

# Student Government Association

## The University of Texas at Tyler

*September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

- I. Call to Order 5:31pm
- II. Roll Call

Name	Absent
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	

III. Approval of Minutes

**President Jennings:** I entertain a motion to vote on last week's minutes.

**Vice President Stavinoha:** Carried said motion.

**Senator Govea:** Motion seconded

**Let the record show that the minutes from 9-7-21 were unanimously voted to be approved.**

IV. Open Forum

None

V. Speaker's Podium

- a. Taylor Clark – Student Counseling Center

She passes out a handout to our senators about the wellness Wednesday schedules and the themes for each month.

**Taylor Clark:** The whole idea is that we are in a hidden place in the UC and you guys come into more contact with students than anyone else. So we want to create more outreach events. So the idea is every Wednesday we are going to have a table downstairs in the UC from 11-1 and at the end of the month, we are going to have a bigger event on Harvey deck. These are kind of our themes of the month. Like September is self compassion, you guys were awesome coming out. We just kind of want to rotate and have more students there and provide more peer support because that's a lot more powerful than just saying "Hey, come to counseling or things like that. We're going to have different themes. This Friday they are doing a dean of students night with volleyball. The biggest thing is at the end of September is we are doing a suicide awareness walk. If you guys would come out and support that, we would love the support. And tell other students about it, because we can have these events but if students aren't there and they don't know about it, then it's not really helpful. We are hoping you guys can be on the advocacy for that. We'll hopefully have t-shirt giveaways, we're partnering with the East Texas crisis center, they'll be coming out and have tables too. We are working on the food truck situation right now as well.

October is the mindfulness theme. We are hoping to do an art show. If you want to create art and bring it to the show. We'll start at the bottom and work our way up to the third floor so people know where it is. And then were hoping to partner with the art club to have canvases downstairs so on those wellness Wednesdays downstairs in the UC, people can create canvases if they want to be apart of it. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, domestic abuse is also in October and we are partnering with the East Texas crisis center in title 9 to have some tabling outside and hoping to have purple first giveaway. So that's another event we're hoping to have. November is focusing on focus. We'll have plant pots if you guys want to do that. If anyone wants to work the table, let us know, we would love to have you. We also have veteran awareness. We're going to have yoga for veterans and also there's a wellness Wednesday that they are honoring veterans. And then our biggest event is on December 1<sup>st</sup>, we want to have the de-stress fest and the whole idea is we make this campus wide student engagements, have volleyball, disc golf, anything you would think students would like. We would love to have ideas, if you think of things you think students would like, let us know and we'll try to make it happen. We hope you guys are apart of it and thank you for letting me come and talk. I look forward to working with y'all.

**President Jennings:** Just as a reminder, a lot of these events are already built into the SGA calendar. The intention is that we will have as many representatives there as possible to be supportive. The de-stress fest, do you guys have any other ideas for things that would really help students or that would be popular during finals week?

**Secretary Mattern:** Are we going to bring back the finals week bags?

President Jennings: Finals week bags are through SGA. We can look into that though.

**Taylor Clark:** Do y'all think games like volleyball and stuff would be fun?

Gets agreement. Recreational activities are a go.

**b. Dr. Howard Patterson – Vice President of Athletics**

**President Jennings:** You guys requested to have Dr. Patterson come and give us additional information about the proposed fee increases. Dr. Patterson was kind of enough to join us from the airport.

**Dr. Patterson:** Good evening president Jennings and senators. Thank you for letting me join and answer any questions you might have about the proposed fee increase. I am still in Denver with the women's golf team and we will board in about 20 minutes so if you have any questions feel free to ask. A lot of questions have been asked about as to why does there need to be a fee increase? There are a lot of simple reasons, one being that when we submitted our divisional 2 provisional membership budget, we were joining the lone Starr conference. One year after we got into our provisional status, the lone Starr conference admitted 7 additional institutions and they range from as close as Dallas Baptist to as far as Lubbock and TAMU International down in the valley. Those were not in our budget. We have to go compete against those schools and host them at home. Our travel budget increased immensely and is one of the biggest challenges we have had to face over the last 2 years having been finally admitted to full NCAA status this past year. Our conference now stands 950 miles from left to right and it stands 707 miles from north to south. That is a lot of travel our athletes are now doing. The funds that would be increased from this referendum of adding \$2 the current fee per semester credit hour, and then another \$2 for 23. Those funds would be used for increased travel cost, facility updates, preventative maintenance and repairs. Our facilities are now starting to show a little bit of age. The patriot center was opened in September of 2003, subsequent facilities were opened in the next 2 to 3 years. So these facilities are showing a bit of wear and tear. In D2 we have year round practices and games, the number of matches we are participating in has gone up. We are having to rebrand for uniforms and gear and facilities. I think we are almost done with that thankfully, but there is a rumor that there may be another rebrand. Recruiting expenses have gone up much larger because it is more competitive to recruit in division 2. We are not only competing against D2 schools, but against mid-range to low-range D1 schools. NCAA has mandates on staffing levels and positions, so we have had to and will continue to add positions to meet those mandates. Coaching staff salaries have increased slightly but will need to increase more to compete with the lone Starr conference. The last thing I want to do is start losing head coaches to other schools because we're \$10,000-\$15,000 a year below what they're paying. So far we have been able to save that off but I don't know going forward if we'll be able to. Lastly, in the lone Starr conference, for the FY 21 fees UT Tyler was lowest fee in the conference at \$16 per credit hour. The next lowest was Midwestern at 17 and the highest was Texas Women's University at 36 and they have 15,000 students. So you can see that our fee structure is completely reasonable and extremely low and needs to go up in order for us to remain competitive and keep our current staff and add appropriate staff as our programs increase. I would be glad to answer any questions and hopefully by the time I log off and get on the plane, no one will have any questions about why this referendum is so important.

**Senator Chawner:** Would it be a \$2 increase per semester credit hour in 22 and a \$2 per credit hour in 23 or per semester?

**Dr. Patterson:** I believe the proposal is for a \$2 semester credit hour increase in the spring of 22. That makes it \$18. And then in the fall of 22, for fiscal year 23, it would be another \$2 increase which would bring us up to \$20, which is still below average. There is only 3 schools in the conference that are below \$20.

**c. Rick McGill – Director of Recreational Sports and HPC**

**Director Rick McGill:** Just here to kind of brief you like Dr. Patterson did on the proposed fee increase. The REC sports facility fee has not be increased since 2003 when the facility opened. The current fee is \$40 per semester. In Texas, state institution average is right around \$100-\$105. Just to give you an idea of where we fall in that category. So the proposal is \$20 for the first year and additional \$15 for the next year. If it were to pass, we would get to \$75 per semester. Still below average as you can see but those added funds would allow us to do several things programmatically and also within the facilities. Currently, like Dr. Patterson said, the facilities at the age that they are, are starting to show more wear and tear. We've had to do several different large facility renovations or maintenance projects. For examples, updating the pool and keeping it safe. At this point we have been able to access reserved funds or ask for one-time requests or maybe cut back on programing to find the funding. Obviously those are not ideal situations. The fee would help us those increasing needs that we have. It would also allow us to expand out programming, what we offer for our students and improve the facilities so that we can help serve the students better. Some of the projects that we have on the lists are a front desk renovation for safety and security in the building for our staff. It would increase the footage of the rec center fitness floor. If you have ever been in the rec center at 3:00pm on a weekday, its very busy and hard to find machines. That would help us. The other part of the fund increase, right now in order to offset our costs and keep the building open and functional, we have t rent out to HPC to outside groups and we are open for community memberships in order to generate our revenue. Right now our budget ln asks us to make about \$250,000 in revenue to meet our quote unquote budget. So if you come into the rec enter at 3:00pm and it is packed, so of that may be our community members we're taking memberships from in order to offset those costs or you come in to play basketball we may have an outside group in the facility to generate revenue. One of the things with the fee increase we are hopeful that we can do is cut some of that out in order to offer more back to the students who are paying for that fee. Obviously, you know that the fee increase, we have a plan in the coming years to have some big plans, as we move through those, we have plans to add some staffing as well to offer more programming in wellness as well as outdoor adventures. Right now all of our assistant directors in the department have several different titles that fall under them so different programs that fall under them. So obviously as we stretch people out across those areas, our programming is not as robust as we would like for it to be. That's kind of the general basis behind why we want t fee passed and what we would do with it. I know you guys have seen the presentation a couple of times so if you have any specific questions about the plans with the fee, please let me know.

**Senator Govea:** What would be the increase overall?

**Director McGill:** It would be 35. Right now it is \$40 a semester and then after the 2 years it would be \$75.

**Secretary Mattern:** How are you getting this information out? Like how are you promoting the idea of the fee increase and the benefits behind it?

**Director McGill:** So all we have been able to do it provide education, specifically to this room or anyone else who asks for that information, but we are not necessarily promoting the increase.

**Secretary Mattern:** Have you been able to educate a lot of people?

**Director McGill:** I feel that we have. Just a little bit of background, this was scheduled to go to a vote prior to COVID. And so, its been an on going process of trying to get the word out to students, making sure that we are looking at what students want. That's one thing I didn't mention, at the end of the year survey the things the students tell us what they want of the things we are trying to target immediately with the fee increase. Increased time in the gym, intramural field, different fitness programming late at night, those are the things we want to target right away. As far as education, I think we have done a great job, but in the past we have also before this was going for a vote, we were leaning on the senators to education and promote because we obviously are for the increase and we want the students to have the education to make that choice for themselves.

## **VI. Officer Reports**

### **a. President Jennings**

This weekend, Ashlyn and I were in Austin for UTSAC, which is the UT system student advisory council. Basically, two representatives from all of the UT institutions come together and speak about system wide problems. That was a great learning opportunity and we are looking to go back a couple more times this year. In the meantime, we are working on various research items to benefit all of our campuses. Some exciting news, I got elected as the Undergrad committee chair, so I'm now in chair of a committee of 8 of the academic institutions which is sort of crazy but very much exciting for our school and the things ill get to bring back as

well as Ashlyn. So, that's been the biggest thing I've worked on. I've also have media meeting with the patriot talon to discuss ways they can help us get the word out about our meetings and what our meetings are about so we really appreciate our representatives here tonight. And then, other than that, I have been meeting left and right with various students and different organizations that we are hoping to get started and that's really exciting to see students excited to be here this semester.

**b. Vice-President Stavinoha**

This week, I am working on constitution day, working on getting all of the last minute staff settled out for that. We will be ordering Bruno's pizza, we will not be able to get chicken alfredo, I'm really sorry. It's going to be pepperoni, sausage and cheese, what we have in our budget. And then working with Tammy Hill to get everything nailed down for midnight breakfast and also some fall festival events and everything else is in committee.

**c. Secretary Mattern**

Hi guys, we went to Austin this weekend, I had a great time. If you ever have the opportunity to do it, please go. I am sorry about the minutes, I will get them sent in before 15 minutes before the meeting. I have been working on the swag, we got our shirts in today and I put the purchase order in for the tablecloths. And then the constitution day, I am dressing up for that.

**d. Treasurer Limbrick**

President Jennings: Treasurer Limbrick is in Houston dealing with flooding and power outages so y'all be thinking out him but he is not present this evening.

**e. Chief of Staff Smith**

So I have been working on finalizing on the constitution the updates that are needed. And then we are hopefully going to vote non that next week. Tomorrow, I, as well as a few others, are meeting with Katie Hernandez to discuss recycling programs and then I'll be helping out with constitution day and for the first half of Monday, I spent lobbying for chicken alfredo pizza but that obviously failed so that's been my week.

**President Jennings:** The chicken alfredo pizza has been highly requested, unfortunately we will not be having that but hopefully you guys will still come out to the event. If chicken alfredo pizza isn't there, maybe us dressed as pioneer people is enough to get you there. I'm just saying. It's also vice president Stavinoha's birthday, so basically you all are responsible for the success or failure of Jennifer's birthday.

**VII. Committee Reports**

**a. Events**

**Vice President Stainoha:** For today, we called Bruno's but unfortunately the one guy who knows how to handle the tax exempt forms was not in today. We will be ordering the pizzas tomorrow morning and then Adan and I are working on a painting pumpkins events for the fall festival. Trying to find something else to fit into that week. We also have midnight breakfast, hay rides, trunk-or-treats, and several other events. If you have any good ideas for low effort but still fun activities, because I don't want anybody getting burnt out trying to do everything, let me know.

President Jennings: The week of October 25<sup>th</sup> is patriot day and we have events built into that, including midnight breakfast, which I don't know if any of you guys have experienced that but it is a tradition here and it's really fun. We're going all out this year. Get prepared, we're flipping pancakes people. But we really are trying to add on to the fun of Patriot day, we're looking at fall fest events to spice it up.

**b. Communications**

**Secretary Mattern:** Me and Valerie met yesterday, thanks for coming, she was the only one. We talked about the posts, constitution day and the elections are coming up and Thursday is the last day to add your name to the ballot. If you know anybody, I highly suggest that you talk to them but only if they want to do it, don't pressure them or anything.

**President Jennings:** We post about our elections and events on the instagram and our website but definitely tis is the week before, it starts on Monday, and as our current senators, we would love it if y'all would share the instagram posts and hype it up. We want people to be excited that they are getting new representors because it makes our senate more representative of the community, which is important.

**c. SGAC**

**President Jennings:** Josh were you able to attend it and see what they discussed this week? I believe last time I checked, there were 4 organizations requesting funding so we definitely need to fill that committee. They have not heard for requests from new organizations on Thursday. We do have our new budget for the 21-22 fiscal year.

**d. Rules**

**Chief of Staff Smith:** We met yesterday and we discussed the changes that were made and any additional information that needed to be added or taken away from it. Tomorrow but sometime this week I will be meeting with Josh to discuss some of the changes and moving forward, we will be able to put a vote to it.

e. ESC

**Senator Harrison:** This week, we met yesterday and we talked about this idea Justin had about perhaps doing a thing where we get students from throughout the campus to bring clothes that are gently used that they would likely throw away, and either have something where we can donate it or sell it. Preferably trade it and sell it and whatnot, kind of like a swap shop. We also had plan b, we take it and donate it to an organization within the community that helps those in need. We are going to try and incorporate some element in it regardless but its still very preliminary, we don't have any dates associated with it. I am attending the meeting tomorrow with Katie and I'm excited about that.

**Senator Barria:** So essentially it would be kind of a student ran flea market where you can take the clothes they don't want anymore and they can either try to pawn/swap it with other students. There are a few ways to approach this, like letting an organization run this and letting them run tables and stuff like that. I think it would be a fun event, at the end of the day, if people do have clothing they weren't able to trade, we could take it to a homeless shelter. Plan b to this would be trying to do something this fall and do a jacket drive to bring to a homeless shelter.

**President Jennings:** Yeah, that's a great idea. Repurposing and reusing clothing is absolutely environmentally sustainable. That's a really cool initiative and I'm proud of you for coming up with this idea.

f. GSA

**President Jennings:** I am going to host the first committee meeting next week. I am planning do this one bi-monthly so we don't bog down our graduate students. However, if the need arises to have them more frequently, I am definitely open to that. If any of you undergraduate students would like to attend to hear from our graduate students, you are welcome to. I will host them virtually around lunch time on Thursday. I am hoping to catch as many gradates students as possible.

VIII. Student Voice Reports

a. College of Arts and Sciences

**Senator Harrison:** I really do not have too much to report at the moment.

**Senator Chawer:** I have been really busy, but I plan to go to the CAS building next week, and if I don't see anything about advising, I will be going to talk to them about putting up signs. There are now signs up anywhere to let students know.

**President Jennings:** For those who don't know, CAS went under construction and the advising moved buildings and then back but no emails or signs went out. We're working to make sure students know where those advisors are, especially as we get closer to spring registration in November.

**Senator Dix:** I don't have a lot either but I wanted to follow up on the chairs. They look better, I noticed they looked more organized. I thin there are classrooms that have too many but I'm not sure. Another thing I was thinking about it is since the it went under renovation, I don't think any of the teachers offices have moved but I didn't know if there was like a building directory. When you walk in, is there something that tells you? Could we do this?

**President Jennings:** Sure. I know most of them do but we can do that.

**Vice President Stavinoha:** I do have a comment on the chairs, they put too many in the rooms. Most of them, there's only 50% capacity, so they're pushing them to the front because they don't have anywhere to put them. If anyone is looking for a senator project, there are still chalkboards in the CAS.

b. College of Business

**Senator Govea:** Nothing too crazy to report. I am going to try and meet with Amy Russo to report what kind of initiatives she's trying to push out. I know she has sent a lot of emails to me for internship opportunities. I don't know if your career coach is supposed to be doing to same thing but there's always internship opportunities she is putting out. I am trying to see if she can do that a whole lot more. I enjoy reading through the emails, noting applies to me but it's fun to read them. I am also going to try and meet with Chris just so I can get a one on one experience with him. I think it will be fun. Nothing really to report.

**Secretary Mattern:** Does the whole department meet with students about the opportunities like that?

**President Jennings:** The career success coaches are primarily the ones who that gather things and put them on handshake.

**Senator Scott:** There is noting really new on my end. I have tried asking some students but they're really busy. I do know that a lot of classes are having exams come up, so they've been more pressed on that, like TA stuff. The only complaint I know of is prior to the semester. I know that advising seems to be more of an all college thing rather than just a college of business thing.

**President Jennings:** Great think on the dean meeting. As a reminder, it's not a formal constitution expectation, but something we really encourage is meeting with your dean once a semester. My experience, this is a great way to know things about what is going on in your college. I got to attend administrative meetings because I reached out. If you need help getting the contact information for your dean, let me know.

c. Patriot Village

**Senator Arnold:** I talked to a couple of students this week to see if they had any pressing concerns they wanted me to bring up. And they seem to be satisfied. I know we are having health and safety this week, I am hoping those go well. There is a staff meeting today, so I am hoping the RAs will talk about that. And yesterday we had a program about students accessibility resources so hopefully the students feel more informed on that.

## **IX. Old Business**

**Secretary Mattern:** Motion to open up discussion on the fee increase.

**Vice President Stavioha:** Motion seconded.

**Secretary Mattern:** I think we are all in agreement, I don't want to speak for everyone so let me know. I think we should put it on the ballot, but not the upcoming one. When would be a good time to do that if we can educate students on it? When should we have a special referendum? That's my question.

**President Jennings:** As secretary Mattern brought up, we are not voting to increase the fee, we are voting on whether or not to put it on a ballot before students. Is there any questions about that?

**Senator Chawner:** Who all would be receiving the ballot? Does every student get to see it and vote?

**President Jennings:** Yes, a ballot goes out to the entire student population and it has to win by simple majority in order to be in effect.

**Senator McNamara:** Should we gage student opinion on the fee increase?

**President Jennings:** We did a survey in the Spring to do just that. I can pull it up if you guys would like. That could be helpful information.

**Senator Chawner:** I think mid-October would be a good time to put out a ballot.

KC pulls up our survey from the spring semester of 2021 which had questions on it about the fee increase interests. The file will be added to this document.

**President Jennings:** The first is the athletics fee increase. The proposal is to add \$2 per semester hour. To clarify, if I were taking 15 hours, that would be a \$30 in my semester. It is then an additional 2 in the fall. It would effectively be a \$4 per semester credit hour increase.

**Secretary Mattern:** We did this before anyone had any information on the fee increase proposal, correct?

**President Jennings:** Yes. So, at this point, we had not put out any education out. This was on our spring ballot, so this past spring when y'all were elected on. We didn't do any formal education, but like director McGill said, tis has been an ongoing conversation since the fall of 2019, so some students have an idea about it but we have not done any formal education on it.

**Secretary Mattern:** So if we were to do this in mid-October, that would give us about a month to inform students over it.

**Senator Govea:** How would we inform students over it? Like tabling events, social media?

**President Jennings:** That is really up to y'all. There are a variety of methods we could use, whether it be social media, tabling events, town halls, flyers. You know we have a lot of resources in that area. We would be able to use marketing to help us create things if we wanted to. That is up to y'all.

**Secretary Mattern:** Motion to close discussion on the fee increase.

**Vice President Stavinoha:** Motion seconded.

**Secretary Mattern:** Motion to vote to add the fee increase to a special referendum in mid-October.

**Advisor Neaves:** I need you to specify more. We day exactly, how long do you need it open.

**Secretary Mattern:** Motion to put the fee increase on a special referendum ballot on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Advisor Neaves:** How long are you going to have it open? These are things you need to discuss?

**Secretary Mattern:** Can we do a full day?

**President Jennings:** Let me just say that our election coming up on Monday, and is open from midnight on the 20<sup>th</sup> through 4pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. That is a typical range of time, we can do longer or shorter if you'd like to motion that.

**Secretary Mattern:** Would Josh create the ballot?

**Advisor Neaves:** There are no rules that say that but I do send them out.

**Secretary Mattern:** I motion to put the fee increase on a special referendum ballot from 12am on October 19<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12pm.

**Senator Harrison:** Motion Seconded.

**Secretary Mattern:** I thought I did it right.

**Advisor Neaves:** What I was saying is that this is a special election. Right now you only have it open for 2 and a half days. You guys need to discuss how long this should be, how are you guys going to educate student. I want to make sure that you guys inform the students. Looking at the rules, special elections take some time so these are things you need to discuss.

**Secretary Mattern:** Would the education be a different discussion though?

**President Jennings:** It could be.

**Secretary Mattern:** So can I take away everything I just said? Motion to revoke my prior motions.

**Senator Harrison:** Motion seconded.

**President Jennings:** Based on what advisor Neaves just offered to the conversation, I think that maybe the best place to start would be is to consider what you guys think is effective communication.

**Senator Govea:** Motion to discuss education on the special referendum.

**Senator Scott:** Motion seconded.

**Senator Govea:** It is about a month we are getting. Four or more posts on instagram every week, just updating it with new or more information about what it is exactly, how you could benefit from it, how much it's going to increase. Just more posts we can make on instagram. Communications committee could really tackle that head on. If you guys want to table at the UC, I think that would be fine but I don't know how people would react to that. I think that social media pushing would be the best way to approach this.

**Secretary Mattern:** Are we allowed to send out an email to the student body?

**President Jennings:** Yeah.

**Senator Chawner:** Are we allowed to send out the powerpoints?

**President Jennings:** We could ask them for permission, but I would not feel comfortable just sending them out. I think the question that is most helpful, what platform do you guys see the most? Considering what you see events on, where do you get your information?

**Senator Harrison:** I think if we can do both, like instagram and email. I do not get on instagram at all so I think that seeing it in my email, I would feel more inclined to reading it. We can send out the same pictures that we post on instagram in our emails.

**Senator McNamara:** I like the tables. There are so many people who go to the UC, and when you see a table, a lot of the times you go up.

**Secretary Mattern:** Would we use just the UC for tables or the HPC?

**President Jennings:** Hypothetically.

**Senator Dix:** We would put small flyers out in the UC.

**Senator Chawner:** I think instagram is really good. If I see a post on instagram, I am going to share it on my story and I think we should tag other organizations on the posts so they can re-share it easily and more people can see it.

**President Jennings:** Now that we have a game plan for how we want to educate, lets go back to the discussion about whether we want to put it on a ballot, and if so when? We have our ideas of what we would want to do, now the question is, how long do you guys think it will take in order to make sure that as many students as possible have this information in their hands.

**Senator Dix:** I personally think that mid-October is a little too early.

**Senator Harrison:** I do agree but I do not think that we should wait too long, it should not be close to finals week.

**Senator McNamara:** How long are all of these ideas going to take to get the information out there? Being that we meet once a week, how long will it take to put out the information?

**President Jennings:** I would remind you that the communications committee would also be tackling this, so it would be effectively be twice a week if we decide to do it.

**Secretary Mattern:** When is Thanksgiving break?

**President Jennings:** It is the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Senator Arnold:** We do need enough time to educate but also a short enough time so that it is fresh on student's mind so that they aren't over it essentially.

**Secretary Mattern:** Length of time wise, would we want to start at the very beginning of a week and end right in the middle? How do we want to go about this?

**Senator Scott:** I think it should be open a full week. Potentially Monday through Friday.

**President Jennings:** It seems that everyone agrees that a week gives students time to vote. Now consider if we are going to do this, when?

**Senator Chawner:** I think the latest it should be is the week before Thanksgiving.

**President Jennings:** I try now to put in my opinion but I would agree based on the fact that theres only 1 class week following break until finals week, which is cutting it close to the end of the semester. If we are going to do it this semester, I would say that it's a good idea to stay earlier than Thanksgiving break.

**Secretary Mattern:** So would we say the week before the week before Thanksgiving break or the first week?

**Senator Chawner:** I say the first week of November.

**Senator Scott:** Are we allowed to do tabling during that week, like in the middle?

**Advisor Neaves:** It would be considered campaigning so we cannot do it during the week of the ballot.

**Senator Chawner:** Motion to open a vote for the special referendum on fee increases on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November at 12am and close on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November at 11:59pm.

**Senator Harrison:** Motion seconded.

**Let the record show that it was unanimously voted in favor to have a special referendum on the fee increase which will on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 12am and close November 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. Both fee increases will go on the special referendum ballot.**

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

**Chief of Staff Smith:** Carried said motion.

**Senator Govea:** Motion seconded.

**X. New Business**

- a. None

**XI. Advisor Comments**

**Advisor Neaves:** A few things, I like the minutes very detailed, we just need to make sure y'all are reviewing those in advance but minutes are very important and for what y'all just voted on, having minutes like detailed are good because you will be able to see what you just voted on. So make sure y'all all reviewing the minutes and voting. In the past, student government would just move it through and it is kind of dangerous, so it is important that y'all look at that. When y'all have guest speakers on important topics, make sure to ask questions. Y'all need to ask questions, I think that a lot of y'all had answers already but every time we have a guest speaker, you need to be taking advantage of that and asking as many questions as you can so when you get to the discussion in new business, it goes a lot smoother. On committees, I want to reemphasize that you need to be attending this meetings. If your committee hasn't met yet, make sure you are trying to find times to meet. Ideally moving forward, when it gets to committee reports, I would like to hear from senators, not the officers. Officers get their fair share of time during their officer reports, now it is your time as senators on those committees to speak about what is happening. There was a comment made about a flea market. If y'all move forward with that, if there is money involved, please talk to me first. There are a lot of rules. I think a lot of y'all are learning Robert's rules or order, but we don't need to get caught up in letting it hinder us in how business is conducted. You can vote no on things, because if you want to help re-propose things, it is okay to vote no on a standing motion. It is okay to re-discuss. Robert's rules are in place to help business be conducted efficiently. When it comes to education on the fee increases, anything and everything. With a campus our size, y'all need to make sure you're getting the information out there as much as you can. You got to hear from the university's side but students don't always understand that, but since you are representing the students, that is why SGA has been responsible for the education. You have heard both sides now and it your responsibility for them to make an educated vote for if it passes or not. My concern is with the election coming up next week, and new senators coming in next week, it is going to be important to get their input on this. I know y'all voted to move forward with it but it's having new senators having a say is important. Hearing those feedbacks are important. From the university side, if you are involved in other organizations, be sure that your organization is fully registered using engage. Jokingly, I am in support of chicken alfredo.

**XII. Announcements**

- a. Constitution Day – Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 12-2 PM
- b. Blue Out Game – Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

**XIII. Next Week**

- a. Houston Engineering Campus
- b. College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- c. Student Body at Large

**XIV. Adjournment: 6:44pm**

**President Jennings:** I would like to entertain motion to adjourn.

**Chief of Staff Smith:** Carried said motion.

**Senator Govea:** Motion seconded.

**Let the record show it was unanimously voted in favor to adjourn.**

**Let the record also show that Chicken Alfredo pizza was provided on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the event and Chief of Staff Smith served the people what they wanted.**

Name	Absent
------	--------



<b>President Jennings</b>	
<b>Vice President Stavinoha</b>	
<b>Secretary Mattern</b>	
<b>Treasurer Limbrick</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Chief of Staff Smith</b>	
<b>Senator Barria</b>	
<b>Senator Chawner</b>	
<b>Senator Collins</b>	
<b>Senator Dix</b>	
<b>Senator Govea</b>	
<b>Senator Harrison</b>	
<b>Senator McNamara</b>	
<b>Senator Melendez</b>	
<b>Senator Scott</b>	