



The University of Texas at Tyler

Student Government Association

General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

- 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	
Jorian Khan	A
Justin Vargas	
Kyna Holman	A
Lisa Tran	
Macie Kirkby	
Maggie Manning	P (zoom)
McKenna Waller	
Tanner King	
Valerie McNamara	
Anayeli Campo	
Perpetual Kyei	A
Emma Owulebaja	
Angelina Lezama	
Ronald Carnes III	
Erica Santee	
Macy Reed	
Alexis Minick	
Peace Okeke	
Kelsey Niette	P (zoom)
Emma Harlan	



SaMoan Brown	
Rina Bhatia	P (zoom)
Shelby Kipp	
Al Anderson	
David Templeton	
Elaina Gonzalez	
Chloe Burleson: Chief Justice	
Savannah Tropp	

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

IV. Open Forum

a. NONE

V. Speaker's Podium

Director of the Military and Success Center, Coby Dillard

Coby Dillard: I am Coby Dillard, I am the Director and the director of Military and Veterans Affairs here at UT Tyler, also director of the Military and Veterans Access Center. We have, and you probably did not know this. We have about. This semester 575 military affiliated students on campus. So that is student, veterans, active reserve and guard members and also family members, of which 123. For. At least four are in this room, but if you fall into one of those categories, please raise your hand. That was close. So you didn't even know, did you? That's not what my office does and there's a staff of myself, Chris Cox, Katrina Johnson, we're the three full time staff members that we also have. Eight work study students who work for us. We support those students by doing their VA benefits also helping with academic problems, personal problems, helping with resumes, helping with jobs. We do just about everything that every other office on this campus does. We just do it with a specific twist for our student population. We also do a bunch of different events for our student veterans. One of the big ones that we do in November is called Beck Weeks. That's a week's worth of events that we do. You'll see us sometimes on the Plaza doing events and the ballroom doing events. So a lot of different things that we do to support our students. On top of that, we also have about last number I saw. Was 500 military affiliated faculty and staff that we also invite to our events that we support as well. So with that, that's my entire presentation. I decided not to do the 8 slide PowerPoint. So what questions do you all have for me? Yes.

Chief of Staff Peters: What are some of the needs and resources that veteran students need as opposed to non-veteran students.

Coby Dillard: That is a difficult question, You are a student can help with for needs that they have in general. How much time do you have? It's a 2 hour presentation that I do very high level



overview. Student veterans specifically have difficulty with using their GI bill benefits and turning their military experiences into academic credit, just getting used to coming out of the military. And being in a new area, we on any given year we get about 8 to 10 students who are fresh out of the military and are coming into college as true freshmen. Just like any other student, we are offering a class for them this fall. So that to make that transition a little bit easier, those are the three top things among. Beyond that, there's about 1520 more. Again, it's a 2 hour presentation. I'll give it to you all if you want me to, but it is long. Other questions?

Senator Vargas: I was just more so curious if there were any like discussions about moving you guys into a more student facing office space?

Coby Dillard: I've been in higher right enough to know to give the party line spaces at a premium on every campus. There are some talks about that related to other people moving and other places being built. If you've never been to the military Veterans Success Center, it is located within the Dean of Students Office. It's not the best place. It's not the worst place. I'd rather be there than located within student conduct located in the basement of a building, whereas some other places that support different types of students are. There are some talks about moving us to a better location. There are some talks about kicking everyone outside of that suite, having that suite, so both of those ideas have been tossed around. We will see what happens over the course of the summer. which is the last thing that I heard.

Treasurer Luna: I was wondering, I was wondering if you guys had any events coming up and if there's any way that we can help?

Coby Dillard: Because that was my last event for the semester. I am done. I am old, I am tired, I'm done. Plus my wife is who is also a student, has to graduate next month, so that is the rest of my time. My next event that I have coming up is a Memorial Day event downtown. You all hopefully be gone enjoying your summer break. We will be starting up at events again in the fall. We do a welcome back generally that first week. Our next big event let me see fall schedule and we usually do something with athletics. Around September 11th. So depending on who's fall schedule comes out and who's doing what, we're that are probably be men, soccer women's soccer that week. This year is going to be a little bit different. It's not just going to be campus it's going to be citywide. So we I am actually running the. That week for the city of Tyler, so it will be our events, the cities events, all kind of coming together so that we're not all stepping on each other's toes. There'll be a few events going on on campus. There'll be some stuff going on out in the city. Trying to think of what else we have going on in the fall. Those would be the big things. September around September 17th is POW Mia day. If you did not know the next time you're walking through the 2nd floor of the UC as you're walking towards where Chick-fil-A is, if you look off to your right, you'll see our POW MI. Chair of Honor, we have that there. We've had that there since about 2020 when I got there around September 17th. We always do a formal ceremony to recognize, memorialize those individuals who are still listed as prisoners of war or missing in action. That's something we do every year around September 17th. So we'll do an event around that. Other than that, that's pretty much all the high level stuff that's planned how you all can help, basically showing up to events and if there's any, there's ever anything you'd like to do or holidays you see us coming up. Hey just let me know. We're always open to doing stuff. we get stuff before we'll do stuff i got something for you this year you'll enjoy it yes.



Senator Govea: How many scarves do you own, and which one is your favorite?

Coby Dillard: I am a big soccer fan. The last time I counted it was 37. So if you ever come up to my office, it's about 37 stars that I have here. I have eight more at home. The MVSC does a scarf generally every year. We did on camouflage one. My first year this past 2022 was. The tin for year anniversary of the center. We did a 10th anniversary scarf. We're doing another camouflage one this year. I guess I'll go ahead and tell you what I'm doing now. Either this academic year or next academic year we're going to do some cultural type scars. The first one will be Hispanic Heritage month. We're going to do one for Black History Month. At some point I am thinking about doing a pride scarf. I have no idea how I'm going to pull this off. It's going to be interesting. I recognize that I'm here in East Texas and sometimes I get bored and like to pick fights with people. I don't care, so we're going to see how that goes. But Hispanic heritage will be the first month. I've kind of already got it designed, but as with anything. Had to deal with marketing, so we'll see what design actually survives.

President Smith: As far as funding for military veterans success center goes do you feel that it is adequate for the population that you serve or do you feel that there is any pitfalls and if a which areas?

Coby Dillard: My structure is a little bit weird. We get student support fees which are adequate for what we actually do. On top of that, we get a we get a support fee from the VA, which works out to about \$16 for every student that we certified during the course of the year. That money is by law only able to be used for programs that support veterans, meaning that literally nobody in this university can tell me what to do with it. It has to be something that supports veterans. So whether that's training for us, we use a lot of that for our materials. We use a lot of that for our conferences. We use a lot of that for that week, so our funding structure is pretty good. I have had a thought about asking for a student service fee, but every year I come to the end of the year and it's like I don't think I really need it. So I'm not gonna be one of those people who's like, let's just ask for money for money sake if I don't have something to do with it. I was a college student once and yes, I used my GI Bill, but eventually it ran out and I had to pay for that. And I know you all pay enough in fees and I'm not trying to be on y'all's bad side so someone else y'all can argue with someone else about that. You don't have to do that. OK so other questions?

Officer Reports:

President Smith

Obviously, we have been getting ready for midnight breakfast. We've been talking logistics and how that's going to work. And by the way, after this meeting, if you're main campus senator, please stay after the meeting so that way we can discuss positions and how midnight breakfast is going to go tomorrow. I know several of you are very familiar with it already, so. And this should be pretty straightforward for a lot of you. But other than that, I was able to meet with President Calhoun last week and we got to discuss, well, not last week, the week before since I was spring break, I was in New Mexico, but we got to discuss a variety of issues. Um, again, the hot topics are what's going on in the legislative sessions right now and how that's going to affect higher education. If you don't know, some of the things that's discussed in the legislative session right now is like getting rid of tenure. Which? There are arguments both for and against it. There's also, of course, diversity. Equity and inclusion is a very hot topic in higher education



right now. So there is a lot that UT system is dealing with right now. Their general policy in regards to a lot of this stuff is to just kind of remain. Quiet and not poke the bear too much. Um, on a lot of these issues, because we're also in the midst of one of the biggest budget surpluses in all of Texas history. So depending on how much we don't poke the bear, there could be financial gains elsewhere. So. That's a lot of what uh Calhoun and all the other university presidents are having to deal with. They kind of operate as defacto lobbyists in a way. So that's one of their roles as presidents of the university. So that's one of the hot topics right now, amongst others. I got to discuss also met with Dwayne Morris who's the Executive Vice president of Administration basically helps run administration who by the way. Talk about that later, actually. But I got to meet with him and we discussed different ways to trying to get more student output or student turnout at athletic events and at the county center. So by the way, this is a show of hands, how many of you were here spring 2019? OK. Do you remember whenever we discussed this previously, but do you remember whenever we had whenever SC at the time sent out a survey that showed all the different speakers that could come to the account center, plays that could come to the account center, so on and so forth. That was one of the things that we're hopefully. It might not be this semester that it gets put on a survey, but definitely in the fall could be put on a survey next year and hopefully maybe garner a little bit more interest and hopefully the Count Center folks get a little bit better idea of. would have been students want to see there so that was productive conversation but other than that i'm going to pass it off.

Vice-President Bennett

Uh, since my emails were down for almost all spring break, I was kind of playing catch up this week. This past weekend, we have 21 organizations that will be tabling there at midnight breakfast. And as for saying afterwards, please stay after even that so that we could decorate signs if you're willing to.

Secretary Dix

Hello. So mainly what I've been working on has to do with Communications committee but I was working on the Minutes and just getting some posts up for minute breakfast and the rest will be for committees.

Treasurer Luna

So before spring break, I was actually updating the budget with everything. So like right now it's up to date. I'm just listening to one more orders. I was trying to hoping to catch Lauren in the office one day and ask about that because I'm sure she has it. But I was doing that because Cameron had asked. She wasn't updating things on her side, but it's fine because I have everything else. And then uh, coming back, I need to contact the African Student Organization because they never updated their itemized list with one more items and then I'm just waiting for other groups sending their things, but their event hasn't happened.

Chief of Staff Peters

This past week I reached out to Laura Grace in the Honors College advertising the SGA elections because I'd like to see the Honors College adequately represented next year since it's brand new and I think a lot of honors students are unaware and would definitely be willing to participate.

Committee Reports

a. Events

So we were pretty much just working on making sure that everyone is in the proper place for midnight breakfast and kind of getting input from everyone in the committee and also we also got a little walmart run to get the stuff ready for all everything so yeah.

b. Communications



We go the banner Design done a while ago and are doing the banner. We ordered the shirts. We've been making posts. Missing anything? Yeah, we've just been heavily staying involved on social media with whatever campus activities is posting for homecoming to try to make sure that our posts are kind of like getting in there as well, so.

c. **SGAC**

We will be meeting tomorrow. We have the wrong hatred skills. I need to respond to them though. I got locked out of my room so everything in there and so we will be meeting with them. And I really hope that a lot of people go into the JC tomorrow because I want to and need to show you guys some changes to the policy so if you're going cause I need people. Thanks.

a. **Rules**

Did not meet.

b. **ESC**

Um, we met earlier today and we're still planning our two events, but we have like dates. We're thinking April 14th for our campus cleanup and then April 21st for like our movie Night Type event we're planning. So, so yeah.

c. **GSA**

Did not meet.

VI. Student Voice Reports

a. **U-Pines**

Senator Bhatia: Just real quick. Going back to some of the stuff earlier this semester with the freeze, we had a lot of issues that you kinds with the staircases freezing over and upins and management not doing anything about it and like a lot of students getting injured. And then also we're having a couple of issues still with maintenance coming in unannounced and parking passes. Not being communicated with us properly, like which parking passes we need and then students getting fined for it. But other than that, that's it.

Senator Harlan: With like when it rains and stuff, the walkways get really muddy and I've like seen people fall, so that's not good. Definitely need to do something about that and with the fees. March 18th the I think that was Friday during spring break. You if you wanted to move out next year then you had to do it your intent to vacate form. But if you didn't do it by that day then they would give you like a \$150 fee which is a little crazy because it was spring break. I didn't, but people didn't do it. Then they got feed, so that's not cool. And also with the phrase, there were trees falling on people's apartments and they were really loud. And so if the weathers being bad and you live in unpines, maybe don't park under a tree so your car doesn't get crushed and that's everything.

b. **Liberty Landing**

Senator Govea: So there's not too much for me to report here, Jay. I was going to talk about how summer housing sentence were extended, but as the meeting was going on, they got extended again. So for those of you who are planning on living on campus during the summer, housing applications got moved to the 27th instead of the. 22nd that they originally announced, oh, secondly announced at 10:00 AM. So if that's something you're looking to do, make sure you do that. I'm fairly positive the path is open to the public now. I'm fairly positive they removed place fencing who was there, which was like the only reason that they had hard hat area there. So



I think it's we're good to start walking there if that's your preferred thing to do. I wrote a golf cart to go deliver them some stuff, so I think it's working.

c. **Victory Village**

Senator Mattern: I know two. A lot of people were asking for an extended. Like instead of moving out like soon or requested for that and they haven't, I haven't heard of anybody get approved. I think the only people that actually do get approved now are the summer. People like summer housing for like school. But if you want to extend like your stay like a day they won't approve it and it's you have to move out by noon of graduation. Which kinda isn't fair, but I mean, I don't know what to do with that. You have to be moved out like all the checkout times are like noon of graduation day. Should people graduate unless you're a senior? But like my last final I think is it's either Wednesday or Thursday and they're asking to be done by noon or Friday, but like it's a lot of people so don't know.

Senator Black: It's back again because it's an integration. I haven't said these are this week. They are sort of, not really, but they're trying to be a little bit more in depth than they in the past so that when we do move out, it's not all sudden you get fees, you can just, you can, you can fail the room check. But you can fix this stuff. And that's better than having to, like pay because it's broken. Type situation and then. But other than that there hasn't been really anything going on.

d. **Patriot Village**

Senator Templeton: Hello. OK, so there was a couple times the past couple weeks, not, not recently, but the fire alarm randomly go off. We'd all stay outside. I don't know if they were testing, they didn't let anyone know if they did. Also, it's funny you mentioned whoever is covering the Upines. A tree fell in my car during the ice storm. Like not even 10 minutes before I heard this loud noise. Didn't actually land on it, it just kind of just dangled over it, like teasing my car a little bit, pause, but regardless, you Pines is good. Apart from all the other issues which are. Kind of sparse, such as trying to have anything else. there's some smells that come out of certain rooms too.

e. **O-Hall:**

Senator McAdams: So for students that were staying oh, Hall during spring break, the AC broke, so it was getting up to like 95 in all the rooms. Everyone was like trying not to be in the rooms, trying to get fans and whatnot, but maintenance fix that so the air is back. Down I know there's like troubles with the water. Some rooms don't have water or some rooms have no hot water. I know I don't have any hot water. And sorry, I always said that she doesn't have any hot water, but oh, hasn't like sent out any messages pertaining that. I know there's a lot of people that's dealing with that problem, so I'm going to see if I could. Track down Miss Keys and ask her what's going on with the water. But other than that, this week we have health and safety checks, nothing else.

Old Business

New Business

Senator Vargas presented a listening and learning session with the Deans of the Colleges. SGA would be a partner in this event.



Advisor Comments

Not in attendance.

Announcements

Senator of the week: Senator Kipp

Next Week

Nothing to add.

Adjournment

Let the record show that the Senate unanimously voted in approval to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm.