing I think that's pretty much it everyone's excited for homecoming once we get back from spring break so that's pretty much it.

**Sophomore: Not in attendance**

**Junior:**

**Senator Holman:** I did let some of the junior student body members that were concerned about not getting housing the next semester that I told them that they were guaranteed to have housing they signed up for it so that it could use their concerns quite a bit that's all.

**Senator Santee: Nothing to Report.**

**Senior: Nothing to Report.**

**Graduate:**

**Senator Minick:** I am currently working on setting up a meeting with Cindy Sprayberry and the Dean of the school I don't know how to pronounce his name on getting us graduate student experience survey out to get word from the Graduate Students.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Advisor Comments**

**Camry Tharp:** Also excited to hear my comments so first of all I would like to say thank you guys for being so engaged while doctor Berman and doctor Banta work here they expressed their you know great you know appreciation for it you know doctor Berman was mentioning that this is the most active that she's seen SGA and so she loves to see that you guys are involved in what's going on campus and she was really proud and thankful to be able to be invited to talk to you guys so you wanted to share that to you guys as well as you know just making sure that you guys are running your election process and the proper way so far so good and you after this meeting I would probably candidacy meeting for anybody who has yet to do one please do not campaign until you've done in this meeting yes I wish so OK we go up going well today hopefully that won't happen end of this meeting I know language probably reached out to most of you about the big event right um so if you have not signed up for it and you are trying to tweak your talk to me because bye beyond to do so come to me before I send out all the information tomorrow but this is like kind of the last chance.

**Announcements**

**No Senator of the Week**

**Big Event**





**Spring Election sign ups are open! Must attend a candidacy meeting to campaign. Contact Camry Tharp!**

**Next Week**

Nothing to add.

**Adjournment**

**Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm.**