

Student Government Association

The University of Texas at Tyler

September 7th, 2021

I. Call to Order 5:30pm

II. Roll Call:

President Jennings	
Vice President Stavinoha	
Secretary Mattern	
Treasurer Limbrick	A
Chief of Staff Smith	
Senator Barria	
Senator Chawner	
Senator Collins	
Senator Dix	
Senator Govea	
Senator Harrison	

Senator McNamara	
Senator Melendez	
Senator Scott	

Approval of Minutes

President Jennings: The first thing we will do is the approval of the minutes. We will look at them and then vote on that. I entertain a motion to vote on the approval of last week’s minutes.

Vice President Stavinoha: Motion carried

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the vote to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

III. Open Forum: None

IV. Speaker’s Podium

a. None

V. Officer Reports

- a. President Jennings:** This week I have been doing a lot of things. I have had 5 meetings today. I have been getting prepared to go to UTSAC in Austin this weekend. All 14 UT Systems come together, and we discuss system problems. This will be a great opportunity, I am excited. Just be thinking of us as we go.
- b. Vice-President Stavinoha:** We are having our first event with the counseling center. It is at 12 at the UC. Leading off with that, working with the accessibility office to schedule events. The rest is in the committee.
- c. Secretary Mattern:** I have been working on our swag. I do not think the shirts have come in yet. I am also excited about this weekend, I have been buying a lot of stuff. I have also been working on updating the website. I also talked to Steven about the headshots that will need to be taken.

President Jennings: Going forward, we will have a lot of new senators that will need their headshots to be taken. We will have an opportunity to have professional headshots taken, so we will have meeting where you will need to be dressed more formal when those are taken. Expect it to be in the next 2 or 3 weeks. Moving on, Treasurer Limbrick is not here, so Chief of Staff Smith would you come up here and talk about your officer report?

d. Treasurer Limbrick

Not present

- e. Chief of Staff Smith:** I have been finalizing stuff within our own constitution to add the environmentally sustainability committee and putting our own language in to add the GSA committee. It will be an ADHOC committee until it becomes a registered student organization. It has been minor changes like adding the health campus as as group.

President Jennings: I will say that the environmental sustainability has not been formally approved yet to become a committee. This is something that the executive board has been considering and we will open discussion on this later.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Events//Vice President Stavinoha:** Our upcoming events will be the counseling event tomorrow, constitution day, which we are still working on finalizing all the details. And working on finalizing constitution day. And our next big event will be midnight breakfast. We spoke about fall festival. Slight change to the committee time, it will be at 4:30pm instead of 4:00pm. However, this week if you are available at 8:30 am, that's where it will be.
- b. Communications//Secretary Mattern:** My committee did not meet this week because it was Labor Day, I hope you all had fun. If y'all would, if you did anything, will you send me a picture. I am in charge of the posts. I want to make a post about what And Pettee talked about last week. I also need to make posts about the upcoming elections.
- c. SGAC//President Jennings:** Treasurer Limbrick is not here this meeting. I know they are meeting this Thursday discussing the organizations requests we have received. We should hear next week about the requests, how much, etc.
- d. Rules//Chief of Staff Smith:** Same thing I said earlier, except we will be meeting right after this GA meeting. I will be sending out a rough draft of the constitution and we will all review it, open discussion for changes and we will work on changing it.
- e. ESC//Senator Harrison:** Did not meet this week because of Labor Day, but will be meeting with Katie Hernandez tomorrow. We are going to discuss a recycling initiative.

President Jennings: We received a request from the resident coordinators for a recycling opportunities in the housing facilities and Chief of Staff Smith and Senator Harrison met with them, so hopefully we will be able to discuss this soon.

- f. GSA//President Jennings:** Graduate Student Association is generally its own organization but they are currently out of the organization because they have not been able to get their numbers due to COVID. So we took over for those who cannot make the 5:30 meetings on Tuesdays. I will be the head of this and I plan on meeting twice a month during lunch time. Even though you guys aren't graduate students, if you'd like to attend these meetings to see what is going on, you are more than welcome to.

VII. Student Voice Reports

- a. Houston Engineering Campus//Senator Barria:** The biggest thing this year, is getting people familiar with the campus. We did have a club meeting last week where all of the engineering students met to get student more active. And I think I need to push students to use the computers to get on their emails and students IDs and print. I talked to Ord about the career fair in November. I want to send out invitations to those closer so that students can have more information.
- b. College of Nursing and Health Sciences//Senator Melendez:** Hearing form students, the major concern was with advising. A lot of student schedules were all of the place and some students were moved to different sections. I was wondering if we could communicate to the advisors to see if they could improve the advising. Professors have asked if SGA could promote blood pressure monitoring for Nursing. One thing students have to do is take a number of blood pressure readings and record them and it would be nice to have students come in to help the nursing students.

- c. **Student Body at Large//Senator Collins:** I haven't heard much from people besides confusion about parking and parking passes.

Next Week

- a. College of Arts and Sciences
- b. College of Business
- c. Patriot Village

IX. Old Business

- a. **None**

X. New Business

- a. Judicial Board Nomination – Chloe Burleson

President Jennings: Entertain a motion to open discussion on a judicial board nomination.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: we have been looking to fill the judicial board. We have 9 positions. Chloe Burleson has reached out in interest. For judicial board, it works slightly differently. I would like to nominate Chloe Burleson. Now, I would like to entertain a motion to put that to a vote.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Senator Harrison: Motion Seconded.

Let the record show that Chloe Burleson was unanimously voted in as a member of the Judicial Board.

Justice Burleson: Hi everybody, my name is Chloe Burleson, I am a junior and majoring in marketing and I have known KC for awhile. I will get behind anything she is behind and and excited to be in Student Government.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to close the discussion.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

- b. Senator Swear-In – Kelyne Arnold

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to discuss a new senator.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: With resident halls association, they have the chance to fill housing seats before SGA takes over. They have appointed Kelyne Arnold and she will be representing Patriot Village. With the appointment of the resident hall, we do not have to vote. We just have to swear them in.

Kelyne Arnold: Right hand raised. I Kelyn Arnold, do solemnly swear that I shall faithfully represent the interest of the student body of the University of Texas at Tyler. I shall doubtfully uphold and preserve the constitution and bylaws of the student government association while ardently executing the office of Senator of Patriot Village for the student body at the University of Texas at Tyler.

President Jennings: Awesome, lets give our new senator a round of applause. You are now officially senator, like I said I will get with you and training so you know what to do. I would like to entertain a motion to close discussion.

Vice President Stavinoha: Carried said motion.

Senator Harrison: Motion seconded.

- c. Discussion About Making ESC a Standing Committee

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to open discussion on making the ESC a standing committee.

Senator Harrison: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: This is a consideration that the executive board has discussed. It is an ongoing concern as a community. I do not see an issue with this committee, therefore I want to have a discussion on making this a standing committee. It would be a permanent committee with the change in our constitution. The purpose of that would be that it would be built into the constitution with the senate going forward.

Senator Harrison: What is the purpose of the committee? I know there will be posts on social media and things like that.

President Jennings: They typically have tackled green initiatives such as a system wide and campus wide issues regarding recycling for example. A potential fee increase and has been a prior discussion. We want to make sure our campus is moving in a direction where it is more sustainable. We want you to meet with facilities to make sure we are growing our community in a healthy way.

I would like to entertain a motion to open this up for a vote.

Senator Harrison: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that the environmental sustainability committee received an unanimous vote to become a standing committee.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to close discussion on this.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Vice President Stavinoha: Motion seconded.

d. Appointing of Chair of ESC

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to open discussion on appointing a chair of the ESC

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: the ESC has been functioning without a formal chair, which is fine and they have been getting things done, but we would like to have a formal chair we can go to for questions and concerns about the committee and attendance. Senator Harrison reached out in interest and I would like to give him a chance to speak.

Senator Harrison: Environmental sustainability has been a forging issue with me. I have always been out in the environment and doing stuff, such as enjoying nature. It is a part of who I am. I spent a part of my life living in North Tyler and those communities are chronically polluted, so I know what the chronic issues can do to a community and I want to do whatever I can to make sure no one goes through this, even if it is small changes.

President Jennings: We have brief period of time to discuss. Does anyone have any thoughts regarding what he said or the chair position?

Secretary Mattern: What year is he?

President Jennings: He will graduate in December, so this is something to consider.

Chief of Staff Smith: I would like to advocate for him. I do not know what he talks about sometimes but he is very passionate about the environment.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to vote on this issue.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion carried

Let the record show that Senator David Harrison was voted unanimously to be the chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee.

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to close this discussion.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Senator Harrison: Motion seconded.

e. Fee Increase Discussion

President Jennings: I would like to entertain a motion to discuss the fee increase.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Senator Harrison: Motion seconded.

For repeated information that President Jennings stated, refer to the powerpoint that is attached to this document. She went over exactly what the information was and the discussion starts after this.

Secretary Mattern: When will we need to have it voted on if we want it on the ballot?

President Jennings: That is up to y'all. There is still time to put it on the September ballot. Our options are to do this, put it on a special referendum ballot or do not put it on a ballot at all.

Senator Chawner: I think we need to know what the fee will be. We need to know the amount

Senator Govea: I really think we should put it on the ballot. The HPC has a whole culture of classes and things like that. I know athletics is what athletics brought my high school together, look at TJC it also helps. I know we don't know what the increase is but it is good. We should give the students the opportunity to vote on this.

Secretary Mattern: With that being said, I think the HPC needs to inform the students. I know Rick sent out stuff about the increase but could he send out the information he sent us to the students. It shouldn't be our responsibility but theirs.

Senator Harrison: I agree with that, I believe it would be more effective.

President Jennings: Better consideration, even if we do see this as a course of action, we still have to decide if we want to put it on a ballot or not. It has to go in front of the student body if we agree to let them see it and vote on it. These are separate considerations; whether we put it on the ballot or not and who will inform the students.

Senator Govea: I think it comes down to what we want to learn. If Rec sports and athletics can come and talk to us, I think that would be great, but again it comes down to what we want to learn and have the students know. It would be nice to know how much the fee is by next week.

President Jennings: It is up to y'all what you want to do. If you want Rick and Dr. Patterson to come and speak to us, I can get them to. You all are leading this discussion.

Secretary Mattern: I think we should definitely put it on the ballot, but I do not think we should put it on this upcoming ballot, a special referendum so that the students do get educated on this increase.

Senator Govea: I think this is good too. This will give us time to inform as many students as possible.

Advisor Neaves: I want to provide a reprieve back to the education. Historically it has been student government's job to get the information out since y'all represent the student body. Any time something is a concern, or brought to student government's attention, that is why administration comes to student government to get the input, I understand the logic by having rec sports present that information, I think it could be done in a joint effort. I think sometimes student government can help get the word out and they can help support the answers. I would like to provide that comment. I want to agree with Ashlyn because you want to provide enough time for them to ask enough questions so that it will pass.

Chief of Staff Smith: Going off of what Josh said, it looks like we will have a special election, referendum, if it is going to be in that course, I think we should encourage staff and students to attend a general assembly meeting so that they are provided with information and ask things we might not have thought of. Even though we do represent the student body, I think it is good for us to be informed as well.

President Jennings: Just to be clear, your recommendation is that we invite representatives from rec sports and athletics to give us information.

Senator Chawner: I think it we need to be fully educated by them so that we can send out what information they want out.

President Jennings: If you guys know what you want to do, you will need to motion.

Senator Govea: Motion to invite Rick McGill and Dr. Patterson to the next meeting to get information over the fee increase so that we can decide whether we want to put it on the ballot or not.

Senator Harrison: Motion seconded.

President Jennings: I know for a fact Dr. Patterson is out of town this next week, but I can see if he can record something or come the following week. But I will for sure ask Rick McGill to come next week.

Senator Chawner: Since Dr. Patterson will not be here, we need to at least know the increase amount so that we can discuss it.

President Jennings: Follow up question on that would you guys feel that it is sufficient to know just the amount on the increase or have him come to follow up on questions or concerns?

Secretary Mattern: I think it would be okay to have him here, but Rick would also have information on it as well.

President Jennings: I know they are different increases. Even though they are similar, they are also very different.

I would like to entertain a motion to close this discussion.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

XI. Advisor Comments

Advisor Neaves: It seems like it was a productive afternoon, got through a lot of stuff. I love the carried motion. In the past I think y'all would get caught up on that, I think this is a better way to navigate through the meeting. I think this was a very good meeting. I think it is good to have the discussion on the fee increase, it is long overdue. I think this is a good time to see the student concerns and seeing student input. I think it is good to look at the student funds and make sure they are provided appropriately. We want everybody to have the best experience across the board. With us being apart of the UT system, especially being the UT east school, we want to be the best. I do want to share that as we wrap up the fall elections, it is important that we bring our new senators up to speed because they will also represent. I liked the senator's comments, I think this is a good time for students to look at what other schools are doing. This will lead to good questions. Other than that, I know many of you are also involved in other students organizations, I want y'all to make sure you finish the registration process, especially in student engage and astra. I know a lot of students are looking for something new to do, this a good time to get students involved on campus. I know we missed a lot this past year and we want to make up to for that. I think really good discussions during this meeting and it was very productive. I look forward to this in future weeks.

Announcements

- a. Thrive 11-1 on Sept. 8th
- b. Sept. 11th Events
- c. T-Shirt Sizes

XII. Adjournment

President Jennings: Entertain a motion to adjourn meeting.

Chief of Staff Smith: Carried said motion.

Senator Govea: Motion seconded.

Let the record show that it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment 6:23pm.

Attendance at the end of the meeting.

President Jennings	
Vice President Stavinoha	
Secretary Mattern	
Treasurer Limbrick	A
Chief of Staff Smith	
Senator Barria	
Senator Chawner	
Senator Collins	
Senator Dix	
Senator Govea	
Senator Harrison	
Senator McNamara	

Senator Melendez	
Senator Scott	